

## Celebrity showcases *Celebrity Beyond*

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has this morning unveiled details of its third Edge-class ship, with the company claiming the vessel will “redefine the new luxury travel experience”.

*Celebrity Beyond* follows the design concepts of its predecessors *Celebrity Edge* and *Celebrity Apex*, but has reimagined the brand’s most popular signature spaces including the exclusive The Retreat resort-within-a-resort area for suite guests which will feature a new two-storey sundeck.

Accommodations will include double-level villas with private plunge pools, as well as staterooms with so-called “infinite verandas” which “blur the boundaries between indoor and outdoor living”.

*Beyond* will also feature a new 50-seat fine dining restaurant in partnership with renowned



Michelin-rated chef Daniel Boulud, offering perfect wine pairings with each dish courtesy of Celebrity’s “most awarded” wine collection at sea.

Other enhancements include an expanded Rooftop Garden, cantilevered float pools on the Resort Deck, a three-deck indoor Grand Plaza and the return of the Magic Carpet venue cantilevered above the sea.

*Celebrity Beyond* is scheduled

to depart on her maiden voyage from Southampton, England on 27 Apr 2022 on a 10-night Western Europe cruise, followed by a Mediterranean season through the Northern Summer before then heading to the Caribbean.

Voyages for the inaugural season are now on sale - see [thecelebritycommitment.com/au](https://thecelebritycommitment.com/au).

A video showcasing *Beyond* is at [cruiseweekly.com.au/videos](https://cruiseweekly.com.au/videos).

### Cruise Weekly today

*Cruise Weekly* today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

### Ponant protocol

**PONANT** has confirmed Australia is excepted from its vaccination protocol (*CW* yesterday), as the cruise line’s Kimberley season (*CW* 02 Mar) is restricted to Australian residents only.

Instead, local requirements will be applied in accordance with Australia’s “current vaccination schedule”, with a negative PCR test taken within 48 hours before boarding.

Ponant said requiring COVID vaccinations on all itineraries (apart from Australia and NZ voyages) would continue the consolidation of its anti-COVID bubble on board and provide the “best possible travel conditions”.

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The April issue of *travelBulletin* is out now. Read about how Qatar Airways has continued flying during COVID and discover the new destination of AIUla.

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## Oceania, Regent restarts

**OVERNIGHT** both Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Oceania Cruises announced their highly anticipated restart plans, with sailings implemented using robust SailSAFE health and safety protocols which will be evolved and refined using the best available science and technology.

Oceania will restart in Aug, with a series of *Marina* sailings to Scandinavia and Western Europe.

The 1,250 passenger vessel will resume her originally published voyage schedule, starting on 29 Aug out of Copenhagen.

CEO Bob Binder said after the extended cruise pause “the entire Oceania Cruises team is excited to now shift our focus to safely restarting operations and ultimately welcoming back our guests to begin exploring the world once again”.

The remainder of the Oceania fleet will recommence sailing in a phased program, with dates and itineraries to be revealed closer to the sailing dates.

Binder also flagged an “array of truly surprising enhancements to the brand’s already acclaimed culinary experience and onboard service,” under the previously announced OceaniaNEXT enhancement program.

“Our guests have been waiting a long time for this moment...when our guests return we want to not just welcome them back to the Oceania Cruises they remember and cherish, but also to exceed

their expectations by elevating the dining experiences and service levels,” Binder said.

A video message celebrating the return of Oceania Cruises operations can be viewed by **CLICKING HERE**.

**MEANWHILE** Regent Seven Seas Cruises has also announced its return to sailing, with the brand new *Seven Seas Splendor* set to operate out of the UK from Sep.

The voyage will mark the inaugural season for the vessel, which only completed two cruises with guests on board after its christening in Feb 2020.

Regent CEO Jason Montague said it would be a double celebration.

“With immaculate design, luxurious suites, exquisite cuisine, dynamic entertainment and outstanding personalised service, *Seven Seas Splendor* was one of the most highly anticipated ships to launch in the history of cruising, and my promise to our loyal and eager guests is that without a doubt she will be worth the wait,” he enthused.

The first *Splendor* voyage will depart Southampton for an 11-night itinerary visiting Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

She will then transition to explore the Mediterranean before crossing the Atlantic to sail in the Caribbean, with a phased restart planned for the rest of the Regent Seven Seas fleet which remains suspended to 30 Sep.

## Avalon Active & Discovery



**AVALON** Waterways is doubling-down on Active & Discovery cruises for next year.

For the first time, travellers are invited to choose an Active & Discovery cruise on the Danube, Rhine, Moselle, Rhone and Seine rivers as well as the waterways of the Netherlands and Belgium, across six itineraries with 47 departures.

Since launching Active & Discovery cruises on the Danube River in 2017, Avalon has added these popular itineraries to every major European waterway it sails, increasing its offerings six-fold over the past four years.

The new eight-day Moselle itinerary features 21 Avalon choice excursions, including canoeing, hiking up to Burg Landshut in Bernkastel, cycling and wine-tasting in the Moselle Valley, riding Seilbahn Rudesheim Lift, visiting a famous brewery & one of Germany’s oldest mustard mills and meeting with an apple

orchard farmer.

The nine-day Seine itinerary features 23 Avalon choice excursions, including kayaking, hiking up to the Chateau Gaillard, taking an e-bike tour to the Maisons-Laffitte Castle, a cocktail workshop in Palais Benedictine, discovering the Abbaye de Mortemer, the Normandy cheese trails, and visiting Chateau de Chantilly.

Both itineraries will also feature a number of classic Avalon shore excursions, such as Cochem Castle and visiting the WWII landing beaches of Normandy, and the Normandy American Cemetery & Memorial.

“Priced from \$3,294, our Active & Discovery holidays include more excursions – at the same cost – as other river cruise itineraries,” said Avalon Managing Director Pam Hoffee.

“They are the perfect choice for travellers who have a diverse set of interests; those who want to customise their holiday.”



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## Key West vote

**THE** bill aiming to nullify Key West's vote on reducing cruise ship berths has passed Florida's House Commerce Committee (**CW** 11 Jan).

The board voted 13-5 to back House Bill 267, which would prohibit the citizens of Key West from restricting the number of cruise ships to enter their ports.

Residents voted in Nov to limit cruise activity in their port based on the size, type or capacity of ships in the hopes of reducing the number of tourists who visit the destination (**CW** 05 Nov 2020).

However one of the bill's sponsors overnight cited second thoughts about the constitutionality of undermining the local ordinances, and has now declared the bill "dead" for the current legislative session.

## Uniworld sells out!

**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Cruises has completely sold out its special 10-day Mystery Cruise in Europe (**CW** 22 Apr).

Alice Ager, GM Uniworld Australia, said "we were astounded by the interest for this new concept cruise for 2022 and are shocked but delighted that it sold out within 24 hours".

She said most of the bookings had come from North America and the UK, with significant interest from Uniworld's Australian past guests.

"We are frantically working to add new departure dates to accommodate the incredible demand for something original, fun and that reflects our guests' spirit of adventure," she said.

For more info on the product see [uniworld.com/au/Mystery](http://uniworld.com/au/Mystery).

## More Norwegian in Europe

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line this morning announced a further restart of operations in Europe, with Barcelona and Rome-based itineraries to the Mediterranean and Greek Islands from 05 Sep.

In partnership with local governments NCL will operate *Norwegian Epic* from Barcelona on a series of seven-night Western Mediterranean itineraries through until late Oct.

*Norwegian Getaway* will homeport from Rome (Civitavecchia) from 13 Sep until 25 Oct, operating 10- and 11-day Greek Island voyages offering up to 13 hours in each city.

"Europe is a top travel destination so we are very much looking forward to returning to some of our most beloved homeports, resuming those itineraries and welcoming our guests to experience a vacation of a lifetime in the safest possible

manner," said Norwegian Cruise Line CEO Harry Sommer.

"We are actively working with our local partners and government officials...relaunching *Norwegian Epic* and *Getaway* will allow us to provide a greater variety of highly sought-after itineraries for those travellers preparing to take their first cruise vacation in over a year."

The deployments will see the debut of an all-new The Haven by Norwegian complex on *Norwegian Epic* after a major refurbishment late last year.

Today's announcement comes alongside the cancellation of trips on *Norwegian Bliss* and *Pride of America* until 31 Jul; *Norwegian Getaway* through to 02 Sep; *Norwegian Dawn*, *Spirit* and *Star* until 30 Sep; *Norwegian Sun* until 07 Oct; *Escape* through to 10 Oct; *Breakaway* until 17 Oct and *Norwegian Gem* up to 17 Nov.

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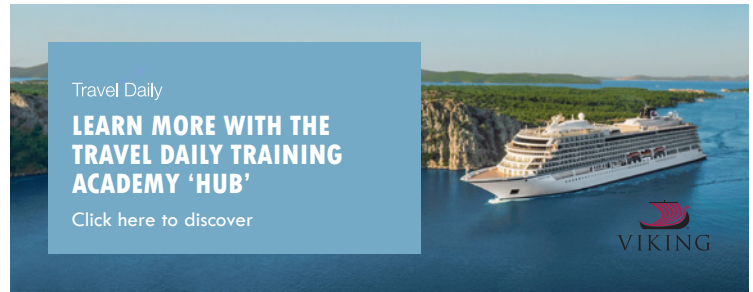
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## Croisi ocean 2021/22

**EUROPEAN** river cruise specialist CroisiEurope has released details of itineraries on its ocean-going vessel *La Belle des Oceans* for 2021/22.

The vessel, which formerly sailed as Silversea's *Silver Discoverer*, will operate in the Canary Islands, visiting three national parks, as well as a series of round-trip voyages from Nice taking in Corsica.

The Canary Islands cruises are scheduled to commence in Oct this year, while the Corsican voyages will take place between May and Oct, CroisiEurope said.

The ship accommodates 130 passengers, with UK Sales Director John Fair saying *La Belle des Oceans* is able to offer a "good mix of off-the-beaten path and popular ports of call".

**A FUTURISTIC** boat has washed up in Victoria, more than two years after it was launched from Bluff, in New Zealand's South Island.

Originally sent out as part of a research mission, the vessel went off the grid, but it surfaced earlier this week in Waratah Bay.

The Sairdron was launched on an assignment to research the krill population around Antarctica, but this one went rogue, with the American firm that deployed the vessel losing track of it between Antarctica and Cape Horn.

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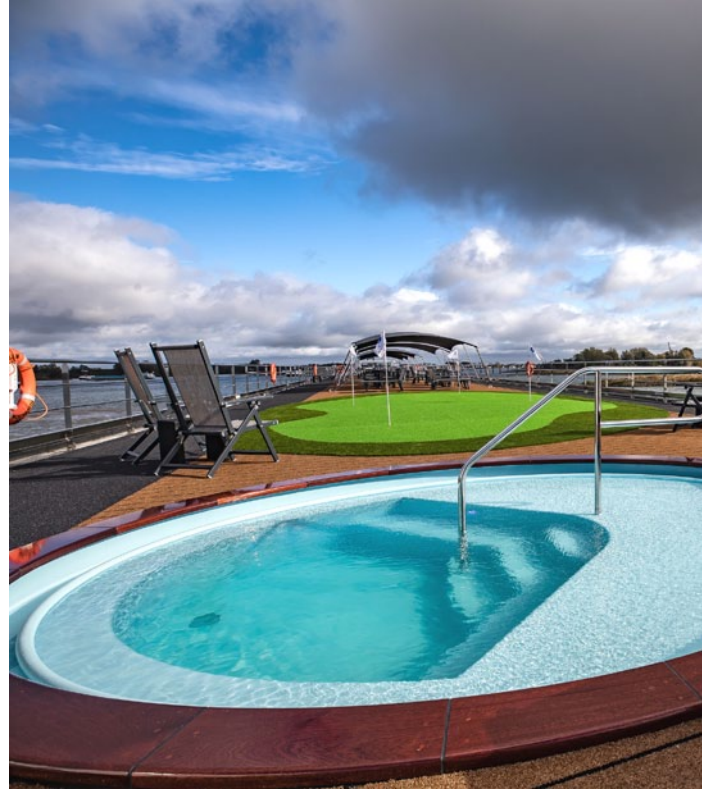


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## Destination: Sun Deck

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**SHIPS:** *MS Thomas Hardy*, *MS Geoffrey Chaucer*, *MS William Wordsworth*, *MS Robert Burns*, *MS Oscar Wilde* and *MS Emily Bronte*.

**LOCATION:** The outside top deck of each ship.

**CROWNING** the top deck of each Riviera Travel River Cruises ship is the magnificent Sun Deck, where passengers can enjoy incredible 360-degree riverside views from the comfort of their very own sun lounge.

Each Sun Deck boasts a plunge pool that is cool and refreshing during the summer

months, and heated for the winter and Christmas market cruises.

Cruisers can enjoy some quiet time relaxing with a drink in the terrace area at the front of the ship while experiencing "driving seat" views as the Captain and his team skillfully navigate the twisting river.

Or perhaps a round of mini golf on the putting green may be in order, against the backdrop of the spectacular river scenery.

One thing is for certain - after visiting the Sun Deck, passengers will be left feeling on top of the world.