

LIVE ONLINE EVENT

AN EXPEDITION THROUGH THE LENS OF A
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER



THURSDAY 19 AUGUST 4PM & 6PM AEST

SPECIAL GUEST **JASON EDWARDS**



National Geographic's Jason Edwards has been at the forefront of natural history photography for nearly three decades. His image portfolio ranks among the largest of any photographer in the Society's long history.

Jason is an Ambassador for Tourism Australia and Sustainability Victoria, and is also a Fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers, using his lens to highlight issues affecting wildlife, the environment and indigenous communities.

REGISTER NOW

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EXPEDITIONS



RCI pivots to domestic-only season

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has updated its Australian summer season to domestic-only.

Ovation of the Seas will sail from Sydney starting 13 Dec through 31 Mar 2022, offering a mix of two- to 10-night domestic sailings visiting some of the country's most famous cities and regions.

The ship will offer guests a raft of short breaks and voyages, with 24 sailings from Sydney visiting ports such as Eden, Hobart, Adelaide, Brisbane, Port Douglas, Kangaroo Island, Airlie Beach, and Cairns.

Available to book from tomorrow, guests can also enjoy scenic excursions of the Great Barrier Reef, Willis Island and New South Wales' South Coast.

The new season means *Ovation's* current sailings from Sydney from 27 Oct to 10 Apr 2022 have been cancelled, as have *Serenade of the Seas'*



sailings from Sydney from 24 Oct to 27 Feb 2022.

All impacted guests and travel partners will be contacted and advised of their options.

Guests will automatically be issued a future cruise credit to the value of 125% of their fare to use on future sailings.

However, guests are also able to opt for a full refund, or to lift & shift to an applicable summer 2022-2023 sailing, if preferred.

"We continue to encourage and assist federal and state governments to establish a clear pathway for the return of cruising, and hope that by Dec we will have guests holidaying with us once again," said RCI Vice President & Managing Director Australia & New Zealand Gavin Smith (**pictured**).

"While Sydney manages its ongoing lockdown, several factors make us hopeful that domestic cruising will return this summer, from rapid advances in COVID-19 research, technology and an emphasis on swift vaccine distribution."

Late last month, Carnival Corporation's Princess Cruises also announced its own domestic pivot (**CW** 22 Jul).

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover page from **Ponant**.

Time to get snappy

PONANT and National Geographic will host a live online event with one of the magazine's photographers Jason Edwards.

Taking place on 19 Aug ahead of World Photography Day, the two-session event will see Edwards showcase images from his journeys to various destinations around the world, such as the Kimberley, as well as Antarctica, Melanesia, and the NZ Subantarctic Islands.

'An Expedition through the lens of a National Geographic Photographer' will stream from 4pm to 6pm AEST - see the **front page**.



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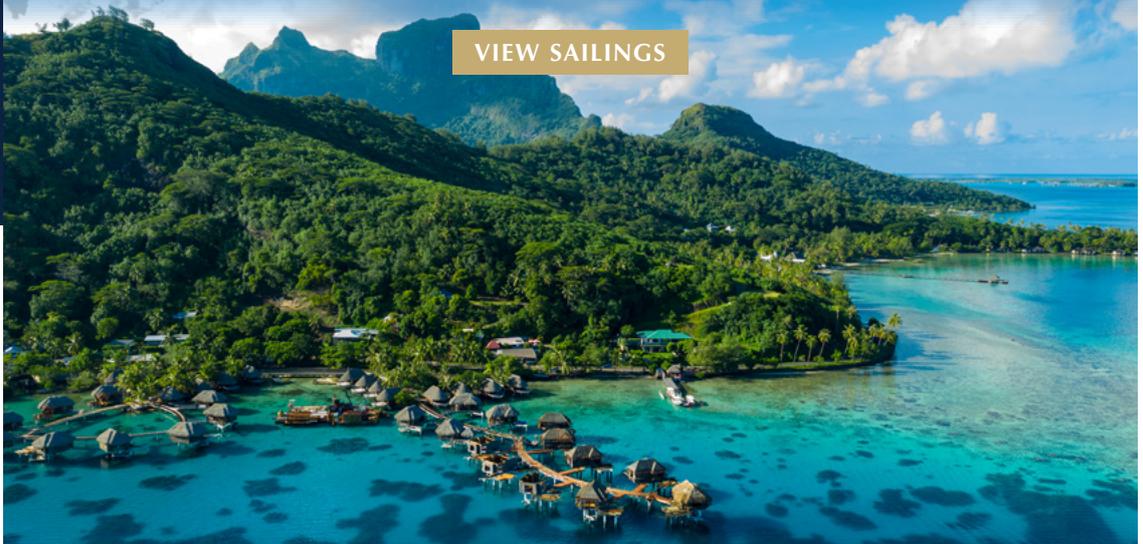


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Star Clippers Med 2023



STAR Clippers has opened its 2023 Mediterranean northern summer season for booking.

All three of Star Clippers' ships will sail together in the Mediterranean, with the cruise line offering more than 65 sail dates to choose from, with itineraries in France, Italy, Greece, Croatia and Turkey.

Flagship *Royal Clipper* (pictured) will spend summer in the Western Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea, sailing itineraries of

three to 11 nights in the French Riviera, the Amalfi Coast, Sicily, Croatia, and more.

In addition to sailing round trip from Cannes for the Monaco Grand Prix, as well as the Voiles de Saint-Tropez regatta, *Royal* will visit 10 different ports in Corsica, and will visit 20 villages in Italy.

In Apr 2023, *Star Clipper* will debut a new eight-night, all-Spain itinerary from Malaga to Barcelona, including two new ports - Sant Carles de la Rapita and Tarraco.

Star will also sail itineraries of seven to 10 nights in the French Riviera, Ligurian Sea, the Amalfi Coast, and Sicily.

In the Eastern Mediterranean, *Star Flyer* will spend the northern summer in Greece, sailing out of Athens, Venice, and Istanbul, with itineraries ranging from seven to 10 nights.

Flyer's line-up includes the seven-night Delightful Dervishes and Yachtsman's Paradise sailings between Athens and Istanbul, with stops in Mykonos, Chios, Patmos and Myrina-Limnos.



AS THE cruise industry restarts around the world, there will be a lot of ships vying for port time in some of the world's most popular destinations - maybe a new mobile application can help manage the rush?

The Park Turtle app was developed by two Irish sailors to help yacht clubs manage boat parking, in an industry which has seen a significant boom since the pandemic.

The app provides each boat a unique QR code to eliminate the use of pens and paper to enable clubs to easily track boats and parking fees.

Clubs can access a boat owner's identity, contact details, payment history and arrears.

One of the app's developers estimated clubs not making use of it would miss out on about 30% of parking revenue.



International hope

AS WE watch our Olympic athletes compete in Tokyo, it is also encouraging to read about more international cruise successes this week.

Princess Cruises returned to Seattle on the weekend after completing its first American voyage - a round trip to Alaska - after a long pause in sailings.

The cruise line is hoping to also begin itineraries from LA, San Francisco and Fort Lauderdale in Sep.

In Asia, Dream Cruises has also enjoyed its first departure, with *Genting Dream* sailing out of HK.

It has been interesting to observe the cruise line's strict set of protocols for both on-board life and onshore visits - many of which have been discussed here.

Great news out of Canada, with the government bringing forward the restart in that country to Nov - mostly due to the progress made in their vaccination roll-out.

With vaccination uptake starting to increase in Australia, is it hopeful to think that we might follow down this same path?

The cruise industry has drawn up extensive plans, but the Australian Government continues to remain silent on the roadmap for cruising to recommence beyond limited domestic operations.

A voice for the industry has come forward in MP Warren Entsch who is championing the importance of cruising, particularly for regional markets.

Maybe his push, along with other numerous MPs he is bringing onboard, will help us overcome the final hurdles in our race to the finish line!

WATCHING THE OLYMPICS?



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