



Cruise Weekly today

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

Silversea webinars

SILVERSEA Cruises will host a special webinar series for travel advisors starting Tue.

The first Tea Time with Silversea webinar will start at 11.00am AEST, with the series to run over four weeks.

Consisting of nine different webinars, the series will introduce agents to almost 700 destinations, across the 125 countries Silversea travels to.

Highlights of the webinar include specially curated voyages, Silversea's most popular itineraries, and a deeper dive into the destinations the cruise line sails to.

Attendees will also learn more about the Silversea Difference and all-inclusive ultra-luxury cruises.

After each webinar two lucky attendees will be selected to win a bottle of Pommery champagne, which Silversea is also giving away with all new bookings (CW 05 Aug).

Silversea has recently opened general sale on almost 300 sailings for 2023/2024, including two new grand voyages (CW 12 Aug).

The season will call in more than 600 destinations in over 100 countries.

APT new domestic series

EXCLUSIVE

APT has released new domestic cruise itineraries aboard *Caledonian Sky*.

The short-duration Small Ship Expedition Cruises see return journeys sailing from Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide and Fremantle.

Sailing from Nov through Mar, half of the program focuses on intra-state itineraries, meaning passengers need not be concerned about border closures.

APT Managing Director Chris Hall told *Cruise Weekly* the company's experience with border restrictions meant it wanted to minimise interstate fly-cruising.

"We wanted to take the chance to showcase more of the state that you wouldn't normally get to see...typically, it's one or two nights and then you're moving on, but this time we've got the luxury of time to spend a bit more time," Hall explained.

"What we're doing is providing opportunities for Australians to see a place they may have been before, but from a coastal angle.

"The gift of having a small ship is getting to a number of those out-of-the-way locations and utilising the Zodiacs, turning it into a proper expedition, albeit not too far from home.

The itineraries will provide an opportunity for pax to explore their home state in a new way while supporting local businesses.

"Our partners in the supply

chain, the different rural places we're going to visit, the cities where guests will do pre- and post-accommodation and utilise restaurants, all those parts of the economy are hurting," Hall said.

"This deployment helps a lot of businesses around Australia, and I think that's a great thing to be able to do at this time."

To celebrate the launch of the new itineraries, APT has included a discount of up to 15% off the price across all suites categories when booked by 31 Oct, subject to availability.

The key itineraries include a five-day Coastal Victorian Discovery, cruising from Melbourne return along the Shipwreck Coast, visiting Port Fairy, Portland, Loch Ard Gorge, and the Twelve Apostles, with passengers enjoying the rare chance to cruise past the iconic limestone stacks at sunset, before entering Western Port and sailing by Phillip Island on the way to a wine tasting and lunch at a Mornington Peninsula winery.

This cruise is priced from \$3,795 per person, twin share including the 15% discount.

There is also an eight-day Tasmania's Wilderness Coast from Hobart return, exploring King Island and its gourmet treats, the Freycinet Peninsula, and World Heritage-listed Cradle Mountain.

Passengers will also follow the Tamar Valley wine route for sparkling wine tastings.

Viking cancellations

VIKING'S sailings aboard *Viking Orion* in Australia next year have been cancelled.

The cruises are just a few of many aboard *Orion* to be cancelled, including Asia & Alaska, Far East & Alaska, Far East Horizons, Grand Pacific Explorer, New Zealand & Indonesia, North Pacific Passage, Southeast Asia & Hong Kong, and Southeast Asia Horizons.

All bookings will receive a 110% Platinum Voucher with a book and sail by date of 31 Dec 2023.

Travellers who wish for a refund must submit a request by the end of the month, and for any bookings with vouchers applied, the voucher will be reinstated.

There are also a number of itineraries subject to a lift & shift.

Guests on the below itineraries will be moved to a similar departure date for next year and/or 2023, including Komodo & the Australian Coast, Bangkok, Bali & Beyond, Magnificent Mekong, South Pacific Sojourn.

The price on all itineraries is protected on all bookings and any air promos.

Viking recently released two new ocean cruise itineraries for next year aboard the cruise line's newest ship, *Viking Mars* (CW 17 Aug).

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Calls interrupted

HURRICANE Grace has forced the cancellation of Cozumel port calls by Royal Caribbean International.

Symphony of the Seas skipped her planned call at Cozumel, instead spending the day at sea.

She spent a half-day at Nassau today, and will call at Perfect Day at CocoCay tomorrow.

Adventure of the Seas and *Allure of the Seas* also cancelled their calls in Cozumel today, while it is not known whether *Independence of the Seas* will make her scheduled visit to Cozumel tomorrow.

MEANWHILE, Royal Caribbean International is now charging to reserve pool deck casitas on *Odyssey of the Seas*.

Royal Caribbean's Cruise Planner site lists the casita for reservation at a price of US\$199 for the day on a sea day and US\$149 on a port day.

The rental includes towels, a cooler, storage for your belongings and a charging outlet.

Wishing to wave hello



AIRLIE Beach Cruise Ship Ambassadors (**pictured**) founding member Judi Dunn is eagerly awaiting the return of the buzz of cruise visitors.

Dunn has welcomed thousands of cruising guests to the Whitsundays over the past 17 years, and said it is unbelievable how quiet it is in Airlie Beach without the more than 100,000 cruise passengers per year.

The warmth of the Ambassadors' welcome has helped Airlie Beach become one

of the most successful cruise destinations in Australia, and Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer Tash Wheeler said the loss of ships has significantly impacted the tourism industry and community.

"The Whitsundays is the most tourism reliant region in Queensland, our cruise ship volunteers and community love welcoming visitors to our backyard and showcasing the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef," she said.

"The last 18 months have been challenging but when the time comes we will be ready to welcome cruise ships back to Airlie Beach with open arms and with warm Whitsunday smiles."

P&O Cruises Australia accounted for two-thirds of cruise ships visiting the region pre-pandemic, and the company's President Sture Myrmell said the situation was a great example of why it is so important for federal and state governments to engage and agree to a pathway for the resumption of cruising.



THE golden sea snake, known for occasionally chasing fishermen and divers through the ocean, is not mounting an attack - it's just lonely.

The highly venomous snake will often chase and attack divers without any provocation, an interaction which often ends with the snake wrapping itself around a diver's leg or arm and chomping down - not ideal given the snake is highly venomous and deaths are recorded often.

The reason for these unprovoked attacks isn't fully understood, but a new study, published today in *Scientific Reports*, suggests the snake may just think you're cute.

"Agitated rapid approaches by males, easily interpreted as attacks, often occurred after a courting male lost contact with a female he was pursuing," the study says.

Free Hurti trip

HURTIGRUTEN is inviting travellers to win a trip for two to Antarctica.

Included is an overnight stay in Buenos Aires including breakfast, return economy flights between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, transfers, all meals and beer & wine at the ship's two restaurants, equipment loan for activities, an expedition jacket, a water bottle and more.

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