



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a photo page from SeaLink.

Hola to Panama

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) will become the first passenger cruise operator to homeport in Panama City, offering round trip Panama Canal voyages beginning 20 Mar.

NCL's parent company, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, has signed a landmark agreement with the Panama Tourism Authority to offer a dozen homeport voyages during the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

Norwegian Jewel will be the first ship in NCL's 17-ship fleet to homeport in Panama City when she sails on a nine-day itinerary.

Flight Centre cruising with Traveltek

FLIGHT Centre and Traveltek have agreed to a global cruise partnership, which will see the technology company's API enable more than 30,000 integrated itineraries to be booked by the travel agency group.

The two have partnered in Asia Pacific for more than a decade, but the new global contract will now see Traveltek power cruise globally for Flight Centre's businesses in North America, the United Kingdom and South Africa.

Flight Centre's travel advisors will benefit from access to exclusive deals from more than 30 cruise lines around the world in a single aggregated cruise API.

The ability to connect from a further list of smaller partners in the sector is crucial to Flight Centre's plans to globally grow its cruise share internationally as the market prepares to bounce back.

"We are delighted to extend



our long-standing partnership with such a well-established travel brand," said Traveltek Chief Commercial Officer Cressida Sergeant.

"We look forward to supporting Flight Centre grow its cruise business in other markets,

especially North America, where we have recently seen real demand for cruise technology.

"We continue to heavily invest in our cruise API and technology and look forward to further success with our Flight Centre partnership."

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How has the pandemic impacted the way the travel sector operates, and what will remain in the emerging post-covid world? We investigate taking travel back to the future in the latest *travelBulletin*.



travelBulletin

Disney spreads its magic



DISNEY Cruise Line will bring its magic to Port Everglades, selecting the facility as its second year-round homeport.

The 15-year partnership will see Disney bring a minimum of 10.6 million passenger movements through Port Everglades, with three, five-year extension options which could add another 11.25 million movements.

The agreement provides for one ship to be homeported in Port Everglades year-round beginning in 2023, joined by a second, seasonal ship in 2025.

Adding Port Everglades as a second homeport gives Disney a dedicated terminal in a market with direct highway access, and one of the United States' fastest growing airports, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

"As we expand our fleet of ships and introduce innovative new cruise experiences, we couldn't be more pleased to bring the magic of Disney to Port Everglades," said the cruise line's President Thomas Mazloum.

"With a dedicated, specially designed cruise terminal for our guests, we look forward to creating magical memories starting the moment they arrive at this exciting new homeport."

Port Everglades Chief Executive & Port Director Jonathan Daniels said the facility, which now has three major cruise lines sailing from it, is diversifying its portfolio

within the sector.

"I extend a special thanks to our County Administrator Bertha Henry and our County Commissioners for their faith and trust," Daniels said.

"All we need is a little pixie dust to transform Terminal 4 and Disney is ready to sail."

Crossing the Corinth

FRED. Olsen Cruise Lines is offering adventurers the chance to relive its record-breaking Corinth Canal sailing in 2023.

The cruise line's *Braemar* made history when at 22.52 metres wide, she became the largest ship to ever traverse the 6.4-kilometre-long Corinth Canal in Greece, which is just 24 metres wide at its narrowest point.

The sellout sailing also became Fred. Olsen's highest rated cruise for itinerary satisfaction based on feedback from guests on board.

The 25-night Corinth Canal and Greek Islands cruise departs from Southampton on 03 May 2023, with prices starting from £4,999 per person.

The itinerary visits Malaga, Milazzo, Katakolon, Argostoli, Kefalonia, Ermoupoli, Syros, Piraeus, Rhodes, Agios Nikolaos, Crete, and more.

Kimberley action needed

URGENT action is needed to save Western Australia's Kimberley expedition season, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has said.

The region risks losing its status as Australia's premier expedition cruise destination without detailed plans to support the return of broader sailings next year, CLIA MD Joel Katz said.

Following yesterday's announcement of a major tourism campaign by the Government of Western Australia, Katz said it is vital plans to revive tourism include a detailed pathway to support small-scale expedition cruising for ships of up to 200 pax, which ordinarily generate millions of dollars a year for the Kimberley and communities along WA's northern coast.

"The suspension of cruising has been devastating for thousands of Australians who depend on cruising, including many in communities where expedition ships are a vital source of tourism," he said.

"Expedition ships provide an excellent opportunity to begin a carefully controlled resumption of cruising with extensive health measures in place, but we need the federal, state and territory governments to urgently agree on health protocols before the

upcoming winter season is lost."

Katz said ships with under 100 people on board were already sailing successfully in Australia, including in the Kimberley, with tried and tested COVID-19 health measures in place.

Allowing other expedition operators with up to 200 pax to return to WA and the NT would provide much-needed tourism income for communities in the North West Australia.

"Cruising has changed enormously in response to the pandemic and the work our industry has done with medical experts internationally has resulted in health protocols that are successful in mitigating the risks of COVID-19," Katz said.

"With vaccination rates increasing and borders opening, we need agreement on the way forward for expedition cruise ships before the upcoming Kimberley season is lost and travellers look to destinations overseas."

After last week's extension of Australia's cruise ban (**CW** 13 Dec), Katz added it would take several months of preparations before cruise ships could return to local waters.

"Cruising involves long lead-times, so it is essential that all governments and health authorities work closely with industry".

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Travel Daily

Thu 16th Dec 2021

SEALINK has launched a new Whitsundays cruise experience, the SeaLink Big Island Day Tour, with a recent custom photoshoot of the cruise capturing breathtaking footage before the first cruise departs today.

Cruising in air-conditioned comfort, SeaLink's Big Island Day Tour takes guests on a scenic cruise through the stunning turquoise waters of the Whitsunday Islands stopping off at the famous Hill Inlet and Whitehaven Beach for a dip in the beautiful clear waters and relaxing on the powder-white silica sand.

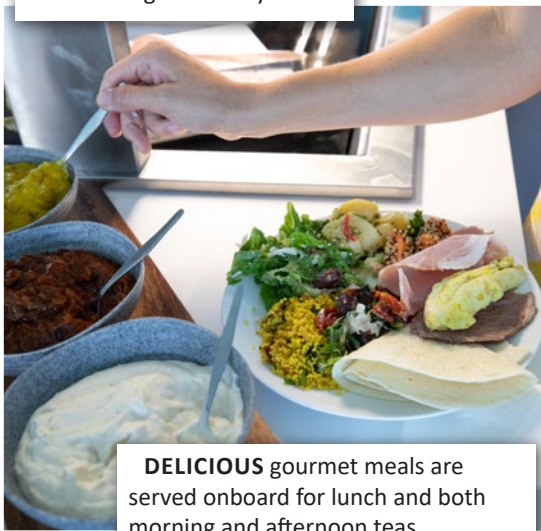
The day cruise includes guided tours of both the Hill Inlet and South Whitehaven lookouts for breathtaking views, gourmet lunch, morning and afternoon teas served in air-conditioned comfort onboard, a rooftop observation deck providing 360-degree views, and full bar service throughout the duration of the tour.

Guests have full access to the vessel facilities throughout the cruise with a custom-built tender able to shuttle passengers to and from the vessel at any time. And for guaranteed comfort SeaLink has capped numbers to 85 even though the *Nancy Wake* vessel can carry 280 passengers.

Click [HERE](#) or [HERE](#) for more information.



VIEWS from Hill Inlet lookout, one of the stops on SeaLink's Big Island Day Tour.



DELICIOUS gourmet meals are served onboard for lunch and both morning and afternoon teas.



SEALINK'S Nancy Wake on the turquoise waters of Hill Inlet.



A FAMILY enjoying the crystal clear waters of the Whitsunday Islands.



NANCY Wake taking guests on the new SeaLink Big Island Day Tour.



EMBARK from Shute Harbour Terminal.



THE top deck of *Nancy Wake* provides 360-degree views of the beautiful Whitsunday Islands.



GUESTS disembarking the SeaLink tender at Whitehaven Beach.



GUESTS viewing a stingray at Hill Inlet.



BREATHTAKING views over Whitehaven Beach.

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Travel Daily




PORTHOLE

CRUISE ships are no stranger to hosting a wedding at sea, but have you ever heard of a wedding under the sea?

No, this has nothing to do with the hit from *The Little Mermaid* - a Russian couple recently exchanged vows underwater in Lake Baikal, the deepest lake in the world.

Complete with a wedding dress over a wetsuit, and even a traditional "khorovod" dance, the couple picked one of the harshest biomes and coldest months of the year to tie the knot in the Lake.

Fittingly, the newlyweds are actually a pair of freedivers - pozdravlyayu to all!

Carnival's latest tall tale



CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Carnival Radiance* has been christened by her godmother Lucille O'Neal (**CW** 18 Nov) mother of the company's Chief Fun Officer and former professional basketball player Shaquille O'Neal.

Radiance, which set sail on Mon on her inaugural, four-day cruise, will be the third Carnival ship based year-round in Long Beach, joining *Carnival Miracle* and *Carnival Panorama*.

The ship underwent a USD\$200 million bow-to-stern makeover, - not the only money Carnival spent, with President Christine Duffy presenting Mrs O'Neal with a USD\$25,000 donation to the Odessa Chambliss Quality of Life Fund, which provides financial contributions to help support students seeking a career in nursing and education.

"Having Shaq's mom Lucille, an accomplished speaker who donates her time and talent to a wide range of charitable organizations as the ship's Godmother has made it even more special," Duffy said of the event.

As part of the ceremony, mother and son helped pour champagne atop a traditional ship's bell as

they officially named *Radiance*.

Pictured, Duffy and the O'Neal family cut the ribbon on Big Chicken, the second seagoing restaurant created by the former Los Angeles Lakers centre, which features dishes based on the family's recipes (Shaq himself is no stranger to fowls...)

Seabourn Arctic

SEABOURN Cruise Line has unveiled its first-ever expedition itineraries to the Northwest and Northeast Passage aboard *Seabourn Pursuit* and *Seabourn Venture* in the northern summer of 2023.

Venture will depart 29 Jul 2023 for a 26-day journey across the Northeast Passage from Tromso to Nome.

Pursuit, which is scheduled to launch in Mar 2023, will offer a 21-day adventure to the bucket-list Northwest Passage departing 27 Aug 2023, from Kangerlussuaq to Nome.

The expedition ships are designed and built for diverse environments to PC6 Polar Class standards.

Kimberley savings

LARGE savings have been announced for a 2023 Kimberley expedition Cruise Traveller package with Ponant.

Save almost \$15,000 per couple, receive a free hotel stay, and pay no single supplement on the luxury, all-inclusive cruise when booking by the end of next month through Cruise Traveller.

Passengers will stay two nights in Broome and enjoy a 10-night cruise aboard *Le Laperouse* or *Le Soleal* as part of the 12-night package, which departs six times from Apr to Sep 2023.

To book, **CLICK HERE**.

Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients - giving you a reason to reach out to your database.

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