



## NRMA invests in Coral Expeditions

**CORAL** Expeditions and the National Roads & Motorists Association (NRMA) have announced a new partnership, which will see “significant investment” in the cruise line to underpin its future expansion plans.

After beginning negotiations last year, NRMA will now take a significant minority stake in Coral, with the mutual insurance company’s Chief Investment Officer Rachel Wiseman saying it believed in the future of expedition tourism.

“There has never been a time when Australian domestic tourism has been more important,” she said.

“We are excited for the opportunity this provides for our members and Australians more broadly to enjoy the incredible experiences Coral offers.

“This investment will help

facilitate and grow the services and experiences Coral Expeditions offer and we look forward to the time when it re-opens for international visitors to enjoy”.

Coral Executive Director Paul Chacko said the fit between the two organisations was striking.

“Both have long-term planning horizons, a guest and member-focused culture, and significant customer demographic overlap,” he said.

“The current shareholders of Coral Expeditions have supported the transition to a new blue water fleet over the past six years... this new partnership will allow Coral Expeditions to benefit from NRMA’s expertise while continuing its journey to tap strong long-term demand for expedition cruising”.

The management team and organisational structure at Coral

will remain unchanged, as will the company’s existing trade and business arrangements.

The investment comes on the back of Coral’s successful resumption of operations following a six-month hiatus (**CW** 16 Oct 2020), with Coral having since completed 12 successful voyages between its Great Barrier Reef and Tasmanian seasons.

Coral is now poised to begin its South Australia deployment later this month, and its traditional Kimberley season next month.

**MEANWHILE**, the cruise line’s new ship *Coral Geographer* (**CW** 10 Jul 2019) is ready for delivery from VARD’s shipyard in Vietnam, according to Project Manager Frank Krone.

The 120-guest ship is a sister to the 2019-built *Coral Adventurer*, and is now poised to make her debut in Cairns at the start of next month.

### Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Hurtigruten**.

### Hurtigruten Magazine

**HURTIGRUTEN** has launched a new “immersive” digital magazine.

Marking the first time the operator has expanded into publishing, *Hurtigruten Magazine* will make full use of immersive videos & sound.

The publication will provide the opportunity for travel advisors to “virtually experience what makes our expedition cruise line special, and why our destinations will appeal to their customers,” according to Head of Marketing APAC Joel Victoria.

You can view *Hurtigruten Magazine* **HERE**.

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# Saudi floats to cruise

**CRUISE** Saudi has launched, set to serve as “the architect and the driver of the cruise sector in Saudi Arabia”.

Fully owned by the country’s Public Investment Fund, the business will be responsible for overseeing the building of infrastructure and services to transform the Red Sea into a “sustainable world-beating tourism destination”.

The initiative is attached to the country’s strategic framework Saudi Vision 2030, which aims to reduce the country’s dependence on oil and develop public service sectors such as tourism.

Based in Jeddah, the business will develop the infrastructure and services required to scale a full-suite cruise market along the Saudi coastline, which will include the building of new cruise terminals, marketing, shorex coordination and operations.

Cruise Saudi will be led by interim Chief Executive Officer Fawaz Farooqui (**pictured**), Chief Strategy Officer Ghassan Khan, Chief Development & Asset Management Officer Miguel Reyna and Chief Commercial & Operations Officer Mark Robinson, and Chaired by



Minister of Culture Badr bin Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Farhan Al Saud.

On stage at the launch with Farooqui in Riyadh was MSC Cruises Executive Chairman and newly minted Cruise Lines International Association Global Chairman Pierfrancesco Vago, who announced MSC’s upcoming 2021/22 season in the Persian Gulf would stop at Dammam.

Vago added it may be possible to develop a homeport in Jeddah one day, as MSC investigates the suitability of the Red Sea.

Also on stage was Abercrombie & Kent co-Chairman Manfredi Lefebvre d’Ovidio, who is also the former owner & Executive Chairman of Silversea Cruises, which has stops planned in Jeddah in 2022 and 2023.

## Baltic ports meet

**REPRESENTATIVES** of 13 Baltic ports have readied themselves for the upcoming cruise season and have pleaded for the cooperation of authorities.

Represented at the Baltic Ports Organization meeting was Copenhagen Malmo Port, Gdynia, Gothenburg, HaminaKotka, Helsinki, Kiel, Klaipeda, Roenne, Rostock, Riga, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, and Tallinn, with a key theme ensuring the health of passengers and crews, as well as the implementation of necessary safety rules.

Other points discussed were preparations to handle passengers with restrictions in force, safety rules & protocols for port personnel, virus testing procedures for passengers, temperature scanning & logistic solutions, cooperation with cruise lines to make implementation easier, and approving plans with the responsible authorities.

## Sailing package

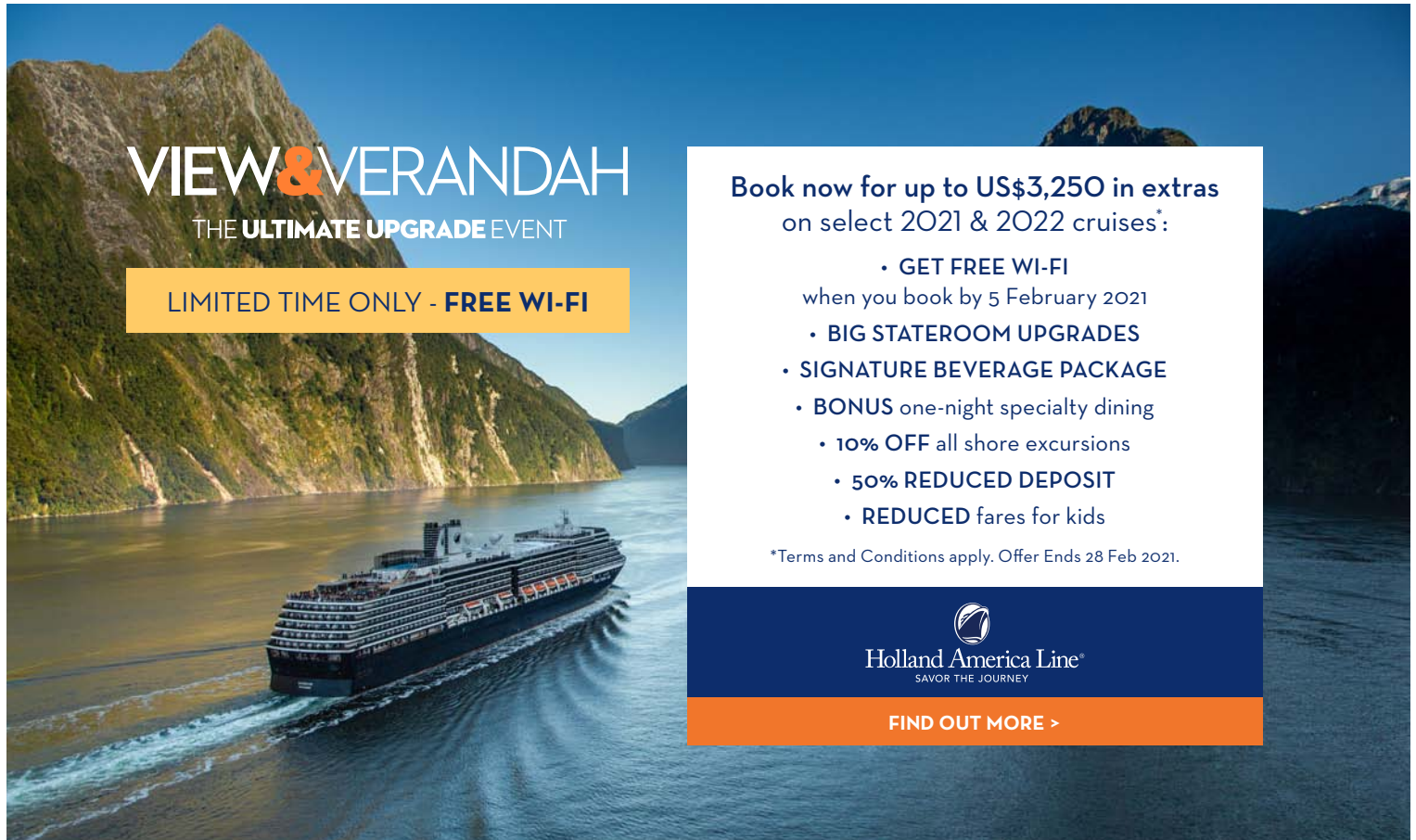
**CRUISE** Traveller is offering a journey from Sydney to Adelaide in Jan 2022 aboard Tradewind Voyages’ new sailing ship *Golden Horizon*.

The 17-night “slow travel” package will take travellers to 10 destinations between the two capitals, and include a one-night hotel stay in Sydney pre-cruise.

Visited on the journey will be destinations such as Jervis Bay, Bateman’s Bay, Eden, Darlington Bay, Maria Island, Port Arthur and Hobart.

The 17-night package is available from \$9,475 per person, twin-share, including a night in Sydney pre cruise, beer & wine with lunch & dinner aboard the ship, onboard gratuities and use of the ship’s water sports equipment.

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**POPULAR** German cruise blogger Pascal Wepner, known for his blog Kreuzfluenzer, is selling a range of cruise-themed goods to fundraise for a preschool in Sri Lanka.

Wepner is hoping to raise €31,000 with the help of nonprofit organisation Fly & Help, with t-shirts, hoodies, jackets, gym bags, mugs, phone cases, teddy bears and other products all available for sale.

The online store delivers worldwide, and 100% of the profits made through the sales will go towards the construction of the preschool, which will provide education for 50 kids aged between three and five.

Wepner also donates the money earned through his YouTube channel to the cause.

## Victory to Alaska

**VICTORY** Cruise Line has launched its Alaska program for next year on its new expedition ship *Ocean Victory*.

The Alaska program is part of the cruise line's expansion beyond its traditional Great Lakes cruises, with *Victory* now offering 14 one-way voyages between Vancouver and Sitka from 10-12 nights.

Savings of up to US\$2,000 per couple are available for those booking by the end of next month when booking through Cruise Traveller - call 1800 507 777.

## Seabourn reveals spas



**SEABOURN** Cruise Line has revealed the Spa & Wellness details of its new expedition ships, *Seabourn Venture*, and her yet-to-be-named sister.

Designed by Adam Tihany, the Spa & Wellness offerings will occupy a space on Deck 7, and will feature Seabourn's Mindful Living Program by Andrew Weil.

The 1,128m<sup>2</sup> space integrates the concept of a contemporary "floating forest", with branches spreading like fingers into four tranquil treatment rooms, each arrayed with neutral, textured wall coverings, light wood, and bronze accents.

Other details include a textured tree-inspired art mural, light wood-and-bronze material palette, and live wood features to usher guests into the reception area.

Natural stone flooring and muted sage and orange accent colours will also be present.

The spa will feature yoga, fitness, and sauna areas

(pictured), all of which will include sea-view windows.

Therapists will offer face and body massages, as well as detox, cleansing and wrap services.

The fitness centre will be outfitted with a range of cardio & strength equipment, with a Fitness Director on hand to train guests in various fitness regimes.

A full-service salon will also be part of the scene, with hair styling, facials, manicures and pedicures available.

"Spa & Wellness is sure to be a standout space for our guests to embrace feelings of wellbeing in the midst of adventure on expeditions to the wonders of the world on our expedition ships," said President Josh Lebowitz.

"Our highly-trained staff will be devoted to providing a robust series of mind and body programs and rejuvenating treatments developed in collaboration with Dr. Weil to ensure travellers can relax, reconnect, and recharge during their time on board."

## Viking gets Grand

**VIKING'S** deal of the week is the Grand European Tour, sailing the continent's rivers for 15 days.

Travelling on the Main, Rhine and Danube Rivers from Amsterdam to Budapest or vice versa, the voyage is priced from \$5,995 per person.

This includes a saving up to \$5,200 per couple as part of Viking's Discovery Sale - **HERE**.



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