



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Eclipse II on track

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has downplayed media reports claiming delays in the build of *Scenic Eclipse II*.

The company noted it had not made any formal statements about the project's status since Jun last year, and that it was "currently forecasting the ship to be available in 2023".

"There is no change to the current status of *Scenic Eclipse II*...we have created an indicative schedule for 2023 as per our current brochure (CLICK HERE) which features our expanded itineraries into new destinations including Japan, Russian Far East & the North East Passage," Scenic said.

## Aurora to launch Antarctica 22/23

### EXCLUSIVE

**AURORA** Expeditions will tomorrow launch its Antarctica 2022/23 itineraries, following a successful pre-registration (CW 18 Jan).

Bookings with earlybird savings of up to 30% off will be available, with Aurora celebrating its 30th year with the highest number of trips it has operated in one Antarctic season, with 26 departures across *Greg Mortimer* and *Sylvia Earle* (CW 12 Nov 2020).

Aurora is calling the program one of its "most diverse and immersive" ever, with add-on activities to include snorkeling, diving, ice camping, Shackleton's Crossing, ski touring, kayaking, snowshoeing and more.

Highlights of the new 22/23 program include the 12-day Spirit of Antarctica itinerary, which features a sailing across the



Drake Passage, and the chance to Zodiac-cruise through pack ice (pictured), set foot on the continent, choose from a range of adventure options and camp under polar skies.

Also available is the Across the Antarctic Circle voyage, which ventures below the Antarctic Circle through drift ice, icebergs, and narrow channels, to witness feeding whales and penguin

colonies.

Another option is the Wild Antarctic trip, which takes travellers through the Weddell Sea, where they will explore the west Antarctic Peninsula, and attempt to venture east towards the Sea's icy perimeter, which often features impenetrable drift ice.

These three trips, as well as the Antarctic Explorer and South Georgia & Antarctic Odyssey, all feature departures on either *Mortimer* or *Earle*, with Aurora also offering bespoke departures available on a specific ship, such as the Subantarctic Safari and Antarctica Complete journeys (*Earle*) and the Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctic Peninsula trips (*Mortimer*).

The official launch will take place tomorrow at 9am, when voyages will be able to be booked.



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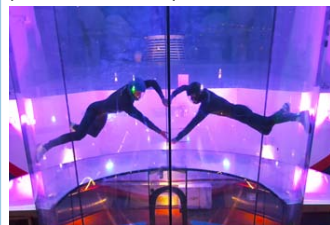


**SOME** couples will stop at nothing to show love for each other, including this crew couple (pictured) on board Royal Caribbean International's (RCI) *Quantum of the Seas*.

The featured crew members are photographed demonstrating their love for each other on the iFly skydiving simulator.

Sports Supervisor Johel and Cruise Program Administrator Rose first met on *Ovation of the Seas* in 2017, and have since been on five RCI ships together.

A Royal Caribbean ship is typically a perfect place to spend Valentine's Day - let's hope next year that will be possible.



## NCLH extends

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has announced the extension of its suspension of voyages for its Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises brands.

Embarkation dates through to the end of May have been cancelled, as NCLH "continues to work through its return to service plan" to meet CDC requirements.

## With a little help from..



**P&O** Cruises Australia President Sture Myrmell has thanked Ni Vanuatu crew member Serah Taravaki (pictured third from left) for her selfless efforts in helping to get many of her seafarer colleagues home.

Taravaki was recently reunited with her own family and friends after completing international arrival quarantine - a reunion that could have taken place far earlier, if not for her insistence to stay on board P&O Australia flagship *Pacific Explorer* to help in the complex repatriation project.

In doing so, Taravaki became the last of 17,000 crew members within the P&O brand to arrive home in one of the biggest-ever maritime repatriation operations, following the worldwide suspension of cruising.

Myrmell expressed his gratitude for Taravaki's efforts, saying "I want to thank you for your contributions to seeing us through this difficult time.

"I want you to know that your hard work has not gone

unnoticed and you should be extremely proud of how you have positively impacted those you work with, your management and the organisation as a whole.

"We certainly look forward to welcoming our Ni Vanuatu crew back on board when P&O's pause in operations comes to an end with the anticipated restart.

"In the same way, we also look forward to our ships again being able to visit Vanuatu's beautiful destinations that are so popular with our guests."

Myrmell said P&O very much looked forward to having Taravaki back onboard upon the resumption of cruising, with Serah thanking her Aus shoreside colleagues for working so hard to get her flights organised, as well as her crew management agency South Sea Services.

"Our shoreside team was never discouraged and worked 24/7 with us to make sure everything was under control, especially to bring the crew members home" she said.



## ACA community support

**OVER** the last 12 months it has been more critical than ever to stay in touch with our members to hear what they are doing and planning in their operations.

Last week we held an all members zoom call.

We discussed the challenges facing the industry - none more so than the impending finish to the JobKeeper program which will see many businesses impacted.

ACA is continuing to join other leading industry groups to urge the Federal Government to develop a tourism industry focused support scheme from 01 Apr.

We also discussed the opportunities we are starting to see from the restart of expeditions.

We were delighted to hear late last week that Ponant is planning a deployment of *Le Laperouse* and *Le Soleal* to Australia for eight itineraries including NSW, Tasmania, Qld, WA and SA.

It was encouraging to hear Tourism Minister, Dan Tehan's recent message of support for the work being done by cruise lines around COVID-safe planning and his encouragement of Australians to book their cruises with confidence.

To support the resumption of small ship itineraries, ACA has committed to organising a series of "cruise ready" destination and industry workshops around the country providing updates on the extensive protocols being put in place to stage a safe, healthy and successful re-start.

We are planning on conducting these starting April and will involve CLIA and a range of cruise line representatives to provide insights into the steps they are taking.