



Azamara Onward

AZAMARA Cruises has released details of the debut season for its new *Azamara Onward*, which will operate a total of 22 European itineraries after a maiden voyage from Monte Carlo to Venice departing on 02 May 2022.

The brand's fourth vessel, *Onward* will launch after a major upgrade from her former identity as Princess Cruises' *Pacific Princess*, with the milestone announcement following Azamara's transition into an independent cruise company (**CW** 20 Jan).

Azamara President Carol Cabezas said the deployment would comprise a series of seven- to 15-night exotic voyages, alongside new immersive pre- or post-land tours and a complimentary Experience More Essentials Package - azamara.com.

Hurtigruten pole-to-pole

HURTIGRUTEN Expeditions has launched two pole-to-pole cruises for next year, and is urging the travel trade to get on board to capitalise on strong demand for the iconic itineraries.

The new departures include a 93-day cruise ex Vancouver exploring Alaska, the Northwest Passage, Greenland, the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, South America, and Antarctica, which will kick off on 08 Aug 2022 aboard *Road Amundsen*.

The vast voyage will visit 11 countries before disembarking in Buenos Aires, with highlights including visits to the Aleutian Islands along the Alaskan Peninsula, and the deserted St. Matthew Island, the most isolated place in Alaska, before crossing the Arctic Circle and heading through the Northwest Passage and Baffin Island.

Other stops include Belize

and Nicaragua, with pricing for the bucket-list trip starting at A\$59,984 per person twin share.

Meanwhile Hurtigruten's *MS Fram* will set sail on 22 Sep 2022 on a 66-day expedition cruise from the Arctic to Antarctica.

Visiting seven countries between Edmonton and Santiago de Chile, *Fram* will head through the Canadian Arctic to Greenland, before cruising south through the Caribbean and the Panama Canal, exploring the coast of South America and the Chilean Fjords.

This voyage is priced from A\$46,962 per person, with Hurtigruten MD Damian Perry telling **CW** early interest is strong.

"This is amazing product and it is expected to sell well - so a great opportunity and a big commission earner," he said, with more information available on 1300 145 332 (Australia) or 0800 005 201 (New Zealand).

Cruise Weekly today

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

Tauck resumes

TAUCK has announced a staged restart of its operations in Europe and Africa, including an Aug return of European river cruises on the Rhone and Seine in France as well as the Douro River in Portugal.

The Douro program is actually Tauck's first ever foray on the river, and will see the debut of the 84-passenger *ms Andorinha* which features a pop-up restaurant hydraulically rising from the top deck to become a fully functioning eatery.

Dates for Tauck's resumption on the Rhine, Main & Danube rivers will be advised as soon as border openings permit.

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AS IF navigating the world's waterways wasn't already tricky, animal activists in the USA have suggested changing the name of a body of water which they believe is inappropriate.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has issued a formal request to the mayor of a Minnesota township called Ham Lake - adjacent to an identically-named inland sea so-called because it is shaped like a joint of ham.

PETA is urging that the area be renamed Yam Lake, arguing it would be a "more pig-positive" way to describe the waterway.

"Pigs are smart, sensitive, wonderful individuals, so if we have a heart, we'll leave their legs along and choose yams over hams," said PETA President Ingrid Newkirk.

She said PETA would help pay for new signage and send "delicious candied yams for the whole town to enjoy if you agree".

New Pandaw dates

PANDAW has added new dates for 2023/24 for its Indochina itineraries.

New bookings can be secured by paying just US\$100, with many itineraries are already close to full capacity for 2022/23 from both new bookings and rescheduled guests, the company said.

See pandaw.com.

Scenic 2022 Europe out



SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours will have a new Enrichment Manager on board its Europe river cruises for 2022, as part of a newly-released program featuring additional included Scenic Enrich Experiences.

Highlights include exclusive after-hours access to Bordeaux's Les Bassins de Lumieres, a former submarine base transformed into a digital art showcase; and a guided tour of Motorworld in Cologne showcasing the private collection of Formula 1 legend Michael Schumacher.

The Enrichment Manager will be responsible for hosting cabaret nights, cooking lessons, wine tastings, lectures and ensuring guests fully enjoy their trips.

Some of the new experiences offered will also include an on-board glass blowing demonstration, painting classes for guests sailing the Rhone and a lecture from a tulip grower in the Netherlands.

Practical policies to support travel advisors and encourage their clients to book with

confidence include Scenic's Complimentary Deposit Protection Plan with all new bookings, and the company's Flexible Booking Policy allowing cancellations or deferrals up to 60 days prior to departure.

Customers can also pay \$395 for a Risk-Free Platinum Protection Plan which covers them with a 100% refund if they are unable to travel due to health reasons or their travel plans are impacted by COVID-19, up to 31 days prior to departure.

A range of earlybird offers including fly free deals and discounted Business Class flights are available for Balcony Suite bookings or above, and travel advisors will earn a bonus 2% commission on all new Scenic Europe River Cruise bookings made online via the company's ExpressBook platform before the end of next month.

Full details on the program are now available at scenic.com.au, with a new TV commercial online at cruiseweekly.com.au/videos.

Pictured: *Scenic Diamond*.



Good news from Oz?

GREAT to see the Australian Tourism Minister, Dan Tehan, openly talking about a review of the Biosecurity Emergency Declaration which is effectively stopping cruise ships from operating in Australian waters.

It's not really his decision, fair enough, but it was certainly heartening to see a Minister talking so positively and openly about cruise (and even including New Zealand!).

He might not be our Minister, but in the interests of the trans-Tasman cooperation we have seen this week with Scott Morrison visiting Jacinda Ardern in Queenstown, perhaps we might see our government nudged towards thinking about the considerable economic benefits of cruise and how it can help bring cruise ships back to our regional economies.

Following on from our two Prime Ministers' discussions there's talk about expanding travel corridors to our Pacific Island neighbours.

We can already holiday in the Cook Islands, but Noumea and Tahiti are possibilities too.

So with all this positivity where does that leave cruise?

Still inside our locked house with our noses pressed against the window watching the cool kids having a good time.

Maybe we can get some positive support soon too? Here's hoping.