



## Aurora to sail Australia after 30 years

**AURORA** Expeditions is set to launch a new extensive season of domestic journeys in Australia from Jun (**CW** breaking news).

It is the first time in Aurora's 30-year history the cruise line will offer a full season of voyages ex-Australia, with adventures to also visit Antarctica's Commonwealth Bay (**pictured**) and Ross Sea.

Other destinations for the season will include the Bass Strait Islands; the Coral Coast, Western Australia; South Australia's Kangaroo Island; the Kimberley; the Ningaloo Coast, the South West; Tasmania and more.

More information will be available on specific itineraries, activities, expedition dates, and earlybird discounts later in the week, when expressions of interest will also open to the public.

Aurora Expeditions Chief Executive Officer Monique



Ponfoort told **Cruise Weekly** the Australian expeditions would be "activity-rich" offering a wide range of experiences.

With the cruise line working closely with state and territory governments, as well as the Department of Health, Ponfoort said Aurora's number one priority for the company has been the health and safety of its guests and crews.

She said Aurora had taken many steps, such as engaging Respond Global Specialist Emergency

Physician Ian Norton to help develop a health and safety program, which will include on-board PCR testing capabilities.

"He's worked with us as a consultant in the formulation of our health and safety protocols to ensure we evolve and continue to keep them at a very high standard," Ponfoort explained.

Other protocols include measures leading up to and during the voyage, air conditioning units that recycle fresh air, isolation cabins and more.

"It is still subject to regulatory approvals, we're working on multiple permits, there are so many layers to it," she said.

"To redeploy our ship down to Australia is a big step for us and a really important one, and one we're really passionate about, and we think it's the right step."

Bookings will open on 11 Mar.

## Positive study results with Royal Caribbean

**A UNIVERSITY** of Nebraska study has found the transmission of aerosol particles in a ship's HVAC system is "undetectable".

No detectable air- or surface-bound transmissions were found, after a study through UN's Medical Center and National Strategic Research Institute, which were engaged by Royal Caribbean Group.

The study was conducted aboard *Oasis of the Seas*, with the support of the Healthy Sail Panel (**CW** 07 Jul 2020).

Recommendations are outlined in a report submitted in Sep, and are available **HERE**.

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

**Regent**  
SEVEN SEAS CRUISES  
AN UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE™

*Luxury Cruise Events*

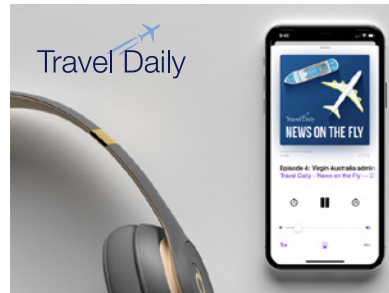
## Your Invitation

Together with Regent Seven Seas Cruises®, host your key clients at our newest series of Luxury Cruise Events.

*Exclusive limited time offers will be available at the event.*

**REGISTER NOW**

**DOWNLOAD AN EDITABLE EVENT INVITATION** TO SEND TO YOUR CLIENTS OR REGISTER NOW USING THE LINK ABOVE TO SECURE YOUR PLACE.



Travel Daily

**Catch up on the news of the week**

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

## The Small Ship Collective launches

### EXCLUSIVE

**THE** Small Ship Collective (TSSC), an “industry-first for small ship cruising”, has been launched by Cruise Traveller (CT).

A new marketing and technology platform, the Small Ship Collective ([CLICK HERE](#)) has been launched to help advisors benefit from the rise in demand for the sector.

The low-cost marketing & technology platform is the biggest initiative in Cruise Traveller’s 18-year history, and is timed to help agents benefit from rising, post-pandemic interest in smaller vessels, Managing Director, Craig Bowen told *Cruise Weekly*.

He said TSSC is not designed as a direct booking engine, but as a custom web solution to offer advisors a suite of tools to quickly help them become an expert.

TSSC offers agents a personalised website, branded

with their own logo, with cruise content able to be tailored to feature the lines and destinations they choose.

It can also include auto price-feeds direct from large ship lines, to ensure a complete platform.

Including extensive support and training from Cruise Traveller, TSSC offers a complete toolkit for agents to sell small ship product to their clients, including back-end banners for marketing.

Advisors who are a part of TSSC will also enjoy preferred commissions on CT-provided products, specialist training for their teams, familiarisation opportunities, preferred cancellation & amendment conditions and a priority, toll-free reservations number.

Priced at a one-off administration cost of \$250 and monthly fees of \$180, Bowen said rebates on offer could potentially

reduce these fees to zero, based on easily achievable targets.

“People who do small ship travel tend to be experienced travellers and their repeat and referral business that comes from it is way higher than the average sale,” Bowen explained to *CW*.

“Once you get a small ship guest in your client base, you’re likely to get them two or three times a year, and they’re very likely to travel with like-minded friends.

“All of a sudden you don’t get one \$10,000 or \$20,000 booking, you get a couple.”

He noted Cruise Traveller had seen a pick-up in enquiries the last few months, with particular growth in those who have never been cruising before.

“COVID has amplified the whole concept,” Bowen said, adding CT has sold nearly \$4 million worth of Tradewind Voyages’ *Golden Horizon* product (*CW* 22 Oct).

### Extended exploring

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises is offering more complimentary land programs with its free extended explorations.

Guests can extend their holiday by up to six nights with a range of enticing destinations across Australia, as well as Africa, Asia, New Zealand and South America.

In total, there are 13 complimentary pre- and post-cruise land programs that can bookend 22 voyages sailing between Oct 2021 and Mar 2022 on board *Seven Seas Explorer* and *Seven Seas Voyager*.

To learn more about the free extended explorations product, advisors and travellers are invited to attend live events taking place across the country from Mar.

To register, [CLICK HERE](#).



**NCL**  
Feel Free

**NEW ITINERARIES SELLING FAST**

## FEEL FREE TO AWAKEN YOUR ISLAND SPIRIT.

Norwegian Spirit 2022 South Pacific cruises now on sale.

**TAKE 4**

CHOOSE 4 FREE OFFERS\*

- free** BEVERAGE PACKAGE WORTH US\$1,400
- free** SPECIALTY DINING PACKAGE WORTH US\$160
- free** SHORE EXCURSIONS CREDIT WORTH US\$200
- free** WIFI PACKAGE WORTH US\$130

#### 14-DAY SOUTH PACIFIC: FIJI, BORA BORA & MOOREA TO PAPEETE

FROM SYDNEY  
23 APR 2022



#### 12-DAY SOUTH PACIFIC: BORA BORA, KAUAI & MAUI TO HONOLULU

FROM PAPEETE  
7, 31 MAY & 14 NOV 2022



#### 7-DAY SOUTH PACIFIC: BORA BORA, MOOREA & RAIATEA

ROUND-TRIP PAPEETE  
31 OCT & 7 NOV 2022



#### 12-DAY SOUTH PACIFIC: BORA BORA, KAUAI & MAUI TO PAPEETE

FROM HONOLULU  
19 MAY, 19 OCT & 26 NOV 2022



TO REGISTER FOR OUR WEBINAR AND DOWNLOAD OUR TOOLKIT [CLICK HERE](#).

\*Offer correct as at 24 February and is subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 31 March 2021 unless extended. For full terms and conditions click here.



## Viking Antarctica

**THE** launch of Viking's first expedition vessel is now less than a year away, with the cruise line today releasing a limited-time offer on its 13-day *Antarctic Explorer* voyage.

The cruise line's two expedition ships, *Viking Octantis* and *Viking Polaris* both include an industry-first - The Hangar - which allows guests to board expedition boats from the safety and comfort of an enclosed, onboard marina.

The special offer includes savings of up to \$6,000 per couple including a \$1,500 early payment bonus when booked before 31 Mar, with the inaugural season set for Jan - details on 138 747.

## Princess is for the birds



**CONTRIBUTIONS** from Princess Cruises guests have facilitated a doubling of kiwi numbers in New Zealand's Bay of Islands over the last 18 months, according to Bush Bay Action, an organisation which the line has been supporting through its Local Partnerships Program (**CW** 26 Aug 2019).

About 50 children from the region have been busy building



"houses" for threatened native wildlife which also includes penguins, providing a safe haven for the birds to raise their young.

Bush Bay Action trustee Brad Windhurst said the support of Princess guests had seen the organisation's focus extended to the shores of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

"The focus of our Princess Cruises partnership is to create a thriving habitat that supports the growth of native bird populations," Windhurst said.

Princess pledged NZ\$100,000 to launch the program, which is also funded by adult guests donating \$2 via their onboard account during the 2019/20 cruise season.

Stuart Allison, Princess Senior VP Asia Pacific, said Princess brings more guests to New Zealand than any other line, with the support of community based initiatives an extension of that relationship.



**AN ENTERPRISING** New Zealander has recreated an aquatic milestone, launching a self-made boat to commemorate the 1842 arrival of his ancestors in Taranaki.

Rex Hendry said he'd been building the dinghy for some time, but work rapidly accelerated when he was stuck at home in lockdown over the last 12 months.

The four-metre dinghy, *Timandra tee Waka* (pictured), is powered by a small outboard motor, in contrast to the oars which were used by his forebearers when they walked ashore at Ngamotu Beach on the North Island.

"It is hugely significant to me to be able to launch the boat and have that connection to where my grandmother's family, the Barriballs, stepped ashore," Hendry told *Stuff*.

The vessel was built with plans from American boatbuilder Davis - which were in feet and inches.

But "luckily I was brought up using imperial measurements and had an old measuring stick which had imperial and metric on each side," he said.



## Keep your clients inspired with *keep dreaming...*



A weekly e-magazine with destination features, puzzles and more.

Travel & Cruise  
Weekly

## Windstar plots shift

**WINDSTAR** Cruises has confirmed plans to relocate its head office from Seattle to Miami, saying the move will help attract new talent and shorten staff flight times to ships in Europe & the Caribbean.