

Princess 2023

PRINCESS Cruises has announced its summer 2023 Caribbean season.

Going on sale today, *Caribbean Princess* will sail roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale, offering world-famous beaches in the East Caribbean, or exploring Mayan ruins in the West Caribbean.

The season runs from Apr through to Jul 2023, and features 11 destinations, 31 departures and four itineraries, ranging in length from seven to 14 days.

All guests sailing on Eastern Caribbean itineraries visit the cruise line's Princess Cays private island resort for a day of fun, sun, water activities and a beach barbecue.

Caribbean Princess has recently been modernised to further appeal to families of all sizes and age groups.

APT confirms Kimberley

THE APT Travel Group (ATG) has confirmed its Kimberley Expedition season will commence in Jun aboard *Caledonian Sky* within Western Australia.

With capacity for only 99 passengers, *Caledonian Sky* is excluded from the Australian Government's ban on larger cruise ships.

ATG has updated its COVID Safe policies, which have been developed with experts from around the world including Respond Global founder Ian Norton, formerly of Cruise Lines International Association.

Travelling between Wyndham and Broome, many of the cruises are coupled with 4x4 touring throughout the Kimberley, staying in ATG's lodges.

The season will operate from Jun to Sep with high demand and very limited availability still remaining.

Further itineraries beyond the Kimberley will be announced shortly and next year's departure dates are also now on sale.

"Over the past 12 months, the APT Travel Group and the travel industry have been navigating an extraordinary environment, unlike anything seen before," said Australian Pacific Holdings Managing Director Chris Hall.

"Over the last few months we have operated touring programs across the country and now we are pleased to commence our expedition season in the Kimberley.

"Australians are keen to travel and we have exceptional experiences ready and waiting for them to enjoy."

Hall said the return to operating ATG's touring and expedition holidays is a "tremendous outcome" for guests, travel agency partners, staff and crew.

Cruise Weekly today

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

RSSC savings offer

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has announced a free two-category Suite upgrade on more than 80 Mediterranean and Northern Europe voyages next year.

When booked between 03 May and 30 Jun, guests can upgrade by two suite categories, up to a Penthouse Suite, and receive up to 25% off.

Pax can also currently benefit from the flexibility of the 50% Reduced Deposits offer.

Travel advisors in Australia will receive a \$200 Visa Gift Card for each new deposited booking made between 03 May and 17 May.

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LIFE jackets on a cruise ship?

No, just use your noodle.

A man clinging to a pool noodle has been rescued from Wellington Harbour in New Zealand after his homemade dinghy sunk.

Police were alerted to the situation about noon on Mon when the man's friend, who had been with him in the boat, struggled 240 metres to shore to inform authorities.

The Wellington Police Maritime Unit was deployed to where the man was kept afloat.

Within about 45 minutes, he had been rescued.

Senior Constable Philip Elder said the man was pulled from the water in hypothermic condition.

Mothers Day on the Murray

MURRAY River Paddlesteamers is inviting travellers to spoil mum with a Mother's Day gift card.

Purchase a gift card online for any of Murray River Paddlesteamers' Daily, Lunch, or Dinner Cruises.

The gift card can be sent directly to her with a personalised message.

Those who really love their mum are able to gift an overnight cruise aboard any of Murray River Paddlesteamers' two- to six-night cruises aboard *Emmylou*.

Cruising ain't no joke



WHEN cruising was suspended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact on entertainers such as comedian Mark Trevorow (**pictured**) was both huge and immediate.

Renowned for his side-splittingly funny and highly camp on-stage persona Bob Downe, Trevorow saw his main source of income from regular P&O Cruises Australia comedy cruises disappear overnight.

"I miss our comedy cruises something shocking and can't wait to get all jabbed and to be back at sea," Trevorow said.

"We are all missing each other terribly, all of the Sit Down Comedy Club comedians.

"We are just counting the days until we can sail again."

Regular comedy cruise artists stay in touch with each other via a private Facebook group, and fortunately, Trevorow has been able to take Bob Downe back on the road, while all the time looking forward to being back on the water again.

Trevorow's onstage character is an amalgam of the world in which

he grew up, including "cheesy" variety television shows a nightly feature of Melbourne, "all straight from the Tivoli circuit", plus flashy American movies and entertainers such as Dean Martin.

His love of cruising is not just business either, with he and his partner, Stefan (**pictured**), renewing their vows with 80 family members on board P&O Australia's *Pacific Jewel* - however, Trevorow admitted he had never been on a cruise ship before his first comedy cruise.

"I completely fell in love with cruising...the amazing thing with comedy cruises is that people book without knowing who the comedians will be.

"What that means for us as comedians is a fabulous level playing field where we all get out on stage and we live or die by how funny we are.

"You've also got that fellowship of your colleagues...you're out at sea for three days with wonderful colleagues because usually when you're touring you're on your own and it gets pretty lonely," Trevorow added.



Masters is back

WHILE CLIA's most important focus continues to be on the discussions with governments to open a pathway to resumption, we're continuing to make sure we support our CLIA agent members in a way that puts them first in our industry's recovery.

As our industry works towards revival, the challenges for travel agents are greater than ever.

To help CLIA agents stand out in a competitive environment, we've been working hard to offer education opportunities that are more relevant and tightly focussed on helping to secure sales.

We're pleased to announce that our **Masters Program** is back, opening a pathway for members to achieve the highest level of CLIA qualification available.

This year we have redesigned the program in a new online format, recognising the new environment we work in and ensuring the door remains open to progression.

Like past years, the 2021 Masters Program is aimed at taking travel agents beyond mainstream selling, helping them to lift revenue and stand out from the crowd.

We've enhanced and updated the content to provide the most practical training possible, and have created an online format we think agents will find engaging and supportive.

To find more details about Masters and other CLIA events and education opportunities, and to check your eligibility for Masters **CLICK HERE**.

