



Uni-round-the-world

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has announced its inaugural world cruise, Rivers of the World 2023.

The 43-night multi-ship, multi-segment cruise will depart on 20 May 2023 from Cairo and finish in Lisbon and will feature “over-the-top”, unique experiences both on and off the ship.

Itinerary highlights include a visit to the UNESCO-protected temples of Abu Simbel, exploring Schonbrunn Palace, experiencing the iconic Moulin Rouge in Paris, and a day in the Portuguese towns of Cacaís and Sintra.

The itinerary is all-inclusive, featuring on-board dining, unlimited premium wine, beer & spirits, wi-fi, excursions, scheduled airport transfers, on-board gratuities and flights between cruise segments.

Local crew requirement

THE Department of Home Affairs has confirmed it will not approve travel exemptions for cruise ship staff involved with service or hospitality roles on board.

An update on the Department’s website confirms the measure, which mirrors requirements imposed at the last minute by New Zealand authorities which put paid to Ponant’s planned New Zealand domestic season (**CW** 03 Feb).

Current restrictions under the Australian Government’s human biosecurity emergency period, in place until 17 Jun, restrict the entry of ships capable of carrying 100 or more passengers into Australia.

However, while “large passenger vessels” (carrying up to 99 pax) are still able to enter local waters, the crew must submit a travel exemption request before

travelling to Australia.

“We will only consider exemptions for crew required to safely operate the vessel,” the Department noted, adding “entry of the vessel should also provide economic benefit to Australia”.

“Other roles, such as service or hospitality roles, should be filled by workers in Australia,” it added.

Any application for entry must include the current location of the vessel, where it is proposed to enter Australia, confirmation quarantine will be undertaken as directed by the relevant state or territory government(s), and “complete details of all crew and employees included in the travel exemption request, including their purpose of employment”.

Last week APT cancelled the first departure of its 2021 Kimberley season, planned for 02 Jun, because of a shortage of tourism & hospitality staff (**CW** 11 May).

Cruise Weekly today

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

Hope for AK cruise

THE United States Senate has passed a bill which could potentially save Alaska’s cruise season.

Presented by Senator Lisa Murkowski, the Alaska Tourism Recovery Act would temporarily suspend the requirement for cruise ships to stop in Canada, which is closed to cruises through to Feb 2022.

The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for approval, and, if it passes, President Joe Biden could sign it into law, so long as it has bipartisan support.

Murkowski said in her speech the moment was a “glimmer of hope” for Alaska’s tourism industry.

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Travel Daily



DISNEY'S 'Imagineers' have dreamed up a first-of-its kind suite for the cruise line's upcoming *Disney Wish*.

Set high in the vessel's forward funnel the Wish Tower Suite, will boast a design inspired by the seafaring animation *Moana*, as well as incomparable ocean views.

The almost 200m² penthouse in the sky will comfortably sleep up to eight guests with two main bedrooms, located on the upper-left loft, a children's room, a library that converts to a bedroom and four-and-a-half bathrooms.

The living room will be flanked by an open dining area, and a large pantry and a bar, all offering extraordinary views across the upper decks to the horizon through an expansive two-storey window wall.

So'ton shore power

ASSOCIATED British Ports is planning to install shore power for the Port of Southampton's Mayflower terminal by the end of the year.

Once employed, the Port could see an 863 kilogram reduction in carbon dioxide emissions each year.

The announcement is in line with Carnival UK's plans for sustainable cruising, following the Port's partnership with the cruise line, in readiness for its new LNG ship *Iona*.

Scenic II keel laid



A KEY milestone has been reached for *Scenic Eclipse II*, with the ship's keel-laying ceremony taking place last week in the Maj 3 shipyard in Rijeka, Croatia.

Attended by Croatia's Minister of the Sea, Transport & Infrastructure Oleg Butkovic, Mayor of Rijeka Vojko Obersnel, Scenic founder Glen Moroney, Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, Maj 3 Manager Edi Kucan, and Minister of Economy & Sustainable Development Tomislav Coric (**pictured**), the occasion marked the build of the first of five custom-built vessels to be delivered over the next six years in Croatia.

As a sister ship to *Scenic Eclipse*, *Scenic Eclipse II* is the second discovery yacht from Scenic Group in their ocean fleet.

Eclipse II will aim to "raise the benchmark within the ultra-luxury expedition cruising market", with its ability to navigate both polar and tropical regions.

The yacht will accommodate 228 guests, and will have an on-board staff-to-guest ratio of

almost 1:1.

It is due to launch in the Mediterranean in the first quarter of 2023.

Azamara Greece

AZAMARA'S northern summer 2021 voyages are now open for booking, with a range of new Destination Celebration experiences.

The cruise line's five back-to-back Greece itineraries are now open for booking, featuring Azamara's AzAmazing Evenings revamp.

The new, complimentary events will be exclusively available through the northern spring of 2022 on most voyages of seven nights or longer.

The Destination Celebration event in Rhodes, Greece, will feature music by Duo Violins.

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