

cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Monday 1st November 2021

Cruise Weekly today

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

Kotanidis returns

CARNIVAL Corporation has announced Anastasia Kotanidis as a Business Development Manager for Victoria & Tasmania for both Holland America Line & Seabourn Cruise Line.

Effective today, Kotanidis will bring her luxury cruise experience to Carnival Corp, having spent more than 10 years representing some of the cruise industry's leading luxury and ultra-luxury brands in Australia, after a stint outside the sector.

Senior Director of Sales & Marketing Tony Archbold said Kotanidis' standing, experience and passion is "unrivalled".

Not much expected from Aus: Fain

ROYAL Caribbean Group does not expect Australia to open to cruise travel until the northern spring, Chief Executive Officer Richard Fain noted in the company's third quarter earnings conference call.

Despite confirming the country remains an important market, Fain noted "Australia's approach to containing the pandemic has been based on isolation".

"They are now rapidly switching to the vaccines as a way to controlling the disease...we do not expect Australia to open to cruise travel until the spring," Fain said.

"Since the summer season doesn't start until our next winter anyhow, we're not counting on much from Australia until the end of next year."

Throughout the rest of the world, Royal Caribbean noted its vessel operations restart was at a



strong pace.

By the end of this year, Royal Caribbean anticipates 50 out of 61 ships will have returned to service across its five brands, representing almost 100% of its core itineraries and approximately 80% of worldwide capacity.

While the "Delta dip" caused a delay in Royal Caribbean's booking progress, it did not alter its strong fundamental trajectory.

Sailings for next year are booked within historical ranges and at higher prices than 2019, even when including cruise credits.

Royal Caribbean expects to be cash flow positive by the northern spring and profitable for the full year of 2022.

More than 500,000 guests have sailed across Royal Caribbean's brands since the restart of operations, with more than 1 million guests expected by the year's end.

Passenger satisfaction scores and onboard spending per guest are also both at the highest levels in Royal Caribbean's history.

Pictured: Ovation of the Seas.

Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called Keep Dreaming is specially designed for agents to send their clients - giving you a reason to reach out to your database.

Keep Dreaming is full of destination articles, cruise stories and more to inspire.

Click here to view Keep Dreaming magazine Click here for a toolkit to help you share it with clients

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PORTHOLE

THE Brisbane River (pictured) may not be the most pleasant waterway to spend time on in Australia, but that may be about to change ahead of the 2032 Summer Olympics.

Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner has opened up on his "agenda to inspire", and turn the River from brown to blue ahead of the 2032 Olympics.

While the agenda is a bold one to turn around in barely 10 years, Schrinner harbours even loftier plans.

"Wouldn't it be great as well when we have everyone here in the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics to see dolphins and dugong in the bay, and even in our River, that would be fantastic," he enthused.



Scare-nival spooks the Coast



BOO - Carnival Cruise Line made a surprise visit to Pacific Fair Shopping Centre over the weekend, celebrating Halloween with families on the Gold Coast.

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Participants enjoyed personalised pumpkin carvings (**pictured**), won prizes, and mingled with a host of ghoulish characters.

The cruise line spent Halloween in Sydney last year, relocating its resident arachnid Fangelica from the bow of *Carnival Spirit* to the Macquarie Shopping Centre (*CW* 03 Nov 2020).

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Today marks the last day of Carnival's Spooktacular four-day sale, with scary low fares from \$89 per person per day.

Paul Gauguin 2023

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has opened sales for its six 2023 small luxury itineraries.

The cruise line's destination experts are offering a chance to explore the wonders of the South Pacific and beyond aboard its newly renovated luxury small vessel *Le Paul Gauguin*.

Ranging from seven to 16 nights, travellers can explore Tahiti, the Society Islands, the Marquesas Islands, the Tuamotus, Tonga, the Cook Islands and Fiji.

Swimming, diving, kayaking, paddle-boarding and snorkelling are just some of the activities on offer during the season, as is a traditional Polynesian barbecue on a private islet, Motu Mahana, off the protected Taha'a.

Trytime for Unique

UNIQUE Cruises has teamed up with Keith Prowse Travel for a number of Rugby World Cup packages.

Travellers will experience a relaxing luxury barge hotel cruise combined with the excitement of the World Cup. Scheduled to take place from 08 Sep to 28 Oct 2023 in France, the 2023 World Cup will be hosted in nine cities across the country. CLICK HERE for more.

Cruise Saudi move

CRUISE Saudi has announced its membership of the World Travel & Tourism Council.

The announcement will further establish the Saudi cruise industry, just as international leisure travel begins to resume following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cruise Saudi said joining the Council will allow it to better shine a spotlight on the yearround potential of the Saudi market to tour operators, travel advisors and cruise lines, in addition to sourcing key data on international travel trends and learning from the best practitioners around the world.

"Our membership of WTTC is another important step in fulfilling Saudi Arabia's plans to become a new pillar for the global cruise industry," said MD Fawaz Farooqui.

He added Saudi Arabia has an appealing and unparalleled blend of cultural, historical and natural attractions.

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