Beyond the Polar Circle

# A LIFE CHANGING JOURNEY TO ANTARCTICA WITH ANDREW DADDO



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# WEEKLY delivered daily!

cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Tuesday 5th October 2021

# Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover page from **Ponant**.

## Ponant film drops

**BEYOND** the Polar Circle, Ponant's new film which documents a life-changing journey to Antarctica with new brand ambassador Andrew Daddo (**CW** 01 Oct), can be watched now.

The film showcases the entertainer's once-in-alifetime experience sailing on board Ponant's *Le Boreal* to Antarctica.

Beyond the Polar Circle was debuted to a number of lucky trade partners last week.

Filmed in early 2019, the 45-minute feature of the two-week expedition can be viewed **HERE**.

# Viking launches first China cruises

VIKING has kicked off its inaugural China coastal cruise from Shenzhen with Chineseflagged ship *Yiduan* (pictured).

The cruise marks the first of the new itineraries to be launched under Viking's joint venture with China Merchants Shekou (*CW* 30 Nov 2020).

Yiduan, formerly Viking Sun (**CW** 16 Mar) set sail from Shekou port and will cruise to Sanya in Hainan before returning to Shenzhen on an eight-day itinerary, marking the first of a planned series of China Coastal Cultural Cruises. While Yiduan is Chinese-

flagged, it features the brand's Nordic-style interiors, and the China Coastal Cultural Cruise experience retains many of Viking's signatures, including a well-curated library of books, enriching lectures, a spa featuring traditional Scandinavian bath rituals, shore excursions with



several Privileged Access experiences, and original Viking dining concepts such as Mamsen's Norwegian deli, Manfredi's Italian, and more.

Updating *Yiduan* to prepare her for her new cruises took about 12 months.

"It is very exciting that we are able to launch a brand-new product and the first of its kind in China," said Viking Chair Torstein Hagen.

"We believe cruising is a boom industry in China, and that Chinese consumers' demand for cruise travel will continue to grow and become more sophisticated.

"Our joint-venture partnership with the China Merchants Group will enable us to take advantage of this trend."

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## What the heck ...?

AUSTRALIANS could soon cruise overseas but not at home, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has warned.

Following the announcement of the imminent opening of int'l travel, Australians could soon be able to fly overseas to go on a cruise, where about two million passengers have already sailed, but still be unable to sail from their own doorstep.

"Australia is now one of the only major cruise markets in the world with no clear plan for cruising's revival," CLIA Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz fumed.

"Australians love to cruise, but we now face the ridiculous possibility that we will be able to travel overseas to take a cruise but won't be able to sail in our own waters."



Le Commandant launched

**PONANT** has launched *Le Commandant Charcot* (**pictured**) during a ceremony last month.

The formalities were attended by Anne Manipoud-Charcot, the great-grand-daughter of French scientist Jean-Baptiste Charcot, for whom the ship is named.

Also on hand were Ponant Chief Executive Officer Herve Gastinel and Captains Etienne Garcia and Patrick Marchesseau. "The boldness of this project is not just about taking passengers to the far corners of the Arctic and the Antarctic, it is about doing it safely and following the same values and principles of seamanship that move us," Gastinel said.

The ceremony took place just a few weeks after *Le Commandant Charcot* reached the North Pole (*CW* 08 Sep).

### MSC protocols

MSC Cruises will require guests to provide relevant documentation at embarkation in line with international travel requirements, as part of its 2021/22 winter health & safety protocols.

Substantiation may include a negative test result, proof of vaccination and COVID insurance documentation, as well as a complete set of shots received more than 14 days before the start of the cruise for all guests over the age of 12, where proof of vaccination is required.

MSC will also require a COVID insurance policy as a mandatory requirement for all guests, which must cover against COVID-19 related risks.

These may include cancellation, interruption, repatriation expenses, quarantine, and more.



\*Discount will vary depending on sail year and destination. Offer correct as at 1 October 2021 and subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 2 November 2021 unless extended. For full terms and conditions <u>click here.</u>

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# Viking sale

VIKING has launched its Welcome Back to the World Sale, offering a saving of up to \$8,000 per couple, including flights.

Featuring fantastic offers on an extensive selection of Viking's river, ocean and expedition cruises until Christmas Eve, the sale includes a selection of flight offers as well as an exclusive Viking Explorer Society member offer, saving past passengers an additional \$600 per couple when they book before the end of next month. For additional information, contact Viking at 138 747.

# **RCI Tracelet**

**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) and TraceSafe have signed a deal for a wearable device called The Tracelet.

Guests will soon be able to wear the device on board all Royal Caribbean cruise ships. The Tracelet has been

developed to quickly identify close contacts.



**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has announced the introduction of new seasonal ales (**pictured**) crafted by Sydney's Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel.

Bringing together flavours and ingredients from around the world, a rotating selection of Lord Nelson Brewery's ales will be available to quench the thirst of those sailing from Sydney onboard *Carnival Splendor*.

Among the selection includes the Smooth Sailing session ale, the Old Admiral Dark Ale and the Hape single hop pale ale. The new handcrafted ales were sampled during a virtual tasting on Thu, led by Lord Nelson owner Blair Hayden.

"Since we first partnered seven years ago, Carnival has been lucky enough to bring the Lord Nelson name to over one million passengers," said the cruise line's Vice President Australia Kara Glamore.

"We have loved being a part of their story and it's been a pleasure to bring a piece of Sydney history to all of our guests."



THE debut of India's Cordelia Cruises (*CW* 13 Sep) got off to a "rocky" start last weekend, after the country's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) busted a drug party on board one of the line's first ever sailings.

The NCB is searching Cordelia's ship after she returned to Mumbai, following the earlier shutdown of the party.

The Bureau has thus far arrested the son of Indian actor Shah Rukh Khan, along with seven others, after the raid on the Goa-bound ship.

The NCB had been keeping a close watch on the ship for up to three weeks after details of the party leaked.

The Bureau is likely to summon a number of Cordelia's officials, as well as the event management firm, in connection with the seizure of the drugs. For its part, Cordelia has

denied any involvement in the incident.





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