



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Wednesday 13th October 2021

Celebrity 2023-2024 season on sale

BOOKINGS for Celebrity Cruises' 2023-2024 season (*CW* 23 Sep) are now open for Captain's Club members today, and the general public from Fri.

The 2023-2024 season visits Australia, as well as Alaska, Mexico, New Zealand, and the West Coast of the United States.

Guests can experience *Celebrity Edge* (pictured) on her first trip to the Southern Hemisphere, sailing from Sydney to a range of destinations, including new port Kangaroo Island.

In Alaska, travellers can choose from three ships offering seven-night itineraries, while in the West Coast of the US, cruisers will visit Ensenada, Catalina Island, and more.

Cruisers can also head south of the border to Mexico from Los Angeles and experience a new port of call and new overnight stay on selected itineraries.



Travellers can **CLICK HERE** to register for Captain's Club for early access to the season.

The development of *Celebrity Edge's* inaugural Australian season was focused heavily on

fly-cruise and new-to-industry/new-to-brand, Vice President & Managing Director, Australia & APAC Tim Jones told *Cruise Weekly* upon the season's launch (*CW* 27 Sep).

Cruise Weekly today

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

RSSC webinars

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has announced a luxury cruise webinar series.

Open to both travellers and travel advisors, the four new webinars will run from Oct through to Dec.

Attendees will learn about the latest cruise offerings from Regent Seven Seas, and will also discover the delights of extending their voyages with the cruise line both onboard and on land.

Hosted by Vice President ANZ Lisa Pile, Director of Sales ANZ Gillian Seller and BDM Elsa McLean, the first instalment will be held tomorrow at 2pm AEDT - **CLICK HERE**.



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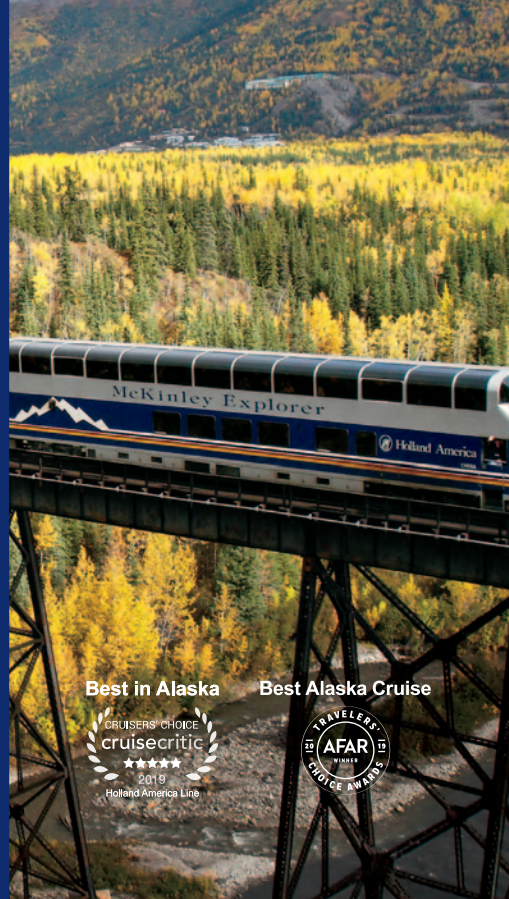


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Travel Daily

EMBARK finale

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has announced the season finale of Embark - The Series is now available for viewing.

Concluding NCL's five-part docuseries chronicling its cruise comeback, 'Adventure Awaits' sees viewers get a front row seat to the debut on the West Coast of the United States for the line's newest ship, *Norwegian Encore*, when she commences her first season of cruises to Alaska.

The journey begins in Seattle, where for the first time in 17 months, NCL's shipboard team welcomes guests back.

Adventure Awaits can now be viewed both [HERE](#) and on NCL's Facebook page.

President & Chief Operating Officer Harry Sommer said the final episode is filled with "so many emotions".

Seabourn World Cruise '24

TRAVELLERS are being invited to circle the globe with Seabourn Cruise Line's 2024 World Cruise: Extraordinary Horizons.

Open for booking tomorrow, the 145-day voyage aboard *Seabourn Sojourn* visits 72 destinations in 28 countries including Australia, with visits to Sydney and Queensland, including the Great Barrier Reef.

Sojourn will stop at a combination of popular marquee ports, cosmopolitan cities and smaller hidden gems, with 20 overnight stays along the way.

The ship will also stay late into the evening in 21 ports.

She will depart Los Angeles on 11 Jan 2024 and travel westbound, visiting Hawaii, the islands of the South Pacific, Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt and the Holy Land, before drawing to a close in Athens on 05 Jun.

For guests who cannot sail

on the entire 145-day voyage, shorter segments ranging from 22 to 89 days are also available.

Among many highlights is Seabourn's visit to Egypt, which includes an overnight visit scheduled for Safaga, as well as a stop at Sharm el-Sheikh.

There are three exclusive World Cruise events planned for guests booked on the full 145-day voyage, as well as local shows, regional cuisines, and palate-pleasing wines for all guests to enjoy.

In addition, the World Cruise will include two of the line's most popular signature events available to all guests on a complimentary basis: an extravagant "Caviar in the Surf" beach barbecue on the unspoiled, white-sand beach at Ko Kut, and "Evening at Ephesus" at Kusadasi, featuring a private classical concert in the ancient ruins under the stars.

MSC Brazil + RSA

MSC Cruises has received the green light to restart in Brazil, with *MSC Seaside*, *MSC Preziosa* and *MSC Splendida* to be deployed to homeport in the country.

The move means up to 15 MSC vessels will operate from next month.

MSC has also been approved for a resumption of cruises in South Africa, the second key market poised to reopen this coming northern winter.

The cruise line is now waiting for the Government of South Africa's additional specific guidelines for the resumption of cruises, at which point MSC will confirm the schedule of sailings planned for the 2021/22 season.

Meanwhile, *MSC Seashore's* naming ceremony will take place at Ocean Cay Marine Reserve next month.

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Discover the details in the October issue of **travelBulletin**

CLICK to read



PORTHOLE

TWO men have been rescued after 29 days at sea, and when prompted on their experience, they were refreshingly honest.

"It was a nice break from everything," one of the men admitted, after a month of surviving on pre-packed oranges, coconuts from the sea and rainwater they collected.

The two Solomon Islanders floated about 400 kilometres in the Solomon Sea before being rescued, after their GPS tracker stopped working off the coast of Papua New Guinea.

The two men set out from Mono Island on 03 Sep in a small, single 60 horsepower motorboat.

Just a few hours into their journey, they encountered heavy rain and strong winds, which made it hard to see the coastline they were supposed to be following.

After turning the engine off to save fuel, they floated about 400km northwest for 29 days, eventually spotting a fisherman off the coast of New Britain.

The men were so weak that when they arrived in the town of Pomio earlier this month they had to be carried off the boat and to a nearby house.

It is not known whether the men were attempting to take social distancing to the extreme.

Hamburg, Valencia team up



THE Port of Hamburg (inset) and Valenciaport have strengthened relations on environmental matters, mobility and digital transformation, following a working meeting in the southeastern Spanish city.

The two will collaborate in areas such as decarbonisation, digitalisation, connectivity and more, and have drawn up a roadmap to work in a coordinated manner toward the objective to carry out initiatives aimed at positioning their respective facilities as benchmarks in sustainability, advancing the 2030 commitments of the European agenda.

Unique + Globus

UNIQUE Cruises has added Monograms to complement its European cruise portfolio.

A part of the Globus family of brands, Monograms provides travellers access to a "Local Host", who acts as their concierge for the length of their stay, and gives guests an insider's view of their city, including booking theatre tickets, making dinner reservations and personalising their visit.

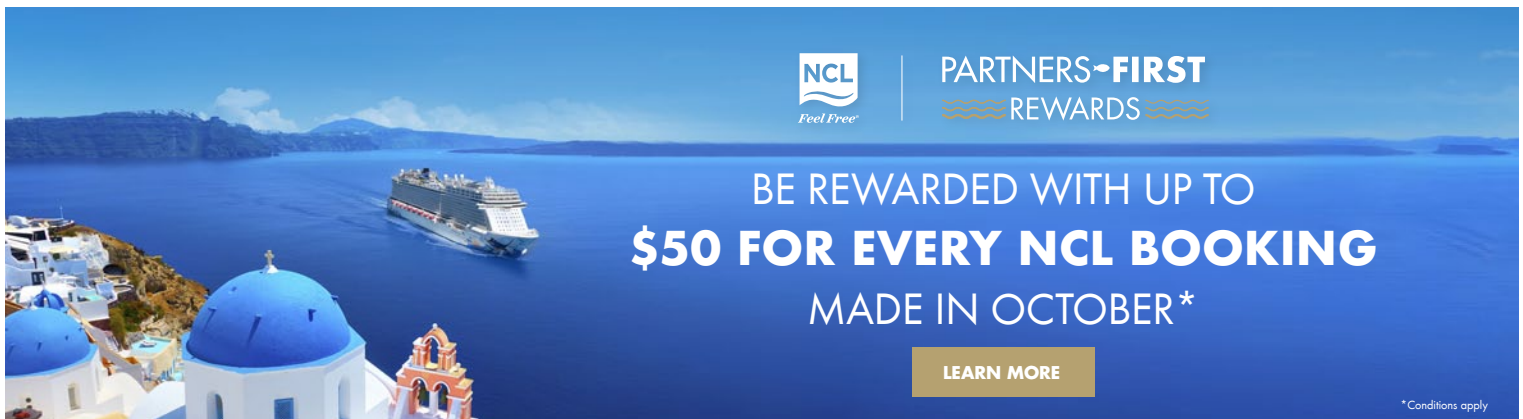
Join the Unique + Monograms travel advisor training on Tue [HERE](#).


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AQV video debuts

THE newly merged cruise line, American Queen Voyages (AQV) (CW 30 Sep) has released a video unveiling its new brand.

Specially crafted for the Australian market, the video can be viewed [HERE](#).

AQV comprises former sister cruise lines, the American Queen Steamboat Company and Victory Cruise Lines.



COLOUR YOUR WORLD

ADULT COLOURING BOOK

It's time to embrace your inner artist with NCL's mindful adult colouring book, "Colour Your World". Because wellness means different things to different people, during NCL's Walk for Wellness challenge this October, the line has partnered with *Cruise Weekly* to encourage readers to take a moment for mindfulness.

Simply colour your favourite illustration from the new colouring book and submit it for your chance to go into the running to win a \$200 wellness hamper.

Request your complimentary copy [HERE](#)

Download pages from Marketing HQ: [HERE](#)

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#NCLMindfulMoments
#NCLWalk4Wellness

FACE-2-FACE: Craig McLaurin

Business Development Manager - Queensland, Norwegian Cruise Line



1. What is your favourite part of your job?

Quite seriously, getting out and seeing agents to help them build business.

2. What attracted you to a career in the cruise industry?

The ongoing rise in popularity of cruising during the 25+ years I've been in the travel industry. What's not to love!?

3. What is key to success in the cruise industry?

Innovation, passion and understanding that you're not just representing a brand, you're working with your travel partners for mutual benefit.

4. How has COVID-19 changed the way you do your job?

Cooperation between NCL and our valued travel partners has never been stronger. At NCL, we have developed a number of great new tools



to help agents do business in these challenging times.

5. What is the best thing to say to people who are hesitant to cruise?

"Tell me why?" - If you try to understand their concerns, you can find out exactly why they are hesitant and in many cases alleviate their fears.

6. What was your best family trip?

Can't split between two - 1992 Contiki Europe fam, and 2019 NCL Alaskan cruise. Both unforgettable experiences with amazing people.

7. How do you wind down after a busy week?

I play guitar in a tribute band and also perform as a solo artist.

8. The celebrity you would most like to cruise with?

I've already cruised with the members of Kiss onboard *Norwegian Pearl* (pictured below), otherwise I'd say anyone but Kate Winslet or Leonardo DiCaprio.

9. When not at work, how do you spend your time?

This always sounds like a dating profile...enjoying fun times with my family, seeing bands, dining out, keeping fit and planning for my next travel adventure.



Freedom days

FREEDOM Day on Mon marked the end of 106 days in lockdown for New South Wales, followed quickly by "Travel Tue", as residents started to plan not only their restaurant bookings but where they might spend a few days away.

Similar roadmaps are being prepared by other states and territories as vaccination numbers continue to rise with predictions that Australia should be at the 80% vaccination rate for 16-year-olds and over by mid-Nov.

Unfortunately, that does not mean that the lights all switch back on at that time.

TTF's latest national research of 500 businesses suggests that one in three tourism businesses are "facing extinction" due to the continuing uncertainty around border openings.

Almost a third say the outlook is bleak for the next 12 months.

Confidence will naturally increase but it speaks again to the necessity of welcoming back cruise lines to Australia for domestic cruising.

We have been saying for some time that both metro gateways and regional communities will benefit from the jobs and dollars that cruise delivers to the tourism economy.

As such, a cruise re-start is vital with all the health requirements in place - this also means that Govt must find a way to welcome in vaccinated crews.