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Total Ports: 464 | Voyages Featuring Overnights: 233

Total Overnights: 531

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### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a cover page from **Oceania Cruises**.

### Oceania 2024 season

**OCEANIA** Cruises' Tropics & Exotics and Europe & North America collections are on sale 05 May.

Featuring 355 total itineraries, 138 Grand Voyages, 464 total ports, and 531 overnights on 233 different cruises, Oceania Cruises is also offering a range of OLife Choices inclusivities.

Guests can get free pre-paid gratuities, free shore excursions, a free beverage package, free shipboard credit, and more.

For more information and to download an Oceania Cruises 2024 toolkit, visit the **cover**.

## Victoria releases cruise protocols

**ALL** passengers cruising to and from Victoria over 12 must have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, and must also obtain a negative COVID test before embarking, under restrictions implemented by the state's government this week.

Unvaccinated children under 12 or anyone with a valid medical exemption can travel, but they must not make up more than 5% of the ship's passengers.

Guests with COVID-19 symptoms may board a ship, but they must return another negative PCR test.

Passengers must also wear masks when embarking and disembarking, as well as while indoors on board the ship, if social distancing is not possible.

Crew members will need to have received three doses (with exceptions for those who aren't yet eligible), and will receive



Photo Credit: Heath Moffatt Photography

a COVID test every 14 days, or when symptomatic.

They must also be masked on board at all times, except when in their staterooms.

Requirements for entry to Victoria for crews will be the same as those for aircrews.

**MEANWHILE**, cruise lines must undertake public health measures to reduce the risk of COVID transmission, including developing COVIDSafe plans for

shore excursions, and managing cases and contacts onboard; however, these protocols will not apply to vessels with fewer than 100 passengers.

"The return of cruise ships later this year is great news for our visitor economy, and our COVIDSafe protocols will protect workers, passengers, and the communities and attractions that will host cruise ship excursions," said Health Minister Martin Foley.

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### AN ABANDONED "eyesore"

boat in the Chicago River remains stuck, six months after officials began investigating it.

The boat is overturned and grounded near the 2800 block of W Giddings Street.

She used to be tied up, and in decent condition, but she has since flipped.

"It's bizarre we have this intrusion in the river and no one is taking care of it," one of the boat's neighbours told Book Club Chicago, which has been reporting on the situation.

"I don't want to live with it, it's like garbage, it's a local curiosity at this point."

A resident first called 3-1-1 about the boat in Sep, and the community has spoken to "at least five or six government agencies" about getting it removed, but the boat remains.

### Arcadia cancelled

A CREW shortage has caused the United Kingdom's P&O Cruises to cancel sailings aboard *Arcadia*.

Seven cruises have been cancelled, with the ship to idle until 05 Jul.

"The current and extraordinary impact of COVID-19 in the UK, in the wider hospitality, service and airline industry as a whole has resulted in a temporary disruption to crewmembers available to join our ships," P&O said.

## AIDAcosma christened



**FORMER** German track cyclist Kristina Vogel has christened AIDA Cruises' *AIDAcosma* in Hamburg.

The ship was christened on the weekend under the motto "the world is becoming more colourful", with an accompanying music and light show to endorse the maxim.

Accompanied by Captain Vincent Cofalka, the godmother of AIDA's second liquefied natural gas cruise ship lit up a colourful globe on the Ocean Deck of *AIDAcosma* as the baptismal bottle smashed against the hull of the vessel.

Cruise fans followed the christening live on the AIDA YouTube channel, and on board all of the cruise line's ships.

DJ Alle Farben was a guest of the evening, delighting the approximately 350 invited guests and 3,300 passengers of the subsequent christening cruise with an exclusive concert in the Theatrium of *AIDAcosma*.

Other star guests on board were German comedian Ingo Appelt, and DJ Mockaby, who performed at the *AIDAcosma* Beach Club on the night of the christening.

At around 11:30pm, *AIDAcosma* said goodbye to Hamburg with a light show from on board, which took place during the departure while passing Hamburg monuments the Elbphilharmonie and the Landungsbrücken.

The two-week christening voyage will sail to Palma over the Easter holidays, until 23 Apr.

Afterward, *AIDAcosma* will offer voyages from Palma and Barcelona, with Florence, Rome, and Corsica also on the program.

From Autumn, *AIDAcosma* will set course for Dubai, its home for the northern winter.

**Pictured** are Vogel and Captain Cofalka with Wolfram Kons, German journalist and host of the christening; AIDA President Felix Eichhorn; and Jan Meyer, CEO of Meyer Werft, where *AIDAcosma* was built.

### Island Escape to WA

**ISLAND** Escape Cruises' *Island Escape* is now on her way to Australia, ahead of her second season on our shores.

With itineraries starting in Kununurra and ending in Broome, *Island Escape*, which primarily targets the New Zealand market, is hoping to capitalise on the popularity of its inaugural Western Australian season last year (*CW* 15 Jun).

The New Zealand-based cruise line has also launched its 2023 Western Australia itinerary, which will sail between Broome and Wyndham/Kununurra.

Prices for the 12-night Wild Kimberley Coast Voyage start from NZD\$14,950 per person, twin share in an Ocean suite.

Meanwhile, *Island Escape* has also released details of its 2022/2023 Ultimate Fiordland (**pictured**) cruises.

After a successful season in Fiordland this year, the small-ship cruise line will once again offer its 10-night Ultimate Fiordland voyage travelling round trip from Queenstown.

The cruise will be bookended by a return helicopter flight to Queenstown, and to and from Doubtful Sound and Milford Sound.

An earlybird discount is available until 30 Apr.

