



## Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

## Townsville hails *Orion*

**THE** cruise sector will return to Townsville tomorrow, just under three months after the industry symbolically came back to the city at the 2022 Australian Cruise Association Conference (**CW** 08 Sep).

Viking's *Viking Orion* will bring its 930 passengers and 465 crew members to Townsville tomorrow, officially kicking off the city's 2022/23 cruise season.

A total of 12 vessels will visit from Dec to Mar, with the city's people invited to converge on the Breakwater Wall near the Townsville Entertainment & Convention Centre to wave in *Orion* tomorrow morning at 8am.

When cruise ships visit Townsville, each passenger will spend an average \$500 with local businesses during their day ashore.

## Superstars no more

**TWO** more iconic cruise ships are headed to the scrappers, marking the end of an era for Star Cruises' former *SuperStar Gemini* & *SuperStar Aquarius*.

Now named *Gem* and *Arius*, the doomed ships have arrived in Alang, India where they will meet their maker.

*Gem* entered service in 1992, sailing for Norwegian Cruise Line as *Dreamward* and *Norwegian Dream*.

In 2007 she moved to Star Cruises, then affiliated with NCL, as *SuperStar Gemini*.

*Arius* launched in 1993, first for Kloster Cruise, and then Norwegian, where she served as *Norwegian Wind*.

She became Star's *SuperStar Aquarius* in the mid-2000s.

## CW back for CLIA Awards

**BUSINESS** Publishing Group (BPG), **Cruise Weekly's** parent company, will walk the red carpet at the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Awards in 2023, serving as the event's official media partner once again.

BPG will join the cruise industry's biggest night of celebration next year for "the CLIAs" 20th anniversary (**CW** 01 Nov), carrying all the news and photographs from the event.

Award winners will be announced on 11 Mar at a gala event at Big Top Sydney at Luna Park, and will be announced in **Cruise Weekly**, along with comprehensive coverage in **CW's** sister publications **Travel Daily** and **travelBulletin**.

Nominations for the awards closed last night, with a plethora of entries from CLIA members across the region who have put themselves forward or nominated their deserving industry colleagues (**CW** yesterday).

CLIA's local Managing Director Joel Katz (**pictured**) said the organisation was delighted to be working with BPG to celebrate the achievements of the Australian and NZ cruise sector.

"Business Publishing Group titles have been huge champions for the travel agent community throughout the toughest times, and we look forward to celebrating with them as we mark cruising's renaissance," Katz said.

BPG Publisher Bruce Piper said it was an honour to support the cruise industry's night of nights once again.

## NCL promotion

**JACINTA** Baker has been named as Manager, Trade Marketing Asia Pacific at Norwegian Cruise Line.

Baker has been with NCL for about three and a half years, most recently in business development roles.



"We are proud of our long association with CLIA Australasia, and it's so great to be able to be part of this major event as the industry continues its recovery," he said.

Eighteen award categories will be judged at this year's awards, including 11 which were open to self-or peer-nomination.

Tickets for the event are already on sale; for more information and to book visit [cruising.org.au](http://cruising.org.au).

## WIN! with Royal

**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) is holding a competition to celebrate the relaunch of its trade partner portal Club Royal (**CW** 19 Oct). Travel advisors will have the chance to win one of five \$500 Visa gift cards.

To be in the running, an advisor must sign up to Club Royal (formerly known as HomePort) and complete a short form, describing in 25 words or less why they love Royal Caribbean International.

RCI Australia/NZ Vice President & Managing Director Gavin Smith told **Cruise Weekly** the new portal will see RCI work more closely with advisors as industry partners.

"We've taken that opportunity to develop a loyalty program...that will allow us to work with them on an individual basis," he said.

## TraveltheWorld BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

We are looking for the next **Business Development Manager** to join our team at **Travel the World** to work solely on the WINDSTAR CRUISES account. We are searching for an enthusiastic, passionate individual with strategic initiatives who is results driven. We offer exceptional working conditions and a highly supportive and energized team environment.

### This role will be responsible for the following:

- Selling to corporate and consortia markets
- Develop new accounts via strategic planning and data analysis
- Following up with Key Agents on promotional campaigns including pre, during and post campaign support and analysis
- Assist with growing the digital presence of Windstar Cruises in our market
- Participating at trade shows and networking events
- Actively promoting, generating leads and working with the Director of Sales to maximise revenue
- Ensuring that all responsibilities are fulfilled and deadlines are met
- Liaise with all TTW Sales, Product and Operation teams to ensure across current Windstar Cruises promotions and branding activities
- Attend regular Windstar Cruises Head office Executive Team meetings with DIR

### The ideal candidate will need to meet the following requirements:

- Full-time
- The flexibility of WFH and (or) working from our Sydney office
- Extensive sales experience in the Travel & Tourism industry
- Good understanding of the luxury cruise line industry
- A good network of clients (B2B)
- Be a team player with strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Be Self-Driven and able to work with tight deadlines and to targets
- Adaptable to the changing needs of our industry clients
- Work closely with the Travel the World Director of Sales and Windstar Cruises HQ
- An understanding of sales strategies
- Be organised with excellent time management skills and strong negotiation skills

Apply now by emailing your cover letter and resume to [careers@traveltheworldgroup.com.au](mailto:careers@traveltheworldgroup.com.au)

If you would like to have a confidential discussion about the role prior to applying, please call Sharon Hando, DIR on 0411 595 300



## Ponant launches Summer 2024 cruises

**PONANT** has launched its Northern Hemisphere Summer 2024 program, with highlights including the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, and Northern Europe.

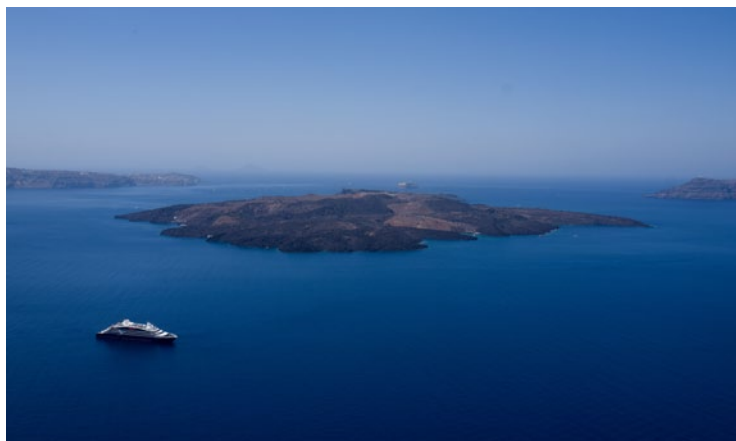
Fifty new sailings have opened, from myriads of Greek islands (pictured) to the cliffs of Ireland, unspoiled vistas in Algeria, and turquoise waters in the Canary Islands.

In total, Ponant is offering 28 voyages to Mediterranean destinations and 22 to Northern Europe and the Atlantic.

Four of the itineraries are brand new, including the 'Islands and Cities of the Mediterranean', which departs from Athens.

*Le Bougainville* will take guests on a voyage linking Greece to the Maltese coast, taking in Paros, Hydra, the Monemvasia, and Pylos.

The ship will then head to Taormina, before arriving in



Valletta, Malta.

There is also a new Landscapes and Culture of the Adriatic cruise, which sets sail from Venice, the city of the Doges.

*Le Bougainville* will head to the Rovinj, the jewel of the Istrian coast, before cruising to Primosten, Split, Hvar, Brac Island, Brijuni, and Pula.

The ship will also call into the

Slovenian city of Piran, before returning to Venice.

Other new cruises include The Mediterranean: In the Footsteps of the Great Civilisations, an 11-day voyage from Valletta to Antalya aboard *l'Austral*; and the British Archipelagos and Celtic Shores, an 11-day itinerary from Saint-Mala to Dublin aboard both *Le Boreal* and *Le Lyrial*.

### Scenic appoints

**SCENIC** Group has named Ken Muskat as its new Managing Director for the USA market.

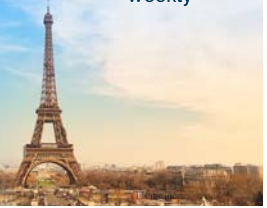
Based in the company's office in Hollywood, Florida, Muskat will report directly to Global Chief of Sales & Marketing, Anna Wolfsteiner.

Muskat was most recently Chief Operating Officer of MSC Cruises (USA) and has also held a variety of other industry roles including senior positions at Royal Caribbean International.

He was also formerly CEO of Shanghai, China-based SkySea Cruise Line.

Muskat will be responsible for sales of both the Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours and the Emerald Cruises portfolio, with his territory including the USA, Mexico, Central and South America.





**EVEN** heavy metal fans are concerned about global warming, it seems, with the organisers of an upcoming music cruise announcing a carbon offset deal for the headbanging festival at sea.

Dubbed 7000TONS OF METAL, the "World's Biggest Heavy Metal Cruise" will feature performances from 60 bands including (apparently) big names such as Abysmal Dawn, Amorphis, Cynic, Decrepit Birth and Destruction.

Also on stage are Fractal, Fallujah, Insomnium, Oceans of Slumber, Sirenia, Warbringer, Nightmare and Nightwish.

While screaming along with the performers, passengers will be able to relax about their environmental impact under a partnership with Greentripper which allows them to purchase an optional carbon offset.

The voyage aboard Royal Caribbean's *Freedom of the Seas* sets sail from Miami on 30 Jan next year, and organisers are hoping for the event's tenth consecutive sellout.

Of course it's not all just about the music, with the momentous heavy metal event also including shore excursions with favourite artists, all-night heavy metal karaoke, bars open 24 hours and "our infamous Belly Flop Contest".

We hope the organisers are providing earplugs for the crew.

## HAL back to Japan

**HOLLAND** America Line has announced that its *Westerdam* will return to Japan for the first time in two and a half years.

A new series of itineraries in early 2023 follows the 15 Nov announcement by the Japanese Government that the country is once again ready to start receiving international ships.

"We're grateful for the work that the Japanese authorities have done to allow for a return to cruising," said HAL President, Gus Antorcha.

"Holland America Line's guests love longer voyages to unique parts of the world, and we'll be sailing to some incredible locations as our season in Japan and the rest of Asia begins," he said.

*Westerdam* is currently sailing in Australia and NZ, and will head to Japan in Feb after a drydock in Singapore.

## Sail Croatia strong

**SAIL** Croatia has revealed that its 2023 "Elegance Sailings" are already more than 60% booked, almost five months out from their first 2023 departure.

The voyages offer luxury small ship cruising on some of the Adriatic's best vessels, with custom built ships featuring air-conditioned ensuite rooms, large sun decks and spacious dining saloons.

The family-owned and operated company's ships are locally owned and operated by Croatian families, with a range of itineraries available - for details see [sail-croatia.com](http://sail-croatia.com).

## More Hurti donations



**HURTIGRUTEN** Group's foundation has announced new donations, with endangered birds in the Galapagos Islands and Svalbard's beaches among the recipients of the cruise line's last round of grants for the year.

Fundacion de Conservacion Jocotoco, one of the largest benefactors of this round of Hurtigruten Foundation grants, has initiated a project to preserve nesting sites of the critically endangered Petrels (**pictured**) on San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos.

Having established its first bird reserve in 1998, the Ecuadorian organisation has a long track record of protecting the many precious birds living in the area.

Meanwhile, Aktiv i Friluft is setting in motion their beach cleaning effort 'Prosjekt Isfjorden' in Svalbard.

Isfjorden is one of Norway's largest fjords, and there has been a need for cleaning litter throughout the fjord for many years.

Six more projects have also received funding from the

Foundation, including Bruktikken Longyearbyen (a volunteer second-hand store on Svalbard), the Charles Darwin Foundation (studying populations of the waved albatross in Galapagos), Lofotrader (ecosystem accounting in Lofoten), Prince William Sound Science Center (studying the prevention of plastic ingestion by migrant shorebirds), Alaska Tarevokterne (restoring kelp forest in Northern Norway), and Universidad de Los Andes (engaging adventurer travellers in citizen science to study humpback whales and leopard seals in Antarctica).

"We are truly showing the global scope of our commitments with this round of grants, with projects spanning from Svalbard and Galapagos to mainland Norway, Alaska, and Antarctica," Hurtigruten Foundation Managing Director Henrik A. Lund declared.

"All donations are targeted towards concrete, science-based local efforts to protect places and animals with urgent needs, securing a real positive impact."