



Cruise Weekly today

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

Sylvia Earle is off!

AURORA Expeditions' *Sylvia Earle* has departed Ushuaia for Antarctica for the first time.

The cruise line's newest ship is now in the Drake Passage, heading for the Antarctic Peninsula.

Sylvia Earle is cruising at capacity, with Chief Executive Officer Michael Heath one of the 120 guests of honour on board the 12-night sailing.

"We are excited to be leaving Ushuaia behind us and sailing to Antarctica on the *Sylvia Earle*, as she explores the white continent for the first time," Heath said.

"She is looking amazing and performing well."

Oceania's Regatta back in Australia

OCEANIA Cruises' *Regatta* has returned to Sydney's Circular Quay, in her first visit to the region following the pandemic.

Regatta will spend her summer season in local waters, with the 656-guest ship arriving in Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal yesterday morning, ahead of her busy summer season of seven destination-intensive itineraries.

The ship departed on the first cruise of the local season last night (see **page 3**), sailing on one of the highlights of the program, The 'Aussie Adventure'.

The spectacular 35-day voyage travels the entire coast of Australia via Bali, round trip from Sydney.

The cruise can also be enjoyed as a 14-day voyage from Sydney to Bali, and a 21-day Boxing Day return journey to Sydney via Australia's west coast.



"This is the first time we've had an Oceania Cruises ship in Sydney since 2019, so we are delighted to welcome *Regatta* back to the region," local Vice President Jason Worth said.

"She will be in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, and South Pacific waters for the entire summer season, with plenty of opportunities for immersive exploration.

"Seeing *Regatta* sailing back through the Heads and into Sydney's spectacular Harbour will be cause for celebration for many

Australians who enjoy her luxury small ship ambience."

At the end of Feb, *Regatta* will leave Australia for a 28-day sailing from Sydney to Papeete through the Coral Sea and the South Pacific, visiting Brisbane, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, and Bora Bora.

For those who may have missed out this year, *Regatta* will return to the region for the 2023-2024 summer season.

Pictured are PR Manager APAC Jodie Hart, Director of Marketing APAC Johanna Raeder, and BDM Martine Nunes.

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On location aboard
Queen Elizabeth

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of Cunard Line, with its *Queen Elizabeth* undertaking a short break cruise between Sydney and Melbourne this week.

CUNARD'S *Queen Elizabeth* is undertaking her first local cruise season in three years, and she's a delight to see.

The iconic Cunard offering will feature aboard a range of upcoming festive season cruises, while in the new year some special event departures will take place including "Australia's Gardening Journey" and the "Great Australian Culinary Voyage", both featuring famous local personalities and experts.

A big Ovation as RCI returns to SA

ROYAL Caribbean International's (RCI) *Ovation of the Seas* (pictured) celebrated her arrival in Adelaide on the weekend, her first visit to the city in two years.

Ovation's calls in South Australia over her summer sailing season will offer a welcome boost to the local community and businesses.

Across the summer, *Ovation* will make two calls in Adelaide, providing an estimated \$2 million from cruisers excited to explore the city.

Guests will have the chance to embark on a shore excursion, including tours of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, Morialta Conservation Park, and wine tasting in the iconic Barossa Valley; or explore the city at their own pace.

RCI local Director of Sales Dave Humphreys said Adelaide has always been a popular



destination for guests, and the cruise line is delighted to be returning.

"We've missed this incredible city and can't wait to show it off to our guests," he explained.

"Surrounded by lush parkland, South Australia's compact capital offers our guests easy access to the best of the Australian outdoors, from rolling hills and vineyards to beaches.

"Next year, alongside *Ovation* we also look forward to the debut of *Brilliance of the Seas* in Australia which will also make calls in Adelaide as part of new itineraries."

Phill Hoffmann Travel Managing Director Phill Hoffmann said the return of *Ovation* is a great opportunity for South Australia, and the resumption of its cruise market.



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Tue 13th Dec 2022

Oceania back sailing from Australia

LAST night Oceania Cruises hosted a special “sailaway party” for its *Regatta* as she departed Sydney’s Overseas Passenger Terminal on her first Australian departure in three years.

The event took place on the rooftop of Sydney’s Museum of Contemporary Art overlooking Circular Quay, with guests also offered an exclusive viewing of the Do Ho Suh exhibition.

Oceania is showcasing the unique works from the renowned South Korean artist as part of its ongoing partnership with the museum (**CW** 24 May) which is featuring Do Ho Suh as part of the 2022-23 Sydney International Art Series.

Regatta will undertake seven destination-intensive itineraries across Australia and New Zealand including an Australian circumnavigation, which she departed on last night.

Guests are eager to experience its recent “re-inspiration” as part of the OceaniaNEXT initiative.



OCEANIA Cruises’ Jodie Hart, Martine Nunes and Johanna Raeder with Stephen Mahoney from Destination NSW.



THE itravel crew were out in force to see *Regatta* off in style.



RICHARD Davey with Gerd Wilmer from Landmark Travel and Mark Pearman of Atour Travel Service.



JOHANNA Raeder from Oceania Cruises declares a toast to welcome *Regatta*’s arrival.



TRAVEL Associates Global Luxury Product Leader, Shannon Fogarty; Melanie Evans, Travel Associates Mosman; Oceania’s Paul Dawson; Stewart Evans, Travel Associates Mosman Business Leader; and Rachel Kingswell, GM of Travel Associates Australia.



THE star of the show - *Regatta* preparing to set sail from Sydney’s Overseas Passenger Terminal.



A "MINIBOAT" made by students in the United States has made its way to England, 10 months after she first set sail in the Atlantic.

Three Rhode Island schools contributed to the project, dubbing the boat *Inspiration*.

Setting sail with GPS trackers, the boat contained information about Central Falls (the town she originated from), and about the schools, and the children who helped build it.

The boat eventually made landfall in Christchurch, England, where students at a local school made contact with those who had launched her.

CLIAs are sold out

CRUISE Lines International Association's (CLIA) 20th annual Cruise Industry Awards are sold out, the organisation's local Managing Director Joel Katz has revealed.

Tickets went on sale last month for the Awards, which will be hosted at Big Top Sydney at Luna Park (CW 01 Nov).

Katz is now urging those who wish to attend but do not yet have tickets to contact CLIA to join the waiting list.

Cruise Weekly and our sister publications *Travel Daily* and *travelBulletin* will once again serve as the official media partner of the annual event.

Disney 2024 summer season

DISNEY Cruise Line (DCL) will return to tropical destinations in the Bahamas (pictured), the Caribbean, and Mexico in early 2024.

With two year-round home ports in Florida, sailings include *Disney Dream's* first full season of departures from Fort Lauderdale.

The ship will begin early 2024 with an assortment of cruises to the Bahamas and western Caribbean, with guests able to choose from three- and four-night getaways to the Bahamas, and five-night vacations to the western Caribbean.

All sailings from Florida will include a stop at Castaway Cay, a picturesque private island oasis reserved exclusively for DCL guests.

Disney Wish will kick off 2024 with three- and four-night voyages to Nassau and Castaway Cay, departing from Port Canaveral.

Cruises aboard *Wish* combine enchanting entertainment and numerous DCL firsts.

Joining *Wish* from Port Canaveral is *Disney Fantasy*, which will continue seven-night sailings to the white-sand beaches of the eastern and western Caribbean.

DCL guests on eastern Caribbean cruises will visit stops in Tortola and St. Thomas, while western Caribbean itineraries will feature the ports of Cozumel, Grand Cayman, and Falmouth.

Every *Fantasy* sailing also includes a stop at Castaway Cay.

Disney Magic will have two limited-time engagements in



Galveston in early 2024.

After ringing in the new year from Texas, *Magic* will embark on Caribbean adventures ranging in length from four-to-six nights through the end of Jan.

Upon returning for another month-long stint between Mar and Apr, *Magic* will sail cruises ranging from four to seven nights to the western Caribbean during the popular spring break period.

New Orleans will welcome *Magic* back for a second consecutive year in Feb 2024 with four-, five- and seven-night cruises to the Caribbean.

After returning from her inaugural season in Australia, *Disney Wonder* will arrive in San Diego in Mar 2024 for three- to seven-night voyages to Mexico, including the Baja California peninsula.

Bookings for the 2024 season open to the public on Fri.

MEANWHILE at this stage it's unclear whether Disney plans to return to Australia after its inaugural *Disney Wonder* season which is scheduled for Oct next year.

There are currently no Disney bookings for Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal for the 2024/25 season, although a number of slots are still available.

Diana bought by SH

SWAN Hellenic (SH) has announced the successful acquisition of *Diana*, freeing another of its ships from limbo (CW 30 Nov).

Helsinki Shipyard, the constructor of *Diana*, started a tender for the ship late last month, with the Russian leasing company she was set to be delivered to defaulting on the vessel.

Having received bids for the auction of *Diana*, Helsinki announced Swan Hellenic has been awarded the tender.

SH was originally set to operate the ship under a long-term charter agreement, but now owns *Diana* outright, in addition to *Vega*, which encountered the same situation earlier this year (CW 28 Jun).

Heritage partnership

CROOKED Compass has partnered with Heritage Expeditions, offering sea and land packages exclusively available through Wild Earth Travel.

Launching with expeditions through Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, Japan will follow in the coming weeks aboard the *Heritage Adventurer*.

"With our shared love of authentic, expedition-style exploration, we are excited to partner with Crooked Compass on these programs to offer travellers the complete adventure incorporating both land and sea," said Heritage.