



### CRUISE WEEKLY

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.

*CRUISE Weekly* disembarked *Queen Elizabeth* in Melbourne after a delightful short break where we were introduced to the pleasures of Cunard's Queens Grill product offering.

Grills staterooms - named because they have access to an exclusive restaurant and lounge area - offer a host of benefits including more space, butler service, pre-dinner canapes and keycard lift access to a private enclave at the top of the ship.

Our spacious Queens Grill suite features an enormous bathroom complete with walk-in shower and a full sized bath, plus a separate toilet along with a huge wardrobe, separate sitting area and an expansive private balcony.

Every whim is catered for by an attentive butler, while concierge services are available in the Deck 11 lounge - adjacent to the Queens Grill restaurant, where we have our own table!

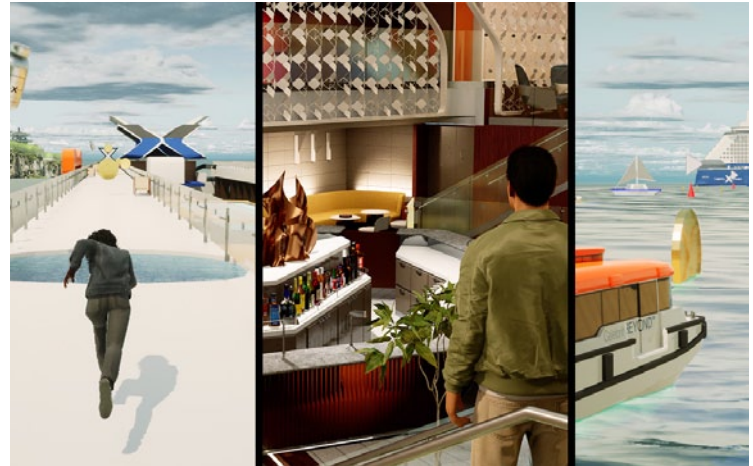
## Celebrity to pioneer its 'Wonderverse'

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has today become the first line to launch a "fully immersive" ship in the 'Metaverse'.

The cruise line is aiming to revolutionise the way the sector is marketed, offering holidayers an industry-first opportunity to "see before they sail", within the Metaverse - a hypothetical iteration of the internet as a single, universal, and immersive virtual world, which is facilitated by the use of VR and augmented reality headsets.

Users will be able to board a hyper-realistic virtual version of the cruise line's latest cruise ship *Celebrity Beyond*, which has been recreated down to the most intimate details, as has the destinations she sails to.

Celebrity has dubbed the experience its 'Wonderverse', which will also allow visitors to book holiday itineraries, and even



chat with *Beyond's* designers and major stakeholders, such as the cruise line's Chief Executive Officer Lisa Lutoff-Perlo and Captain Kate McCue.

Built in partnership with virtual event platform architects Surreal Events, the Wonderverse is also complete with mini-games & activities, entertainment, easter eggs which reveal special offers, and more.

Once logged in to the Wonderverse, the journey will begin with a user-controlled tender game to *Beyond's* Magic Carpet, where participants will then have a chance to create their own personalised avatar.

Following this, participants will be transported to the Resort Deck, where they will be greeted personally by Captain McCue,

who will be on hand to help answer questions; from there, they can explore *Beyond* as they wish.

"We've revolutionised cruise ship design and now we're revolutionising where cruise ships are experienced," said CMO Michael Scheiner.

"The Wonderverse allows us to unlock and bring to life the richness and fullness of the Celebrity experience in really exciting ways we can't do through traditional marketing and advertising vehicles.

"We believe this has opportunities to expand even further, creating experiences our consumers are looking for."

The Wonderverse is hosted online at [celebritycruises.com/wonderverse](http://celebritycruises.com/wonderverse).

### Cunard wave offer

**CUNARD** Line guests can now enjoy reduced fares and complimentary gratuities for select 2023/24 sailings.

The new offer is valid for bookings between 13 Dec and 31 Mar.

For all itineraries and to book, [CLICK HERE](#).



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### Viking's new deals of the week

**VIKING'S** deal of the week is a Europe's Xmas markets cruise, immersing travellers in the spirit of Christmas.

The line's eight-day Christmas on the Rhine voyages from Amsterdam to Basel or vice versa.

It is now on sale, priced from \$3,495pp twin share in a standard stateroom - call 138 747 for more information.

### Euro Waterways Xmas offer

**EUROPEAN** Waterways has launched new Christmas market cruises in Alsace and Lorraine for next year's holiday season.

Available on luxury hotel barge Panache, reservations for the six-night, all-inclusive cruises are being accepted now.

Cruises depart 26 Nov and 03 & 10 Dec - [CLICK HERE](#).



**IT IS** believed a phenomenon dubbed the “David Attenborough effect” is causing tourists to book expedition cruises in search of penguins, inspired by the English broadcaster’s popular wildlife programs.

United Kingdom-based Panache Cruises says demand for voyages to the Antarctic region has never been higher, with many customers saying they hope to spot penguins after watching Attenborough’s wildlife programmes on the BBC.

## Sail (& hike) Croatia

**SAIL** Croatia has launched a Dubrovnik Return Hike Cruise itinerary for next year.

The new itinerary, launching in Sep, will depart from and return to Dubrovnik, taking in seven different destinations during the week-long cruise.

Hike Cruises offer active travellers the best of both worlds - the opportunity to relax in luxury at sea between island destinations, before scaling the stunning Croatian coastlines and villages, covering almost 40 kilometres on foot.

The Hike Cruise will include three never-before-visited stops: Splan, Ston, and Kuciste - **CLICK HERE.**

## It was a HAL of a famil!



**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) hosted two trade famils aboard *Westerdam* earlier this month, after the ship returned to Australia in Nov (**CW** 10 Nov).

The first famil sector (**pictured**), cruising from Sydney to Hobart, was hosted by Key Account Manager Helen Courias, with the second leg of the famil from Hobart to Melbourne hosted by Key Account Manager Christine Oliver and Sales Operations Specialist Rebecca Cranston.

A total of 52 travel advisors, plus their guests, were hosted over the two sailings, from agencies including Travel The World/Cruise Guru, Travel Associates, Helloworld Macarthur Square, Phil Hoffmann Travel, TravelManagers Modbury Heights, Flight Centre, Ozcruising, Luxury Escapes, Travel Partners, and more.

HAL also hosted its team on board for a sales and marketing meeting on the Melbourne-Sydney sector.

Early next year, *Westerdam* will follow up its deployment

in Australia with a new series of itineraries in Japan - the first time the ship has cruised in the country in two-and-a-half years (**CW** 01 Dec).

## Savings extended

### MURRAY River

Paddlesteamers’ saving of 15% has been extended on Murray River overnight cruises for bookings made before 15 Jan.

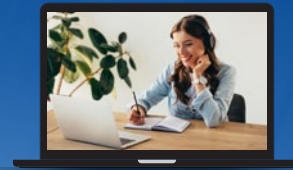
The saving of 15% is available for both couples and solos, with the single supplement slashed from 60% to 45% on cruises in 2023-24.

Guests who book by 15 Jan will also receive two bottles of local wine to take home, a complimentary *Emmylou* souvenir pack, and a \$50 to \$150 gift voucher per couple to use on any Murray River Paddlesteamer product, depending on the length of cruise.

Call 03 5482 5244 to book and for more.

## SUPPLIERS & DESTINATIONS

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