

cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Friday 16th Dec 2022

Cruise Weekly today

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

New Eclipse II dates

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has revealed new 2024 and 2025 East Antarctica and Ross Sea voyages.

Three new *Scenic Eclipse II* ultra-luxury voyages to the region have been made public as part of the cruise line's newly released 2024/25 Antarctica brochure collection.

The 24-day Antarctica's Ross Sea: Majestic Ice and Wildlife departs on 08 Jan 2025 from Hobart or on 31 Jan 2025 from Dunedin.

Meanwhile, the 25day Mawson's Hut & Commonwealth Bay Expedition departs 15 Dec 2024 from Queenstown.

Odell to retire amid NCLH shakeup

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) & Oceania Cruises' longtenured Managing Director Steve Odell is set to retire, among a number of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) organisational changes (*CW* breaking news).

Odell is stepping down after a seven-year tenure with NCLH, with his direct reports Lisa Pile and Jason Worth to expand their responsibilities.

A cruise industry veteran with more than 35 years of experience, Odell joined NCLH in Oct 2015 to spearhead the launch of the company's Asia Pacific business across RSSC, Oceania, and Norwegian Cruise Line.

He has served in his most recent role since 2019, responsible for the strategic expansion, vision, and continued growth of NCLH's presence in the Asia Pacific market for RSSC and Oceania. Set to take over from Odell, Pile is currently Vice President of Sales for RSSC in Australia & New Zealand.

Her remit will now include the entire Asia Pacific region, as General Manager & Vice President Sales.

Pile will report to Caroline Smith, who has been appointed RSSC MD International, having most recently served as Vice President Global Consumer Marketing.

Worth, who is currently Oceania Vice President of Sales, Australia & New Zealand, will also expand his responsibilities to the entire Asia Pacific region, as GM & VP Sales APAC, reporting to the line's Senior VP Sales Nikki Upshaw.

"We are grateful to Steve for his strategic vision and significant contributions to the company which have positioned us as leaders in the fast-growing Asia Pacific region," NCLH President & CEO Frank Del Rio Sr said.

"I also want to congratulate Caroline, Lisa, and Jason for their new and expanded roles, and I am confident they will help us continue to grow and evolve our presence in this important market.

"These transitions reflect our robust succession planning and the strength and talent of our broader team."

MEANWHILE, at the senior executive leadership level, Andrea DeMarco, RSSC Chief Sales & Marketing Officer, will succeed Jason Montague as President of the cruise line from next year.

Also from 2023, Frank Del Rio Jr, Oceania's Chief Sales & Marketing Officer, will succeed Howard Sherman as President.

To ensure a smooth and seamless transition, Montague and Sherman will serve as Special Advisors to NCLH.

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Carnival unveils its 24-25 Aus program

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has revealed its action-packed 2024-25 program, with 76 sailings departing from Sydney from Jun 2024 to Jun 2025, and Brisbane from Sep 2024 to Mar 2025.

The program will feature two dedicated ships, *Carnival Splendor* and the newly arrived *Carnival Luminosa* (pictured), visiting a total of 177 ports.

Guests sailing on board *Splendor* departing from Sydney will be spoilt for choice with 47 cruises, making 114 ports of call across just under a full year's worth of days at sea.

On sale now, highlights of the program include voyages in the South Pacific and Carnival's famous Melbourne Cup cruise, a six-night sailing filled with racing, fashion, and fun.

Meanwhile, the latest addition to the cruise line's Australian fleet *Carnival Luminosa* will once again



return to the Sunshine State, providing Queenslanders with 29 sailings across 63 ports of call over 168 days.

Program highlights include Papua New Guinea, the South Pacific, Fiji, and a variety of fourand seven-night domestic cruises providing guests the chance to experience idyllic stops such as Port Douglas, Cairns, and Airlie Beach.

"We wanted to ensure that

our 2024-25 was well rounded, providing both Sydneysiders and Queenslanders with a range of destinations and experiences to choose from, both in our beautiful Australian backyard and abroad," Vice President Kara Glamore said.

"This program delivers exactly that, and we can't wait to share more about some of the other exciting itineraries we have in the works."

Silversea changes

SILVERSEA Cruises President & Chief Executive Roberto Martinoli will transition to a senior advisor role with Royal Caribbean Group (RCG), with Barbara Muckermann named as successor.

Martinoli will advise RCG President & Chief Executive Officer Jason Liberty, with Muckermann to step from Chief Commercial Officer into Silversea's top role, bringing more than 25 years of travel industry experience.

Muckermann will also join RCG's Executive Committee.

"Roberto has built Silversea Cruises into the category leader that it is today, 11 ships strong with more on the way," Liberty said.

"He is one of the most innovative and knowledgeable leaders in the maritime industry."





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Ponant's Le Laperouse returns to Sydney

PONANT welcomed *Le* Laperouse into Sydney (pictured) for the first time in three years yesterday evening, ahead of her 2023 season.

Le Laperouse will embark on a new eight-day expedition from Sydney to Hobart today, combining the best natural and cultural treasures of the southeastern coast of Australia.

The ship will then round out the year on a 11-day 'Food, Wine and Yacht Race in Tasmania' itinerary departing on 23 Dec, where guests can take in the finishing line of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race, and NYE festivities.

In the new year, highlights of Le Laperouse's deployment in Australia include 'Islands and Cultures of Papua New Guinea', departing round trip from Cairns.

This all-new 11-day expedition cruise will take voyagers to discover the wonders and



ancestral tribes of Papua New Guinea, with stops in Tufi, Madang, the Iles Lusancay, and more.

This will be followed by the 'Tropical Odyssey between North East Australia and Indonesia', cruising from Cairns to Benoa. This brand-new 16-day tropical

expedition cruise discovers the sublime natural landscapes of the north east of Australia and Indonesia.

Calls include Lizard Island, Triton Bay, the Maluku Islands, Banda Neira, Barat Daya Islands, Flores, and Bali.

Call Ponant on 1300 737 178.

Celestyal savings

CELESTYAL Cruises has launched its wave season savings of up to 60% off 2023 and 2024 itineraries.

Cruisers can score an upgrade to an "Enhanced" inclusive fare from as low as \$220 through until the end of Feb.

Prices start at \$469 on the three-night Iconic Aegean itinerary, which is normally priced at \$1,150.

The cruise sets sail from Athens, and calls upon Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Crete, and Santorini.

The popular seven-night, Idyllic Aegean itinerary, which usually retails at \$2,240, has been reduced by more than 40% to \$1,229.

Beginning in Athens, the cruise visits Thessaloniki, Kusadasi, Crete, Santorini, Mykonos and Milos.

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experience on board.





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ARCHAEOLOGISTS have discovered a medieval shipwreck in near-perfect condition at the bottom of Norway's largest lake.

Last month's discovery is believed to be hundreds of years old, with sonar images showing the ship to have been around 10 metres.

The ship also had a central rudder - a feature which did not appear on ships until the 13th century.

The vessel was found during a government research mission at Mjosa, nearly 400 metres below the surface.

She is in near-perfect condition due to a lack of wave activity in the freshwater lake, with some minimal wearing indicating the wreck has been on the bottom of the lake for a long time, since corrosion takes hundreds of years to happen.

A HAL of fun!

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is giving away 10 \$50 gift cards to the best agentmade gingerbread houses, in celebration of those which delight guests aboard the brand's ships at Christmastime.

The contest runs through to Tue, and to enter, travel advisors must join Holland America's Facebook group (CLICK HERE), where they can post a photo of their creation.

Arvia arrives for P&O

THE United Kingdom's P&O Cruises has officially welcomed its new ship *Arvia* to its fleet, which the brand has dubbed "a symbol of optimism for the future of the industry".

At an official handover ceremony with the Meyer Werft shipyard yesterday, P&O took ownership of *Arvia*, the latest addition to its fleet, which is the largest cruise ship ever built for the British market.

The vessel is similar to her sister *lona*, with 16 guest decks, and liquefied natural gas propulsion.

New features on *Arvia* include a SkyDome with a retractable glass roof, creating a relaxed poolside environment with dining and drinking options for guests.

In the evening, the space will seamlessly transition into an entertainment venue, exhibiting shows, live music, guest act tributes, and aerialist performances.

Guests will also be able to enjoy blockbuster movies under the stars on the huge SeaScreen.

New restaurants created exclusively for *Arvia* include Green & Co ft. Mizuhana, which offers guests exquisitely crafted fish and plant-based dishes; meanwhile, 6th Street Diner is an all-American diner serving breakfast, brunch, dinner and sweet treats, accompanied with music and ice-cold cocktails.

There are also new menus of Caribbean dishes designed by Shivi Ramoutar at Taste 360 and The Beach House, as well as a Mediterranean-inspired menu from Jose Pizarro in The Glass House and Cellar Door. New entertainment options include Altitude Minigolf, a new aqua zone at Splash Valley, an immersive escape game, and Altitude Skywalk, P&O's first-ever high-ropes experience.

"Arvia, as the latest evolution in the P&O Cruises experience, embodies the newest trends in travel, dining and entertainment and is the epitome of a sunshine resort sailing year-round to the warmest climates," President Paul Ludlow said.

"The ship is now officially part of the P&O Cruises fleet, and we are focused on readying her to welcome guests for the maiden cruise on 23 Dec before departure to the Caribbean on 06 Jan 2023 for a winter season from Barbados."

Big Boston bounce

A STRONG rebound at Flynn Cruiseport Boston was seen this year, according to the Massachusetts Port Authority. Massport saw 310,767

passengers and 128 cruise ships this season, including 56 homeport calls (a record) and 72 other visits.

Flynn Cruiseport served as the homeport of five ships from four different cruise lines this year, and saw the number of passengers and vessels in Oct surpass that of the prior corresponding period in 2019. Cruising from Boston

generated more than USD\$135 million in annual economic impact and supported more than 2,200 jobs this year, Massport revealed.

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