



## Albatros keel laid



**ALBATROS** Expeditions has announced the keel laying of *Ocean Albatros* (render pictured) the cruise line's second Infinity-class vessel.

The keel-laying ceremony of *Albatros* took place at China Merchant Heavy Industries in Haimen, as the cruise line continues its evolution into a major Antarctic operator.

With an expected delivery in Mar 2023, *Albatros* will be deployed to discover the waters of the Arctic and Antarctic regions, as well as many exciting new destinations in-between, on a year-round charter next to its sister ship, *Ocean Victory*.

The new vessel will be deployed from May 2023, and will feature three restaurants, a wellness area, an Albatros Nordic Bar, an open deck dining facility, a modern lecture lounge, and other state-of-the-art amenities.

Unlike *Victory*, *Albatros* will also offer a unique panorama sauna, and a total of 12 dedicated solo travel cabins.

*Albatros* will have more than a 50% lower carbon footprint than traditional expedition ships, while also adapting to the Green Initiative Program, ensuring absolute comfort and sustainability for guests.

The cruise line's new Chief Commercial Officer Greg Carter (*CW* 11 Jan) said *Albatros* was

thrilled about the construction of its new ship.

"Albatros Travel's 35 years of operation hold us in good stead for a more sustainable future for our partners and passengers," he said.

"In these challenging times, nothing is easy...still, it shows our commitment to greener cruising, as well as our resilience and financial security in the midst of what has been a difficult two years for the industry."

Carter, formerly of Chimu Adventures, joins fellow recent addition Sebastian Arnoldus, who returns to the Albatros family in Copenhagen after time away from the travel industry.

### Reach for the stars

**CELESTYAL** Cruises has launched its new Seaware Reservations Platform.

The new, dedicated travel advisor reservations program was developed in partnership with Versonix, a leading software company dedicated to providing fully integrated, customised software solutions for the travel and leisure industry.

The Seaware Platform provides advanced CRM functionality as well as access to a greater variety of pre- and post-packages.

## MSC 2022/2023 season



**MORE** than 20 of MSC Cruises' ships will sail to more than 190 destinations across 85 different countries as part of the line's northern winter 2022/2023 program.

MSC is offering a choice of itineraries ranging from mini-cruises and seven-night sailings through to longer voyages, including the 118-night World Cruise next year.

Two new ships will join the MSC fleet this year - *World Europa* (pictured) enriching the offering in the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, and *Seascope*, enhancing the offering in the Caribbean.

*World Europa* will be based in

Doha for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, after which the new ship will offer cruises calling on Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sir Bani Yas, Doha, and Dammam, starting with a mini-cruise on 20 Dec, before resuming a regular schedule of seven-night cruises.

*Seascope* will become the second new ship to launch next winter, and will offer two different seven-night itineraries from Miami, starting from 11 Dec.

This will further enrich MSC's strong offering in the Caribbean.

A pair of the line's sister ships, *MSC Grandiosa* and *MSC Virtuosa*, will also spend the winter in the Mediterranean.

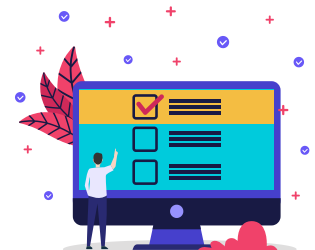


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**THE** city of Rotterdam will dismantle part of a historic bridge to accommodate Jeff Bezos' huge under-construction yacht Y721 later this year.

Part of Koningshaven Bridge will be taken apart in order for Bezos' 127-metre tall, three-mast yacht to pass through.

Dutch company Oceano has been building the massive vessel in Alblasterdam for a cost estimated to be \$USD500 million, but to reach the open seas, it must first pass through Rotterdam, and the city's historic steel bridge, which is locally known as De Hef, and has a clearance of not even 40m.

Declared a national monument, Koningshaven underwent a large-scale restoration from 2014 to 2017, after which Rotterdam said it would not be dismantled again.

We're almost certain this is the most complex delivery Mr Amazon has ever carried out.

## Emerald Europe 2023 brox out

**EMERALD** Cruises' new Europe river cruise 2023 collection has been unveiled, with earlybird and super earlybird offers out now.

A new 11-day Danube river cruise and city stay extension have been revealed in the 146-page brochure, with guests sailing next year also able to enjoy several new city stay extensions in Copenhagen, Munich, and Seville.

A highlight is the three-night exploration of Zermatt and Zurich, including a journey on the Glacier Express train from Zermatt to Chur.

Generous earlybird savings of up to \$5,300 per couple are available until 30 Sep or until sold out.

Guests can also save an extra 10% when paying in full 12 months before departure with Emerald Cruises' Super Earlybird Offer.

For more information or to book, visit [emeraldcruises.com.au](http://emeraldcruises.com.au), call 1300 286 110, or [CLICK HERE](#) to view the brox.

## FACE-2-FACE: Alex Straglinos

Business Development  
Manager, Cruise Traveller



### 1. What is your favourite part of your job?

Helping our industry's resilient and strong agents rebuild their businesses by embracing Cruise Traveller's small ship offering.

### 2. What attracted you to a career in the cruise industry?

I had always been fascinated by the idea of cruising. There is no better way to see the world than by sea!

### 3. What is key to success in the cruise industry?

The cruising industry is forever changing so flexibility is key, along with hard work and dedication. As long as you have the passion, you will always find a way to succeed.

### 4. How has COVID-19 changed the way you do your job?

COVID-19 has opened my mind to find new opportunities that traditionally were not there. It has brought out the hunter and survivor in me.

### 5. What is the best thing to say to people who are hesitant to cruise?

There is a cruise line for everyone. Speak to your travel agent, let them help you find which cruise line would best suit and try a shorter cruise close to home first.

### 6. What was your best fam trip?

I was lucky enough to join the end of Ponant's Chairman's cruise in 2019 hosted by Sarina Bratton which was pretty remarkable.

### 7. How do you wind down after a busy week?

By going out for dinner with my partner, enjoying a few cocktails and lots of yummy food! Sets the scene for a great weekend.

### 8. Is there a celebrity you'd most like to cruise with?

The King of Pop – Michael Jackson. He was my biggest inspiration as a young performer!

### 9. What should the cruise ship of the future look like?

Small and luxurious of course, able to explore further than ever before and be carbon neutral!

### 10. When not at work, how do you spend your time?

Currently I am finishing my post-grad study in marketing, so if I am not working, I am studying. Not long to go now!

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## Golden savings with Cruise Traveller

**SAVINGS** on a Greek Island cruise aboard Tradewind Voyages' *Golden Horizon* are now available, with new inclusions.

Travellers can save up to \$1,714 per couple on a grand tall ship adventure to Greece next year as part of a new back-to-back cruise package released by small ship cruising specialist Cruise Traveller.

Earlybird savings are available before the end of the year, with

fares for Australians now also including all-day beverages, wi-fi, and laundry services.

The 15-night, back-to-back package is one of seven combination voyages of up to 21 nights that Cruise Traveller is offering aboard the five-masted *Golden Horizon* next year.

Call Cruise Traveller in Australia on 1800 507 777, or visit the package [HERE](#).