

plus EARLY-RELEASE GRAND VOYAGES



## A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

Departing Los Angeles on 14 January, 2024, Oceania Cruises' newest 180-day Around the World journey weaves together a desirable lineup of destinations into a brilliant kaleidoscope of world wonders, marvellous attractions and exceptional encounters that will leave you changed. The luxury of exploring the world on a sweepingly profound scale comes to life with visits to 96 vibrant destinations across more than 30 diverse countries. Meanwhile, the curated set of Grand Voyages range from 72 to 82 days and are perfect for time-rich travellers that prefer the option of a shorter journey. These unique voyages invite you to navigate storied seas, straits and oceans that boldly connect diverse and exotic corners of the globe.

RESERVATIONS OPEN 3 MARCH, 2022

PREVIEW VOYAGES NOW









cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Thursday 24th February 2022

## Cruise Weekly today

*Cruise Weekly* today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a front cover from **Oceania Cruises**.

### P&O cancels NZ

**P&O** Cruises has advised NZ guests of the cancellation of its Auckland season (**CW** breaking news yesterday).

The cancellation affects 21 cruises that were scheduled to depart from Auckland from 05 Jul to 27 Nov.

The announcement follows the absence of progress toward an agreed restart plan for cruising, P&O said.

The cruise line has had useful discussions with New Zealand officials, it said, and expects to have further contact, however uncertainty remains as to when cruising is likely to resume in New Zealand.

# Ponfoort departs Aurora "on a high"

#### FXCIUSIVE

**AURORA** Expeditions Chief Executive Monique Ponfoort (**pictured**) has announced her departure from the line (*CW* breaking news yesterday).

Upon her leaving, Aurora described Ponfoort as "instrumental" in providing positive leadership in a challenging time for the industry, with the former Ponant executive joining Aurora in 2020 at the height of the pandemic (*CW* 13 Jul 2020).

During her time with Aurora, Ponfoort accelerated changes for the brand, including the launch of its 'Sustainability In Action' program.

She also spearheaded Aurora's global growth in key source markets, and the development of global industry partnerships, such as with Qantas and Virtuoso.

Ponfoort's commitment to



delivering Aurora's enhanced Health & Safety protocols was the catalyst for a safe return of the cruise line's operations in Antarctica in Jan - a program now into its fifth voyage of the season.

"Given our strong position, the talented teams driving our plans forward, and our successful return to operations, I feel that now is the best time to announce my plans to step away to pursue a new challenge," she told **CW**.

"I have achieved the goals I had set out for Aurora Expeditions when I joined the business in 2020, and I am confident that the company is well positioned to continue its growth.

"Personally, I am excited and ready for a new challenge, and I wish the Aurora team every success for the future."

Ponfoort will depart Aurora after assisting the cruise line through its transitional period.





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ANTICIPATE the JOURNEY EVENTS

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Thursday 24th February 2022



## Azamara new push

**AZAMARA** has debuted its new 'Change the Way You Sea' campaign, highlighting the unique sights and experiences that make the cruise line's experiences one-of-a-kind.

Change the Way You Sea encourages guests to dive deeper into the hidden gem destinations that Azamara's intimate-style ships can access by day and night.

The new creative campaign encourages guests to take the ports less travelled, and to dive deeper into each destination.

Through its country-intensive itineraries, immersive land programs and more overnights in each destination, Azamara gives travellers the opportunity to connect with the local culture and change their perspective on how they view the world.

"We understand our guests are looking for new experiences at a more relaxed pace, and to make memorable connections with the destination and its locals," said President Carol Cabezas.

"At Azamara, our thoughtfully crafted itineraries offer those explorers the time to immerse themselves into the culture and discover each destination by day and night for an enriching and fulfilling cruise.

"Our latest campaign really brings Azamara's objective to life."

# Oceania gets Grand



**OCEANIA** Cruises has unveiled its 2024 Around the World in 180 days itinerary.

Featuring 96 destinations in 34 countries, the world cruise aboard the luxurious 684-guest Insignia (pictured) departs Los Angeles for New York City on 14 Jan 2024, and will visit Australia.

Insignia will sail westbound across the Pacific to Hawaii, French Polynesia, Samoa, and New Zealand.

After visiting Australia, Insignia will then travel to Asia, visiting Bali, Tokyo, Kyoto, Ha Long Bay and Yangon.

The ship will then sail to India and the Arabian Peninsula, followed by the Mediterranean and the northern reaches of Europe, before crossing the Atlantic for her final call in New York City.

The journey visits more than 100 UNESCO World Heritage sites across 96 destinations, with 24 overnight stays and a series of curated complimentary special onshore events, and optional

multi-day overland programs.

Starting at \$64,550 per person, the world cruise boasts an array of included amenities, such as free pre-paid gratuities, free onboard medical care, free laundry services, free internet, free transfers, and a free one night pre-cruise luxury hotel stay, plus Oceania's inclusive OLife Choice amenities.

Oceania has also unveiled four of its Grand Voyages for the season.

Ranging from 72 to 82 days in length, one of the voyages will disembark in Sydney, with other bookend ports including Los Angeles, Abu Dhabi, Tokyo, Mumbai, Papeete, and Cape

The Grand Voyages also feature extra value, such as free transfers, free pre-paid gratuities, USD\$500 shipboard credit, and Oceania's OLife Choice amenities.

Brochures detailing the world cruise can be found HERE, and **HERE** for the Grand Voyages.

More info on the cover page.

## Viking river brox

VIKING has released its 2023-2024 river cruise brochure, with new destinations, new itineraries, and new experiences.

The brochure includes more than 240 pages packed full of carefully curated itineraries and experiences exploring the world's most unique cultures and fascinating destinations.

It features five new European river cruise itineraries, including a 17-day Eastern European cruise, and four new sailings that take in the magic of the contient during the festive season.

Sailing from Mar 2023, the 17-day Capitals of Eastern Europe cruise includes 14 nights sailing the Lower Danube from Vienna to Constanta on the Black Sea before transferring to Bucharest for a two-night hotel stay.

New Christmas in Europe itineraries include the Christmas on the Rhine from Amsterdam to Basel, the Christmas on the Danube from Budapest to Regensburg, the **Danube Christmas Delights** from Budapest to Passau, and the Christmas on the Seine from Paris return.

All cruises are eight days and can be sailed in vice versa.

The brochure also includes a full preview of 2024 season in Egypt - CLICK HERE to view.





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A SEA lion found on a busy California highway more than six kilometres from the ocean has been returned home.

The sea lion spent a month recovering with SeaWorld San Diego's rescue team, after drivers found the animal wandering on the city's Route

Experts still aren't sure how the 100+ kilogram animal ended up so far from San Diego Bay, but during his rehabilitation time, he enjoyed frolicking with other resident sea lions.

Once regaining his health, the sea lion waddled back into the ocean earlier this month, where he quickly took to the water upon his release.



## **Spring in France**

**CROISIEUROPE** is inviting travellers to experience the best of springtime in France with two new itineraries on the Seine, and the Rhone & Saone.

Travellers can enjoy a six-night cruise along the meandering Seine from Paris to Honfleur, taking in the extraordinary beauty and history of France.

With calls in Melun, Mantes-La Jolie and Rouen, there are plenty of opportunities to discover authentic Normandy with its charming villages, magnificent abbeys and pretty coastline.

On the Rhone & Saone, a sixnight cruise between Lyon and Martigues features colourful stopovers in Macon, Tainl'Hermitage, Avignon, Arles and Marseille.

CroisiEurope is also offering a complimentary Classic Excursions package worth up to €366 per person on select French itineraries throughout Apr and May.

For more information, CLICK

# My Cruises' Virgin visit



THE grand opening of Virgin Voyages' Terminal V at PortMiami enjoyed some Australian representation, with My Cruises' Chief Executive Officer Ryan Thomas, General Manager Michael Middleton, and founder Randall Deer in attendance.

Officially opened by Richard Branson, Virgin's Terminal V is an impressive three-story building, with unobstructed skyline views

The guest of honour at the grand opening was Scarlet Lady, Virgin's first ever ship, with the My Cruises team invited aboard to check her out.

"We were extremely privileged to be invited to the Virgin Voyages cruise terminal opening event in Miami and be amongst the first Aussies to step onboard the spectacular Scarlet Lady," said Middleton.

"The Virgin Voyages team

have some incredible itineraries coming our way, which we know our My Cruises guests will love."

The cruise specialist will be launching exclusive package sailings with Virgin this Sat.

Pictured at the opening are the cruise line's Vice President International Sales Shane Riley with the My Cruises team: Thomas, Deer, and Middleton.

### **Adventures Await**

**HURTIGRUTEN** Expedition's Adventures Await sale offers guests between \$1,400 and \$4,400 off per suite.

Travellers will also enjoy up to \$450 per cabin of onboard credit.

Savings are applicable to Alaska, the British Isles, the Galapagos, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, the Arctic Archipelago, and Svalbard.

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