

Viking on Today

VIKING is sailing the Danube this week with Nine's *The Today Show*.

From 5.30am-9.30am, Mon to Fri, Viking will travel along the Danube with weather presenter Tim Davies, who will be broadcasting live.

Travelling between Budapest and Passau, Viking will also explore Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, and Krems.

Along the way, Davies will interview guests live on location, sample local cuisines, head off on a cycling tour of the Wachau Valley, take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Lipizzaner stallions at Vienna's Spanish Riding School, and more.



Cruise changes wanted

A MAJOR new report on cruise and coastal tourism from the United Nations-backed Ocean Panel is recommending cruise destinations negotiate passenger fees commensurate with the costs imposed on local resources and infrastructure.

Led by Norway and Palau, and with member countries including Australia, the United States, and more, Ocean Panel is a high level group working towards a "sustainable ocean economy".

The new *Opportunities for Transforming Coastal & Marine Tourism* report, makes a host of recommendations, such as destinations establishing carbon emissions standards and accounting requirements; while another proposes monitoring air, water, and waste pollution carefully through environmental assessments, including the impacts of the controversial open

loop scrubber, which the report contends is the cause of the majority of wastewater coming from cruise ships both in-port and at sea.

Other endorsements include determining a long-term visitor use management framework that aims to maximise visitor benefits while ensuring and sustaining desired resource conditions and visitor experiences; and advancing zero-emissions technologies and associated incentive structures, including port infrastructure which provides renewable energy electricity to ships to allow them to turn off their engines in-port.

"Although cruise tourism can deliver significant numbers of tourists to destinations, the negative impacts of such mass tourism to the local environment and community need to be addressed," the report reads.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Big Balcony back!

CUNARD Line's Big Balcony Event is back, offering a Balcony stateroom for the price of an Inside.

The offer is available on more than 100 selected voyages, including the 2023/24 Australian homeport itineraries.

This offer applies for bookings made before the end of next month, on selected *Queen Elizabeth*, *Queen Victoria* and *Queen Mary 2* sailings, including the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the South Pacific.

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DEEP sea mining could send its noise up to 500 kilometres across the ocean, according to a report from Curtin University.

The analysis has scientists calling for limits on this kind of mining, as many deep sea creatures are believed to use sound to navigate and communicate.

The noise pollution creates a "cylinder of sound" from the surface to the seabed.

Many deep sea species – about which very little is known – are believed to use sound and vibrations to navigate, communicate and detect predators in the absence of sunlight.

Underwater noise is likely to "disrupt ecosystems", said the authors of the paper.

New Celestyal shorex



CELESTYAL Cruises has introduced 'Authentic Encounters', a new, immersive small group shore excursion program.

Authentic Encounters will offer hands-on, culinary, cultural, and adventure experiences in Greece and Turkey, pursuing passions such as food & wine tours; art & archaeology; culture, and active adventure.

The excursions start at USD\$84 per guest, with sample 'Idyllic Aegean' itinerary experiences ranging from wine tasting in the Epanomi Hills of Thessaloniki, a guided hiking tour in Santorini, pottery-making in Rhodes, a home cooking class in Mykonos, sea kayaking to the "pirate coves", rock formations, and sea caves, and a special music and mythology experience in Megalochori.

"Today's traveller is looking for more immersive and experiential vacation options," explained Chief Commercial Officer Leslie Peden.

"We have reimagined our shore excursion program with

this in mind and have created a bespoke destination rich program exclusively for smaller groups.

"This allows us to include more interactive experiences".

New MSC webinar

MSC Cruises' latest webinar invites travel advisors to be the master of their selling success.

The webinar, taking place on 27 Jul from 4pm to 5pm, will see travel partners hear from the cruise line's panel of experts on how to maximise selling opportunities through their recently launched global e-learning platform **MSC Masters (CW 06 Jul)**, in addition to current promotions and other key information from MSC.

Executive Director Angelo Capurro, Sales Executive Senior Manager Salvatore Branchizio, and Commercial Director Lisa Teitou will host the webinar - e-mail sales@msccruises.com.au for a spot.

New terminal

THE Port of Quebec has consolidated and expanded its cruise ship capacity with a new multipurpose terminal.

The facility was built following consultation with the local cruise industry, which had identified its need to improve the reception of cruise passengers in Quebec City.

The new terminal can accommodate more than 2,500 passengers.

Princess Cruises' *Caribbean Princess* is expected to christen the terminal on 04 Aug.



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