

Swan Hellenic to cruise Kimberley

SWAN Hellenic Cruises has unveiled its 2023 season, with the line's first expedition ship *SH Minerva* to feature a full Southern Hemisphere program including a series of explorations in Australia's Kimberley region.

Minerva will arrive in Australia after the 2022/23 Antarctic season and a "semi-circumnavigation of the globe" from Ushuaia to Dunedin, New Zealand where she will kick off her Pacific season.

Down Under destinations covered by *Minerva* will also include Papua New Guinea, expeditions in Bali and Komodo and Indonesia's Raja Ampat archipelago.

The Swan Hellenic brand was part of Carnival Corporation in the 2000s, and was later acquired by All Leisure Group which aligned it with sister brand Voyages of Discovery.

In 2017 the business was placed



into liquidation, with the brand acquired by G Adventures and then later on sold in mid-2020 to a team led by former industry executive Andrea Zito, who has led the ongoing development of a fleet of newbuilds.

The 152-guest polar-class *SH Minerva* (pictured) was delivered late last year, with sister ship *SH Vega* recently joining the fleet (CW 12 Jul) and a third expedition ship, *SH Diana*, with capacity for 192 passengers scheduled for delivery next year.

The local deployment of *Minerva* confirms plans flagged by Zito two years ago (CW 31 Jul 2020) which later saw the appointment of the Cassar family's Cruise Online as Swan Hellenic's local GSA (CW 19 Feb 2021) to provide trade support across Australia and the Pacific.

Cruise Weekly today

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

RCG Crystal credits

ROYAL Caribbean Group has undertaken to protect the deposits of guests who were originally booked on *Crystal Endeavor* and make a new booking on any of its brands including Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises or Silversea Cruises.

"To the extent the *Crystal Endeavor* guests do not receive their deposits back from Crystal or other sources, the Royal Caribbean Group will refund any amount paid on their new booking up to the amount of their lost deposits from Crystal," the company said overnight.

The update comes as RCG's Silversea Cruises formally takes delivery of the former *Crystal Endeavor* (CW 19 Jul) which from Nov will be deployed in Antarctica as *Silver Endeavour*, Silversea's fifth expedition ship.

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A SOBERING video from Dutch non-profit organisation The Ocean Cleanup has appeared on social media this week, showing the group's efforts to mitigate the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP).

The huge mass of plastic accumulated in the Pacific between California and Hawaii is one of the targets of The Ocean Cleanup, which works to remove plastic from aquatic environments across the globe.

The latest breakthrough is a "proof of concept" of the organisation's system (**pictured**) which has now removed more than 100 tonnes of plastic from the oceanic eyesore by capturing it in netting and pulling it aboard a freighter for sorting.

However there's still a long way to go, with The Ocean Cleanup noting that "thanks to our determined offshore crew and supporters worldwide, together we have now officially cleaned up 1/100th of the GPGP" - see the video by **CLICKING HERE**.



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We also publish consumer e-magazine **Travel & Cruise Weekly - Keep Dreaming** - sign up free at www.travelandcruiseweekly.com.au.

HAL celebrates return



HOLLAND America Line this week marked a full year of operations since returning to service following the COVID-19 induced cruising pause.

Nieuw Amsterdam was the line's first ship to resume sailing, with her maiden post-pandemic departure on 24 Jul 2021 from Seattle, Washington.

The ship reached the one-year mark while in port in Whittier, Alaska last weekend, with the milestone marked by the crew in an onboard celebration (**pictured**).

HAL President Gus Antorcha said "the emotions and excitement from a year ago still resonate

today as destinations around the world open and we persist in fully getting back to cruising".

"We are grateful to our guests who returned to sail with us, to our team members who came back to sea, to the ports that welcomed us, to our partners who stood by us, and to all our shoreside employees who got us back in the water," he said.

Antorcha noted that over the last 12 months Holland America Line had operated more than 240 cruises on its 11-strong global fleet, adding "we look forward to continuing to offer more memorable vacations".

Napier extension

NEW Zealand's Port of Napier has officially opened a new wharf extension, allowing it to cater for larger container vessels and cruise ships.

To be formally known as Te Whiti, the NZ\$175 million 350m-long project has been completed about six months ahead of schedule, with Napier Port CEO Todd Dawson saying it would position Hawke's Bay for future growth.

Aurora guests

AURORA Expeditions has announced a series of "Special Guests" who will be joining upcoming 2022/23 voyages.

Participants include Aussie author Karl Kruszelnicki, former ABC TV presenter Richard Morecroft, solo Antarctic sailor Lisa Blair, ABC *Catalyst*'s Paul Willis, marine biologist Lucas Handley and Her Deepness Dr Sylvia Earle - auroraexpeditions.com.au.



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Countdown to Cruise Month

CRUISE Month is just six weeks away, giving us a great opportunity to celebrate cruising's return ahead of the summer cruise season.

To ensure travel agents get the most out of September's Cruise Month, CLIA this week released a new toolkit packed with downloadable resources they can use to mount their own cruise marketing campaigns.

CLIA members can take advantage of new videos, social media tiles, email banners, photo libraries, and other materials to create their Cruise Month promotions and highlight this year's theme of #LoveCruise.

There's also advice on how to stage your own Cruise Month events to engage and inspire clients, and professionally written travel stories to use in blogs, newsletters or other publications.

CLIA will be hosting webinars to help explain more and show member agents how to get the most out of this year's event.

As in past years, Cruise Month 2022 will progress through four weekly themes: Ocean Cruising, River Cruising, Expedition Cruising, and Luxury Cruising, with dedicated toolkit components aimed at each segment.

Cruise Month is designed to capitalise on cruising's global recovery and harness the renewed passion of cruise travellers. Visit [Cruise Month](http://CruiseMonth.com) to find out more.

