



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Carnival's luminous new addition

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced Costa Cruises' *Costa Luminosa* is the ship that will transfer to its fleet to start service in Australia in Nov (**CW** 08 Jun).

Christine Duffy, Carnival President, initially flagged an upcoming addition to the fleet to **Cruise Weekly** at last week's IPW, with the "new" ship to arrive in Sep, and start operations as *Carnival Luminosa* from Brisbane two months later.

The ship is a sister to *Carnival Spirit* and three other vessels in the cruise line's fleet, with sailings to be announced shortly.

Luminosa will sail a variety of itineraries initially including visits to Australian favourites such as the Great Barrier Reef and Airlie Beach, and as destinations open over time, such as Noumea, Lifou Island, Port Vila, Mystery Island, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji.

After cruising seasonally from



Brisbane, *Luminosa* will then move to Seattle for Alaska itineraries from May-Sep.

Given the short timeline to get *Luminosa* ready for service with Carnival, the ship will only go through modest updates, which will mean she will not initially have all of the Funship 2.0 branded spaces seen across the

rest of the cruise line's fleet.

Previously announced *Costa Luminosa* programs from Sep forward will be cancelled, and *Costa Magica*, initially considered for the transference to Carnival, will continue to be a part of Costa's current fleet.

Luminosa accommodates up to 2,826 guests and 1,050 crew.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Bettridge at C360

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection President & Chief Executive Officer Ellen Bettridge will provide her globalised insight at Cruise360 in Sydney this year.

Bettridge is the first guest speaker to be announced for this Aug's Cruise360, kicking off a line-up that will help attendees capitalise on cruising's global revival and gain the critical insight needed to navigate the new era the industry is entering.

She will speak on the topic of "opportunities abroad" and making the most of cruise's revival.

Tickets for the event are available online **HERE**.

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Travel Daily

Viking weekly deal

VIKING'S deal of the week is a Rhine River cruise.

The eight-day Rhine Getaway from Amsterdam to Basel or vice versa is now on sale, priced from \$2,695 per person twin share.

The deal is available on selected departures for new bookings made before the end of the month.

For information, call 138 747.

Cruising to return to SA



THE travel industry is saluting the return of the cruise industry to South Australia, announced yesterday by the state's Minister for Tourism Zoe Bettison.

In announcing the return, Bettison noted more ships than prior to the pandemic are set to call on South Australia's shores across the 2022-23 season - a development hailed by Coral Expeditions Commercial Director Jeff Gillies.

"The SA Government has been very supportive and open to allowing our local operations of under 100 passengers in the past years and it has been a great success with the delivery of 10 new voyages by Coral," he said.

"We see this region as a popular and regular new inclusion in our annual sailing schedule with unique natural attributes and a strong tourism infrastructure to support cruising".

More than 100 cruises are scheduled for SA in the coming season, with the sector hoping to top the \$145 million contribution it made to the state's economy in 2018-19.

The 101 cruises scheduled

for South Australia in 2022-23 include 20 expedition vessels, and the state's first scheduled cruise call is Princess Cruises' *Coral Princess* on 17 Sep.

"The return of cruising signals a major step forward for the recovery of South Australia's visitor economy," Bettison said.

"This means more visitors to SA, more expenditure, and more jobs for locals - with on-shore tours spreading the benefits from the city to the Barossa, Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Eyre Peninsulas, Kangaroo Island, and beyond.

"It is thanks to South Australia's excellent cruise infrastructure - which includes recent upgrades to the terminal at Outer Harbor to provide a warmer welcome to passengers as they disembark and a widening and deepening of the channel - that some of the world's largest cruise ships are heading to our state."

One of South Australian tourism's cognoscenti, Phil Hoffmann Travel Managing Director Phil Hoffmann, said the development is a "great opportunity" for the state's tourism industry.

nicko off to Aus

A NEW exotic voyage with nicko cruises will sail from Manila to Sydney in 2024.

Journeying to many remote and beautiful places between the Philippines and Australia, the sailing is being packaged with Cruise Traveller with a complimentary pre-cruise stay in Manila available for early bird bookings made before the end of Oct.

The 23-night stay & cruise package includes onboard drinks aboard *VASCO DA GAMA*, on what will be the ship's first visit to Australia.

The vessel will visit 12 destinations in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Australia, including Coron, Bohol, Puerto Princesa, Bali, Komodo Island, Darwin, Cooktown, Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane on Australia Day 2024, before arriving in Sydney.

Call Cruise Traveller on 1800 507 777.

MV Werften saved

THYSSENKRUPP Marine Systems has acquired MV Werften, the shipyard which filed for bankruptcy under the ownership of Genting Hong Kong at the start of the year (*CW* 12 Jan).

The new owner will take over the MV Werften location in Wismar, with the main impetus for the acquisition an order for more submarines from the German govt, and the resulting investments in the upgrading of the shipyard.

The parties did not disclose the purchase price.



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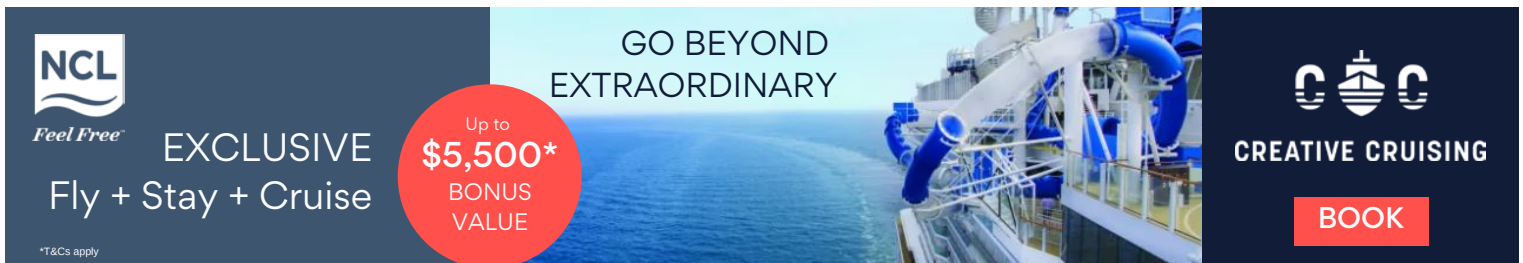
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The Metaverse is quickly approaching, but what does that mean for the travel industry? Read all the details in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

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GOLDEN State Warriors guard Klay Thompson, who has been starring in the recent NBA Finals, has credited his love for the ocean and all things maritime for his recent success.

Thompson, who plays his basketball in San Francisco, is a known lover of boating, and is often seen on his luxury yacht.

However, he credits his frequent dips in the ocean with his superb play.

"When the sun is shining, I make it a point to jump in the ocean," he said.

"I just think the ocean has healing properties that a pool might not have".

GVHA CEO bows out

CANADA'S Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA) has announced the impending departure of Chief Executive Officer Ian Robertson.

The outgoing CEO will retire early next year, with GVHA to begin the search for a successor immediately.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Robertson worked with business leaders to advocate for support for the tourism industry in the region.

He also played a key role in the safe resumption of the cruise industry in Canada through his advocacy efforts at a municipal, provincial, and federal level with both industry and government.

MSC has Arab-turous time



MSC Cruises recently hosted a group of lucky travel advisors on an Arabian Peninsula famil.

Cruising on board *MSC Bellissima*, the sailing embarked in Dubai, and spent seven nights discovering Sir Bani Yas, Abu Dhabi, and Doha, before returning to the United Arab Emirates' most populous city.

Business Development Executives Bronwyn Knight and Shannon Morgan ensured agents enjoyed the MSC experience, and even created a game show exclusively for the famil guests.

"It's exceeded my expectations, the ship is a destination in itself," said Ignite's Madeline McIntyre.

"The staff onboard are genuinely friendly and helpful."

Added Flight Centre's Jessica Jofre: "this is like living in a luxurious five-star hotel, it just keeps getting better, where everyone goes out of their way to make you feel like a superstar."

Bellissima is currently in the last month of her current season, before she heads to

the Mediterranean to meet the ever-growing demand from consumers.

As part of MSC's record-breaking 15-ship season in the Mediterranean, *Bellissima* will now offer seven-night sailings from Valencia, Barcelona, Genoa, Livorno, and Naples from 09 Jul.

The itinerary is designed with longer stays in port, MSC said.

"As holidaymakers are planning now their summer holidays, we are extremely pleased to see that our continued and present investments in the experience on board – including improved dining, additional entertainment options as well as extra staff to look after every need of our guests even during the busy summer season – is paying off with high ratings from recurring and new guests," said Chief Executive Officer Gianni Onorato.

Also important to MSC is offering guests the convenience of providing the most embarkation ports in the Mediterranean.

Pandaw's new Song

A **NEW** Pandaw ship *Song Hong* is set to launch mid next year, joining the highly successful *Angkor* on North Vietnam's Red and Black River network.

Song Hong will feature 10 enlarged staterooms, which will be slightly larger than the classic Pandaw cabin.

The ship will also feature an ultra-shallow draft to enable it to cope with North Vietnam's waterways.

Pandaw said *Angkor* is so popular it books out months in advance, necessitating a second ship on the route.

"Only on one of our very clever, smaller Pandaws could we do what we do in so navigationally challenged environment as the Red River," said founder Paul Strachan.

"This fits with an increasing demand from our regulars for smaller ships."

Star Pride is back

WINDSTAR Cruises' reimagined *Star Pride* has made her debut in Greece.

The third and final Star Plus-class yacht has been lengthened and transformed at Italy's Fincantieri shipyard.

Pride sailed from Athens late last week on a sold-out, eight-day voyage to Barcelona, which will stop at Gythion, Corfu, Argostoli, Messina, Trapani, and Cagliari.

All six of Windstar's all-suite yachts are back in the water cruising, following works headlined by an increase in capacity to 312 guests.