



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Princess Aus canx

PRINCESS Cruises has cancelled a number of Australian voyages in 2023, in light of the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War, and due to deployment updates designed to meet consumer demand in other markets.

Australian-based cruises on *Royal Princess* departing 05 Sep-10 Oct have been cancelled, while *Regal Princess*' 09 Apr-23 Sep Northern Europe departures are also cancelled.

Guests are being notified, with the default option being a future cruise credit.

Full details of the Australian cancellation is available [HERE](#).

## Tasmania welcomes back cruise

THE cruise revival in Tasmania announced yesterday will bring back a plethora of economic opportunities to the state, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) said - profits it has missed out on ahead of becoming the last jurisdiction to resuscitate the sector.

After an absence of nearly three years, Premier Jeremy Rockliff yesterday said large ships will once again be welcomed back to Tasmania's shores ahead of next cruise season in Oct.

CLIA's local Managing Director Joel Katz said cruise tourism was worth up to \$100 million a year to the Tasmania economy before the pandemic.

"The absence of international cruise ships has had a devastating impact over the past two years," he noted.

"Cruising ordinarily supports hundreds of jobs in Tasmania



– including among tour operators, travel agents, hotels and restaurants, food & wine producers and other industry suppliers.

"The return of cruising will bring back millions of dollars to businesses like these and help strengthen Tasmania's tourism recovery."

Katz noted cruise lines globally

had introduced stringent new health measures in response to COVID-19.

"The cruise industry has done an enormous amount of work with medical experts internationally which has resulted in health protocols that are among the most extensive to be found anywhere in world tourism," he added.

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## Two new trips for Hurtigruten Norway

**HURTIGRUTEN** Norway has launched two premium journeys for next year under its Norwegian Coastal Express, marking the division's biggest product evolution in its 130-year history.

The new Svalbard Express and North Cape Express itineraries will offer an elevated addition to the existing Coastal Express product.

Guests will enjoy a new iconic experience along the Norwegian coast on board the fully refurbished *Trollfjord* while in Svalbard, travellers will delight in one of the world's northernmost permanently populated areas.

The Svalbard Express will launch on 03 Jun 2023, just one month ahead of the company's 130-year anniversary, and 40 years after it last operated.

The new itinerary will include some of the Norwegian coast's most popular destinations, such

as the Lofoten Islands, Vesteralen, and the North Cape, before heading north to Longyearbyen in Svalbard.

The full roundtrip journey takes 14 days, with a seven-day one-way cruise starting or ending in Svalbard also available for guests to pair their journey with Hurtigruten's wide range of activities in the Norwegian archipelago.

The one-way journey includes two nights at a hotel in Longyearbyen and two excursions: a wilderness evening at Camp Barentz and a journey on the hybrid-electric catamaran *Bard*.

Meanwhile, the first 13-day North Cape Express will depart on 26 Sep 2023, taking guests to Oslo, as well as to Norway's northernmost and southernmost points.

The itinerary will also include

new ports in southern Norway, and scenic cruising through Hardangerfjord.

It will mark Hurtigruten Norway's first-ever time with regular sailings in Oslo.

The two new itineraries are upgraded extensions to the traditional Coastal Express, and will offer significantly different experiences, including half-or full-day port visits; cooking classes; wine, beer, champagne, & whisky tastings; a food centre; a cocktail bar; and onboard entertainment.

Dining options will include an a la carte restaurant with tasting menus, all-day dining, afternoon tea, and takeaway service.

The food centre will feature both cooking demonstrations & classes, and picnic & culinary excursions will be available.

Both itineraries are now available for purchase at [Hurtigruten.com](https://www.hurtigruten.com).

### Eclipse II video

**SCENIC** Luxury Cruises & Tours has unveiled a new timelapse video showcasing the build of its second discovery yacht, *Scenic Eclipse II* which will launch next year.

The video provides an overview of the progress to date for *Eclipse II*, which is scheduled to launch next Apr.

The state-of-the-art yacht, which is nearly identical to the first *Scenic Eclipse* - will float out of its Rijeka shipyard in Croatia, later this month, where she is being built by MKM Yachts.

*Eclipse II* is scheduled to make her maiden sailing from Lisbon, with her debut season to include voyages in the Mediterranean, Scotland, the Americas, the Caribbean, Antarctica, and the Arctic.

To view the video, [CLICK HERE](#).



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## What Athens in Greece...



**CELESTYAL** Cruises recently treated members of the Australian travel trade to a famil trip on a seven-night Idyllic Aegean sailing, departing roundtrip from Athens.

The voyage visited Thessaloniki, Kusadasi, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini, Milos, and more, with attendees enjoying the full Celestyal experience, including two shore excursions, unlimited classic drinks, as well as onboard dining services.

The aim of the famil trip was to make sure it provided "Greek cultural essence and hospitality to every passenger," according to Celestyal Business Development Manager Mary Williams.

"I could not have asked for a better group of fam participants," she told **Cruise Weekly**.

"Coming out of COVID we were all appreciative to be embarking on a cruise to the Greek Islands, with bucket list stops such as Mykonos & Santorini, and visiting historical sites like Ephesus in

Kusadasi, and the Acropolis of Lindos in Rhodes.

**Pictured** are Flight Centre's Ellen Guinness, Sun Island Tours' Olivia Trinchi, HelloWorld's Katherine Cosgrave, TravelManagers' Vicki Hope, Clean Cruising's Russell Cameron, MTA's Clare Hardie, Williams, Our Vacations Centre's Rebecca Brown, and Creative Cruising's Astrid Maier.

### Cruise wage wait

**THE** Marine Tourism & Charter Vessel Award 2020 is one of 10 tourism, aviation, & hospitality sectors which will have to wait until Oct for their wage review.

The Fair Work Commission's Expert Panel for wage review was satisfied workers in the marine tourism & charter vessels sector had been affected by "exceptional circumstances", resulting in their award's delayed operative date.

### Cruise spend up

**CRUISE** is one of a number of travel industry sectors toward which there has been a large shift higher in spending, according to CommBank's latest *HSI - Household Spending Intentions* report.

CommBank noted that, although the figure was still lower than May 2019, cruise has largely been drawn along with the latest uptick in general travel industry spending.

The report also found there has been a significant lift in the dollar spent with travel advisors compared to the same period 12 months ago.

Although this figure is off a very low base, the spend at agents was still higher than the prior-to-the-pandemic spend in May 2019.

### Latitude 33 tour

**LATITUDE 33** is inviting travellers to venture to Antarctica on an exclusive 30-night cruise-tour.

Sailing aboard *Seabourn Venture*, the voyage departs on Valentine's Day 2023 in Buenos Aires, and is comprised of a 21-night cruise, as well as a number of hotel stays.

The tour incorporates experiences such as a tango show, a visit to Iguazu Falls, and more.

Also included in the fare are return airport transfers in Australia, international Economy airfares, with upgrades available, and more.

Watch the promotional tour video **HERE**.



**THE** bizarre mating rituals of a unique colony of giant cuttlefish swimming just off the Whyalla coastline can now be viewed in all of their psychedelic glory from the comfort of a glass-bottom boat.

Cuttys Tours is the operator who has launched the tours, off Point Lowly, which are in their first season.

Offering many departures during the day throughout the breeding season, the cuttlefish fix their delicate eggs on the dark underside of the ledges away from direct sunlight.

Their lifespan is just 12-18 months, and they make the most of their breeding cycle by producing pulsing neon colour displays in order to stand out from the pack.

It is not uncommon to see eight-ten suitors battling for one female's attention.

Travellers who want to get even more voyeuristic can sign up for a snorkel or dive tour.

### Ready to Cruise!

**MSC Cruises' Ready to Cruise** promotion has guests saving up to 60% off their fare in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe.

Valid on selected sailings until 19 Nov, guests can choose from well over 1,000 itineraries in the region.

Future cruise credits are welcome - for more information, call 1300 028 502.