

The pinnacle Kimberley experience

AN AUSTRALIAN FIRST



Photo credit @Ponant Studio – Nathalie Michel, Nick Rains, Paspaley.

In 2023 PONANT together with Paspaley, will deliver an Australian first – the pinnacle Kimberley experience, featuring PONANT’s flagship luxury yacht, *Le Ponant*. Limited to just 32 discerning guests, each sailing also features an exclusive transfer on board one of Paspaley’s *Grumman Mallard* flying boats, providing memorable visual perspectives of the Kimberley. The ultimate Kimberley exploration in barefoot luxury.

DISCOVER



Private transfer flights on Paspaley’s *Grumman Mallard* flying boats



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Wednesday 22nd June 2022

The final countdowns

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's countdown has officially begun, with just 100 days until *Carnival Splendor's* return to Australia.

The line's dedicated Sydney ship will return home on 30 Sep, following a successful season cruising in Alaska.

With almost 1,000 days since her last Australian cruise, *Splendor* will offer Sydneysiders a range of action-packed itineraries from Aussie favourites including Moreton Island, Carnival's famous Melbourne Cup cruises, to New Zealand, and more.

Meanwhile, it is also only six months until Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Spirit* debuts Down Under.

The ship has been completely reimaged in an extensive bow-to-stern, USD\$100 million renovation.

RCI's "thrilled" at Fiji

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) is "thrilled" Fiji's cruise ship market has obtained the green light to resume (**CW** 20 Jun), ahead of its return to the country during its upcoming Australian season.

With Fijian explorations later this year available to book on *Quantum of the Seas* (pictured) and *Ovation of the Seas* from Brisbane and Sydney respectively, local Vice President & Managing Director Gavin Smith expressed his delight at the future prospects for the country's cruise industry.

"We are thrilled with the announcement that cruising is set to return to Fiji," he said.

"Royal Caribbean is committed to delivering the ultimate cruising holiday and is delighted to offer avid cruisers the chance to explore Fiji.

"[RCI] looks forward to positively contributing to



the Fijian economy and working closely with the Fijian government on a responsible and exciting return to the country's shores."

Fiji will be yet another destination for Royal Caribbean cruisers to explore, after the line earlier this month set a course for overseas shores from Singapore aboard *Spectrum of the Seas* (**CW** 03 Jun).

International cruises from the island country are set to resume as soon as next week.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise news plus a cover page from Ponant.

Ponant Kimberley

THE pinnacle Kimberley experience, an Australian first, will be offered by Ponant next year, in partnership with Paspaley (**CW** 17 Jun).

Featuring Ponant's luxury flagship *Le Ponant*, the experience will be limited to just 32 guests.

Each sailing will also feature an exclusive transfer on one of Paspaley's Grumman Mallard flying boats, providing a range of memorable visual perspectives of the Kimberley.

Ponant is describing the experience as "the ultimate Kimberley exploration in barefoot luxury" - **cover page.**

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THE COUNTDOWN TO NORWEGIAN SPIRIT'S ARRIVAL IS ON!

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VIKING



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AFTER its retirement was profiled in yesterday's Porthole, Hong Kong's famous Jumbo Floating Restaurant has sadly sunk in the South China Sea.

The vessel was towed away from its mooring in Hong Kong just days ago, and was on its way to receive maintenance, but encountered "adverse conditions" as it was passing the Paracel Islands, and took on water, after which it began to list.

The company said no one was injured, but efforts to save the vessel failed, and it capsized.

"As the water depth at the scene is over 1,000 metres, (it makes it) extremely difficult to carry out salvage works," the company said.

The iconic attraction's demise has prompted pundits to note that the Jumbo Sinking Restaurant is now much closer to its longstanding food source.

My big fat Greek sale

CELESTYAL Cruises' biggest sale ever, which offers almost 60% off, has been extended until the end of next month.

Travellers can cruise the Greek Islands for as little as \$160 per night, with a range of "always included" amenities, such as two excursions, unlimited classic drinks, onboard dining, taxes & gratuities, and more - visit celestial.com.

Aurora cleans up!



AURORA Expeditions last week participated in 'Cleanup for Sarah', an initiative pioneered by the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) and the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators.

New Chief Executive Officer Michael Heath (**CW** 28 Apr) and a number of Aurora's staff recently took part in the clean-up in Sydney's inner-city Surry Hills neighbourhood near its headquarters.

The team picked up more than six-and-a-half kilograms of rubbish, including (sadly) almost 300 cigarette butts.

The cleanup is in honour of Sarah Auffret, a beloved polar guide and former AECO environmental agent who died in a plane crash in Ethiopia in 2019, on her way to Nairobi to talk about the Clean Seas project.

As a passionate environmentalist, she led the expedition cruise industry's efforts to combat marine plastic

litter, and, to mark her birthday week (11-19 Jun), cleanups are organised in major cities around the world.

Pictured getting their hands dirty are Jacqui Henderson, Heath, Hannah Charlton, Bailey Robertson, Sasha Buch, Oksana Prokopenko, and Alison Lo.

Emerald on screen

EMERALD Cruises' 'Mediterranean Enchantment' yacht cruise will star on the Nine Network's *Getaway* this weekend.

The dedicated episode will see presenter Jason Dundas experience the itinerary, which sailed aboard *Emerald Azzurra*, cruising for 15 days from Athens to Venice.

Viewers can tune into this week's episode for a chance to win a Balcony Suite on an eight-day sailing with Emerald, with return flights included - a package valued at \$21,000.



Tasmania opens to cruise

WITH the exciting news that Tasmania will reopen to cruise ships over 99 passengers in October, the timing is perfectly aligned with our roadshows set to take place next week in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie.

We have seen in other states that these events provide an opportunity for tourism operators to hear from our delegation and reconnect with each other to discuss opportunities on how best to leverage the return of cruise ships.

The lack of cruise business over the past two years has had a significant impact on the state's economy.

The latest estimates suggest that the sector contributed around \$100 million into Tasmania so it's no wonder that the industry is excited to see large cruise ships return to port.

All trends are indicating that cruise is expected to return international visitors faster than previously expected.

Sailings are selling out in record times as travellers recognise the ease of multi-destination travel along with having confidence around the health protocols onboard and onshore.

We are also seeing a preference for cruises close to home.

This all bodes well for Tasmania and I believe offers opportunities for Hobart to host home-porting which, along with flights, accommodation and touring adds up to a bright future.