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### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a cover page from **Royal Caribbean International**.

### Royal Caribbean open for sale

**ROYAL** Caribbean International has released its 2022/23 Australian program for sale, offering a range of departures from both Sydney and Brisbane over the upcoming summer season.

Two Quantum class ships will sail locally from Oct, with *Ovation of the Seas* and *Quantum of the Seas* voyages currently on sale with savings of up to \$600 per booking and discounts of up to 30% per guest.

For details see the **cover page** of today's *Cruise Weekly*.

## Shorepower solution for Sydney

**THE** Government of NSW yesterday announced a \$60 million plan to create the first shorepower cruise berth in the region at Sydney's White Bay Cruise Terminal.

The project will see the first berth supporting cold ironing come online in 2024, allowing shore power-capable ships to "cut their diesel generators, and thereby reduce emissions, air pollution and noise levels whilst at port," according to New South Wales Minister for Transport David Elliott.

"Shorepower is cleaner and quieter, minimising the impact of ships on neighbouring areas and ensuring our last remaining deep water harbour berths continue to operate sustainably into the future," the Minister added, saying the move would achieve demonstrable progress in meeting state emissions targets.

Elliott said the facility would also be "the world's first 100% renewable energy shore powered shipping precinct," with Port Authority of NSW Chief Executive Officer Phillip Holliday saying port users were already pledging to retrofit and build new ships to take advantage of the technology.

Those operators include Carnival Corporation and its seven cruise line brands, with the company yesterday signing a letter of intent for vessels using White Bay to connect to shore power.

Marguerite Fitzgerald, Carnival Australia President, confirmed the entire P&O Cruises Australia fleet is already comprised of shorepower-ready ships.

"Carnival Australia is part of a global organisation that has achieved ambitious sustainability goals and continues to set strong targets," she said.

Fitzgerald said the use of shorepower was now "routine" for Carnival ships at 21 locations across the globe.

"Having our shore power-ready ships access this new capability in Sydney will be seen as another sign of our global and local commitment to protecting the marine and natural environment.

"It shows how we put sustainability front and centre in everything we do," she said.

As well as White Bay, the Port Authority of NSW said it intends to progressively install shorepower infrastructure at each of the four major commercial berths at Glebe Island.

It's estimated the initiative will remove up to 14,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere over a 12 month period - the equivalent of taking 4,000 cars off the road each year.

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## MSC gets on the podium



**FORMULA 1** has announced MSC Cruises as a global partner for its 2022 season.

The multi-year deal will see MSC and Formula 1 collaborate to bring some of the cruise line's ships portside during select Grands Prix.

"There is a strong shared ambition between us and F1 as we are both committed to investing in research to accelerate the development and adoption of next generation technologies – both maritime and environmental in our case – to build the future of our industries in a sustainable way," said MSC Cruises Executive Chair Pierfrancesco Vago, who was joined by Formula 1 President & Chief Executive Officer Stefano Domenicali on an F1 podium for the announcement (**pictured**).

"We are both working to continuously improve environmental performance

with a clear vision to build a lasting legacy for future generations.

"We are looking forward to developing our relationship together as this exciting season unfolds."

Domenicali said the international racing class was thrilled to partner with MSC.

"It is a perfect partnership with both of us focused on delivering the best experience for our fans and customers globally and combining entertainment, luxury, and service," he said.

"We are both committed to sustainable solutions, and MSC's insight and expertise perfectly complement our global offering and will continue to enhance our brand."

The MSC partnership began at the weekend's Bahrain GP, which was coincidentally won by fellow Italian brand Ferrari.

## NSW confirms May return

**CRUISE** ships will be permitted to once again cruise in New South Wales waters from May, the state's Minister for Transport David Elliott has indicated.

Although Queensland last Fri said it would welcome P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Explorer* for the maiden arrival at Brisbane's new International Cruise Terminal (**CW 21 Mar**), no such formal confirmation has been forthcoming from the Government of NSW at this stage, despite that same Brisbane voyage set to depart from Sydney on 31 May.

While yesterday announcing the new White Bay shore power project in Sydney (**see page one**), Elliott did not take the opportunity to provide further details of the state's plans or protocols for a resumption.

A spokesperson told **Cruise Weekly** "those details will likely be announced in the next few weeks".

Royal Caribbean International's *Radiance of the Seas* will not be a part of New South Wales' restart however, with the cruise line redeploying the ship to New Orleans and Galveston for the 2022-23 season.

The original plan was for *Radiance* to offer sailings from Sydney from Oct 2022 through Apr 2023, however, Royal Caribbean acknowledged the change in an email to travel advisors.

"We know this news may be disappointing, and we apologize for the impact to your clients' vacation plans," Royal Caribbean said.

No specific reason was provided for the redeployment.

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## Explorer on her way home

P&O Cruises Australia's flagship *Pacific Explorer* has begun her voyage home to resume cruising in her home market.

Set to arrive in Sydney mid-next month ahead of her first guest cruise from Australia on 31 May (CW 16 Mar), *Explorer* has been laid up off the coast of Cyprus with her sister ships, *Pacific Encounter* and *Pacific Adventure*.

"Our suppliers are at last seeing that the restart of cruising also means the restart of opportunity for them after two long years," said Carnival Australia President Marguerite Fitzgerald.

"We are back in the marketplace for the first time in two years for the supply of a wide range of products.

"*Explorer's* mid-Apr arrival means that we will soon be placing our first orders for local fresh produce including large quantities of fruit and vegetables."

Fitzgerald said these numbers will increase further as *Encounter* and *Adventure* return to service to cruise from Australia.

Clean Cruising General Manager & Director Dan Russell is reporting increased booking activity with the approaching restart of cruising.

"There is a growing spirit of confidence and optimism that the return of cruising is also restoring opportunities for our suppliers.

"It is so good that we can contribute to the recovery of fantastic Australian businesses who survived two very tough years and are now on the way back to a bright future."

P&O was one of the first lines off the blocks last week following the government's decision to lift the cruise ban, setting a course to resume sailing in May.

The cruise line last week launched a new program of sailings.



### Oceania bonus

**BONUSES** have been released for early bookings of a luxury 82-night cruise with Oceania Cruises.

Visiting 48 ports in 18 countries, the savings are available until the end of next month, when booking through Cruise Traveller.

Guests can also score a complimentary short break in Abu Dhabi or Tokyo, and USD\$600 of onboard spending money.

The voyage begins in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates on 29 Dec 2023, when guests board the 1,250-guest *Riviera*.

Fares for the voyage start at \$38,290ppts, in a deluxe, Oceanview stateroom - to book, [CLICK HERE](#).

### Fuel surcharge

**ADVENTURE** Canada said it has been "left with no choice" but to implement a fuel surcharge for its upcoming 2022 and 2023 expedition seasons.

For all of this year's Arctic expeditions, Adventure Canada is adding a surcharge of USD\$44 per person per day to the expedition fee.

Any new bookings on its Atlantic Canada expeditions this year will also have this fuel surcharge applied.

For next year's expeditions, a fuel surcharge of USD\$53 per person per day applies.

These taxes are not applicable to agent commissions, Adventure Canada said.

**THE** best crew members will remember your face and name in order to provide a daily personalised greeting, but soon, even your ship may do so!

Holland America Line has adopted SKO Systems' mBark facial recognition to check-in passengers.

mBark is described as a mobile verification system that allows passengers to upload their photo and pre-travel information to the Holland America site before embarking.

The facial recognition system will then allow guests to use a touchless check-in system after a face scan to board the ship.

SKO's portfolio also includes integrated face biometrics solution SKOFace, which is sure to be thoroughly tested out, with cruisers often disembarking a ship far more orange than when they embarked!

### Princess webinar

**REGISTER** now for an exclusive Princess Cruises webinar hosted by Key Account Managers David Craven and Shaun Kavanagh.

Attendees will learn more about Princess' return to service program on board *Coral Princess*, which will sail from Brisbane later this year.

The ship's key itineraries will also be discussed, as will selling tips, and key vessel facts, including dining options, rooms, entertainment, and more - register [HERE](#).



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