



### It's great to be here

**VIKING** is celebrating the start of its inaugural Great Lakes season, with *Viking Octantis* to become one of the most modern vessels sailing in the region.

Designed specifically for the Great Lakes, *Octantis* recently completed a round trip through the Welland Canal - a key section of the St. Lawrence Seaway connecting Lake Ontario and Lake Erie - making it the largest passenger vessel ever to transit the canal.

*Octantis* will remain in the Great Lakes until early Oct, sailing a variety of itineraries between Toronto and Duluth.

A second expedition vessel, *Viking Polaris*, will debut later this year, and will join *Octantis* in the Great Lakes for the 2023 season.

"This region has been historically underserved by cruise lines, and we are delighted by the warm and enthusiastic reception we have received," Chair Torstein Hagen said.

## Qatar to headline C360

**QATAR** Tourism will play a starring role at Cruise360 this year as the headline sponsor of the Sydney event.

Taking place on 25 Aug, Cruise360 will be the first in-person conference hosted by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) since 2019, providing an essential forum for members and industry professionals working to harness cruising's recovery.

CLIA's local Managing Director Joel Katz said the industry was delighted to have the support of Qatar Tourism at such a critical time for the cruise sector.

"As an Executive Partner of CLIA, Qatar Tourism has taken a huge interest in the development of the global cruise industry and we are thrilled to have them as Headline Sponsor of Cruise360," Katz said.

"With cruising's revival building internationally, Cruise360 will be an essential forum for CLIA travel agents, and Qatar Tourism will be a big part of an exciting event."

Vice President of International



Markets for Qatar Tourism Philip Dickinson (**pictured**) said Cruise360 provides an ideal showcase for the country, which is quickly developing its cruising sector.

Although the country is set to welcome well over 200,000 passengers over the course of the 2022-2023 season, Dickinson told **Cruise Weekly** at last year's Qatar Travel Mart the nation's next mission as a cruise destination is to establish itself as a homeport rather than just a port of call, so it can benefit from pre- and post-cruise spending.

This cause will be aided by the new Grand Cruise Terminal located in central Doha.

The terminal will have the capacity to host two megaships and will offer various attractions, including an aquarium and art gallery.

Another step toward this tenet was achieved in Feb, when Emerald Cruises and Qatar Tourism announced a new series of superyacht luxury sailings aboard the new *Emerald Azzurra* in Jan 2023 (**CW** 03 Feb).

"Qatar has a wealth of fantastic tourism offerings that bring to life the rich culture and impeccable hospitality of our country," Dickinson added.

"We look forward to welcoming travellers from around the world to experience the best of the Middle East, all in one easily-accessible place."

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Win a Norwegian cruise from Seattle

**THE** Port of Seattle has joined forces with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and Norwegian Cruise Line to offer travel advisors the chance to win a trip to Seattle and Alaska.

CLIA member agents in Australia who complete a 30-minute training module between now and 02 Sep will automatically go into the draw to win the grand prize, which involves a seven-night cruise from Seattle to Alaska with Norwegian.

The lucky winner will also receive return airfares to Seattle, three night's accommodation in the city, and land & sea excursions.

Agents who have already completed the training have also been entered in the draw.

In addition to the grand prize, six bonus fortnightly prize draws of a \$50 Visa gift card will also be given away by the Port of Seattle.

The first bonus draw will take place on 10 Jun, while the grand prize winner will be announced in the CLIA member newsletter and **Cruise Weekly** on 07 Sep.

To register for the CLIA agent training and complete the Port of Seattle training module, **CLICK HERE**.

The Port of Seattle officially kicked off its cruise season on 23 Apr.

The season, which will run until 23 Oct, will see a record number of 296 sailings, bringing an estimated USD\$1.26 million revenue from passengers as ships will be in the harbour almost every day of the week.

## Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients - giving you a reason to reach out to your database.

*Keep Dreaming* is full of destination articles, cruise stories and more to inspire.

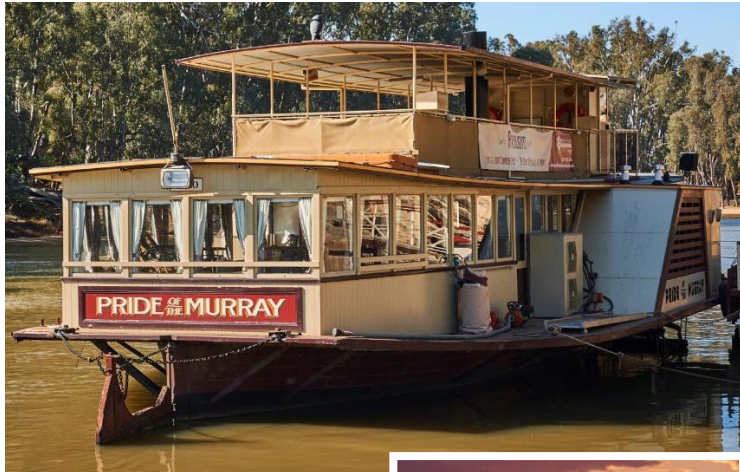


Click here to view *Keep Dreaming* magazine

Click here for a toolkit to help you share it with clients

Travel & Cruise Weekly

# Pride of the...Thomson?



**PRIDE of the Murray (pictured)** is set to cruise the Thomson River in Queensland, after she was acquired by Longreach-based tours & experiences operator Outback Pioneers.

The 100-year-old paddlewheeler is being brought to Longreach all the way from Echuca in an ambitious 1,700-kilometre overland journey (inset) which is set to be the largest overland marine transport operation ever undertaken in Australia.

Bookings for *Pride of the Murray* are open now ahead of her inaugural cruise on the Thomson River on 18 Jun, with the ship to sail the Starlight's Cruise Experience's Mon-Sat evening voyages, joining *Thomson Belle*.

**CLICK HERE** to book now, with the first 100 reservations to receive a special *Pride of the Murray* tribute gift.

The ship's journey to Longreach started yesterday, as she was loaded onto a huge, 106-wheel rig, which will travel through the backroads of three states at a



maximum of 80km/h.

A police escort will accompany *Pride of the Murray*, and electricity companies will be on hand to lift their power lines as she travels.

*Pride of the Murray's* arrival into Longreach, and her negotiation of the town's roundabout will be one of the highlights of the trip.

Just seven days is budgeted for the trip, as more time would mean the ship would begin to suffer from wood shrinkage due to time out of the water.

*Pride of the Murray's* arrival in Longreach also means the historic wool-carrying barge will be preserved in one of the original wool capitals of Australia.



Travel Daily  
**LEARN MORE ABOUT MONACO WITH THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY**  
 Click here to discover

## RSSC world cruise

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has revealed its longest world cruise in its 30-year history, the 150-night *Away in Wonder*.

Set to depart Miami aboard *Seven Seas Mariner* in Jan 2025, *Away in Wonder* visits 97 ports of call in 25 countries, including Australia.

The cruise visits two new ports of call for RSSC – the remote Robinson Crusoe Island off the coast of Chile, and Muroran on the Japanese island of Hokkaido – and will also undertake a once-in-a-lifetime, three-day scenic cruise of Antarctica.

Guests will commence the sailing in style following a pre-cruise gala, with three shoreside events to also take place throughout sailing in Buenos Aires, Auckland, and Bangkok.

For guests who feel that 150 nights is not enough, there is also the option to add an additional 18-night sailing, which cruises to the Mexican Riviera from San Francisco to Miami, visiting ports in Costa Rica, Colombia and more, along with a full transit of the Panama Canal.

Fares for the 150-night sailing start at \$115,810, with inclusive amenities such as USD\$550 shipboard credit per person, unlimited valet laundry including dry-cleaning, and more.

The voyage will officially open for reservations on 15 Jun, but guests can pre-register their interest from Wed by calling 1300 455 200.



**THE** fine tuning of P&O Cruises Australia's flagship *Pacific Explorer* ahead of her official return to service on Tue extends to also fine tuning the ship's five beautiful pianos.

After more than two years of not sounding a note, the instruments needed some special tender loving care from piano tuner Carol Johns (pictured).

It takes about two hours to tune a piano properly, and according to Johns, two-plus-years of no playing had taken a toll on *Explorer's* instruments.

"After nearly two and a half years, they've got themselves to under concert pitch so you have to lift them back up to get them in tune," she said.



## Celestial sale on now

**CELESTYAL** Cruises has introduced its biggest, lowest-price sale ever on its sailings this year.

Three-night cruises start at \$479 and seven-night cruises start from \$929, with fares including two excursions, unlimited classic drinks, onboard dining, and taxes & gratuities.

The sale runs until 20 Jun for a number of selected cruises.

For more information visit [celestial.com/au](http://celestial.com/au).