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### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Cruise like a Swan

**SWAN** Hellenic has extended its special trade incentive to the end of the year (**CW 07 Oct**).

Serving as a celebration of Swan Hellenic's relaunch in the Australian market, the incentive also commemorates the cruise line's first-ever season exploring the Kimberley, with the travel advisor who completes the most customer bookings by the end of the year to win a stateroom for two aboard one of the cruise line's ships.

The winner can choose from a Kimberley exploration or a cruise visiting North Sulawesi and the Philippines.

New Pacific General Manager Brigita Devries said the initiative is a way to commemorate its commitment to the Australian market.

"We look forward to providing all the support they need to make the final months of the year special," she said.

"Helping their clients exceed their dreams, they'll have a winning chance to experience Swan Hellenic's extraordinary expeditions first hand, seeing what others don't."

Devries, who late last month started with Swan Hellenic (**CW 26 Oct**), will oversee the cruise line's first series of expeditions in the Kimberley.

## Celebrity goes Beyond

**CELEBRITY** Cruises' *Celebrity Beyond* has officially been named by her godmother, American artistic gymnast Simone Biles, ahead of the ship's inaugural sailing from the United States.

*Beyond* set sail from Fort Lauderdale after her official naming ceremony, which brought her into the Celebrity fleet as its third Edge-class ship.

Helmed by Captain Kate McCue, *Beyond* has kicked off her inaugural American season with rotating western and eastern Caribbean itineraries visiting the beaches of Grand Cayman and Puerto Plata.

Royal Caribbean Group President & Chief Executive Jason Liberty said he could think of no-one better to serve as the Godmother of *Beyond* than Biles.

"This ship's beauty, power, and resilience sets the standard by which all others will be measured...Simone's determination, progressive nature, empowered attitude, and grace in the face of challenges make her such an inspiration to so many around the world,"

Liberty explained.

"All of these attributes are why Simone Biles is perfectly suited to watch over *Celebrity Beyond's* journey."

Also joining Biles and Liberty for the naming ceremony was Celebrity President & Chief Executive Officer Lisa Lutloff-Perlo.

"I've been waiting for this day to arrive for a long time and I am 'Beyond' excited to be able to share her with our guests," she said.

"[*Beyond*] is the gold standard by which other ships are built and embodies the meaning of relaxed luxury.

"She is 'FULL' of wonder and excitement and our guests will undoubtedly feel reconnected to the world around them as they visit new destinations and immerse themselves in culinary experiences and wellness amenities not found anywhere else at sea."

*Beyond's* naming was the highlight of a big week for the line, which also returned its *Celebrity Eclipse* to Queensland for the first time this season.

### Ruiz joins Virgin

**VIRGIN** Voyages has welcomed its new Chief Growth Officer, Isis Ruiz.

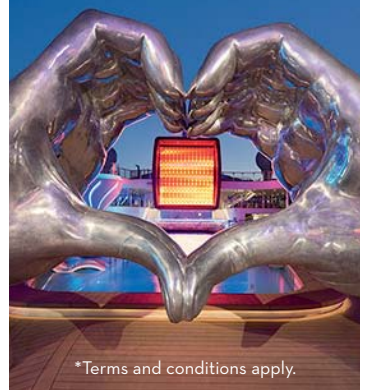
She will report to President Nirmal Saverimuttu, and will help "supercharge" Virgin's growth activities over the next 12 months, during which *Resilient Lady* and *Brilliant Lady* will join the fleet.

Ruiz most recently worked with American Queen Voyages.

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## Hats off to Carnival's first Qld ship

**EXCITED** guests departed on the first Australian sailing aboard Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Luminosa* on Sun, the first of the brand's ships to homeport in Brisbane.

The departure kicked off *Luminosa's* Australian season of 28 sailings, which will support an anticipated \$165 million contribution to the Qld economy.

To mark the momentous occasion, the first guests to embark from the Brisbane International Cruise Terminal were welcomed aboard with a "Here Comes the Fun" event.

*Luminosa* was also presented with an honorary "Citizen-Ship" certificate from local officials, acknowledging Carnival's "commitment to fun" in Queensland.

Chief Commercial Officer & Executive Vice President Ken Tate said *Luminosa's* homeporting



in Queensland underscores Carnival's commitment to Australia, as the cruise line celebrates its 10th anniversary of sailing Down Under.

"Bringing a Carnival ship to Queensland has been a long-term goal of ours, so this is a special occasion as it meets that goal and completes our two-ship deployment plan for Australia by complementing *Carnival Splendor's* year-round service offerings from Sydney," he said.

*Luminosa* will conclude her first season in Australia in Apr, and transition from her Brisbane homeport to operate a series of cruises to Alaska from Seattle.

**Pictured** at the Here Comes The Fun event are Port of Brisbane Chief Executive Officer Neil Stephens, Tate, *Luminosa* Captain Adriano Binacchi, and Carnival Vice President Australia Kara Glamore, with a score of excited guests - "topped off" by the guest of honour, the Cat in the Hat.

### Ponant offer

**A SAVING** for couples and solos, as well as complimentary flights, have been released on Ponant's new Kimberley expedition voyages for 2024.

Ponant's newest expedition ship *Le Jacques Cartier* will make her Australian debut during the season, and those booking her through Cruise Traveller by the end of the month can save up to \$9,000 per couple and \$17,060 per solo.

A free flight to Broome and back from Darwin is also on offer for the 12-night Kingdom of the Kimberley fly, cruise, and stay package, which also includes two nights' accommodation before the cruise.

Three sailings are available in Jul and Sep 2024.

To book, [CLICK HERE](#).



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Travel Daily



**EARLIER** this year, Princess Cruises became the only brand to offer "authentic gelato" at sea, and now, it is adding to its ice cream lineup.

SMiZE Cream, a new "super-premium" ice cream created by American entertainer Tyra Banks, will soon be available aboard Princess' fleet.

The delicious frozen treats, each of which contains an "edible surprise" in every cup, will be available to order from Mar via Princess' OceanNow delivery-on-demand experience.

Each flavour is dished up in a limited-edition, individually packaged serving, complete with a unique augmented reality activation which occurs on the cup.



## Cruise back in India

**INTERNATIONAL** cruising is set to return to India after two years, led by Viking's *Viking Mars*.

The new ship is set to dock in Mumbai on 13 Nov en route to Thailand, carrying 800 passengers.

## Walk for Wellness winners

**THE** grand prize winner for this year's Norwegian Cruise Line Walk for Wellness is Kerry Balestrin from Cruise Holidays in Queensland.

The third annual Walk for Wellness challenge was the largest ever, with more than 1,000 participants, with Balestrin taking out the grand prize of an Oceanview stateroom for two on board *Norwegian Spirit's* (pictured) inaugural sailing from Sydney on 22 Dec.

In addition to the grand prize, there is also a number of other major prize winners, with Phil Hoffmann Travel's Joseph Toleman taking out a \$300 Athlete's Foot voucher for amassing the most steps during the Challenge.

Toleman took a total of 804,892 steps for the month - which is no mean "feet!"

The most improved winner is Global Journeys' Michelle White, who started with an average of 1,686 daily steps during the first fortnight, and ended with an average of 9,498 steps in the final week.

White has won \$500 worth of Samsonite Eco Luggage for upping her step rate.

The most engaged prize winner is Travel Brokers' Andrew Bowman, who liked, commented,



and generally best channelled the "Spirit" of the Walk for Wellness community.

Bowman has won 10,000 Partners First Rewards points, worth \$500.

## Marvel Day at Sea

**DISNEY** Cruise Line has added new characters and entertainment to its 'Marvel Day at Sea' next year aboard *Disney Dream*.

More than 30 superheroes and villains will assemble for a number of one-of-a-kind adventures next year.

Setting sail Jan through Mar from Miami, Marvel Day at Sea combines the thrills of the brand's renowned comics, films, and animated series, with the excitement of a Disney cruise.

The event features all-day entertainment, including meet-and-greets, stage shows, film & TV screenings, special merchandise, themed food & beverage, and more.

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