



A (Cruise Line) champion will be crowned

A NEW Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) award next year will honour the sector's most trusted cruise line representative.

Travel advisors will be able to celebrate a rep through the new Cruise Line Champion award, which will reward someone who has "gone above and beyond to support the travel trade, and who embodies CLIA's mission of educating, advocating, and promoting on behalf of the cruise industry".

CLIA's local Managing Director Joel Katz said travel advisors had highlighted a need to acknowledge and encourage the support given by business development managers and other cruise line sales team members.

"This year's Cruise Industry Awards will have a special emphasis on celebrating the determination and resilience of



our travel agent community after the toughest few years in living memory," he said.

"As well as honouring travel agents, we also want to recognise individuals from among the cruise lines who have championed the needs of their travel trade partners and helped make sure they are a part of cruising's revival."

Nominations for CLIA's Cruise Industry Awards are now open,

with 18 award categories to be judged, of which 11 are open to self-nomination or peer-nomination - including the new Cruise Line Champion award.

Nominations close at the end of the month - **CLICK HERE** to make a submission.

The awards will be announced on 11 Mar at a gala celebration at Big Top Sydney at Luna Park (pictured), with actor Tim Campbell as host (**CW 01 Nov**).

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page for **Still "Still Standing"** ticket sales.

Quark Arctic 2024

QUARK Expeditions has launched its Arctic 2024 season, with what it believes to be the cruise sector's "most diverse range of polar experiences".

Highlights of the Arctic 2024 season include a new Gems of West Greenland: Fjords, Icebergs, & Culture cruise of 12 days.

Off-ship adventure options include flightseeing, "tundra to table" experiences, exclusive heli-landings, heli-hiking, sea sheet experiences, sea kayaking, and mountain biking. View the season **HERE**.



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A&K building Crystal team

A&K Travel Group, the company which acquired the two former Crystal Cruises oceangoing vessels as well as its website & brand assets, has announced a swathe of executive appointments, with Chief Executive Officer Cristina Levis saying “we have been hard at work sourcing some of the industry’s finest talent to bring the iconic brand back to life”.

The appointments include several former Silversea Cruises executives, who are returning to the business part-owned by Manfredi Lefebvre d’Ovidio who sold his remaining stake in Silversea to Royal Caribbean Group in mid-2020.

Hires include Fernando Barroso de Oliveira (**pictured**), Silversea Cruises’ President’s Ambassador to the Venetian Society, whose return to work for d’Ovidio had already been flagged.

He will work to “raise awareness of the Crystal, Abercrombie & Kent and Cox & Kings brands around the world”.

A regular contributor to the Silversea blog, de Oliveira was until late last month described on the cruise line’s website as “practically an iconic presence onboard”, having been with the brand for more than 25 years as a mainstay of numerous voyages, such as its world cruises.

Fernando Delgado Vintimilla will take on the newly created A&K role of Chief Product Officer, moving to the company from previous roles with Silversea overseeing its Galapagos operations and hotel operations within the expedition fleet.

Kerry Golds has been promoted to Chief Tour Operating Officer



for the A&K Travel Group, while Martin Froggatt, ex Travelopia/Quark Expeditions, will become the group’s Chief Destination Officer heading riverboats, DMCs and Sanctuary Retreats for A&K.

Andrew Burrett is the company’s new Group CFO and will create and lead all finance functions for Crystal Cruises, while Fabio Agostini joins A&K as Chief Information Officer after 13 years in IT at Silversea.

Kim Berman has been named as A&K’s Chief Legal and People Officer, joining from the Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection and prior to that having spent almost 14 years as Silversea Group Counsel.

Rounding out the swag of appointments is Camille Drevillon, who has been promoted within A&K to Chief of Staff, after previous roles including leading commercial strategy for Hurtigruten and as Head of Corporate Finance at Silversea.

Levis said the appointments were positioning A&K “to respond to the dramatic post-pandemic growth in the luxury travel market”.

Aurora 2024 Arctic out

AURORA Expeditions has released its 2024 Arctic & Beyond program, showcasing a variety of unique expedition and discovery voyages.

The newly expanded schedule showcases a number of trekking adventures, as well as special guests, who will take passengers on a range of enhanced and reintroduced itineraries, such as the 15-day Patagonia & Chilean Fjords expedition; the 11-day circumnavigation of Iceland; the 15-day sailing in Costa Rica & the Panama Canal; the 12-day Wild Scotland adventure, and the 17-day Greenland Odyssey.

Polar expeditions in 2024 will travel across the Arctic Circle to Svalbard, Spitsbergen, and the Northern Lights, and voyage into the Northwest Passage.

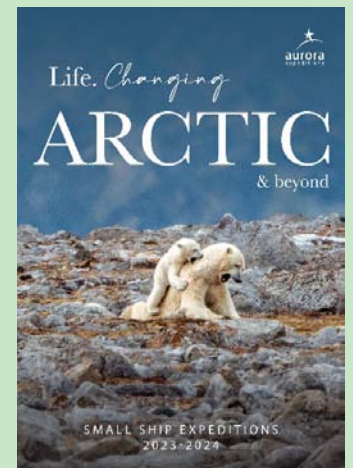
There will also be a Special Guests program covering photography, history, archaeology, conservation, art and Inuit communities, as well as a recently announced Founder’s Voyage, led by acclaimed explorer Greg

Mortimer, (CW 02 Nov).

“The 2024 Arctic & Global program is designed with the intention of building on our existing strengths and leveraging our expertise in the polar regions by sending two ships up to the Arctic,” Head of Product Justin Ewin said.

Aurora is currently offering 25% savings for bookings made before the end of the year, and up to 10% when booking back-to-back voyages.

For more info [CLICK HERE](#).



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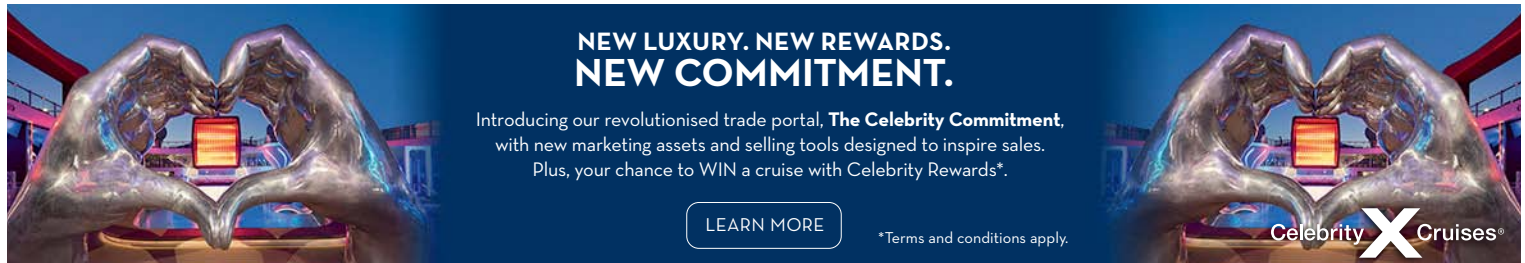


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P&O back in New Cal

VIRGIN Voyages has officially broken the Guinness World Record for largest gathering of people dressed as merpeople (*CW* 19 Oct).

Four-hundred-and-fifty-seven sailors gathered in a kaleidoscope of vibrant mermaid tails on Fri, in an event which included live music, epic makeup, selfies, stadium-style waves and Champagne showers, once the adjudicator announced the record was officially beaten.

The feat was the perfect ending to the cruise line's six-night Halloween voyage, which was joined by Virgin Group founder Richard Branson, who participated in the attempt.



P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Encounter* has become the first cruise ship to return to Lifou Island in New Caledonia, as the line resumes its traditional seven-night South Pacific itinerary.

Encounter arrived in Lifou yesterday morning, reviving a seven-night South Pacific itinerary which has been a mainstay of cruising in the region for decades.

Carnival Corporation President Australia Marguerite Fitzgerald (**pictured**) joined local officials for a special welcome ceremony for *Encounter*, as she returned on the popular "NLV" itinerary - Noumea, Lifou, Vila.

Fitzgerald said P&O Australia was excited to return to Lifou, a very popular destination the cruise line first visited in 1995.

"Lifou has been an incredibly popular destination in our itineraries for more than 25 years, so we're thrilled that our guests can once again experience this beautiful slice of paradise," she said.

"We deeply value our relationships with the local community in Lifou and look forward to renewing our partnership following the return of cruising."

The reopening of New Caledonia has completed the jigsaw of cruise destinations in the Pacific with Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu also opening their maritime borders.

"Irrespective of the destination, each of our ship visits to newly reopened destinations has been an emotional moment with guests able to reconnect with island communities," Fitzgerald said.

"Lifou has a special place in the hearts of our guests who enjoy the beauty of the Loyalty Islands and the meaningful cultural experiences they can share.

"We know how important cruising is to Lifou's economy and we couldn't be more delighted to be back."



AUSTRALIAN CRUISE ASSOCIATION
ACA UPDATE
with Jill Abel - CEO

Warm welcome in Wollongong

TODAY'S column is coming to you from Wollongong, where I have been in discussions with the wonderful destination marketing team here for our conference next year.

As this will be a major milestone event marking our 25th anniversary, we are excited to get the planning underway.

The cruise industry has played a major role in putting Wollongong on the map for international tourists with the destination now being an important stop for cruise ships on the state's Blue Highway.

During my visit I was reminded cruisers are spoiled for choice when it comes to local activities.

A short drive from Port Kembla, Wollongong delivers a buzzing city experience for passengers with a lively laneway culture complete with local cafes and bars, art galleries and retail.

For the more adventurous types, ACA member Skydive Australia offers tandem jumps served up with fabulous coastline views, and with 17 stunning beaches on the city's doorstep, surfing and SUP lessons are definitely an option.

Cruise passengers also can enjoy a range of shore excursions to places like the Nan Tien Temple, the largest Buddhist Temple in the Southern Hemisphere, the historical air museum, Glenbernie Orchard – home of Darkes Cider, the famed Kiama blowhole, or Symbio Wildlife Park.

Regional ports are critical to connecting the dots on our cruise itineraries and cruise passengers and crew are critical to local communities like Wollongong.

Viking 2024 prog

VIKING has released its new 2024 expedition dates, with new departures and an additional 2024 Longitudinal World Cruise.

The new voyage will sail from Usahaia to Milwaukee in Feb 2024, with guests who book before the end of the year to receive the Silver Spirits Beverage Package, complimentary visa services, an additional USD\$1,000 per person in shore excursion credit for any optional land programs and USD\$1,000 per person in shipboard credit.

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