



# CRUISE

WEEKLY

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## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Masks back on Carnival Corp ships

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has reintroduced masks for passengers on board all of its brands, after a recent spike in COVID-19 cases in Australia. Months after the mandate was scrapped, Carnival told **Travel Daily** the health measure has returned "as an additional safeguard in light of the current rate of COVID-19 in the general community". Masks are now required on board in all public indoor spaces, outdoors when in large groups where physical distancing cannot be secured, and when on transfers, such as tenders and buses.

## Seascope delivered to MSC

**MSC Cruises** has taken delivery of its new flagship *MSC Seascope*, just a week after the naming ceremony of *MSC World Europa*.

*Seascope* is the second new cruise ship to join MSC this year, bringing the fleet to 21 ships.

The ship is the second Seaside EVO class ship to enter MSC's fleet, and the fourth in the cruise line's Seaside-class, which is specifically designed for the Caribbean.

The new flagship will feature extensive outdoor spaces and some of the latest environmental technologies currently available at sea.

*Seascope* is the largest cruise ship to be built in Italy, with the delivery taking place in the presence of MSC Group founder and Executive Chair Gianluigi Aponte.

Also present at the ceremony were MSC Cruises Executive

Chair Pierfrancesco Vago, Fincantieri Chief Executive Officer Pierroberto Folgiero, as well as other regional and local authorities, dignitaries, travel advisor partners and media.

During the ceremony, Shipyard Director Cristiano Bazzara presented to Captain Roberto Leotta an ampoule containing the water that first touched the hull when *Seascope* was floated out earlier this year.

Following her naming ceremony in NYC on 07 Dec, *Seascope* will sail to Miami for her inaugural season in the Caribbean.

*Seascope* will offer two different seven-night itineraries from Miami: an Eastern Caribbean cruise, calling at Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, Nassau, San Juan, and Puerto Plata; and a Western Caribbean sailing, calling at Ocean Cay, Cozumel, George Town, and Ocho Rios.



On location in Antarctica

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of Viking, aboard the brand new *Viking Polaris*.

**WHILE** there's lots of action outside, passengers on *Viking Polaris* are also able to enjoy Antarctica in supreme comfort, with the ship featuring a host of bars, lounges, and cosy nooks to curl up and watch the world go by.

Delicious cuisine is also on offer, with dining options including The Restaurant, Italian-style Manfredi's and the World Cafe along with Mamsen's, serving Norwegian favourites at mealtime along with fabulous cakes & scones.

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## RCI sets 2024 European season



**A LINE-UP** of seven ships in nine homeports has been set for Royal Caribbean International's 2024 European adventures.

The season will see vacationers experience a wide variety of cruises which range from five to 17 nights, and explore culture-rich locales, including Reykjavik, Ephesus, the Arctic Circle, Rome, and the Greek Isles.

The program will include the continental debut of the amplified *Oasis of the Seas* (pictured), which will open the program with a splash in May 2024, sailing from Barcelona and Rome.

For the first time, *Oasis* vacationers can explore the Western Mediterranean on seven-night Spain, France & Italy cruises from Barcelona and Rome to bucket-list destinations like Palma de Mallorca, Florence, and Provence.

*Odyssey of the Seas* and *Anthem of the Seas* will

return to sail from Rome and Southampton respectively.

For the third year running, *Odyssey* vacationers will be whisked away on their choice of seven- to nine-night Greek Isles cruises from Rome to destinations like Naples, the Greek Isles of Santorini and Crete, and 12-night Holy Land sailings to Limassol, Ephesus, Jerusalem, and more.

*Anthem* will call Southampton home for the fourth consecutive year, with cruisers able to choose from seven-night adventures to Spain and France or the fjords of Norway, discovering destinations like Maloy, Haugesund, and Bilbao.

Longer, 11- to 14-night vacations will visit spots such as Lisbon, Vigo, and the Canaries.

Rounding out the summer line-up are *Explorer of the Seas*, *Voyager of the Seas*, *Jewel of the Seas*, and an Ultimate World Cruise on *Serenade of the Seas*.

## Making the most of Manfredi's



**THE** Australian and New Zealand contingent aboard *Viking Polaris* this week were treated to an exclusive hosted dinner in the ship's private dining room, with a menu from the adjacent Manfredi's Italian Restaurant.

**Pictured** from left enjoying the delectable cuisine are: Louise and Brett Dann, Hunter Travel Group; Rachel Kingswell and Loren Dumbrell, Travel Associates; Nicole Henry and Michelle Black, Viking Cruises; John Wilson and Kay Rogers from You Travel Bethlehem in Tauranga, NZ; and Phil Smethurst and Jac Bonomi, Bicton Travel.

### New addition to Carnival board

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has announced the appointment of Sara Mathew to its Boards of Directors.

Mathew is the retired Chair, President, and CEO of American technology solutions company, Dun & Bradstreet, and prior to that held various roles over 18 years at The Proctor & Gamble.

She will serve in a non-executive capacity as a Board member and will also serve on the Audit Committees, Carnival said.

### Bling king for Duffy

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line President Christine Duffy is set to launch a new personalised Effy jewellery collection aboard *Carnival Celebration*.

Effy Jewelry stores feature aboard many Carnival vessels, with the new collection part of a collaboration between Duffy and the company's designers.

"So many Carnival guests return from a cruise with a purchase from our Effy Jewelry shops that signify a special remembrance of their vacation with us," she said.

"With this unique collection, our guests sailing on *Carnival Celebration* will be able to choose from beautiful pieces that really connect to this amazing ship and the destinations she will visit.

"I'll be wearing some of my favourite items at the naming ceremony next month, as will my daughter who helped me curate the collection, and Godmother Cassidy Gifford, and her mother Kathie Lee Gifford," she enthused.

The new 'Return to Sea' collection includes 23 pieces inspired by a love for the ocean, including rings, bracelets, necklaces and earrings.

## Coastal Early Bird Sale EXTENDED

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## PORTHOLE

### Norwegian Black Fri

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's Black Fri offer is on now, which the brand is describing as its "greatest ever deal".

Offering incredible inclusions, the sale covers new bookings made before 27 Nov.

The second guest in each eligible booking will sail free, and Norwegian is adding even more value with a bonus USD\$200 on board credit, together with up to five of its cornerstone "Free at Sea" offers.

For more information or to book a cruise with Norwegian, call 1300 255 200.

**"DON'T eat dead whales".**

That's the main theme of a special advisory issued by Fisheries & Oceans Canada, after several of the giant aquatic mammals washed up on the shores of British Columbia recently.

The urgent notice follows some "severe illness" reported in several dogs which apparently ingested whale meat from a decaying carcass in Masset Inlet, a large salt water bay on the region's Haida Gwaii archipelago.

"Apart from the concerns around botulism in the dead whale carcass that make it unfit for consumption, marine mammal meat and blubber can also contain high levels of toxins and heavy metals," according to an update from Fishery Officer Chase Edwards.

The notice urges anyone who has snacked on the dead giants of the sea to urgently inform the Department - while also warning people to keep their distance from the bodies.

"Especially in a place like this, lots of school groups, tourists and people like to go check it out, so we just want people to be aware that looking and taking photos is probably the best option, instead of playing with it or taking pieces or parts of it," the update added.

Dog owners have also been told to keep their pets leashed.

### RCI back in TT after a 20-year absence

**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) will return to Trinidad & Tobago after 20 years on Tue.

Minister of Tourism Randall Mitchell said Royal Caribbean's *Rhapsody of the Seas* will mark the cruise line's return to the dual-island Caribbean nation, following diligent works between the government and the brand.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Royal Caribbean came to Trinidad & Tobago to drop off employees from the country returning home.

RCI's call will precede another cruise visit from MSC Cruises later this month.

"We look forward to welcoming the cruise lines," Mitchell told local media.

"We look forward to a very good cruise season."

## Cunard Canada partnership



**CUNARD** Line has announced a new partnership with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS), which will see eminent experts from the nonprofit educational organisation featured on select voyages next year.

The prominent presenters will appear on every Cunard voyage in *Queen Elizabeth's* 2023 Alaska season from Jun-Aug next year, as well as the Canada/New England voyage on flagship liner *Queen Mary 2* in Sep, which cruises from New York City to Quebec.

The RCGS is dedicated to "understanding and educating people about the diverse human and physical landscapes of Canada and beyond," with a membership of more than 26,000 educators from across the country and a "robust Fellowship of distinguished thought leaders and those committed to geographical literacy".

Speakers will include RCGS John Geiger, who's pictured with Captain Andrew Hall, Master of *Queen Mary 2*, and who is a best-selling author and speaker.

Other headliners will include Joseph Frey, a former Royal Canadian Navy officer; underwater diver and explorer Jill Heinerth; RCGS Explorer in Residence George Kourounis; and glacier expert Lynn Moorman.




On Board: *Viking Polaris*

### Spa Pool

After a tough day exploring the icy continent, there's nothing better than unwinding in the fabulous spa pool aboard *Viking Polaris*. With panoramic views and plenty of loungers, guests can make the most of the serenity here, while also enjoying the adjacent spa, sauna, snow grotto and steam room - and also enjoy the invigorating thrill of an ice-water bucket shower.