



On location in Antarctica

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

THERE is a massive storm looming in the Drake Passage, so *Viking Polaris'* Captain Margrith Ettlín is now helping our ship back to safety and smoother seas in Ushuaia.

However the expedition team aboard pulled out all stops to ensure our final day in Antarctica provided an opportunity for every guest to actually step onto the White Continent, with the unforgettable moment taking place at Brown Station Territory.

Neptune safe after Antarctic incident

EXCLUSIVE

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours' *Scenic Neptune*, the submarine offered as one of the experiences for guests aboard *Scenic Eclipse*, has been safely recovered, along with its passengers & pilot, after being damaged during a deployment in Antarctica.

The cruise line confirmed the incident took place during a routine excursion operation in Antarctica's Weddell Sea.

"During flat calm conditions, a katabatic wind event took place," according to a statement provided to *Cruise Weekly*.

"At the time, *Scenic Eclipse's* submersible, *Scenic Neptune*, was conducting a dive with guests on board," the cruise line said.

"As per Scenic safety procedures and IAATO guidelines, the submersible driver and sea-based team aborted the dive.

"During the return to surface



process, *Scenic Neptune* encountered sea ice floes and sustained slight damage to external tanks.

"The crew continued to follow the Scenic and IAATO protocols, and all guests and crew returned safely to the ship within two hours and the *Scenic Neptune* submersible was taken into its onboard garage shortly thereafter," the statement said.

The submarine (pictured) is "currently in the process of being assessed, and will return to service when it is repaired and compliant," Scenic added.

The cruise line said all guests on board *Eclipse*, as well as those with upcoming bookings, have been informed of the status of the underwater excursion vehicle.

Scenic noted the ship's onboard Discovery Team is committed to providing the many other unique experiences in the Antarctic region, with guests "enjoying the Zodiacs, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, the two state-of-the-art helicopters, all in ultra-luxury on board *Scenic Eclipse*".

The recent Weddell Sea visit featured "many special encounters" including a rare Emperor penguin sighting and use of the helicopters to venture beyond the horizon, Scenic added.

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features six pages of all the latest cruise news, including a photo page from **MSC Cruises**.

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Travel Daily



In the Hall of Fame!

CARNIVAL Corporation Chief Strategy & External Affairs Officer Australia Teresa Lloyd has been inducted into the Maritime Hall of Fame.

The prestigious award is in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Australia's maritime industry, and was presented to her at the DCN Australia Shipping & Maritime Industry Awards in Melbourne.

Thumbs up for Viking!



THE Kiwi contingent aboard *Viking Polaris* in Antarctica this week includes First Travel Group GM John Willson and Kay Rogers from You Travel Bethlehem, who took the opportunity today to grab **this photo** with onboard historian David McGonigal.

The momentous meeting took place at Brown Station, a defunct Argentinian science base,

where guests were given the opportunity to step foot onto the Antarctic continent.

Earlier in the week McGonigal was also given the rare privilege of opening the British hut at Damoy Point to the Viking guests, showcasing the survival equipment and supplies which originally supported a nearby ice airstrip which is no longer in use.

Deal of the week

VIKING'S deal of the week is a Lyon, Provence, & the Rhineland cruise, offering a saving of up to \$4,600 per couple.

The 15-day river journey cruises from Amsterdam to Avignon or vice versa, sailing from Apr.

This journey is now on sale, and priced from \$5,895 per person - **CLICK HERE**.

Travel Daily

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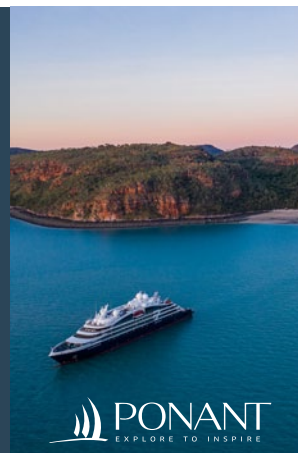
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Seabourn Venture named on the ice

SEABOURN Cruise Line has celebrated *Seabourn Venture's* maiden voyage to Antarctica, with the ultra-luxury brand's first purpose-built expedition ship having now been formally named in the frozen continent.

The formalities took place on the weekend, when *Venture* came to a stop in the Weddell Sea, with guests serving as honorary godparents alongside her official godmother, American mountain climber Alison Levine.

Venture (pictured with guests and dignitaries on the bow) was formally inaugurated with time-honoured tradition, when the onboard team released a bottle made of ice which broke on the expedition vessel's hull.

Seabourn chief Josh Leibowitz said the team had eagerly awaited *Seabourn Venture's* maiden Antarctic voyage since the ship's debut in Tromso earlier this year.



"The extraordinary continent encapsulates exactly what we hope to bring to guests to sail aboard our new ship: adventure, discovery and awe-inspiring wonder," he enthused.

In Antarctica, Seabourn is offering hiking tours and Zodiac rides, led by a 26-strong

Expedition team of wildlife experts, scientists, historians and naturalists.

The ship also offers kayaking activities and the ability to dive beneath the surface on *Venture's* dual expedition submarines.

The naming ceremony is online at cruiseweekly.com.au/videos.

Wheel-y good deal

AIDA Cruises has signed an agreement with German company My Boo to supply it with bicycles made from renewable materials.

The cruise line has purchased 1,155 bicycles and e-bikes for shore excursions for its 12-ship fleet.

My Boo manufactures the frame of its bicycles from bamboo, with proceeds going to social projects in Ghana.

The AIDA order is also expected to create an additional 15-20 funded and insured jobs for Ghanaians.

"We have tested the bamboo bikes extensively on shore excursions from Antigua to Sydney, and they hold up perfectly," AIDA said.

"Guests are convinced of the comfort and find the social sustainable aspect simply fantastic."

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Holland America 'Heritage Cruises'

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has introduced a new 'Heritage Cruises' program of nearly 50 voyages revisiting historic ports, as part of the line's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Guests will become fully immersed in celebrating the brand's history, in cities such as Rotterdam, which shares an entwined connection to Holland America's beginnings; Skagway and Juneau, which introduced the world to exploring Alaska by ship; and even Sydney (pictured), Melbourne, and Hobart.

Over the next year, the 48 Heritage Cruises will be rolled out, with special itineraries calling at 56 ports, in destinations such as Alaska, the Caribbean, Northern Europe, the Mediterranean, New Zealand, Hawaii, South America, and Mexico.

The cruises will also feature



special onboard experiences, such as a Throwback Happy Hour, with select drinks priced as low as 75 cents; a special Dutch High Tea, offering sweets such as oliebollen, speculoos, and mini bossche bol; and classic HAL cruise activities such as sjoelen and trivia.

There will also be region-specific drinks and menu items, bringing each destination to life on board.

"As a beloved company that's been around for 150 years, these special Heritage Cruises allow us

to continue celebrating Holland America Line with our guests in a meaningful way," President Gus Antorcha said.

"We have a deep connection to ports around the world, and we're excited to show how each highlighted destination has shaped our brand."

The Heritage Cruises join a range of experiences Holland America has rolled out thus far to celebrate its 150th anniversary, including a one-night Captain's Gala Menu in the Dining Room, featuring a collection of classic dishes; the line's new exclusive HAL 'De Lijn' gin, which will be featured in three new anniversary cocktails; and HAL Pils, a limited-edition beer.

The celebration will culminate in an Apr 2023 150th Anniversary Crossing from New York City to Rotterdam, ending on 18 Apr - HAL's 150th birthday (CW 21 Jul).

Windstar arrival

WINDSTAR Cruises'

312-passenger *Star Breeze* has made her maiden visit to Australia, arriving in Sydney for a 13-day privately chartered cruise to Melbourne.

The itinerary kicks off several weeks of Australia-centric consumer sailings - the first time Windstar has had an extended local deployment.

Voyages include a 14-day trans-Tasman cruise ex Melbourne on 04 Dec, after which *Star Breeze* heads to New Zealand for two back-to-back cruises between Auckland and Christchurch.

The all-suite *Star Breeze* will then head back across the Tasman for a voyage from Melbourne to Cairns.

Windstar will leave Australia on 07 Feb 2023, with plans to return Down Under next month - windstarcruises.com.

HURTIGRUTEN EXPEDITIONS

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Wed 23rd Nov 2022

MSC Cruises has introduced "the future of cruising" with the official launch of *MSC World Europa* in Doha last week.

The cruise line's flagship was officially named in traditional maritime ceremony, in the presence of distinguished guests, international media, and travel trade from around the world.

The spectacular event took place at the Grand Cruise Terminal in Doha with guests treated to entertainment from local artists, a video-mapping projection onto *World Europa's* hull, a huge drone show, fireworks, and a performance by international singer-songwriter Matteo Bocelli, the son of famous Italian tenor Andrea.

The Australian and New Zealand contingent spent time enjoying

the trailblazing features of the vessel, and exploring Doha, ahead of the ceremony.

Particular highlights included a thrilling ride down the 11-deck slide, The Venom, as well as experiencing the incredible dining options on board, and enjoying a refreshing tippie at the Fizz champagne bar.

A warm welcome to MSC World Europa



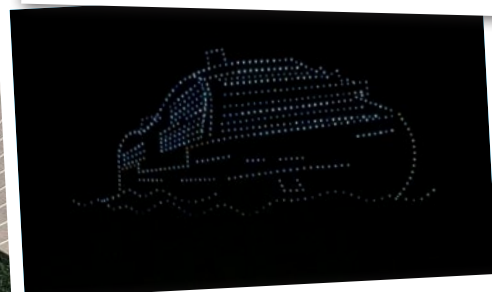
MSC Cruises' Australian team ahead of the Ceremony: Michelle Warren, Marketing Executive; Lynne Clarke, Chairman; Lisa Teiotu, Commercial Director; Leisa Chell, PR Manager.



OUT and about in Doha! Bhavna Thapar, Flight Centre; Lisa Teiotu, MSC Cruises; Nathan Harding, Discover Australia; Pauline McLennan, House of Travel; Michelle Warren, MSC Cruises; and Noriye Oto, Our Vacation Centre.



FEARLESS! Leisa and Lynne feeling the adrenalin at the bottom of the Venom slide.



THE spectacular drone show!



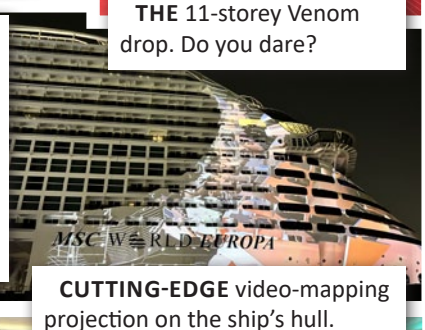
THE 11-storey Venom drop. Do you dare?



MSC Cruises staff and trade guests getting comfortable in the MSC Yacht Club owners suite.



LEISA Chell enjoying the iconic Swarovski staircase in the exclusive MSC Yacht Club.



CUTTING-EDGE video-mapping projection on the ship's hull.



ENJOYING a desert sunset in Qatar.



THE Australia trade contingent ready to celebrate!



THE aquatic ecosystem observed on Murray River cruises may be set for a bit of a shake-up, under a government proposal to deploy herpes into the water.

Not the sort that affects humans, however, but a carp-specific infection called "cyprinid herpes virus 3" or KHV (koi herpesvirus) which aims to be a biological control mechanism for introduced carp, which have become the dominant large fish species in the Murray-Darling basin.

The newly released National Carp Control Plan has been carefully developed by extensive scientific collaboration, with KHV said to affect the gills, skin and kidneys of the invasive pest.

No formal decision has been made about whether to actually proceed with the plan at this stage.

Save the Waves milestone

ROYAL Caribbean Group is this month celebrating the 30th anniversary of 'Save the Waves', the company's first environmental initiative.

Established in 1992, Save the Waves has "served as the strong foundation for what we have accomplished and the ambitious sustainability efforts we are committed to at Royal Caribbean Group," according to Chief Executive Officer Jason Liberty.

"The program, for decades, has helped us create a culture dedicated to environmental performance and our commitment to protecting our oceans," he said.

Key achievements over the past three decades include introducing the industry's first dedicated onboard Environmental Officers, installing advanced wastewater purification systems across almost 90% of its fleet, training each crew member with Save the Waves protocols, and becoming the first cruise company to be ISO4001 for Environmental Management certified, Liberty noted.

Royal Caribbean Group Associate Vice President of Environmental Programs Nick Rose said the introduction of Save the Waves had included a "commitment to continuous improvement that we live by".

He said 87% of the group's waste is diverted from landfills through its 'Green Hub' waste vendor program, with Save the Waves having now evolved into seeing sustainability practices ingrained into every aspect of Royal Caribbean Group's business and culture.

It also serves as the foundation for the Destination Net Zero decarbonisation strategy, as well as a catalyst to develop Royal Caribbean Group's Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) framework, which was unveiled in this year's Seastainability Report.

As well as environmental considerations, the ESG framework also covers responsible governance, the fostering of human rights and aspirations for Royal Caribbean to be an employer of choice.



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Green Machines

LAST week I was fortunate to be part of a contingent invited on board *Quantum of the Seas* when she was at dock in Hobart.

Hosted by Gavin Smith, the group including reps from councils, state governments, ports, and tour operators were taken on a tour of the ship showcasing her environmental and sustainability initiatives.

It was great to see how these programs are being put into practice and gain a more detailed insight as to how new technologies are advancing the cruise industry toward the goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

I had heard much about fuel emission reduction but this really hit home when we were touring the engine room and shown the exhaust cleaning systems.

The same can be said for the technological capacity used to make water as well as understand further how the wastewater systems work.

Fun fact – the cruise industry actually recycles 60% more waste per person than the average person onshore!

From their sourcing choices right through to glass and can crushing to limiting food wastage and converting waste to energy – it was heartening to see the major steps being taken.

This visit gave us a window into not only the very important steps Royal Caribbean is taking but also what is being done by many other cruise lines as well.

CRUISE WEEKLY On Board: Viking Polaris



Finse Terrace

Situated at the rear of the ship outside the Aula theatre, this charming outdoor venue features comfortable seating, and lava rock "firepits" to keep things warm while guests take in the wonders of the natural world. It is also a great place to watch the ship's Special Operations Boats as they take passengers to and from the special hatch at the rear of the vessel.

Silversea dearer

SILVERSEA Cruises has advised prospective and past clients that they should make any planned cruise bookings before 01 Dec in order to avoid a price increase.

The cruise line said increases would apply to both 'Door to Door' and 'Port to Port' all-inclusive fare options, with current Port-to-Port fares expiring on 30 Nov.