



NSW seeks to further develop Eden

THE NSW Government has announced it is seeking Expressions of Interest from private investors to help create a “thriving maritime precinct” at the Port of Eden on the state’s southern coast.

NSW Minister for Transport, Veterans and Western Sydney, David Elliott, said “Eden has been identified as a significant investment location to support the cruise industry, commercial fishing, tourism and recreational boating in NSW”.

“Private investment at the Snug Cove precinct will further unlock its tourism potential and meet visitor demand for harbourside activities,” Elliott said.

“It is an exciting time to be



involved in the hospitality, tourism and maritime industry following the return of cruising to Australia and Disney’s recent announcement they would operate cruises in Australia, with the Port of Eden included as a key destination,” he noted.

“As a result, the 2022/23 season is set to break all records for cruise ship visits to Eden.”

The project is being led by Government agency Transport for NSW, with a period of market engagement aiming to alert potential participants about the forthcoming opportunity to enter a long-term lease and to “deliver and operate a mixed-use marina development within the Snug Cove Maritime Precinct in the Port of Eden”.

It’s the latest step towards the NSW Government’s goal of transforming Eden into a “major destination for tourist and commercial boaters,” on top of previous steps which included improving infrastructure with the \$36 million Eden Safe Harbour Project which included the construction of a 366-metre wave attenuator to improve maritime safety, reliability and accessibility for all users.

Following the expression of interest stage which is expected to be formalised in the coming months, short-listed applicants will be invited to participate in a competitive, commercially binding stage.

More information on the process at transport.nsw.gov.au.

Could *Global Dream* end up at Disney?

UNCONFIRMED speculation from German news reports suggests Genting Hong Kong’s gigantic unfinished *Global Dream* could be going to Disney Cruise Line.

The 9,000 plus-passenger ship is reportedly 75% complete, with construction halted when Genting Cruise Line was placed into administration earlier this year (*CW* 31 Jan).

German radio station *NDR 1* cites Christoph Morgen, the

administrator of the collapsed company, saying the ship will now be completed in Wismar, under the direction of the Meyer shipyard in Papenburg.

“Meyer has already built three ships for the Disney Cruise Line,” the report notes.

Disney hasn’t commented on the rumours, but if confirmed the completion of the ship would secure about 950 jobs of former employees at the Genting-owned shipyards.

Cruise Weekly today

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

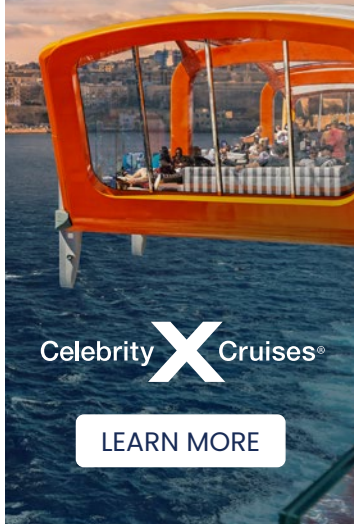
Sun Princess out

THE inaugural itineraries of Princess Cruises’ new Sphere-class *Sun Princess* (*CW* 16 Sep) have been opened for sale, confirming the newbuild ship will debut in the Mediterranean in early 2024.

Current voyages listed on the Princess website include a series of 10-day Grand Mediterranean cruises roundtrip from Rome, with the first departing on 18 Feb 2024 and visiting six ports including Sicily, Corfu, Santorini, Kusadasi, Athens and Naples.

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PORTHOLE

THE final frontier is coming to Carnival Cruise Line, which has announced a new Space Cruisers program aboard its new *Carnival Celebration*.

Created as part of the newbuild's Camp Ocean offering for younger guests, the initiative is being conducted in partnership with NASA's Kennedy Space Center Visitors Complex at Cape Canaveral.

Kids will be able to complete "missions" as they "explore the universe and earth in an array of hands-on and one-of-a-kind learning experiences", according to Carnival Cruise Line Director of Youth Experiences, Melissa Mahaffey.

"Children are always looking to explore new things, and this program gives them the chance to discover many of the awesome aspects of space through fun activities while taking away unique learnings," Mahaffey said.

Different activities will be on offer for various age groups, including a Space Cruisers Rocket Workshop for those aged 6-11, where participants make their own paper rockets.

Although *Celebration* will be cruising out of Miami rather than the Space Coast, Space Cruisers will also feature aboard Carnival's *Mardi Gras* in Port Canaveral, while some activities will roll out fleetwide in 2023.

Azamara sisters line up



THE Slovenian port of Koper hosted a majestic reunion on Sat when all four ships in the Azamara Cruises fleet visited.

It was the first time the port had ever had four passenger ships arrive simultaneously, and the weather did not disappoint making for some spectacular photos of the momentous occasion for the line.

Azamara Pursuit, *Azamara Journey*, *Azamara Quest* and the new *Azamara Onward* arrived in the early hours of the morning, with the port hosting a special celebratory event.

Azamara Cruises' Director of Deployment and Destinations, Michael Pawlus, said "today is a special day for Azamara Cruises, as we were able to admire all four ships at consecutive erths for the first time in history".

"Special thanks go to our four captains for the safe entry into the port, and to the hosts for the wonderful welcome and the varied program of experiences with which we were spoiled today," Pawlus said.

Quest and *Journey* arrived from Ravenna in Italy, *Onward* from the Croatian port of Zadar, and *Pursuit* from Sibenik in Croatia,

with the foursome leaving Koper at the end of the day and continuing their respective journeys to the ports of Rovinj, Pula, Opatija and Zadar.

Koper will this year welcome 65 cruise ships - 17 years after the first passenger vessels arrived.

Similar excitement is likely to be experienced in Australia in Feb 2025 when *Azamara Pursuit* and *Azamara Onward* are both scheduled to be in Sydney Harbour on the same day.

Viking Mekong out

VIKING Cruises this morning announced the release of 2024 departures on its Magnificent Mekong cruisetour itinerary.

The 15-day trip incorporates an eight-day river cruise and is booked by seven nights of hotel stays in Ho Chi Minh City, Siem Reap and Hanoi including an internal Siem Reap-Hanoi flight, priced from \$5,995ppts on a deal valid to 31 Oct.

The journeys will use the brand new 80-passenger *Viking Saigon* which has just kicked off her inaugural season - for more details call 138 747 (AU) or 0800 447 913 (NZ).



CRUISE WEEKLY

On location aboard *Valiant Lady*

Today's issue of CW is coming to you from the Mediterranean aboard Virgin Voyage's *Valiant Lady*.

SARDINIA is today's port of call for *Valiant Lady*, with guests dropping in on Cagliari, the Mediterranean's second-largest island's capital, which can be explored on foot.

More ambitious passengers can even try their hand at making some local pizza and pasta, while on the menu for guests who want to get out of town are Jeep and buggy safaris.

Sardinia is one of Europe's most fascinating biological destinations, and if guests are lucky, they may be able to spot such beasts as the Mediterranean monk seal, the Sarcidano, and the Giara horse.

Oceania raises bar

OCEANIA Cruises has unveiled innovative bar experiences which will debut aboard its new *Oceania Vista* when she launches next year.

The offering will include the "latest cocktail-crafting trends" such as flavoured smoke bubbles, along with a wide selection of low- and no-sugar wines, plus specialty beverage carts including a Bubbly Bar serving Champagne Cocktails and the Ultimate Bloody Mary Bar "where guests can DIY their perfect brunch accompaniment," the line said.