



Hurtigruten completes Starlink rollout

HURTIGRUTEN Expeditions will this month become the latest cruise line to implement fleetwide installation of SpaceX's Starlink internet platform, completing a rollout which commenced in Mar this year.

Conducted in cooperation with Hurtigruten's long-time connectivity partner Speedcast, Hurtigruten Expeditions CEO Asta Lassenes said "as the world leader in exploration travel, it's only fitting that we bring the world's most innovative technologies on board our ships to further enhance the experience and day-to-day lives for our guests, crew, partners and the communities we visit".

The upgrade means guests aboard the three Hurtigruten Expedition ships exploring Antarctica during the upcoming season should be able to experience faster broadband, with Starlink slated to introduce Antarctic maritime coverage



before the end of the year.

Hurtigruten Expeditions offers free internet connectivity to all guests, with the Starlink rollout seeing this also expand to crew.

"Introduction of new technology makes it easier for everyone on board to remain connected with friends, family and loved ones no matter where they are.

"We challenge all cruise lines that follow our example by installing Starlink to also follow our example to make internet free for all crew members," Lassenes urged.

One of the new Starlink terminals is **pictured** aboard Hurtigruten Expedition's battery-hybrid equipped *MS Roald Amundsen*.

Other cruise lines to install the SpaceX low earth orbit satellite internet platform include SeaDream Yacht Club (**CW** 14 Sep), while Royal Caribbean Group has announced it will ultimately roll out the Elon Musk-backed system across the full Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Silversea Cruises fleets (**CW** 01 Sep).

So far the Starlink network comprises more than 2,500 satellites, with plans to eventually have a "constellation" of about 42,000 circling the earth to provide full global coverage.

Explora captain

EXPLORA Journeys has named Diego Michelozzi as the Master of *Explora 1*, the first of the new luxury brand's six ships set to arrive in 2023.

Michelozzi formerly sailed as Staff Captain on Regent's *Seven Seas Splendor* (**CW** 04 Dec 2019) and will alternate with Captain Serena Melani who was announced earlier in the year as Explora's first captain.

Cruise Weekly today

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

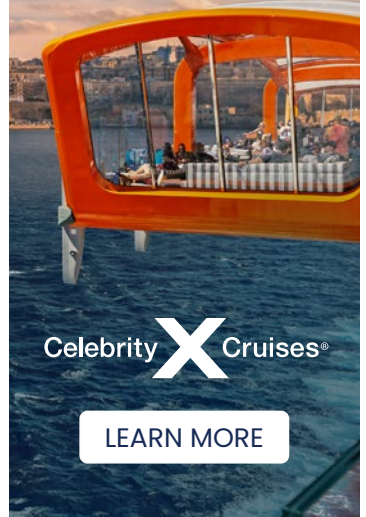
New barge brox

EUROPEAN Waterways has released its 2023 European Luxury Hotel Barge brochure, highlighting the ultimate in "slow travel" with all bookings fully commissionable.

View it by **CLICKING HERE**.

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Norwegian walkers now up to 47,502km!

THERE must be a lot of travel industry shoes getting worn out across Australia and New Zealand, with participants in this year's Norwegian Cruise Line's Walk For Wellness having now collectively covered more than 47,000km in their journeys.

That means their combined "virtual voyage" tracking the upcoming arrival of the all-new

Norwegian Spirit has docked in American Samoa.

The second week theme is "Community Spirit", with walkers urged to "Take 3 for the Sea" during their perambulations and post a selfie of items collected.

The best pic this week will win a robot vacuum - and BDM hosted walks can still be booked by **CLICKING HERE**.



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Travel Daily



Evrima to set sail



RITZ-CARLTON Yacht Collection's long-awaited *Evrima* (pictured) will finally commence operations this week, with the first guests to be welcomed on board in Barcelona on Sat.

The 298-passenger vessel was originally slated to debut as far back as Jun 2020 (*CW* 25 Feb 2020) but was hit first by massive construction delays at its Spanish

shipyard and then multiple deferrals due to the subsequent onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CEO Douglas Prothero said the line's team would "make history as we redefine the ultra luxury experience at sea," telling Bloomberg the ship was being heavily booked by Ritz-Carlton devotees, many of whom had never cruised before.

Celestyal pricing

CELESTYAL Cruises has announced the introduction of a new "choice-driven" pricing model, as a result of feedback from guests and its travel industry partners.

The entry level "inclusive" fare offers complimentary dining and select drinks with meals, entertainment, daily activities, port charges and gratuities, along with a pre-bookable shore excursion discount of \$110 per person.

For those wanting to upgrade their experience the new "enhanced" tier features an unlimited premium drinks package, a daily hour of free wi-fi, 25% discounts on specialty dining and a \$220 shore excursion discount.

Guests are also able to pre-book various drink and shore excursion packages - for more details see [celestial.com](https://www.celestial.com).

nib cruise cover

NIB Travel Insurance has updated its policies to offer increased limits for COVID-19 trip cancellation, and is covering both domestic and international cruises with no add-on to premiums for travellers.

From 11 Oct international travellers with a NIB Travel comprehensive policy can claim up to \$10,000 for costs incurred if a trip is cancelled or disrupted due to specific COVID-19 events - a fourfold increase from the previous \$2,500 claim limit.

NIB's Comprehensive Plan also covers unlimited emergency overseas medical costs, with NIB Travel CEO Anna Gladman saying while Australians have embraced travelling again, "their biggest concern is trip cancellation due to COVID-19".

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HURRY, SALE ENDS 18 OCTOBER!



SCIENTISTS at Perth's Curtin University have foreshadowed a major risk to the global cruise industry - the possibility that the Pacific Ocean may disappear completely in about 300 million years.

The grim warning is based on supercomputer modelling of tectonic plate movements, with the researchers publishing a study in the *National Science Review* journal which found the Pacific shrinks by a few centimetres each year.

They predict the formation of a new supercontinent called 'Amasia' created by the ultimate collision of Australia into Asia and then the combined land mass ending up hitting North America.

"By simulating how the Earth's tectonic plates are expected to evolve using a supercomputer, we were able to show that in less than 300 million years' time it is likely to be the Pacific Ocean that will close, allowing for the formation of Amasia - debunking some previous scientific theories," said lead author Dr Chuan Huang.

Some industry commentators have noted that the news may not be all bad for the sector, however, because naturally the disappearance of the Pacific might make some customers book those bucket list cruise holidays before it's too late.

You're Mekong us jealous!



THIS lucky group of Aussie travel advisors recently experienced a cruise in Indochina courtesy of Cruise Traveller and its exclusive partner, Mekong Princess Cruises.

The agents were hosted by Cruises Traveller's Julie Donaldson and Kerryn O'Neal, with the family headlined by a week-long voyage from Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City on the all-suite *Mekong Princess* - one of the only Mekong vessels to operate from central Ho Chi Minh City.

Cruise Traveller is offering pricing of \$5,695pp in a Junior Suite for a 12-night all-inclusive cruise and tour including five nights of pre- and post-cruise

accommodation and touring - see cruisetraveller.com.au.

Pictured top to bottom from left to right: Nada Kovac, Davis & James Travel Associates Beecroft; Mike Drew, Mike Drew Travel + Cruise; Kristy Carlson, Chirn Park Travel Associates; Noeleen Bailey, Travel Associates Cottesloe; Lindy Herron, South Coast Cruise & Travel; Julie- Ann Silvey, Chelsea Cruise & Travel; Meg Barker, Chirn Park Travel Associates; Julie Donaldson, Cruise Traveller; Bev Moffat, Travel & Cruise Fundamentals; Sally Vermaas, Travel Associates Cleveland; Lucy Levay, Cove Travel; Kerryn O'Neal, Cruise Traveller; and Bev Wills from Bev Wills Cruise Holidays.

Blue Lagoon 23/24

FIJI'S Blue Lagoon Cruises has released its new 2023/24 program and rate sheets, with both online and printed versions of the brochure available in Australia and NZ.

NZ-based agents can order online and use their login at Travel Marketing/BrochureNet by **CLICKING HERE**, while Australian agents should email requests with name, company, delivery address and quantity to aunzsales@ssc.com.fj.

The brochure is also available online by **CLICKING HERE**.

Silversea names new godmother

ROYAL Caribbean Group's Silversea Cruises has named polar explorer Felicity Aston as the Godmother of its new *Silver Endeavour*, the line's latest expedition ship which was purchased from the receivers of the collapsed Crystal Cruises (**CW** 19 Jul).

Aston is a "celebrated polar explorer, author, television presenter and climate scientist" who became the first woman to ski solo across Antarctica in 2012.

She will officially name the ship as part of an intimate ceremony in Antarctica, to be held in the days before the ship's inaugural voyage with Silversea departing on 21 Nov.

Silversea CEO Roberto Martinoli said "a leading authority in the field of polar exploration, Felicity is the perfect ambassador for our cruise line".