



Azamara returning to Venice in 2023

AZAMARA has announced it is returning to Venice next year, after negotiating an agreement with the local government and port authorities.

The line's full four-ship fleet will access the Venetian Lagoon ports of Chioggia and Fusina, with Mike Pawlus, Azamara Director of Strategic Itinerary and Destination Planning, saying "we look forward to once again immersing our guests in the rich local culture and amazing historical sites that the destination has to offer".

"Thanks to our longstanding relationships with the local officials and port authorities of Venice, we're thrilled to not only bring our guests back to this historic canal city, but also to allow them to discover the wonder of neighbouring towns such as Chioggia, which only smaller ships can visit," he said.

Azamara's Venice return kicks off on 03 Apr, with the city featuring in a total of 32 voyages such as the seven-night Italy Intensive cruise, and the seven-night Amalfi & Dalmatian Coasts voyage.

Shore excursions include an intimate evening gondola ride, motorboat cruises to Murano and Burano, and guided walking tours visiting Saint Rocco and Campo San Polo.

Cruise Weekly today

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

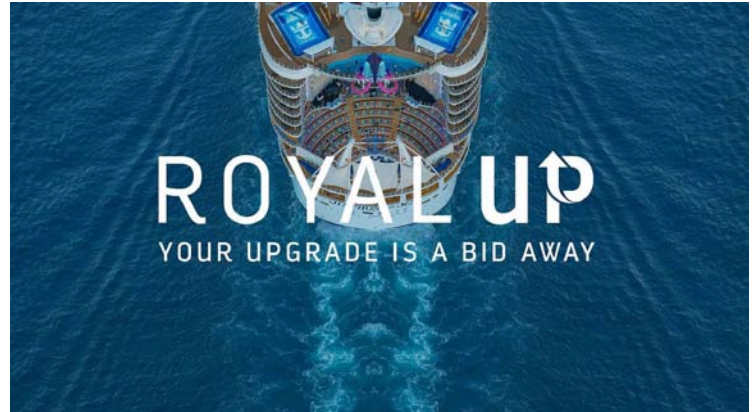
Royal Caribbean offers upgrade bids

ROYAL Caribbean International is reinvigorating its RoyalUp "bid-based stateroom upgrade program," under which already booked passengers can make offers to upgrade to a higher category cabin.

The fully commissionable scheme initially launched almost four years ago (**CW** 18 Jan 2019), with cruisers able to make their bids between 45 and 75 days prior to sailing on eligible departures.

Royal Caribbean takes care of all the upgrade arrangements, while travel partners receive full commission on the upgrade amount for successful bids, apart from initial bookings made under a net price code, which will not earn commission on the upcharge.

Passengers with reservations that are eligible for the program will receive a RoyalUp email in the lead-up to their departure, which will offer a selection of stateroom and suite categories along with their associated minimum bids.



Customers who want to upgrade can select a dollar amount they are willing to spend on the upgrade, and put a credit card on file which will only be charged if the offer is accepted.

Passengers are notified by email if their bid was accepted at least two days before sailing.

The RoyalUp offer amount is per person for the full duration of the cruise, with offers based on two occupants per stateroom, with only the first and second guest being charged.

Successful bids will be charged immediately they are accepted,

and upgrade amounts paid are final and non-refundable.

Crown & Anchor loyalty points will be earned based on the category of the original booking, not the upgraded category.

It's also possible to check if a particular booking is eligible for an upgrade offer by entering details at royalcaribbean.com.

The program's relaunch comes in the lead-up to the imminent arrival of *Ovation of the Seas* and *Quantum of the Seas* in local waters, with the ships to operate their first Australian seasons in three years this summer.

Celebrity Eclipse comes to Auckland

CELEBRITY Cruises is celebrating its first post-pandemic visit to NZ, with *Celebrity Eclipse* calling at Auckland this morning.

It's been almost 950 days since a Celebrity vessel has cruised in New Zealand, with the ship to now cross the Tasman before arriving in Sydney on Sat.

Carnival celebrates a decade Down Under

CARNIVAL Cruise Line yesterday celebrated its 10th birthday in Australia, with celebrations at Moreton Island's Tangalooma for passengers aboard *Carnival Splendor*.

Cupcakes, beach games and a giant sandcastle (pictured) were all part of the fun, which was led by Carnival "Fun-bassador" Beau Ryan who said the event was "the most fun you could have on dry land".



Carnival also hosted a special lunch for key trade partners to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the line's first local departure in Oct 2012.

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Majestic Princess arrives into NZ

NEW Zealand's major cities and its smaller regions are set to benefit from cruise once more, as Princess Cruises' *Majestic Princess* sailed into Auckland this morning (**CW** 14 Oct).

Majestic has brought more than 3,500 guests from Los Angeles, becoming the second international vessel to arrive in New Zealand after P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Explorer* reached the country two months ago (**CW** 12 Aug).

The ship has already visited Tauranga, and will also visit the Bay of Islands, before travelling onto Sydney.

This cruise season, Princess' cruise ships will make a total of 129 visits to New Zealand's ports including Port Chalmers, Lyttelton, Wellington, Napier, Picton, and Fiordland.

Around 445 guests will complete their voyage in Auckland, taking



the opportunity to extend their stay and soak up everything New Zealand has to offer.

The arrival of *Majestic* brings a much-needed economic boost to New Zealand, with the impact of Princess guests and crew members estimated to be upwards of NZD\$100 million over the next six months.

Princess Senior Vice President, Asia Pacific & Europe Stuart Allison noted the cruise line brings more guests to New Zealand than any other brand, including more than 350,000 this

season - a significant contribution to the restoration of the country's tourism economy.

"We are thrilled to be returning to New Zealand after almost three years, paving the way for the restart of cruise tourism.

"Majestic Princess departed from Los Angeles on 24 Sep, with over 65% of onboard guests hailing from North America.

"We are thrilled to be back sailing along NZ's magnificent coastline and showing our guests everything on offer at all the beautiful ports along the way."

Cruising in bloom

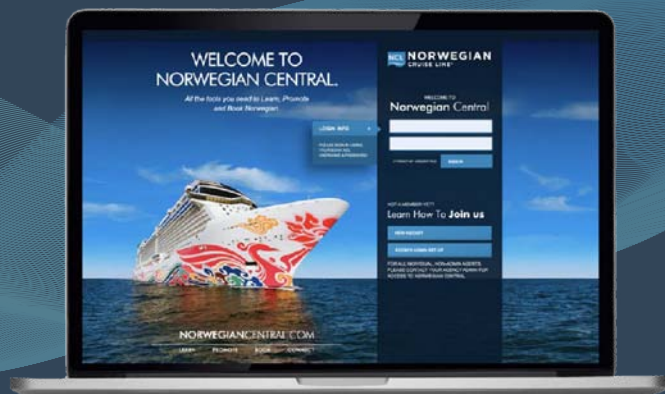
VISIT one of the world's greatest flower shows by small ship next year with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines.

The United Kingdom & Ireland package visits the world-famous RHS Chelsea Flower Show, and circles Ireland, with savings available on the fly, cruise, and tour package for those booking by the end of next month.

Australian small ship specialist, Cruise Traveller, has partnered with Fred. Olsen to release the unique, 20-night 'Chelsea Flowers and Celtic Ireland' package.

The 20-night deal begins 17 May, and includes return flights to London from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, or Adelaide, three nights in London, a seven-night coach tour through the United Kingdom, and the 10-night cruise from Southampton.

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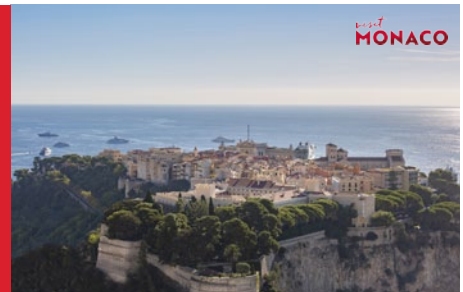
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PORTHOLE

MOST people would do anything to score a free cruise, but not everybody!

A small boat (pictured) denied assistance from Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Horizon* last week.

The boat was carrying about 10 passengers through the Straits of Florida, it has been claimed, and as bound by maritime law, *Horizon* offered to help her.

Some online have presumed the boat, sailing northwest of Cuba, was carrying refugees trying to make their way to the United States.

In many cases, refugee boats will want to reach the United States themselves, so as to avoid the Coastguard, which would likely send them back to their home country.



Cruising back in Samoa with HAL

HOLLAND America Line's (HAL) *Westerdam* (pictured) has called in Apia today, marking the return of cruising to Samoa.

Westerdam arrived for her maiden call to the port at 8am, and will depart at 5pm, giving her 1,964 passengers a full day to head ashore and explore Samoa, generating substantial spend and bolstering the nation's tourism economy.

"Apia will be a popular port call for *Westerdam's* guests because of its natural coastal beauty, and cultural and natural attractions," Carnival Vice President Sales & Marketing Australia Ryan Taibel said.

"*Westerdam's* guests will enjoy a host of experiences that Apia and the wider region has to offer including the Museum of Samoa, and the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum, excursions to Lalomanu and Manu Sina beaches and, of course, local vanilla farms – all of which are adding invaluable tourism dollars to the local economy."

The visit has taken place as part of *Westerdam's* repositioning from Vancouver to Sydney.



Westerdam will be homeported in Sydney from 08 Nov to 03 Jan as part of her 2022-2023 Australian season, which will see her sail seven itineraries around Australia of up to 30 days.

It will be *Westerdam's* first season in Australia, and the first time since 2016 HAL will have two ships sailing simultaneously

around the region.

One of HAL's Vista-class ships, *Westerdam* features some of the cruise line's most lauded entertainment venues, such as B.B. King's Blues Club and Lincoln Center Stage, exemplary dining experiences including steakhouse, Pinnacle Grill, and Asian fusion restaurant, Tamarind.

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