



ICON OF THE SEAS



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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of the latest cruise news, plus a cover page from **Royal Caribbean**.

Celebrity makeover

CELEBRITY Cruises has updated its The Celebrity Commitment agent portal, with a complete redesign offering improved functionality and a host of new features.

The site's relaunch coincides with the highly anticipated arrival of *Celebrity Eclipse* in local waters, and continues the line's ongoing trade commitment, aiming to ensure travel advisors have "everything at their fingertips to streamline and support the selling process".

New features include dedicated landing pages to support marketing activity, including customisable digital resources offering a one-click "share" feature to easily communicate with clients direct from the platform.

There are also new selling guides and toolkits, complementing Celebrity's brand campaign "enhanced by imagery to inspire future holidays with Celebrity Cruises".

Celebrity is celebrating the portal's relaunch with a competition in which the top 10 agents to claim the most points through its Celebrity Rewards loyalty scheme will win a range of prizes - including the grand prize of a 2023 cruise of their choice.

For more details see thecelebritycommitment.com.au.

Royal's new *Icon* set to wow for all

OFFERING a beach retreat, resort escape and theme park adventure, Royal Caribbean says its new *Icon of the Seas* will offer guests "the best of every vacation" when it debuts in early 2024 (**CW** breaking news).

The newbuild marks Royal's first new class since the debut of *Quantum of the Seas* in 2014, with *Icon* slightly larger and higher than the *Oasis* class which was first deployed in 2008.

Icon of the Seas is 20 decks tall, with 5,610 lower berths and a full capacity of 7,600 passengers.

Royal Caribbean Group CEO Jason Liberty said "with each new ship, we raise the bar in the travel industry while enhancing what our guests know and love".

"From the moment they step on board, every experience is specifically designed to give them the best vacation anywhere on land and at sea," he said.

"With *Icon of the Seas*, we've taken this to a new level and made the ultimate family vacation," Liberty added.

The largest waterpark at sea is complemented by a resort-style beach club, along with Royal



Caribbean favourites such as an ice rink, scores of restaurants, a three-deck Suite Neighbourhood and 28 different stateroom types, including new layouts made for families of three, four and more.

The three-storey Ultimate Family Townhouse is even equipped with its own white picket fence and mailbox, and the ship offers rock climbing, the first suspended infinity pool at sea and Crown's Edge, which sees cruisers adventure 50m over the ocean.

There are eight distinct neighbourhoods, including the

new Thrill Island, Chill Island, Surfside, Hideaway and the AquaDome, with Royal Caribbean International CEO Michael Bayley saying, "*Icon of the Seas* is the culmination of more than 50 years of delivering memorable experiences".

The ship will launch in late 2023, with the first revenue cruises scheduled for early 2024 and sales of its year-round 7-day Caribbean voyages opening to the general public next Tue 25 Oct.

More on the **cover page** of today's **Cruise Weekly**.

SeaDream record

SEADREAM Yacht Club has reported its best booking week ever earlier this month, the culmination of four consecutive weeks of record-breaking bookings.

Huge pent-up demand from luxury travellers was cited for the performance, which has seen SeaDream achieve its best year since its 2001 debut.

Korea to reopen to cruise next week

AUTHORITIES in South Korea have confirmed the reopening of the country's ports to international cruise ships from next week, with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries saying foreign tourists will be able to enter the country by sea effective from 24 Oct.

Cruise calls have been banned in South Korea since Feb 2020.

Under initial protocols all people disembarking ships must wear masks in indoor public spaces, while any passengers confirmed with COVID-19 or showing symptoms must isolate aboard the vessel.

The Ministry said it would now "promote active cruise ship attraction activities to revitalise the cruise industry".

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P&O Cruises Australia took a number of lucky industry members for a look around its new *Pacific Adventure* yesterday.

The new ship elicited "ooh"s and "ahh"s from all in attendance, particularly at the family pool, which features a retractable roof for the sunniest of days, and the Byron Beach Club, reserved for only the luckiest passengers on board.

However, one of the highlights of the visit was a taste of P&O Australia's chef partner Luke Mangan's famous chicken "Gangnam burger", which is laced with pickles, cucumbers, and kimchi mayo.

As all good chefs do, Mangan took the first bite of his creation (pictured) - check out his review on *CW'S* Instagram story.



Fiji on sale now

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises Fiji is offering 20% off all adult fares plus bonus upgrades on most departures to the Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands as well as the remote Lau and Kadavu.

Offer is for bookings before 30 Nov - more details [HERE](#).

Cycle cruises

SAIL Croatia has launched new whole-ship charters for its Cycle Cruises departing in Apr and May 2023.

Bicycle fans can exclusively book one of three grades of ship on a seven-night itinerary departing either Split or Dubrovnik, visiting popular pedalling places such as Hvar, Mljet National Park, Krka National Park and Dubrovnik.

Up to 32 guests can join the charter with a dedicated Cycle Guide and Tour Manager on hand, and groups can secure their ship now with deposits of £50 per person.

Guests are able to hire a bike or bring their own, with electric cycles also available.

More info 02 8417 2609.

P&O CRUISES Australia yesterday gave the industry a sneak peek at its new *Pacific Adventure*, which will tomorrow embark on her first revenue cruise from Australia - a three night Sydney roundtrip voyage.

The vessel (pictured) was welcomed by Carnival Australia President Marguerite Fitzgerald, who said the ship completed the local fleet.

"Waiving our third ship in the fleet off on her maiden voyage will be a truly momentous occasion for us as we sail into the summer cruise season," she said.

The ship features 21 dining options including the poolside Burger Bar concept from celebrity chef Luke Mangan, while a host of activities include Twin Racer Waterslides and the P&O Edge Adventure Park.

Pacific Adventure also features the all-new Byron Beach Club, a private access area only available to guests booking into the ship's Byron suites or mini-suites.

These passengers can experience a "serene and

exclusive experience and calm atmosphere", as well as daily private breakfast, priority tender tickets, a bottomless fruit basket and even branded Byron Beach Club thongs to keep.

The ship also features a new "The Lobby" concept on deck five which is home to three F&B outlets including the Avalon Cafe, claimed to offer the "best barista coffee at sea".

Pacific Adventure arrived in local waters just over a month ago (*CW* 09 Sep), with the ship to operate year-round from its new Sydney home base thanks to a "marine engineering project", which has enabled the vessel to pass under the Sydney Harbour Bridge and dock at the White Bay terminal.

Carnival upsize

CARNIVAL Holdings (Bermuda) Limited has increased the value of its 10.375% US\$1.25 billion private notes offering (*CW* 19 Oct) to US\$2.03 billion due to investor demand.

Norway Early Bird Sale

Save up to \$1,200 per cabin*

*Selected sailings, based on twin share. T&Cs apply.

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