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Red carpet rolled out for Celebrity

CELEBRITY Cruises has returned to Australian waters after almost 1,000 days, with the arrival of *Celebrity Eclipse* (pictured) in Sydney Harbour on Sat morning.

The ship will make her Australian debut, and officially commence her 2022-23 season when she heads to New Zealand, taking guests on a 12-night round trip.

This voyage is the first of 17 sailings departing through to Apr.

President & Chief Executive Officer Lisa Lutoff-Perlo said the sailing is a momentous occasion for *Celebrity* and its team members, who have worked so hard to get to this point

"The return Down Under has been long-awaited but 'someday' has finally arrived," she enthused.

"Returning to this region is another significant milestone in the industry's global recovery, as we sail forward into a bright



future."

Vice President and Managing Director of Australia & APAC Tim Jones said "we've been patiently waiting for this moment for so long, and to finally see the freshly painted blue hull of *Celebrity Eclipse* slice through the waters of Sydney Harbour didn't disappoint.

"We were one of the remaining major cruise markets to return to

service, and we are really proud to be contributing to the tourism industries of Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific once more, alongside rebuilding the economy of key coastal communities."

The return of *Eclipse* to Australian waters is key, as the cruise line plans to introduce *Celebrity Edge* to the market next year.

"It's the great outdoors that makes this region truly exceptional and we can't wait to welcome an equally exceptional ship that's been uniquely designed to connect guests with their surroundings," Jones added.

"Whether you're flying Down Under to join us, or stepping aboard from your front door, *Celebrity Edge* is a chance to explore our exotic landscapes like never before, all while sailing in complete luxury."

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a cover page from **Royal Caribbean International**.

Aurora roadshow

AURORA Expeditions is hosting a number of launch events for its "Life-Changing Small-Ship Expeditions 2023-2024" next month.

The cruise line will introduce its new Arctic & Global sessions, and showcase its most popular Antarctic itineraries for 2023 & 2024.

The first event will be virtual, and will be hosted on 03 Nov at 10am and 3pm AEDT.

After these sessions, the roadshow will kick into gear, visiting Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, and Perth.

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NCL USD\$250m court award

A FLORIDA court has ordered electrical equipment maker ABB to pay Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) almost USD\$159m (AUD\$250m) in relation to faulty propulsion systems which disrupted several *Norwegian Star* Australian itineraries in 2016/17.

A Miami jury heard testimony over the last month about the incident which at one point included the complete failure of *Star's* Azipods, requiring the ship to be towed to Melbourne with thousands of passengers on board (CW 14 Feb 2017).

A subsequent investigation by the Australian Transportation Safety Board confirmed *Star* suffered three separate propulsion unit failures over a period of about nine weeks between Dec 2016 and Feb 2017.

NCL sued ABB, the Finnish maker of electrical systems behind *Star's* power units,

claiming the issues were due to faulty "exciter" modules, according to *Law360*.

The jury awarded USD\$31.75 million in compensatory damages and more than USD\$125 million in punitive damages against ABB, finding the company had "affirmatively misrepresented and omitted information" about the exciter failures after the initial issues on *Star*, which suffered its first problems on a repositioning cruise to Australia from Singapore on 11 Dec 2016.

Similar issues were later seen aboard *Norwegian Gem*, *Norwegian Jade* and *Norwegian Pearl*, with NCL testifying that in each case it had to pay for passenger repatriations and refunds or credits for future cruises, as well as for repairs.

ABB said it "strongly disagreed" with the verdict and is considering an appeal.

Atlas godmothers

FLEDGLING expedition cruise line Atlas Ocean Voyages has announced the godmothers for its upcoming twin christening in Patagonia (CW 11 Oct), which will see *World Navigator* and *World Traveller* celebrated during an exclusive preview voyage.

Explorer Karen Lundgren, only the 13th woman in the world to achieve the "Seven Summits + 1" climb of the highest mountains on each continent, will serve as godmother of *Navigator*, which entered service in Aug 2021 but has not been christened yet due to COVID-19 precautions.

Traveller will be named by prominent travel advisor Theresa Scalzitti, who currently heads up sales and marketing at home-based network Cruise Planners.

Lux Esc sells Disney

LUXURY Escapes is promoting next year's Disney Magic at Sea departures (CW 28 Sep), with an email to the group's subscribers on the weekend showcasing Disney Cruise Line's voyages cruising out of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Auckland from Oct 2023.

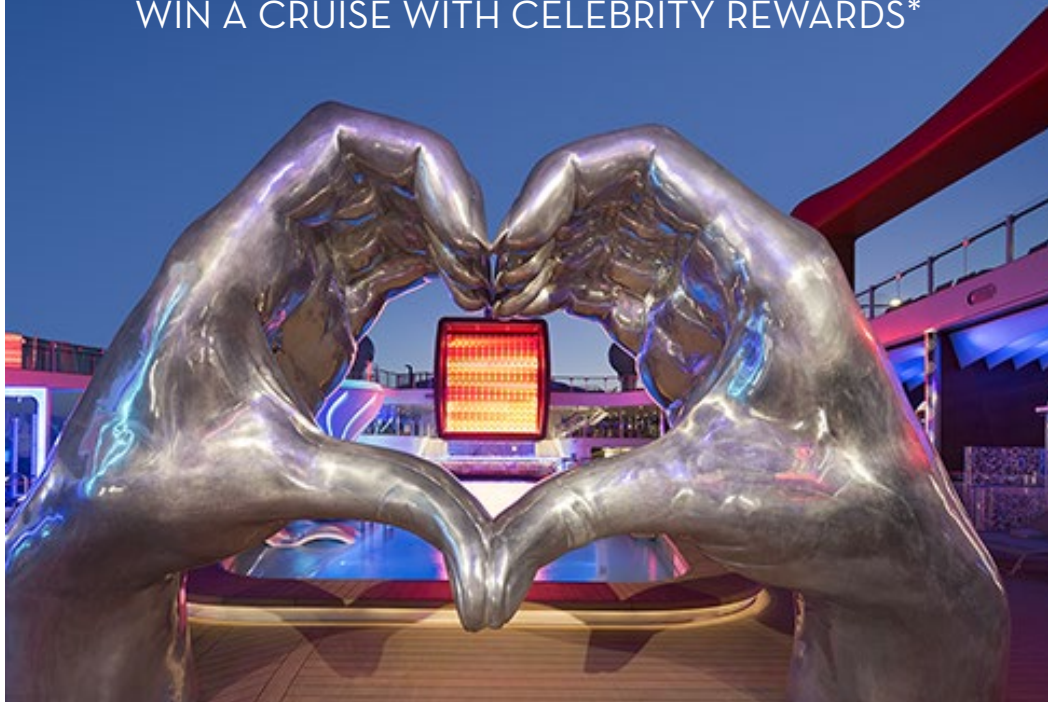
Cruise packages can be secured with a 25% deposit, with availability on eight cruises ex Sydney, four Melbourne voyages, three departures from Brisbane and two from Auckland.

Cruise durations available range from two to six days, and Luxury Escapes notes that cabins on offer are on a "guarantee" basis and will be allocated by the cruise line closer to sailing.

Luxury Escapes pricing for two-night Disney departures lead in at AUD\$1,712, and the update notes that gratuities will also be added to guests' final bill at approx USD\$14.50pp per day.

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THE cast of the American version of *The Real Love Boat*, starring Princess Cruises' *Regal Princess*, was introduced to the cast of the original *The Love Boat* on a specially-themed cruise (pictured).

The sailing left from Los Angeles on a seven-day roundtrip to the Mexican Riviera on board *Discovery Princess*.

The original ensemble cast will celebrate their friend Captain Stubing with a tribute to actor Gavin MacLeod, who died almost 18 months ago.

Together, they will also share their favourite memories from the show, and participate in various guest activities, including vow renewals.

"[Fellow host Rebecca Romijn] and I grew up watching the original *Love Boat*, and our show is inspired by that beloved series so to meet the original cast was just a wonderful experience," said *The Real Love Boat* host Jerry O'Connell.

The new show sees the two hosts (and married couple) joined by *Regal* crew members Captain Paolo Arrigo, bartender Ezra Freeman, and Cruise Director Matt Mitcham, to bring singles together to cruise the Mediterranean while looking for love.



Seabourn launches *Venture*



SEABOURN Cruise Line hosted a series of events earlier this month to celebrate the launch of its luxury expeditions aboard new purpose-built ship *Seabourn Venture*.

The vessel will expedition to some of the world's most exciting destinations, such as Antarctica, Patagonia, and the Amazon.

Hosted by Vice President & General Manager Robin West and Account Managers Jennifer Compton & Anastasia Kotandis, the dinner event series hosted more than 360 guests across six dates in Brisbane, Melbourne, and Sydney over three days.

Guests were shown spectacular footage from *Venture's* inaugural sailing in Greenland, including deep water submarine vision, and



wildlife spotting from the Cineflex military-grade camera on the ship's bow.

They were also able to participate in a Q&A session with West, covering topics including Seabourn's green footprint, wildlife conservation & protection, and the much-anticipated Kimberley season in 2024.

Pictured are Vice President Sales & Partnerships Ryan Taibel, West, and Carnival Corporation President Australia Marguerite Fitzgerald; **inset**, West with Key Account Managers Kotandis and Compton.

Pandaw to Laos

PANDAW is returning to Laos, and has added a number of new cruises, including a Christmas date, due to the incredible demand for the sailings.

The special Christmas & New Year sailing will embark aboard the recently refurbished *Sabaidee Pandaw*.

With no single supplement and a 10% discovery discount available for a limited time, guests can take advantage of a last-minute getaway for the holiday season and join Pandaw in Laos.

The 10-night cruise sails from 24 Dec-03 Jan from USD\$4,360 per person.

Other new dates include an 18-28 Mar cruise, and a 29 Mar-08 Apr voyage from USD\$3,924 per person.

Limited places remain for the 2022/23 dates - visit pandaw.com.

Making history

HERITAGE Expeditions' *Heritage Adventurer* has made cruise history on her maiden voyage, becoming the first ship of her kind to visit the remote village of Pasir Putih on Buru in Indonesia.

Around 1,000 locals from six villages packed the white sand beach to greet *Adventurer's* intrepid guests, including school children, local dignitaries and chiefs.

The esteemed Chief of Regency Mrs. Safitri, travelled six hours to personally preside over the event.