

Explore to inspire

2022 ROADSHOW SERIES

NEW AUSTRALIAN DATES ANNOUNCED



You and your clients are invited!

You and your clients are invited to join us this November as we are back on the road for our 'Explore to Inspire' Roadshow Series!

Come and meet our team of expedition and destination experts, discover our new itineraries and let us plan your clients' next adventure with PONANT, and enjoy some canapes and a glass of Champagne!

PLUS, **exclusive offers available** on the day to all attendees.

To secure your clients' space and yours, click below to register, call 1300 737 178 or email reservations.aus@ponant.com. Registration essential.

CANBERRA

Wed 23 November - 6pm session
Hyatt Hotel Canberra

GOLD COAST

Mon 28 November - 2pm or 6pm session
Sofitel Gold Coast

NOOSA

Tue 29 November - 5.30pm session
Peppers Noosa Resort & Villas

Doors will open 15 minutes prior to session start time.

REGISTER NOW

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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a cover page from **Ponant**.

COVID on Coral

COVID-19 cases have been confirmed aboard Princess Cruises' *Coral Princess*, the first large cruise ship to dock in Western Australia in two years.

Both passengers and crew members aboard *Coral* have tested positive for COVID-19, according to health authorities.

Coral docked in Broome yesterday, and under COVID-19 protocols, the infected will isolate for five days.

A spokesperson for Princess told the ABC the rise in COVID-19 cases on board was being "managed effectively" in accordance with protocols.

Second Ponant ship for Australia

PONANT has unveiled its 2024 Kimberley season, with new expedition ship *Le Jacques-Cartier* (pictured) set to make her Australian debut, joining *Le Laperouse* for the very first time in the country (**CW** breaking news yesterday).

Commencing in Apr 2024, the program of 22 departures between Broome and Darwin includes immersive expeditions through the wild landscapes of the Kimberley.

Jacques-Cartier is the newest of Ponant's six-ship EXPLORER series, and was delivered in mid-2020.

Both ships offer just 92 staterooms and suites, all with a balcony or private terrace.

The popular 10-night 'Australia's Iconic Kimberley' itinerary will kick off the season, and mark *Jacques-Cartier's* first cruise in the country.



Highlights on the itinerary include visiting the crocodile-infested Hunter River; discovering King George River on a Zodiac excursion; reaching the majestic Twin Falls, the highest in Western Australia; and a visit to Montgomery Reef in the south-western end of Camden Sound.

Early bookings will see savings offered at up to 30%, with

travellers encouraged to plan ahead now.

Ponant also recently announced a new round of its popular 'Explore to Inspire' roadshow series, with registrations now open for the events which will take place across Australia next month (**CW** 17 Oct).

For more information, head to the **cover page** of today's **CW**.

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Cruise finally returns to Tasmania

THE cruise sector has returned to Tasmania for the first time in two years, with P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Explorer* docking today.

The first of 69 port calls in Hobart, *Explorer* has kicked off the rebirth of Tasmania's cruise sector, which typically generates \$30-40 million a season for the state's economy.

"We are grateful to Premier Jeremy Rockliff, the Tasmanian Government and its various authorities for their support for today's visit by *Pacific Explorer* and for the resumption of cruising to Tasmania with its numerous attractive destinations," said Carnival Corporation President Australia Marguerite Fitzgerald.

"Cruising is resuming in a careful and phased way in line with protocols that have already proved effective with thousands of Australians having already

enjoyed cruising on our ships since [the] restart.

"During this period, the cruising experience and its features have returned much the same as previously, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific nations have reopened and the 2022-23 summer cruise season is exceeding expectations."

Australian Cruise Association (ACA) Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel said there is enormous excitement locally around the return of cruise to Tasmania.

"Visits by cruise ships such as *Pacific Explorer* make a critical contribution to the economy bringing with them passengers, crew and cruise line expenditure," she said.

"Cruise calls contribute not only to local businesses but also help fund important conservation projects at historic sites and wildlife rescue operations.

"An astounding 25% of ships visiting Hobart this season will overnight here, enabling passengers to disperse beyond gateway cities to regional areas to experience, for example, wonderful culinary offerings as well as visiting local wine, whisky and gin distilleries."

Abel said the ACA looks forward to welcoming more cruise ships to Tasmania's other regional ports as they too herald the restart of cruise and its valued contribution.

Rockliff added his personal support, saying cruise ship visits are an important contributor to the state's visitor economy.

"Many Tasmanian businesses are celebrating today's arrival of the *Pacific Explorer* and the start of the 2022-23 cruise season," he said.

The return of cruise visitors has also been hailed by the local business community.

Nine hacks in again

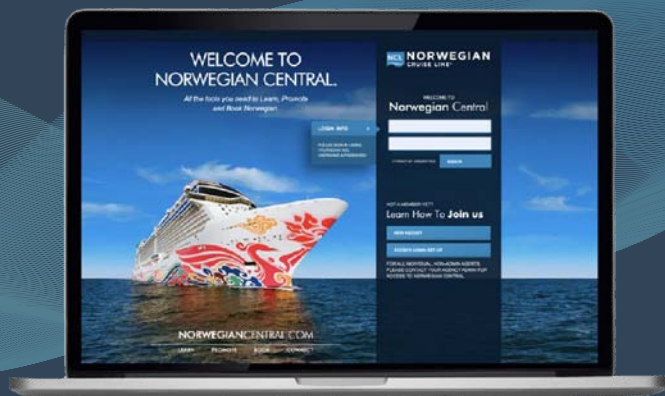
THE Nine network is once again biting the hand that feeds it, with the opening episode of a new season of *Under Investigation* asking the question "How safe are Aussies at sea?"

The program, which was initially shot back in Nov last year, sees reporter Liz Hayes and a "team of experts" probing the laws designed to protect cruise passengers.

A preview of the show breathlessly warns passengers they are "heading out to dark waters" with no government protection, with cruises described as a "recipe for disaster".

The broadcast comes despite other in-house Nine brands such as *Traveller* receiving significant and ongoing advertising support from the cruise sector.

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Extended port visits for Hurtigruten Norway

HURTIGRUTEN Norway has unveiled more than 60 new excursions for its first-ever premium journeys, launching next year.

The elevated Svalbard Express and North Cape Express itineraries will offer extended port visits, a first for Hurtigruten, allowing for new immersive experiences along Norway's coast.

The two new itineraries are an upgraded extension of the traditional Coastal Express, which connects 34 communities along Norway's coast.

The two new itineraries will offer half- and full-day port visits, and are now available for booking online.

The 63 optional excursions provide a significantly different experience for travellers searching for deep exploration, Hurtigruten said.

With its first departure on 03 Jun, just one month ahead of Hurtigruten Norway's 130-year anniversary, the Svalbard Express is a revival of the Coastal Express' iconic summer cruise to Svalbard, which ended over 50 years ago.

Guests will have six hours to explore 14 handpicked areas along Norway's coast and Svalbard, the northernmost community on earth, while basking in the midnight sun.

In addition to an array of optional excursions, the one-way journey (with both northbound and southbound options) includes two nights in Longyearbyen and two excursions: a wilderness evening at Camp Barentz and an adventure aboard the hybrid-electric catamaran *Bard*.

Meanwhile, for the first time ever, Hurtigruten will sail from Oslo, Norway's vibrant capital, with the North Cape Express.

Sailings will take place during the aurora borealis season, and explore nearly the entire length of the country's seaboard.

As with Hurtigruten Norway's Coastal Express, departures are from the end of Sep through the end of Mar, with guests enjoying roughly six hours to explore.

The first North Cape Express will depart on 26 Sep.

Hurtigruten will also offer its unique Northern Lights guarantee on the North Cape Express cruises.

"Extended port visits will allow travellers to spend more time exploring both land and sea," Hurtigruten Norway Chief Executive Officer Hedda Felin explained.

"These authentic, local excursions will allow guests to curate their own experience and develop an intimate connection with the destination."

MSC to name new ship *World America*

MSC Cruises has cut the steel on the second of its 'World-class' ships, which will be named *MSC World America*.

The steel was cut at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in France.

World America marks MSC's commitment to the United States, as she will be the first LNG-powered ship of her class to be dedicated to the country.

The vessel will come into service in 2025.

"*World America* is testament to our ambitious growth plans in the US and the Caribbean, and further solidifies MSC Cruises as a major player in the North American market with another of our largest, most glamorous ships coming to the region," said MSC President United States Ruben Rodriguez.

Norway Early Bird Sale

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




PORThOLE

WE ALL know animal husbandry is hard yakka, but enormous credit must go out to four Echuca sheep shearers who recently went above and beyond.

Not content to miss a day at work nor leave an animal in distress, the shearers recently took a boat across the flooding Murray River to help give a number of marooned sheep a life-saving trim.

The sheep are stranded by kilometres of water on the edge of a forest near Echuca, and were in desperate need of shearing, with concern from the shepherd rising about the welfare of his animals.

The group made the 4.5-kilometre journey in two dinghies to the stranded sheep to give them a fresh fade, leaving the shepherd to focus on protecting his home from the floodwater.

A Cookie for cruise

CRUISE is set to return to the Cook Islands on Fri with the arrival of Holland America Line's *Noordam*.

Other cruise lines visiting this season include Silversea Cruises, AIDA Cruises, and Paul Gauguin Cruises.

All lines sending a ship to Rarotonga this season will do so on an itinerary from either Australia or New Zealand, bringing expensive international guests to town.

RCI returns to NZ



ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) made a welcome comeback to New Zealand yesterday, with *Ovation of the Seas* (pictured) arriving in Napier.

The ship has sailed from Honolulu for 13 nights on her repositioning cruise to Australia.

Ovation will also make calls in Wellington and Picton before heading to her homeport in Sydney to kick off her summer.

Over her sailing season, *Ovation* will make almost 60 port calls in New Zealand, including Auckland, the Bay of Islands, Tauranga, Milford Sound, Dusky Sound, Dunedin, and Christchurch.

Each port call will inject NZD\$1.1 million into the local economy, which will total NZD\$70.4 million over Royal Caribbean's 22-23 summer season.

Sister ship *Quantum of the Seas* will also make her debut in New Zealand on a voyage from her homeport in Brisbane.

Ovation's arrival marks an exciting time for New Zealand's tourism industry, and an opportunity for Royal Caribbean to revitalise its partnerships with its local suppliers.

"New Zealand offers cruisers sweeping landscapes and scenery,

as well as a host of rich activities on shore," said local Director of Sales Dave Humphreys.

"From exploring local wines, markets and restaurants, to favourites like Hobbiton, our itineraries to New Zealand are packed with adventure, and we're thrilled to once again bring guests to the country's shores."

Spirit of..Geelong

GEELONGPORT has welcomed the Spirit of Tasmania to its city, with the recent arrival of the first service to the facility.

The port's Chief Executive Officer Brett Winter said the overhaul of the facility is a significant and exciting undertaking for the city.

"We thank Spirit of Tasmania for selecting Geelong as its new home," he declared.

"Since the announcement in 2020 we have worked hard to transform a blank canvas into a world-class economic and tourism precinct.

"The arrival of Spirit of Tasmania marks an exciting chapter in the history of the Greater Geelong region."

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WORLD'S CRUISE LINES

TICKETS ON SALE FROM NOVEMBER

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