



# CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Monday 12th Sep 2022

## Disney coming Down Under in 2023

**DISNEY** Cruise Line (DCL) will sail Down Under for the first time next year, with *Disney Wonder* (pictured) to depart from three home ports in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane (**CW** breaking news).

Limited time sailings will run between Oct 2023 and Feb 2024, with tickets going on sale to all guests on 29 Sep, leading in at USD\$546.

There is little information about the itineraries as of yet, but *Wonder* will also visit New Zealand during the season, and range from two to six nights.

The 'Disney Magic at Sea' sailings will bring all of the allurements of Disney to Australia, with favourite characters from the Marvel, Pixar, and Star Wars brands on board.

The cruises will also feature imaginative dining, festive deck parties, an "out-of-this-world"



kids club and spectacular entertainment.

Disney Parks, Experiences & Products Chair Josh D'Amato said DCL cannot wait to bring its magic to Australia.

"On these limited-time sailings, the ship is the destination, and

our amazing Disney Cruise Line crew can't wait to welcome guests on board as they are immersed in their favourite stories," he said.

For more information on the all new Disney sailing itineraries and booking details, **CLICK HERE**.

### Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

### 4 more for Viking

**VIKING** and Fincantieri have confirmed a deal for four more hydrogen-powered cruise ships, it has been reported.

It is believed the first two of the four new ships are options, which are part of a contract signed by the two in 2018.

The contract for the second two was only recently signed, and will be subject to access to financing.

The total value of the agreements is about €1.7 billion, with deliveries scheduled for 2026, 2027, and two in 2028.

The ships will also be designed to incorporate hydrogen fuel cells.

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**THE** Australian Cruise Association held its annual Conference in Townsville last week, and no trip to rural Queensland would be complete without a trip to the rodeo.

Guests travelled north to the mountains above Townsville to Hervey Range Rodeo Grounds for a showcase of some of the best competitive equestrian this side of Mount Isa.

The night came to a close with a feast fit for an entire ranch, and some boot-scooting to a few cowboy classics - but not before (what they insist was) a purely on-the-spot and candid display of showmanship from someone from the Australian Cruise Association.

With the official competition having closed for the night, the public address announcer revealed there was one last rider left to trot around the paddock for the night - head to @cruiseweekly on Instagram [HERE](#) to see who it was!



## ACA-TA pact to drive cruise

**AUSTRALIAN** Cruise Association (ACA) Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel described the organisation's new partnership with Tourism Australia (TA) as a "very important step" for the sector.

"Anchoring trusted partnerships" is one of ACA's three key critical target areas (**CW** 08 Sep), as announced by Abel at the organisation's annual Conference last week.

Tourism Australia Managing Director Phillipa Harrison delivered a keynote presentation at the Conference on her first time in attendance, with the partnership between TA and the ACA to be chief in recognising the value of the sector within the country's overall tourism offering.

"Phillipa's really stepped up and understood the messages and what we're trying to achieve," Abel told **Cruise Weekly**.

"She really recognises, especially with ACA, we're a small organisation with not a huge amount of research, we really need the support of that larger organisation to help roll out that we need to go ahead."

Although cruise has historically been seated "outside the general tourism picture", Abel believes now is the perfect time for the two organisations

to be partnering, as Australia's destination management company attempts to bring travellers back to the country.

"I think it's the capacity to bring international visitors back into our country faster than some of the traditional channels such as air or group travel," Abel enthused of the timeliness of the partnership.

"I think now's the time to really address those conversations, and this leads to awareness (of cruise)."

As tourists begin to incorporate a country's sustainability track record into their travel plans, the positive work being done by the Aussie cruise industry also needs to be publicised, Abel added.

"Education and changing people's perceptions, that comes from the environmental piece as well...the work the cruise line industry is doing around that sustainability, I think it's crazily great, they're investing huge amounts of money, and as a destination we need to get behind that and conversations as well."

Abel said although total normality had yet to arrive, the Townsville Conference - delayed for two years - was an enormous landmark for what the industry has achieved since the pandemic.

## Nth Xplorer debut

**FLEDGLING** cruise line Northern Xplorer has signed a letter of intent with West Sea Shipyard to build the world's first zero-emission cruise ship.

Northern Xplorer's maiden vessel is expected to be delivered at the start of the 2025/2026 cruise season.

The vessel's design features a fully electric propulsion system, including the battery and hydrogen fuel cell technology, which will enable her to sail emissions-free, in the Norwegian fjords and further afield.


"This is a new milestone on our journey towards emission-free cruising," said Northern Xplorer founder & Chief Executive Officer Rolf Andre Sandvik.

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Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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