



### Scenic webinar

**SCENIC** Luxury Cruises & Tours has announced an exclusive Kimberley webinar, hosted by the company's *Scenic Eclipse* Discovery Experts Jason Fleisher and Mike Cusack.

The cruise line is inviting both advisors and travellers to the exclusive *Scenic Eclipse // Kimberley* webinar on Thu, with attendees to gain unique insights from the two experts.

The webinar will provide insights to help attendees plan their Kimberley voyage next year, with an overview of the program, including helicopter itineraries.

Register for the webinar [HERE](#).

## Give a hand for Viking!



"We are pleased to welcome *Viking Aton* to our growing fleet," Chair Torstein Hagen said.

"Together with her sister ship, the *Viking Osiris*, they are the newest and most elegant vessels on the Nile, by far.

"With extraordinarily strong interest in Egypt among our guests, we are proud to bring another state-of-the-art vessel to this region, and we look forward to introducing even more curious travellers to the country's rich cultural treasures."

Riveire said it is an honour to be *Aton's* godfather.

"For well over a decade, I have been proud to work alongside Tor, Karine and the Viking team to help design how the Viking brand comes to life on board," he said.

"Together, we share the belief that the design of each Viking ship should showcase the destination, wherever you may be in the world."

**Pictured top** at the christening are British photographer Alastair Miller; Senior Vice President Passenger Operations River Harald Seebacher; *Aton* Captain Adb El Fattah; Viking Egyptian partner Sherif El Bana; Vice Minister for Tourism Ghada Shalaby; Hagen; Viking Egyptian Partner Mohamed El Bana; The Arab Contractors board member Ayman Attya; and Riveire.

**VIKING'S** newest Nile ship has been named in Aswan by acclaimed architect Richard Riveire, with the 82-guest *Viking Aton* (pictured inset) joining the cruise line's growing Egypt fleet.

The ship was named on Sat, with Reveire, designer of Viking's river, ocean and expedition vessels, offering the vessel a blessing of good fortune.

*Aton* is an identical sister ship of *Viking Osiris*, a state-of-the-art vessel specifically built to navigate the Nile.

She will sail Viking's popular Pharaohs & Pyramids itinerary, an eight-day round trip, featuring access to the Tomb of Nefertari in the Valley of the Queens and the Tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings.

The sister ships feature several familiar Viking aspects, such as a distinctive square bow, and an indoor/outdoor Aquavit Terrace.

In addition to *Aton* and *Osiris*, identical sister ships *Viking Hathor* and *Viking Sobek* are under construction, and will be delivered in 2024 and 2025 respectively, by which time the cruise line will have six ships sailing the Nile.

### Cruise Weekly today

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

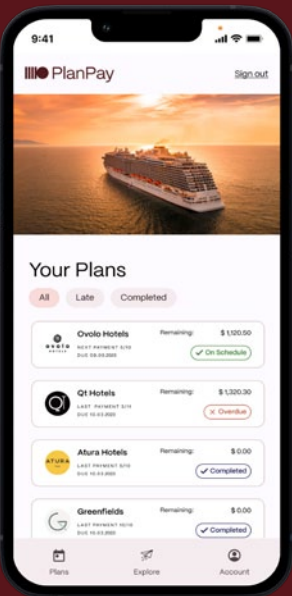
### All Cunard ships to have shorepower

**CUNARD** Line has enabled shorepower capability across its fleet, after *Queen Elizabeth's* recent retrofitting.

All three Cunard ships, which also includes *Queen Mary 2* and *Queen Victoria*, now have the ability to plug into shorepower where it is available.

Cunard's newest ship *Queen Anne* will have the technology installed before her maiden voyage.

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## Captain Cook deal

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises Fiji is offering its twin share rate for single cruisers for a limited time, in a boon for solo travellers.

The new solo offer also includes the complimentary upgrade offer for new bookings currently in market.

The twin share solo offer is on sale until 30 Sep for travel until 31 Mar, and applies to currently listed itineraries for *Reef Endeavour* and *Caledonian Sky*.

Solo rates with the latter ship start from the twin share rate of \$3,297 per person for her three-night itineraries and from \$7,693 per person for her seven-night cruises.

Captain Cook is also offering a bonus night sales incentive for travel advisors booking Fiji and South Pacific itineraries (*CW* 03 Aug).

## New Zealand cruise sector confident

**THE** Kiwi cruise industry turned out in force last Fri for the 2023 New Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA) conference, which took place at Otautahi Christchurch's Town Hall.

Attendees included Cruise Lines International Association Managing Director Joel Katz who said it was an opportunity "to witness first hand the energy and enthusiasm that surrounds the cruise industry in New Zealand".

Addressing the conference, he said "we have every reason to be optimistic about the future".

"Cruising may have returned late to this region, but it's clear we will catch up with other parts of the world swiftly," he said.

A small-scale resumption last summer is being followed this year with a ramp-up of activity as increasing confidence sees cruise lines schedule a stronger presence in the country for the



upcoming season.

"In all, about 55 cruise ships will visit New Zealand over the coming summer season - a level higher than had been planned in 2019-20 before the pandemic," Katz noted.

"Together they will spend more than 1,200 port days in destinations around the country, which is 14% more than

scheduled in that pre-pandemic season...that equates to about 1.8 million passenger days in port, which I think you'll agree will be a phenomenal contribution to the national tourism economy."

Katz is **pictured** at right with Australian Cruise Association CEO Jill Abel; NZCA Chair Tansy Tompkins from Wellington Cable Car; and NZCA CEO Jacqui Lloyed.

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**APPARENTLY** it's not just the Matildas booming as Australia's new athletic heroes.

The ancient sport of dragon boating is reverberating throughout rural New South Wales, with Australia bringing home multiple gold medals at the recent world titles.

The International Dragon Boat Federation World Championships in Thailand was dominated by Australia, with Captain Estella Ferri leading the team to the trio of golds, as well as three bronze medals.

Ferri first picked up a paddle in Orange six years ago.

She admits she was very unfit, not at all coordinated, but found it to be one of the most supportive sports she'd been a part of.

"I just stuck with it and over the years my fitness has improved to the point where I'm good enough for the Australian team," she told ABC.

## Scenic seeing double!



**THE** world's first-ever "double Eclipse" took place in West Greenland last week, but you wouldn't have seen it if you were looking skyward.

The remarkable event instead belonged to Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours, when for the first time in its history, *Scenic Eclipse* and *Scenic Eclipse II* sailed side by side (pictured inset).

The ships met in the Qeqertarsuaq channel in West Greenland, where *Eclipse* was finishing her journey through the remote Northwest Passage, and

was heading to Disko Bay.

*Eclipse II* had just completed an Iceland-Greenland voyage, and was heading out on an extensive expedition of the wonders of Greenland.

It was in Disko Bay the two ships met, with guests on board both vessels joining in on an iconic photograph (pictured top).

"Meeting in such a remote and spectacular channel, north of the Arctic Circle, is amazing," said *Eclipse II* Senior Captain Erwan Le Rouzic.

"All the guests were invited to celebrate with Champagne and live music on the Observation Deck...it was a very emotional and fun shared moment."

## RCYC 24/25 season

**THE** Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection (RCYC) has unveiled its winter 2024-2025 Caribbean itineraries aboard *Evrima* and *Ilma*.

Spanning Nov 2024 to Apr 2025, the new season encompasses 38 voyages aboard the two ships.

Among the new inclusions for the season are South Friars Bay, renowned for its world-class snorkelling and inviting beach bars, and Saint-Pierre, characterised by its historical ruins and lush surroundings.

Overnight calls include Cartagena, the jewel of Colombia's Caribbean coast, and Oranjestad, celebrated for its extraordinary beaches and aquamarine waters.

"Our 2024-2025 winter itineraries present enriching and engaging opportunities across the region's most captivating destinations," Exec Chair Jim Murren expressed.

"With thoughtful curation, each remarkable journey invites ultimate relaxation and exploration of unforgettable experiences."



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