



Cruise Weekly today

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

Get there first in '25

PONANT is encouraging cruisers to reach the Arctic before any other ship in 2025 on board luxury icebreaker *Le Commandant Charcot*.

Sales have launched for the ship's 2025 season, which will see her cruise to Baffin Bay off the west coast of Greenland.

The first voyage of the season will take place on 06 Mar, with 13 departures in total on offer over seven itineraries, including two all-new routes.

"We will be entering another world that we have never seen before," Captain Etienne Garcia said.

"Depending on the departure schedule, highlights such as Nordic skiing polar treks, dog sledding, kayaking, polar diving, and ice fishing offer unparalleled closeness to nature," he added.

"On certain itineraries guests will gain privileged access to the unique Inuit communities of Disko Bay and Greenland and will be presented the opportunity to meet and engage with people who not only survive but thrive in one of the most remote and equally captivating regions of our planet."

Cruise working with ABF

THE cruise industry is working with the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the aviation industry to modernise and invest in the country's border.

The joint vision, as revealed in a submission to the Department of Transport's *Aviation Green Paper*, details a number of the "future traveller concepts" trials taking place, including a new digital approach to capturing incoming passenger card information.

Cruise lines and airlines would support the completion of these requirements in their passenger mobile applications.

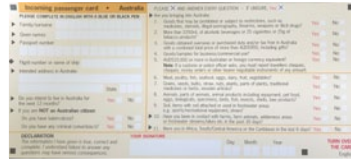
It is the latest attempt to move to a digital model for data collection, after Australia scrapped its novel digital passenger declaration for international arrivals in Jul 2022, following questions over the application's usability.

An earlier attempt to replace the paper card (**pictured**) in 2017 also failed.

The submission has been co-signed by Cruise Lines International Association Managing Director Joel Katz, as well as executives from the ABF, Qantas Airways, Virgin Australia, and Sydney and Brisbane airports.

It cites a need to invest in technology, digitisation, and innovation to meet demands and expectations from travellers, and to prepare for the changing threat environment.

The ABF is also partnering with



industry to test the business process of next generation SmartGates, the submission notes, which will employ contactless processing, allowing passengers to clear the border without needing to present their physical passport.

This technology will also improve processing times at the border and enable greater throughput of passengers.

Other key factors driving the need for modernisation include the continued increase of traveller numbers and compounding pressure on the ABF workforce.

"With more people travelling and demanding to travel, investment in new technology is needed to manage increasing volumes and create efficiencies for travellers, airlines and airports and border agencies," the submission read.

"Companies worldwide, including in the aviation and cruise industries, are investing in technology, digitisation and innovation, and are looking at how to phase out their legacy systems and not just building around their legacy systems in order to unlock business innovation," it added. *MS*

Aurora partnership

AURORA Expeditions and nonprofit organisation Eyesea have partnered to measure pollution in some of the world's most remote locations.

The partnership will see Aurora join Eyesea as a member, and work closely on several joint initiatives on the NPO's primary mission of developing its tech-based tools to combat coastal and marine pollution, and provide advanced pollution management tools.

Eyesea will test its mapping tech, and incorporate the use of its reporting application and supporting materials into Aurora's voyages.

"We are very excited to join forces with Eyesea on this important journey towards preserving our oceans," Aurora Chief Executive Officer Michael Heath enthused.

"Looking after the wild places we visit has been core to our operations since our company was founded.

"Our passengers and Expedition Team are passionate about exploring the world's most remote regions, and this collaboration allows us to not only showcase these extraordinary places but also contribute to their protection."

Eyesea founder Graeme Somerville-Ryan believes his organisation can reach a broader audience with Aurora.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From Business Publishing Group





AN EXHIBITION on one of the most chronicled cruise ships in history, White Star Line's *Titanic*, has sailed into Melbourne Museum.

'TITANIC: The Artefact Exhibition' opened yesterday in an Australian exclusive which will run until 14 Apr.

The Exhibition features more than 200 artefacts salvaged from the sea floor, alongside recreated ship interiors, including the Grand Staircase, First Class Parlour suite, and Verandah Cafe.

The exhibition, which is coming to Melbourne off the back of a sold-out season in Paris, has been seen by more than 30 million people worldwide.

APT EOY sales

APT Travel Group's APT and Travelmarvel have revealed their end-of-year sales.

Offers include a free three-night Prague tour, a free two-night Vietnam beach stay, and more.

The sales will take place from Boxing Day until 09 Jan, with offers across Australia, Europe, Vietnam, Cambodia, New Zealand, Canada, and Alaska also included.

The APT and Travelmarvel teams will be available every day except public holidays and 07 Jan.

MSC is the wheel deal



MSC Cruises has announced it will be the title sponsor of two Formula 1 Grands Prix next year.

The cruise line will have the rights across the Japanese Grand Prix and the historic Emilia Romagna Grand Prix, which will see its brand included in the name of both races next year.

The sponsorship deal is part of MSC's global sponsorship of Formula 1 through to the end of the 2026 season (**CW** 08 May).

The deal also saw MSC sponsor its first race this year, appearing as the title sponsor of the Belgian Grand Prix (**CW** 01 Aug).

MEANWHILE, *MSC World Europa* has successfully connected to shorepower for the first time in the Mediterranean Sea while calling Malta.

World Europa connected in Valletta - the first operational shorepower facility in the Mediterranean - as part of MSC's journey toward net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

The cruise line performed its first tests earlier this year at Valletta, and will now call every

week throughout the whole of next year and 2025.

MSC aims to add at least 15 new ports to its shorepower plan between next year and 2026, including Genoa, La Spezia, Civitavecchia, Naples, and Trieste, as well as ports such as Barcelona, Hamburg, Valencia, Marseille, Copenhagen, and the new cruise terminal in Miami, which will open next year.

Senior Vice President Cost Optimisation & Process Improvement Michele Francioni said connecting *World Europa* to shorepower in Valletta is a proud achievement for MSC.

"Our shorepower plan demonstrates that we are fully committed to reducing emissions from our ships," he said.

"Using shorepower is a major step forward because it allows us to eliminate a ship's direct emissions whilst berthed.

"We need more ports across Europe and beyond to introduce shorepower as quickly as possible so that we can further reduce local air emissions." *MS*



AUSTRALIAN
CRUISE
ASSOCIATION
**ACA
UPDATE**
with Jill Abel - CEO

2023 - a banner year

WHAT a banner year 2023 – our first full year of cruising again - has been with a record economic contribution to Australia!

Member support was a top priority as we began the year with cruise workshops in Western Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria.

We continued this with our 25th anniversary conference in Wollongong which attracted a record number of attendees discussing broad ranging topics.

We have finished the year at our highest membership level.

Recent recruits include Tourism Tropical North Queensland, one of Australia's most sought-after regions for cruise ship visits, and Kangaroo Island, which we are delighted to see has rebounded strongly for SA itineraries.

We also welcome Jumping Crocodile Cruises in the NT – a fantastic wildlife attraction.

Sierra Fleet Services, a company building next-gen solutions for the marine industry has joined, as well as Smart Carte, which many of you would know from your airport travels - they are now expanding their offering to seaports.

We travelled to numerous international conferences and trade shows this year promoting Australia to cruise lines and discussing shared opportunities with industry partners.

Thanks for your support and wishing you all a happy and peaceful holiday season.