



Cruise Weekly today

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

Cunard shorex '24

CUNARD Line has announced 50 exclusive *Queen Anne* shore experiences for next year.

Highlights of the ship's inaugural season shore experiences will include an exclusive orchestral performance in a secret location in the heart of Barcelona, and a behind-the-scenes tour of St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

Cruisers will also be able to savour local delicacies and wine tasting in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Enchanted Forest of Madeira, and join a fjord safari to a goat cheese farm in Norway.

"We are all incredibly excited to welcome *Queen Anne* to the Cunard fleet in May and it is only right that her maiden season is complemented with a truly captivating shore experience program," President Katie McAlister said.

"Our teams have worked meticulously to curate these 50 signature experiences to ensure that our guests encounter the essence of every port they explore."

Queen Anne will set sail on 03 May.

The Spirit of Christmas



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is celebrating the Christmas spirit Down Under, with festive activities well underway on board *Norwegian Spirit*.

The ship is set to arrive in Australia on Sat for her second season, following her hugely successful maiden year last summer (CW 21 Dec 2022).

The four-month season includes a series of eight trans-Tasman voyages calling on iconic cities and coastal towns.

Spirit has been adorned with decorations and music playing in all public areas in anticipation of Christmas, with an enchanting Xmas village in the Atrium (pictured) created by the Executive Chef and their team.

There are also activities planned for guests and crew alike to embrace the spirit of Christmas, such as evening cookies and

bedtime stories with Mrs. Claus in the Atrium; a special carols performance presented by crew members; and a celebratory party and show in the theatre.

An indulgent special menu for Christmas Eve has been specially for the occasion by the Executive Chef, highlighted by Beef Wellington.

On Christmas Day the crew and special guests will put on a holiday parade including both Santa Claus and Mrs Claus.

Celebrations are not just for guests, with crew members to commemorate the holidays with their own party on Christmas Eve, featuring live music and a DJ.

Spirit's senior officers will also serve the crew a special Christmas lunch on Boxing Day, to thank them for their ongoing dedication and for embodying the joy of serving others. MS

Howdy, Carnival!

GALVESTON gave a Texas-sized welcome to its newest ship, Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Jubilee*, this week.

The new vessel is the first to ever debut from Galveston, and is fittingly doing so with a Texas Star on her bow.

Jubilee was welcomed with a grand water salute as she docked in Galveston for the first time, signalling the start of a significant expansion strategy in Galveston.

The island city has grown among Carnival's top home ports since the cruise line became the first to operate from it year-round more than two decades ago.

Jubilee joins *Carnival Breeze* and *Carnival Dream* at the port as part of a four-ship deployment plan (CW 26 Sep), which will also see *Carnival Miracle* reposition to Galveston next autumn.

"The Texas star on her bow isn't just decoration, it's a symbol of our gratitude to our guests sailing from Texas who've made us the number one cruise line in Galveston, and our commitment to the future of cruising from this great city and state," President Christine Duffy said.

"When we cut the ribbon to welcome our first guests on this ship this weekend, we'll be celebrating the beginning of a new era of operations here."

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From Business Publishing Group





THE Savannah Bananas, a much-loved barnstorming baseball team, likened to basketball's Harlem Globetrotters, is launching its own cruise next year - Bananaland at Sea.

The cruise will sail for four nights round tripping from Miami aboard *Norwegian Jade*.

The cruise is already 80% booked, with rooms ranging from US\$2,000-US\$30,000.

Whether you're a baseball fan or not, this cruise sure sounds like a "bunch" of fun.



BA terminal change

OFFICIALS at the Terminal de Cruceros Quinquela Martin in Buenos Aires have developed a new check-in process after a recent storm damaged the cruise facility.

The squall collapsed the terminal's roof onto the waiting and pre-boarding area, with the new process having begun on Tue, and will be in place until at least Mar while the facility undergoes repairs.

The change will only affect embarking passengers, with transit calls not impacted.

The kings of Antarctica



QUARK Expeditions has successfully landed more than 200 explorers from two voyages on Snow Hill Island off the east coast of the Antarctic Peninsula to visit its remote colony of emperor penguins.

The team aboard Quark's *Ultramarine* delivered these successful voyages over the past two months, which saw small groups fly in the ship's Airbus H-145 helicopters to a staging site, at a significant distance from the 'huddle'.

Every guest then walked several kilometres over sea ice to reach the colony (**pictured**).

Quark also recently hosted a special onboard ceremony at the edge of Antarctica's Weddell Sea, at which commercial astronaut Sian Proctor was officially confirmed as *Ultramarine's* godmother (**CW** 08 Jun).

"We may not be able to voyage off the planet, as Dr Proctor has done, but we will always go together with our polar explorers to find life-changing experiences

at its farthest edges," President Andrew White said.

"My goal as an astronaut and an artist is to inspire," Proctor said.

"I am so honored to be godmother for *Ultramarine* - a role that will allow me to lead by example and to share the personal stories that will inspire others to go out into the world, to experience something new and to become, in their own amazing way, part of the next generation of explorers." *MS*

Swish-ful thinking

QUEENSLAND kids recently scored a slam dunk with NBL team the Brisbane Bullets on board Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Luminosa*, celebrating the start of the official partnership between the two.

The young basketball fans, who are students from Ipswich East State School, were invited to train one-on-one with the entire Bullets team, which includes former NBA player Aron Baynes.

The students are part of a school group that participates in Brisbane Bullets grassroots community programs, which are run throughout Queensland with the aim of growing participation in basketball and encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle for Queenslanders.

A highlight of the day was the opportunity for the schoolkids to face off against the team for a special 'Beat the Bullets' game on the Lido Deck, where they had the chance to shoot some hoops against the basketball stars.

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