







cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Thursday 16th Feb 2023

Cruise Weekly today

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



Swanning off to CLIA

SWAN Hellenic has partnered with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) in Australia. joining as a regional member.

The partnership brings Swan Hellenic into CLIA's wider Australian cruise community, made up of lines from around the world, as well as travel advisor members from across the nation.

CLIA's local Managing Director Joel Katz said the addition of Swan Hellenic to the Association's membership highlighted the growing diversity in cruising and its importance in the wider tourism industry.

"Swan Hellenic is among a thriving class of expedition cruise lines catering to travellers who want intimate encounters with different cultures, landscapes and wildlife as they explore the world," Katz said.

"Expedition cruising is one of the most dynamic and

exciting areas of cruising, and we're delighted to have Swan Hellenic join our community at such a time of innovation and development in this sector."

Swan Hellenic Pacific General Manager Brigita Devries said the company was pleased to be a part of CLIA Australia and to have the opportunity to engage with its highly regarded travel advisor members, providing valuable insights, selling tools and support.

"We're committed to supporting the CLIA Australasia community, providing all the resources needed to maximise the potential offered by our growing, inspirational brand, while securing our position as a pioneer and leading innovator of expedition cruising," she said.

Swan Hellenic recently announced its 2023 Adventure Sale, which includes trade rewards of \$320 per booking.

CRUISE

On location aboard Regatta

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Oceania Cruises, as Regatta cruises across the Tasman.

A DAY at sea aboard Regatta today is giving guests the opportunity to enjoy a host of onboard activities.

The Library offers a variety of games and books, there are talks from onboard experts, opportunities to learn bridge, and even "coffee chat and needlepoint".

Sports fans can indulge in indoor golf putting, a bean bag toss and table tennis, the fitness experts in the spa are hosting wellness events, and there's lots of opportunity for retail therapy too.

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Fred Sydney to UK

CRUISE Traveller has released a new package combining a Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines Australia to United Kingdom sailing with flights and accommodation.

Those who book by the end of next month can save \$1,275 on the new 53-night fly, cruise, and stay package.

The 'Southern Land to South England' cruise segment begins in Sydney on 27 Feb 2024, when guests board Fred. Olsen's 1,360-guest ship Borealis for a 50-night voyage to Southampton.

Also included are three nights in London, with an evening ghost tour, an included onboard drinks package, and a flight from London to Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide or Perth.

CLICK HERE for more information.

Ponant expands in APAC

CHRIS Hall has formally commenced in his new Chief Executive Officer role with Ponant Asia Pacific (CW 28 Sep 2022), with the cruise line today also announcing further expansion of its regional team.

The local growth includes a newly created Maritime Operations & Logistics Department, as well as the expansion of its Expedition & Destination Development Area, including the introduction of new product roles focusing on guest enrichment as well as pre- and post-touring offers.

Asia Pacific Chair Sarina Bratton, said Ponant is committed to the region, as its local partnerships continue to strengthen.

"With Chris at the helm, Ponant plans to accelerate the range of experiences across the APAC business through additional ship deployment," she said.

Plans include the Australian operations of Ponant's recently refurbished Le Ponant sailing yacht, and this week's first-time departure of Le Commandant Charcot from New Zealand after an onboard gathering of key industry partners (CW 14 Feb).

These ships join Le Laperouse and Le Soleal which have operated locally for some years.

Hall said "with the benefit of a proven operational and sales & marketing team in APAC, successfully led by co-General Managers, Deb Corbett and Maxime Farreng, I feel confident we can explore new and different opportunities to enhance our guests' experiences and bring trade partners even stronger results".

"From a wider company perspective, the Ponant Group is positioned for successful growth and I look forward to making a significant contribution," he said.



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THOUSANDS of Carnival Cruise Line guests renewed their vows aboard a ship this Valentine's Day, in a ceremony officiated by 'Chief Fun Officer' Shaquille O'Neal.

All 24 ships welcomed couples renewing their vows, and although O'Neal couldn't be aboard every vessel, he beamed in virtually to help the Carnival lovebirds celebrate their continued love.

An onboard reception followed each ceremony, with a DJ, dancing, and a champagne toast honouring the couples, and wishing love and happiness for all.

The vow renewals led a series of Valentine's Day activities planned for guests to enjoy the holiday on board, from special trivia to Dive-In Movies and the ever-popular Love & Marriage show, hosted by each ship's cruise director.

Oceania Alaska 2023

OCEANIA Cruises will showcase the natural wonders of Alaska's 'Last Frontier', on a season of seven to 20-day sailings between May and Sep this year.

Cruising from Los Angeles, Seattle, and Vancouver, travellers looking to go beyond the typical tourist sights and discover unique perspectives on local cultures and cuisines have 14 departures to choose from aboard the 656-guest Regatta.

Highlights include Oceania becoming the very first cruise line to call into Klawock, on Prince of Wales Island, which features one of the most extensive collections of totems in the world.

In Wrangell, explorers can learn the daily happenings of a local from an Alaskan guide, fishing for traditional catches such as salmon and halibut, and discovering the native Tlingit's influence on the community.

More than 250 tours and excursions, which have been curated by local community members for this season, are offered in Wrangell, as well as Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, and

other destinations.

Thrill-seekers can go glaciertrekking on Mendenhall Glacier and sea-kayaking through the coastal waterways travelled for centuries by the Aleuts, while national park excursions offer an opportunity to savour the region's incredible natural beauty.

Meanwhile, foodies will enjoy authentic culinary classes and craft beer tastings.

Travellers booking this month can save with Oceania's 20th Anniversary Sale, which offers free shore excursions, a free beverage package, or a free shipboard credit, plus up to \$800 shipboard credit per suite or stateroom

"We're delighted to offer our guests a fresh perspective of Alaska, one filled with touching personal moments connecting with nature, people and cuisine," stated President Frank Del Rio Jr.

"The innate beauty of our small ships, especially in a destination like Alaska aboard our intimate Regatta, allows guests access to small ports and remote harbours not offered by others."

Venture to Alaska

CRUISE expedition provider Venture Ashore has expanded into Alaska with three new 'Essential Collection' adventures.

Venture Ashore guests will now be able to discover historic Ketchikan by trolley, whale-watch on the Auke Bay, discover Juneau's Mendenhall Glacier, and enjoy an up-close experience with former Iditarod mushers at an authentic dog sled camp in

"The demand for affordable shore excursions in Alaska has never been higher and that's why we expanded our portfolio and designed these experiences as an absolute must-do with our on-theground teams," COO Rinat Glinert said.

"Savvy cruise travellers can now experience the best Alaska has to offer in Juneau, Skagway and Ketchikan with our Essential Collection experiences and take advantage of great value with our multi-port packages."



CRUISE

Waves Grill

All restaurants on board Regatta are complimentary, with the laid-back Waves Grill providing an ideal spot for a bite just steps from the ship's swimming pool and sun loungers.

As well as all-American favourites such as freshly made hamburgers, hot dogs, and sandwiches, delicious desserts include bespoke hot fudge sundaes and a range of ice cream flavours including the Regatta Royale.

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

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