



Cruise Calendar

The next few port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY
Pacific Adventure 09 Jan

MELBOURNE
Seabourn Odyssey 09 Jan
Grand Princess 09 Jan

PORTLAND
Oceania Regatta 09 Jan

PHILLIP ISLAND
Oceania Regatta 10 Jan

BRISBANE
Carnival Splendor 10 Jan

FREMANTLE
AIDamar 09 Jan

GERALDTON
AIDamar 10 Jan

HOBART
Pacific Explorer 09 Jan
Viking Orion 10 Jan

STANLEY
Coral Discoverer 09 Jan

AUCKLAND
Viking Mars 09 Jan
Star Breeze 10 Jan

CHRISTCHURCH
Celebrity Eclipse 09 Jan

TAURANGA
Silver Whisper 09 Jan
ms Noordam 10 Jan

WELLINGTON
Coral Princess 09 Jan
Celebrity Eclipse 10 Jan

AKAROA
Silver Muse 09 Jan

DUNEDIN
Silver Muse 10 Jan

FJORDLAND
Norwegian Spirit 09 Jan
Queen Elizabeth 10 Jan

NAPIER
ms Noordam 09 Jan
Coral Adventurer 10 Jan
Coral Princess 10 Jan

CHATHAM ISLANDS
Le Laperouse 10 Jan

PICTON
Majestic Princess 10 Jan

MSC's double delight

MSC Cruises has marked what is believed to be an "industry first", as two world cruises departed for round-the-world voyages on the same day last week.

The cruise line welcomed more than 5,000 guests for a journey around the world on board both *MSC Magnifica* and *MSC Poesia*, which departed simultaneously from Genoa on 05 Jan.

Sailing together for the start of the cruises, the two ships will part ways at the edge of the Mediterranean for different routes around the globe.

Poesia will sail a 117-day cruise, while *Magnifica's* voyage will be two days longer, and will include visits to Australia, with calls in Hobart, Cairns, Darwin, and an overnight in Sydney, from where MSC will take passengers on a number of shore excursions.

Guests sailing on the world cruises will enjoy an enrichment program featuring ice carving, champagne tasting, a wide range

of guest lectures on specialist topics, more than 30 full-scale production shows, guest entertainers, dance classes, language schools and more.

The culinary highlights of the cruises will feature a line-up of chefs who have created menus to showcase the best of their respective cuisines.

On board both ships, Brazilian Chef & restaurateur Allan Vila Espejo will serve a menu including authentic Manioc soup and Bahia-style fish stew with sweet peppers and coconut milk.

Poesia guests will be treated to internationally renowned Japanese-American chef Roy Yamaguchi, who will serve grilled teriyaki pork chop with Hawaiian chimichurri; as well as Michelin-starred Swedish chef, Niklas Ekstedt, who will serve dishes inspired by natural ingredients and his farm-to-ocean ethos.

Meanwhile, on board *Magnifica*, renowned Peruvian chef James Berckemeyer will serve Peruvian veal cheek and local caramel pudding Suspiro de Lucuma.

A big Conversation

AN ARTICLE about Antarctic tourism published by *The Conversation* last week has the cruise industry abuzz, with the story raising the alarm about the more than 100,000 tourists set to visit the continent this season.

The article suggests this season's visitor numbers are up by more than 40% over Antarctica's largest pre-pandemic year.

While it notes the tourism industry is "well-run", with travellers spending a surprisingly short amount of time with boots on the ground itself, it does suggest black carbon from cruise ship funnels and microbes carried in from around the world as points of alarm.

To read the article in full, **CLICK HERE.**

Cruise Weekly today

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

Port link in Bris?

CARNIVAL Corporation has joined Royal Caribbean International in pushing for a port-to-downtown river link in Brisbane (*CW* 06 Dec 2022).

The company's Chief Strategy & External Affairs Officer Australia Teresa Lloyd told the *Brisbane Times* she believes a river connection to downtown Brisbane from the new cruise terminal would work.

"We would be happy to work with river ferry operators on what a suitable service might look like to improve the guest experience and add to the visitor economy for Brisbane," she enthused.

Lloyd said cruisers need more than just a cruise terminal.

"Many key attributes are required of an international cruise terminal apart from the facilitation of the operation of the ship itself," she added.

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WHALE-WATCHERS recently witnessed a rare birth off Coastal California, in what is being described as a “once-in-a-lifetime” event.

The whale-watching expedition encountered what it believed to be a gray whale in distress off the coast of Dana Point in Orange County.

“For a minute, many of us thought it may be a shark or predatory event...but no, instead of the end of life, it was the beginning of a new one,” said the expedition company, Captain Dave’s Dolphin & Whale Watching Safari.

This species typically gives birth in the lagoons of Baja California in Mexico, making this sighting particularly rare.

Calves are about four-and-a-half metres long when they’re born, and gain more than 20 kilograms a day feeding on their mother’s milk.

View the video [HERE](#).

Quest welcomes Aussies



AZAMARA Business Development Manager Kristina Sambaher escorted some of the cruise line’s travel partners aboard *Azamara Quest* in Sydney on Sat (pictured).

Guests experienced Azamara’s ambience, style, character, fabulous food, and its warm and friendly crew, including Captain Johannes Tysse, who surprised the group by popping in for a photo at lunch.

Quest (inset) has since departed



to New Zealand, before she returns to Australia next month.

The ship’s homecoming to Sydney was punctuated with a flourish last week, performing some graceful “circle work” in front of the Opera House – the first time any ship has ever undertaken such a manoeuvre (*CW* 03 Jan) - view a video of the skilful steering [HERE](#).

Riviera Aussie offer

SAVE up to \$2,500 with an exclusive Riviera Travel River Cruises Australian offer.

On 14-night itineraries booked through to the end of Feb, cruisers can save up to \$1,250 discount pp (\$2,500 per cabin), and up to \$500 per cabin for seven-night voyages.

For any questions or reservation enquiries, call the local Travel The World call centre on 1300 857 437.

Bangladesh cruise

PANDAW has announced a members-only repositioning cruise to Assam, which will travel through Bangladesh.

The Oct voyage will sail on *Kindat Pandaw* from West Bengal, crossing Sundarbans and Bangladesh.

The expedition will cruise over 21 nights from Kolkata, sailing through the heart of Bangladesh and back to India.

Guests will visit the world’s largest area of mangrove forests, national parks, grand mosques, and will stay for two nights in Dhaka - [CLICK HERE](#).

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