



### Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly features two pages of cruise news, and a full page from Viking.

### AU Cruise Calendar



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

SYDNEY		
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>		12 Jan
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>		13 Jan
PORT LINCOLN		
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>		13 Jan
HOBART		
<i>Silver Shadow</i>		12 Jan
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>		13 Jan
<i>Silver Muse</i>		13 Jan
BURNIE		
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>		12 Jan
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>		13 Jan

## Azamara to develop Aussie reservation team

**AZAMARA** is set to develop its own dedicated reservations team in Australia, as part of its enhanced global contact centre.

The call centre team will be led by Daragh Robbins, and is now recruiting for the new contact centre positions ahead of its opening next month.

Azamara is also expanding its Australia-based team, enhancing its shoreside operations with a new sales & marketing support executive, and a business development manager.

The growth in Australia comes as the cruise line's ships return to local shores, with *Azamara Quest's* arrival in Fremantle (CW 09 Jan).

"Since resuming service with our four-ship fleet and making our long-awaited return to Australia, we have driven global growth across all markets," Chief Sales Officer International Patrice



Willoughby said.

"Our travel partners have been an integral piece to this growth, and we will continue to expand our team and enhance our offerings to better serve them."

Along with the growth of the shoreside team, Azamara will continue to improve service and offerings for in-market travel

partners next month, introducing its brand-new Versonix Seaware Touch booking platform.

Accessible through the new Azamara Alliance travel partner program, which launched in Dec (CW 09 Dec 2022), the platform will use updated tools and technologies to create a seamless experience for trade partners.

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## PORTHOLE

**A PAIR** of Yeppoon fisherman on a father-son trip has rescued a couple who survived three days treading water at sea.

The pair anchored at a sandbar at Yellow Patch on Curtis Island in Queensland on Mon night, and were just drifting off when they were awoken by calls for help through 20-knot winds and pouring rain.

“We turned all the lights on and saw a young couple floating past in the tide...they were only treading water, they had no board or anything,” one of the men told the ABC.

“They were barely keeping their head above the water, they were that bugged they couldn’t tread water anymore.”

“We just got [them] in the dinghy and dragged them over the side...they just collapsed”.

Once the couple was on board, they rested through the night, had hot showers, some food, and changed clothes.

The couple was swept away while on a trip at North West Island on the Barrier Reef.

## Accor to launch cruises

**MULTINATIONAL** hospitality company Accor’s first luxury cruise line Orient Express Cruises will set sail in 2026 on the world’s largest superyacht, *Orient Express Silenseas* (pictured).



The ship will be an opulent, 220-metre-long, three-masted vessel, and will ply Mediterranean and Caribbean routes starting in the northern spring 2026.

*Silenseas* will accommodate 120 passengers in 54 suites with an average size of 70m<sup>2</sup>; reservations will begin as early as next year.

Accor has partnered with Chantiers de l’Atlantique for *Silenseas*, as well as another ship, which is scheduled to be delivered in the first quarter of 2027.

*Silenseas* will feature two swimming pools, including a lap pool, two restaurants, an oyster bar, a speakeasy bar, a spa, an amphitheatre-cabaret and even a private recording studio.

The ship will run diesel-free and use a hybrid propulsion system with wind as her primary source of energy when weather permits,

as well as a liquified natural gas-powered engine.

“We may not stop when we are meant to stop because the wind is too strong and that’s the way I want it,” Accor Chief Executive Officer Sebastien Bazin said.

*Silenseas* will also be built ready for green hydrogen use in the future, which Bazin said may be possible by her launch.

The ship will also utilise shorepower, and a sonar system to detect sea mammals on her route to avoid collisions.

Bazin said guests can expect *Silenseas* to be much more luxurious than The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection’s *Evrima* (CW 13 Oct 2022), with Orient Express’ ship to be roughly the same size despite hosting almost half the capacity.

## NZ Cruise Calendar

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

<b>AUCKLAND</b>	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	12 Jan
<i>Seven Seas Explorer</i>	12 Jan
<b>CHRISTCHURCH</b>	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	12 Jan
<b>WELLINGTON</b>	
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	12 Jan
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	13 Jan
<b>AKAROA</b>	
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	13 Jan
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	13 Jan
<b>BAY OF ISLANDS</b>	
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	12 Jan
<i>Seven Seas Explorer</i>	13 Jan
<b>DUNEDIN</b>	
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	12 Jan
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	12 Jan
<i>Grand Princess</i>	13 Jan
<i>Viking Orion</i>	13 Jan
<b>FJORDLAND</b>	
<i>Grand Princess</i>	12 Jan
<i>Le Soleal</i>	13 Jan
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	13 Jan
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	13 Jan
<b>NAPIER</b>	
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	13 Jan
<i>Viking Mars</i>	13 Jan
<b>TAURANGA</b>	
<i>Viking Mars</i>	12 Jan
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	13 Jan

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