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### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a cover wrap from **Royal Caribbean International**.

### New RCI program

**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) is today showcasing its new Club Royal Rewards loyalty program, which offers cash back on every booking (**CW** yesterday). Club Royal Rewards, which launched on Mon, will see any new booking deposited enable a travel partner to earn up to \$25, in addition to their standard commission.

The program will see the cash back transferred directly to the travel advisor, into their own RCI Visa card, while also offering access to exclusive competitions, events, and more - see the **cover page**.

## Oceania expands APAC 23-24 season

**OCEANIA** Cruises' *Regatta* and *Nautica* will greatly expand their offerings in the South Pacific in 2023-2024, with more cruises from Australia than ever before.

The ships' South Pacific sailings offer a selection of "captivating sojourns" for travellers, with voyages ranging from 10 to 41 days.

*Regatta* will reprise her popular Sydney round trip and Sydney-Auckland itineraries, with other highlights including Sydney-Bali (and vice versa), and Sydney to Papeete.

Meanwhile, *Nautica* will cruise from Singapore to French Polynesia, on a 34-day itinerary, before sailing back to Sydney on a 31-day voyage.

"Thanks to these spectacular itineraries, our guests can discover some of the most beautiful and remote destinations in the world, such as little-known



islands in Polynesia, in the most luxurious and immersive way possible - by sea," Oceania's new President Frank Del Rio Jr said.

Joining *Regatta* and *Nautica* in Asia-Pacific will be the newly re-inspired *Riviera* (pictured) which will sail in Asia for the first time during the season, due to unprecedented demand.

*Riviera's* inaugural Asia deployment will see her sail 25

voyages through Arabia, India, Myanmar, Vietnam, China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and the Philippines, with the current season's sales exceeding expectations & breaking numerous records, precipitating the new voyages in the region.

The new sailings across Oceania's Asian fleet have nearly doubled the seasonal availability with 121 itineraries on offer.

— REGENT PRESENTS —

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## Royal Caribbean's Iconic milestone

**ROYAL** Caribbean International's *Icon of the Seas* reached a milestone in its construction earlier this month, floating on water for the first time.

With 58 million gallons of water, five tugboats, and one cannon shot, *Icon* was floated out of her dry dock and into her outfitting pier at the Meyer Turku shipyard in Finland, where the final stages of construction will be completed.

*Icon* is set to make her debut in 2024 - the video is available to watch [HERE](#).

## Ascent floats out



**CELEBRITY** Cruises is celebrating with a sneak peek of its newest Edge series ship, *Celebrity Ascent*, which completed her "float out" milestone recently.

The fourth ship in the class officially touched water for the first time as she was floated out from the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint-Nazaire.

The moment marks the exciting completion of *Ascent's* hull and exterior superstructure, with the vessel to now progress to the next phase of construction.

Debuting in Dec, *Ascent* will be the "twin sister" ship to *Celebrity Beyond*, which debuted last year (**CW** 15 Nov 2022).

*Ascent* is now mooring in her new location at Chantiers de l'Atlantique, where interior work on the ship will begin over the next several months.

"So much more than a ship, *Celebrity Ascent* will be the embodiment of a relaxed luxury resort at sea, and I can't imagine a more exciting way to start the new year than by celebrating this important construction milestone," Chief Executive Officer Lisa Lutloff-Perlo said.

"The collaboration between the shipyard and Celebrity teams

continues to be extraordinary and I am grateful to all involved for their passion and expertise.

"Momentum and anticipation is quickly building for this ship and we'll continue to share her progress and all that awaits our guests onboard this next installation in our groundbreaking, next-generation Edge series."

### No CW tomorrow

**CRUISE Weekly** will not be published tomorrow, due to the Australia Day public holiday.

The next issue will be published on Fri 27 Jan.

### Viking new cruise

**VIKING** has introduced a new itinerary, the Jan 2025 Grand Australia Circumnavigation.

The 32-day journey cruises from Sydney return, with *Viking Venus* to visit the Whitsunday Islands, the Great Barrier Reef, North West Tasmania, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Indonesia, and more - [HERE](#).

More in Fri's issue of **CW**.

## NZ Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in New Zealand.

<b>AUCKLAND</b>	
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	26 Jan
<i>ms Noordam</i>	27 Jan
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	27 Jan
<b>CHRISTCHURCH</b>	
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	25 Jan
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	25 Jan
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	25 Jan
<b>WELLINGTON</b>	
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	25 Jan
<i>Europaz</i>	25 Jan
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	26 Jan
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	26 Jan
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	27 Jan
<b>AKAROA</b>	
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	27 Jan
<b>BAY OF ISLANDS</b>	
<i>Silver Shadow</i>	25 Jan
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	26 Jan
<b>DUNEDIN</b>	
<i>Viking Orion</i>	25 Jan
<b>FIORDLAND</b>	
<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	27 Jan
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	27 Jan
<b>GOLDEN BAY</b>	
<i>Europaz</i>	27 Jan
<b>KAIKOURA</b>	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	25 Jan
<b>NAPIER</b>	
<i>ms Noordam</i>	25 Jan
<i>Silver Muse</i>	26 Jan
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	27 Jan
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	27 Jan
<b>NELSON</b>	
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	25 Jan
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	26 Jan
<b>NEW PLYMOUTH</b>	
<i>Europaz</i>	26 Jan
<b>PICTON</b>	
<i>Silver Muse</i>	25 Jan
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	26 Jan
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	27 Jan
<b>SHIPS COVE</b>	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	26 Jan
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	26 Jan
<b>TAURANGA</b>	
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	25 Jan
<i>ms Noordam</i>	26 Jan
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	27 Jan
<i>Silver Muse</i>	27 Jan

## AU Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia.

<b>SYDNEY</b>	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	25 Jan
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	26 Jan
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	26 Jan
<i>Seven Seas Explorer</i>	26 Jan
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	27 Jan
<i>Star Breeze</i>	27 Jan
<b>NEWCASTLE</b>	
<i>Seven Seas Explorer</i>	27 Jan
<b>MELBOURNE</b>	
<i>Star Breeze</i>	25 Jan
<i>Grand Princess</i>	27 Jan
<i>Viking Mars</i>	27 Jan
<b>KANGAROO ISLAND</b>	
<i>Grand Princess</i>	25 Jan
<b>BRISBANE</b>	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	26 Jan
<b>AIRLIE BEACH</b>	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	26 Jan
<b>HOBART</b>	
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	26 Jan
<i>Coral Discover</i>	27 Jan
<b>BURNIE</b>	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	25 Jan
<b>PORT ARTHUR</b>	
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	25 Jan



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**THE** British Antarctic Survey has discovered a new Emperor penguin colony using satellite mapping technology.

The new site, at Verleger Point in Siniff Bay, houses around 500 Emperors.

The polar research institute identified the colony from the birds' guano stains, which are brown in colour, and easier to identify alongside the ice.

This colony makes a total of 66 distinct populations of Emperors around the coastline of Antarctica, half of which have been discovered using the satellite technology.

The species needs sea ice to breed, meaning they are typically located in areas that are very difficult to study because they are remote and often inaccessible.

They can endure temperatures as low as -60°.

## Creative RCI promo

**BOOK** with Royal Caribbean International (RCI) and earn a new year bonus exclusively through Creative Cruising.

Celebrate the turning of the calendar with a \$100 e-gift card when booking a last-minute *Quantum of the Seas* departure before the end of the month.

For more information, contact Creative Cruising on 1300 362 599.

## Choo will enjoy this



**CUNARD** Line will offer train tours on board the legendary Rocky Mountaineer (**pictured**) for guests visiting Alaska this northern summer.

Guests joining *Queen Elizabeth* will have the opportunity to travel on board the scenic train through the Canadian Rockies.

Depending on their sailing date, guests will either be able to extend their Alaska voyage with an eastbound three-night post-cruise Rocky Mountaineer package from Vancouver to Calgary, or a westbound four-night tour from Calgary before embarking on *Queen Elizabeth* in Vancouver.

The four-night journey also offers an additional day of sightseeing in Banff, with a highlight including a trip on the Banff Gondola.

"We are thrilled to be able to provide guests an opportunity to combine a luxury cruise on board *Queen Elizabeth* that takes in the finest views of Alaska by sea, with a journey on the Rocky Mountaineer taking in the stunning scenery of the Canadian Rockies by train," Carnival Corporation President United

Kingdom Sture Myrmell said.

"With the exceptional service and fine dining, Rocky Mountaineer is a wonderful addition to a Cunard voyage and we know our guests will be delighted to have an opportunity to enjoy the spectacular surroundings in style."

*Queen Elizabeth's* summer in Alaska will also include an Insights Programme featuring a host of other iconic explorers, including *Man vs. Wild* star Bear Grylls.

Other highlights on board include the Alaska Afternoon Tea, the elegant Ice White Ball and a new dining concept called Frontier, which offers a taste of

## Venture canx

**SEABOURN** Cruise Line has cancelled several Apr voyages for *Seabourn Venture*, so she can undergo dry dock maintenance to conduct repairs to the ship's stabilisers.

The 07, 16, and 28 Apr voyages have been cancelled, and Seabourn has communicated with travel advisors and guests booked on these itineraries.



## CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz  
MD, CLIA Australasia

Get on board in 2023

**CRUISING'S** revival in Australia is gathering pace and there's much to look forward to.

A big part of this recovery has come about thanks to the long and hard-fought campaigns that CLIA and our cruise community have mounted together, and we're grateful for your ongoing support.

With ships back in our waters and cruisers back at sea, CLIA is already working to make sure our members get the best possible support on the path ahead.

If you haven't already renewed your CLIA membership for 2023, now is the time to do so.

All existing members need to renew by 31 Jan to maintain access to all benefits, including our exclusive events, our award-winning education programs, and the 2023 CLIA Travel Agent Rewards Program.

We're planning a big year of opportunities and will be announcing more in coming weeks, including new education options and live events – all designed to make CLIA travel agents the most successful cruise specialists in our region.

Take a moment to review CLIA's member benefits and make your renewal by 31 Jan, or get in touch with our [membership team](mailto:membership@clia.org) at [info-aus@clia.org](mailto:info-aus@clia.org) to establish a new membership.

