



Cruise Weekly today

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

SH Minerva deal

SWAN Hellenic (SH) is set to take ownership of *Minerva*, which was the first ship to enter its fleet, by acquiring the GTLK subsidiary company which is currently the registered owner of the vessel.

The cruise line earlier this month submitted an application to the Central Bank of Ireland, with approval of the transaction expected to take two to three weeks.

Swan Hellenic has postponed the reactivation of *Minerva* while the deal is pending, which means her 31-night cruise of Antarctica, scheduled to depart on 07 Feb, has been cancelled.

Encounter to add waterslides in dry dock

P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Encounter* has made a "double splash" this week, becoming the first ship in the line's fleet to call into Darwin since the resumption of cruising - after which she will head to Singapore to undergo a three-week dry dock.

Additions during the Brisbane-based *Encounter's* time in Singapore will include new Twin-Racer waterslides and the P&O Edge Adventure Park.

Located 10 metres above Deck 16, Adventure Park will feature a 55-metre-long zipline, a rock climbing wall, a cargo net, a walk the plank, and a beam walk.

It will complement the 142-metre-long, 16-metre-high Twin-Racer waterslides, which already appear on *Encounter's* fleetmate *Pacific Adventure*.

The ship will reposition to the dry dock on 06 Feb, following her 14-night 'Indonesian Explorer'



cruise, of which Darwin was the maiden call.

The stop was *Encounter's* first-ever in the NT capital, a moment which was recognised with a plaque exchange (**pictured**).

Encounter will celebrate even more history-making moments during the 14-night cruise, when she becomes the first ship in the P&O fleet to make further maiden calls in Benoa and Lombok, before her arrival in Singapore.

Following the dry dock, *Encounter* will recommence her

full program of itineraries from Brisbane in Mar.

"These exciting additions will mark the completion of our three-fleet transformation and bring us yet another step closer to a full and 'normal' cruising season," P&O Australia President Marguerite Fitzgerald said.

"We look forward to welcoming our Brisbane guests back onboard and seeing the joy as they race down the new slides and test out the adrenalin-pumping activities at sea when she returns."

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PORTHOLE

THE tragic sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912 looks set to join the flat earth, NASA's "alleged" moon landing and the assassination of JFK as yet another wild conspiracy theory.

It's all thanks to social media network TikTok, where one user has expounded her suspicions that the maritime disaster was actually a hoax.

A video from @_mia.w22 has already reached more than 11 million views, after she postulated that the White Star Line faked the whole thing as an insurance scam.

She suggested sister ship, the *Olympic*, was almost identical but was close to retirement, so "what if they just sent the *Olympic* out instead, sank it, claim some insurance money and then just scrap the *Titanic* like it was the *Olympic*?"

Mia backs up her wacky theory by noting that some prominent people, including White Star Line owner J.P. Morgan and chocolate king Milton Hershey, had been booked on the ill-fated voyage but decided against boarding.

"Were they told not to because they knew it was going to sink anyway," she asked.

Fortunately hundreds of commenters have debunked the idea, with images of the sunken vessel clearly indicating it was indeed the *Titanic* - or at least, so we think.

UnCruise eclipse 2024



UNCRUISE Adventures is offering front row seats to the solar eclipse of 03 Apr 2024.

The voyage will sail to Baja California, following up UnCruise's Belize 2023 Eclipse Cruise, which is sold out.

The 66-passenger *Safari Voyager* (pictured) will sail along the Gulf of California, where guests will view the solar eclipse off the coast of Mazatlan.

Departing 06 Apr 2024 from San Jose del Cabo, the cruise will sail

for seven nights.

In addition to the eclipse, guests will have the opportunity for daily activities to get up close and personal with the region's marine life, such as snorkeling, kayaking, and stand-up paddleboarding, which are all included.

Safari Voyager will also visit La Paz, Isla San Francisco, Los Islotes, and Isla Partida.

For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

Thousands off Hurti

ENJOY savings of up to \$7,400 per cabin with Hurtigruten.

From now until the end of Mar, the cruise line is offering what it is calling its "best savings ever" on a range of its Expedition cruises in 2023/2024.

Those who book by the end of next month can also receive a complimentary \$150 credit per person for all Galapagos expeditions this year, or \$225 per person for all other featured Expedition sailings.

NCL Africa 2024

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is building on its successful first season in South Africa and Namibia, announcing the deployment of *Norwegian Dawn* to the region for the southern winter 2024.

The ship will homeport from Cape Town and Port Louis, offering a series of voyages between Jan and Mar 2024.

Norwegian Jade recently concluded her inaugural season homeporting from Cape Town, and is now on her way to Dubai, before a season from Piraeus.

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	1 Feb
<i>Viking Orion</i>	1 Feb
CAIRNS	
<i>Seven Seas Explorer</i>	1 Feb
BURNIE	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	31 Jan
AUCKLAND	
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	1 Feb
<i>Viking Neptune</i>	1 Feb
CHRISTCHURCH	
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	31 Jan
<i>Grand Princess</i>	1 Feb
WELLINGTON	
<i>ms Noordam</i>	31 Jan
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	1 Feb
AKAROA	
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	31 Jan
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	1 Feb
BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Silver Muse</i>	31 Jan
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	31 Jan
DUNEDIN	
<i>Grand Princess</i>	31 Jan
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	31 Jan
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	1 Feb
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	1 Feb
FIORDLAND	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	31 Jan
GISBORNE	
<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	1 Feb
NAPIER	
<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	31 Jan
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	31 Jan
PICTON	
<i>ms Noordam</i>	1 Feb
TAURANGA	
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	31 Jan
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	1 Feb