



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Amsterdam closure

AMSTERDAM has decided to close one of its cruise ship terminals amid efforts to restrict tourism, *The Guardian* has reported.

The move by the city council follows action to limit public cannabis use and to discourage partying by young Brits, in its latest attempts to discourage mass tourism.

"Polluting cruise ships are not in line with the sustainable ambitions of our city," the council said.

The council also noted the passage of cruise ships is not compatible with plans for a new bridge being built in Amsterdam.

## WA to grow its cruise economy

TOURISM WA is set to implement its *Western Australian Cruise Tourism Strategic Plan 2023-2033*, with the aim of securing new cruise lines to visit the state; expanding the itineraries of existing in-market cruise ships; and attracting more seasonal home port vessels for Fremantle.

With the aim of growing economic outcomes for the state, Tourism WA has identified a number of key Western Australian destinations as having the greatest influence on the future of its cruise sector.

The *Strategic Plan* envisages by 2027, Western Australia will offer two turnaround ports (Fremantle and Broome), eight well-established transit ports (such as Albany and Bunbury), and many other expedition-focused destinations with little to no infrastructure (such as

the Houtman Abrolhos and Wyndham).

Port destinations will elevate the visitor experience through the development of welcome plans, the delivery of cruise-ready workshops, guide/volunteer training programs, and capacity building around shore excursions.

This includes the development of product to meet the demographics of visiting cruise ships, and considering the younger average age of passengers, and growing interest in Aboriginal tourism experiences.

The expedition market aligns well with Western Australia's brand, "Walking On A Dream", Tourism WA believes, as it aims to target high-yield travellers with marketing content which promotes the state's attributes of "time, space, connection and freedom".

Specifically, the Kimberley's

remote terrain and uninhabited locations are well aligned with the aspirations of the expedition market, which seeks world class nature & wildlife, premium food & wine, stunning coastlines, and friendly hospitality.

Tourism WA is also encouraging expedition cruise lines to develop itineraries outside of the Kimberley region, urging itinerary planners to include isolated/remote anchorages & communities.

Tourism WA Managing Director Carolyn Turnbull noted the state's past strategic plan increased the amount of ships visiting the destination from 56 to 191, and its economic contribution from \$118 million to \$228.9 million.

"Cruise tourism is an important part of the Western Australian tourism industry and makes a significant economic contribution to our state," she said.

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## Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	21 Jul
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	24 Jul
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	28 Jul
BROOME	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	21 Jul
<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	22 Jul
<i>Le Ponant</i>	28 Jul
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Geographer</i>	21 Jul
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	22 Jul
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	27 Jul
<i>Le Soleal</i>	28 Jul

## Virgin ever tastier

**VIRGIN** Voyages is amplifying its Eat & Drink Month, extending it across Aug and Sep.

The festival was introduced last year, and was so successful it will now expand across two whole months.

The line-up of events features more than 30 on-board culinary and cocktail activations, including special chef appearances, and a \$300 bar tab included.

Michelin-starred chefs and award-winning mixologists on board will include Brad Farmerie, Sohui Kim, Eric Kim Haugen, Matt Lambert, Silvana Salcido Esparza, and Waki Ng.

Virgin is also collaborating with beverage partners Intelligentsia, JoJo Tea, and Filthy Food to host a number of on board events.

## Cunard plates up a feast

**CUNARD** Line has revealed its entertainment, celebrity chef dishes, and bespoke shore experiences for the return of its Great Australian Culinary Voyage.

Passengers will be able to taste Karen Martini's exclusive dishes, join a pastry tour with Darren Purchase, and be entertained by *The Great Australian Bake Off* presenter Cal Wilson.

Setting sail from Melbourne on 05 Jan 2024, foodies will experience unparalleled food & drink experiences at sea, highlighting creativity, elegance, and flavours to captivate even the most discerning of palates.

Martini will take over *Queen Elizabeth's* premium dining restaurant The Verandah with an exceptional five-course degustation menu exclusive to the sailing.

She has created a number of dishes specially for the Great Australian Culinary Voyage including ajo blanco, burnt butter scallops, lime pearls, and more.

Karen will also curate an exquisite three-course dinner featuring some of her classic dishes in *Queen Elizabeth's* main dining room on Gala Nights.

Melbourne's pastry extraordinaire Darren Purchase will once again join the voyage, inviting guests to embark on a journey of the senses through his sweet creations, as he adds a unique twist to Cunard's beloved champagne afternoon tea.

Purchase's artistic prowess will shine through as he meticulously plates up an array of desserts, including his signature Glamington, this time in Peach

Melba flavour.

Another delicious treat sure to delight is his new Passionfruit Tart with mango and coconut.

Purchase will also host a shore excursion to some of his favourite sweet spots in Melbourne.

Meanwhile, Gary Mehigan and Mark Olive will teach some of their tricks of the trade during live cooking demonstrations.

Passengers will be able to join insightful wine masterclasses with Katie Spain, and learn all about local gin during a masterclass.

## Explora I delivered

**EXPLORA** Journeys has taken delivery of *Explora I* at the Fincantieri shipyard in Monfalcone.

The maiden journey will depart on 01 Aug from Copenhagen for a seven-night sailing to Reykjavik with visits to Lerwick, the Shetland Islands, and Kirkwall.

The handover of *Explora I* was delayed earlier this month due to a fire panel issue (**CW** 10 Jul).



**THE** extent of the Australian housing crisis has been highlighted, as a \$200 yacht has been put up for rent off the coast of Western Australia, *News.com.au* has reported.

As the country's housing situation continues to spiral out of control, ads for unusual rental properties are becoming increasingly more common, with desperate Western Australians now invited to lease an 11.5-metre yacht.

Pictures of the vessel show run-down interiors (or "rustic", as is the term used by real estate agents).

Features include a combined kitchen, living, and dining area, with a small table, cupboards and a countertop ("cosy!")

A dinghy is also required to reach the vessel, which is docked off the coast of Fremantle - at least it's in a cool neighbourhood, right?

## The Chat

with Jenny



A Conversation with **Kathy Pavlidis**

Travel Associates

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