



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Creative new BDM

**VIKTORYIA** Shliazhko has been appointed as Creative Cruising's new National Business Development Manager.

Shliazhko has worked for Creative Cruising for more than eight years, in a number of roles starting as Reservations Consultant, to most recently Sales & Marketing Executive.

"I am thrilled to be building an exciting career within Creative Cruising," Shliazhko said.

"I am looking forward to driving our business and relationships forward with our valued travel agency networks."

## New Whitsundays cruise launched

**EXPLORE** Group is launching a new expedition-style cruise to help meet demand for the Whitsunday Islands.

The company's Explore Expedition Cruises will launch on 14 Apr, with passengers able to take a two-night cruise departing Coral Sea Marina in Airlie Beach to visit many of the islands that make up the Whitsundays.

The 'Weekend on the Water' program will sail on a Fri and return on Sun.

Cruises are priced from \$750 per person per night twin share, including all meals and a range of daily excursions and water activities.

Later in the year, there will be the option of four- or six-night cruises added to the schedule.

Explore Expeditions promises premium small ship voyages onboard *Whitsunday Explorer* (pictured) including groups,



events, and incentive trips.

*Whitsunday Explorer's* has capacity for 60 passengers in 30 en suite cabins, while her size provides her with the agility to navigate islands, reefs, and shallow bays bigger ships cannot access.

Activities include snorkelling, guided walks, visiting historic sites, wildlife encounters, and sea kayaking.

Managing Director William

Goodfellow said the company sees Explore Expedition Cruises as an exciting opportunity to grow and invest in unique tourism experiences in the Whitsundays, as demand for tourism experiences in the region heightens.

"There's currently nothing quite like this expedition-style cruise available," he claimed.

"With increased demand on mainland and island accommodation, Explore Expedition Cruises offer visitors and locals the chance to experience the beauty of the islands, spot a huge range of sea and bird life, and participate in a range of water and island activities.

"We're focused on helping to grow and enhance the Whitsundays as a tourism destination for locals, as well as visitors from around Australia, and overseas."

*Regent*

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## APT early release

APT has launched a collection of its most popular Canada and Alaska holidays for next year.

Those who book ahead can enjoy earlybird savings of up to \$3,000 per couple, on holidays such as the 22-day Rockies Odyssey & Alaska Cruise, which continues to be one of APT's best-sellers.

The holiday is priced from \$13,295 per person, twin share, and features a seven-night round-trip Alaskan cruise in a Verandah with Holland America Line.

Also available is APT's 15-day Rockies Icons & Alaska Cruise holiday, which is priced from \$9,995 per person, twin share.

Another highlight journey offered is the 17-day Eastern Canada & New England Cruise, from \$10,495 per person, twin share - more info [HERE](#).

## Venezia says buongiorno to Carnival

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line's *Carnival Venezia* has officially joined the fleet (**CW** 14 Dec 2022), transitioning from sister brand Costa Cruises.

*Venezia* Captain Tihomir Muzic handed over the ship to her new skipper Claudio Cupisti in Cadiz yesterday, ahead of her 15-day transatlantic Carnival Journeys sailing from Barcelona on 29 May.

She is set to begin year-round cruising from New York City's Manhattan Cruise Terminal on 15 Jun.

A wide range of sailing options are available, with 22 unique itineraries featuring visits to 25 ports across 14 countries.

"We are so pleased to welcome *Carnival Venezia* to the fleet, which following a dry dock, will debut as our first 'Fun Italian Style' ship this May," President Christine Duffy said.

"A big thank you to everyone



from our sister line Costa and all those within the Carnival family who will work to add the Carnival touches to this ship over the next two months."

*Venezia* will introduce many new food and beverage offerings to the Carnival fleet, with guests able to indulge in La Strada Grill with classic Italian street food, a Mexitalian fusion restaurant Tomodoro, and Frizzante, serving a variety of bubbly drinks, from prosecco to spritzes & bellinis,

along with Italian beer, authentic Italian coffees, and biscotti.

The ship will also feature new Italian-inspired entertainment spaces, such as Amari Bar (**pictured**), the Gondola Lounge, designed with the famous Venetian canals in mind, and the Carnevale Bar & Lounge, celebrating the elegance of Venetian masquerades, as well as new activities like the Captain's Venetian Toast, and Italian-inspired youth programming."

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## PORTHOLE

**A SAILING** crew has been rescued after a giant whale sank their 13-metre boat in the Pacific Ocean.

The whale collided with the sailboat 13 days into the group's three-week trip from the Galapagos Islands to French Polynesia.

Fortunately for the crew, there was another boat sailing behind them, almost 300 kilometres behind, which was able to rescue them.



## Viking new brox

**VIKING** has launched its 2023-2025 Ocean Cruise Brochure, which is now available to order.

In addition to new 2024 and 2025 departure dates on some of Viking's most popular and previously sold-out voyages, the brochure also features six new itineraries including a new Mediterranean and North Africa journey, three new Transatlantic crossings, the West Indies & Panama Canal Passage and the recently released Grand Australia Circumnavigation.

**CLICK HERE** to view the brochure.

## MSC year-round from NY



**MSC** Cruises will operate year-round sailings from New York City for the first time, with *MSC Meraviglia* to home port from the United States' most populous city from Apr for cruises to New England, Canada, Bermuda, and the Caribbean.

*Meraviglia* will offer a wide variety of itineraries ranging from six to 11 nights, including Caribbean itineraries of either seven or eight nights, featuring calls in Nassau and Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, the cruise line's private island destination in The Bahamas.

There are also Bermuda itineraries lasting six nights and offering three days docked at King's Wharf, combined with several relaxing days at sea; and Northern America itineraries of either 10 or 11 nights, featuring calls at Boston, Portland, Charlottetown, Halifax, Sydney, St John, and Newport.

The deployment is set to enhance MSC's presence in the market, and will give guests the opportunity to extend their

holiday with a stay in New York either before or after their cruise, with stay-and-cruise packages also available.

"New York is one of the most incredible and vibrant destinations in the world," Commercial Director Lisa Teiutu proclaimed.

"The itineraries will have a very strong appeal for our market, given the range of flights to and from New York.

"Our mix of itineraries mean guests can soak up the sun in the Caribbean during the spring and winter seasons, head to Bermuda during summer or go north to see the stunning autumn colours of Canada".

**MEANWHILE**, MSC's 2023-2024 brochure is out now, featuring more than 140 destinations in more than 40 countries.

Covering Apr 2023 to Apr 2024, the brochure details the Norwegian fjords and Northern Europe, the Mediterranean, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Red Sea.

View the digital version **HERE**.

## Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	23 Mar
PORT LINCOLN	
<i>Grand Princess</i>	24 Mar
BRISBANE	
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	23 Mar
<i>Viking Mars</i>	24 Mar
CAIRNS	
<i>Europa</i>	24 Mar
BROOME	
<i>Seabourn Sojourn</i>	24 Mar
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	24 Mar
BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	23 Mar
PICTON	
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	23 Mar
TAURANGA	
<i>Noordam</i>	23 Mar

## C|Club cruises

**COSTA** Cruises is offering two C|Club voyages this year on board *Costa Favolosa*, dedicated to members of its loyalty program.

Norway and Lofoten will be the subject of Jun's cruise, while Morocco and Tunisia will be visited in Sep.

Many surprises and exclusive activities are planned on board and ashore, including two special guests, chefs Bruno Barbieri and Angel Leon.

The first departure is scheduled for 25 Jun and the second 23 Sep.