



NCL Spirit savings

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is offering fares as low as \$208 per person per day on 12-day *Norwegian Spirit* cruises departing from Sydney and Auckland over the upcoming summer season.

The savings of up to 50% are on offer for guests travelling between 04 Jan and 16 Mar 2024, with the deal also giving access to NCL's five 'Free at Sea' offers including a beverage package, specialty dining, shore excursion credits, wi-fi, reduced deposits and prepaid gratuities.

Itineraries include a variety of ports such as Eden, Burnie and Melbourne in Australia as well as Milford Sound, Dunedin, Tauranga, Whangarei, Napier and Akaroa in New Zealand.

Offers are valid for bookings made by 31 Dec - 1300 255 220 (AU) or 0800 969 283 (NZ).

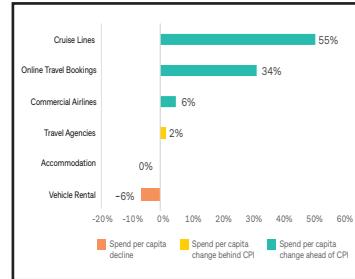
Cruise spending surges

SPENDING by Australians on cruises has jumped 55% year-on-year, according to a new report from the Commonwealth Bank.

The latest *CommBank iQ Cost of Living Insights* study showed the continued prioritisation of spending on travel and entertainment, despite feeling ongoing pressure from rising living costs.

Compiled from Quantum data which is collated via analysis of credit card transactions, quarterly spending on essential goods and services rose much more slowly, but travel increased overall and ran ahead of overall inflation.

Australians aged over 65 led the charge, with cruise the fastest growing subcategory, followed by online travel bookings which were up 34%; direct reservations with commercial airlines, up 6%; and bookings recorded via travel agencies rising 2%.



Other wider insights from the report indicated spending by Australians in regional areas significantly outpaced city-dwellers who are increasingly facing housing cost stresses.

There was also a sharp divide in spending across age groups, with those under 40 shelling out less in the Sep quarter, versus older Australians who continued to increase their purchases.

Those over 65 increased spending on travel, up 17%, and eating out, up 11% - see the full report by **CLICKING HERE**. *BP*

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise news plus a full page from **Riviera Travel River Cruises**.

Riviera turns 40

RIVIERA Travel River Cruises is turning 40, and to celebrate, it is showering everyone with birthday presents.

The cruise line's gifts to its guests include \$1,000 off any 2024 or 2025 river cruise of seven nights, and a \$1,500 saving on any 2024 or 2025 river cruise of 10-14 nights.

Travel advisors are not being left out either, with those who sell four Riviera Travel River Cruises to receive a free river cruise for themselves.

For more information, contact Travel The World on 1300 857 437 - further details on the **back page** of today's *Cruise Weekly*.

Regent
SEVEN SEAS CRUISES™
AN UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE™

THE GIFT OF TRAVEL

UP TO 50% SAVINGS
ON SELECT VOYAGES *plus*
US\$500 SHIPBOARD CREDIT*
BLACK FRIDAY BONUS

Invite your clients to discover a rich kaleidoscope of landscapes, cultures and flavours with up to **50% SAVINGS** on select voyages across the globe in 2024-2025. They'll also enjoy a **Black Friday Bonus** of **US\$500 Shipboard Credit per suite** when they book by 30 November 2023.

DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL **1300 455 200 (AU)** OR **0800 625 692 (NZ)**

*Terms and Conditions apply, visit [RSSC.com/gift-of-travel](https://rssc.com/gift-of-travel). ©2023 Regent Seven Seas Cruises. NCL Australia Pty Ltd ABN 8060 7578 781.

Marina upgrade

OCEANIA Cruises today revealed its 1,250 passenger *Marina* will undergo a major makeover in May 2024.

The upgrade will include the addition of three new dining options: the Aquamar Kitchen which recently debuted aboard *Oceania Vista*, as well as an expanded poolside ice-cream parlour and a new al fresco Italian trattoria created nightly as a transformation of the ship's Waves Grill.

The makeover will also refresh staterooms and public areas, with *Marina* the last of Oceania's current seven-strong fleet to be refurbished.

The refreshed ship will debut on 18 May, with Oceania chief Frank A. Del Rio saying the expansion of *Marina's* culinary options continued the line's reputation for The Finest Cuisine at Sea.

Azamara partners with Nat Geo

AZAMARA has announced an expansion of its shore-based offering via a new agreement with National Geographic in partnership with Intercruises Shoreside & Port Services.

Effective this month, the portfolio initially comprises nine additional National Geographic Day Tours in destinations as diverse as South America, Europe and the United Arab Emirates.

Paul Chapple, Azamara Head of Land Product Development and Operations, said Azamara guests are "constantly seeking new ways to explore different cultures and destinations through educational and immersive travel".

"Intercruises' trusted service and reliability, paired with National Geographic's legacy and global expertise, helps us provide our guests with exclusive access to hands-on cultural experiences, adventures steeped in expertise,



and meaningful explorations," Chapple (pictured) said.

Highlights of the new tours include a coral reef ecosystem restoration trip in Cozumel, Mexico; a hands-on cooking class in the Dominican republic led by a local chef; and first-hand stories from immigrants and refugees in the Netherlands.

Intercruises Business Development Director, Virginia Quinteiros, said after years of working with Azamara the ground

handler understands the line's high expectations for quality, cultural authenticity and local immersion for its shore programs.

"National Geographic Day Tours are truly unique and original experiences, arguably bringing guests closer to the destination than ever before, and we are now excited to start operating them with Azamara," she said.

The new excursions are on offer effective from this month, and feature small groups led by National Geographic-trained guides who are subject matter experts in their fields.

Intercruises said the trips focus on culture, history, nature, adventure, gastronomy, photography and conservation, blending "exclusive access and hands-on experiences with opportunities to forge human connections with the people we meet all around the world". *BP*



Brilliant
For You

INAUGURAL

SEASON RATES

NEW RATE DROP
**Starting from A\$149
per Sailor per night**

BOOK YOUR SAILORS

Travel Associates agents board Viking

TRAVEL Associates advisors recently experienced the Mediterranean “The Viking Way” on an eight-day ocean cruise from Ravenna to Athens.

Top-performing agents from across Australia won a Deluxe Veranda stateroom on the eight-day journey which took place on board *Viking Venus*.

The itinerary started in Venice before crossing the Adriatic to Split, Dubrovnik and Kotor.

Continuing to Greece, the group voyaged to Corfu and Olympia before disembarking in Athens.

A spokesperson for the cruise line said the first-hand experience of its ocean product “will shape these top-selling travel advisors into top Viking storytellers and life-long Viking advocates”.

Pictured under the stars on the *Viking Venus*’ Aquavit Terrace are, back row from left: Roland Kautzky, Travel Associates at



Home; Simon Treloar, Viking; Daniel Rottenberg; Shaun Kavanagh, Viking; and Malcolm Hyslop, Wye & James Travel Associates.

Front row: Tracey Fros, Travel Associates Hobart; Anne Fros; Tammy Houston, Houston & Turner Travel Associates; Cat



Williams; and Amanda Hyslop, Travel Associates Shellharbour.

Inset some of the group are pictured hiking up Kotor’s Old Town city walls in Montenegro. *BP*

Zero tolerance on Carnival Cruises

A PASSENGER boarding *Carnival Horizon* in Miami during Aug has been banned for life after security staff found a pack of CBD “gummies” in her luggage.

The cannabis-based item is banned from Carnival ships, with the line’s website confirming that “while certain CBD products used for medicinal purposes may be legal in the US, they are not legal in all the ports we visit and therefore are also considered prohibited items”.

The traveller was initially flagged because an x-ray found metal nail clippers in her bag.

The cruise line has offered to refund her fare as well as the cost of booked excursions, with the passenger’s attorney seeking compensation and for the life ban to be lifted.

WE’RE TURNING BLACK FRIDAY, GREEN

Choose the leaders
in sustainable
adventure travel

 **HURTIGRUTEN
EXPEDITIONS**

Up to
50% OFF*

this Green Friday across
Antarctica, Galapagos,
South America and more



Don’t miss out. Book now at
agentportal.hurtigruten.com
or call 1300 322 062

*Terms and conditions apply. See website for full details.

Green Friday is a movement that raises awareness of the environmental and social impacts of consumerism. As the recent winner of NTIA’s 2023 Sustainability Award, your clients can make the conscious choice this year by choosing an unforgettable, sustainable travel experience.

Help Travel Advisors
discover your product

Travel Daily Training Academy

[CLICK HERE FOR AN INFO PACK](#)

Travel Daily

Pandaw Laos video



PANDAW Cruises has released a video ([CLICK HERE](#)) showcasing its 10-night Laos upper Mekong expedition.

The itinerary cruises the river between Pak Lay and Chiang Khong, with land content in Chiang Mai and Chaing Rai in Thailand and a long-tail boat add-on to Vientiane.

Highlights include the Pak Ou Caves, Luang Prabang, the Kuang Si Waterfall and Xayabouri Dam.

Limited last-minute dates remain for the current season, with future departures through to 2025 selling fast.

Coral names new Sales Manager ANZ

CORAL Expeditions has promoted Gaby Percy to become its Sales Manager for Australia and New Zealand, with the “young achiever” taking the leadership role after 12 months at the cruise line.

Based in Coral’s Cairns head office, Percy (**pictured**) has “established strong relationships with key partners, led new campaign initiatives, and delivered cross-organisational projects with an important level of collaboration, passion for our product and expertise,” according to Coral’s Commercial Director, Jeff Gillies.

“We are delighted to see Gaby grow within the business and look forward to her success in the future,” he said.

“Her contribution over the past year has been well recognised by the industry and her peers, and we have full confidence in her



ability to lead our domestic sales team...we congratulate Gaby on this promotion,” Gillies added.

Percy’s appointment follows the recent departure from Coral of Jarrod Zurvas, who became Coral’s Sales and Distribution Manager Asia Pacific in May this year but left last month (**CW** 13 Oct) to join the revamped Captain Cook Cruises Fiji operation as it takes delivery of APT’s former

Caledonian Sky.

Percy recently graduated from the ATEC Elite program operated by the Australian Tourism Expert Council, and is Chair of the Young ATEC committee for North Queensland, Gillies noted.

“Gaby Percy’s promotion reflects Coral Expeditions’ commitment to recognising and nurturing talent through all areas of the business,” he said.

Over the last 12 months she’s also successfully undertaken successful business development with new member-based associations nationally, put in place travel agent incentive and famil programs, and established an “effective and informative online resources base for trade”.

Coral Expeditions now has more than 300 full-time staff, and is among Australia’s largest marine operators and seafarer training providers, the company said. *BP*

BOOK NCL DURING BLACK FRIDAY & BE REWARDED

What’s in it for YOU?

DOUBLE YOUR MONEY ON ALL SAILINGS!

Deposit any booking from 16-27 November

GENEROUS COMMISSIONS

Proud to offer some of the best commissions in the cruise industry

NCL CARES

Local Contact Centre, in-region BDMs and Sales Support

What’s in it for YOUR CLIENTS?

Best value at sea with **Free at Sea**

Flexible booking policy with **refundable \$149^{PP} deposits**

Gratuities included in the fare!

BLACK FRIDAY SALE!

\$500 AIRFARE CREDIT
+ UP TO **50% OFF** ON ALL CRUISES*



Norwegian Escape®, Amalfi Coast, Italy

NCL
NORWEGIAN
CRUISE LINE®

PARTNERSFIRST



*Conditions apply. Offers valid until 27 November 2023

BOOK TODAY! 1300 255 200 (AU) | 0800 969 283 (NZ)



PRINCESS Cruises is ramping up the festive cheer, this week announcing a holiday season program of new cocktails, holiday decor, special menus and themed events “to deliver a memorable and joyful experience for all”.

Beverages include a pumpkin spice martini (of course!) as well as a “Jingle” comprising Grey Goose White Peach and Rosemary Vodka, Kahlua, pomegranate spirit, cranberry juice and ginger beer - all garnished with marshmallows!

For those seeking something slightly harder, a new Princess partnership with The Macklowe Whiskey, the “finest luxury American single malt whiskey from creator Julie Macklowe”, will feature in time for all holiday sailings.

A signature Culinary Collection of Holiday Menus created by culinary arts leader Chef Rudi Sodamin includes a five-course Thanksgiving feast, the “meaningful and fun foods of Hanukkah”, delectable Christmas dishes and a New Year’s Gala extravaganza.

And finally festive onboard entertainment includes gingerbread house making, holiday family movie nights, Christmas tree lighting ceremonies including onboard “snow falling machines”, and naturally an Ugly Holiday Sweater Competition.

Queen of the Carnival

MISS Universe Philippines Michelle Dee (pictured) has received this year’s Carnival Cruise Line “Spirit of Carnival” award for embodying the brand’s values of fun, friendship, diversity and inclusion.

President Christine Duffy announced Dee as this year’s award recipient in El Salvador last week, awarded for her work with autism advocacy groups.

“Inspired by her two siblings with autism, Michelle has made autism acceptance, inclusivity and education her mission,” the Carnival Cruise Line chief said.

“We want everyone on our ships to feel welcome, and we were the first and only cruise line to be certified as sensory inclusive.

“I know our 13,000 Filipino crew



members are going to be very excited by her selection.”

Dee is the fourth Miss Universe delegate to receive the “Spirit of Carnival” award, including: Miss Universe Ukraine Viktoria Apanasenko, Miss Universe Bahamas Chantel O’Brian and Miss Universe Dominican Republic Kimberly Jimenez, who is also godmother to Carnival’s *Mardi Gras*. *MS*



Western Australia - the Dream State for Cruise

THE new cruise tourism season has opened in WA with more than 140 cruise visits to our state’s seven active cruise destinations on the horizon.

We welcomed Coral Expeditions’ *Coral Explorer* into Fremantle in October followed by the first big ship of the season, Carnival Australia’s *Coral Princess*, and its 2,000 guests to WA.

There are so many amazing destinations to explore by cruise ship throughout WA which are accessible via destinations including Albany, Broome, Busselton, Dampier, Esperance, Exmouth, Fremantle, Geraldton and Port Hedland.

We look forward to building on the success of the 2022-23 season and continuing to work with industry partners to implement the WA Cruise Tourism Strategic Plan 2023-2033 to further grow the sector.

This year, all big ship cruise guests arriving to Fremantle will receive a warm welcome from City of Fremantle Cruise Volunteers, music by the WA Brass band, as well as a cultural welcome ceremony by local Aboriginal performers.

We will also be focusing on developing and enhancing more shoreside attractions in port destinations, to ensure visitors to our Dream State can enjoy experiences that create those once-in-a-lifetime unforgettable travel memories.

The future for cruise tourism in WA is looking bright, and we look forward to achieving more positive results arising from the upcoming 2023-24 cruise season.

Bon Voyage 2023
Signing off 2023 in style!
Wed 6 Dec ♦ 6pm ♦ Marble Bar, Sydney Hilton

PURCHASE YOUR TICKET HERE

Event sponsors:
Regent SEVEN SEAS CRUISES AN UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE™
CVFR CONSOLIDATION SERVICES
OCEANIA CRUISES YOUR WORLD. YOUR WAY.™



RIVIERA are TURNING 40... and guess what?

We are showering everyone with birthday presents!

Here is our gift to your guests

\$1,000 AUD per person
off any 2024 or 2025 river
cruise of 7 nights*

\$1,500 AUD per person
off any 2024 or 2025 river
cruise of 10-14 nights*

And as a very special thank you, here is our gift to you...

Sell 4 river cruises and get a FREE river cruise for yourself†



TraveltheWorld

Please call Travel the World on **1300 857 437**

or visit **rivieratravel.com.au**

For group enquiries, email us at **groups@traveltheworld.com.au**

*Book by 31 December 2023. Visit rivieratravel.com.au for full T's & C's. †Book by 31 March 2024. Contact Travel the World for further T's & C's.



RIVER CRUISES