



Sun Princess magic

A THEATRICAL cocktail bar named Spellbound by Magic Castle will feature on Princess Cruises' new *Sun Princess*, created in collaboration with Hollywood's Magic Castle private club for magicians.

CLIA charts cruise progress

EVERY year the global cruise shipping fleet becomes more efficient, according to a newly released report from Cruise Line International Association (CLIA).

Titled *Charting the Future of Sustainable Cruise Travel*, the publication (pictured) tracks how CLIA member cruise lines are embracing new technologies, innovations and the uptake of sustainable alternative fuels.

CLIA CEO Kelly Craighead said the last 12 months had seen a number of significant milestones, as operators continued to invest in building a more sustainable future for the sector.

"Although small in size, the cruise industry has a powerful impact in terms of innovation in the sustainability arena," she wrote in the report, highlighting advanced biofuels and new sustainable energy sources such as electric batteries, hydrogen fuel cells, and even wind and solar.

"On ships and on shore, the cruise industry is working to be the best way to travel responsibly," Craighead noted, showcasing cruise line collaboration with destinations, ports and other organisations to embed sustainable practices, such as managing traffic flows, supporting community initiatives and educating cruise passengers to be culturally sensitive and more environmentally aware.

The report notes the strong accessibility of cruise holidays, including to people who would



otherwise not be able to travel due to physical, neuro, sensory or other challenges, making the sector a key part of many travellers' lives.

"The same can be said for the effect of the industry on livelihoods in local coastal communities and on national economies, and on crew."

Significant collective progress is being made towards ambitious sustainability goals, with the CEO of every CLIA ocean-going cruise line annually certifying each company's implementation of overall CLIA policies, which are also subject to third party audits.

The full report is available online at www.cruising.org. BP

Cruise Weekly today

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

Norway hits high

THERE were a whopping 410 cruise ship calls in Norway during Sep, a record for the month and an increase of over 70% on pre-COVID levels, according to the country's Coastal Administration service.

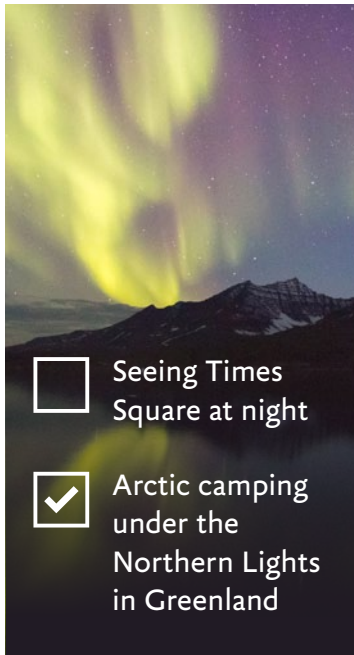


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Explora I New York naming



EXPLORA Journeys has celebrated the official naming of its *Explora I* at New York's Manhattan Cruise Terminal.

Godmother Sylvia Earle, the renowned marine biologist and oceanographer, cut a ribbon which smashed a bottle of Champagne on the ship's bow, with the event attended by key trade partners and senior representatives of Explora's parent company MSC Group.

According to Pierfrancesco Vago, MSC Group Cruise Division Executive Chairman, "in the world of luxury travel, *Explora I* is a game-changer".

"We are offering journeys that redefine the very essence of luxurious ocean travel," he said.

The MSC chief said Explora Journeys was looking to attract "a wider group of discerning travellers who have experienced the finest luxury land-based resorts, but seek more value,

more authenticity, and a deeper connection to the world".

"With a further five ships joining the fleet in the next five years, we are committed to delivering the same unique experience on board, wherever you are in the world," he added.

Sylvia Earle is the founder and Chairman of environmental group Mission Blue, and said she looked forward to a meaningful ongoing relationship with Explora Journeys and the MSC Foundation "towards making a very positive contribution to protect and restore the world's seas & oceans".

Explora I has 12 bars, 461 suites, penthouses and residences, six restaurants, four swimming pools and extensive wellness facilities.

Pictured at the naming event are, from left: *Explora I* Captain Diego Michelozzi; Dr Sylvia Earle; Pierfrancesco Vago; Explora CEO Michael Ungerer; and MSC Foundation chief Daniela Picco. *BP*

The Chat with Jenny Travel Daily

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Devonport pier

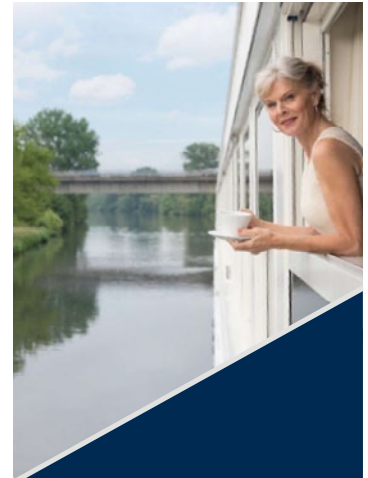
A \$240 million expansion of the wharf at Tasmania's Devonport will provide more capacity for cruise ships to visit the destination, as well as help accommodate new *Spirit of Tasmania* Bass Strait ferries from next year.

The project involves the installation of a new multi-use berth to allow for larger ships and potential docking of boutique-style ships, as well as an expansion of the port's cargo capacity.

The new purpose-built *Spirit of Tasmania IV* and *V* will operate between Geelong and Devonport with capacity for up to 1,800 passengers and 4,098 vehicle lane metres.

Ambassador app

AMBASSADOR Cruise Line has launched a new mobile app allowing guests to check in for sailings and pre-register for shore excursions, as well as explore onboard cuisine and entertainment.



Pandaw combos

PANDAW has released new Sep 2024 and Mar 2025 dates for its 21-night Ha Long Bay, Red River and Laos Mekong combination cruise.

The package includes flights, hotel & transfers between Pandaw's two 10-night expeditions in Vietnam and Laos, with the company saying it's the perfect itinerary for clients seeking to explore the region in depth.

Demand for the combos is expected to be strong, with the product priced from \$15,498 per person twin share - more details at pandaw.com.

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More Eastern Med itinerary rejigs

MSC Cruises has revised its Eastern Mediterranean sailings for *MSC Sinfonia* and *MSC Musica* in light of the evolving geopolitical situation in Israel.

Upcoming *Sinfonia* voyages will see Haifa replaced by Istanbul, meaning Rhodes will also be replaced by Piraeus in Greece, and Limassol, Cyprus will switch to Izmir, Turkey.

MSC Musica's upcoming three week-long Piraeus departures will see Haifa replaced with Rhodes on 18 and 25 Oct, and Marmaris in Turkey on 01 Nov.

MSC CEO Gianni Onorato said "the safety of our passengers and crew is always our top priority and we have worked rapidly to revise the itineraries of *MSC Sinfonia* and *MSC Musica* to offer an extremely attractive alternative for the winter months".

MEANWHILE Celestyal Cruises has also temporarily removed Israel from its Three Continents Cruise itinerary until the end of Nov, and is monitoring the situation for cruises departing from Dec.

YOU'D think a sponsorship deal between Carnival Cruise Line and US football team the New York Jets might involve renaming the side as the New York Ships - but apparently not.

The team is so-called because of the proximity of its home ground to La Guardia Airport, and there are no plans for it to change despite the multi-year partnership deal.

Carnival Venezia homeports from the Manhattan Cruise Terminal, and so the cruise line is keen to build its presence in the key New York market.

The deal will see Carnival signage in the Jets stadium, social media activations and a fan sweepstakes later in the season offering the opportunity to win a cruise.

Carnival actively targets the NFL fan market, with onboard "sailgate" parties and big game screenings at the fleet's Carnival Seaside Theaters.

Carnival getting creepy



SYDNEY Zoo will feature Carnival Cruise Line's famous Fangelica (**pictured**) as part of an upcoming Halloween Spooktacular weekend taking place 27-29 Oct.

Carnival's resident redback - measuring 5m high and almost 10m wide - will crawl ashore for the event as part of the line's major partnership with the zoo in Eastern Creek.

Fangelica will watch over the zoo's Kidzone to provide a "picture-perfect opportunity for the most fang-tastic Halloween snapshot," Carnival said.

Costa Sth America

COSTA Cruises has announced the deployment of three ships in South America in 2024/25 with the *Costa Favolosa*, *Costa Diadema* and the *Costa Pacifica* to all operate there.

Diadema and *Favolosa* will offer itineraries sailing between Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, while *Pacific* will cruise from Brazil offering three- to eight-night domestic itineraries, with bookings for the season now open.



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