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Tuesday 31st Oct 2023

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a front cover from **CLIA** and full pages from:

- Windstar
- Helloworld

Join CLIA in 2024

ADVISORS can earn bonus commission and rewards on eligible new cruise bookings through the 2024 CLIA Travel Agent Rewards Program - see the **cover page** for details.

Helloworld recruits

OPPORTUNITIES have opened up at Helloworld, with the company currently looking for a Head of Cruise and Land Product and an Operations Manager - Cruise.

Find out more on **page three**.

Edge to return in 2025/6

EXCLUSIVE

CELEBRITY Cruises is already plotting a third Australasian season for its *Celebrity Edge*, which will make her Down Under debut in early Dec this year.

Port schedules for Sydney and Melbourne now indicate the Celebrity flagship will come back in both 24/25 and 25/26.

In fact she will only have a six-month absence, with the upcoming season finishing in mid-Apr next year and then *Edge* scheduled to return on 22 Oct.

The 2024/25 season will run through until 20 Apr 2025, and then the ship will once again come back on 21 Oct that year, sailing locally until 20 Apr 2026.

Excitement is already at fever pitch for the ship's inaugural arrival on 09 Dec, with industry partners from both sides of the Tasman set to enjoy the *Celebrity Edge* experience via ship

inspections and a preview cruise.

At this stage the 2025/26 Australia/NZ *Celebrity Edge* season has not opened for sale.

MEANWHILE Virgin Voyages will also return for a third Australia/NZ season in 2025/26, with the port schedules indicating the local deployment of *Valiant Lady*, in place of *Resilient Lady*, which is currently en route to Sydney on a 44-day repositioning voyage.

Last month Virgin announced a second *Resilient Lady* season for ANZ (**CW 08 Sep**), with *Valiant Lady* a one-year-older sister ship to the brand new *Resilient Lady*.

Other local potential 2025/26 cruise ship arrivals on the port schedules include *Oceania Vista*, Silversea Cruises' *Silver Moon* and another unnamed vessel; *Disney Wonder* in her third local season; and Viking Cruises' *Viking Sky*, *Viking Orion* and a third, as-yet unspecified Viking ocean ship. **BP**

Regent's Grandeur art collection

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises' new *Grandeur* will feature a multimillion dollar onboard art collection, including several Picassos and the world's first and only Faberge Egg to reside permanently at sea.

Guests will be able to explore the inspiring collection via a new digital art tour available via the Regent App which will also be launched next month on *Seven Seas Grandeur*.

Pieces also include a custom-made Bonsai Cherry Tree sculpture in bronze and hand-cast glass which creates an "experiential opening" to the Pacific Rim restaurant, and a 9m-tall handwoven tapestry by Brazilian artist Walter Goldfarb.

The app will also allow guests to review onboard programs as well as shore excursions, restaurant menus and more.

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SOME Sunshine Coast beachgoers have been met with unusual sights and smells over the past week, resulting from a strange phenomenon which has swept over the region's coastlines.

Instead of the usual blue, shades of pink, purple, brown and green are colouring the water in some areas.

While it may look pretty, the smells that come along with it certainly aren't, with many beach visitors reporting "rotting fish" smells.

The pungent odours, along with the bright colours, are a result of annual *Trichodesmium* algae blooms.

The blue-green algae, also known as Sea Sawdust, blooms during the warmer months and changes colour as it starts to break down in the water.

After the vibrant display, which is most likely to occur in calm waters, the algae blooms then turn black and get washed up onto the shores.

Apparently the algae isn't dangerous to humans or pets, but it could cause irritation - perhaps it's best just to take pictures from afar!



Explore the Whitsundays



EXPLORE Group has brought its new Whitsunday small ship cruises to Hamilton Island, offering a third departure point for the experience in addition to Coral Sea Marina and Airlie Beach (**CW** 23 Mar).

Guests can now connect through both Whitsunday Coast Airport (Proserpine) or Hamilton Island Airport, to board the purpose-built vessel *Whitsunday Explorer* for a two-night cruise through the Whitsunday Islands.

The experience includes day tours of iconic locations such as Whitehaven Beach, Hill Inlet Lookout and Nara Inlet, with a highspeed RIB transfer vessel *Island Adventurer* onboard providing comfortable transfers for these land excursions.

The 45-metre vessel offers 30 oceanfront, private ensuite rooms and expansive shared spaces, including a roof deck offering 360° degree views, air-conditioned sea view restaurant with servery and bar adjacent to the rear sun deck.

There is also a rear swim platform, giving guests easy access

to the warm Whitsunday waters for activities like swimming, snorkelling and kayaking.

"We are excited to announce the connection from Hamilton Island, having operated from the island for a long time; this provides visitors with options to extend their stay in the region at either location," Explore Managing Director William Goodfellow said.

"Our team has invested countless hours to craft a truly unique Whitsundays experience and there is nothing quite like this resort style cruise currently available," he added.

"This inclusive package offers visitors and locals the chance to discover the beauty of the Whitsundays with ease, and with the exceptional Explore hospitality we are known for."

The two-night cruises will operate from 17 Nov, and are normally priced from \$1,499 per person, however Explore is offering a special launch price starting from \$999 for bookings made by 30 Nov.

See more in yesterday's **Travel Daily**, as well as **HERE**. *JM*

P&O adds Starlink

P&O Cruises is rolling out high-speed Starlink low earth orbit satellite connectivity across its Australasian fleet.

The installation is already complete aboard *Pacific Adventure* and *Pacific Encounter*, with the new tech set to also be in place on *Pacific Explorer* next month.

The move means a faster and more reliable internet connection even when the ships are far out to sea, and will also help crew stay in touch with loved ones while enhancing communication between ship and shore teams.

Guests can purchase access either on board or pre-departure via the Cruise Control platform, leading in at \$12 per person per day for messaging/chat/social media through to \$23 per day for a premium package including video streaming & voice calls.

Pre-purchased plans must be bought for the duration of the cruise, and can only be used on one device at a time.

AIDAsol sails world

AIDA Cruises has commenced its fifth voyage around the world, with *AIDAsol* setting sail from Hamburg last Fri with around 2,000 guests on board.

The ship will call into 42 ports in 20 countries during its 117-day voyage, visiting iconic destinations such as Cape Verde and Tierra del Fuego, Tahiti and Fiji, Mauritius and Southern Africa, before returning to the Hanseatic city on 21 Feb.

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NEW FOR WINTER 2025-2026

- 55-day Grand Caribbean sailing aboard *Wind Surf* calling on 38 ports in 28 islands
- 5-day Barefoot Break in the British Virgin Islands, a short sampler of the best yachting islands
- Getaways all winter long to the otherworldly Canary Islands
- Tahiti & Moorea Foodie Cruise Tour to taste local cuisine and find the freshest fruit stands
- 11- to 16-day Middle East Cruise Tours from Dubai, Muscat, and Aqaba, including Signature Cruise Tours with inland tours before and after the cruise.

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For Windstar's new 2025-2026 Latin, Caribbean, Canary Islands, Trans Ocean, Tahiti & Middle East opening deployments, Windstar is offering a US\$200 shipboard credit per stateroom* and a free upgrade to our All-Inclusive pack-age (valued at AU\$137 per guest per day). * All fares mentioned are per person, in AU dollars, cruise only, based on double occupancy in lowest category, and include non-discountable amounts. Single and Triple guests in a stateroom or suite are also eligible for this promotion, the shipboard credit will be awarded at US\$100 per guest. All-inclusive package includes Wi-Fi, and all beer, wine, cocktails, and gratuities. Taxes, Fees, and Port Expenses are included. Offer is valid on new bookings only and subject to availability. Consult your specialist for promotional offer or discount combinability. This offer is not combinable with Star Groups. Bookings are non-transferable; no name changes can be made, nor can this offer be applied retroactively. Shipboard credits are valid on the applicable purchased sailing only and are non-refundable with no cash value. Cancellation fees may apply; please see website for details. Fuel surcharges may be imposed or increased over time. Offer is capacity controlled and may be withdrawn or modified at Windstar's discretion at any time. Information contained herein is accurate at time of publication and subject to change without notice. All terms and conditions stated on the Windstar website apply. Cruises are provided subject to the terms and conditions of the Passage Contract. Offer is valid for reservations booked between August 15 and November 6, 2023. Ships' registry: Bahamas. 22-1882/9.4.23



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OPERATIONS MANAGER - CRUISE (SYD)

The Operations Manager plays a pivotal role in achieving organisational goals, enhancing productivity, and delivering exceptional service to customers and stakeholders while providing strategic leadership and direction to ensure efficiency and effective outcomes. This critical role is responsible for overseeing and optimizing operational processes, systems, and teams.

We are looking for a leader with a ‘can do’ attitude, possessing prior experience in managing and developing high performing teams while being solution driven and be able to show a strong history in working collaboratively with other teams to improve processes and problem solve.

You are someone with 2+ years’ experience in a relevant role, have high attention to detail in addition to a thorough understanding of each cruise line and their booking processes.

If you can bring a dose of ‘vitamin sea’ to either of these roles, apply now before you miss the boat!

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