



CRUISE

WEEKLY

delivered daily!



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Wednesday 21st Feb 2024

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, including a photo page from **P&O Cruises Australia**.

Heritage's first wave

HERITAGE Expeditions has released the "first wave" of its 2025-26 season, with a 20% early bird discount and an industry first.

The cruise line is offering the discount on the first nine voyages of the season when booked by 29 Apr, exploring destinations such as the Kimberley, Japan, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

Heritage is also claiming an industry first, with a visit to Polillo Island in the northeastern Philippines on its Asian Odyssey voyage, which cruises from Taipei to Darwin - **CLICK HERE** for more info.

Cunard to return to Australia in 2026

CUNARD Line has launched new voyages cruising from Sep 2025 to Jan 2027, confirming visits to Australia for both its flagship *Queen Mary 2* (pictured) and its new vessel *Queen Anne*.

The new program includes more than 300 new cruises, with *Queen Mary 2* to sail a World Voyage in 2026 which will visit Sydney, Brisbane, and Darwin.

Queen Mary 2 will also transit the Panama Canal for the first time ever in 2026.

Meanwhile, *Queen Anne* will sail a World Voyage, simultaneously with *Queen Mary 2*, which will visit Darwin, the Whitsunday Islands, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth.

Guests can also book segments of *Queen Anne's* World Voyage departing from or ending in the New South Wales capital.

The announcement confirms Cunard's promise to continue to visit Australia with its ships from



2025, from when the cruise line will no longer home port a vessel Down Under (**CW** 29 Nov 2023).

"We are incredibly excited to have both *Queen Anne* and *Queen Mary 2* offer full World Voyages in 2026," President Katie McAlister said.

"We are so thrilled that our guests will, for the first time ever, have the opportunity to transit the Panama Canal on *Queen*

Mary 2."

The new program includes 184 destinations around the globe, including 70 countries and 108 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

It also incorporates 37 overnight port calls, 66 late evening departures, and five maiden calls for Cunard: Kona, Roatan, Dakar, Miami, and Molde.

The new sailings launch to the general public on 08 Mar. *MS*

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Wed 21st February 2024

P&O'S Top 10 Agents for 2023 and their partners embarked on a celebratory journey aboard the *Pacific Encounter* for a four-night Whitsundays cruise, hosted by P&O sales team members Angus Mackay, Erin King, and Dylan McKechnie.

Alex Pikardt, Head of Sales for P&O Cruises remarked "in 2023, our top 10 travel agents collectively drove an impressive over \$3 million dollars in business, showcasing their exceptional skill and dedication".

"Representing key markets including Queensland, New South Wales, New Zealand, and South Australia - their success underscores the importance of our partnership with travel agents across Australia and New Zealand.

"What's even more impressive is that half of these winners are repeat champions, a testament to their continual excellence."

The Top 10 agents for 2023 were: Mark Smith, Lets Cruise Ltd; Judy Paulsen, Hoot Cruises NZ; Kristy Carlson, Cruiseaway; Leanne Russell, Cruise Holidays; Benice Parkinson, Clean Cruising; Sheng Chen, Loving Travel; Barry Warner, Planetdwellers; Robyn Shields, I Love Cruising; Jenny Thomson, Travel at 60; and Kristy-Ann Corner, Spark Travel.



P&O'S Angus Mackay, Dylan McKechnie & Erin King.



LEANNE Russell, Cruise Holidays and Howard Russell.

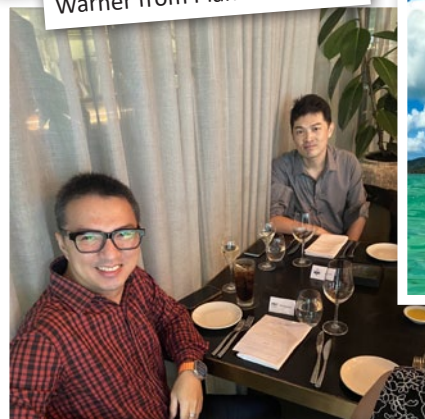
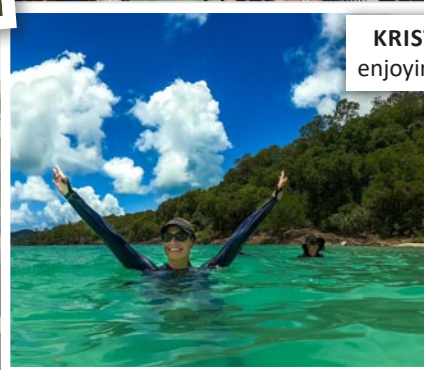
JENNY Thomson, Travel at 60, with Lorraine Thomson.



CHRIS Rich, P&O and Barry Warner from Planetdwellers.



KRISTY Carlson, Cruiseaway enjoying a splash.



LOVING Travel's Minh Cuong Duong and Sheng Chen.



MARK Smith from Lets Cruise Ltd getting his feet wet.



P&O'S sales force.



FLASH SALE

UNI WORLD
BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES

2 FOR 1 FARES
New dates added!

VIEW OFFER

AIDA set for fleet refurb



AIDA Cruises' ships are set to be thoroughly modernised, in the most extensive fleet update in the line's history.

The focus will be on creating a "unique guest experience", with new interior designs and services for AIDA's Sphinx series ships as part of the program's first phase.

AIDAdiva (pictured) will be the first ship to be modernised during her six-week dry dock next year.

Following her will be **AIDAbella** and **AIDAluna**, which will be modernised in 2025 and 2026.

Interior investments will be complemented by expenditure on sustainability and technical equipment and systems.

All staterooms will be completely redecorated, and the number of suites aboard each ship will be increased.

Guests can also look forward to an even greater variety of restaurants and bars, and enhanced services.

The heart of the Sphinx ships,

the Theatrium, will be enhanced with inviting seating and harmonious colours.

There will also be new activity areas for families and children.

Future-proofing and sustainability measures will include reducing fuel consumption, increasing energy efficiency and further conserving resources, as part of Carnival Corporation's goal to reduce its carbon intensity by 20% by 2026 compared to 2019. **MS**

Viking weekly deal

VIKING'S deal of the week is its Iceland, British Isles & Iberia 15-day cruise from Reykjavik to Barcelona.

The voyage is priced from \$10,495, with passengers able to receive up to \$3,000 flight credit per couple on 2025 and 2026 ocean voyages if booked before 28 Mar - **CLICK HERE**.



RESORTS World Cruises (RWC) has collaborated with Flying Pigeon Bicycles for the first Bicycle Exhibition at Sea on board *Genting Dream*.

Guests will have the chance to discover and admire a wide range of Flying Pigeon's classical and latest bicycles, including the 'National Treasure Series', which will be showcased on *Dream* for sailings departing from Singapore on 18, 21, 23 and 25 Feb.

"This collaboration will provide our guests with a rare sneak peek into the world of bicycles by one of China's leading manufacturers, which will truly be unique and interesting," RWC President Michael Goh said.

Scenic savings

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has announced new solo traveller offers for the Kimberley, New Zealand, Antarctica, and the Arctic, and the Mediterranean, with pax able to save up to 100% off the single supplement.

Passengers can save on itineraries such as the 'Discover the Kimberley Coastline' cruise, the 'Arctic Circle & Northern Europe Discovery: Norway & Iceland' voyage, and the 'Uncover Greenland & Canada' sailing.



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Be a master among agents

CLIA'S Masters Program is back, giving travel agents a chance to boost their business skills and take their education to the highest level.

For six weeks beginning next month, the Masters Program will help CLIA travel agents develop new credentials and move beyond day-to-day selling.

They will learn how to pursue new revenue streams, create a unique brand differentiation, and forge a unique position in a competitive retail landscape.

At a time when CLIA is putting even more emphasis on education, Masters is our pinnacle initiative - it gives consultants a significant advantage as cruise specialists while ensuring they stand out as holders of CLIA's highest certification level.

Fewer than 2% of travel agents are Masters, so it's an elite club.

The course is open to any CLIA member who has attained Ambassador status, and can be completed online.

I firmly believe Australia's most educated agents are also the most successful, and this is supported by cruise line feedback which says CLIA-certified travel agents earn more commission than their peers.

[Register online](#) to join the Masters Program or visit the CLIA Members Hub for more.

