

cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Wednesday 10th Jan 2024

#### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise news.

### Aroya President

**CRUISE** Saudi has appointed Aroya Cruises' first-ever President, Joerg Rudolph.

The Costa Cruises Managing **Director Germany will** bring with him 20 years of experience in the global cruise sector, which also includes senior roles with TUI Cruises, AIDA Cruises, Carnival Corporation, and Royal Caribbean International.

Rudolph will be responsible for delivering Aroya to the market, including overseeing the cruise line's operations and financials, sales, marketing, guest experience, itinerary planning, revenue management, customer services, and more.

NINE new ships will be promoted in a Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) online showcase for travel advisors next month.

Some of the most anticipated new ships of the year will be introduced to travel advisors in the 2024 Ocean Debut Virtual Showcase, which will run from 05 to 08 Feb.

The presentation will see live online sessions presented by eight leading CLIA cruise lines outlining the essential facts and features of their ships.

New ships to be profiled include Royal Caribbean International's Icon of the Seas (pictured) and Utopia of the Seas, Disney Cruise Line's Disney Treasure, Explora Journeys' Explora II, Princess Cruises' Sun Princess, Ponant's Paspaley Pearl, Virgin Voyages' Brilliant Lady, Silversea Cruises' Silver Ray, and Cunard Line's



Queen Anne.

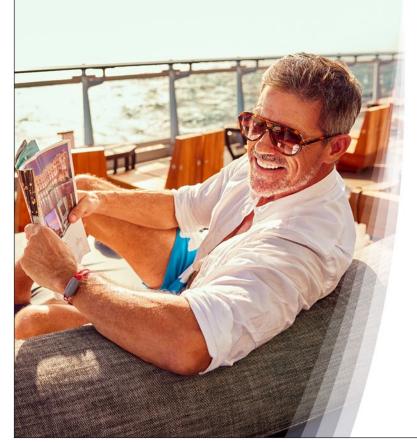
The sessions will cover elements like dining options, entertainment, accommodation styles, public spaces, unique features and designs, and what type of experience guests can expect when they step on board. The showcase is available

exclusively to CLIA member travel

advisors, who can register online for each of the sessions via the Association's Members Hub.

Participants will earn CLIA points and have a chance to win prize packs by tuning in live, collecting a code word, and completing a quiz.

For more information, CLICK HERE. MS





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CLIA

with Joel Katz MD, CLIA Australasia

Another big year of cruise

HAPPY new year, and a big year

Australia is likely to experience

of cruising it will be.

than ever before.

for cruisina.

world fleet.

your support.

grow.

one of its busiest years for

Cruise lines have made

passion Australians have

cruising, with more local ships, more sailings and more cabins

significant capacity increases in

and this is a reflection of the huge

The year ahead will also bring a

succession of new ships into the

Having launched 13 new ocean

cruise ships in 2023, CLIA cruise

lines are preparing to welcome

huge diversity of cruising styles

a further nine over the year

ahead, each illustrating the

available to today's traveller.

Our travel agent members

have been a huge part of the

success cruising is now enjoying worldwide, and we're grateful for

To help back our members in

busy year of events and education

If you haven't already renewed

your CLIA membership for 2024,

do so now, and if you'd like to be a

part of the CLIA community, visit

CLIA to find out more about how

you can get involved.

their cruise sales, CLIA plans a

opportunities to ensure travel

agents continue to thrive and

their local 2024 deployments,

UPDATE

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WHO are you sharing the ocean with when you're on a cruise ship?

New mapping techniques have found the ocean is filled with "dark vessels", with researchers exposing an enormous quantity of previously untracked human activity at sea.

Researchers have found, using a combination of satellite imagery, vessel GPS data, and AI, more than three-quarters of the world's industrial fishing vessels aren't being tracked.

Almost a third of transport and energy vessel activity has also been found missing from public tracking systems.

Most of this activity is located in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa.

## Antarctic lounge

**TOUR** operator Antarctica21 has opened a private club for fly-and-sail expedition guests.

The new Explorers House, located in the centre of Punta Arenas, is a first-of-its-kind facility for guests preparing to fly to Antarctica.

Amenities include a restaurant, a bar, a coffee station, a library, and a presentation space.

There is also a welcome area, a restaurant serving Chilean cuisine, and a lounge space for 250 people.

# Celestyal going year-round



**CELESTYAL** Cruises is set to expand to year-round operations, adding Persian Gulf destinations. in the biggest-ever change to the Piraeus-based brand's operations.

The all-new seven-day Persian Gulf itinerary will launch in Nov, and run from Jan to Mar, marking the first time Celestyal has sailed during the northern winter.

The Desert Days itinerary, cruising aboard Celestyal Journey, will visit four new countries and six new ports of call, sailing round trip from Doha, with calls in Bahrain, Dubai, Khasab, Sir Bani Yas, and Abu Dhabi.

Celestyal will double its winter offering the following season, bringing back its popular Three Continents itinerary, which includes stops in Israel, Egypt, Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus.

These are scheduled to start up again in Nov 2025 and will run through Mar 2026, having previously run during the northern summer, before pausing due to the Israel-Hamas war (CW 24 Nov 2023).

There will also be changes to Celestyal's "core program" next year, with the cruise line to expand its recently introduced Heavenly Adriatic itinerary, which visits Montenegro, Croatia, and Italy from Greece.

"We are finding our sea legs on a more global stage," Celestyal Chief Commercial Officer Lee Haslett said

"We know we do the Greek islands and Mediterranean like no other, but we have heard from our customers that they want more destinations, bigger itineraries, and a chance to discover more with Celestyal.

"The Persian Gulf cruises deliver this, with a homeport in Doha, stops at marguee destinations such as Dubai, Bahrain, and Abu Dhabi, as well as more bespoke gems in Oman and the island of Sir Bani Yas. We are starting the year strong and intend to keep growing and delighting our customers across 2024."

The changes come as Celestyal welcomes two new ships to its fleet (CW 17 Nov 2023), Celestyal Discovery (pictured), formerly AIDAAura; and Celestyal Journey, formerly Aegean Goddess. MS

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Travel Daily

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