







cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Thursday 3rd Oct 2024

#### Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **Disney** Cruise Line.

#### Disney Magic Ahoy

TRAVEL advisors can embark on Magic Ahoy, a virtual voyage with Disney Cruise Line, to learn all about the brand's offerings, and go in the running to win prizes.

Participants will learn all about Disney's rotational dining, onboard entertainment, and more.

There are three levels to complete, after which advisors will go in the draw to win a stateroom for them and a guest on a Disney voyage, which will sail from Sydney.

The competition ends on 18 Nov - see page four of CW for all the details.

## My Cruises' 371-day "game-changer" voyage

YEAR-LONG around-the-world cruises will set sail in 2026, with Mv Cruises exclusively collaborating with Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) to launch 'Explorations by Norwegian' (CW breaking news yesterday).

The 371-day, 220-port package, which will set sail in Sep 2026, will visit all seven continents, and is available to book now.

My Cruises, a subsidiary of FCTG's Ignite Travel Group, has chartered Oceania Cruises' Regatta for the itinerary, with the onboard product to be delivered

The voyage, which travels from Rome to London, can also be split into 24 segments, with passengers able to book as few as seven days on board.

Included in the package are return business class flights to and from Australia, a two-night hotel stay in Rome, an all-inclusive



onboard dining and beverage package, wi-fi, and much more.

Shore excursion credit is also included, which My Cruises has divided into three categories: 'onshore explorations', 'local discovery', and 'active exploration'.

Onshore explorations will incorporate classic tours, such as city sightseeing and highlights, while local discovery will offer a more in-depth view of the destination, vineyard tours, visits to a local monastery, and more.

Active exploration will include walking tours, bike tours, and more uptempo options.

My Cruises General Manager

Michael Middleton described the itinerary as a "game-changer".

"We don't think it's ever been done before - we think it's a world-first," Middleton told CW.

"It has probably been six months in the making."

Those who book for the full 371-day cruise can also 'gift' segments of the voyage to a family member or a friend, if they wish to disembark.

Middleton said the itinerary is already receiving strong interest, despite the limited promotion it has received - CLICK HERE for more information on Explorations by Norwegian. MS

## You are invited



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#### Carnival records

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has reported record-setting results, outperforming its third-quarter guidance.

The company's net income for the period was US\$1.7 billion, an increase of more than 60% compared to 2023, while adjusted net income outperformed Jun guidance by US\$170 million.

The result has prompted Carnival it to raise its full-year guidance for the third time.

Third quarter revenues hit an all-time high of US\$7.9 billion, up US\$1 billion compared to the prior year.

Carnival recorded an operating income of US\$2.2 billion, exceeding last year's levels by US\$554 million.

The company's cumulative advanced booked position for the full year 2025 is above the previous 2024 record with prices ahead of prior year.

"We delivered a phenomenal third quarter, breaking operational records and outperforming across the board," Chief Executive Officer Josh Weinstein said.

"Our strong improvements were led by high-margin, same-ship yield growth, driving a 26% improvement in unit operating income - the highest level we have reached in 15 years."

"Looking forward, the momentum continues as our enhanced commercial execution drives demand well in excess of our capacity growth, leaving us well positioned," he added.

## CCL's biggest Aussie season



**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line (CCL) has revealed its 2026/27 Pacific holiday offerings with its new four-ship fleet.

The season features more than 200 sailings, a 99% increase from 2024/25, as CCL adds two ships from retiring sister brand P&O Cruises Australia (CW 04 Jun).

The addition of the newly named Carnival Adventure and Carnival Encounter will see the cruise line offer an expanded program of year-round sailings from Sydney and Brisbane.

Adventure and Carnival Splendor will sail from Sydney, while Encounter will sail from Brisbane year-round, joined seasonally by Carnival Luminosa.

The itineraries feature popular destinations such as Moreton Island, the South Pacific, and the Great Barrier Reef, as well as New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and more.

CCL has also expanded its

selection of two- to four-night sailings in response to growing demand, with the cruise line to offer 78 short sailings from Sydney and 43 from Brisbane more than double the options available in the 2024/25 season.

The departure of Pacific Explorer from the Carnival Corporation fleet means Melbourne, Perth, and Adelaide will lose their home port season, with no CCL ship to sail from any of the three cities.

Vice President Kara Glamore said CCL is excited to provide a wider selection for Australians.

"As we expand our fleet to four ships, our commitment to Australia has never been stronger," she said.

"In response to market demand, we've increased our short getaway options with twoto four-day sailings, allowing everyone, from first-timers to time-poor travellers, to enjoy unforgettable holidays at sea." MS

#### MSC SEAsational

MSC Cruises is hosting a webinar next week, tailored around its new SEAsational Sale (CW 24 Sep).

The webinar is scheduled for 09 Oct, over two sessions at 8:30am and 12:30pm AEST.

The 20-minute webinar will be followed by a five-minute interactive Q&A session.

**CLICK HERE** to register for the webinar.



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### Discover our River Cruise Special Report

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CRUISE Weekly pondered last week whether Getaway presenter Shaynna Blaze would be a river cruise convert, ahead of her sailing on Emerald Cruises' 15-day 'Splendours of Europe' voyage (CW 27 Sep).

It's fair to say she certainly is, with Blaze writing for 9Travel: "I had never been on a river cruise before and I can tell you I was so impressed".

"Emerald Cruises offers the perfect experience with so many stops along the way to discover and explore, plus loads of time to relax on board," she wrote.

"The suites are designed for the ultimate in guest comfort.

"The sun deck is a great spot to watch the action on the river pass you by."

Blaze, who appears on The Block, also appreciated one of the key benefits of cruising.

"It's such a treat to only have to unpack once!"

## SA shines like a Diamond

THE arrival of Princess Cruises' Diamond Princess has signalled the start of South Australia's 2024-2025 cruise season - the first of 119 ship visits scheduled for the state.

Diamond docked in Adelaide this morning, after visiting Penneshaw, Kangaroo Island, and Port Lincoln earlier this week.

Princess is scheduled to make 17 calls to South Australia this cruise season, which is estimated to be worth more than \$20 million in total economic impact for the state.

More than 20 first-time visits are currently scheduled for South Australia this season, from lines such as such as MSC Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, and Hapag-Lloyd Cruises.

This season will also see the return of expedition cruise ships to Victor Harbor for the first time in nearly 15 years, with Ponant scheduled to set anchor in Dec, before Coral Expeditions arrives

South Australia's cruise season is set to continue until Jun, bringing more than around 241,000 passengers and crew

members to the state's shores.

SA's cruise sector has increased by 48% compared to pre-COVID levels, with the latest data showing the 2022-23 season injected a record \$215 million into the state's economy.

South Australia's Minister for Tourism, Zoe Bettison, said her focus remains on growing the number and range of cruise lines and ships bringing in visitors to the state, despite the challenges being faced by the sector.

"More than 20 maiden cruise ship visits are scheduled this season, which is a direct result of our continued commitment to working with cruise lines to attract new itineraries and vessels for the state where possible.

"We continue to work to ensure South Australia is included in the itineraries of a wide range of global cruise lines.

"Opportunities such as being the host city for the Australian Cruise Association Annual Conference last month, [are] invaluable in further promoting our state as a must-visit destination to leading cruise industry representatives." MS

#### Silversea on land

**SILVERSEA** has announced it will develop the "southernmost hotel on Earth", enhancing its Antarctica expedition experience for passengers.

The 150-room hotel in Puerto Williams will provide travellers with a frictionless journey to Antarctica, allowing guests to enjoy Silversea's service throughout their voyage.

The hotel will be built in partnership with a consortium of Chilean investors, with completion scheduled for the end of next year.

The start of construction was celebrated at a groundbreaking ceremony, which was joined by Chilean government representatives and key stakeholders.

The hotel will be surrounded by forest, and overlook the Beagle Channel, featuring views of the water and snowcapped Patagonian mountains.

Amenities will include an expansive restaurant ideal for group gatherings, a bar and lounge, a fitness centre, and a gift shop.



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# What can you do on a Disney Cruise Line virtual voyage?

Turns out quite a lot...

#### Enjoy fun new activities every day

Whether you have 10 minutes or an hour a day to spare, just log in and take advantage of the snackable stories, visual guides and amazing entertainment that will help you learn everything you need to know about a Disney cruise.

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