



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Thursday 12th Sep 2024

In da (RCI) club

LOCAL Bahamian sustainable building companies ArchVenture Company Ltd and Stantec will design Royal Caribbean International's (RCI) Royal Beach Club Paradise Island in Nassau (**CW** 23 Apr).



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Splendor returns to Aus

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Carnival Splendor* has returned to Australia refreshed with a range of new onboard upgrades, and ready to deliver more of the company's trademark fun.

Splendor now boasts updated dining venues, and various stateroom & amenity refurbishments, following her dry dock in Singapore.

The ship also now features the brand's striking red, white, and blue hull design, and a Southern Cross motif - a signature element of P&O Cruises Australia ships that will soon join the Carnival fleet (**CW** 26 Aug).

New dining options now available on *Splendor* include Mad Sizzle on deck nine, serving kebabs and satays with slow spit-roasted meats.

Popular Indian restaurant Masala Tiger can now be found in a new, larger location on deck 10.

The expanded venue will also serve up a new a la carte dinner offering, in addition to its popular lunch service.

Menus at other dining venues have also been enhanced, including Fahrenheit 555 steakhouse, which now features t-bone steaks and fresh snapper.

Staterooms have been enhanced, with *Splendor's*

Cruise Weekly today

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

balconies receiving full refurbishments, and whirlpool tubs installed in her suites.

There is an updated basketball court, new gym equipment and a refreshed Thalasso therapy pool at Cloud 9 Spa, while *Splendor's* pools, casino, and retail shops have been refreshed.

Families will enjoy a fully refreshed mini-golf course, as well as the revamped Carnival WaterWorks, featuring waterslides and Splashy Cove children's play area for the ultimate aquatic adventure.

The kids' clubs are packed with even more fun activities, as Camp Ocean and Club 02 now boast new video gaming areas.

Also now on board is Carnival's latest production, *Dear Future Husband*, which made its debut in Australia this year.

"From her beautiful new look to her new amenities, dining and entertainment, these upgrades are part of our ongoing investment in Australia and commitment to delivering the best possible experience for Australian cruisers," Vice President Kara Glamore said.

"Carnival is set to be Australia's largest cruise brand from early next year and we're proud to continue to provide new ways to bring more fun to our guests."

Splendor and her fleetmate *Carnival Luminosa* will be joined by two P&O Australia ships from Mar (**CW** 05 Jun). *MS*

More Viking stock

VIKING has announced the launch of its secondary public offering, of 30 million ordinary shares, following on from its IPO in May (**CW** 03 May).

BofA and JP Morgan are underwriting the deal.



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CRUISE WEEKLY

On location in Zhoushan

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you from China courtesy of Viking.

THIS morning we arrived in Zhoushan, a coastal city with a population of over one million.

It's located on a large island in an archipelago comprising more than 3,000 reefs and almost 1,400 islands.

There are two urban districts: Dinghai and Putuo, which is home to Mount Putuo, one of Buddhism's famed four sacred mountains and features scores of temples, statues and caves dedicated to the religion - including the Chaoyin Cave where the sound of the waves is said to resemble chanting.

Shore excursions will take Viking's guests to experience local culture, customs, cuisine and heritage, while some creative passengers will take part in an incense and calligraphy workshop.

This evening an included excursion will feature the local 'Impressions Putuo' performance, a theatrical extravaganza integrating sound, light and dance described as a "visual feast".

Viking is the only cruise line with privileged access to visit this intriguing port on a domestic Chinese itinerary.

Riviera set to dine on Alaska



OCEANIA Cruises will debut its 1,250-passenger ship *Riviera* in Alaska for the 2025 season, with the ship to offer more than a dozen itineraries from May-Sep.

Described as the "only cruise ship in the region designed for foodies, by foodies", *Riviera* will sail 7-12 night itineraries from Seattle, Vancouver and Whittier.

A range of culinary-themed excursions and activities will star for travellers onboard, including a classic Alaskan-style brunch on an island in the Stephens Passage and beer made with glacier water.

Guests can also participate in activities including trap setting to reel in Dungeness crabs, sustainable fishing and a shoreside campfire feast.

A range of major and lesser-known ports will also feature in *Riviera's* season including Homer, Sitka, and Juneau, with guests able to enjoy excursions to native tribe sites and national parks.

Other activities on the schedule

include wildlife encounters, with each sailing to offer an onboard naturalist who will conduct presentations on Alaska's biodiversity and its whale, seal and bear populations. *ML*

Hornblower Chair

FORMER Celebrity Cruises CEO Lisa Lutoff-Perlo has been named the new Chairperson for Hornblower Group.

Effective immediately, Lutoff-Perlo will be tasked with guiding the company's strategic direction and nurturing growth and innovation.

"I am truly honoured to join Hornblower Group at this pivotal time in its journey," Lutoff-Perlo commented.

Hornblower Group recently completed a major financial restructure (*CW* 11 Jul), stemming from the shutting down of the American Queen Voyages brand (*CW* 22 Feb).

CLIA TIME winner

HELLOWORLD Hobart's Stacey Daley has won a six-month TIME mentorship worth \$2,000, given away at the recent Cruise360 conference.

The Travel Corporation's Jemma D'Astoli and Travel Agent Finder's Anna Shannon were present on the day, encouraging travel advisors to invest in their professional development by engaging with the mentorship program.

Ama MINT pact

AMAWATERWAYS has announced a partnership with Mint Payments' travel advisor business-to-business payment solution MintEFT.

The partnership offers AmaWaterways a dedicated, fast, and secure bank transfer solution for payments between travel advisors and their suppliers in Australia.

"We have had numerous requests from travel advisors to launch this partnership and we're thrilled to be able to deliver on that," AmaWaterways Managing Director Steve Richards said.

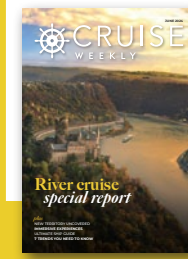
"Partnering with a reputable payment system like MintEFT is exciting for us as we continue to grow our brand in this market, form trusted relationships and empower advisors to do what they do best - sell travel."



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CARNIVAL Cruise Line is supporting a program benefitting local families and the environment in Alaska, donating US\$50,000 to help expand "fuel-switching".

The gift was given aboard *Carnival Miracle* in Juneau, with the cruise line supporting Alaska Carbon Reduction Fund's efforts to provide emission-free heating systems to eligible local residents.

The program directs its revenues, donations and grants toward replacing oil-burning heating systems with efficient and emissions-free air source heat pumps in the homes of lower-income families.

The donation enables the program to expand to more families, utilising hydroelectric power to heat homes without relying on diesel fuel.

This mitigates carbon dioxide emissions and significantly reduces annual heating costs.

CLIA questions Greek fee

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) is questioning the singular focus on cruise for Greece's new passenger fees, recently announced by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

The PM said Greece has "a problem in certain destinations some weeks or some months of the year", announcing a new fee of €20 (AUD\$33) this week which will take effect from next year.

CLIA said a holistic response is required to find solutions to tourism management.

"Cruise calls are planned years in advance, which allows for use of flow management measures.

"Indeed, such measures have already been implemented in coordination with local municipalities in Santorini and Mykonos, including berth management systems," CLIA said.

The Association said any fee should be benchmarked against other port fees in the Mediterranean region, "to ensure the Greek ports remain attractive and competitive".

"Port fees are also regulated by European and national legislation and should align with these

principles," CLIA said.

"Any increase in the existing port fee should be fit-for-purpose, proportionate to the specific port investment needs, and apply across all visitors.

"It should also be introduced with sufficient advance notice... fee revenues should be directly reinvested into port operations to ensure the benefits are felt by the local communities and visitors."

Mitsotakis said the Government of Greece will be "bold" on intervening on the number of ships arriving at a specific destination at the same time.

"It is important to observe sustainability rules in everything that is built from now on, to put the brakes on islands where we believe that the situation has reached a point where the infrastructure limits are actually being tested."

Around 800 cruise ships brought roughly 1.3 million cruise pax to Santorini in 2023, an island of just 15,500 residents, according to the Hellenic Ports Association.

CW reached out to a number of lines that sail in Greece, none of which wished to comment. **MS**

New Pandaw ship

PANDAW is adding a new ship to South India's Kerala backwaters, which will launch in Oct 2025.

The 10-cabin *Kochi Pandaw* has been specially designed for Kerala, while maintaining the much-loved classic Pandaw cabin and wrap-around promenade decks.

This will be Pandaw's fourth ship in India, and reflects the increasing demand for river cruises in India.

Kochi Pandaw will be built in a local shipyard under the supervision of the Pandaw build team.

The line will target the ship to its loyalty guests, combining the route with another Indian river with Pandaw.

The vessel will operate a weekly, eight-day circular itinerary from Kochi port visiting the main towns and more remote areas of the backwaters with its 900 kilometres of waterways that connect rivers with lakes.

The program will feature visits to churches, Hindu temples, villages, and more.

En gladlaks.

'A happy salmon.'

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