



Royal unveils Vanuatu island plan

ROYAL Caribbean International has revealed a deal to create Perfect Day at Lelepa, Vanuatu, alongside creating a series of "Perfect Day" private island experiences.

Speaking to *CW* yesterday in Sydney, Royal Caribbean Cruises Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Richard Fain said Perfect Day at Lelepa, Vanuatu would be tailored to Australians' preferences and provide nature-based experiences.

"They have some really interesting architecture in Vanuatu so we're trying to convey the culture, the heritage and the traditions," he said.

Perfect Day at Lelepa is the second of Royal's "Perfect Day" private island experiences and follows the Perfect Day at CocoCay offering in the Bahamas, which boasts a waterpark with the tallest waterslide in North



Snorkeling off Lelepa ©David Kirland.

America, a helium balloon ride and the largest freshwater pool in the Caribbean.

"This is a very different one, that one is really appealing to Americans, this one is appealing more to Aussies," Fain added.

Fain also hinted that Perfect Day at Lelepa would be the first carbon neutral private cruise destination in the world, suggesting a range of sustainable features would be implemented to safeguard the island's

ecosystems.

He told *Cruise Weekly* the company was working to establish other "Perfect Day" destinations in other parts of the world, which would be announced at a later date.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features six pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **AA Appointments**.



on location on the Volga River

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Viking Cruises, which is hosting a VIP Waterways of the Tsars river cruise from Moscow to St Petersburg.

VIKING Akun is now in central Russia, visiting ports on the Volga River including Uglich and the regional capital of Yaroslavl, as she cruises past picturesque autumn forests and "dacha" country homes.

The mighty Volga traverses the country, providing a vital trading route as well as hydro-electricity generation, and of course, the opportunity for Viking Cruises to showcase Russia to guests from across the globe.



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Christmas cruises



SCENIC has launched The Magical Wonders of Christmas 2020/21 brochure, featuring a selection of cruises with land tours designed to take advantage of the holiday season.

Highlights include excursions

to enjoy the Christmas markets in Banff and Vancouver in Canada during a 15-day Calgary to Victoria itinerary, or in Prague and Paris.

Guests can also celebrate New Year's Eve in Antarctica while on a 12-day trip from Buenos Aires.

Cruise Euro deals

CRUISECO has teamed up with Seabourn to offer a range of luxury fly, cruise and stay holidays in Europe in 2020.

Packages available include a 16-night Athens (Piraeus) cruise which boasts return airfare to Athens and a two-night stay at the King George Palace Athens.

Also on offer is a 19-night Reykjavic to London sailing and a 14-night Monte Carlo to Barcelona cruise.

Bookings made by 20 Nov will receive up to US\$700 ship credit. Call CruiseCO on 1800 550 320.

Scenic 2020 savings

SCENIC is offering 10% discounts on Balcony Suite upgrades for select European departures in 2020 when bookings are made by 15 Nov.

The cruise line is also providing a \$600 discount per couple for bookings paid in full by 31 Oct.

Highlights of the program include a Budapest to Amsterdam itinerary which explores the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers.

More information [HERE](#).

Ocean Victory new details



ALBATROS Expeditions has revealed new features of its *Ocean Victory* vessel.

The ship is part of a new generation of low-energy ships of the highest Ice Class, 1A, Polar Code 6, being built with Safe Return to Port, dynamic positioning and zero speed stabilisers, as revealed at last month's keel-laying ceremony in Nantong, China.

Ocean Victory will also feature X-Bow by Ulstein Design & Solutions, enabling a more stable sailing experience.

She will include 93 large cabins, 68 of which have private observation decks, and nine French balconies.

All suites will feature butler service, a minibar, free laundry, pressing, daily cleaning boots, and canapes served in room, a Julius Meinl Espresso machine and higher-quality room amenities.

"The unique Rolls Royce zero speed stabilisers and the patented X-bow will give our passengers a much smoother, stable and comfortable experience, a great feature if you are crossing the notorious Drake Passage," said Albatros owner Soren Rasmussen.

Other features of *Ocean Victory* include the Observation specialty restaurant on deck 8, which will offer lava stone cooking, and is able to be accessed infinitely by suite guests.

A polar spa was also announced, including treatments such as a "Midnight Sun Massage".

Pictured at the ceremony is Albatros Managing Director Gorm Pedersen; Albatros Travel China General Manager Anders Ellemann Kristensen; Albatros Expeditions Sales Director Steven Dobbins, Soren Rasmussen and Albatros International President Hans Langerweij.



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Brand new dawns

SILVERSEA Cruises has unveiled the details of five new Mediterranean itineraries for the inaugural season for *Silver Dawn*.

The new options form part of the cruise line's latest collection for 2021/22 and includes a nine-night Civitavecchia (Rome) to Venice sailing between 22 Sep and 01 Oct 2021.

The voyage sees overnight calls in Sorrento (Italy), Corfu (Greece), Kotor (Montenegro), Dubrovnik and Split (Croatia), before arriving in Venice.

Further cruises include Venice to Piraeus (Athens), Piraeus to Barcelona, Barcelona to Lisbon, and *Silver Dawn's* first crossing of the Atlantic on its Lisbon to Fort Lauderdale itinerary.

Guests who book by 31 Oct will receive included roundtrip Economy flights (or reduced Business class).

Prices for the new trips lead in at \$7,740pts - call 1300 306 872.

Viking marriages

VIKING Cruises has released six new river and ocean combination cruise departures.

The voyages receiving a boost include the 15-day Rhine & Viking Shores & Fjords, leading in at \$10,490 per person, and the 22-day Grand European & Viking Fjords sailing starting at \$13,890pp.

"They are unique voyages that marry the river and sea in one seamless journey, allowing guests to experience both our award-winning cruise products and explore more of Europe," said Viking Cruises' GM of Marketing Jane Moggridge.

Both itineraries will see guests explore some of Europe's favourite rivers aboard a Viking longship before transferring to one of the line's ocean vessels to discover Scandinavia.



GUESTS aboard Viking Cruises' Russian VIP famil this week were treated to a home visit in the remote town of Uglich, a far cry from the sophistication of the capital Moscow.

Viking's unique shore excursion saw passengers divided into small groups, hosted for a light meal with plenty of locally made "moonshine" by Uglich residents who have endured the rigours of the dissolution of the USSR and the ongoing transformation of the country.

Visitors were also able to purchase authentic locally made souvenirs, including watches which were formerly the

industrial mainstay of the town.

Tomorrow *Viking Akun* will arrive in the regional capital of Yaroslavl, which is one of Russia's oldest provincial cities.

Yaroslavl's centre is a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring spectacular architecture including the Church of Elijah the Prophet, the Church of the Ascension of Christ, and the Church of St John the Baptist.

Pictured from left aboard the ship last night are Ruth Leckey, HOOT Cruises NZ; Keira Smith and Michelle Black, Viking Cruises; and Virtuoso Asia-Pacific Managing Director, Michael Londregan.

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Wild Earth savings

WILD Earth Travel is holding a flash sale, offering guests up to 50% off selected voyages until 22 Oct.

Departures receiving the discount are the eight-day Antarctic Express: Fly the Drake saunter; 11-day Antarctic Explorer: Discovering the Seventh Continent voyage; the 20-day Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica: Explorers and Kings trip.

Also on sale are the 11-day Antarctic Express: Crossing the Circle fly-cruise, the 14-day Crossing the Circle: Southern Expedition; the 16-day South Georgia and Antarctica Peninsula: Penguin Safari and the 23-day Epic Antarctica: Crossing the Circle via Falklands (Malvinas) & South Georgia departure.

View Wild Earth Travel's full slate of cruise deals [HERE](#).

Captain's lunch

AQUA Tonic has been named as Captain Cook Cruises' final Gold Lunch cruise for 2019.

Departing 27 Oct, the six-course celebration will highlight Australia's finest seafood and wine on Sydney's Harbour.

Sailing aboard flagship MV Sydney 2000, the line has partnered with Humpty Doo Barramundi and Tyrrell's Wines.

Beginning with a chef's selection of bites, the lunch then offers a share platter of Pacific oysters spiced with ginger and chili and scattered with salmon roe.

Also served will be a citrus-inspired sorbet, and for starters, a Seared Australia scallops with a lemon-infused foam.

Departing King Street Wharf, more info is available [HERE](#).

Nile Adventurer returns



SANCTUARY Nile Adventurer is recommencing its four-day journeys along the Nile River after undergoing a major makeover in Sep.

The ship's interior is now accented with opulent fabrics and refined lighting, as well as a new colour scheme.

Cabins and suites have also been updated with new fabrics, refreshed rugs, tiles and textiles, as well as new amenities.

Each Standard and Deluxe

cabin features a private bath, while Junior Suites include a new floating vanity and a private dining space.

Presidential Suites feature their own private balconies, refined living areas, new king-sized four-poster beds and spectacular views from sizeable windows, while the ship's restaurant has also been visually updated.

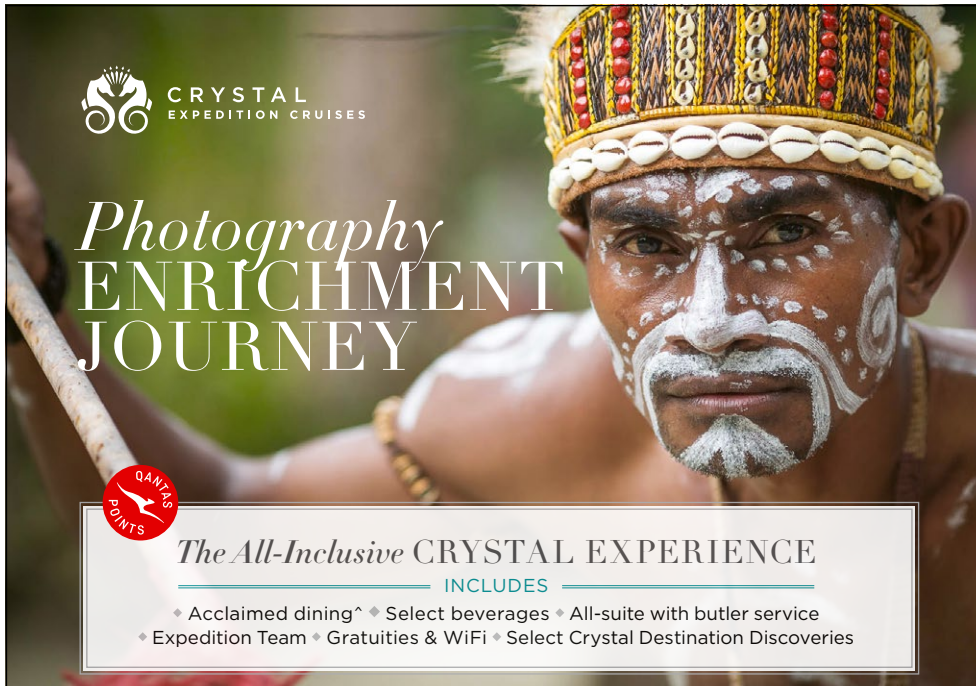
Pictured: Sanctuary Nile Adventurer

Passenger overboard on Costa Pacifica

A 75-YEAR-OLD passenger has reportedly jumped overboard on *Costa Pacifica* somewhere between Portugal and Spain last week.

The woman was confirmed as deceased, with the NATO Allied Maritime Command confirming in a statement the body was recovered last Fri.

A representative from Costa Cruises told *Business Insider* the woman's actions were "voluntary".



CRYSTAL EXPEDITION CRUISES

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The cruise survey results are in and the industry is still strong – read more in the October issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

Endeavor adds expertise



CRYSTAL Expedition Cruises have revealed the names of two more experts who will travel aboard a number of *Crystal Endeavor* cruises when it launches in Aug 2020.

Naturalists Boris Wise (pictured top) and Eva Molin Westerholm (inset) have joined the Crystal team as expedition leaders, where they will chat with passengers about the history, terrain, wildlife and culture of a variety of destinations.

Commenting on the latest appointments, Crystal's Vice President of Land Programs John Stoll said having a group of experts on board helped to cultivate authentic connections with each destination.

"As every region of the world is so vastly unique, so too will be the perspectives and experiences



for our guests," Stoll said.

We are thrilled to feature some of the world's top experts in their fields uncovering the best ways to explore and truly become immersed in adventures that each area has to offer," he added.

Crystal Endeavor will boast up to 22 expedition guides which will include marine biologists, naturalists, historians, ecologists and ornithologists.

Wise and Westerholm are veteran explorers of the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

Answers lead to prizes



OLIVIA Nicolle from HelloWorld Travel Toowoomba has been selected as one of three winners from *Travel Daily/Cruise Weekly's* 2019 Cruise Survey.

For her participation, Olivia

has won Sony SRSXB01 Portable Wireless Bluetooth Speakers to listen to her music.

Two more winners from the survey will be selected.

Pictured is Olivia with her new woofers.

Terminal date set?

THE Port Authority of New South Wales has suggested construction of a new cruise terminal in Sydney could begin as early as 2023.

According to a project update distributed this month to residents and stakeholders, the target is pending on the achievement of yearly milestones, such as the approval of the business case and lodgement of necessary applications with the state of New South Wales.

Botany locals have previously hit out against the terminal proposal (*CW* 23 Sep).

Bag a Ponant trip

PONANT is offering all new passengers booked and deposited on any of the three Ponant & National Geographic Kimberley 2021 cruises an eco-friendly luggage set.

The gift comprises of one 74cm and one 55cm Destination Wheelaboard travel suitcase, typically valued at \$660.

The cruise line is also reminding the trade no single supplement applies to all three departures, leaving 06 and 29 Aug for 12 nights, and 17 Sep for 13 nights.

CLICK HERE for more.



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Plugged-in ships?

THE Mayor of Victoria, Canada, Lisa Helps, wants to limit ships visiting the BC capital, and require those berthing to plug into onshore electrical outlets instead of idling in port.

The motion will be tabled at a committee meeting to be held next week on 17 Oct.

Helps is recommending the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority keep cruise ship numbers at current levels, and not sign any long-term contracts until the city's concerns are met, while on-shore electrical power sources will aid in lowering emissions.

Face-to-Face: Carissa Johnson

Manager, Spencer Travel Southside, NSW

1. How important is cruise to your business?

Hugely! We love it and importantly, so do our clients. Cruising delivers exciting, diverse, comfortable and convenient travel experiences, from Key Largo to the Kamchatka Peninsula.

2. What do you love most about selling a cruise holiday?

We know our cruise line partners and their offerings really well, and the relationships we have with their local sales and support teams are incredibly valuable to us and our clients.

3. What's your most memorable cruise experience?

We recently embarked



on a multi-generational family holiday. Taking a cruise enabled us to find the right level of luxury, amenities, entertainment and configuration for an incredible holiday without the stress of leading a group.

4. What's your dream cruise destination?

I'm itching to see the glaciers, icebergs and fjords of Spitsbergen in northern Norway, and hopefully a polar bear or two in the wild - from a safe distance, of course.

#WeAreCruise



Wild About Cruise

FOLLOWING the official launch of the cruise season, the industry is gearing up for an exciting few months ahead including several maiden voyages to Australia.

Our destinations are set to welcome new calls from *Ruby Princess* - fresh from her multi-million-dollar refurbishment; *Explorer Dream* - Dream Cruises' first ever ship out of Asia; *Carnival Splendor* - joining the home porting stable in Sydney for Carnival in late 2019; and *Vasco da Gama* setting sail for the first time for CMV.

Windstar Cruises will also bring its four-masted sailing ship *Wind Spirit* to Australia for the first-time next year, arriving in Cairns after a crossing from New Caledonia.

The seasonal cruise visitations such as the *Majestic Princess*, *Celebrity Solstice*, *Radiance of the Seas* and *Maasdam* will continue to support our new cruise ship visits providing an important platform for growth.

In line with this, the onshore offerings must also continue to look for ways to up the ante.

One standout inclusion offered in 2020 will be Tasmania's Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, only 25 mins from Hobart, which works toward saving endangered native wildlife.

About a quarter of visitors to the centre during the peak tourism season are from cruise ships visiting Hobart whose contributions have helped the sanctuary expand its life-saving work in looking after a number of native animals.

Many other new onshore programs will be offered this season along with increased infrastructure developments, all of which help to make Australia an exciting destination on cruise itineraries.



A NEW cruise record has been set and this is one we advise against trying to break.

Fred. Olsen Cruises' *MS Braemar* last week became the largest ship to pass through the Corinth Canal in Greece.

The 22.5-metre-wide ship squeezed through so tightly that, according to the cruise line, "passengers could almost reach out and touch" the sides of the canal - talk about being between a rock and a hard place.



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