



More Island Escape Kimberley

NEW Zealand's Island Escape Cruises has announced two additional nine-night Kimberley voyages to help meet surging demand for departures, with the company's current 12-night WA itineraries almost sold out.

The shorter voyages, operating roundtrip from Broome, will depart on 17 and 26 Sep, with prices leading in at A\$9,950 per person in an Ocean Suite.

The company has permits to operate both in the Kimberley and Great Barrier Reef National Parks, and is also offering a 10-night Great Barrier Reef voyage in Oct this year, cruising between Cairns and Brisbane.

The cruises will take place aboard the newbuild *Island Escape* yacht, which has now completed her sea trials and is undergoing final touches before welcoming the first guests aboard in Western Australia from 29 Jul.

"She performs beautifully, is whisper quiet with her diesel electric propulsion, very smooth with her stabilisers and has an enormous amount of al fresco dining and relaxing over three decks," the company said.

Island Escape Cruises had previously planned to operate the inaugural season of its new vessel in New Zealand waters (**CW** 06 Nov 2020), but changed course after being granted permission to operate in Qld and then Western Australia (**CW** 17 Mar).

Island Escape carries 32 guests and 14 crew, and is fitted with the latest technology including state-of-the-art stabilisers and an energy recovery system which uses engine heat to make hot water for showers and the galley.

It also has a dynamic positioning system allowing it to avoid the use of anchors that would damage the sensitive seabed.

Coastal Heritage

HERITAGE Expeditions has released a new eight-day Islands of the Hauraki Gulf itinerary, taking guests through New Zealand's Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and Bay of Islands from Jan 2022.

The 18-guest *Heritage Explorer* will operate the voyage, with the company's Commercial Director and Expedition Leader, Aaron Russ, saying the voyage was a "celebration of New Zealand's early history and conservation success stories".

Priced from NZ\$5,775 per person, the cruises depart on 07 and 14 Jan 2022 as well as 12 Mar 2022, with Russ saying "we're really excited to explore these nationally significant island paradises".

For more information call 1800 143 585 (AU) or +64 (0) 3 365 3500 (NZ).

Cruise Weekly today

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

Resilient winter

VIRGIN Voyages has released further details of itineraries for its third vessel, *Resilient Lady*, which will operate out of San Juan in Puerto Rico in the 2022/23 northern winter season, following an inaugural summer in Greece and the Adriatic Sea.

The ship will operate two Southern Caribbean itineraries, each a week long, including visits to Tortola, Barbados, St Lucia, Antigua, Aruba, Martinique, St Kitts and Guadeloupe.

Resilient Lady will join her sister ships *Scarlet Lady* and *Valiant Lady* in the Virgin fleet after her delivery in Jul 2022.

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HAL cruises canx

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has updated its summer 2021 Europe cruise schedule, with *Nieuw Statendam* and *Volendam* cruises cancelled, and new flagship *Rotterdam's* season shifted.

Cancellations affect cruises that were scheduled to depart from Sep through Nov, along with the Collectors' Voyages associated with those departures.

Eurodam will maintain her recently announced Med season through Oct.

Rotterdam will remain in non-guest operations after an expected on-schedule delivery from Fincantieri on 30 Jul, with plans for her naming ceremony still being finalised.

Eclipse 2022/23 season



SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has unveiled its 2022/23 *Scenic Eclipse* Europe & Mediterranean program, which features five new voyages, and new onboard food & drink experiences.

The new journeys take place in Andalusia (pictured), the Greek Islands and the Sorrento Peninsula, and include a selection

of Mediterranean land voyages.

A highlight of the new journeys is the 11-day Authentic Andalusia from Valletta to Lisbon, departing 08 Jun 2022.

Travellers can explore Malta to the Spanish coast and Lisbon, taking in Sardinia and Sicily en route.

Another high point is the nine-day Iconic Treasures of Italy & Greece voyage from Civitavecchia to Athens, departing 15 May.

This voyage takes in the caves and cliffs in Sorrento, with travellers hiking around the volcanic Aeolian archipelago.

Scenic's new luxury land journey, the nine-day Rome to Venice trip, departs 07 May 2022, and those combining it with any *Eclipse* expedition can save 10%.

Travel advisors will also receive a bonus 2% commission on all new bookings made online through ExpressBook until end of next month.

A range of other policies have also been included with the new program, including the Scenic Complimentary Deposit Protection Plan & Flexible Booking Policy, where clients can defer or cancel up to 60 days prior to departure.



WE MAY be in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it seems we're also experiencing a lost whale epidemic.

This column has recently reported multiple cases of lost whales over the past nine months, both at home (*CW* 10 Nov 2020) and overseas (*CW* 19 May), and it seems another of the world's largest mammals has gone slightly off course, after a humpback was spotted by rangers in the Susan River south of Bundaberg, Qld last week.

Footage shows the lost mammal diving and resurfacing as it made its way upstream, until it disappeared on Wed.

The State Department of Environment & Science is hopeful the cetacean has found its way out of the river, which feeds into Hervey Bay - safe travels, our gigantic friend!

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Kids at the Carnival

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) will allow kids on its ships sailing from Texas - with restrictions.

Via a waitlist, the Jul cruises will operate with at least 95% of guests fully vaccinated, as well as a limited number of children under 12 - no more than 5% of passengers.

CCL said children will be tested for coronavirus, and there also will be mask requirements and other restrictions for children.