



Cruise Weekly today

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

Ponant Kimberley

PONANT has opened its Kimberley 2023 season.

Offering multiple departures between Apr and Oct 2023, the popular 10-night Australia's Iconic Kimberley itinerary between Broome and Darwin will showcase the wild and grandiose landscapes of the region on board *Le Laperouse* or *Le Soleal*, both of which will be sailing throughout the season.

Ponant General Manager Sales & Marketing Asia Pacific Deb Corbett said small ship luxury expeditions in the Kimberley have become increasingly desirable.

CLICK HERE to view all dates.

Royal Caribbean's first World Cruise

ROYAL Caribbean International has announced the debut of its inaugural Ultimate World Cruise, an epic 274-night adventure, visiting every continent, and more than 150 destinations in 65 countries.

Serenade of the Seas (pictured) will set sail on one of the longest and most comprehensive world cruises ever, a nine-month odyssey sailing roundtrip from Miami on 10 Dec 2023 through to 10 Sep 2024.

Travellers will sail to 57 new destinations for Royal Caribbean, with highlights including Casablanca, Morocco; Qaqortoq, Greenland; and Shimizu, Japan.

Guests will delve deep into many of the world's breathtaking wonders, from Peru's Machu Picchu to the Taj Mahal in India.

Passengers will also be able to book the full Ultimate World Cruise, or choose from any of



the four expeditions the itinerary is split up into: Round the Horn: Americas and Antarctica Expedition; the Wonders of Asia and the Pacific Expedition; the Middle East Treasures & Marvels of the Med Expedition; and the Capitals of Culture Expedition.

Each leg visits three continents and approximately 40 destinations.

An exclusive one-week booking window is currently open until Tue for Royal Caribbean's Crown

& Anchor Society Diamond status members and above.

MEANWHILE, a number of local travel advisors were left disappointed to find out their clients had been notified of the World Cruise before they had been, and the lack of a call-to-action in the consumer mail-out to book via the trade.

When questioned by *Cruise Weekly*, Royal Caribbean reconfirmed its relationship with advisors remains key to its success.

"For this world first global announcement, we wanted to share the news with all our guests and partners globally at the same time," a Royal Caribbean spokesperson told *Cruise Weekly*.

"We look forward to guests reaching out to their trusted local travel agent or calling the local dedicated line for the Ultimate World Cruise to book."

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New CLIA Eu head

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has appointed Marie-Caroline Laurent as its Director-General of Europe.

Effective 15 Nov, Laurent will replace Ukko Metsola, who will stay on as advisor to the new Director-General until the end of the year to support her transition, prior to his planned return to Royal Caribbean Group.

Laurent is a transport policy expert who has worked in leadership roles at the International Air Transport Association for nearly a decade, including serving as Assistant Director for EU Affairs.

"I'm delighted to welcome Marie-Caroline Laurent who will draw on a wealth of experience within the European transport policy arena to showcase cruise at the heart of sustainable tourism and demonstrate its value to the wider maritime sector," said President & Chief Executive Officer Kelly Craighead.

Rotterdam maiden voyage



HOLLAND America Line's (HAL) *Rotterdam* (pictured) has departed on her maiden voyage from Amsterdam to Florida, for her inaugural Caribbean season.

HAL's new flagship departed yesterday on her maiden voyage crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Amsterdam to Fort Lauderdale to spend her inaugural season in the Caribbean.

The beginning of the 14-day trans-Atlantic cruise was celebrated with fanfare, with a cheering crew and a ribbon-cutting to welcome guests on

board.

The 2,668-guest *Rotterdam* was delivered in Jul and is the third in the Pinnacle-class series for HAL.

"*Rotterdam's* maiden voyage has been highly anticipated for months by our guests and team members eager to welcome them aboard," said President Gus Antorcha.

Last week, *Rotterdam* arrived at her namesake city, where it was announced Princess Margriet will be her godmother when she is officially named in the northern spring (**CW** 18 Oct).



THE world's largest floating nightclub has opened in Dubai aboard retired British ocean liner *Queen Elizabeth 2*.

Float Dubai's grand opening was held late last week, after *QE2* was converted from her most recent deployment as a floating hotel.

The opening included a performance by American rapper DaBaby, as well as appearances by a DJ, dancers, acrobats, and hula-hoopers.

According to the United Kingdom's *The Times*, drinks were just a little more expensive than they were back when *QE2* sailed for Cunard Line, with Dom Perignon Rose Gold setting partygoers back more than USD\$107,000.

Points blog *The Points Guy* did not hold back, writing: "besides loud, dark and exclusive, it's difficult to pinpoint what, exactly Float Dubai is going for."

We'll take a current Cunard ship any day.



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