



Carnival to add second ship this year

EXCLUSIVE

CARNIVAL Cruise Line is making plans to deploy a second ship in the Australian market over the upcoming 2022/23 summer season, with the additional vessel expected to operate out of the new Brisbane International Cruise Terminal.

The move was confirmed by President & Chief Executive Officer Christine Duffy (pictured), who told *Cruise Weekly* she was excited about the Australian cruise restart and will be heading to Sydney for the already announced inaugural post-pandemic *Carnival Splendor* departure on 02 Oct this year.

Duffy wasn't able to confirm exact details of the second ship, but the Carnival fleet is already in the process of being expanded with the addition of the *Costa Magica*, which was transferred to Carnival about a month



ago and is undergoing a brand transformation and refit.

The new departures are not bookable yet, but Duffy hinted strongly the deployment would happen "before the end of the year".

Australia continues to be a strong focus for the cruise line, despite it being forced to temporarily redeploy *Carnival*

Splendor to Alaska due to the extended cruise ban imposed by the Australian Government (*CW* 07 Feb).

MEANWHILE Duffy also told *Cruise Weekly* the company's Australian voyages are now for the first time being actively marketed in the United States.

Pre-pandemic, Carnival's booking platforms did not easily facilitate international bookings for its Australian deployments, but significant enhancements made during the cruise pause have made local voyages bookable from the United States market - both online and through travel advisors.

"We're getting a lot of bookings for Australian itineraries from American cruisers already," Duffy said, with Carnival's strong brand recognition and American bucket-list aspirations to visit Australia likely to drive healthy demand.

Cruise Weekly today

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

NCL adds NZ BDM

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has announced the appointment of Megan Porter as its dedicated Business Development Manager for NZ.

Porter has strong trade relationships in New Zealand, having previously worked with Royal Caribbean Group, as well as Air New Zealand and Cruise Holidays NZ.

NCL Sales Director ANZ, Damian Borg, said the role "demonstrates our Partners First promise in action, offering dedicated on-the-ground support to our valued travel partners across New Zealand who are fielding significant interest from travellers keen to set sail again".

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MOST octogenarians enjoy sailing the oceans on a cruise ship - but a Japanese 83-year-old has done it in his own special style by becoming the oldest person to sail solo non-stop across the Pacific.

Kenichi Horie departed San Francisco aboard his *Suntory Mermaid III* yacht on 27 Mar, and arrived in Cape Hinomisaki, Japan last weekend.

The adventure came 60 years after his first big trip, when at the age of 23 in 1962 he hit the headlines by becoming the first person to sail solo non-stop from Japan to California.

Horie also holds Guinness World Records for the Fastest Solar-Powered Pacific Crossing and the Longest Journey by Pedal Boat.

"I didn't think I'd be sailing at 83, but I'm still healthy and I didn't want to miss this chance," he said.

"Challenges are exciting so I'd like to keep trying."

Deal of the week

VIKING'S deal of the week is its Greek Odyssey, which explores the Aegean Sea across 11 days.

Cruising from Athens return, this itinerary is now on sale, priced from \$4,995ppts for selected departures when booked before the end of Jun.

The fare includes shore excursions, all on board meals, beverages & more - 138 747.

Princess back in Australia



PRINCESS Cruises' *Coral Princess* (pictured) has arrived at her new homeport of Brisbane, as momentum grows for cruising in Australia.

Coral is the first-ever ship to be homeported at the new state-of-the-art Brisbane International Cruise Terminal, and the first of Princess's MedallionClass vessels to call Australia home.

The 2,000-guest ship will offer 11 cruises departing Brisbane ranging from three to 12 nights until Aug, before returning for another 10 cruises this summer from Nov.

Coral will make almost 50 calls to Queensland's ports this year, including her first visit to Airlie Beach, Cairns, and Port Douglas.

Speaking on *Coral's* arrival, SVP Asia Pacific, UK, and Europe Stuart Allison said the ship's homeport season in Brisbane was set to inject an estimated \$60 million to the Queensland economy in passenger and crew member spending, ship supplies, and port charges.

"Queensland will feature front and centre in a new

winter program of sailings from Australia, which demonstrates Princess Cruises' commitment to cruising Down Under and to the local travel agent community.

"Our focus on Brisbane also reflects the demand for cruise holidays among Queenslanders, as well as the growing interest in domestic cruising."

Clean Cruising director & General Manager Dan Russell said his clients will be very excited to see another cruise ship return to Brisbane today.

"Our clients have been eagerly waiting for a cruise ship to be homeported in Brisbane, and to see *Coral Princess* here today is another great step forward for the cruise industry.

"We have a number of clients booked on this MedallionClass ship for this winter season including a couple who have booked over 50 back-to-back cruises including two round world cruises in 2023 and 2024.

"We thank these guests and all the cruise guests far and wide for their patience as we restart cruising in Australia."



We are Sailing

As P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Explorer* sailed gracefully under the Harbour Bridge on her activation cruise, it reminded all of us on board just how exciting it is to be back sailing again.

Joined on this voyage by industry leaders including many ACA members, it was great to share conversations around the plans for a revitalised industry.

We are already hearing that cruise bookings are off the charts well into the future.

Even more exciting is that trans-Tasman sailings are proving incredibly popular, showing travellers from around the world are keen to return and experience all that we have to offer.

A few days after I took this trip, the inaugural passenger sailing from the eastern seaboard took place from Sydney up to Brisbane making *Pacific Explorer* the first cruise ship to dock at the "new" International Cruise Terminal since it was completed in 2020.

We are also excited to welcome back Ponant and Silversea Cruises for their winter season exploring the wonderful Kimberley and northern regions.

As we look toward a brighter future, our ACA Conference, 07-09 Sep in Townsville could not be better timed.

We will be welcoming the most extensive line-up of cruise line speakers ever to the program.

Register **HERE** to get in on the conversations as we chart the exciting future of cruising together.