



Cruise Weekly today

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

Crystal ships sold

TWO of Crystal Cruises' ships have been sold at auction for a total of USD\$128 million.

Crystal Serenity was sold for USD\$103 million and Crystal Symphony for USD\$25 million, according to officials.

The auction was held in the Bahamas, where the ships have been detained since the collapse of Crystal's owner Genting Hong Kong (CW 07 Feb), with both vessels exceeding their appraised valuation.

Although no details about the buyers were disclosed, reports suggest Silversea Cruises is the new owner of a third of the defunct line's ships, the expedition vessel Crystal Endeavor, after the filing of a trademark application for the name Silver Endeavor with the US Patent & Trademark Office.

The sales come after some of Crystal's assets were auctioned off last month (CW 21 Apr).

According to the court-appointed assignee, furniture, tables, casino equipment, office equipment, and other items were auctioned off.

Yet to be decided is the fate of Crystal's river ships, which operated in Europe.

New Kimberley cruises

PONANT has unveiled its Pinnacle Kimberley Experience on board *Le Ponant* for next year.

Sales are open now for the expedition program on board the three-masted sailing yacht.

Commencing on 07 Apr, the program includes 26 new cruises covering the Northern Kimberley, Southern Kimberley, and the Rowley Shoals.

The Northern sailing expedition cruises for nine nights on an immersive expedition including exploration of the spectacular 80-metre-high sandstone cliffs of the King George River Gorge and its Twin Falls, the highest in Western Australia.

Guests will also have the chance to uncover the stories behind the enigmatic Gwion Gwion rock art and experience Prince Frederick Harbour, one of the largest and most scenic inlets of the Kimberley coast.

The Southern sailing expedition discovers the pristine beaches and remarkable scenery of the Buccaneer Archipelago and searches for iconic bird species such as White-Bellied Sea Eagles, Brahminy Kites, and Ospreys.

Guests will be able to watch as the tidal waters flow off Montgomery Reef, and will witness the unique phenomenon of the Horizontal Falls in Talbot Bay.

As an exclusive addition to the experience, the Northern and Southern Kimberley itineraries

include an exclusive charter flight between Kununurra and Kuri Bay, or Broome and Kuri Bay, on board a Paspaley's vintage Grumman Mallard flying boat, to take guests from or to their embarkation point, as well as an exclusive guided visit of Paspaley's pearl farms in Kuri Bay.

Meanwhile, a sailing adventure to the Rowley Shoals, home to pristine coral lagoons and an abundance of marine life, will see guests visit the Lacepede Islands, an important bird area and home to Western Australia's main breeding habitats for Green Sea Turtles.

The expedition will also discover the Buccaneer Archipelago, the Montgomery Reef, and the Horizontal Falls.

"An Australian-first, Ponant's Pinnacle Kimberley Experience on board *Le Ponant* will offer guests a truly unique experience," said Chair Asia-Pacific Sarina Bratton.

"With a maximum of 32 guests only, *Le Ponant's* itineraries open up a mix of the iconic and lesser-known destinations along this spectacular coastline".

The newly refurbished *Le Ponant* has been transformed to feature the latest technical innovations to reduce emissions.

Le Ponant is equipped with state-of-the-art Zodiacs for shore landings and excursions, and has been entirely renovated with a sleek, sophisticated design by Jean-Philippe Nuel Studio.

Celebrity + Houzz

CELEBRITY Cruises has partnered with Houzz to offer an inside look at its newest ship *Celebrity Beyond*.

The platform will showcase the ship's innovative design - visit the dedicated page [HERE](#).

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The Dream is over

THE unnamed and barely assembled sister ship of *Global Dream* is being sold for scrap.

Set to be one of the largest cruise ships in the world, the 9,000-passenger vessel has only had her lower hull constructed.

Administrator Christoph Morgen announced at a recent press conference proceedings are now underway to resell some of the equipment and engines, while the hull will be disposed of at scrap price.

MV Werften, which recently escaped the same fate as the ship (**CW** 15 Jun) was constructing her.

Meanwhile, the fate of the almost-completed *Global* is unknown, with the most genuine interest coming from Swedish party Stena, which reportedly withdrew its consideration last month.

Bienvenue, Nicolas!

AURORA Expeditions is expanding into French-speaking markets in order to continue to grow its global presence.

The cruise line has hired Business Development Manager Nicolas Bilek, who will focus on the French-speaking markets of France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Eastern Canada.

Bilek brings more than 20 years of travel industry and expedition experience to the Aurora team, and will use his extensive network to grow awareness of the cruise line in the French-speaking world.

Coral departs from Brisbane



PRINCESS Cruises' *Coral* *Princess* has begun her historic inaugural season from the new Brisbane International Cruise Terminal yesterday afternoon (**CW** 08 Jun) with two rather significant guests.

Coral is the first ship to be homeported at the new Brisbane Terminal, where fittingly, two Queenslanders have embarked on two years of back-to-back cruising.

Jessica and Marty Ansen have previously sailed on 31 cruises with Princess, amassing 1,173 days at sea.

They have been anxiously awaiting cruising's restart to indulge their love for holidaying on the high seas, and have a landmark 53 separate sailings (795 sea days) booked between now and Aug 2024.

The couple is not ruling out adding more voyages to keep their life at sea sailing along into the future.

"Cruising offers the ultimate holiday experience," they said.

"You go onboard, you only unpack once, and you have all this amazing entertainment, exceptional food, great company

and you can see the world... and, the crew deliver incredible service - that's why we cruise."

The Ansens booked their two years of back-to-back cruises - including two round world cruises in 2023 and 2024 - with Brisbane-based travel agency Clean Cruising.

Senior Consultant Martine Hero said the Ansens had always been passionate about cruising, and like many other devotees, were keen to be back on the water again.

"For the last two years Marty frequently mentioned all he and Jessica wanted to do was to go cruising again," Hero said.

"Since the announcement of the resumption of cruising we have had an influx of interest and bookings including those of the Ansens.

"This extended trip has been in the works for a long time, as have those of many other cruisers.

Hero said Clean Cruising thanks cruise fans for their patience as the travel agency gets them back doing what they love most.

Pictured are *Coral* crew members celebrating the ship's departure from Brisbane.



AUSTRALIANS have donated hundreds of tortoiseshell items to help stop the illegal trade of the material, thanks to a joint conservation project by Royal Caribbean Cruises, the Australian Museum Research Institute, and WWF.

The Surrender Your Shell project urged Australians to hand in their tortoiseshell products, which saw 328 items donated to help end the trade.

Australian citizens handed in 220 items, wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC donated 101 items, and the Australian Government contributed seven items, which included hairpins & barettes, bookmarks, and more.

Ponant savings

COUPLES can save up to \$12,740 and solos \$25,590 on a sub-Antarctic voyage, when booking by the end of next month.

Departing in 2023 or 2024 with Ponant, Cruise Traveller has special offers on two round-trip, all-inclusive sailings from Dunedin to the sub-Antarctic islands aboard *Le Soleal*.

The 16-night package begins with two complimentary nights in a deluxe Dunedin hotel, before the 14-night voyage.

The package is available from \$15,870 - to book, **CLICK HERE**.