



Hurtigruten set for Kimberley in 2025

EXCLUSIVE

HURTIGRUTEN Cruises will deploy one of its expedition vessels year-round in the Pacific in 2025, with the operation including the Norwegian line's first-ever Kimberley season.

Tudor Morgan, Hurtigruten Expeditions VP of Sustainability and Industry Relations, didn't specify which of the Hurtigruten ships would be operating locally, but told **Cruise Weekly** it would have capacity for around 180 passengers, which based on the current fleet makes it likely to be the *MS Spitsbergen*.

He said the Pacific deployment would see Hurtigruten operate voyages in Australia and New Zealand, while part of the year would also be spent undertaking expeditions in French Polynesia.

Morgan is currently in Australia

with Hurtigruten Chief Scientist, Verena Meraldi, and the pair have been updating the local Hurtigruten team on some of the company's latest developments including the release of its 2022 Environmental Social & Governance report (**CW** 03 May).

The report is part of Hurtigruten's strong commitment to transparency on achieving emissions targets and progress towards decarbonisation.

Hurtigruten's Australian and NZ guest base are "very aware of sustainability, and our science and education program," Morgan said, with the University of Tasmania among seven global institutions working closely with the cruise line.

The company dedicates a cabin on every expedition sailing to science, hosting researchers

who interact with guests while undertaking their own projects, often collecting data in partnership with passengers.

Such was the interest in the program from research organisations this year that Hurtigruten doubled its commitment to two cabins on each Antarctica sailing, which saw a total of 1,018 cruise nights dedicated to science in 2022/23.

Morgan is also chair of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO), and believes there's an opportunity to apply a similar model of industry self-regulation to the Kimberley which is increasingly attracting more and more ships each year.

Hurtigruten's new Kimberley sailings are expected to go on sale early in 2024.

Viking's new push

VIKING has launched its new campaign, The Heart of Exploring, offering couples up to \$2,000 flight credit on 2024 and 2025 ocean voyages.

The campaign applies to new bookings made before 28 Aug.

Highlights include the 13-day Mediterranean Odyssey from Barcelona and the 29-day Greenland, Iceland, Norway, & Beyond from New York City.

40% off Royal

ROYAL Caribbean yesterday launched a sale on select six-11 night sailings to Qld, NZ and the South Pacific aboard *Quantum*, *Ovation* and *Brilliance of the Seas*.

Offers also include up to \$600 in instant savings, valid for bookings by 06 Jun.

APT will host you

APT Travel Group is offering a bumper year of famils, with more than 100 places on offer.

Famils are offered through the APT Travel Group VIP Program, and invitations are guaranteed for Diamond and Platinum Partners, with top performers from other tier levels also receiving invites.

The program saw APT BDM Camille Moore hosting five Platinum and Diamond agents on Travelmarvel's European Gems cruise earlier this year.

Ponant expanding

PONANT is opening its first office in India to support the company's unprecedented demand in the country.

Leading the new office is newly appointed National Business Development Executive for India & Sri Lanka Manish Sonar, who began his role yesterday.

Le Jacques-Cartier operates various sailings in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka, and India visiting Colombo, Cochin, Goa and Mumbai.

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	04 Jun
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	09 Jun
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	09 Jun
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	03 Jun
<i>Coral Princess</i>	06 Jun
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	07 Jun
CAIRNS	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	04 Jun
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	05 Jun
BROOME	
<i>Le Ponant</i>	02 Jun
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	03 Jun
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	05 Jun
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	09 Jun
DARWIN	
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	05 Jun
<i>Coral Geographer</i>	09 Jun

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ONE of Sydney's heritage tugboats *Argos* has come to a watery end on the Central Coast, erasing a piece of New South Wales' maritime history.

Argos was one of Sydney's first steam tugboats, after she was built at Berrys Bay in 1903.

The vessel was due to undergo an extensive restoration, but those plans ran aground a fortnight ago when she starting taking on water at her mooring at Empire Bay.

Within 24 hours, the tugboat was at the bottom of Brisbane Water, leaving the group with a removal bill of up to \$50,000.

Steam tugs were a common sight on Sydney Harbour in the early 20th century, but most were long gone by the 1950s and 1960s.

HAL goes long Down Under



LONGER 'Legendary Voyages' are set to highlight Holland America Line's 2024-25 Australia, New Zealand, and South Pacific cruises.

Itineraries of up to 58 days include immersive explorations of South Pacific islands and a circumnavigation of Australia.

Westerdam will spend the season Down Under, while *Koningsdam* and *Zaandam* will each offer a longer Legendary Voyage to the South Pacific.

In Oct 2024 *Westerdam* will sail a westward South Pacific crossing, followed by the iconic Australia Circumnavigation - a 35 day voyage departing 17 Nov 2024 visiting 16 ports.

Guests will enjoy overnight calls at Fremantle and Hobart, along with a late-night Adelaide departure, and a Komodo call.

From Dec 2024 through Mar 2025, *Westerdam* will offer a series of 14-day departures round trip from Sydney.

All itineraries include scenic cruising in Fiordland National Park, and select dates also include Milford Sound.

Meanwhile, *Zaandam's* 'Tales of the South Pacific' cruise in Sep 2024 will cruise from Vancouver to San Diego, while *Koningsdam's* 'Hawaii, Tahiti & Marquesas' cruise in Feb 2025 is round trip from San Diego.

Carnival Corp deck shuffle

CARNIVAL Australia MD Marguerite Fitzgerald has a new boss, with Carnival Corporation CEO Josh Weinstein overnight confirming a major restructure to the company's reporting lines.

Effective immediately Carnival will become six operating units, with P&O Australia becoming part of the Carnival Cruise Line division led by Christine Duffy.

The departure of Sture Myrmell from Carnival UK (**CW** 31 May) is also part of the reshuffle, with the British division now led by Paul Ludlow whose direct reports include recently appointed Cunard President Katie McAlister.

The Princess Cruises division will continue to be led by President John Padgett, while Gus Antorcha is President of Holland America Line, with Seabourn President Natalya Leahy reporting to him.

The other two Carnival Corporation units under the new structure are AIDA Cruises led by President Felix Eichhorn, and Costa Cruises which is headed up by President Mario Zanetti.

Jan Swartz, who was most recently head of Holland America

Group, will take a newly created role as Executive Vice President of Strategic Operations.

That gives her responsibility for global ports and destination developments as well as Alaska land operations and government affairs - meaning Aussie Sandy Olsen now reports to Swartz.

AIDA feels good!

THE first Feelgood Cruise from AIDA Cruises will see guests focus on their health and wellbeing.

Former German track cyclist Kristina Vogel and other prominent sports professionals and nutrition experts will board *AIDAstella* on 05 Nov, to provide an experience which will improve guests' physical fitness, mental balance, nutrition, and wellbeing.

A comprehensive program with more than 70 free fitness courses for beginners and advanced athletes will be offered, while the trip will also place "great emphasis on mental balance and relaxation".

RCI's hot take

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has premiered its new episode of *Making an Icon: Creating Chill Island & The Hideaway* as excitement builds towards the launch of its new *Icon of the Seas* in early 2024.

RCI's experts across naval engineering, design, food & beverage operations, and product development share the designing of the two new neighbourhoods on the highly anticipated *Icon of the Seas*, from building the largest pool at sea, to its first suspended infinity pool, and more - watch the full episode **HERE**.

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