



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**, and a photo page from **Cruise Lines International Association**.

### It's a new record!

**MSC Cruises'** Guinness World Records partnership offers a chance for guests to test their skills and, if they are lucky, walk away with a record.

The new entertainment at sea partnership will include "breathtaking" live shows, in which guests attempt to break world records.

On board *MSC Euribia* and *MSC Seascope*, guests can practice activities during the day and audition for an evening show featuring the finalists, as they demonstrate their talents.

## NZ confirms biofoul "inadequacies"

### EXCLUSIVE

**BIOSECURITY** New Zealand says it is continuing to actively work on biofouling issues with cruise ships and the cleaning/treatment methods they use, as operators experience further itinerary disruptions in NZ.

It's understood almost 20 cruise ships have been denied entry to some areas of New Zealand waters (most notably the Fjordland region) over the summer season, with the issue of perceived hull contamination still continuing to disrupt itineraries operating this week.

Last month a whistleblower made allegations to **Cruise Weekly** about the potential falsification of some pre-arrival inspection reports, which we raised with the NZ Ministry for Primary Industries.

Biosecurity New Zealand Environmental Health Manager,

Paul Hallett, said the organisation was not able to confirm the claims of falsified documentation, but added "we have noted some inadequacies with some recent underwater inspection reports".

"Inaccurate reporting, whether intentional or not, presents a biosecurity risk to New Zealand's marine environment so is treated seriously", he told **Cruise Weekly**.

"Wherever we have concerns with the reports presented to us, we elevate our on-arrival verification activities.

"That means we may require more information to be supplied or a dive inspection may be undertaken on the vessel in question when it arrives in NZ to verify the state of the hull.

"If this shows a discrepancy between the report and the status of the vessel's hull, we will continue to verify the quality of the work done on future

vessels arriving to NZ until we are satisfied the company is meeting biosecurity requirements.

"If vessels do not comply with our biofouling standards, they may face itinerary restrictions or be directed to leave New Zealand and manage the biofouling risk before they return," he said.

The claims made to **Cruise Weekly** concern a particular hull cleaning contractor which allegedly threatened to "throw staff overboard" if they didn't comply with a demand to prepare fraudulent certification.

The whistleblower claims one of the fake reports stipulated the entire hull of one of the affected cruise ships had been treated, but in fact only about 4% was covered because the devices used were unsuitable for the size of the vessel - with only a small selection of images supplied to support the claims in the report.

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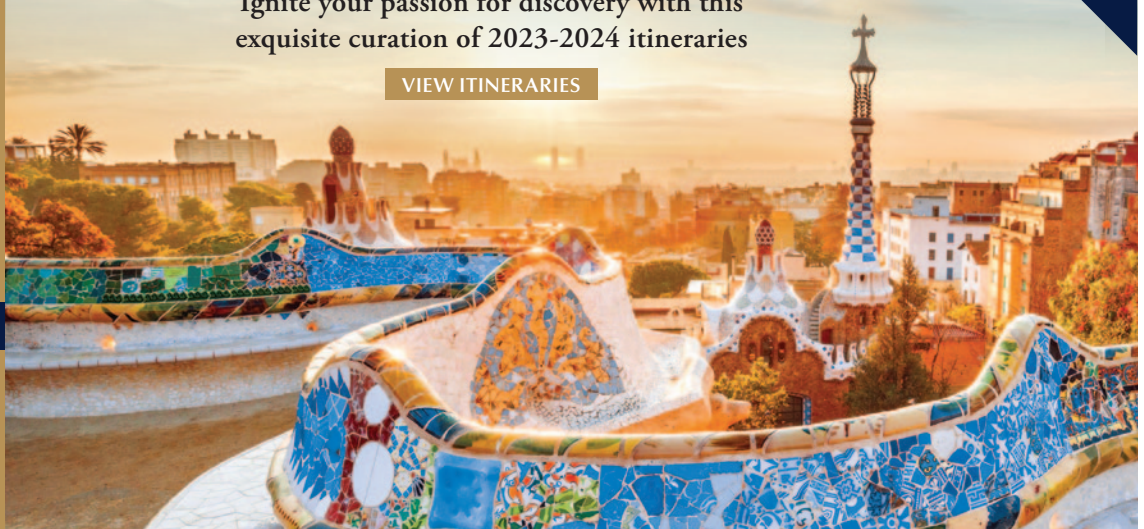
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## Viking weekly deals

**VIKING'S** deal of the week is its Voyage of Marco Polo, which sails in the wake of the great Venetian merchant.

The 36-day voyage cruises from Athens to Bangkok or vice versa, and is available now through Viking's Explorer Sale.

The voyage is priced from \$19,995 per person with a saving of up to \$3,500 per couple.

Guests will cross the Suez Canal to discover some of the best-loved ports in the Levant, the Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.

The voyage features overnights in Athens, Haifa, Mumbai, Colombo, and Bangkok.

Also on offer this week is the Iceland, British Isles & Iberia voyage, a 15-day Barcelona to Reykjavik cruise or vice versa.

This itinerary is on sale now from \$8,495 per person, with a saving of up to \$1,800 per couple.

The voyage stops in cities such as Dublin, Lisbon, and Granada, which will allow cruisers time to immerse in their distinctive cultures.

Guests will also marvel as the scenery and climate changes including the black volcanic terrain of Iceland, the temperate rolling green hills of Ireland, as well as the sunny and inviting warm waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

## Euribia new kids offering



**MSC Cruises'** family offering is going to new heights with updated entertainment on board new flagship *MSC Euribia*.

The ship will boast seven rooms fully dedicated to children and teenagers of different age groups with endless entertainment.

Two rooms will be devoted to sustainability, to help educate children on the importance of the environment, and one to technological innovation in our digital age.

More than 100 hours of live entertainment per cruise will be organised for kids and teenagers in MSC's clubs, with extended hours from 9am to midnight.

Highlights of the new offerings include Baby Club Chicco Eco (**pictured**), which will feature a designated play area for babies and toddlers under three years old; and Teens Club Extra Space, which will provide space and activities to meet the needs of teenage guests, such as

PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X, and virtual reality.

There will also be nine live family activities and shows and six teen primetime activities per cruise, including World Quest, which will see guests invited for an interactive journey on board with the ship's exciting new game show featuring an engaging quiz show based on worldwide geography and trivia; and Caravaggio, an unforgettable spy game show dedicated to art.

"Designed with the latest technology and taking into account current trends, we want to meet the needs of new generations of children and their families for years to come," Youth Entertainment Senior Manager Matteo Mancini said.

"The onboard entertainment will reflect *MSC Euribia's* message of sustainability, with new innovations and environmental components integrated into the cruise experience."

## Circle Tasmania trip

**CIRCLE** Tasmania by sea and enjoy Australia's longest day of the year with a luxurious voyage from Cruise Traveller.

The new nine-night Tempting Tasmania package features a complete circumnavigation of Tasmania from Hobart, visiting more isolated and rarely visited destinations, aboard Ponant's 184-guest exploration ship *Le Laperouse*.

The vessel will take adventure-seekers on a journey from Hobart on 14 Dec, exploring Tasmania's rich natural and cultural heritage including hard-to-reach places like Port Davey on the state's West Coast.

Also on the unique itinerary is King Island, famous for its gourmet delicacies and crystal-clear waters; the fine wines of the Tamar Valley near Launceston; the penguins and seabirds on the tiny Ile des Phoques; the wealth of wildlife & history on Maria Island; historic Port Arthur; and Australia's highest sea cliffs along the Tasman and Forestier Peninsulas.

Savings are available for couples and solos for the circumnavigation of Tasmania, with up to \$5,150 per couple and almost half-price for solo travellers available, plus a \$400 per person bonus to help cover the cost of flights to and from the destination.

## EXPLORER SALE ENDS SOON

**BOOK YOUR CLIENTS' 2023, 2024 OR 2025  
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The Viking Explorer Sale ends on 31 March, which means you only have a few weeks left to book your clients at these exceptional prices before prices increase. So don't miss out on saving your clients up to \$9,000 per couple on a collection of river, ocean and expedition voyages.



THE 20th Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia Awards on Sat celebrated the sector's renaissance in Australia, and honoured some of the stars of the cruise community, as close to 500 people gathered in Sydney to celebrate excellence within the industry.

Held at Luna Park, the gala dinner and presentation night was hosted by actor Tim Campbell, and involved

18 awards recognising the role of the travel trade in cruise's ongoing return to prominence in the region.

A highlight honour was the induction into the CLIA Hall of Fame of past Chair and former regional head of Oceania Cruises & Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Steve Odell, who was recognised for his industry stewardship and his role in cruising's success over more than three decades.

We couldn't quite fit in all the fun yesterday, so here is another page of all the excitement from the 20th Cruise Industry Awards.

**CRUISE Weekly's** Sean Harrigan gets in the Disney spirit.



THE itravel team gathered all around for a group photo!



JADE Shaw from Helloworld, Anthony Laver of Scenic with Helloworld's Karen Deveson and Stan Scott.



DAN Russell from Clean Cruising with Princess Cruises' Stuart Allison and Nick Ferguson.



THE MSC Cruises team on the red carpet.



ROBYN and Murray Sinfield from Home Travel Company with Justine Sealey of Ramsgate Travel and Trendsetter Travel's Adrienne Witteman.



SOME of the Oceania and Regent Seven Seas Cruises ladies raise a glass.



CARLIE Kavanagh from Inchcape is all ears.



FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's James Kavanagh and Rhona Rodgers of MTA Travel.



MAIN Beach Travel's Mike and Mandy Dwyer.



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises chief Lisa Pile with Hall of Fame winner Steve Odell.



**SAT'S** Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Awards saw the entire Australian cruise industry celebrate each other's excellence for the first time since the pandemic, and as a result, there were a few sore heads the following morning. Anticipating the ensuing disaster, attendees seated at a Royal Caribbean International table were gifted a "recovery kit" (pictured), which was no doubt put to good use by those who chose to give the dance floor a workout after the formalities had finished.



## Turkey gulet cruise

**PETER** Sommer Travels is celebrating its 21st anniversary with a new, expert-led archaeological and cultural voyage, 'Cruising the Carian Coast' in Turkey. The 15-day tour departs on 17 Sep, leading guests on a journey along the Turkish coast in a traditional gulet - [CLICK HERE](#) for more info.

## P&O pact comes to Eden



**THE** P&O Pacific Partnership program is sponsoring a first-of-its-kind traineeship with Cruise Eden.

The pair is sponsoring a two-year School Based Traineeship in Certificate III Tourism, which is tailored for cruise.

The program is the first of its kind for a rural Australian port, and has been designed to create vocational employment and training pathways for young people in New South Wales' South Coast.

Practical training commenced this week, when the program's first apprentices - two grade 11 students of Eden Marine High School - boarded P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Adventure* for a ship tour with the Captain during her port call to the coastal town.

The trainees will be assisting Cruise Eden with operations on cruise days, and training with other tourism businesses during the winter months to broaden their industry experience and

knowledge.

"The partnership with Cruise Eden is the latest initiative from our P&O's Pacific Partnerships program, where our generous guest donations are invested back to local communities, such as Eden, that make our guests so welcome," the line's President Marguerite Fitzgerald said.

"We're thrilled to be supporting local students in their pursuit of a dynamic career in the travel and tourism industry, and further our unwavering support of gender diversity in the cruise industry." Cruise Eden Manager Debbie Meers thanked P&O Australia for sponsoring the opportunity for the students to gain valuable experience in cruise shoreside operations.

**Pictured** are Amandine Ahrens from *Eden Magnet*, Adventure Security Officer John Langham, trainees Ocea Thiedeman & Keely Grebert, and Port Authority of NSW Cruise Development Manager Natalie Godward.

## Cruise Calendar

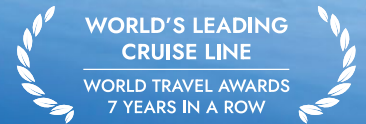
Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	15 Mar
MELBOURNE	<i>Queen Mary 2</i> <i>Europa</i>	14 Mar 14 Mar
PORT ADELAIDE	<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	15 Mar
PENNESHAW	<i>Seabourn Sojourn</i>	14 Mar
PORT LINCOLN	<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	14 Mar
BRISBANE	<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	14 Mar
TOWNSVILLE	<i>Europa 2</i>	14 Mar
BROOME	<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	14 Mar
GERALDTON	<i>Coral Princess</i>	15 Mar
BURNIE	<i>ms Noordam</i>	14 Mar
HOBART	<i>Coral Expeditions</i> <i>MSC Magnifica</i>	14 Mar 15 Mar
DARWIN	<i>Viking Orion</i>	14 Mar
DUNEDIN	<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	15 Mar
FIORDLAND	<i>Ovation of the Seas</i> <i>Pacific Encounter</i>	14 Mar 15 Mar
NAPIER	<i>Norwegian Spirit</i> <i>Grand Princess</i>	14 Mar 15 Mar
TAURANGA	<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	15 Mar
WELLINGTON	<i>Grand Princess</i>	14 Mar

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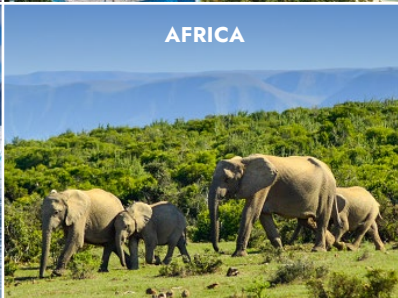
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