



Cruise Weekly today

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

New Ponant events

PONANT has announced new roadshow dates for the next two months in Queensland, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, and Melbourne.

The cruise line will visit Brisbane, Noosa, and the Gold Coast in Jul, as well as Sydney and Adelaide, before making its way to Perth and Melbourne in Aug.

The dates will provide guests and trade partners with the opportunity to meet the Ponant team and curate their next adventures for the next two years.

Register online [HERE](#) and add your client as 'guests' to the session of your choice.

Seabourn Pursuit named in Kimberley

SEABOURN Cruise Line and the Kimberley's Wunambal Gaambera traditional owners have named the company's new ultra-luxury ship *Seabourn Pursuit* in a ceremony in the region.

The historic formalities took place on the weekend at Jar Island in Vansittart Bay, with the Wunambal Gaambera conducting the ceremony.

Watching from Zodiacs were guests and VIPs, including Member for Kimberley Divina D'Anna and Tourism Western Australia Chair Di Bain.

The naming ceremony was conducted in the Wunambal Gaambera language and in English, as a bottle broke on *Pursuit's* bow.

Seabourn and the Wunambal Gaambera exchanged gifts to celebrate their new relationship, with the cruise line using a specially made bottle crafted

from sugar and coated with sand from Jar Island to further celebrate and show respect to the land.

Meanwhile, *Pursuit* passengers Vince and Jane Roig, who have sailed on every Seabourn inaugural voyage on the current fleet's ships, presented the Wunambal Gaambera with a symbolic gift of art supplies, as a token of appreciation.

Other events on the day saw guests deeply immersed in Aboriginal culture and history, participating in a welcome and smoking ceremony, conducted to ensure safe travels and prevent spirits from following visitors.

Guests also had the opportunity to visit ancient rock art sites and learn about the cultural stories of the area.

Seabourn said it chose the Kimberley for the site of the naming ceremony as the region

represents everything for which *Pursuit* is intended, while also affording the opportunity for the line to create a lasting relationship with Wunambal Gaambera as an investment in sustainable tourism.

"The relationship with the Wunambal Gaambera serves as a symbolic gesture of stewardship and responsibility toward the environment and the communities that Seabourn visits," the cruise line said.

The association will see Seabourn work alongside Wunambal Gaambera (**CW 25 Jun**), helping them share their unique Uunguu experience, imparting Wanjinna Wunggurr culture through welcome and smoking ceremonies; rock art tours; junba song & dance; and art & stories from the Uunguu.

Jar Island will be featured on all Seabourn itineraries. *MS*

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PORTHOLE

INDIA has been on the cusp of a river cruising boom for years, but a recent development may see the country finally realise its potential in the sector.

The South Asian nation has hatched an audacious scheme to connect its rivers, transforming its waterways into a mega-grid spanning the Himalayas to the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

The National River Linking Project, detailed in *Hakai Magazine*, will see India's National Water Development Agency dig 30 links which will transfer an estimated 200 billion cubic metres of water around the country each year.

The US\$168 billion goal is to help irrigate tens of millions of hectares of farmland, bolster India's hydroelectric power generation, and prevent flooding - but could it also present an opportunity for an ambitious cruise line?

LA out to tender

THE Port of Los Angeles is soliciting proposals to develop and operate a new outer harbour facility, and redevelopment of the existing cruise terminal.

The existing facility will be expanded to accommodate larger ships, while the new Outer Harbor will be rebuilt.

Oceania's *Allura* floats out



OCEANIA Cruises has floated out its new ship *Allura* at the Fincantieri shipyard in Genoa.

The important construction milestone saw *Allura*, the eighth vessel in the Oceania fleet, float from her dry dock (**pictured**) and move to the fitting-out berth to begin the assembly of the ship's designer-inspired interiors.

Allura was blessed by the shipyard's chaplain, while the shipyard 'Madrina' Caterina Romeo, a designer in Fincantieri's technical department, christened her, endowing blessings upon the vessel and all who embark on her.

The celebration was a low-key ceremony, in deference to the recent passing of Fincantieri Chair Claudio Graziano.

"Our hearts and minds are with the entire team at Fincantieri as they mourn the passing of General Graziano," Oceania President Frank Del Rio stated.

"The float out is an important

moment for all at Oceania Cruises and Fincantieri, as we progress closer to *Allura* joining our family.

"Now that we have completed her shell, we are excited to get started on her interior."

The new 1,200-guest *Allura* will enter service from Trieste on 18 Jul 2025, when she will cruise for six days to Athens, calling at destinations in the Eastern Mediterranean including Rijeka, Ravenna, Dubrovnik, and Kotor.

Following her inaugural season in the Mediterranean, *Allura* will sail to Canada and New England for a series of immersive voyages in North America before her premiere season in the Caribbean, when she will home port in Miami.

Allura will also be conducting a one-of-a-kind four-day voyage sailing round trip from New York City in Sep 2025, as part of her inaugural collection. *MS*

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Scenic, aboard *Scenic Eclipse II*.

INDIGENOUS experiences are a key part of the expedition cruise offering in Australia's Kimberley region, with Scenic and other operators working closely with traditional owners to showcase local culture.

Today *Scenic Eclipse II* visits Freshwater Cove in Worrora country, where Dambimangari guides will welcome guests with a special ceremony and stories of their clan, along with a hike to view some ancient rock art.

Eclipse II will also offer a luxurious vantage point to view the spectacle of the nearby Montgomery Reef, the world's largest inshore reef, where the coral formations literally emerge from the ocean due to the huge tidal changes.

Home to a wide variety of aquatic life, the 300km² reef ecosystem includes an array of threatened species and is said by Tourism Western Australia to be the Southern Hemisphere's most important humpback whale nursery.

After a day of action, guests can enjoy the onboard facilities such as multiple dining venues, entertainment from the talented crew, spa and sauna facilities, and multiple pools, while a popular evening activity is viewing the night sky from the cosy Deck 10 cabanas.