



Cruise Weekly today

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

Ponant package

PONANT has launched a new Kimberley fly, stay, and cruise package for next year, which is available across almost 20 departures from May to Sep.

The package includes return flights from all major Australian cities, as well as airport and hotel transfers, one night pre-cruise accommodation, and a 10-night luxury expedition on board *Le Jacques-Cartier* or *Le Soleal*, departing from Darwin.

"We are incredibly excited to introduce our fly, stay, and cruise package for our guests," Chief Executive Officer Deb Corbett said.

"Not only will this eliminate the complexities of planning, but it is very cost-effective, making clients' experiences in the region more accessible than ever."

The new Kimberley season, which starts in May, will allow guests to discover iconic sites such as King George Falls, the Horizontal Falls, the sacred Wandjina rock art site on Jar Island, and much more.

Ponant is also offering guests a free solo supplement.

Cruise360 speakers named

EXCLUSIVE

CRUISE industry leaders from around the world will take the stage at Cruise360 next month, offering essential insights to help travel professionals thrive.

CW can reveal the five headline international speakers who will visit Sydney for this year's sold-out Cruise360 on 30 Aug will include Tauck Vice President Global Sales, Steve Spivak.

The river cruise executive, who also has a background across hotels and resorts, will discuss how to unlock the luxury market, including strategies for maximising opportunities.

Spivak will be joined by Silversea Senior Vice President Expeditions, Destination & Itinerary Management Conrad Combrinck, who will explain how to capitalise on growing demand for experiential travel.

The expedition leader will present on destinations, culture, and local sourcing.

Celestyal Cruises Chief Commercial Officer Lee Haslett will join a panel discussion on the day on how to unlock the potential of new-to-cruise clients, including how to overcome common misconceptions.

Rounding out the cruise line representatives will be Aurora Expeditions Global Head of Sales David Tanguay, who will join a panel discussion on emerging cruise trends and how embracing

these changes can open up new growth potential.

Also attending Cruise360 will be Port of Seattle Tourism Development Manager Chantelle Lusebrink, who will join a panel discussion on how to harness the potential of immersive pre- and post-cruise experiences.

Lusebrink possesses varied experience across the tourism and hospitality industries, and is passionate about building community coalitions to advance economic vitality.

Cruise360 will as usual include a 'State of the Industry' panel of regional cruise line heads, discussing the forces shaping the future of cruising.

This year's panel will include Carnival Corporation Senior Vice President & Country Manager and CLIA Chair Peter Little; Royal Caribbean International Vice President & Managing Director Australia Gavin Smith; Norwegian Cruise Line Vice President & Managing Director, Ben Angell; and Ponant Chief Executive Officer Deb Corbett.

CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz said Cruise360 will offer a rich line-up of international speakers and local panellists to help delegates build and grow their own cruise business.

"Our aim this year is to not only give delegates a clear understanding of how cruising is evolving, but also equip them with practical advice that will allow them to reach new markets and lift their cruise sales.

"Our international speakers are all highly respected leaders with an enormous amount of experience, making this year's Cruise360 a fantastic opportunity to learn and be inspired."

Cruise360 will be held at ICC Sydney on 30 Aug.

The full program details will be announced in coming weeks.

It will be the largest Cruise360 CLIA has ever hosted. **MS**

Carnival goes big

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has placed an order for three new mega-ships which will become the biggest in its fleet, capable of carrying more than 8,000 guests at full capacity.

The new class of ships, to be delivered in 2029, 2031, and 2033, will be built by Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri, and will run on liquified natural gas, taking Carnival's LNG fleet to 16 vessels.

The cruise line now has five ships in its pipeline, joining the two additional Excel-class vessels ordered earlier this year (**CW** 27 Mar), due to arrive in 2027 and 2028.

Carnival's fleet will also grow by five more ships as it transfers tonnage from sister brands, among which will be two ships from the retiring P&O Cruises Australia brand.

President Christine Duffy said the new class of ship will allow the line to create "innovative guest experiences that will take Carnival Cruise Line into the future".

The ships will feature next-gen energy efficiency, waste management and emission reduction technology.

Travel24 program

TRAVEL24'S full program is now available to view on its website, jam-packed with insightful discussions and keynote presentations from thought leaders.

The new one-day event will take place on 08 Aug at the Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour, aimed at the tourism and travel industries.

Lori Modde, Chair of NSW Tourism Association, is the latest speaker to join Travel24, where she will share a presentation with her thoughts on the next big things in travel - view the full program and book tickets **HERE**.



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ARANUI 5 is the latest cruise ship to be signed up as a floating hotel.

The dual passenger-cargo Aranui vessel will serve as accommodation off the coast of Teahupo'o, in Tahiti, where the coming Summer Olympics' surfing events will be held.

Aranui 5 hosting Olympians was not the initial plan, with surfers intended to be based in an old hotel - which has actually been closed for around two decades.

However, like many an Olympic project before it, the hotel will not be ready in time for the Games, which begin this Fri.

The athletes will instead be able to enjoy *Aranui 5's* gym, massage room, outdoor pool, multiple bars, and "the first tattoo parlour at sea".

Hopefully one or two of the surfers will become cruise converts in the process.

Tauck-ing it higher

TAUCK has partnered with Approach Guides to boost travel advisors' river cruise group sales.

Approach Guides' new technology focuses on enhanced customisation, making it easy for advisors to add custom sales, messages, group pricing, and other trip details to a built-in page.

Olive is oil over Cunard



ABORIGINAL chef Mark Olive (pictured) is set to bring his native culinary excellence to Cunard Line's *Queen Elizabeth* with a new pop-up restaurant on board the ship's sailing to Tasmania later this year.

Olive will take over *Queen Elizabeth's* Lido Alternative Dining restaurant in Nov, offering guests a unique three-course feast, as they call Hobart and Port Arthur, and enjoy scenic cruising along Great Oyster Bay.

The seven-night round-trip cruise will depart Sydney on 27 Nov, offering guests the opportunity to savour a selection of Olive's famous native Australian dishes, which highlight indigenous produce.

This will include bush tomato soup, braised wallaby shanks, barramundi in paperbark, and pavlova with wattleseed cream.

Olive will also take the stage of the Royal Court Theatre for a live cooking demonstration, where guests can learn the chef's culinary secrets, techniques, and the stories behind the native ingredients he uses in his dishes.

The man known as 'the Black Olive' said he is looking

forward to bringing native Australian cuisine to the high seas, and giving Cunard guests the opportunity to learn about indigenous ingredients and sustainable cooking practices.

"My greatest passions in life are travelling and sharing the amazing flavours of our Australian native cuisine with people from all over the world, and, what better way to travel than on Cunard's luxurious *Queen Elizabeth*," Olive said.

"I can't wait to get back on board to create a week of special menus - bursting with truly unique Australian flavours - and share the incredible stories behind the dishes with all the passionate foodies joining me on this magnificent sailing."

President Katie McAlister said: "our Australian guests have shown immense appreciation for authentic, once-in-a-lifetime experiences from award-winning chefs, as evidenced by the resounding success of our annual Great Australian Culinary Voyage...we are proud to present yet another signature gastronomic experience featuring the renowned Mark Olive". MS



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Striving for net-zero

IN POLITICAL centres around the world, CLIA is working to ensure our members can thrive in a growing cruise sector.

A huge amount of our focus is dedicated to cruising's path to net-zero emissions by 2050, which is critical to securing a sustainable and prosperous future.

This is where CLIA is actively engaged at the global level, working through the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to create the right platform to achieve our goals.

This month, CLIA joined with other shipping bodies to call for changes to one of the IMO's key mechanisms for measuring progress to net-zero, the Carbon Intensity Index (CII), which may not accurately reflect a ship's true environmental performance.

The IMO has acknowledged its initial model has a number of inherent shortcomings.

The one-size-fits-all approach of the current CII works against emissions reduction.

It could reward longer itineraries with higher absolute carbon dioxide emissions and penalise shorter, more efficient itineraries with less distance travelled and longer port stays.

Cruise lines are committed to net-zero by 2050, and through the work of CLIA we are working hard to achieve the best possible path.

