



Cunard returns for an unmissable summer season



Queen Elizabeth has arrived in Sydney today to celebrate 100 years of sailing in Australia. We have a huge summer season of exciting opportunities for our travel agent partners.



Ship visits in Sydney & Brisbane

Register your interest now for ship visits on Queen Elizabeth:

19th November in Brisbane and 4th December in Sydney.

[Express your interest](#)

NEW short and fun video training

A training video series is now available for you to learn everything you need to know about Cunard to become an expert today!

[New Onboarding Videos](#)

Queen Anne is coming

New ship Queen Anne will make her maiden call into Sydney on the 28th February and 1st March, and Brisbane on the 3rd March.

Stay tuned for updates.

[Follow our Facebook Group](#)



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a cover page from **Cunard**.

Sydney season here

THOUSANDS of international visitors are set to sail into Sydney this summer, as Business Sydney welcomes the take-off of the city's cruise season today.

The launch of the season today coincides with three cruise ships being berthed in Sydney Harbour: Cunard Line's *Queen Elizabeth* at Circular Quay, and P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Adventure* & Disney Cruise Line's *Disney Wonder* at White Bay.

This cruise season will see a number of ships making maiden visits, including Cunard's newest ship *Queen Anne* (CW 03 Mar 2023).

Cunard is back

CUNARD Line is returning for an unmissable summer season, celebrating its 100th year in Australia.

Queen Elizabeth has arrived in Sydney today, opening Cunard's huge summer season of exciting opportunities for its travel advisor partners.

Ship visits in Sydney and Brisbane are just some of the highlights for the season - more on the **cover page**.

Cruise contributes \$8.4b to Australia

AUSTRALIAN cruise tourism has surged to a record \$8.43 billion economic value during 2023-2024, according to an economic impact assessment jointly commissioned by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and the Australian Cruise Association (ACA).

The record figure is a 49.7% spike over the previous year, driven by significant increases in passenger spending and cruise line outlays.

Highlights of the *The Value of Cruise Tourism* economic impact assessment saw cruisers record a total of 4.26 million passenger visit days.

This includes a significant increase to 3 million (35%) in turnaround passengers - the highest-spending visitors.

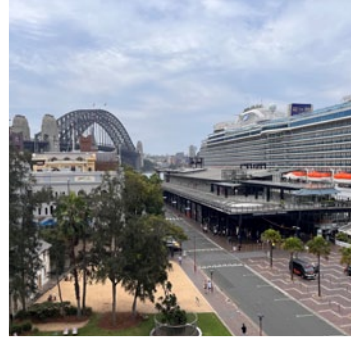
Cruisers spent an average of \$455 per day on shore, up 2%.

The largest beneficiary of direct passenger expenditure was the hotel and accommodation sector, which received \$593.1 million, or 30.6% of passenger spending, while shore excursions (\$224.9 million, 11.6%) also saw large value from the cruise sector.

New South Wales (**pictured**) recorded the biggest benefit from cruising with a total economic impact of \$4.41b (up 60.4%).

NSW was followed by Queensland, which saw a total economic output of \$2.41 billion (up 43.1%).

Victoria recorded a total



economic impact of \$636.9 million (up 67.8%), followed by Western Australia (\$384.9 million, up 15.4%), South Australia (\$227.1 million, up 5.4%), Tasmania (\$176.0 million, up 22.1%) and the NT (\$181.4 million, up 42.5%).

CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz said cruise tourism has been booming as travellers embrace holidays at sea.

However, he warned future prosperity is being hampered by high costs and regulatory complexities in Australia.

"Cruise tourism is thriving and passengers have been spending more when they step on shore, creating a record benefit for communities around the Australian coast," he said.

"The number of Australians who benefit from cruise tourism is huge, from the travel agents who manage the passengers' bookings through to the farmers who provide the local produce served on board."

"The value to the local economy

is enormous, but the deployment of ships to this region is at risk of decline while Australia remains one of the world's most expensive destinations for cruise lines...rising fees and charges have combined with a complex regulatory environment, which reduces Australia's competitiveness," Katz added.

Direct cruise line expenditure was up 35.9% in 2023-24, totalling \$1.59 billion, including \$350.7 million paid to ports and governments (up 54.5%).

ACA Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel said cruise ships visited 49 ports and destinations around Australia during 2023-24, bringing increases in visitor spending to every coastal state and territory.

"Cruise ships made 1,650 visits to communities around the Australian coast in 2023-34, an increase of 5.1% on the year before," she said.

"Together these destinations recorded almost 4.3 million passenger visit days over the financial year, an increase of 26.9%," Abel added.

"The result is an enormous windfall for businesses like tourism operators, hotels and restaurants, retailers, transport providers and port operators... in addition, passengers often return to destinations they initially discovered on a cruise, which creates added benefits for communities in the longer term," she said. *MS*

Discover our Adventure Special Report

CruiseHQ celebrates a year of success

CRUISEHQ celebrated a year of success last night in an intimate event at Crown Sydney with some of its closest partners.

General Manager Caroline Hitchen thanked attendees for their partnership over the past year, helping CruiseHQ to build its wholesale operation brick by brick.

“It’s a pleasure and an honour to have our friends and colleagues here with us this evening,” she said.

“By building great partnerships and blending Flight Centre Travel Group’s exceptional offerings across air, land, and sea, we curate an incredible selection of cruise products that drive revenue and growth.

“We are so proud to have launched our dedicated agent booking portal, which features best-in-market booking technology, rich content, and a suite of tools to help our thousands of travel advisors sell the best cruise packages.”



THE CruiseHQ team: Carina Mullen, Astrid Maier, Tina Giannopoulos, Caitlyn Paris, Caroline Hitchen, and Viktoryia Shliazhko.



JAMES Kavanagh, Flight Centre; Caroline Hitchen, CruiseHQ.



CUNARD Revenue Manager Alex Oakley, Vice President North America and Australasia Matthew Gleaves, and Commercial Director Australia & New Zealand Katrina McAlpine.



ALEXA Papoulias, Abercrombie & Kent; Astrid Maier, CruiseHQ; and Victoria Chigwidden, Azamara.



ASTRID Richardson, Greg Parker, and Rachel Kingswell, Flight Centre Travel Group.



BRIGITA Devries, MSC; Mary Williams, Celestyal; Viktoryia Shliazhko, CruiseHQ, Angela Middleton, Norwegian; Gia Acitelli, Globus; Cassandra Kerr, Silversea; and Amber Wilson, Hurtigruten.



PHILIPPA Walker and Adam Radwanski, Silversea; Roberta Chaplin, Royal Caribbean; Trevor Thwaites, Celebrity; and Dave Humphreys, Royal Caribbean.



THE CruiseHQ/CTG and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings teams celebrate their success.



LINK General Manager Scott Darlow, and National Business Manager Emmalita Malmberg.



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A MAN has described his “absolutely incredible” experience when he was surrounded by whales as he was rowing solo across the Atlantic, in an encounter many cruise passengers have enjoyed in the past.

The pod of pilot whales thronged around him, following him for hours, the man said.

The group grew from a few playful animals to hundreds of large creatures, with at least one smacking into the side of his boat - [CLICK HERE](#) to view the video.



Surf new makeover

WINDSTAR Cruises' *Wind Surf* is readying for major renovations next month, with the line's flagship to emerge just in time for the upcoming holiday season.

Phase 1 of *Surf's* multi-million-dollar renovations will encompass a full redesign of her many public spaces with new layouts, furniture, wall and floor coverings, lighting, and custom art to name a few, as well as improvements to her Premium suite.

COMO enters cruising



COMO Hotels & Resorts has expanded into cruising with the launch of a new, limited-time expedition exploring Norway's remote Svalbard Archipelago.

The 11-day sailing, 'COMO Journey: Into the Arctic', offers guests a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the region's pristine wilderness and encounter its native wildlife.

Departing 30 Jul 2025, the expedition was developed in partnership with Natural World Safaris, blending the tour operator's expertise with COMO's world-class culinary and wellness experiences.

Seasoned guides lead guests on land and sea safaris to search for iconic wildlife, from polar bears and whales, to walrus, Arctic foxes and Svalbard reindeer.

The zodiac excursions on offer will be lead by a team of guides headed up by specialist leader Andy Mann, an Emmy-nominated director, *National Geographic* photographer, and marine conservationist.

The team will also share their knowledge through lectures, workshops, and discussions on photography, wildlife, sustainability, and the Arctic's rich cultural and historical legacy.

Guests will spend the first night of their journey in the Norwegian town of Longyearbyen before boarding *Polarfront* (pictured), which was previously a Norwegian weather ship that has since been transformed to an arctic expedition cruise vessel.

Polarfront boasts eight suites, each equipped with large portholes and en suite bathrooms, as well as a sauna and hot tub.

Guests will be able to unwind with signature COMO Shambhala wellness experiences, with an onboard therapist available to offer a range of treatments.

Cruisers can dine on board at the brand's signature East-West fusion cuisine, featuring fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

To learn more about COMO's new expedition, [CLICK HERE](#). JM

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	18 Oct
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	18 Oct
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	18 Oct
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	19 Oct
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	19 Oct
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	21 Oct
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	22 Oct
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	23 Oct
MELBOURNE	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	24 Oct
BRISBANE	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	21 Oct
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	22 Oct
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	24 Oct
ADELAIDE	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	22 Oct
CAIRNS	
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	20 Oct
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	22 Oct
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	21 Oct
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	23 Oct
AUCKLAND	
<i>Crown Princess</i>	18 Oct
<i>Royal Princess</i>	22 Oct
<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	23 Oct
WELLINGTON	
<i>Crown Princess</i>	21 Oct
CHRISTCHURCH	
<i>The World</i>	21 Oct
BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	19 Oct
<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	22 Oct
<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	24 Oct
DUNEDIN	
<i>The World</i>	18 Oct
KAIKIOURA	
<i>The World</i>	24 Oct
NAPIER	
<i>Crown Princess</i>	20 Oct

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