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# End of an era as P&O Cruises becomes Carnival

**SUNSET** has come after 92 years for P&O Cruises Australia, with the brand last week folded into Carnival Cruise Line, now sailing with four ships in Australia.

*Pacific Encounter* and *Pacific Adventure* have been officially converted into *Carnival Encounter* and *Carnival Adventure*, based in Brisbane and Sydney respectively.

On its arrival in Sydney on Fri, *Carnival Adventure* was escorted into the harbour for the first time by two water-spraying tugboats and a giant inflatable captain.

Hundreds of guests were welcomed onboard for a special afternoon ceremony to explore the new ship and to try out many



onboard activities and features.

*Carnival Encounter* will sail year-round from the Queensland capital, joined each summer by *Carnival Luminosa*, while Sydney will have two ships operating year-round as *Carnival Adventure* is joined by *Carnival Splendor*.

The line marked the occasion with Carnival Cruise Line President, Christine Duffy, flying

into Sydney to officially cut the ribbon and welcome the two new ships to the Carnival fleet.

"Carnival Cruise Line is proud to strengthen its commitment to the millions of Australians who love to cruise," Duffy said.

While the P&O Cruises Australia brand has disappeared, Carnival Cruise Line has retained several popular elements of the P&O

experience on its two new ships.

These include the Byron Beach Club, Luke's Bar and Grill, and high-adrenalin challenge course experiences including ziplining and rock climbing.

They will be joined by Carnival Cruise Line staples including the Fun Squad, Dr Seuss at Sea, Build-A-Bear Workshop events, the Conga for Kids dance party and the 80s Rock and Glow parties.

The cruise line is predicted to welcome up to 500,000 Australians embarking in Sydney and Brisbane, during which time it will inject \$2 billion into the Australian economy. *ML*

Duffy is **pictured** front row centre with Carnival Australia Senior VP and Country Manager, Peter Little, and *Carnival Adventure* Captain, Claudio Cupisti.

Carnival is celebrating the arrival of its new ships with bookings now open - see the **cover page**.

### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features a cover wrap from **Carnival Cruise Line** plus three pages of the latest cruise news.



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\*Fares and itineraries are accurate as of 26 February 2025 and are subject to change or withdrawal. Autumn Sale offer expires 1 April 2025, applies to select categories on select voyages, subject to availability and is capacity controlled. The quoted fares are valid for sale until 1 April, unless sold out prior and include any/all savings/upgrades. Airfares are additional. Cruise fares are per person, twin share (except fares for Solo category, which are for single travellers), in AUD and include all taxes, port fees and onboard gratuities. For full terms & conditions that apply, please visit OceaniaCruises.com/terms. All rights reserved. Oceania Cruises is not responsible for typographical errors or omissions. Ships' Registry: Marshall Islands. NCL Australia Pty Ltd ABN 8060 7578 781



## Pandaw popularity

**PANDAW** Cruises has added more dates for the 2025/26 season for its 10-day 'Halong Bay & Red River' voyage, as the cruise line's bookings exceed pre-COVID levels.

Between Apr 2025 and May 2027, there are now more departures available for the journey through Halong Bay, Hanoi and up to Viet Tri on board the 16-stateroom *Angkor Pandaw*.

Prices start from A\$7,087, with up to 10% savings and no single supplements on selected dates, with a festive themed departure also available over the Christmas holiday period.

Learn more about the North Vietnamese river expedition, including optional excursions and departures, [HERE](#).

## Skagen plugging in

**CRUISE** ships calling into the Danish city of Skagen will soon be able to connect to shore power, with the city launching planning tenders as part of a €10m investment in the port.

Skagen is the second largest port in Denmark, with the shore power project expected to be switched on by 2028.

The city is expecting 91 ship calls and up to 194,000 passengers during the 2025 season, an increase of 82% and 50 calls on last year, with 15 ships visiting for the first time.

## HAL raring to see Alaska



**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) is gearing up for a bumper Alaska season, which will kick off on 26 Apr with six of the line's ships in action through to Sep.

HAL will sail roundtrip from Seattle, Washington, roundtrip from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and between Vancouver and Whittier (Anchorage), Alaska.

Highlights include the 28-day 'Alaska Arctic Circle Solstice' cruise, which sails aboard *Westerdam* on 08 Jun to the Bering Sea and Arctic Circle, and the 14-day 'Great Alaska Explorer' journey, which visits eight ports.

Travellers can enjoy Alaska's bucket-list experiences, including visiting Glacier Bay, hiking in Mendenhall Glacier National Recreation Area, chance encounters with the 'Big Five' wildlife, and crossing into the Arctic circle.

"Alaska offers many memorable experiences, from getting close to glaciers and seeing animals

in the wild to learning about the unique culture," said Robert Morgenstern, Senior Vice President, Alaska Operations.

"We are ready to explore this majestic region, and Alaska is ready for us." *JM*

## NCL up in lights

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line has signed on as the major partner for the 72nd Sydney Film Festival, which will run from 04-15 Jun.

As part of the sponsorship, NCL will present an outdoor cinema experience with free public screenings, exclusive content and an activation showcasing the line's approach to travel and exploration.

The Sydney Film Festival also happens to coincide with Vivid Sydney and will take place at theatres across the city, with the film line-up coming soon.

## United Miami front

**CLIA** Australasia and the Australian Cruise Association (ACA) will lead the largest contingent from Australia and New Zealand to ever attend the Seatrade Cruise Global conference, which takes place in Miami next month.

The Australian delegation will feature representatives from all states and territories, plus regional tourism offices, port authorities and suppliers.

New Zealand will put forward port representatives along with Air New Zealand, Tourism New Zealand and attractions.

Delegates will have the chance to meet with global cruise industry heavyweights and take part in an Australasia panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities for the sector in this region.

"Australia and New Zealand represent one of the world's most dynamic cruise markets and together offer some of the most spectacular cruise destinations on earth," said CLIA Australasia MD, Joel Katz.

ACA Chief Executive Jill Abel said this year's delegation includes expertise covering port operations, destination promotion, itinerary building, shorex and F&B supply chains.

New Zealand Cruise Association CEO Jacqui Lloyd said the event will exemplify the country's long-term vision for a thriving cruise sector.

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## PORTRHOLE

**TIPPING** is usually considered a kind act, however, one cruiser has stirred controversy after leaving a unique tip for a cabin steward.

Carnival Cruise Lines' Brand Ambassador, John Heald, laid out dollar bills on his bed to spell out 'Thanx Ketut', sharing the photo on Facebook.

The image went somewhat viral, attracting both criticism and praise from seasoned cruise travellers.

One commenter wrote: "In my opinion it's a little tacky.

"Do people do it and take a picture so they can show off that they tipped?"

Other Facebook users flagged that such a display could create 'too much trouble' for the staff responsible for cleaning up the bills, with one saying it was 'demeaning' to the steward to 'have to "work" again to get your tip'.

Some cruise lovers saw it differently, though, and came to Heald's defence, describing his show of appreciation to the staff as 'adorable' and a 'thoughtful gesture', pointing out that regardless of the method, tipping can only be a good thing.

"A gift is always appreciated and no need to judge how others choose to give it," one Facebook user wrote, with many others saying they loved the creativity of the tip.

## Viking expands pre-/post-cruise options



**VIKING** has introduced 10 new land extensions that can be bolted on to river cruise itineraries in Europe and Egypt for 2025 and 2026 departures.

While most cities may be familiar to Australian travellers, none have ever been formally offered by Viking as add-ons for guests to bolt a land component onto an ocean or river sailing.

New city extensions now available from Viking include Toulouse in France, St. Moritz in Switzerland, and Tokaj in Hungary.

Additionally, Viking has expanded the range of pre- and post-cruise extensions available in popular cities including Budapest, Amsterdam, and Cairo.

Extensions range from two to four nights but can be extended, with some options available fully guided while others are open for independent exploration.

The new range includes three nights to Reims and the Champagne region as a pre-cruise adventure prior to the eight-day 'Paris & the Heart of Normandy' itinerary along the Seine.

Travellers can enjoy plenty

of tasting opportunities and even visit the gravesite of Dom Perignon himself, while post-cruise options include a chance to visit Toulouse, including rail tickets, a walking tour and a visit to landmarks such as the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Basilique Saint-Sernin de Toulouse.

Other new itineraries include four nights in Milan and St Moritz, which includes a rail journey through the Swiss Alps on the Bernina Express and an ascent of Muottas Muragi.

In Western Europe, travellers can now add three nights

to a variety of itineraries in Amsterdam, Brussels and Bruges, with highlights including a stroopwafel workshop and a visit to The Hague.

Viking has also added new extensions in Eastern Europe, with land touring in Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary now more widely available.

Pre- and post-cruise itineraries include four nights in Ljubljana, Zagreb and Budapest where travellers can explore Hungary's wine country, visit ancient palaces and sample local food.

In Egypt, guests can add two nights in Cairo to Viking's popular 'Pharaohs and Pyramids' itinerary, with the extension including a walking tour of the city and visits to landmarks such as the Coptic Museum and the Hanging Church.

Viking's premiere Egypt itinerary also now features an extension across the Mediterranean in Greece, with four nights in Athens able to be bolted on as a pre-tour.

Using the capital as a base, travellers will explore the Peloponnese peninsula to visit preserved cities of Mycenae, Epidaurus and Delphi.

These latter extensions in Egypt and Greece are now open for sale on departures through to 2028.

Extensions are limited in their seasonality, with some available during the summer and others timed to coincide with Christmas.

Viking is also spruiking its new land extensions to travel agents, who are able to earn commission similar to the cruise component when booked via the line's Travel Advisor Portal or through the contact centre prior to departure.

### Sitka mulls a limit

**VOTERS** will go to the polls in the Alaskan city of Sitka to consider whether or not to impose a cap on cruise ship passengers of 4,500 per day.

The proposal, if successful, will also impose an annual cap of 300,000 visitors, with ships welcome six days per week.

The latest poll is the city's fourth attempt to mandate limits on cruise ship arrivals.