

Cruise Weekly today

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

Viking adds more

VIKING has announced a range of new departure dates for select ocean cruises in 2020/21.

Some of the additional sailings include the 15-day Australia and NZ trip leaving 11 Nov 2020, the 37-day Far East & Alaska package departing 24 Aug 2020, & the 23-day North Pacific Passage cruise departing 24 Aug 2020.

"While 2020/21 might seem far off, these new departures for some of our most popular cruise itineraries are guaranteed to sell out," said Viking ANZ MD Michelle Black. Call 138 747 for more info.

Aqua Expeditions makes global push

LUXURY river cruise line Aqua Expeditions has announced it will increase its fleet by 150% over the next two years as part of a major expansion campaign.

A large cash injection from US-based Bison Capital Funds has made the growth plan possible, stumping up \$28 million to facilitate ship purchases.

"I am thrilled that after a decade of changing the face of river cruising on both the Amazon and the Mekong Rivers we will extend our footprint to coastal cruising in additional soft adventure destinations," said Aqua Expeditions Chief Executive Officer Francesco Galli Zugaro.

The Singapore-headquartered cruise line specialises in 5-star luxury river cruising in remote areas, with the same model of "lavishness" with "adventure" flagged to feature throughout the company's expanded fleet and



future itineraries.

"We succeeded in...introducing intimate and luxurious boats from which travellers take safari-like excursions led by expert guides to discover jungles, wildlife and local cultures," Zugaro said.

"On board there is not only a staff-guest ratio of 1:1, but also ground-breaking cuisine overseen

by internationally renowned celebrity chefs," he added.

The first details of new vessels and itineraries will be announced later this month.

For more information regarding Aqua Expedition's current range of cruises, **CLICK HERE**.

Pictured: Aqua's *Aria Amazon* sailing in South America.

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Silversea Venetian

SILVERSEA'S *Silver Whisper* will once again take guests on its popular "immersive" Venetian Society voyage, departing from Rome on 29 Sep 2019 - more [HERE](#).

CLIA rejuvenates awards



CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia will refresh the nomination and judging process for its 2018 annual awards night set to be held in Sydney on 23 Feb 2019.

The "CLIAs" have been running for 17 years and next year's ceremony will take on "a new look and feel", with changes to include additional award categories, a more transparent online voting system, and a separate judging panel to determine award winners from New Zealand.

New categories to be introduced at the 2018 awards include a new "Cruise Champion" award, recognising individual agents who go above and beyond to drive the cruise industry.

There will also be a "Rising Star" award, rewarding current achievements & future potential.

"We're updating the awards, nomination criteria and judging in the hope of inspiring individual member agents...to engage with and champion the cruise industry," said CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz.

Oceania launches new range of land tours

OCEANIA Cruises has launched 86 new land tour options, offering guests pre-, post- and mid-cruise options in Australia, Asia, Africa, Egypt, Europe, South America, Alaska and Canada.

Ranging from one to five nights in length, experiences include overnight stays in popular cities, as well as overland explorations such as ventures into the Swiss and Italian Alps, luxury African safaris, and an expedition into the Himalayan Mountains visiting Kathmandu and Mount Everest.

"Not only will our pax delve deeper into destinations, they'll...do things they only dreamed of," said Oceania Cruises CEO Bob Binder.

Uniworld savings

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection and U by Uniworld have revealed an "Our Best Offer" promotion. Guests can save up to 30% on over 200 voyages, including select departures from a range of 2019 itineraries.

The offer is valid until 31 Dec - more information [HERE](#).

Edge embarks

CELEBRITY *Edge* has begun her epic journey from the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, France, bound for her new season home in Port Everglades, Florida.

More than 1,400 crew members are currently on board preparing the final touches of the ship ahead of her scheduled arrival in her new home on Mon 19 Nov.

Celebrity Edge's inaugural season will be spent sailing on alternating seven-night eastern and western Caribbean cruise itineraries, with the first journey departing on 09 Dec to the West Caribbean and the second departing 16 Dec.

From Mar, *Edge* will cross the Atlantic to deliver guests a series of seven- to 11-night cruises to the Mediterranean, including Barcelona and Rome.

For more info on *Celebrity Edge* journeys, [CLICK HERE](#).

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Supporting Fijian women



CAPTAIN Cook Cruises Fiji has partnered with Kiwi Air hostess Cassy Appleton and Fijian local Maraia Vavaitamana in an effort to deliver over 1,000 bras to Fijian women in the Mamanuca Islands.

The campaign, which was launched by Appleton after a visit to the region, invited women to donate their bras

after she discovered many women in the remote rural areas were not always able to easily purchase or have access to bras.

Captain Cook Cruises Fiji helped distribute the bras to the women in the villages of Yanuya and Yalobi when they stopped off at the islands.

Pictured: The bra drive.



BEFORE she calls Brisbane home in Oct 2020, *Carnival Spirit* will undertake sailings in Alaska and Hawaii during the northern summer season of the same year.

The ship, well known to Aussie cruisers, will sail the Inside Passage, stopping at the Alaskan cities of Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan.

The 2,124-passenger *Carnival Spirit* will also set sail on a 20-day cruise from Honolulu to Brisbane departing 01 Oct calling in at Pacific cruise destinations along the way such as Papeete, Moorea and Bora Bora in French Polynesia, Nuku'alofa in Tonga and Mystery Island in Vanuatu.



Photo: Steven Kazlowski.

As of Oct 2020, *Carnival Spirit* will homeport in Brisbane and sail year-round.

Bookings are now open and available to book for *Spirit's* Alaska and Hawaii season.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

Pictured top *Spirit* sailing in Sydney Harbour and **inset** a polar bear takes a bath in Alaska.

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EVERYBODY loves a good maritime mystery, right?

Well the small fishing village of Cape Breton Island located in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia is currently abound with theories about a missing sailor after his vessel was found washed up on rocks by locals.

Several residents believe they spotted the shipwrecked sailor, accompanied by his dog, walking up the highway, but he hasn't been seen since.

"I just saw this guy with a backpack — I don't see many people walking by — and I noticed he had a dog with him with a red jacket on it," Marie Jaarsma told a clearly uninspired local media.

Another local man, Mark MacGillivray, who has taken time out of his schedule to examine the wreck said it was odd the unidentified sailor didn't ask for help.

"It's funny he wouldn't at least knock on someone's door and ask for a glass of water," a perplexed MacGillivray said.

Perhaps the man was simply trying to avoid a barrage of questions from stickybeaks?



On the menu: SHARE by Curtis Stone



SHIP: *Emerald Princess, Ruby Princess and Sun Princess.*

RESTAURANT: SHARE by Curtis Stone.

CHEF: Curtis Stone.

DESCRIPTION: SHARE by Curtis Stone is a six-course, fine-dining experience from the award-winning chef — and, as of Oct 2018 has been revamped with a fresh new menu. Inspired by the Australian summer, the menu features butter-poached chunks of Alaskan king crab and double-boned brown butter pork chop. In addition to SHARE, Stone also brings his expertise to Crafted by Curtis — special menu items which appear in the main dining rooms fleetwide.

SIGNATURE DISH: Alaskan king crab (pictured inset).

WINE: The menu is balanced by a carefully selected list of



wine from around the globe, handpicked by Stone and his personal sommelier, Ben Avriam.

COST: SHARE by Curtis Stone has a US\$29 cover charge, while Crafted by Curtis Stone is complimentary and available in the dining room.

RESERVATIONS: Available to walk in guests but can also be booked in advance.

DRESS: Smart casual.

HOURS: SHARE is open for dinner only.



Cultural Connections

WE HAVE exceptional opportunities in our many ports around Australia to illustrate that our country is exciting, diverse and offers experiences that cruise pax can't find anywhere else.

Indigenous touring and cultural activities are standout examples of how we will ensure that our regional ports in particular remain on cruise ship itineraries.

Last week a group of ACA members including Renata Lowe (Tourism WA), Chris White (Visit Victoria), Toby Biddick (A&K) and myself along with Bart Pigram — Narlijia Cultural Tours, who partnered with us on our Broome conference, were fortunate to attend the Indigenous Tourism Conference in Lorne, Victoria.

Bart presented a compelling presentation on how he is adapting his tours to cruise pax giving them an authentic insight into the history and culture in Broome seen through his eyes as a saltwater man.

Bart began his company three years ago and emphasises how important it is to continue to reinvent the experience to ensure it stays fresh and consistent.

His tours are filled with interesting first person stories and incorporate one-off experiences such as musical performances by Bart and his family members and the opportunity for cruise passengers to try the famous Nanna Pig's fish soup.

With over 30% of the 109 new ships currently on order being smaller luxury and expedition vessels, I predict that regional ports like Broome, Cairns and others around the country offering these cultural experiences will continue to see increased visitation and remain a must-see on cruise itineraries.

CRUISE
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Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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