

OCEANIA CRUISES®

# TROPICS *and* EXOTICS

## 2021– 2022 COLLECTION

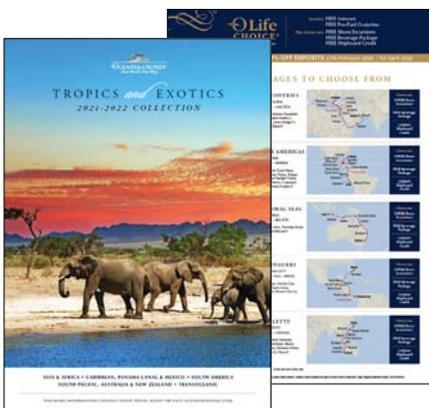
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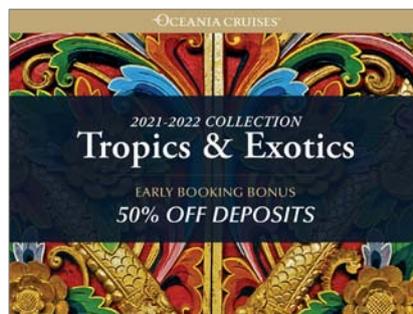
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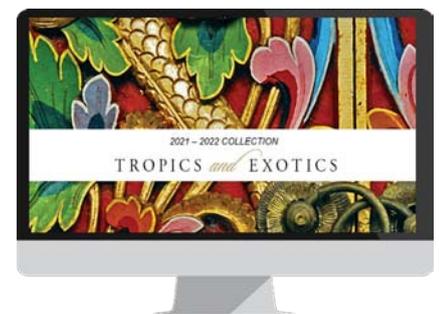
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### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a cover wrap from Oceania Cruises.

### Oceania Rewards

OCEANIA Cruises is today showcasing its Tropics & Exotics 2021-22 Collection, with a number of promotional offers available.

The trade can receive double Oceania Rewards points, as well as free internet, pre-paid gratuities, shore excursions, beverage package and shipboard credit.

There is also an early booking bonus offering 50% off deposits, but hurry - this early bird offer is only available until 01 Apr.

Head to the **front page** for full details.

## Viking adding Galapagos, Mississippi

VIKING Cruises is stepping on the accelerator, with plans well advanced for the debut of new cruise offerings in South and North America.

The company, which just last month revealed details of its two new expedition ships to launch in 2022 (*CW* 17 Jan), has this week gone live with a new Galapagos program, which will have its first sailings in Dec 2020.

Viking has undertaken an exclusive charter of the 90-passenger *Santa Cruz II* (pictured) which is undergoing a full renovation "to reflect the clean, elegant Scandinavian design for which Viking is known".

The inaugural season is currently being promoted to past Viking passengers, but full itinerary details and pricing for the Galapagos trips are live on the Viking website including 13- and 14-day trips combining



the cruises with land content including Machu Picchu and Peru.

The Galapagos isn't the only new frontier being broached by Viking, with founder Torstein Hagen also believed to be about to formally launch the company's long-rumoured Mississippi River cruise program.

Invitations have been sent to trade partners in the USA for a launch announcement in New Orleans where Hagen will

"officially reveal the introduction of modern river cruising in the US".

Viking has long been planning to operate on US rivers, having actively developed its river cruise infrastructure along the Mississippi with docking agreements and suggestions of up to six vessels with capacity of around 335 passengers.

The rumoured announcement has sparked a swift reaction from American Cruise Line - **see p2**.



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## Cruiseco Iceland

**CRUISECO** is inviting travellers to discover Iceland and the Northern Isles in 2021, aboard Cruise & Maritime Voyages' *Amy Johnson*. The travel agency is currently offering savings of up to \$3,700 per person for those booking by 07 Mar, with the Arctic Greenland & Iceland Experience currently starting from \$6,575. Departing 07 Aug 2021 from London, the 22-night cruise includes a two-night pre-cruise stay at Radisson Blu Edwardian Bloomsbury, including breakfast; transfers between the airport, hotel, and port; all onboard meals and entertainment; all port charges; and return Economy airfare to the British capital.

## Hurti's polar bears

**HURTIGRUTEN** is highlighting its work through the Hurtigruten Foundation, which it established in 2015, in light of International Polar Bear Day tomorrow. One of the main aims of the foundation is to conserve the world's polar bear population, which it does by contributing to registration of polar bears on Svalbard, logging seawater temperatures along the Norwegian coast and conducting oil surveillance and Antarctic research.

## Hello to Old Man River



**AMERICAN** Cruise Line overnight announced it will launch two new riverboats for the 2021 season, as part of its Modern Riverboat series. The pair will be sister ships to *American Harmony* and *American Jazz*, with further details to be revealed later this year. The announcement comes with Viking planning to enter the Mississippi River market (see **page one**), with American Cruise Line President & Chief Executive Officer Charles Robertson affirming the newbuilds assert his company's commitment to the region. "The American fleet is already unrivaled and the new riverboats will allow us to continue to roll out innovative amenities that enhance guest experiences," he said. "All three new ships are being built at Chesapeake Shipbuilding

in Salisbury, Maryland, an affiliate of American Cruise Lines." American's Modern Riverboat series made its debut in 2018 with *American Song* (**CW** 16 Nov 2017), before introducing *Harmony* in 2019 (**CW** 15 Mar 2018), with *Jazz* and *Melody* (render **pictured**) to follow later this year.

## A-ROSA expansion

**A-ROSA** has expanded its excursion program, with over 300 options now available. The expansion sees 67 new shore excursions launched, across five different categories: action, bicycle, discovery, family and gourmet. Highlights of the updated program include a tour of Vienna by an electric classic car, a private yacht trip from Port St Louis through the Rhone Delta to an organic oyster farm for a tasting, and an exploration of IJsselmeer in the Netherlands from a standup paddleboard or a flat-bottomed boat. "These new additions expand our offering significantly for guests and provide a much broader range across our five regions of operation," said Regional Director of Australia & New Zealand Birgit Eisbrenner.

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We've taken the hard work out of comparing the most luxurious suites at sea in the March issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK to read**  
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## Spectrum arrives in Sydney



**ROYAL** Caribbean International's almost-new *Spectrum of the Seas* is currently docked in Sydney Harbour off Cremorne Point, with the ship relocating from China as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Ultra Quantum Class vessel, which debuted in Shanghai about eight months ago (**CW** 05 Jun 2019), will operate two special charity cruises carrying up to 7,000 bushfire firefighters and their families, with the first four-night coastal voyage set to depart

this Sat 29 Feb followed by a second cruise following the same itinerary from 07-11 Mar.

Earlier this week Royal Caribbean launched a special website at [aroyalthankyou.com](http://aroyalthankyou.com) to allow volunteers to register for the voyage (**CW** 24 Feb).

It's unclear at this stage what the take-up has been, with the website now advising prospective passengers to check the site after 5pm today to see whether they will be on the voyages.

## Chimu's auction

**CHIMU** Adventures will be hosting a charity auction during its Antarctica Empowered expedition, with special guest Paralympian Kurt Fearnley aboard.

The funds from the auction will go to the Kurt Fearnley Centre in Nairobi, which provides education programs for people with disabilities in marginalised locations.

There's a Kurt Fearnley print painted by entertainer Ahn Do up for auction with bidding starting at AU\$5,000, as well as two private dinners for eight people, one with AFL legend Adam Goodes and Fearnley starting at \$7,500, and the other with cricket star Steve Waugh and Fearnley starting at \$10,000.

The auction, running online and live in Antarctica, ends 04 Mar - for more, **CLICK HERE**.

## Wild Earth Tassie

**WILD** Earth Travel is inviting guests to cruise and hike the coast of Tasmania, with a brand new range of voyages.

With itineraries tailored to enable extensive shore excursions, a number of the hikes included are the four-hour Cape Hauy, the seven-hour Bishop & Clerk, the two-and-a-half-hour Fluted Cape, the three-hour Mt. Beattie and the one-to-two-hour Wineglass Bay.

The 2020 voyage, which departs 09 May, travels for eight days on board *Coral Discoverer*, is priced from \$5,600 per person, while the 2021 voyages, departing 16 Feb and 08 Mar, also travelling aboard *Discoverer* for 11 days, is priced from \$7,200 per person.

Those travelling with Coral for the first time can save \$250 per person on the Tasmania voyages, while a 10% earlybird discount is also on offer - full details available **HERE**.

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## PORTHOLE

**A MAN** by the name of Bruce Robertson made a rather unsettling discovery while walking along a beach in Florida last week, when he found a "rather strange doll made out of coconuts".

At first it seemed innocent enough, but when Robertson took a closer look at the "doll", he saw that it had "actual human teeth", snakeskin, and arms and legs with feathers on them.

Sufficiently creeped out, he tossed it into the ocean after other beach-goers told him it was probably a voodoo doll and needed to be "destroyed".

Robertson showed photos of the doll to the owner of an African bookstore in Cocoa, who concluded that the doll was meant to represent an African spider god known as Anansi, and was used for "good luck and protection".

Robertson said that if anyone else happened to stumble across the doll, that they shouldn't be afraid - "it is not a voodoo doll, it's really a good luck doll from Africa".

Lucky or not, it sure is creepy looking, and we probably wouldn't have taken it home either.



## FACE-2-FACE: Birgit Eisbrenner

Regional Director Australia & NZ,  
A-ROSA River Cruises



### 1. What is your favourite part of your job?

The cruise industry is blessed with so much passionate talent. I feel privileged to be part of it.

### 2. What is the key to success in the cruise industry?

Innovation and sustainability!

### 3. What is the biggest challenge facing the industry?

Continuously educating the consumer about the value travel agents are offering, in a digitalised world with a myriad of booking channels.

### 4. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Still doing what I love, supporting agents in their quest to find the best A-ROSA cruise option for their clients.

### 5. What is your advice for up-and-comers?

Never stop being curious.

### 6. What was your best family trip?

I really enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere and combination of down time and activity on a recent Rhine cruise on the beautiful *A-ROSA Silva*.

### 7. Which celebrity would you most like to cruise with?

Dr. Karl Kruszelnicki! He would be able to explain everything, from the nautical aspect to destination knowledge and history - and he's such a nice bloke too.

### 8. What should the cruise ship of the future look like?

It should be a masterpiece of eco-friendliness, and provide guests with flexibility and choices, while catering for everyone's needs and interests.

### 9. If you could be an animal, what would be it be, and why?

I have a cattle dog and love her energy and intelligence, that says it all.

### 10. What two items can't you live without?

A decent coffee to get me going, and my running shoes to keep me going.

### 11. When not at work, how do you spend your time?

Going for a run, walking my dog and relaxing with my hubby and friends.



## Toughness in the face of resilience

**IN THESE** difficult times when the latest developments in COVID-19 have taken over much of the news every day, there continue to be good moments in the cruise industry.

For example, Port Taranaki on the west coast of New Zealand's North Island, and the owner of a local coach line company, were very enthusiastic about cruise.

They would like to increase the numbers coming to New Plymouth, and not just by a small amount, but 10-fold, up to 30 ships each season.

Their prayers were answered more quickly than anyone expected, as *Azamara Journey* returned to New Plymouth for an unscheduled stop, increasing the port visits this season by 50%.

Despite short notice the flexibility of many of our regional ports meant that transport and tours were arranged quickly and cruise guests had an enjoyable day in New Plymouth.

Next year three ships are scheduled to visit New Plymouth, including Cunard's *Queen Elizabeth*.

## Cunard clarifies promotional offer

**CUNARD'S** latest promotion, offering reduced fares, \$300 deposit per person and complimentary gratuities, is not applicable to the extended homeport season, as reported in *Cruise Weekly* yesterday.

The cruise line's Trans-Pacific and circumnavigation are also sold out, however there is limited availability on the New Zealand and Tasmania voyages.