

Hurtigruten's new Africa expeditions

HURTIGRUTEN Expeditions has launched its first-ever African cruises along the continent's west for the 2022/23 seasons.

Based out of Dakar, Hurtigruten will be the only expedition cruise line to explore the region, as it introduces four new countries into its destinations: Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal.

The season will kick off on 27 Nov 2022 with a 13-day itinerary aboard *Spitsbergen*, with departures on 09 and 21 Dec, and 02 and 14 Jan 2023, and visit West Africa's unique archipelagos, including the Bissagos Islands, one of the world's most untouched destinations.

It is here guests will take in a combination of distinctive wildlife and diverse landscapes as they enjoy four days exploring the 88-island archipelago which is

home to hippopotami, dolphins, crocodiles, sea turtles, manatees, and 500 species of birds.

Hurtigruten will also visit the 10 rugged volcanic islands which make up Cape Verde, which boasts a unique blend of African and Portuguese influences.

Besides colonial churches, palatial mansions, and old forts, Cape Verde is also a birdwatcher's haven, with many species across the islands.

Other wildlife living in Cape Verde include whales, dolphins, and sea turtles.

The itinerary also includes a day in Banjul, the capital of Gambia, the smallest country in mainland Africa.

All cruises include land-based adventures as part of the itinerary, and before departure, guests will explore the island of Goree, where they will experience colourful colonial

houses, baobabs, and palm trees and immerse themselves in the history of this former slave isle.

A city tour of Dakar is also included on disembarkation day, where guests will experience the charming multi-faceted Senegalese capital while discovering its historical moments and driving along the corniche.

The season will also see Hurtigruten introduce a series of itineraries to the Canary Islands and Madeira, showing a different side of the destinations, focusing on hiking, national parks, cultural walking tours, and wildlife, including whales, dolphins, and various birds.

Madeira is also home to endemic and invasive plant species, with one optional excursion allowing guests to identify and remove invasive species with a local naturalist - for more, call 1300 322 062.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Windstar Europe

WINDSTAR Cruises has announced a new 79-day Grand European Bucket List Adventure.

The itinerary has been released in a new Voyage Collection brochure, which outlines new and returning sailings through 2023, including the Grand European Bucket List Adventure, which departs Stockholm on 25 Jul 2023.

The voyage spans 22 countries through the Baltic, Northern Atlantic, Mediterranean and Black Sea, and includes 71 days at port, and only eight at sea.

Details can be found **HERE**.


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Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients.



ALTHOUGH the 2020 Summer Olympics have come and gone, there are still swimmers out there setting records.

A 14-year-old has become the youngest person to swim the length of Lake Tahoe, completing the coveted 'triple crown'.

The boy finished the swim in 12 hours, having earlier also swum the width of the lake, and the 'Vikingsholm' route, to round out the accomplishment.

The trip across the body of water started in South Lake Tahoe in California, and ended in another state entirely, in the Nevada town of Incline Village.

The boy's mother said her son has been swimming almost every day since he was eight, inspiring the potential for him to line up alongside countryman and recent gold medalist Robert Finke, as well as Australian Jack McLoughlin, in the 800-metre freestyle at the 2024 Olympics.

MSC debuts *Seashore*

MSC Cruises' *MSC Seashore* has welcomed her first guests for her inaugural voyage in the Mediterranean.

Seashore, the 19th ship in MSC's fleet, aims to bring guests closer to the sea, offering striking design features and generous outdoor spaces.

Guests will also enjoy a wealth of new onboard experiences aboard MSC's newest flagship, including the newly designed Chef's Court, and a new entertainment venue, Le Cabaret Rouge.

Passengers were welcomed on board the first Seaside EVO ship today in Naples as part of her inaugural seven-night western Mediterranean itinerary.

Seashore will also embark guests in Barcelona, Marseille and Genoa on Fri, Sat, and Sun respectively, and will then call on Messina and Valletta.

Following her northern summer season in the western Med, *Seashore* will complete an 18-night transatlantic Grand Voyage to Miami, from where she will offer seven-night cruises with

two different itineraries.

The first itinerary calls Ocho Rios, George Town, and Cozumel in the western Caribbean, and the second calls San Juan, Charlotte Amalie, and Puerto Plata in the eastern Caribbean.

Both itineraries also include a call at Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, the cruise line's private island in The Bahamas.

MEANWHILE, MSC has introduced a new shipboard property management system, Otalio.

The new technology automates onboard administrative tasks, allowing remote management by shoreside teams.

The new system brings benefits through increased flexibility and automation with a cloud platform enabling a global configuration across the MSC fleet, and throughout a range of different departments, improving internal efficiencies, tailoring guest services, and digitalising information for crews.

Onboard teams can centralise all guest information in one place, such as purchase preferences, complaint tracking and Voyagers Club member status.

Crews will also benefit from real-time updates from ashore, as well as options to digitalise processes such as housekeeping rotas and menu pricing, in what Chief Information Officer Daniele Buonaiuto has described as a "win-win scenario" to make life easier for both guests and crew members.

Otalio was first used onboard *MSC Virtuosa*, MSC's flagship prior to *Seashore*.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

#givetavelashot

CRUISE Weekly's #givetavelashot campaign is a fantastic initiative and highlights the importance to all of us in travel and tourism of Australia reaching its vaccination targets ASAP.

Alongside the #letsgetto80 hashtag, it spells out exactly what we need to achieve before borders reopen and the travel sector has a chance to recover.

So many rely on Australia reaching that threshold where 80% of adults are vaccinated against coronavirus and we can start to travel more freely both domestically and internationally.

For cruising, it also emphasises how critical it is that the sector is incorporated into Australia's four-phase plan for reopening.

Now that our governments have agreed to progress this four-phase plan, CLIA is making it a key focus of our lobbying.

We have already had initial discussions about including cruise in the plan and are seeking further engagement with governments to make it happen.

To help reinforce our efforts, we're urging supporters to hold their own meetings with MPs, to show how the current crisis is impacting Aussies – see our [Meet Your MP](#) page to find out more.

With your help, we want to ensure #givetavelashot is not only a beacon for travel but also a path forward for cruising.




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