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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise news plus a front page from **Celebrity Cruises**.

Le Ponant refurb

PONANT'S three-masted sailboat *Le Ponant* is undergoing a transformation, with the vessel set to be entirely refurbished with a sophisticated new design.

Led by Studio Jean-Philippe Nuel, *Le Ponant's* new look sees it now offer more than 16 staterooms and suites for up to 32 guests, with a one crew member per passenger ratio.

Ponant has chosen to place an emphasis on space and freedom in order to give guests a sense of being on their own private yacht.

The suites and cabins are spread over three decks, with each benefiting from large windows and offering soft, calming light.

Le Ponant also features a dedicated chef, while common areas include a jacuzzi, a Sun lounge, an Exterior bar, Le Diamant panoramic restaurant, a wellness space, and a marina.

The yacht will set sail for new destinations, including the Mediterranean, the Aegean and the Adriatic in the northern summer, visiting ports in Greece, Croatia, and more.

Princess selling hot



PRINCESS Cruises' 2023-24 World Cruise (**CW** 24 Nov) was its fastest-selling in history, Director of Sales & Marketing Nick Ferguson has told **Cruise Weekly**.

Speaking ahead of *Enchanted Princess'* (pictured) naming ceremony today, Ferguson reported the cruise line's longest-ever World Cruise from Australia sold out in one day.

"The World Cruise was our fastest selling in history, selling out in 24 hours and that's all sourced locally from Australia," he said.

Announced late last month, the 110-night round trip sailing has local departures from Sydney and Brisbane.

The new program is one of Princess' largest yet, featuring 113 departures between Sep 2023 and Oct 2024, with plenty embarking from Australia.

Ferguson paid tribute to Princess' travel advisor partners for helping make the season's

launch as successful as it was.

"I want to thank the travel agent community and our trade partners for all the support," he said.

"They did a tremendous job in getting behind the launch of this new program, which has really helped drive the success of the program."

Princess today christened *Enchanted*, its fifth Royal-class ship, with Australian trade partners invited to celebrate the occasion with the cruise line's local team at a champagne breakfast at its local headquarters in Sydney.

The virtual naming ceremony was broadcast on Princess' Facebook and YouTube pages.

Ferguson said he was particularly excited about *Enchanted's* Sky suites, which feature a 1,000ft² balcony, 270-degree-views of the ocean, and a dedicated Experience Manager.

Feel like a Celeb

CELEBRITY Cruises' *Celebrity Apex* and *Celebrity Edge*, both named one of the world's greatest places, are sailing to some of the world's greatest places.

The Celebrity Commitment means drinks, wi-fi and services charges are always included, and for a limited time, save up to \$1,600, and get \$800 of flight credit.

Head to the **front page** for more information.

Cruise ban "torture"

THE latest Australian cruise ban extension (**CW** yesterday), and the federal government's failure to commit to a restart plan, has become a "job-threatening, slow-moving torture" for the travel sector, Clean Cruising General Manager & Director Dan Russell has emphasised.

The two-month extension is "slowly strangling many businesses that depend on cruising," Russell explained, describing those affected by the government's negligence as "beyond furious".

"Optimism had been growing that the federal government was preparing to lift its biosecurity ban on international cruise ships but these hopes were dashed with the announcement of the extended ban," he said.

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NOW this would be a hell of a cruise!

A Turkish-built replica of an ancient ship (**pictured**) is set to sail to Spain, nearly 3,000 years after the original.

An Izmir-based historical research association made replicas of the boats, believed to be nearly 3,000 years old and used in ancient times as one of the first ships in history.

Association members and volunteers managed to sail from Izmir's Foca Port to France's Marseille in 2009, with the new goal to go to Spain by Phoenician boat.

Built without using any nails, the weight of the ship is six tons.

She was launched last year, before making a trial voyage.



NCLH invests in green scrubbing tech

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has completed a multi-year investment in exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS) to improve its environmental performance.

NCLH's *Norwegian Breakaway* (**pictured**) and *Norwegian Getaway's* cleaning systems have been commissioned nearly two years ahead of schedule, with approximately 70% of the company's operational capacity (13 ships) now equipped with EGCS technology, commonly referred to as "scrubbers".

The USD\$200 million investment is aimed at improving each ship's environmental footprint by significantly reducing emissions, including sulfur oxides and particulate matter, and improving air quality.

Expenditure on technology such as scrubbers are an integral part of NCLH's long-term climate action strategy, and the company is committed to continually exploring additional avenues to further reduce its footprint and protect and preserve the environment.

Scrubbers work by "scrubbing



away" sulfur oxides and particulate matter before the emissions leave a ship's stack, to decrease the amount released into the air, resulting in a clean white plume of steam.

MEANWHILE, NCLH's namesake brand, Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL), is getting ready to say "aloha" to Hawaii, as it counts down to its return to cruising in the state from 22 Jan.

Pride of America - NCL's dedicated Hawaiian ship - will become the cruise line's 13th vessel to return to sailing, when her seven-day Inter-Island round

trip itinerary once again departs Honolulu every Sat of the year, following the re-launch of direct flights between Australia and Hawaii this month.

Travellers are also currently able to save up to 35% on *Pride of America's* voyages, together with USD\$2,900 in bonus value, a complimentary beverage package, shore excursion credit, a specialty dining package, a wi-fi package and a third and fourth guest sailing at a reduced rate.

In addition, reduced deposits of only AUD\$149 per person are available until the end of the year.

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

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