

MSC announces 2022 program

MSC Cruises has revealed its northern hemisphere summer 2022 program, offering 124 ports of call in 47 countries across 83 itineraries.

For the first time, MSC will deploy two ships in Asia, with *MSC Virtuosa* to join *MSC Bellissima* in the region on a range of cruises, with details to be released soon.

MSC will also deploy 10 ships in the Mediterranean, five in Northern Europe and two in the United States, sailing to the Caribbean.

The summer season will run from Apr 2022 through to Nov, offering a wide range of itineraries across 19 ships.

Both the Eastern and Western Mediterranean will be served by five ships each, offering seven-night cruises in the Adriatic and Aegean Sea, and visiting countries such as France, Italy, Malta and

Spain.

MSC Meraviglia will depart weekly from Barcelona, on Sat, as will *MSC Seaside* and *MSC Splendida*, which will both depart from Genoa.

MSC Fantasia and *MSC Seaview* will also both depart from Genoa weekly on Sun.

The Caribbean will be served out of Port Canaveral and Miami respectively by *MSC Divina* and the line's flagship, *MSC Seashore*.

Both ships will call at Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve in The Bahamas, while *Divina* will also embark on a 12-night cruise at the start of the season visiting Jamaica, Aruba, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Ocean Cay.

Northern Europe will be explored on cruises ranging from two to 21 nights, with *MSC Grandiosa* based in Kiel & Copenhagen, *MSC Magnifica*

sailing from Southampton, *MSC Orchestra* homeporting in Hamburg, *MSC Poesia* departing out of Warnemuende and *MSC Preziosa* taking off from Kiel.

The cruise line has reduced the deposit for all future sailings (excluding the World Cruise) to only \$200pp - 1300 028 502.

MEANWHILE, MSC has also delayed the restart of operations for *MSC Magnifica* to 14 Feb.

In connection with Greece's lockdown, port operations have been restricted, with *MSC Grandiosa* to welcome *MSC Magnifica*'s guests when she restarts on 10 Jan, and guests able to transfer their booking.

Upon her restart, *Grandiosa* will sail the Western Mediterranean itinerary only calling into ports in Italy and Malta.

For more details on MSC's health & safety protocol, **CLICK HERE**.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Celebrity Cruises Asia launch

CELEBRITY Cruises has announced new 2022-23 Asia and South America itineraries, with more than 30 sailings aboard *Celebrity Infinity* and *Celebrity Solstice*.

Highlights of the Asia itineraries include more sailings to Japan; all-new 12-night itineraries featuring overnights in Bangkok, Kyoto or Kobe; and visits to a new port, Subic Bay.

Celebrity Solstice will also visit China, Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam from Sep to Apr - celebritycruises.com.

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MOST cruise lines will be returning to cruising with passengers wearing even more than they usually do, but not Carnival, it would appear.

A nudist cruise has been announced aboard *Carnival Pride* for next month by bare cruising company Bare Necessities.

The voyage is currently scheduled to sail for two weeks, and will depart from Tampa before making stops in Panama, Colombia, Bonaire, Curacao, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas.

Bare Necessities revealed *Carnival Pride* would make nudist guests "feel right at home" with classic nude statues and paintings, and hopefully lots of sunblock.

Given how difficult cruise bookings have been to come by the past 12 months, we're sure Carnival can bare-ly believe its luck.

Regent promotion

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has announced its largest suite upgrade promotion yet.

The Upgrade Your Horizon venture will allow guests to enjoy a two-category suite upgrade to a Penthouse on all published cruises when booked before 01 Mar.

For more details on the rest of the promotion, call 1300 455 200 or 0800 625 692 in New Zealand.

Octantis floats out



VIKING has taken a big step toward the highly anticipated launch of its new expedition cruise products (*CW* 17 Jan), with the float out of *Viking Octantis* (pictured) from Fincantieri's VARD shipyard just before Christmas.

The major construction achievement saw *Octantis* move to a nearby outfitting dock for the start of her interior build-out.

"Working with Fincantieri over the last eight years, we have built the world's most beautiful ocean ships," said Viking Chairman Torstein Hagen.

"We are pleased to continue our partnership with Fincantieri's VARD and celebrate this important milestone in the construction of our first expedition vessel.

"In creating the thinking person's expedition, we are perfecting polar expedition cruising, and we will usher in a new era of comfortable exploration in the heart of North America," Hagen added.

Viking Octantis is scheduled to debut in early 2022 and will spend her maiden season sailing to Antarctica and North America's Great Lakes.

The Polar Class 6 ship will have 189 staterooms, housing 378 guests in total, and have been "optimally sized and built for expeditions," the company said.

As well as public spaces that are familiar to Viking's ocean cruise guests, the new expedition vessels have an array of innovations including The Hangar, an enclosed in-ship marina which allows passengers to easily embark on adventures from a stable surface inside the ship, shielded from the elements.

Passengers will also have supervised access to an on-board laboratory facilitating research by a team of Viking Resident Scientists, in a program developed with the United Kingdom's University of Cambridge and other academic partners.

All staterooms feature a Nordic Balcony, described as a "sunroom that converts into an al fresco viewing platform".

A second identical vessel, *Viking Polaris*, will arrive in mid-2022 and operate to both poles.

A series of videos showcasing the expedition product can be viewed at vikingcruises.com.au.

Crypto craps out

OCEAN Builders' floating cryptocurrency community *Satoshi* (*CW* 14 Oct) is being scrapped, after no protection and indemnity insurance company would insure the ship.

Admitting "all options have been exhausted", an Ocean Builders press release said the lack of insurance meant no crew could legally be appointed, which would result in no onboard business able to be run.

"The idea behind the *Satoshi* was to be a place in the world where we can experiment, build, and test innovative blockchain solutions in all areas of life and business," Chief Executive Officer Grant Romundt mourned.

"We have tens of thousands of people around the world waiting and watching to see what kind of community the *Satoshi* Crypto Cruise ship could become".

HAL promotion

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has promoted Michelle Sutter to Vice President North America Sales.

The 20-year travel industry veteran will oversee strategic accounts, national accounts, charter and incentives, and field sales, having been promoted from Senior Director, National Accounts & Field Sales.

Sutter will report directly to Holland America Line President Gus Antorcha.