



The Kimberley is just around the corner...

After more than two years, our small luxury expedition ships *Le Soléal* and *Le Lapérouse* are finally coming back to explore Australia's coastline starting April 28! With departures filling fast, now is the time to book your clients' 2022 Kimberley expedition. And, we have two new departures available this year. They won't last!

DISCOVER



AUSTRALIA'S ICONIC KIMBERLEY
Broome to Darwin / Darwin to Broome*
10 nights aboard *Le Lapérouse* & *Le Soléal*

April to September 2022
April to October 2023 also available

From \$10,060 per person*

*All advertised prices are based on the Ponant Bonus fare per person, in Australian Dollars (AUD), based on a double occupancy in the best available category, including port taxes and transfer, yield managed, correct at time of printing, are subject to availability and can be changed at any time. Darwin to Broome itinerary differs from map shown. More terms and conditions apply. ABN: 35 166 676 517. Photographs : © PONANT Phillip Schubert PHOTOGRAPHY



Hurtigruten's APAC staff drive

HURTIGRUTEN has launched an Asia-Pacific recruitment drive, as it expands its local team to become bigger than before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senior roles being created under the new structure include a new Marketing Director Asia-Pacific, overseeing an expanded team including a Trade Marketing Executive, a Digital E-Commerce & Web Executive, and a Public Relations Manager.

Hurtigruten is also seeking a new Regional Sales Director for the Australia, New Zealand & Southeast Asia region, with the sales team including new recruit Jerry Pilgrim as the cruise line's Brisbane-based Regional Sales Manager Queensland.

Pilgrim is well-known to the cruise industry, with more than 25 years of experience.

His most recent role was with The Travel Corporation's Adventure World brand.

Pilgrim will work alongside Sydney-based Andrew Eddy, with Hurtigruten also recruiting for two new Regional Sales Manager positions based in Melbourne, as well as New Zealand.

In total, seven new roles are up



for grabs, with regional Managing Director Damian Perry (**pictured**) saying the additions are "a clear indication of the ambitious growth projected across APAC".

The new positions are open now, and most can be Sydney or Melbourne-based, with the expectation considerable time will be spent in the Victorian capital throughout the year, where Hurtigruten's Australian office is based.

Both the new Marketing Director and Sales Director roles will join Hurtigruten's regional management team "and be part of an agile global working group made up of peers in multiple markets," Perry told **CW**.

"Hurtigruten has a lot of confidence in this market, and our activity over the COVID-19 period has built a strong base for moving forward," he said.

We're almost here..

WITH the Human Biosecurity Emergency Period expiring last Sun, Ponant's Kimberley expeditions are just around the corner.

After more than two years, Ponant's small luxury expedition ships, *Le Soleal* and *Le Laperouse*, are finally coming back to explore Australia's coastline, starting 28 Apr (**CW** yesterday).

With departures filling fast, now is the time to book a Kimberley expedition for 2022.

Ponant has two new departures available this year - discover the itineraries on the **cover page**.

Princess x Rex pact

PRINCESS Cruises has partnered with Rex Airlines, with the line's guests now able to book flights through its EZair platform.

Rex flights will also be available on the air platforms of other brands within the World's Leading Cruise Lines (WLCL) sales platform, including Holland America Line, P&O Australia, Seabourn Cruise Line and Cunard Line.

Flights booked with Rex through participating WLCL air platforms are limited to restricted only, which means future cruise credits cannot be used to purchase these flights, as they can only be used to book flexible airfares.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a cover page from **Ponant**.

Scenic case settled

SUPREME Court of New South Wales Judge Peter Garling has awarded a group of Scenic Luxury Tours & Cruises passengers damages of up to 90% of the price they paid for flood-affected European river sailings in 2013 (**CW** 07 Apr 2015).

Garling confirmed a "major failure" on behalf of Scenic, judging the cruise line to have breached Australian consumer law when it did not specifically warn passengers about weather disruptions for sailings along the Danube, Main, and Rhine rivers in Apr and May 2013.

The class action was launched by Somerville Legal on behalf of affected clients, and first went to court in 2016.

As a result of the flooding, brought on by torrential rain, the trips became a "bus holiday", rather than a river cruise - a rescheduling Scenic knew would take place before passengers left Australia for their holiday, Somerville said.

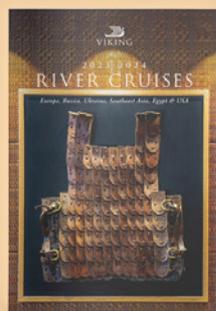
Not every passenger joined the class action, with some receiving \$2,500 after taking Scenic to various state-based consumer trials, and others accepting a \$1,000 future cruise credit and an apology from the cruise line for the inconveniences caused.



RIVER BROCHURE

Viking's 2023-2024 River Cruises brochure is now available to order from TIFS.

[VIEW ONLINE](#)





CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Cause for celebration

AUSTRALIA'S cruise community did what it does best this week, turning on a spectacular show for the arrival of P&O Australia's *Pacific Explorer* at the end of the two-year cruise suspension.

The incredible scenes in Sydney on Mon were a reminder Australia is still one of the most passionate cruise markets in the world, and is ready to seize the opportunity that comes with the global cruise revival.

Among the spectators were many of our agent members and industry suppliers, all of whom were celebrating the chance to reassert their place in Australia's \$5b-a-year cruise economy.

We met people who had travelled from interstate for the spectacle, as well as loyal guests who have booked more cruises than they can count on one hand.

Worldwide, more than 80% of the CLIA ocean cruise fleet is back in service and we expect this number to reach 95% by the end of Jul.

From now on, Australia is a part of this recovery.

There's no doubt our revival has been fuelled by the fantastic support we've received from our agents, our industry supporters, and our cruise line members.



New Greek dining concept



CELESTYAL Cruises is cooking up a new onboard dining experience with celebrity chef Diane Kochilas.

The Greece-based cruise line will introduce a new signature menu with local flavours and dining experiences on board from next month.

Kochilas is one of the world's foremost experts on Greek and Mediterranean cuisine, and is the host of *My Greek Table*, a cooking & travel show which airs on SBS in Australia.

The premium, "My Greek Table Six-Course Tasting Menu" features local and regional ingredients from many of the islands Celestyal visits, and will be offered for a supplemental charge to guests dining in the cruise line's specialty restaurant.

A daily signature dish created by Kochilas will also be featured as part of the main dining room offering, which is included in the cruise fare.

The dishes are all centred

around the renowned "Mediterranean diet", with many plant-focused, vegetarian, gluten-free, and vegan options.

"We are thrilled to expand our partnership with Diane that started in 2019 with our sponsorship of season three of *My Greek Table* into this dynamic culinary collaboration, which places additional emphasis on Celestyal's Greek roots through our cuisine experiences," said Chief Commercial Officer Leslie Peden.

"We are delighted to have joined forces with such a well-loved and admired Greek culinary icon as Diane to provide our guests with authentic onboard experiences that no other line sailing in the Eastern Mediterranean can offer."

Added Kochilas: "Greece is an amazing gastronomy destination, with delicious adventures in every port of call."

Pictured is Kochilas with the onboard Celestyal culinary team.



THERE are more than 9,000 pieces in LEGO's *Titanic* kit, but that hasn't stopped one of the toy line's enthusiasts in North Carolina from constructing the gigantic model in world record time.

Paul Ufema (**pictured**), who hosts the YouTube channel 'All New Bricks', documented the Guinness World Record-win in a time-lapse video which shows him assembling the whopping vessel in 10 hours, 46 minutes and 31 seconds.

The *Titanic* kit is LEGO's biggest, with its 9,090 pieces fractionally surpassing the 9,036-piece LEGO Colosseum, which Ufema was also previously the world record-holder for.

He also came agonisingly close to setting a record for the construction of the *Star Wars Millennium Falcon* spaceship last year, but accidentally missed one piece during the build which disqualified him.

See the time-lapse video of the "titanic" *Titanic* build at cruiseweekly.com.au.

