



Seabourn to cruise Kimberley in 2024

EXCLUSIVE

SEABOURN Cruise Line is expected to shortly announce the deployment of one of its new expedition cruise ships in Australia's Kimberley in 2024, adding another operator to the popular region, **Cruise Weekly** can exclusively reveal.

The company recently moved into the expedition cruise space with the highly anticipated debut of its new *Seabourn Venture* (**CW** 28 Jul), with capacity for just over 260 passengers accommodated in all-oceanfront suites.

Although details have not been formally revealed, it's understood that the 2024 season will feature *Venture's* new sister ship *Seabourn Pursuit* (**pictured**), the line's second expedition vessel which is under construction and scheduled for delivery next year.

Both *Pursuit* and *Venture* are purpose-built to PC6 Polar Class



standards, with an array of expedition options including two submarines, 24 Zodiacs, kayaks and a 26-strong expert team of expedition leaders.

The Australian deployment would see the brand new *Pursuit* undertake her second mid-year season in the southern hemisphere.

Seabourn VP of Global Sales, Steve Smotrys, told **CW** at Virtuoso Travel Week that while

the Kimberley was a less familiar destination for Americans, the down under *Pursuit* itineraries are expected to be very popular with Australian cruisers.

Full details of the ship's program have not been released at this stage, however the Seabourn website indicates the planned 2023 *Pursuit* inaugural will sail roundtrip from Reykjavik, Iceland on a "Fire and Ice" voyage departing 04 Apr next year.

Cruise Weekly today

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



On location in Las Vegas

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you from Las Vegas courtesy of Travel Associates and Virtuoso, which is hosting its annual Virtuoso Travel Week here in Nevada.

TODAY Virtuoso Travel Week continues with thousands of one-on-one meetings.

Organised in "tracks", these eight-minute encounters provide an opportunity for advisors to be updated on scores of products from Virtuoso's 2,200-odd suppliers.

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Cunard gets ready to cook up a storm

CUNARD Line has unveiled the creations which celebrity chefs Mark Olive, Darren Purchase, and Matt Moran (**pictured**) will generate for its highly anticipated upcoming Great Australian Culinary Voyage (**CW** 25 Mar).

Setting sail on 28 Jan, culinary enthusiasts can look forward to a variety of popular dishes exclusive to the sailing, which will include two exclusive takeovers of *Queen Elizabeth's* premium restaurant The Verandah.

One of the dishes Moran will serve is his famous glazed Maremma duck, served with chicory leaf, and salsify root.

Moran will also curate an exclusive three-course menu for *Queen Elizabeth's* main dining room, Britannia Restaurant.

Guests at this service can look forward to Moran's roasted plum with meringue, honeycomb, and wattle seed creme fraiche.



"I'm really looking forward to getting on board and working alongside the incredible culinary team to deliver some amazing dishes for the guests," he said.

"I've selected dishes that hero the fantastic Australian produce available to us and ingredients that will be in season.

"It's going to be a great few days – I can't wait to set sail."

Meanwhile, Olive will deliver a menu bursting with native

flavours, in a three-course Australian menu featuring his iconic lemon myrtle Barramundi in paperbark and his lemon aspen curd tart with chocolate shards.

Guests can also look forward to a barbecue hosted by Olive out on *Elizabeth's* deck.

The cruise will be topped off by desserts from Purchase, who will add his twist to Cunard's celebrated Afternoon Tea with the addition of some of his most tempting sweet delights, including a version of his signature Explosive Raspberry Cake made with a chocolate chip cookie base & raspberry cream, encased in milk chocolate and raspberry mousse, chocolate coated popping candy and raspberry marshmallow.

He will also serve up gin and tonic scones, made with Four Pillars jelly, juniper cream, fizzy white chocolate, and lime curd.

Swan Hellenic roadshow

SWAN Hellenic is inviting travel advisors to a series of cocktail events across Australia and New Zealand next month.

Prizes and giveaways will be offered during each evening, and attendees will also go into a major prize draw to win a cabin for two on either an Kimberley or North Sulawesi & Philippines cruise with the new line.

Swan Hellenic will showcase its "diverse and in-depth range of cultural cruising itineraries," including its recently launched 2023 sailings in Australia's Kimberley region (**CW** 27 Jul).

Events are scheduled to start at 5.30pm in Brisbane on 13 Sep, Melbourne on 14 Sep, Sydney on 15 Sep and Auckland on 20 Sep, with free registrations now available by **CLICKING HERE**.

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IT'S rare that wiping out an animal population contributes to conservation, but in the case of Macquarie Island, it has saved an untold number of rare creatures.

Located in the subantarctic Pacific, Macquarie used to have 300,000 rabbits, but after a culling program last decade it was finally declared pest free, and has sprung back to life.

Numbers of Antarctic prions and white-headed petrels have rebounded, and the guano these species leave behind fertilises the local soil, allowing plants to grow back stronger.

MSC is certified

MSC Cruises' fleet has achieved ISO 21070:2017 certification for marine environmental protection.

The accreditation specifies procedures for the shipboard management of waste, including handling, collection, separation, marking, treatment, and storage.

"As we work to solve the great sustainability challenges that our industry faces, we continue to deploy every tool available to accelerate this, including industry standards and certification," Vice President Environmental Operations & Compliance Minas Myrtilidis said.

"We are and will always remain committed to environmental protection."

Azamara cocktails now fleetwide



AZAMARA is giving guests a taste of its new Atlas Bar (*CW* 02 May), with the exclusive cocktail menu offered in the dedicated new bar on its *Azamara Onward* now available across the full fleet.

Guests on *Azamara Pursuit*, *Azamara Journey* and *Azamara Quest* can now experience artisanal cocktails from Atlas, following the concept's launch aboard *Onward* earlier this year.

Available in 'The Den' aboard the other three ships, the specialty offering of innovative craft cocktails is inspired by destinations visited by Azamara.

Freshly squeezed juices and handmade syrups elevate the flavours of the curated list of cocktails, such as the "London Fog Martini", "Tuscan Delight", and the "Heart of Azamara".

Having taken one for the team and sampled each and every one of them, **Cruise Weekly** can testify that they are delicious!

"The response from our guests about Atlas Bar has been even more positive than we had anticipated," enthused AVP of Hotel Operations Scott Daniels.

"The designer created a beautiful space that really complements the cocktail and food menus that our food and beverage team worked so hard to perfect...I couldn't be more proud of the team's work here, and we wanted to be able to offer the experience on our other ships, even if we didn't have the same physical space."

The paired Atlas Bar premium food menu remains exclusive to *Azamara Onward*.



Kia Ora and Bula

Pacific Explorer has blazed a welcome home trail across the Pacific in the past week – first in New Zealand and now in Fiji.

As the first cruise ship back to Aotearoa New Zealand in two years, she was greeted by beaming smiles all round and brought not only passengers but a renewed sense of hope for the local economy which relies heavily on cruise ship calls.

This first visit will be followed by an expected 42 cruise ships before the end of 2023 – 20 of which will arrive this year bringing dollars and jobs back to communities.

We commend the work of CLIA and our partner organisation, NZCA who have done wonderful work around cruise resumption to this market.

Continuing its good news journey, the ship has now arrived in Lautoka in Fiji and was greeted by a traditional performance.

Government and industry representatives there have welcomed the long-awaited return of cruise which before the pandemic was estimated at FJ\$44m representing a significant part of the country's economy which relies heavily on tourism.

As our neighbouring countries re-open to cruise, I am excited to report that Australian port bookings are also continuing to increase, and we are all feeling more optimistic as a result.

We are looking forward to charting the future of cruise at ACAs upcoming Conference in September and discussing the next phase of port infrastructure and destination experiences.