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REWARDS

**NCL NORWEGIAN** *Feel Free*<sup>™</sup>  
CRUISE LINE<sup>®</sup>

# NORWEGIAN SPIRIT DEBUTS DOWN UNDER

*It's time to get in the Spirit and celebrate  
NCL's return to Australian waters!*

**EXCLUSIVE INCENTIVE - TODAY ONLY!**

**BOOK & DEPOSIT ANY NORWEGIAN SPIRIT  
SAILING TODAY & RECEIVE A \$250 GIFT CARD\***

*\*Bookings must be submitted via the Partners First Rewards program by 11:59pm AU/NZ local time.*

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9 NEW BARS AND LOUNGES



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**CRUISING 9 ITINERARIES FROM SYDNEY & AUCKLAND THIS SUMMER**



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features two pages of all the latest cruise news and a cover page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**.

### NCL one-day offer!

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's (NCL) *Norwegian Spirit* has finally debuted Down Under, and it's time to get "into the spirit" and celebrate the brand's return to Australian waters.

NCL is running an exclusive, today-only incentive for agents who book and deposit any *Spirit* sailing.

A \$250 gift card is on offer as part of the incentive - head to the **cover page** for more info.

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## Spirit arrives in Australia



**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line has marked its return to Australian waters after three years with *Norwegian Spirit* (pictured) sailing into Sydney Harbour today.

The ship is making her Down Under debut following her USD\$100 million bow-to-stern revitalisation, the most expensive ever undertaken by Norwegian.

*Spirit* will offer a choice of eight open-jaw sailings from Sydney between Dec and Mar, exploring destinations such as Melbourne, Burnie, and Eden, the latter at where she will launch Norwegian's first-ever beach clean-up shore excursion (CW 12 Dec).

*Spirit* will then return for a second home port season next Dec.

In Sydney to welcome *Spirit* is President & Chief Executive Officer Harry Sommer, who reminded the Australian trade of the country's importance as both a source market and a destination.

"I'm thrilled to be here in person to celebrate our return to Australia after a three-year hiatus, and to join the festivities as *Norwegian Spirit* spends an extended overnight visit in Sydney before she sets sail on her Christmas cruise tomorrow," Sommer said.

"We are committed to this region for the long term."

Joining Sommer was Vice President & Managing Director

APAC Ben Angell, who agreed *Spirit* is well and truly worth the wait.

"We know Australians love our contemporary, laid-back style of cruising, as well as the outstanding value only an NCL cruise can offer," he said.

"Importantly, we're delighted to be part of an industry that contributes \$5 billion to the Australian economy each year."

New South Wales Minister for Transport David Elliott added his cheer, saying it is exciting to have Norwegian returning to the state's shores to help re-anoint it as Australia's capital of cruise.

### ACL cruise canx

**AMBASSADOR** Cruise Line (ACL) has cancelled two cruises, which were due to depart on 18 and 21 Dec.

The cancellation is due to an issue uncovered with the lifeboat station aboard *Ambience*, which is being immediately repaired and tested in Bremerhaven.

ACL said it was set to host about 1,400 guests on board the cancelled voyage.

"Ambassador are communicating transfer and compensation options to our guests, and any additional concerns they might have will be dealt with by Ambassador on a case-by-case basis in the days to come," the line said.

### Toscana in Dubai

**COSTA** Cruises' *Costa Toscana* has debuted in Dubai, from where she will offer week-long cruises in the Persian Gulf.

The Italian line's flagship, which was christened earlier this year (CW 21 Jun), called at the Dubai Harbour Cruise Terminal, where an event was held on board, attended by locals and Italian authorities, before *Toscana* departed on her week-long itinerary.

### Hurtigruten announces prize winners

**HURTIGRUTEN** has announced the winners of its iconic incentive, with five lucky travel advisors to experience one of the cruise line's new Coastal Express voyages.

Agents were encouraged to earn points by registering for and attending webinars, and booking voyages, with TripADeal's Donna Elliot coming out on top.

She has won an Arctic Superior Cabin on either The Svalbard Express or The North Cape Express.

In second place was Adventure World's Rowena Dickson, who has won a Polar Outside cabin on The Svalbard Express, and coming in third is Flight Centre Southgate's Gitte Foran, who has also won a Polar Outside cabin on The North Cape Express.

There is also two "random draw winners", Vicki Lacroet and Nicky Tucker, who have both won a Polar Outside cabin on The North Cape Express.

To celebrate Hurtigruten's 130-year anniversary in 2023, the Svalbard Express and North Cape Express itineraries will offer an elevated addition to the existing Coastal Express product.



**IT IS** not unheard of for older “constant cruisers” to sell their house and take up life on board a ship, but this is certainly a different take on the idea.

A young British woman claims she has saved £7,500 by moving onto a houseboat, and is “happier than ever”.

The woman decided she wanted a more old-school life, so ditched her rental for a ‘20s houseboat called *Maggie*.

Given the ship is from the 1920s, there isn’t nearly as much technology on board to run up electricity bills.

*Maggie* is centrally heated by a coal fire, which takes one bag of coal per fortnight, costing £16, and she is powered by a diesel engine which costs around £60 per month to run.

While *Maggie’s* water supply is free, the woman buys about £25 worth of gas bottles per month to heat water.

## RCG to develop ports

**ROYAL** Caribbean Group (RCG) has formed a new strategic partnership with iCON Infrastructure to develop its port facilities.

The proposed partnership will own, develop, and manage cruise terminal facilities and infrastructure in home ports and key ports of call.

The partnership will be 90% owned by iCON and 10% by RCG, and will be managed by an independent team with strategic support from Royal Caribbean.

Both parties have committed to provide funding for future expansion in accordance with their interest.

The new partnership will initially include PortMiami, and several development projects in Italy, Spain, and the US Virgin Islands.

It will also pursue additional port infrastructure developments based on the pipeline of projects as part of RCG’s destination development strategy.

“Our partnership with iCON is a unique opportunity to catapult us into the coming decades of port investments, build further



financial strength, and provide exceptional cruising experiences, responsibly, to our guests at the best destinations in the world,” said RCG President & Chief Executive Officer Jason Liberty.

“Over the last few years, we have developed more destinations than any other cruise company and this new partnership will allow us to implement a capital-light investment framework to accelerate the development of strategic destinations around the world.”

### Sweetening the pot

**TRAVEL** advisors can earn double credit on Abercrombie & Kent’s (A&K) Northwest Passage Cruise next year with its Sell Three, Sail Free incentive.

A&K is now offering agents a chance to earn double credit points on staterooms booked on ‘The Northwest Passage: From Greenland to the Bering Sea 2023’.

This means they will only need to book two staterooms (instead of three) on The Northwest Passage, or one cabin on this cruise and one cabin on any Luxury Expedition Cruise to earn a free A&K Luxury Expedition Cruise.



### New members

**IT IS** exciting to announce that three new members have come on board with ACA as we close out 2022.

This bodes well for an exciting year ahead and is a sure sign that our industry is turning a corner.

Two of our new recruits are WA based: Peterson Energy Logistics has expanded into Australia, and will operate the exciting Kimberley Marine Support Base floating facility near Broome.

While the company has been operating for 50 years, this is the first foray into the region so we look forward to welcoming them into the ACA network.

Additionally the City of Fremantle has joined the Association; Fremantle is one of the country’s busiest ports and is an important connecting point on west coast itineraries.

Recognising the economic impact for retail, hospitality and tourism experiences, the city has come on board to leverage the opportunities cruising will offer.

Similarly, the Brisbane Economic Development Agency (part of Brisbane City Council) is looking to grow visitor spend through developing closer relationships with the cruise industry, especially given the opening of the new Brisbane Cruise Terminal.

We welcome all our new members and look forward to working closely with them in the new year.

On that positive note, I would like to conclude our last column of 2022 with heartfelt thanks for all your support during the past year as our industry got back up and running.

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