



Cruise Weekly today

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

Walk on the wild side

QUARK Expeditions has introduced innovative hiking and trekking opportunities in the polar regions.

Guests travelling aboard *Ultramarine* will have the opportunity to walk alongside polar experts for a truly innovative and immersive experience.

Options include hiking, heli-hiking, alpine heli-hiking, and an ice sheet experience.

"*Ultramarine's* two twin-engine Airbus H145 helicopters and 20 quick-deploy Zodiacs...can take guests - of all fitness levels, ages and areas of interest - on hiking and trekking adventures to remote areas of the Polar Regions where few, if any, have ever visited before," said Director of Expedition Experience & Innovation Alex McNeil.

"Thanks to our game-changing new ship *Ultramarine*, we've expanded our adventure options to include multiple styles of hiking no one else offers.

"Setting foot where few humans have ever walked is part of the magic of exploring the Arctic and Antarctic" - quarkexpeditions.com.

CCL & Costa team up

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) will bring Costa Cruises' *Costa Venezia* and *Costa Firenze* to the United States in 2023 and 2024 respectively to sail as part of its fleet.

The new concept, 'Costa by Carnival', will debut during next year's northern spring, with *Venezia* to sail from New York City and *Firenze* to cruise from Long Beach.

The ships will continue operating their regular Costa itineraries until they are assigned to Carnival for dry dock work and deployment.

Itinerary plans are being finalised, with Carnival saying it expected to make the *Venezia* announcement soon given the looming launch date.

Carnival President Christine Duffy (pictured) said *Costa Venezia* and *Costa Firenze* will bring CCL's guests the "ambience and beauty" of Italy.

"This is an exciting opportunity for us to operate two additional beautiful Vista class ships in the US and bring a unique experience to those who love the culture, food and vibe of Italy," she said.

"There are lots of ways we plan to create an immersive fun experience for our guests who choose to sail on these ships, which have beautiful Italian-design elements, dining and retail that will deliver Carnival fun leveraging the spirit of Italy from our sister line Costa."



"We're going to invite our guests to Choose Fun with Carnival, Italian Style!"

Mario Zanetti, Costa President added: "we are excited to see these iconic ships make their debut in the US under the leadership and operation of our sister brand.

"Costa providing the beautiful ship with its Italian design and Carnival delivering fun, Italian style!"

Zanetti said Costa will soon be informing its clients impacted by this news.

Venezia and *Firenze* are sister ships to *Carnival Vista*, *Carnival Horizon* and *Carnival Panorama*, accommodating up to 5,260 guests.

The news comes as Carnival last week returned to New York City for the first time since the pandemic, marking the cruise line's restart in all 14 of its US homeports (CW 21 Jun).

USD\$13m for Crystal

ACCORDING to reports, USD\$13 million has been offered for Crystal Cruises' brand, website, and more.

The offer was made by Crystal, which is now owned by A&K Travel Group.

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Learn More



NCL Asia 2023-24

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has announced its immersive Asia itineraries for 2023-2024, featuring 12 sailings ranging from 10- to 12-days, as well as a 16-day Extraordinary Journey from Seattle to Tokyo.

The season will operate aboard *Norwegian Jewel* from Oct 2023 to Mar 2024, and will see a vast choice of departure ports including “brand first” visits to four destinations in the region, such as Puerto Princesa, Boracay, and Salomague in the Philippines, and Hualien in Taiwan.

Underscoring Norwegian’s commitment to Asia, there will be a vast choice of departure ports, including Tokyo, Yokohama, Taipei, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Benoa, and Seoul.

Almost all cruises on *Jewel’s* second season in Asia are open-jaw, allowing travellers to bookend their voyage with land explorations in different destinations.

“We’re thrilled to return to Asia and to reaffirm our commitment to one of the most sought-after cruise destinations around the world,” said President & Chief Executive Officer Harry Sommer.

“We couldn’t be more pleased to make our long-awaited return to this uniquely diverse and culturally rich region with *Norwegian Jewel*, a ship we already know is incredibly popular in Asia.”

For more information or to book, call 1300 255 200.

Viking Saturn floats out



VIKING has marked the float-out of its newest ship, *Viking Saturn* (pictured).

Set to debut early next year, the ship recently met the water for the first time at Fincantieri’s Ancona shipyard.

Following the two-day float-out process, *Saturn* will be moved to a nearby outfitting dock for final construction and interior build-out.

“It is always a proud day when a new Viking ship meets water for the first time and moves one step closer to joining her sister ships in our fleet,” said Chair Torstein Hagen.

“Together with Fincantieri, we have built the world’s most elegant ocean vessels.

“We look forward to welcoming our first guests on board the *Viking Saturn* when she is delivered next spring.”

The 930-guest *Saturn* will spend her maiden season sailing itineraries in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe

(**CW** 14 Oct), cruising three new itineraries in the Scandinavian and Nordic countries, including two 15-day journeys, Iconic Iceland, Greenland & Canada, and Iceland & Norway’s Arctic Explorer, and a 29-day Greenland, Iceland, Norway & Beyond voyage.

Saturn’s inaugural season will also see the return of the popular eight-day Iceland’s Natural Beauty itinerary, starting in Aug 2023.



IFYOU think you’ve had gelato on board a ship before, think again, because Princess Cruises is now the only line to offer the real McCoy.

The Italian Chamber of Commerce recently certified Princess’ gelato experience, making its ships the only destination to be designated as “Ospitalita Italiana” outside of Italy.

In order to achieve the designation, official Italian auditors and experts confirmed every step of Princess’ gelato-making process, agreeing it met/exceeded a strict set of standards.

The famous dessert is now available aboard *Discovery Princess*, *Enchanted Princess* and *Sky Princess*.

