



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a full page from **Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection**.

Atlas names two

ATLAS Ocean Voyages has named both *World Traveller* and *World Navigator* together in Patagonia, one day after the other.

The ships were named in the fjords along the Beagle Channel's Glacier Alley.

VIP guests at the dual naming ceremonies included travel advisors, shareholders, media and dignitaries from Argentina and Chile.

Traveller was named on Sat, followed by a Zodiac-led sightseeing of Pia Glacier.

In the evening, the portraits of the godmothers were unveiled at a gala welcome reception prior to dinner.

The next day, the naming festivities for *Navigator* took place, preceded by a celebratory luncheon, for the ship which has been in service since last year.

Uniworld Black Fri

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection is hosting a Black Fri flash sale.

Live now, cruisers can score amazing savings on select European Spring Sailings next year, and can access a waived solo supplement on many cruises.

See **page 5** for more info.

Quantum arrives in Airlie

ROYAL Caribbean International's (RCI) *Quantum of the Seas* (pictured) sailed into Airlie Beach for the very first time on the weekend.

Quantum's arrival marked the start of Royal Caribbean's summer season in Far North Queensland - an exciting moment for the Whitsunday Islands and the wider region.

The ship's debut sailing to the port is set to be lucrative for local tourism operators, injecting \$5m into businesses across the region.

The call marks the beginning of Royal Caribbean's long-awaited passage to the Whitsundays region, offering guests on board the chance to explore the Queensland coast's unique offerings and stunning views of the Islands and the Barrier Reef.

Whitsunday Regional Council Mayor Julie Hall said Royal Caribbean's inaugural call to Airlie Beach provides an opportunity for local industry that will be widely celebrated.

"This is a great moment for cruise tourism in Airlie Beach, we are delighted to welcome one of the most exciting and innovative ships to Shute Harbour and are looking forward to introducing more of Royal Caribbean's guests to the beauty of the Whitsundays.

"[RCI] new port of call for *Quantum of the Seas* will also provide a much-needed boost



to local businesses and a wealth of local job opportunities for residents."

The cruise line's local Director of Sales Dave Humphreys said cruises to Airlie Beach have already been proved to be hugely popular for Australian and international guests.

"This is an exciting time for Royal Caribbean guests and Queenslanders alike," he said.

"Cruises that explore the spectacular Queensland coast have always been extremely popular with our guests due to the combination of bucket list shore excursions on offer including exploring the Great Barrier Reef or the spectacular national parks where the rainforest meets the ocean and of course the world-class hospitality of the Airlie Beach locals."

MEANWHILE, Royal Caribbean also celebrated *Quantum's* debut in Cairns yesterday.

Across its summer sailings, *Quantum* will make five calls in Cairns, injecting an estimated \$5 million into the local economy.



On location in Antarctica

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of Viking, aboard the brand new *Viking Polaris*.

THE world's southernmost post office in Port Lockroy is reopening for the first time since the onset of COVID-19, and for the first time is being staffed by an all-female team.

After 6,000 applications were received for the roles, which are advertised by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, four women have been chosen to restart the base, which is located on Goudier Island just off the Antarctic Peninsula, and also features a museum.

The PO is in British Antarctic Territory, and guests aboard *Viking Polaris* were today offered the opportunity to have a unique Port Lockroy stamp (pictured) added to their passports - just to prove they've actually been to the White Continent.

Passengers were also able to complete postcards, which are being transferred to Port Lockroy by Zodiac and will be stamped and ultimately make their way home by post.



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Vanuatu says “welkam back” to RCI

VANUATU has said “welkam back” to Royal Caribbean International (RCI) on the weekend, with *Ovation of the Seas* marking the beginning of the cruise line’s long-awaited return to island destination.

The arrival of *Ovation* for her overnight visit was a welcome boost to the local economy, as pre-pandemic, cruising was a key source of income and employment for Vanuatu, providing jobs and security for locals who rely on the supply chain the sector provides.

To celebrate the return, a gala dinner took place in Port Vila on Sat, featuring the Erakor children’s choir, fire dancers, and a live band.

Notable attendees included Deputy Prime Minister Sato Kilman, Minister of Foreign Affairs representing the Minister of Tourism, Jotham Napat, Minister



of Public Utilities Marcellino Telukluk, and Minister of Youth & Sport Tomker Netvunei, as well as members of the diplomatic corps.

Key representatives from Royal Caribbean were also in attendance, including Vice President & Managing Director Gavin Smith (**pictured**), and Director of Marketing Kathryn Lock.

On Sun, *Ovation* hosted an intimate ship tour and formal lunch, attended by PM Ishmael Kalsakau and local dignitaries.

Further sailings are planned throughout the 2022-2023

summer season on both *Ovation*, as well as *Quantum of the Seas*, which is now homeporting in Brisbane (see **page 1**).

“It’s been more than two years since we’ve welcomed cruises to our islands, and we welcome Royal Caribbean’s safe return to rebuild our economy and support recovery of our tourism industry with open arms,” Department of Tourism Acting Director William Naviti said.

Added Smith: “the resumption of cruising to the region is a testament to the value of Royal Caribbean’s partnership with the local community and tourism industry of Vanuatu.

“This island paradise has proven to be a top holiday choice for our guests, with picture perfect beaches and a warm welcoming community, guests continue to choose Vanuatu as their destination of choice”.

Murray level watch

MURRAY River

Paddlesteamers is reviewing flood conditions daily with authorities to assess when cruises can safely resume on the waterway.

Rainfall in the upper river catchments is now easing, and while there is still a considerable amount of water to make its way through Echuca, it is believed levels have peaked.

“We are working very closely with the relevant authorities about when the river will once again be open for commercial operations and expect to cruise again very soon,” said Murray River Paddlesteamers.

“If you hold a current booking for Nov/Dec, we understand you would like to know now if your cruise is departing, however we must abide by the decisions made by the NSW SES”.

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PORThOLE

DESIGN firm Lazzarini is planning a new yacht called *Pangeos*, which if built, will comfortably be the largest anything at sea.

Pangeos is shaped like a turtle, and is estimated to cost around USD\$8 billion to build.

The "tetrayacht" - which designates a vessel larger than a superyacht, a megayacht, and a gigayacht - will be 550 metres long and 610 metres at its widest point - double the size of the Colosseum.

According to Lazzarini, Saudi Arabia is the intended location of the build.

Pangeos will house hotels, resorts, shopping centres, parks, and even a port for smaller ships and aircraft to allow guests access to the boat; if the thought you're conjuring up is "floating city", that is exactly how the yacht is being designed.

The flippers of the turtle will also offer 19 private villas and 69 apartments on each side.

Underneath the living areas, there will be 30,000 "cells" which will allow for *Pangeos* to float, buttressed by steel with 30 metres of draft, which will make her "unsinkable"...or so they say...

CLIA at Global Tourism Forum



CRUISE Lines International Association's (CLIA) local Managing Director Joel Katz was at the Global Tourism Forum in Bali last week, which followed on from the 17th G20 Heads of State & Government Summit.

The meeting was opened by Indonesia's Minister for Tourism Sandiaga Uno, with Katz participating in a panel on sustainability in travel and tourism.

Katz reiterated to the Summit the cruise industry's priorities of sustainability and community engagement, as the sector works toward its shared vision of net-zero carbon cruising.

"The cruise sector is demonstrating that we can be a force for good," Katz said.

"It can provide the benefits of tourism while also taking big steps to protect the places our

cruise lines visit and the oceans they sail on."

He is **pictured** with the panel's moderator, Systemiq founder & Senior Partner Jeremy Oppenheim; Booking.com Head of Public Affairs APAC Yang Li; and Accor Chief Sustainability Officer Bruce Poirson.



RSSC package

COMPLIMENTARY Business class flights and luxury hotel savings are available as part of an opulent Asia cruise package through Cruise Traveller and Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC).

Pax can save up to \$9,060 on the last-minute luxe getaway when booking by 22 Dec.

The 19-night Feb fly, stay, and sail package is one of four new luxury packages Cruise Traveller has released for cruises early next year.

The highlight of the package is the cruise aboard the all-suite *Seven Seas Explorer*.

Departing 25 Feb, passengers will fly to Bangkok ahead of their 16-night cruise to Tokyo, via Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

Each voyage includes shore excursions and an open bar with no tipping required - for more, **CLICK HERE**.



On Board: Viking Polaris Nordic Balcony

Every stateroom and suite aboard *Polaris* features a Nordic Balcony - a gigantic window which can be electrically operated to provide a true indoor/outdoor experience of the environment. When closed, the double-glazed Nordic Balcony keeps things cosy inside, but at the press of a button transforms into an open-air balcony allowing guests to take in the magnificence of the world outside.

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Silversea names Endeavour



SILVERSEA Cruises has formally named its new *Silver Endeavour* in Antarctica's Lemaire Channel, with polar explorer Felicity Aston smashing a "bottle" made of ice against the ship's hull.

A select group of local industry

partners was on board for the event, including House of Travel's Jeff Leckey and Anna Burgdorf from Travel Associates, with guests watching the ceremony and toasting the celebration from the vessel's fleet of Zodiacs.

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UnCruise p'ship

UNCRUISE Adventures has partnered with Alaskan nonprofit organisation Discovery Southeast.

The cruise line will provide a percentage of all adventure cruise bookings made on Giving Tuesday (29 Nov) to Discovery Southeast, whose mission is to "introduce children and families to the outdoors".

"As a small business ourselves we understand what it means to connect our guests to nature," UnCruise Chief Executive Dan Blanchard said.

AIDAcosma in Dubai

AIDA Cruises' *AIDAcosma* has been warmly welcomed in Dubai for her maiden call.

To mark the occasion, numerous official representatives from Dubai Port Authorities, Dubai Cruise Terminal, and more, came on board *AIDAcosma* for the official plaque ceremony.

Captain Tommy Moller and General Manager Nicolas Goelen welcomed the guests for the event, and took them on a tour of *AIDAcosma*.

To kick off her first season in the region, the ship staged an exclusive onboard program, which included a light show.

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EDITORIAL
Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
Associate Publisher – Anna Piper
Senior Associate Editor – Adam Bishop
Associate Editor – Myles Stedman
Contributors – Nicholas O'Donoghue, Janie Medbury
info@cruiseweekly.com.au
info@cruiseweekly.co.nz

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING
 Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi & Nicki Harford
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au
advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz

BUSINESS MANAGER
 Jenny Piper
accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
 Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
 PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
 Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
 Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

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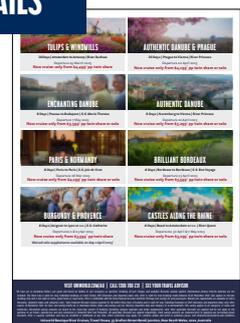
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