



## A&K releases luxury cruise program

**ABERCROMBIE & Kent (A&K)** has unveiled details of its 2024/25 expedition program, with itineraries including several first-time destinations such as the Solomon Islands, the North Pole, and Saudi Arabia.

The collection was launched during a visit to Australia by A&K Chief Tour Operating Officer, Kerry Golds, who's pictured with the company's local tour operations chief Debra Fox, who told **CW** the new cruise program was its most ambitious portfolio of shipboard expeditions yet.

A&K charters Ponant vessels for its cruise program, but takes over the onboard experience with its own expedition team, operating in English only and with passenger capacity capped at 80%.

The company ensures a private balcony for every stateroom and suite, a 1:1.3 crew-to-guest ratio and "an optimised experience orchestrated entirely by A&K".

The new Arctic voyage will cruise aboard the *Le Commandant Charcot* luxury icebreaker.

"A&K is known for taking guests to the ends of the earth, but never before have we been able to offer an expedition to the



North Pole," Fox said.

"This is the perfect itinerary for new and accomplished travellers looking to check off the ultimate travel milestone from their bucket list.

"We are also debuting the most extraordinary and remote destinations, which many travellers are yet to visit, like Saudi Arabia and the Solomon Islands," she added.

The program also includes additional departures to perennial A&K luxury cruise favourites Japan and Greece.

The program is now open for sale, and also features coastal cruising in France, Spain & Portugal, the Baltics, Seychelles & Coastal Tanzania, the British Isles, an Adriatic voyage taking in Croatia, Montenegro and Greece and two voyages to Antarctica.

A&K's new 14-day South Pacific Cruise combines the Solomon Islands with Papua New Guinea, while the unique Greece, Turkey & Saudi Arabia itinerary includes a bucket-list Suez Canal transit.

The full portfolio is online now at [abercrombiekent.com.au](http://abercrombiekent.com.au).

### CLIAs in one month!

**ANTICIPATION** is already building to fever pitch, with just one month to go until the Cruise Lines International Association Australasia Awards (CLIAs) (**CW** 19 Jan).

Judges are making their final deliberations ahead of the cruise sector's night of nights, which will take place 11 Mar at Sydney's Luna Park.

A total of 73 finalists will be in the running to win a total of 18 awards, with the sold-out event strongly supported by a generous cohort of sponsors - see the finalists **HERE**.

### Carnival Luminosa "bucket list" voyage

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has unveiled an "ultimate bucket list" trans-Pacific cruise, sailing from Brisbane, and spanning three continents in 31 days.

Cruising on *Carnival Luminosa* in 2024, the voyage will sail from the Qld capital to Japan and then across the Pacific to Alaska, ending in Seattle.

The journey, which will be one of the longest Carnival has ever offered as a revenue cruise, is open for reservation now.

The 31-day itinerary departs Brisbane on 01 Apr next year, and includes visits to Guam,

Okinawa, Hiroshima, Yokohama, Aomori, Kushiro, Seward, Ketchikan, and a cruise through the Hubbard Glacier, before ending in Seattle on 01 May.

The sailing's stop in Okinawa will mark the first-ever time Carnival has visited the city.

"This itinerary reads like a travel lover's wish list," Carnival Cruise Line President Christine Duffy enthused.

"As we continue to grow our fleet and our offerings, our team is taking every opportunity to create exceptional new experiences for our guests."

### AU Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia.

SYDNEY	
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	11 Feb
<i>MS Noordam</i>	11 Feb
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	12 Feb
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	13 Feb
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	13 Feb

MELBOURNE	
<i>Grand Princess</i>	10 Feb
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	10 Feb
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	10 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	11 Feb
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	11 Feb
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	13 Feb
<i>MS Noordam</i>	13 Feb

GEELONG	
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	10 Feb
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	11 Feb
<i>Viking Neptune</i>	13 Feb

PHILLIP ISLAND	
<i>Viking Neptune</i>	12 Feb

PENNESHAW	
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	11 Feb

PORT ADELAIDE	
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	12 Feb
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	12 Feb

BRISBANE	
<i>Europa 2</i>	10 Feb
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	12 Feb

AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Silver Muse</i>	10 Feb
<i>Europa 2</i>	13 Feb

CAIRNS	
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	10 Feb
<i>Silver Muse</i>	12 Feb

TOWNSVILLE	
<i>Silver Muse</i>	10 Feb

ALBANY	
<i>Emerald Princess</i>	10 Feb

HOBART	
<i>Viking Neptune</i>	11 Feb
<i>MS Zuiderdam</i>	12 Feb
<i>Le Soleal</i>	13 Feb

BURNIE	
<i>MS Noordam</i>	10 Feb
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	10 Feb
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	11 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	13 Feb

DARWIN	
<i>Star Breeze</i>	11 Feb



**VACATIONERS** had to be rescued from a vessel last week - although it fortunately was not a cruise ship.

A group of visitors to Disneyland California were rescued from a sinking boat on the Pirates of the Caribbean ride, after they were stranded for more than an hour.

After initially fearing they may have to swim for it, eventually firefighters from the theme park came to the rescue and helped the riders exit the waterlogged boat - very appropriately having them walk a makeshift plank back to dry ground.

A video of the incident was posted to TikTok, with one of the impacted guests telling viewers the group on the malfunctioning boat received a USD\$30 voucher for dry socks and priority access to rides as compensation.

## It's Jenny from the ship!

**VIRGIN** Voyages is debuting a special cruise inspired by its 'Chief Entertainment & Lifestyle Officer', Jennifer Lopez (pictured).

The five-night 'Limitless Voyage' will cruise from 14-19 Apr, and has been curated by JLo and her philanthropic organisation supporting women's entrepreneurship, Limitless Labs.

The specially curated program includes Lopez-inspired experiences, panel sessions with female entrepreneurs, "boundary-breaking" shore excursions, exclusive events that balance personal and professional growth, and more.

The Limitless Voyage will take place on *Scarlet Lady's* Dominican Daez sailing, which cruises round trip from Miami.

"My mission has always been to entertain, empower, and inspire my fans to live their lives without putting limits on what they believe they can achieve," Lopez gushed.

Virgin will also be donating 50 staterooms on the voyage to Latina entrepreneurs.

Virgin founder, human headline Sir Richard Branson said "it's



exciting and inspiring to see the impact Jennifer's having through all she does, not just in the entertainment industry, but also through her business ventures and her support of women's entrepreneurship".

"She brings so much passion to all of her projects, and so it was the perfect opportunity to take that energy and spirit and together create a voyage unlike any other" - details [HERE](#).

## Swan Hellenic deals

**SWAN** Hellenic has today announced a 2023 Adventure Sale, including trade rewards of \$320 for every booking made up to 07 Apr.

The offer is valid on all sailings prior to 30 Nov 2023 aboard Swan Hellenic's brand new five-star ice-class "cultural expedition cruise ships" *Vega* and *Diana*, and includes generous savings of up to \$3,000 per person.

Deals are also combinable with past guest discounts, with itineraries featuring Africa, the Arctic, Mediterranean and more - for more details see [swanhellenic.com](http://swanhellenic.com).

## NZ Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	10 Feb
<i>Island Princess</i>	10 Feb
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	12 Feb
<i>Arcadia</i>	13 Feb

CHRISTCHURCH	
<i>Viking Orion</i>	11 Feb
<i>Viking Mars</i>	12 Feb
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	13 Feb
<i>Le Commandant Charcot</i>	13 Feb

WELLINGTON	
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	11 Feb
<i>Viking Mars</i>	11 Feb
<i>Viking Orion</i>	12 Feb
<i>Coral Princess</i>	13 Feb

ABEL TASMAN	<i>National Geo Orion</i>	10 Feb
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BAY OF ISLANDS	<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	13 Feb
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DUNEDIN	
<i>Viking Orion</i>	10 Feb
<i>National Geo Orion</i>	12 Feb
<i>Viking Mars</i>	13 Feb

KAIKOURA	<i>National Geo Orion</i>	11 Feb
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NAPIER	
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	10 Feb
<i>Viking Mars</i>	10 Feb
<i>Coral Princess</i>	12 Feb
<i>Viking Orion</i>	13 Feb
<i>Island Princess</i>	13 Feb

PICTON	<i>Silver Whisper</i>	12 Feb
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STEWART ISLAND	<i>National Geo Orion</i>	13 Feb
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TAURANGA	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	11 Feb
<i>Island Princess</i>	11 Feb

## CRUISE WEEKLY On Board: Viking Orion



### Manfredi's Italian Restaurant

Manfredi's Italian Restaurant offers the best of Italian cuisine, including the "farm-inspired heartiness" of Tuscany, or the "flamed flavours" of Rome. Subdued, ambient lighting creates a warm and atmospheric air in this traditional-style trattoria. One cannot disembark *Orion* without trying the prime fillet or the fettuccine offered in this Italian classic.