



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Tuesday 10th Oct 2023

Aurora Starlink

AURORA Expeditions has finalised the installation of StarLink satellite internet connectivity aboard its *Greg Mortimer* and *Sylvia Earle*.

Available free of charge in all cabins and public spaces aboard both vessels, the high-speed service allows passengers to connect with family and friends, and catch up with the news or work even in the most remote environments.

CEO Michael Heath said reliable connectivity had long been a challenge for expedition operators, particularly in polar regions.

"We're thrilled to continue to offer cutting-edge technological innovations to meet the needs of our expeditioners, and we have already received incredibly positive feedback," he said.

Barcelona cuts capacity

AUTHORITIES in Barcelona, Spain have imposed new restrictions on cruising, including a ban on docking at the "Muella Barcelona Norte" and the World Trade Centre area in a bid to lessen pollution.

Effective from 22 Oct, all vessels at the popular destination will be forced to utilise the southern port along the Moll Adossat pier, currently used by larger vessels.

Rather than being able to simply stroll off cruise ships into the city's historic Las Ramblas centre, transfers will now require a 30-minute bus ride.

"We are pushing the pollution away, towards the south, and reducing the emissions that reach the city," said Port of Barcelona chief Luis Salvado.

As well as the removal of passenger cruising from the central docks, Barcelona is also reducing the number of available



cruise ship docks from 10 to seven late this month.

The changes are the outcome of a 2018 agreement between cruise lines and the Barcelona local government "to eliminate the negative impact that this activity could produce for citizens".

Salvado said the changes aim to "stabilise" the number of people using the port, with the first half of 2023 already seeing an 8% uplift in Barcelona cruise visitors compared to pre-pandemic levels.

travelBulletin spoke to the Spain Tourism Board earlier this year about its efforts to manage over-tourism in Barcelona, **HERE**. *BP*

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus full pages from:

- Windstar
- Norwegian Cruise Line

Thinking Europe?

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is highlighting why now is the perfect time to book your clients on a European cruise - see the **back page**.

Spring into Japan

CRUISE Traveller has partnered with Azamara Cruises to offer savings of \$3,520 per couple on a new 16-night springtime cruise package to Japan, plus two free nights in Tokyo, for bookings made by 30 Nov - call 1800 507 777 for more information.

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Queen Anne wellness reveal

CUNARD has released preview details of the “elevated wellness offering” aboard its new *Queen Anne*, which is under construction in Venice ahead of a planned maiden voyage in May 2024.

The 3,000-guest ship will offer a reimagined Mareel Wellness & Beauty program that “aims to deliver enriching wellness experiences that leave guests feeling radiant”, Cunard said.

The Wellness Club aboard *Queen Anne* will also offer a program tailor-made for solo travellers, providing an opportunity for like-minded guests to relax and unwind together at a meet-and-greet.

One of the key wellness spaces aboard is The Pavilion (pictured), which is located on the top deck with a specially designed glass dome roof that can be retracted when in warmer climates.

The multi-purpose space



incorporates the Wellness Cafe, an alternative dining experience catering for breakfast, lunch and daytime diners “celebrating the vibrancy of plant-powered foods and sustainably sourced meat, dairy and fish options”.

Queen Anne’s wellness offerings will include a host of experiences including a Himalayan salt sauna, a cold room and even cryotherapy treatments.

The ship is currently undergoing its final fit-out prior to planned sea trials in the coming months. *BP*

Rise of river cruise

WITH the second week of Cruise Month now underway, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is highlighting “an evolution of river cruising”, which it says is becoming an increasingly popular form of travel among Australians and New Zealanders.

CLIA Managing Director in Australasia Joel Katz said the segment is set to enjoy strong growth in the coming years as it attracts new guests and new generations, on top of a strong following of repeat travellers.

“The allure of exploring countries by river is strong in itself, but river cruise lines are enhancing this further by developing extraordinary experiences on shore and creating a stronger connection with a destination’s culture, history, food and wine, and way of life,” he commented.



On location in Doha, Qatar

Today’s issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Visit Qatar, Qatar Airways and Destination Qatar.

CRUISE visitors to Doha can expect a wide array of shoreside activities on offer, from tours of some of the world’s most intriguing museums through to authentic cultural experiences, fine dining, adrenaline-pumping desert activities, and more.

The city itself is a marvel, having been created over the last 20 years or so with an inspirational skyline, colourful neighbourhoods, an extensive subway network, and sophisticated hotels alongside authentic souqs & dhow boats.

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PORTHOLE

LAST week cruise once again came to the rescue - this time saving Brisbane man Tom Robinson during an attempt to row from Peru to Australia.

After encountering rough weather near Vanuatu his 6m rowing boat capsized, but fortunately he was able to activate an emergency beacon which authorities used to help divert P&O's *Pacific Explorer* to pluck him from the ocean.

Robinson's trek had been underway for more than 12 months, with the adventurer setting out for the final eight-week leg from Luganville, Vanuatu on 01 Oct.

The 24-year-old's family paid tribute to the "Australian, New Caledonian and Vanuatuan authorities who all had important roles to play in his rescue; and to the captain and crew of *Pacific Explorer* who literally went out of their way to pick up Tom".

Paul Gauguin seals health deal



PONANT-OWNED Paul Gauguin Cruises has signed a partnership with the French Polynesian government which will see the cruise line provide healthcare assistance when visiting some of the area's most remote island destinations.

The pact was signed by Paul Gauguin's Florence Courbiere and Cedric Mercadal, French Polynesia's Minister of Health (**pictured**), who said "we welcome this public-private partnership established with a major undertaking in the country's economic development".

The collaboration will see

doctors aboard *Paul Gauguin* provide volunteer consultations during scheduled port calls, while the cruise line will also transport health professionals commissioned by the Government to undertake advanced specialist consultations.

The 'Taote Gauguin' (Doctor Gauguin) initiative will "allow us to further support the people who have so warmly welcomed Paul Gauguin Cruises into their lives for 25 years, proudly sharing their cultures, traditions and natural wonders with our guests," said Ponant/Paul Gauguin US CEO Navin Sawhney. *BP*

All aboard for art

SILVERSEA Cruises' new *Silver Nova* boasts the largest art collection of any Silversea ship, with 1,800 pieces by 59 artists from 25 countries designed to take guests "on a visual journey of discovery and self-enrichment".

The program includes more than 1,250 framed artworks, nine installations, eight sculptures, and more, including intriguing antiques, Murano glass vases, and artistic books.

Many of the creative works were commissioned for specific locations aboard *Silver Nova* to complement her architecture.

Avalon all-in-one

AVALON Waterways has introduced a collection of all-in-one Europe packages that combine its river cruises with Globus and Cosmos coach tours, with flights, guides and experiences included.

Prices start from \$9,969pp for the 15-day London, Paris, Amsterdam & Festive Cruise, which departs 26 Nov 2024 - **CLICK HERE** for more info.

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For Windstar's new 2025-2026 Latin, Caribbean, Canary Islands, Trans Ocean, Tahiti & Middle East opening deployments, Windstar is offering a US\$200 shipboard credit per stateroom* and a free upgrade to our All-Inclusive pack-age (valued at AU\$137 per guest per day). * All fares mentioned are per person, in AU dollars, cruise only, based on double occupancy in lowest category, and include non-discountable amounts. Single and Triple guests in a stateroom or suite are also eligible for this promotion, the shipboard credit will be awarded at US\$100 per guest. All-inclusive package includes Wi-Fi, and all beer, wine, cocktails, and gratuities. Taxes, Fees, and Port Expenses are included. Offer is valid on new bookings only and subject to availability. Consult your specialist for promotional offer or discount combinability. This offer is not combinable with Star Groups. Bookings are non-transferable; no name changes can be made, nor can this offer be applied retroactively. Shipboard credits are valid on the applicable purchased sailing only and are non-refundable with no cash value. Cancellation fees may apply; please see website for details. Fuel surcharges may be imposed or increased over time. Offer is capacity controlled and may be withdrawn or modified at Windstar's discretion at any time. Information contained herein is accurate at time of publication and subject to change without notice. All terms and conditions stated on the Windstar website apply. Cruises are provided subject to the terms and conditions of the Passage Contract. Offer is valid for reservations booked between August 15 and November 6, 2023. Ships' registry: Bahamas. 22-1882/9.4.23

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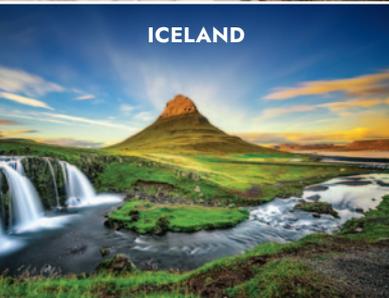


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