



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features five pages of cruise news including a photo page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**.

### NCL striding on

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's collective cohort of industry wellness walkers is heading to Lisbon, with a total 150,000km walked during this year's world record mental health initiative. So far NCL has donated \$9,000 to Mood Active as part of the 2023 Walk for Wellness - for a full update see **page four**.

### Lindblad special

**LINDBLAD** Expeditions-National Geographic is offering savings of up to 25% on selected 2024 Arctic itineraries. The deal applies to bookings confirmed by 30 Nov - more details at [au.expeditions.com](http://au.expeditions.com).

## Ponant includes Japan flights

**PONANT** this morning released an exclusive offer for Australian and New Zealand cruisers, with inclusive flights on select 2024 Japanese itineraries.

The limited-time deal is available on six itineraries sailing through Kyushu's western islands between Kagoshima and Fukuoka, as well as southern Japan's subtropical islands between Naha and Taiwan's Keelung.

Return economy flights from major Australian capital cities as well as Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington in NZ are included in the expedition packages, and Business class upgrades are also available from \$2,999 per person plus taxes.

Deb Corbett, Ponant GM Sales & Marketing Asia Pacific, said the recent addition of flights and transfers to the line's 2024 Kimberley program (**CW** 08 Sep) had been very successful.

The move "has not only

streamlined the planning and travel experience of our guests, but also the booking experience of our travel partners," she said.

"We continue to offer our esteemed guests unique and inclusive itineraries, this time opening doors to unspoiled landscapes and cultural experiences that have yet to be discovered by most travellers in this wonderful country that is Japan," Corbett added.

The inclusive Japan flight offer can be booked through until 30 Nov or until sold out.

Ponant says it's the first operator to bring its modern small-ship fleet to some of Japan's most remote locations, with *Le Soleal* and *Le Jacques-Cartier* itineraries crafted in-house with the assistance of veteran Ponant expedition leader Ryo Ijichi, who has been with the cruise line for over a decade.

More at [au.ponant.com](http://au.ponant.com). **BP**

### Expedition focus

**WE'RE** now in the middle of the third week of Cruise Month 2023, which focuses on the fast-growing expedition sector.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) MD Australasia, Joel Katz, said expedition cruising had fostered a new breed of traveller amid the rise of increasingly sophisticated small ships which can reach remote, pristine locations.

"Expedition cruising is an ideal way to reach extraordinary wilderness and undeveloped landscapes, while still travelling in comfort.

"Regions that were previously inaccessible or difficult to reach can now be explored with relative ease aboard an expedition ship."

CLIA is activating Cruise Month through a host of media partnerships.

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## Jayavarman gets jazzed up

**HERITAGE** Line has unveiled its newly refurbished ship, *Heritage Line Jayavarman*, which sails the Lower Mekong River in Vietnam and Cambodia.

The luxury boutique vessel now sports a refreshed design which blends timeless French-Colonial style with artisan Khmer accents, as well as featuring an enhanced culinary offering.

The ship's restaurant has been fully transformed to incorporate an open kitchen concept, allowing guests to see the venue's chefs in action as they prepare breakfast and lunch buffets and multi-course a la carte dinners using freshly caught seafood and local produce.

Guests will also enjoy the revamped staterooms and suites, all of which now feature fresh furnishings and traditional artefacts, as well as updated public spaces, including the



Club 1930 bar, library and Henry Mouhot Lounge, which have been remodelled and upgraded with new furnishings.

*Heritage Line Jayavarman* will sail a range of three-, four- and seven-night itineraries visiting some of Southeast Asia's most incredible landscapes, from the Mekong Delta to Phnom Penh, featuring additional ports of call and excursion options.

To celebrate the ship's relaunch, Heritage Line is offering a discount of up to US\$300pp for bookings made by 30 Nov - [CLICK HERE](#) for more details. JM

## St Lawrence strike

**OCEANGOING** vessels will not be able to transit through St Lawrence Seaway on 21 Oct if a proposed strike by its workers in Canada goes ahead.

The walkout, which will occur if contract negotiation isn't finalised by 19 Oct, would impact the ability of ships to sail through the locks in Montreal, Beauharnois, Iroquois, and the eight locks along the Welland Canal.

The Seaway said it will shut down navigation in the event of a strike, stating: "Should an upbound ship entering the (Montreal-Lake Ontario) section of the Seaway opt to continue transit after 00:01 on 21 Oct, the corporation makes no representation whatsoever as to its ability to successfully transit the ship downbound and subsequently out of the system".

## Costa staff shuffles

**COSTA** Cruises has revealed a new organisational structure, which sees its CCO, Roberto Alberti, take over the new role of Senior Vice President and Chief Corporate Officer.

Effective from 01 Nov, the changes also include Francesco Muglia expanding his current duties as VP Global Marketing and Source Markets to take on the role of Senior Vice President Global Marketing and Sales.

Additionally, the cruise line will welcome Giovanna Loi to the team as Vice President Marketing and Customer Experience Innovation effective from 06 Nov.

"I am confident that this new organisational structure will enable us to achieve important new successes," Costa Cruises President Mario Zanetti shared.



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## Seabourn's Solis

**SEABOURN** has announced the upcoming debut of Solis, a new fine dining venue offering Mediterranean cuisine.

Developed in collaboration with Master Chef and Culinary Partner Chef Anton Egger and Senior Corporate Chef Franck Salein, the menu features light, modern Mediterranean cuisine prepared fresh daily, paired with vintage cocktails.

"Solis is truly inspired by the voice of our guests and our team has worked hard over the past several months to bring this to life," Seabourn President Natalya Leahy said.

Hero dishes include Tuscan-style grilled beef porterhouse steak and Whole Sea Bass baked in a sea salt and fresh thyme crust served with artichokes and tomatoes, along with a selection of vegetarian and vegan options.

The new restaurant will open on board *Seabourn Quest* in Jan 2024, before rolling out across *Encore*, *Ovation* and *Sojourn* by the Northern Hemisphere's spring season.

The addition of Solis spells the end of Seabourn's eight-year culinary partnership with Chef Thomas Keller by spring 2024.



## Celebrity's edgy sales blitz



**CELEBRITY** Cruises has been undertaking a national sales blitz ahead of the highly anticipated Down Under arrival of *Celebrity Edge* in Dec.

The Celebrity sales team has visited more than 150 agencies over the past two months, taking cookies, brochures and high energy along the way.

Outlets visited (pictured) included Travel Masters, The Travel Studio, itravel Carlingford, Evans & Turner Travel Associates, Hunter Travel Group and The Cruise & Travel Authority Terrigal.



## Swan's big sale

**SWAN** Hellenic is offering up to 50% savings on its 2024 Arctic and Europe voyages until 31 Oct, including the 10-night High Arctic of Svalbard roundtrip from Tromso - call 1300 722 499.



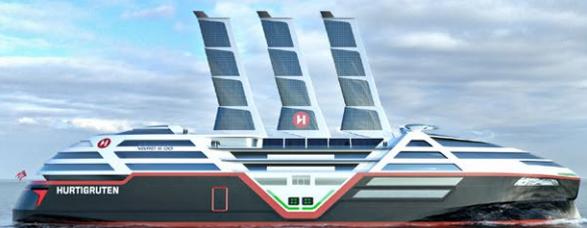
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Wed 18th October 2023

NCL'S 4th annual Walk for Wellness is smashing goals. After already reaching the initial goal of 100,000km, NCL has set a new target distance of 200,000km to step it up even further.

Additionally, you can join the NCL team for a Zumba class this Thu 7pm (AEDT), to boost your steps in the comfort of your own home.

For last week's challenge, participants were asked to snap three photos of local spots that remind them of a country or city that NCL visits.

Congratulations to the week two winners, Pete Heslop from Flight Centre Travel Group and Amy Ferguson from TravelManagers.

To celebrate World Food Day, this week's challenge is **Think International Cuisine**. Snap a photo of your favourite NCL-inspired restaurants in your local area and follow your tastebuds to see where they take you!



**NCL'S** Lara Anderson and Sheena Smith braved the cold this week in St. Kilda with Victorian travel agents on their BDM-hosted walk!



**CLEAN** Cruising's Jean Summers, Amy Mortimer and colleagues also participated in the Bridge to Brisbane walk this week as part of NCL's Walk for Wellness.



**THINKING** Asia? Think NCL! Staff members visited Sydney's Chinatown during NCL's Fri Walking Club - Wendy Walker joined too!



**LIBBY** Orrock from Savenio Affiliate exploring the beautiful island of Lord Howe.



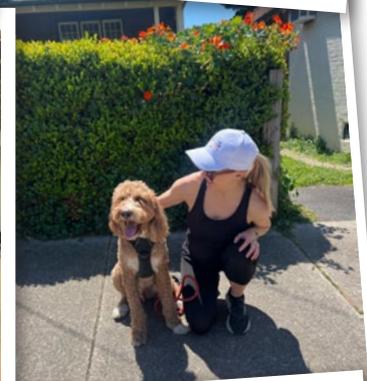
**CLINTON** Griffiths from GLOBUS Family of Brands won an industry spot prize this week for creating "Hong Kong" in NSW!



**IAN** Hunter from Exotic Cruises got his steps up with help from his walking buddy.



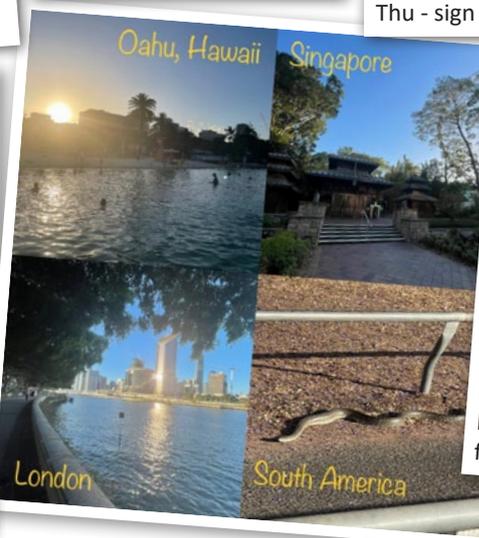
**WENDY** Walker has started warming up for NCL's virtual Zumba Class this Thu - sign up to join **HERE!**



**NCL'S** Senior Consumer Marketing Manager, Tara Clifford, enjoying the sunshine with Mr. Wilson.



**LEENA** Bhikharidas from Aspire Travel Group stepping around Disneyland with Mickey Mouse!



**WEEK 2**  
First Prize Winner: Pete Heslop from Flight Centre Travel Group found some "international destinations" around Brisbane to take home top prize for the week.



**WEEK 2** Second Prize Winner: Amy Ferguson from TravelManagers got creative and made an NCL itinerary around Europe in Melbourne.

# EXPERIENCE  
**Qatar**

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Formula 1

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Qatar Airways

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Qatar Grand Prix



Click here to watch the action



**AN APPARENT** navigation blunder saw Aussie billionaire mining magnate and political activist Clive Palmer's \$40 million superyacht stranded in shallow water off the coast of Singapore this week.

The 56-metre vessel named *Australia* (pictured) was spotted outside a marina near Sentosa Island showing a most unfortunate lean.

Locals reported being "stunned" to see the ship pass inside a navigation mark about a kilometre from shore before running aground.

There was speculation the issue must have been in relation to a faulty engine, with one local quoted by *Nine Publishing* as saying "it's very, very difficult to make this kind of mistake...this is just at the exit of the marina, it is absolutely clear that you can't put the boat between those two buoys".

The superyacht was on a voyage to Port Moresby, and it appears it was successfully refloated later in the evening as the tide rose.



## Silenseas on the horizon



**ORIENT** Express Cruises, Accor Group's first luxury cruise line, is a step closer to reality, as the first ship in its fleet - and the biggest superyacht in the world - begins to take shape.

French shipyard Chantiers de l'Atlantique has selected energy conversion company Ingeteam to provide the electric propulsion for *Orient Express Silenseas*, which is due to set sail in 2026.

Ingeteam will supply two motors to drive the main propulsion plus the three transverse thrusters, as well as frequency converters and two propulsion remote controls, which will

ensure optimum propulsion management and efficiency with SolidSail technology developed by Chantiers de l'Atlantique.

The converters will include a ground connection to the port, allowing the 220m-long ship to connect to the shore power grid while docked, in order to avoid running auxiliary combustion engines to power hotel services.

The hybrid propulsion formula will combine wind power with an engine running on LNG.

Accor Group first unveiled plans for the sustainable, three-masted yacht at the beginning of the year (*CW* 12 Jan). JM

## CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz  
MD, CLIA Australasia

### Cruise season begins

**AUSTRALIA'S** summer cruise season has begun and the first international ships are arriving for what promises to be a bumper season of cruising Down Under.

Around 70 ships will sail in Australian waters over the course of the summer peak, bringing cruising back to pre-pandemic levels and generating billions of dollars in economic benefits for communities around our coasts.

To help capitalise on excitement around the cruise season, CLIA has launched its biggest-ever social media campaign for Cruise Month, directing consumers to CLIA cruise specialist travel agents during Oct.

Running across Facebook and Instagram, the campaign involves sponsored posts and videos targeting cruise-interested users across Australia and New Zealand.

Each post highlights Cruise Month and the benefits of booking through a CLIA-accredited agent.

The campaign is also supported by sponsored influencer activity and a consumer competition in which entrants can win \$1,000 towards their next cruise when booked through a CLIA-accredited travel agent.

Cruise Month is something everyone can get involved in, so we're encouraging agents to launch their own initiatives. View our Video Guide to Cruise Month for information and inspiration and follow @CLIAAustralasia on Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn for all the latest updates.



## The Chat

with Jenny

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