



CRUISE

WEEKLY

delivered daily!



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Cruise Weekly today

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

Praise from ATIA

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) has welcomed the extension of the *Coastal Trading Act* (CW 13 Aug) and the introduction of the Australian Travel Declaration (CW 17 Jun).

ATIA strongly supported CLIA Australasia on its campaign to extend the *Act*, and is commending the government for its support of cruise and travel agents selling cruise.

The Association also welcomed the government's trial of a digital IPC for cruise.



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Garden atrium for Adventure



DISNEY Cruise Line has unveiled its new Imagination Garden which will serve as a new central atrium concept on its forthcoming cruise ship, *Disney Adventure*.

Ahead of the ship's debut in Singapore next year, the new Imagination Garden (CW 27 Jun) will showcase 100 years of Disney stories, films and characters for travellers to be immersed within.

In a first for Disney Cruise Line, the multipurpose open-air space will span three decks, with a storybook castle at one end and a garden stage at the other, which will host theatrical productions at different points of an itinerary.

In front of the stage will be a lawn area with a Mickey Mouse topiary as *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* from *Fantasia*.

Two quick-service restaurants themed as *The Jungle Book* and *Moana* will also be available, while a number of guest

staterooms will also overlook the space in a format similar to Royal Caribbean's *Oasis* and *Icon* ships.

Guests can wander among life-size cut-outs of Disney characters around decorative foliage, blooming flowers, topiaries, trees, cascading vines and lanterns.

At 6,000 passengers, *Disney Adventure* will be, by far, the largest ship in the fleet when it debuts next year. ML

ACA keynote guest

SHARK attack survivor and para-surf champ Chris Blowes will be the breakfast keynote speaker at the Australian Cruise Association's conference in Adelaide from 04-06 Sep.

Blowes is a staunch fighter against disability stereotypes and will speak about how limiting mindsets can prevent people reaching their potential.



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COMEDY can be a highly controversial art form, and you never know when the crowd might take issue with your style.

US satirist and radio host Tommy Sotomayor found one such audience member in his face during a series of racial jokes during a cruise ship performance recently, with security needing to intervene.

In an exchange that went on for nearly 10 minutes, captured on video and posted to X, the female cruise guest can be seen trying to rush on stage while Sotomayor continues to taunt and sing "na na na na, hey hey hey...goodbye".

Hathor on the Nile

VIKING has taken delivery of its latest river cruise ship designed for the Nile River in Egypt, expanding inventory for its popular 12-day 'Pharaohs and Pyramids' itinerary.

The 82-passenger *Viking Hathor* was handed over to Viking in a ceremony at the Massara shipyard in Cairo, with the new ship identical to *Viking Osiris* and *Viking Aton*.

Guest features on the new ship include 41 staterooms and the Aquavit Terrace.

Viking will expand its Egypt fleet further this year with the debut of *Viking Sobek*, with *Viking Amun* and *Viking Thoth* both due to arrive next year.

Princess goes unlimited

UPGRADES to Princess Cruises' top-tier Princess Premier optional add-on have been introduced, alongside a price increase to A\$100 per person per day.

Princess has upped the ante with guests now able to enjoy unlimited alcoholic beverages up to \$30 each on board, which also includes specialty coffees, juices, and bottled water.

Guests can also enjoy unlimited speciality dining (up from two per person per voyage) throughout their sailing at restaurants such as Sabatini's, Crown Grill, and new concepts including The Catch by Rudi and Butcher's Block.

Other amenities include unlimited fitness classes, digital



and printed photos, reserved theatre seating, OceanNow stateroom delivery, and more.

The enhancements come just a few days after Princess introduced its new MedallionNet Max wi-fi (**CW 14 Aug**), which grants users unlimited access to the highest quality bandwidth and connectivity at sea.

President John Padgett said Princess Premier is now the most comprehensive package in cruise, and allows guests to enjoy their holiday without any limitations.

"With the Princess Premier Package, we're delivering the absolute greatest value in travel and making all-inclusive cruising super easy," Padgett said.

The new packages and prices are now in effect for departures from the US, with a rolling launch date for ships in all other destinations beginning 31 Aug.

For travellers on Australia-based ships, the changes begin for *Crown Princess* on 02 Sep; *Diamond Princess* on 26 Sep; *Royal Princess* on 28 Oct; and *Coral Princess* on 17 Oct.

Travellers who have purchased Princess Premier for existing bookings will be contacted and invited to upgrade to the new package and price, or to retain the existing tier and inclusions. *ML*

Cruise act review

THE independent review of the *Coastal Trading Act* is underway, with the Australian Government appointing Lynelle Briggs and Nicholas Gaskell as co-chairs.

The Government has committed to reviewing the Act to ensure it reflects "modern regulatory best practice for shipping registration and coastal trading", a release from Minister for Transport Catherine King said.

Briggs was a board member for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, while Gaskell is a maritime lawyer with extensive experience in international shipping practice and in analysing merchant shipping legislation for governments and industry.



Our biggest ever Cruise360

IT'S just over a week until CLIA's biggest-ever Cruise360 Australasia conference, a fantastic chance to unite our community around the huge opportunities offered by our thriving cruise sector.

With more than 800 travel advisors and industry representatives ready to attend, our 2024 conference is not only a sign of the enormous enthusiasm for cruising, but also a stronger-than-ever membership.

Our aim at Cruise360 is to convert that enthusiasm into practical knowledge that will help unlock new opportunities.

Under this year's theme 'Embrace the Future', we have created a program that will inform, inspire, and equip agents to grow their cruise business well into the future.

A total of 28 industry experts will take the stage, including six international leaders.

Over the course of the day, we'll look at the forces shaping the Australasian cruise market, learn how to target the all-important first-time cruiser, and discover how to leverage opportunities in areas like luxury cruising, expedition cruising, and experiential travel.

It will set the scene for a vibrant summer cruise season ahead, and help ensure CLIA travel agents remain the best-educated and most successful cruise specialists in our region.

