



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

### CLIA announces Cruise360 sold out

**CRUISE** Lines International Association's (CLIA) Cruise360 is officially sold out, with more than 800 travel advisors and industry representatives ready to attend one of the biggest cruise conferences ever held.

The 30 Aug conference will take place at the ICC Sydney, where a packed program of international and regional speakers will provide essential insights for cruise specialist travel advisors.

The event will also include CLIA's biggest-ever Cruise360 trade show, allowing delegates to connect with cruise lines, destinations, and exhibitors from around the world.

CLIA's first River Cruise Showcase the day prior to Cruise360 is also sold out, providing a half-day of product training on river cruising.

Director of Membership & Events Marita Nasic said the response to this year's Cruise360 conference has been overwhelming.

"Our travel agent community has shown a huge hunger for industry insight and professional development," Nasic said.

"The fact that our biggest-ever Cruise360 has sold out shows how much passion and dedication there is among cruise specialist travel agents."

Managing Director Joel Katz added this year's Cruise360 will combine a global perspective with practical knowledge to help agents boost their business.

Full program details and speakers for Cruise360 will be announced in coming days.

## Let me entertain you



**EXPLORA** Journeys has announced its new entertainment program and unique guest experiences aboard *Explora I*.

Guests will be treated to innovative performances featuring a new cast of international artists.

During the day guests can enjoy spontaneous pop-up performances by the pool from musicians, performers, and wellness teams, paired with beverages and snacks.

During the evening, *Explora I* comes alive with live music, from relaxing European poolside vibes by DJs to elegant piano music in the lobby and lounges.

There will also be more vibrant musician-vocalist combinations in the Journeys Lounge, and contemporary music in *Explora I*'s Astern Lounge.

Later in the evening, guests are invited to the Explora Music Series, a nightly live spectacle in the Journeys Lounge, which will see six new vocalists present a fourteen-night program.

Evening choices include main stage performances, intimate lobby bar sessions, lively nights in the Astern Lounge, and late-night wellness events.

Another standout feature of the offerings is the new digital activities, which will utilise QR codes throughout the ship to

allow guests to engage in unique daily activities on their devices.

This will include Explora Journeys Trivia, crosswords, and word searches themed to the journey's locale, which will be updated daily.

Sudoku and chess will also be able to be enjoyed throughout *Explora I*.

The technology also allows guests to make special musical requests directly to the performers in the Astern Lounge.

Guests at *Explora I*'s late-night gigs can view song lists, send requests, choose songs, or even suggest new tracks. *MS*

### Teiotu at Travel24

**MSC** Cruises Managing Director Lisa Teiotu is the latest executive to join the speaker line-up at Travel24, a new one-day industry event hosted by **Cruise Weekly** sister title **Travel Daily**.

Teiotu will join a panel discussion on the future of ocean cruising, alongside Silversea Silversea Managing Director Adam Radwanski (**CW** 04 Jul).

Taking place on 08 Aug at the Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour, Travel24 will focus on the next 24 months in the tourism - **CLICK HERE** for tickets.

### New Pandaw cruise

**PANDAW'S** unique new 21-night itinerary combines Vietnam's Ha Long Bay and Laos' Mekong.

The cruise sails aboard Pandaw's small expedition vessels from US\$7,970, with savings of up to 10% and no single supplement payable on select voyages.

Travellers will be able to explore the key sites of Northern Vietnam, traversing the Red River Delta and its main tributaries, connecting Ha Long Bay with Hanoi and the interior.

Cruisers can also traverse Laos, Thailand, and Burma at the notorious Golden Triangle - **CLICK HERE** for more.

Travel Daily

## The Chat with Jenny

A conversation with Penny Spencer

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**PERHAPS** the problem with being an influencer in this hyper-connected social media driven world is people listen to what you say...and interpret it in many different ways.

Carnival Cruise Line Brand Ambassador John Heald, who commands a Facebook following of some 600k global cruise fans, saw this first hand.

In a clearly light-hearted post, Heald said Carnival would now play the theme song from *Chariots of Fire* throughout the ship whenever there were "pier runners" - or guests frantically bolting down the pier after a day in port, only to see the ship pull away, often accompanied by cheers and whistles from those onboard.

While plenty saw the light-hearted side, enough took offence for Heald to issue a second post to clarify it was a joke and Carnival had no plans to actually do this.

## CCL delights SCHF families

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line (CCL) has delighted families of the Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF) with a Grinchmas Family Fun Day on Sydney Harbour yesterday.

Christmas came early for 50 patients of SCHF and their families, as The Grinch and his canine companion Max spread cheer at a special *Carnival Splendor* event, celebrating the second year of the cruise line's Grinchmas in July sailings (**CW** 14 Aug 2023).

Guests were treated to "real" snowfall in Sydney, along with an official giant Christmas tree lighting ceremony, sing-a-long caroling, and a reading of *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Making appearances alongside The Grinch and Max were other Dr. Seuss characters, Thing 1 & Thing 2, and The Cat in the Hat.

The Grinch's heart grew three sizes at the event when he met 13-year-old Matilda Jenkins, who has been a patient at The Children's Hospital at Westmead from just 24 hours old.

Jenkins was announced as the official Goddaughter of *Carnival*



*Splendor* in 2018 when she was only six years old.

The ship's Cruise Director Simon London presented a cheque to Jenkins and SCHF Chief Marketing Officer Kate Ferguson for \$62,758, the total amount raised for SCHF on board *Splendor* over the last year.

"Thanks to the generosity of Carnival Cruise Line, we can continue making a positive difference to the lives of the 159,000 children who come through the doors of our state's children's hospitals each year at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick and The Children's Hospital at Westmead," she said.

Carnival's partnership with SCHF has raised nearly \$400,000 since its establishment in 2016. *MS*

## Metal meets water

**THE 70000TONS OF METAL** festival is set to go on sale on Thu, billed as "the world's biggest heavy metal cruise".

The journey from Miami to Ocho Rios will take place from 30 Jan to 03 Feb, and will see 120 shows and onboard events take place over the five days.

There will be 60 bands performing on board Royal Caribbean International's *Independence of the Seas*, including Arcturus, Benighted, Beyond Creation, Candlemass, Crownshift, and more.

Guests will have the opportunity to attend meet and greets for all the bands, intimate masterclasses with select musicians, experience exclusive live album premieres, engage in listening sessions, and more.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to experience Ocho Rios with their favourite bands on an "artist-escorted shore excursion", where fans can join band members in activities such as snorkelling, kayaking, boat tours, and other adventures.

## Discover the all new *River Cruise Special Report*



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*Cruise Weekly* is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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