



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Ponant world-first

**PONANT** will achieve a full circumnavigation of Antarctica in 2028, in what is expected to be a world-first aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*.

The luxury icebreaker will sail around the continent between Jan and Mar 2028, in a journey which will cruise through remote, uncharted regions, navigating nearly 18,000km.

The ship will set sail from Ushuaia to reach Hobart in 30 days, which will be followed by a two-day stopover - her first-ever visit to Australia.

*Le Commandant Charcot* will then depart back toward Ushuaia, tracing the eastern coast of Antarctica.

## Cruise tackles “elephant in the room”

**THE** cruise industry must shout louder about its environmental credentials, ensuring the message is more visible to travellers, according to Bud Darr, new Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) President & CEO.

Speaking at an event in Florida, the newly-minted CLIA Global boss said the sector should formulate a clear and unified environmental message beyond what each cruise line is offering which can be amplified by agents.

“We have to make sure people understand we’re really hard-working, honest businesses that care about the environment [and] care about the marine environment in particular, because that’s a big part of what we’re offering to our guests,” Darr said.

Cruise lines need to be patient to let their message sink in, Darr added, saying the best method is to “live the message every day”



and engage with stakeholders.

“That means maybe we’ve got to repeat the same thing many times,” Darr added.

“As governments change around the world, and keep in mind there’s been a big change of governments around the world [and] not just in any one country, we have to modify our approaches, make sure that we’re

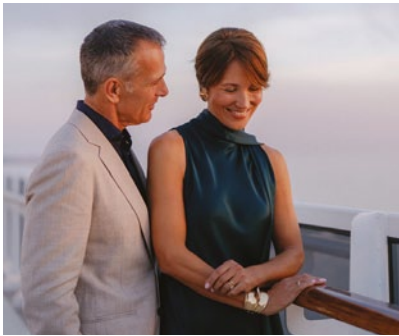
reaching the right stakeholders with the right information that’s credible and with the right people delivering it.”

As travel advisors sell over 70% of cruise fares, the CLIA boss encouraged them to become fluent in the environmental message cruise lines are trying to communicate and to share it far and wide with their clients.

Describing decarbonisation as “an enormous elephant standing in the middle of the room”, Darr said that with 60 ships on order across the CLIA fleet, both the will and the capital is there.

“That’s a sign of great optimism, it’s a sign of investment of US\$59 billion approximately in ships mostly designed to be capable to run on fuels that don’t exist yet.”

Darr said technology can only go so far to improve efficiency but that fuel is the key element to achieving decarbonisation. *ML*



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## Salute, Princess

**PRINCESS** Cruises and the Frescobaldi family are collaborating to launch a new menu at the line's signature specialty restaurant, Sabatini's Italian Trattoria.

The updated menu will launch on the newly renovated *Majestic Princess* (CW 03 Apr) with the highlight to be the multi-course Grand Tuscan Dinner, which comes with a cover charge of US\$99.

The menu features six Frescobaldi-inspired dishes, including Italian seafood stew, creamy burrata, hand-made tortello pasta, pan-seared seabass and almond cake.

Also included as part of the menu is a range of all-new Frescobaldi wines, as well as five new signature cocktails.

## Roast onboard QE2

**FORMER** cruise ship turned Dubai floating hotel *Queen Elizabeth 2* has introduced a new Sunday roast lunch experience in its Queens Grill.

The menu features a selection of roasts with an extensive range of side dishes.

"The Sunday Roast Lunch in the Queens Grill is more than just a meal – it's a celebration of history, flavour, and the joy of dining together," said QE2 GM, Ferghal Purcell.

Now available each Sun, each roast is priced at A\$50.

## &Beyond to go exploring



**LUXURY** conservation travel brand &Beyond will expand into expedition cruising with the launch of a new river yacht to operate in the Peruvian Amazon.

Catering to 32 passengers, the yacht will be known as the *Amazon Explorer* and is now under construction at the SIMA Shipyard in Iquitos, on track to debut in Sep next year.

The new yacht has been designed to offer sustainable, high-end travel experiences in the highly biodiverse Amazon region and marks the company's latest expansion in South America.

*Amazon Explorer* will be based in Iquitos, taking guests through Nauta and into the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, with itineraries ranging from three and four nights, which can be combined to a week-long trip.

Featuring 15 suites - including two superior and one deluxe suite - the yacht features local cultural elements in its interiors designs, drawing inspiration from the indigenous Shipibo-Conibo

people and their Kene art.

"As we expand our portfolio in South America, the biological diversity of the Peruvian Amazon makes it the ideal destination for our brand of sustainable luxury tourism," said &Beyond Executive Chairman and CEO Joss Kent.

Facilities onboard the yacht includes a spa, fitness centre and an Explorer Centre for educational sessions led by expert guides.

A River Retreat with a pool deck and lounge area adds to the onboard amenities, with guests also able to participate in hands-on cooking classes, nature talks, and expedition briefings.

Activities on the river will include excursions by skiff or kayak, guided rainforest walks, bird-watching and night-time wildlife searches for species such as caiman and nocturnal birds.

The company aims to support conservation and community development initiatives through its new venture, with activities to include a river turtle population restoration project. *ML*

## North Lakes open

**CRUISEABOUT** continues to grow its store network, today opening the doors to its third location in Queensland at Westfield North Lakes.

The new store - the brand's second in Brisbane - joins outlets in Mermaid Waters and Carindale and will be led by Team Leader Kate Moulton, who moves across from Flight Centre North Lakes nearby.

Queensland now accounts for one-third of the brand's customers, said Cruiseabout GM Brad Kennedy, adding the Westfield was a popular spot in the Moreton Bay region and likely to be a key growth driver for the business.

## Seattle connected

**SEATTLE** is celebrating the start of its 2025 cruise season by connecting all of its berths to shore power, meaning up to three ships can now switch off their engines while in port.

The first ship to arrive for the season was *Norwegian Bliss* for its first Alaska adventure, with the season running from Apr to Oct.

The Pacific Northwest city will welcome Cunard Line for its debut season this Jun, with 11 sailings running until Sep.

In all, Seattle will see 298 departures carrying 1.9 million pax, which will inject US\$900 million into the region and support more than 5,000 jobs.

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**A TRAVELLER** onboard a recent Explora Journeys cruise has gone viral after hilariously characterising the passengers she encountered on her cruise.

The traveller, who was sailing onboard *Explora II* in the Caribbean, detailed her run-ins with various types, labelling them the 'big five' of cruising.

First up was the 'Career Consumed' - a crypto trader hunched over a laptop in every lounge, followed by a fashion designer using the trip as a "work expense".

The 'Fashion Set' strutted poolside in head-to-toe couture, perusing the onboard boutiques like a designer at Paris Fashion Week.

Then there are the 'Solo Travellers', each bringing mysterious back-stories and often seen dining with different companions each night.

A group dubbed the 'Mystery Contingent' never left the ship, prompting speculation about whether they were even part of the cruise or just squatting.

Rounding it out were the 'Special Occasion Society', passengers in matching birthday sashes or bridal veils, loudly declaring their excuse to party at every turn.

The author said that while the destinations were stunning, it was the floating soap opera of captivating personalities that stole the show.

## American goes big for USA



**AMERICAN** Cruise Lines has introduced an array of 50-day-plus river cruises honouring the 250th anniversary of the United States next year.

The cruise line's new range of extended cruises are now the longest on the market in the United States.

American will feature a new 52-day 'Great United States Cruise'; a 51-day 'Spring Across America'; and a 55-day 'Great American Fall Foliage Cruise'; plus, a 36-Day 'Civil War Battlefields Cruise'.

Each of these American adventures follows the successful launch of its first 'Great United States Cruise' last year.

This year's 'Great United States Cruise' will sail from Oregon to Boston from 29 May to 19 Jul, and explore 18 states aboard three of American's ships, including the brand-new *American Pioneer*.

The cruise visits three national parks: Yellowstone, Glacier, and Grand Teton; and cruises along the Columbia, Mississippi, and Penobscot rivers.

Guests will spend Independence

Day in Boston at Four Seasons Hotel Boston, enjoying the commemorative fireworks display over the harbour.

The 'Spring Across America' cruise sails from Charleston to Juneau from 03 Apr to 23 May, and explores 10 states aboard five small ships.

The cruise departs from the 'Holy City' of Charleston, from the Gold Coast to the Gulf Coast; before sailing the Mississippi, Columbia, and Snake rivers; and the Inside Passage to Alaska, including Glacier Bay National Park & Reserve.

Meanwhile, the 'Great American Fall Foliage Cruise' sails from Juneau to DC, from 05 Sep to 29 Oct, exploring 18 states aboard four ships, including the brand-new *American Patriot*.

The cruise sails throughout Alaska, including the Glacier Bay National Park; down the Inside Passage, including Frederick Sound, Queen Charlotte Strait, and the Strait of Georgia; through Puget Sound and Friday Harbor; and down the Columbia, Snake, Mississippi and Potomac. *MS*

## Cruise DMC recruit

**NEW** Zealand destination management firm Akorn has welcomed Erin O'Sullivan as its new Operations Manager, with O'Sullivan tasked with growing the company's cruise division.

## Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Adventure</i>	11 Apr
<i>Royal Princess</i>	11 Apr
<i>Carnival Adventure</i>	14 Apr
<i>Crown Princess</i>	16 Apr
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	17 Apr
BRISBANE	
<i>Carnival Encounter</i>	12 Apr
<i>Crown Princess</i>	14 Apr
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	17 Apr
CAIRNS	
<i>Crown Princess</i>	11 Apr
<i>Carnival Encounter</i>	15 Apr
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	13 Apr
<i>Paul Gauguin</i>	15 Apr
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	16 Apr
<i>Norwegian Sun</i>	16 Apr
BROOME	
<i>Artania</i>	11 Apr
TAURANGA	
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	12 Apr
<i>Royal Princess</i>	15 Apr
WELLINGTON	
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	12 Apr
AUCKLAND	
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	13 Apr
<i>Royal Princess</i>	16 Apr
BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	14 Apr