

Issue Three | February 2022

# PORTS & DESTINATIONS

ESSENTIAL PLANNING INFORMATION FOR AGENTS

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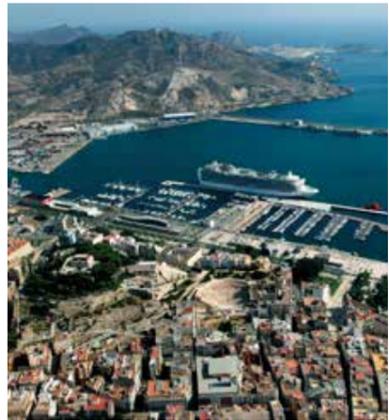
**GO WILD:**  
Animal magic  
in the Seychelles

Inside: Eight-page  
**RIVER CRUISE  
SPECIAL**

Oceania Cruises' new ship:  
**A GLORIOUS  
VISTA  
REVEALED**



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# CARTAGENA



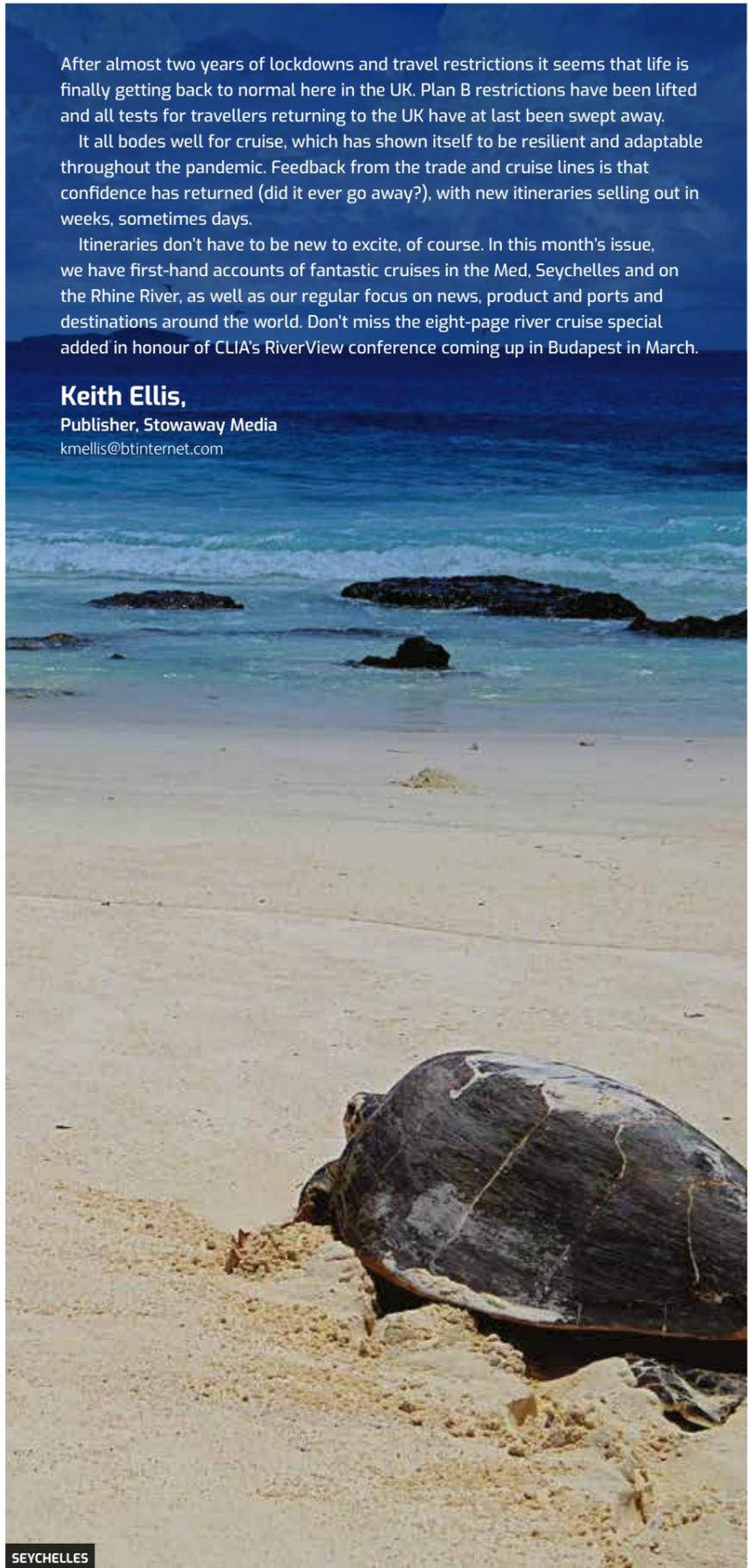
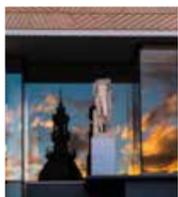
To arrive at Cartagena is to enter Spain fully... to enjoy the best of an entire country, without ever leaving this region where the sun -and time itself- have mellowed each little corner into a unique treasure

Vestiges of a thousand-year-old culture, gastronomy that prides itself on excellence in every dish, the best beaches for enjoying water sports all year round, a different form of leisure living, popular and religious festivals... No place offers more Spain than this unique port: the Port of Cartagena

## ONE PORT ALL OF SPAIN



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SEYCHELLES

After almost two years of lockdowns and travel restrictions it seems that life is finally getting back to normal here in the UK. Plan B restrictions have been lifted and all tests for travellers returning to the UK have at last been swept away.

It all bodes well for cruise, which has shown itself to be resilient and adaptable throughout the pandemic. Feedback from the trade and cruise lines is that confidence has returned (did it ever go away?), with new itineraries selling out in weeks, sometimes days.

Itineraries don't have to be new to excite, of course. In this month's issue, we have first-hand accounts of fantastic cruises in the Med, Seychelles and on the Rhine River, as well as our regular focus on news, product and ports and destinations around the world. Don't miss the eight-page river cruise special added in honour of CLIA's RiverView conference coming up in Budapest in March.

**Keith Ellis,**  
Publisher, Stowaway Media  
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- 4 NEWS
- 8 AGENT COMMENT
- 10 PROFILE: AZAMARA
- 12 STAR LEGEND IN THE MED
- 16 TAKE THREE PORTS
- 20 ISLANDS IN THE SUN
- 22 PROFILE: OCEANIA
- 25 RIVER CRUISE SPECIAL
- 26 CLIA UPDATE
- 27 RIVER CRUISE NEWS
- 28 PROFILE: SCENIC
- 30 CRUISE REPORT: TUI SKYLA
- 32 WHY TAKE A RIVER CRUISE
- 34 PORT PROFILE: JUNEAU
- 36 PORT PROFILE: KETCHIKAN
- 38 PORT PROFILE: SKAGWAY

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Front cover image: Oceania Cruises' Riviera in St Lucia.



The infinity pool on Emerald Azzurra offers some of the best views in the house

## Sell-out season on the cards for Emerald Cruises' first superyacht

The inaugural season on Emerald Cruises' first ocean-going yacht has almost sold out before the vessel has even started sailing.

Emerald Azzurra is due to enter service in March with an eight-day maiden voyage in the Red Sea round-trip from Aqaba in Jordan that includes trips to monasteries, deserts and the Lost City of Petra on calls into Hurghada and Sharm el Sheikh in Egypt, and Eilat in Israel.

Dubbed a superyacht, the vessel holds just 100 passengers in 50 suites, most of which have a balcony, and has an infinity pool and marina platform from where guests can go swimming, snorkelling and paddleboarding.

Emerald Azzurra will be sailing a second Red Sea cruise, then relocating into the Mediterranean for a summer season of voyages in Croatia, Italy, cruise the Greek Isles and France. Options include an eight-day Highlights of Southern Italy cruise from Dubrovnik to Civitavecchia (the port for Rome) that offers kayaking, river-tubing and a tour to the Trulli of Alberobello on calls into Sorrento, Amalfi, Crotona and Otranto in Italy and Giardini Naxos in Sicily. Prices from £4,845 per person include flights, transfers, selected excursions, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, and tips. Clients who snap up some of the last remaining capacity will also be treated to a free drinks package.

## Copenhagen is wonderful all year, says city's cruise chief

CruiseCopenhagen is looking to reinvent the city as a year-round cruise destination, promising lower prices and 'unique' attractions for companies and passengers who visit in the autumn, winter and during Christmas.

CruiseCopenhagen director Claus Bødker said attractions are also less crowded in the shoulder months, which gives visitors 'a better time', and overall it's more sustainable to spread out tourism throughout the year.

He added: "Autumn and winter are the absolute prime seasons for the Danish concept of 'hygge'. There is no better time of the year to experience the cosy atmosphere of Copenhagen."

The city is a favourite turnaround port for Baltic cruises, which operate only between April and September.

## Seattle pins hopes on buoyant 2022

The Port of Seattle has forecast that 2022 cruise ship calls and passenger numbers will get closer to pre-pandemic levels as it counts down to the start of the summer Alaska season.

This is due to get going in April – the first ship scheduled to sail is Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Bliss – and continue until October.

In 2019, the port handled more than 200 cruise calls and around 1.2 million passengers. The activity typically generates almost \$900 million in business revenue and supports more than 500 jobs.



NCL is basing three ships in Seattle this summer – the other two are Norwegian Sun and Norwegian Encore. Holland America Line also has three vessels sailing from the US port to Alaska, while Princess Cruises has two, including the new Discovery Princess.

Royal Caribbean is also basing two ships in Seattle this summer – Ovation and Quantum of the Seas. Carnival Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises, Oceania Cruises and Windstar Cruises will each have one ship there.

## Tallinn opens new cruise terminal



A new cruise terminal has opened in the Estonian port of Tallinn in time for the start of the Baltic season. Built by Norwegian company Kebony from sustainable wood materials and glass, it will handle an expected 10 million cruise passengers each year and is also large enough to host concerts and conferences for up to 2,000 people.

## IN BRIEF

The Portuguese port of Leixões in Porto says it is on track for a record year of calls, with 143 already scheduled and more than 150,000 passengers expected.

Almost one-third of Baltic ports have either decided not to invest in on-shore power or haven't considered the option, according to a survey by Cruise Baltic. The study, conducted by Bermello Ajamil & Partners Europe found that the world's biggest cruise lines (Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Group, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings and MSC Cruises) plan to have at least 56% of their overall fleet shore power ready by 2026.

A \$1.7 billion new cruise port featuring the world's first underground cruise terminal has opened in the Turkish city of Istanbul. Galataport Istanbul can handle three ships, including Royal Caribbean International's giant Oasis-class ships, and 15,000 passengers a day.

The French city of Rouen is extending its cruise quay along the Seine River to accommodate ships measuring up to 250 metres – 10 more than at present. The work has started but is not expected to be completed until spring 2023 so as to avoid disrupting the 2022 cruise season.



Kate O'Hara, pictured, commercial director of the Port of Tyne, has been appointed chair of Cruise Britain. She replaces James Stangroom from the Bristol Port Company who has been at the helm for the past four years. O'Hara has been involved with the association since it was formed in 2008 and held the position of chair until 2013.



Guernsey banned cruise ships in 2021, but is looking forward to their return this year.

## Guernsey gets back on the cruise scene after two-year break

Guernsey has confirmed it will reopen to cruise ships in 2022 for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

The Channel Island to shut its doors to ships in 2021, missing out on last summer's busy seacation season when some 15 cruise lines successfully restarted domestic sailings.

Now Guernsey wants cruise ships and passengers back to help rebuild the island's 'vital' tourism economy. "The cruise sector is very important to the Islands of Guernsey and to our tourism industry," said VisitGuernsey marketing manager Wendy Pedder. Around 100 ships were scheduled to call pre-Covid and a similar number is expected this year, according to VisitGuernsey.

Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' Hanseatic Spirit, which sails exclusively for German-speaking passengers, is due to make the first 2022 call,

with Nicko Cruises' Vasco da Gama ending the season with a call on October 30. Ships have to anchor off the capital, St Peter Port, and tender passengers ashore.

The island, which is in the British Isles but not part of the UK, is a perennial favourite with cruisers for its history, beaches and slightly French feel. Its location in the Channel is also ideal for mini-cruises from the UK. P&O Cruises is due to visit on two three-night voyages from Southampton in May.

Pedder said: "We have invested heavily in our cruise infrastructure, focusing on our welcome, disembarkation process and extensive shore excursions that have made us attractive to the leading international cruise lines. We are delighted to be bouncing back and seeing the level of interest and commitment from the flagship cruise lines."

## Port of Amsterdam merges ocean and river operations

Port of Amsterdam has streamlined its ocean and river cruise business under the new name Cruise Port Amsterdam. Previously Passenger Terminal Amsterdam looked after ocean-going lines, while river cruise was managed by Port of Amsterdam.

Passenger Terminal Amsterdam director Dick de Graaf, who now also looks after Cruise Port Amsterdam, said river cruise lines dock across the city so the name Passenger Terminal Amsterdam no longer covered the business. Merging the handling of ocean and river cruise would also be more efficient.

## Saudi turns to students to get 'cruise ready'

Around 140 Saudi students studying on tourism are being trained as guides as Saudi Arabia looks to become a major player in the Middle East cruise industry.

The initiative comes as the country seeks to open up new business sectors to create jobs and get more people involved in the economy, said Cruise Saudi chief strategy officer Gassan Khan. Tourism – and specifically cruise – is one of the key segments being targeted.

"The cruise industry has proven to be very resilient and has become the start of tourism in [Saudi Arabia]. We have a prime coastline in the Red Sea and also the Gulf, and interesting places with good stories to tell."

He said the students are being trained now so the country is 'cruise ready'. They will work as guides and meet-and-greet personnel. "We started in the midst of a pandemic because we had to make sure everything was in place – the terminals and shore excursions - and working within Saudi regulations."

While Saudi itself has a lot to offer in terms of ancient cities, culture, Unesco sites and beaches, Khan acknowledged that to achieve big numbers – Cruise Saudi is eyeing one million or more cruise passengers – the country has to work more with near neighbours Jordan and Egypt to create interesting itineraries.

# The future of cruise

INTERNATIONAL  
**CRUISE**  
summit  
2021

Collaboration and sustainability were under discussion as cruise lines and port executives gathered at the International Cruise Summit in Madrid.

## Nurture agents, Royal Caribbean boss urges the industry

The UK boss of Royal Caribbean International has thanked agents for the 'important' role they played in helping the cruise lines' recovery.

Speaking at the Madrid summit, Ben Bouldin, vice-president EMEA, said the industry needs the trade's support and must 'nurture' that. Royal Caribbean was one of more than 15 cruise lines that offered sailing around the UK last summer after the government gave domestic cruises the green light.

Bouldin said: "When we heard it, we initially said that was not what we wanted but there were 17 ships sailing in the UK and with high load factors. We owe massive thanks to UK ports such as Belfast and Dover that welcomed us and made it possible.

"It's unlikely Royal Caribbean will return [to UK domestic cruising], but never say never. If we've learnt anything from the pandemic, it's that we just don't know."

He said cruising is coming back at different speeds around the world – at the time of going to press Australia's cruise ban was still in place and much of Asia was still closed to ships – but with almost 30 new ocean and river ships set to launch in 2022, 'for sure it is coming back'.

Costa Cruises president Mario Zanetti forecast 2023 will be the year the cruise industry returns to normal. "That is when we will be back to generating value for stakeholders and delivering excellent holidays," he said.

## Sustainability is key to future growth

The cruise industry must work together to achieve the 2050 target of net zero emissions, Silversea president and chief executive officer Roberto Martinoli told the conference.

He said sustainability is now a 'big deal' for the whole industry, with future outside investment dependent on companies being able to show what they are doing to look after the environment. "If there is no sustainability, companies won't be able to grow," Martinoli warned.

Referencing the way the industry worked as one in the face of the pandemic, he said: "The more we work together, the more we get things done."

Silversea has recently unveiled details of its multi-hybrid Nova-class ships, which will use a combination of liquefied natural gas, fuel cells and battery power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at sea and achieve zero discharge while in port.

The first Nova-class ship, Silver Nova, is under construction at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany, and due to be delivered in summer 2023.

Martinoli said: "We need to talk more about what we are doing. Things are changing rapidly but people are not aware of it."

## Ports face multi-million-dollar bills in move to OSP

Port Everglades chief executive officer Jonathan Daniels says providing sustainable on-shore power (OSP) is the next big challenge facing cruise ports.

He told conference that the port had planned to provide shore power at two terminals but has now realised it has to be available at all eight. That raises issues of cost – Daniels said installing OSP is estimated at \$20 million per terminal in the US – and where the power comes from.

"On a Saturday and Sunday, when all eight terminals are in use, we'll be using 60-80 Megawatts of power. That's equivalent to a good size city. We've got to make sure we are not taking the power from other sources; that we don't plunge Fort Lauderdale into darkness."

## Pandemic causes guide shortage

VAR Provence Cruise Club manager Anne-Marie Blum said the trend towards smaller tours has created a shortage of guides as many left the industry due to the pandemic.

The Cruise Club has applied for funding through the EU's Erasmus+ education programme to encourage young people to train as guides.

The shortage of guides, and also drivers and buses, is causing huge problems, especially in ports where passengers are only allowed ashore on 'bubble' excursions as 'we can't provide tours for everyone', said Tine Oelmann, TUI Cruises destination management and operations director.

Fred Olsen Cruise Lines shoreside destination manager Karen Dawney warned that the smaller tour groups caused by social distancing has pushed up the cost of tours. "We will have to pass those costs onto customers."



Silversea's Silver Nova will be powered by a combination of liquefied natural gas, fuel cells and battery power

  
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ANTARCTICA IS SELLING REALLY WELL



EXPEDITION CRUISES ARE HIGH UP THE WISHLIST

## Making up for lost time

Pent-up demand is causing customers to snap up cruises way into 2024, says James Cole, founder and managing director of Panache Cruises.



JAMES COLE, FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PANACHE CRUISES



THE CARIBBEAN IS IN DEMAND

During the pandemic the ability to travel and enjoy new experiences has been in limited supply, and the many customers we speak to on a daily basis tell us that they can't wait to get back on board a cruise ship and make up for the last few years, when international travel has been so severely impacted.

We are finding there is currently huge pent-up demand for cruising, and many of our customers are telling us that for their next cruising experience they want to travel further afield, for longer durations than usual and spend more than ever before, in order to make their next cruise even more of an extra special experience.

Currently the Canaries is proving highly popular, with flights from the UK or a flycruise from Las Palmas or Lisbon. The Caribbean is also in demand. Customers can't get enough of Barbados, due to all the direct flights from the UK.

Expedition cruises are high up on the wishlist, with the Arctic in summer and Antarctic in winter selling really well. Japan is also selling well. Customers talk of their bucket-list itinerary and many long to travel to Japan in the spring months when the Sakura

cherry blossom bathes the country in a pink hue.

We have a significant number of customers who have not only booked cruises for 2022 and 2023 but further out still, in 2024 and beyond. The top-selling itineraries for 2024 currently are the Caribbean sailing round-trip from Miami or Fort Lauderdale, Japan and world cruises or part world cruises, with Los Angeles to Shanghai and Cape Town to Dubai proving most popular. Other destinations in demand for 2024 include Australasia (and especially Auckland to Singapore) and the Far East (Bali to Tokyo).

Having a cruise to look forward to is really important for many of our avid cruising customers and this is backed up by ABTA research published at the end of 2021 which showed that more consumers want to make up for lost time during the pandemic by holidaying overseas in 2022 – and many are willing to spend more on travel than they have before.

Almost half (49%) of those interviewed in the survey say limited opportunities to travel during the pandemic has made their holidays much more important to them.

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NEW BROCHURE OUT NOW



What with a fourth ship and world cruise on the way, it's been an eventful 12 months since Azamara left the Royal Caribbean Group and struck out on its own.



AZAMARA PRESIDENT CAROL CABEZAS

Buying a cruise company is no small undertaking at the best of times; in the midst of a global pandemic, when the world's cruise fleet has been forced to stop sailing, it takes commitment, confidence and more than a little courage.

Which neatly sums up Azamara's new owners, Sycamore Partners. "Sycamore have come into this because they believe travel will rebound," says Azamara president Carol Cabezas. Indeed, the New York-based firm was so confident of the future of cruise despite Covid, that at the same time as buying Azamara they bought another ship.

"Stefan Kaluzny [one of the co-founders] called me the day after the papers were signed to say he had a present for me – a new ship," Cabezas recalls.

The new vessel, Azamara Onward, takes the fleet from three to four sister vessels and increases the line's capacity significantly but Cabezas is confident that can be filled. Specifically she is eyeing experienced cruisers who have started out with the big ships and are looking to 'graduate' to smaller vessels that can visit more unusual places. Azamara ships hold just under 700 passengers.

The new ship, which was most recently sailing as Pacific Princess for Princess Cruises, starts sailing in its new colours in May this year after a refurbishment that will take a large slice of the \$100 million that Sycamore is investing over the next nine months to refresh all the ships. Among changes, the casino will be replaced with shore excursion and future cruise sales desks and retail areas

will be opened up and start selling local products to bring places being visited on board. Menus will feature more local dishes and drinks.

**Time to explore**

'Slow' itineraries that stay late or overnight in marquee ports have long been a key part of the Azamara experience. They allow passengers time to explore after dark and are supported by an extended range of excursions that tap into local events and customs, as well as a selection of night tours.

Tours do cost extra but it is something under constant scrutiny. "We haven't abandoned the idea of including excursions," Cabezas says. Selected drinks and tips are already included in the price. The speciality dining restaurants Prime C and Aqualina cost \$30 per person but are free for those in suites.

More recently 'country-intensive' itineraries have been launched to offer more in-depth experiences. For 2022, there are country-intensive cruises in places as diverse as Greece, Spain, Norway, Italy, the Canary Islands and Australia.

Cabezas says none of that changes under Sycamore. On the contrary, she is keen to 'dial up' on the destination ethos by putting more resources into pre and post-cruise land stays. "Most of our guests stay a few days before or after their cruise anyway. It's an important part of what they want. We are just tapping into what they are already doing," she explains.



PRIME C RESTAURANT

*World voyage*

Azamara has launched a world cruise – a 155-night sailing from Fort Lauderdale to Barcelona departing January 5 2024 that visits six continents and more than 40 countries. There are 27 late departures and 22 overnights in port.

The voyage, on new ship Azamara Onward, ticks off a cornucopia of must-see sights around the world, from the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and Petra in Jordan to the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt and Easter Island in Chile. Overnight land excursions will take guests to India's Taj Mahal, the Great Wall of China and other wonders of the world.

"We are encouraging [our guests] to travel deeper with our unique overnight land experiences, designed to bring travellers to the heart of the destination and giving them enough time to appreciate its culture," says Azamara president Carol Cabezas.

Guests booking the whole cruise will enjoy perks including \$3,000 shore excursion credit, business-class flights, 10 AzAmazing Evenings, an upgrade to a Premium Beverage Package plus free Wi-Fi and laundry.



AQUALINA RESTAURANT

AZAMARA IS OFFERING COUNTRY-INTENSIVE CRUISES IN GREECE THIS YEAR



Where to find Azamara in 2022

**Azamara Onward**

An inaugural 11-night cruise from Monaco to Venice departs May 2. The ship will spend summer and autumn cruising the Greek Isles, Croatia, the Black Sea, France and Italy.

**Azamara Quest**

After spending winter in the Caribbean, Azamara Quest relocates to Northern Europe for a selection of cruises around the UK, Norway and the Baltic. In September the ship sails to the Mediterranean and on through the Middle East (an 11-night World Cup voyage in November spends three days in Doha) to India, Asia and Australia.

**Azamara Journey**

The ship spends summer and autumn sailing country-intensive cruises in the Black Sea, Greece, France and Italy. Azamara Journey will be based in Cape Town over winter, sailing 12-night wildlife-themed voyages that offer excursions to game lodges.

**Azamara Pursuit**

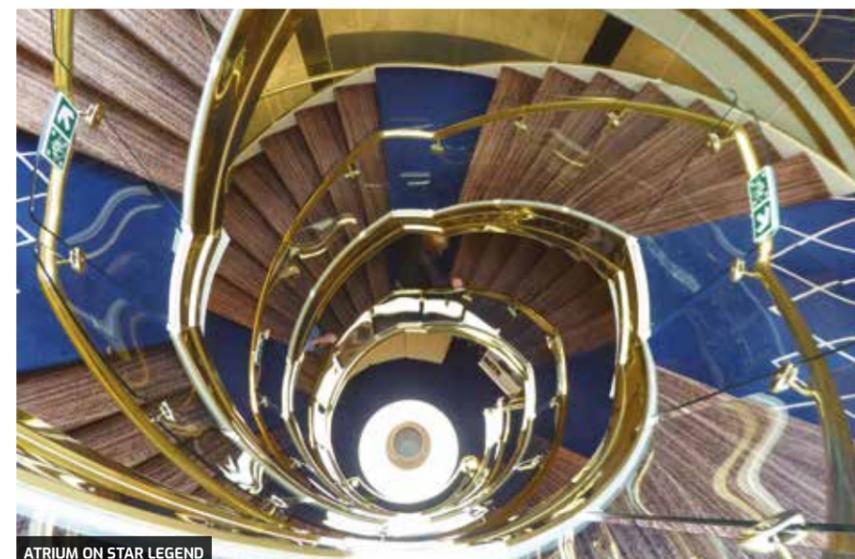
Azamara Pursuit returns to service in March with a voyage from Lisbon to Barcelona that positions it nicely for spring in the Mediterranean. It relocates to Northern Europe in June, sailing in Norway, the Baltic and Iceland, returns to the Med in autumn and sails to South America at the end of November.

# Star turn

What do clumsy deities, turtles and an Easter parade have in common? Jane Archer joined Windstar Cruises' new-look Star Legend to find out.



STAR LEGEND OFF CHANIA HARBOUR



ATRIUM ON STAR LEGEND

Every Good Friday locals in the Sicilian town of Trapani gather to watch as 20 beautifully carved wooden floats depicting the last days of Jesus Christ are carried through the streets. It sounds so spectacular that I am regretting having arrived several months too late to see the procession, which can last for up to 24 hours. I also feel rather sorry for the guys doing the carrying given these carvings (on show the rest of the time in the Chiesa del Purgatorio, aka the church of purgatory) are heavy, each needing 12-13 men to carry them.

Trapani sits between two seas – the Mediterranean to the south and the Tyrrhenian Sea on the north – and gets its name from Drepanon, the Greek word for sickle, because of the crescent shape of the town (as the ancient Greeks named it, naturally there's a back story; in a nutshell the shape was all down to Demeter, the goddess of the harvest, who dropped her sickle when she was flying past one day).

When the Romans replaced the Greeks, the name morphed into Drepana and over time, as Vandals, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans and others conquered Sicily, it changed to Trapani.

One of the joys of a cruise (for that is indeed how I ended up in Trapani) is discovering places that have great stories to tell but tend not to top any holiday hit list. The other joy is, of course, the ship itself. In this instance it's Star Legend, one of three Windstar yachts that have lately been stretched – a process that involved literally cutting the vessels in half and adding a new bit in the middle. It's a neat way to make ships bigger (although with a

new passenger count of just 312 they are still small) and while it all cost \$250 million, that was still a darn sight cheaper than building new vessels.

On this cruise, an eight-night voyage from Barcelona to Piraeus (Athens), we'll

## Where to find Star Legend in 2022

Star Legend is sailing seven-night Caribbean cruises around the Windward and Leeward islands round-trip from St Maarten until mid March 2022, when it relocates to Europe. The ship will spend the summer in the Norwegian fjords and Baltic, moving to the Mediterranean in August 2022. Autumn is spent cruising around Turkey, the Black Sea and Israel.

be hopping around the Italian islands of Sardinia and Sicily with calls into Cagliari, Trapani and Messina, then going Greek on the islands of Cephalonia and Crete as we visit Argostoli and Chania.

Continued on page 14 »



CUADRO 44

## New on Star Legend after the stretch

- ✓ Passenger capacity increased from 212 to 312.
- ✓ 50 more cabins including nine premium and three deluxe suites.
- ✓ A bigger, brighter main dining room.
- ✓ A tapas restaurant, Cuadro 44, by Michelin-starred chef Anthony Sasso.
- ✓ All bathrooms refurbished, most fitted with walk-in showers.
- ✓ More indoor seating in the self-service restaurant.



Even Katakolon, which we'll visit so folk can go to ancient Olympia, is on a sort-of island. It's on the Peloponnese, a bit of Greece cut off from the mainland – literally – when the Corinth Canal was dug in the late 1800s.

Between them, these places are choc-full of unexpected finds. A vast fish market in Cagliari full of giant tuna, spiny lobsters and squirming eels; the Sicilian town where The Godfather movie was shot; Chania's beautiful harbour dating back to the days when Venice ruled in Crete.

In Cagliari, a tour takes us through the medieval town where ancient buildings are adorned with bullet marks from the Second World War and the remains of a diktat by the dictator Mussolini urges people to work. And war rears its head again in Argostoli, this time in the form of a memorial to the thousands of Italian troops on Cephalonia who were murdered by the Nazis after Italy surrendered to the Allies towards the end of the Second World War. The tragic story is told in the novel *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, which was set nearby.

To lighten the mood, I go in search of the sea turtles that hang around a bridge built in 1813 when the British controlled Cephalonia (long story involving the French, Napoleon and the other Ionian islands, which only became part of Greece in 1864). Sure enough, two green heads pop up as I cross the bridge, presumably hoping food might come their way. If only I'd kept some of the Cephalonian meat pie I had for lunch!

**Sample price:** A seven-night cruise from Barcelona to Piraeus (Athens) on September 7 2022, with calls into Cagliari, Trapani, Messina, Argostoli, Corfu and Itea, and a transit through the Corinth Canal, costs from £3,875 per person including unlimited drinks, Wi-Fi and tips. Contact: 020 7399 7669; [www.windstarcruises.com](http://www.windstarcruises.com)



KATAKOLON



POOL DECK

## Introducing Windstar Cruises

Windstar is relatively unknown in the UK, both to agents and consumers, after pulling sales this side of the pond six years ago. It has now reversed that policy and appointed Anna Perrott, formerly head of cruise at Travelbag, as business development manager to work with UK agents.

The cruise line has six small ships – the yachts Star Legend, Star Pride and Star Breeze that have just been stretched and three motor sailing vessels, Wind Star, Wind Spirit and Wind Surf.

Windstar vice-president of sales Steven Kona Simao says the line will work with agents who come on board and understand the brand. His ambition is for the UK to contribute 25% to international sales.

Kona Simao said the capacity added when the line bought Star Legend and sister ships Star Pride and Star Breeze in 2013 was quickly absorbed and stretching the trio was the quick way to get more space. Long term, the plan is to acquire more ships or build new – but still small – tonnage.

Windstar prices include drinks, tips, speciality dining and Wi-Fi, but passengers can opt out of the all-inclusive package if they prefer to pay as they go.

# Discover Seattle

The Gateway to Alaska

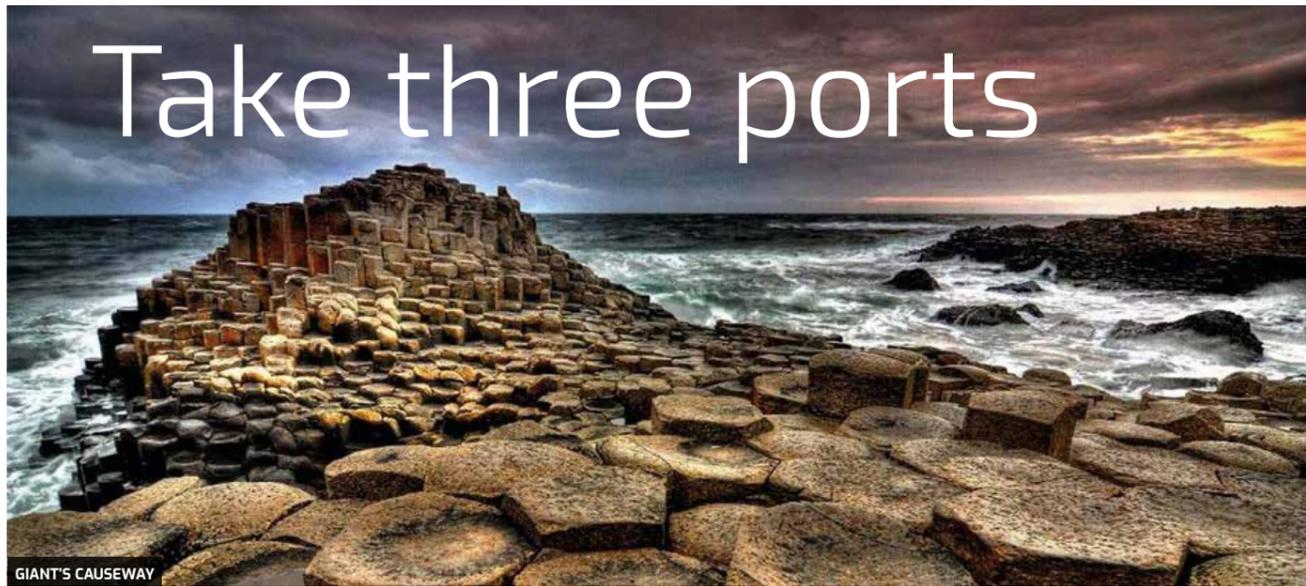


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# Take three ports

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

Thousands of cruisers discovered the delights of sailing around the UK as companies cast off on a summer season of domestic cruises last year. We look at what's on offer in three of the most popular cruise ports.

## BELFAST

It's impossible to visit Belfast and not think of the Titanic given this is the city where the ill-fated ship was built. Its short history is told in Titanic Belfast, a great attraction that sits where Titanic was designed and built. Visitors guide themselves through nine interactive galleries that bring to life everything from the shipyard and launch to the moment it sank in the Atlantic. Set aside at least 2.5 hours to do it all justice.

Decades of sectarian violence marred life in the city but that changed with the 1998 Good Friday agreement, which brought not only peace but huge investment, of which Titanic Belfast is just one example and Game of Thrones is another.

Parts of the series were filmed in the city; a GoT trail in the Titanic Quarter takes fans to windows that depict different scenes from the first seven seasons of the fantasy TV series.

The cruise port is a little way out of the city so shuttle buses are provided to take passengers into town. From there, it's an easy walk to key attractions such as the Maritime Mile, City Hall, the Albert Memorial Clock, Victoria Square (go to the top for views across the Belfast skyline) and the Linen Quarter, a lively place that's home to bars, restaurants, the Grand Opera House and Ulster Hall.

For those who don't fancy walking, cruise lines offer city tours that combine a drive past key attractions including the political murals along the Shankill and Falls Roads with visits to Titanic Belfast or Crumlin Road Gaol, which first opened in 1846 and operated as a prison until 1996.

Cruise lines also offer tours outside the city, the most popular of which is to the Giant's Causeway. It was formed some 60 million years ago of 40,000 basalt columns that stretch like stepping stones into the North Sea near the town of Bushmills and are either the remains of a path to Scotland built by the giant Finn McCool or a geological phenomenon. Take your pick.

Go to the Giant's Causeway on a Private Journey with Celebrity Cruises and you can enjoy whiskey on the rocks – literally – with guides from the National Trust, which owns the Causeway, and Bushmills Distillery.



TITANIC BELFAST

CREDIT: TITANIC BELFAST

## CRUISE CALENDAR

Cruise lines visiting Belfast in 2022  
(CLIA members on sale in the UK only)

Ambassador Cruise Line

Azamara

Carnival Cruise Line

Celebrity Cruises

Cunard

Fred Olsen Cruise Lines

Norwegian Cruise Line

Oceania Cruises

P&O Cruises

Princess Cruises

Royal Caribbean International

Regent Seven Seas Cruises

Saga Cruises

Seabourn

Silversea

*Cruise schedules are subject to change. Contact individual cruise lines for the most up-to-date information.*



SALISBURY CATHEDRAL



ABBOTSBURY SWANNERY

## PORTLAND, DORSET

Tanks, swans, a prison hidden inside a fort and the Black Death. Who knew Portland had so many claims to fame? Answer: The thousands of cruise passenger who visited the port during the UK's 2021 extraordinary summer seacation season.

The port was the unexpected star of last summer, popular with cruise lines because the harbour can dock two big ships at a time, and an eye-opener for the many passengers whose only knew of Portland as a city in the US.

The UK version is much smaller, on a hilly headland that's reached by a causeway from the seaside town of Weymouth. As you drive across, there's sea one side and Chesil Beach, celebrated as the longest stretch of sand (actually shingle) in Europe and as the setting in the Ian McEwan novel *On Chesil Beach*, on the other.

There are a few walks around the island for those who prefer to stay put (security is tight so they will still have to take a shuttle bus in and out of the port gates) but a tour is a better bet. There are plenty to choose from including trips to Stonehenge, Salisbury and Athelhampton House, and scenic drives along the Jurassic coast.

Tours also go to Abbotsbury, where monks set up a swannery more than 600 years ago



STONEHENGE

to make money from selling the birds for their meat and feathers. Happily these days people are more interested in watching the swans at feeding time rather than eating them. It is an extraordinary sight as the keepers appear with wheelbarrows full of grains and the swans come running – up to 1,000 of them – to tuck in.

Those who fancy seeing tanks should head to Bovington, home of a world-beating collection of armoured vehicles. There are more than 300 in the museum there, ranging from early World War One models to those used in modern warfare. Several cruise lines have tours to the museum, which is about 30 minutes' drive from Portland; Regent Seven Seas Cruises combines a museum tour with a visit to nearby Dorchester, the setting for Thomas Hardy's fictional town of Casterbridge in the novel *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

And so back to the prison and Black Death. True, neither is much of a tourist attraction but guides love to reveal the prison's most famous inmate, namely Paul Gadd, aka Gary Glitter, and that Portland was where the Black Death entered England in 1348. It killed about 45% of the population.

## CRUISE CALENDAR

Cruise lines visiting Portland in 2022  
(CLIA members on sale in the UK only)

Celebrity Cruises

Holland America Line

MSC Cruises

Norwegian Cruise Line

Princess Cruises

Regent Seven Seas Cruises

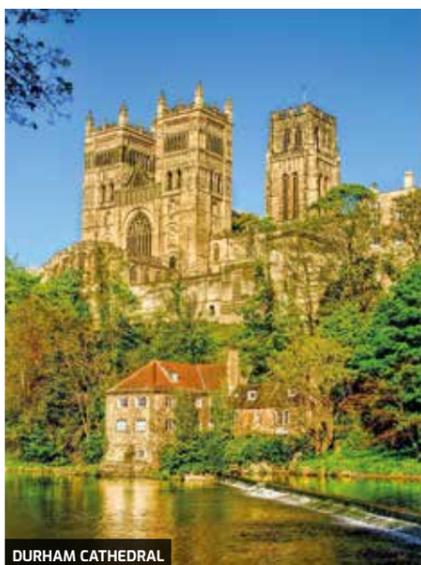
Saga Cruises

Seabourn

Continued on page 18 »



ALNWICK CASTLE



DURHAM CATHEDRAL



ANGEL OF THE NORTH

CREDIT: VISIT BRITAIN

## PORT OF TYNE

Newcastle is popular with cruise lines for its excellent facilities and with passengers for a range of attractions close by that take in everything from Roman remains to Quidditch, Muggles and flying broomsticks.

Those who know what all that means clearly have their name on a tour to Alnwick Castle, which starred as Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the 2001 and 2002 movies Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. In fact Alnwick is a bit of a film star generally as it also doubled as Brancaster Castle in Downton Abbey's 2015 and 2016 Christmas specials and Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves.

Passengers interested in history can take their pick from a tour to Bamburgh Castle, once the home of the kings of Northumberland, or to Hadrian's Wall, a fortification marking the northern-most

frontier of the Roman Empire. It was built in 122AD under the orders of the Emperor Hadrian and stretches from coast to coast – a distance of 72 miles.

Head the other way and you reach Durham, a city built on the River Wear that was once ruled by Prince Bishops and rich enough to have its own money and raise an army.

Tours focus on the cathedral – a grand Romanesque structure dating back 1,000 years – but include free time for those who want to catch up on some shopping.

Tours to Durham usually include a stop en route to see the Angel of the North, the largest sculpture in Britain, standing 20 metres tall and with a wingspan of 54 metres. Seen as the symbol of Gateshead, it is also one of the stops on a guided drive around Newcastle to learn about the city's industrial past.

## CRUISE CALENDAR

### Cruise lines visiting Port of Tyne in 2022 (CLIA members on sale in the UK only)

Cunard

Norwegian Cruise Line

Oceania Cruises

Princess Cruises

Regent Seven Seas Cruises

Seabourn

Silversea

### Cruise lines with turnarounds in Port of Tyne in 2022

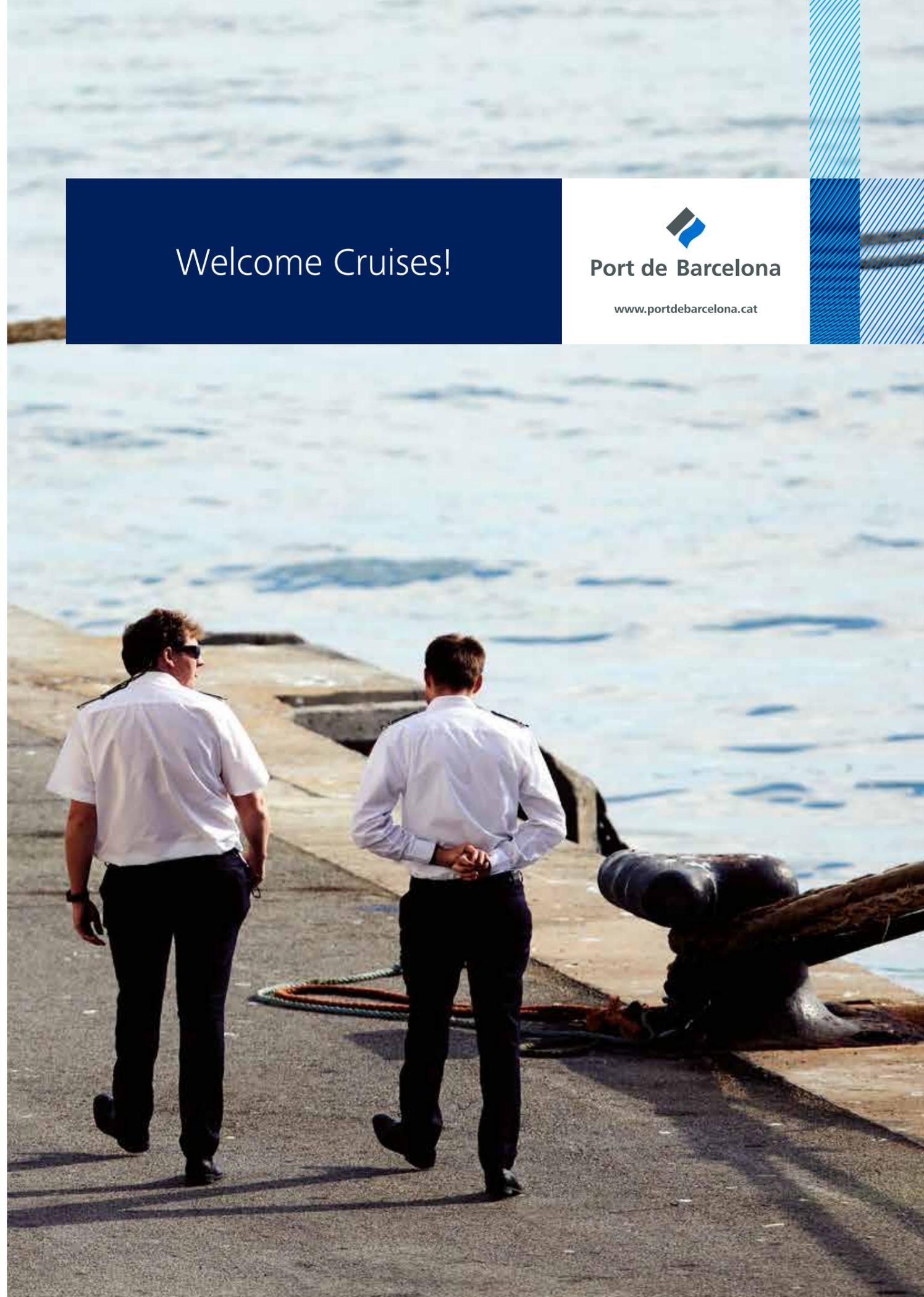
(CLIA members on sale in the UK only)

Fred Olsen Cruise Lines

Welcome Cruises!

  
Port de Barcelona

[www.portdebarcelona.cat](http://www.portdebarcelona.cat)





# ISLANDS IN THE SUN



## Good to know

Pegasus enjoyed a bit of a makeover during the pandemic, with public areas getting a spruce and a lot of behind-the-scenes upgrades.

The Seychelles is made up of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean. The winter months tend to be the hottest and wettest. Go in summer for slightly cooler temperatures (but still in the mid-20sC) and no rain.

You can book Variety Cruises through its London office and UK agent Seafarer. Contact: 0208 324 3114; varietycruises.co.uk

A seven-night Garden of Eden cruise on Pegasus round-trip from Victoria costs from £1,981 per person cruise-only departing July 9. Price includes port taxes. Seafarer Cruises has flight and pre-cruise hotel packages available on request.



Jane Archer discovers sun, sea, sand and some of the world's most exotic birds on an island-hopping cruise around the Seychelles with Variety Cruises.

I've never had myself down as a bird-watcher – telling a robin apart from a blackbird is my usual pitch – so why, you might ask, am I hiking around the island of Cousin in the Seychelles on the look out for some of our feathered friends?

The answer is that the birds here are not your usual gull or crow, but exotic species that not only look beautiful, but don't fly off the minute you catch sight of them. I've learnt to spot the White Tailed Tropic Bird, the Seychelles Magpie Robin (nearly extinct), the White Fairy Tern, Lesser Noddies and many more. And then a whisper goes around. One of the passengers, a keen birder, has glimpsed a Seychelles Warbler. Lucky guy. There are only about 2,500 of them in the whole of the archipelago, Christopher tells us. He's one of

the island's resident rangers and our guide on today's tour.

I arrived on Cousin with a bit of a bump – literally. 'Hold tight. We are going to hit the beach with speed,' yells the tender driver. He is not joking. He sets a course for land, opens the throttle and we bounce over the water and onto the beach. A cushion would have been a welcome accessory.

I'm in the Seychelles with Variety Cruises, a Greek company with small ships in some of the most sought-after places of the world. Greece of course, but also French Polynesia, Costa Rica, the pretty Cape Verde Islands and Croatia. And when I say small ships, I don't exaggerate. I'm on Pegasus, which when full holds just 42 passengers but is carrying half that number while Covid still lurks. With some

20 crew looking after us, it is as close as any of us are likely to get to having our own private yachts. Daily bird-spotting tours on different islands (top tips: wear a hat, take tissues and don't look up) interspersed with plenty of time to laze on the ship, a beach or swim just adds to the Abramovich feel.

One of the things that makes this cruise very different is that hardly any time is spent sailing. Once we were all on board we set sail – all the way to St Anne Island, about 20 minutes away, for an overnight anchorage. Next day we sail a whole three hours to Curieuse, and that turns out to be one of the longest stretches of at-sea time of the whole trip. The other thing that makes this different is that when anchored passengers are allowed to jump off the back of the ship for a cooling dip. With temperatures hitting the mid 30sC, that's very welcome.

Life on board is wonderfully laid-back – feel free to leave the formal gear at home – with

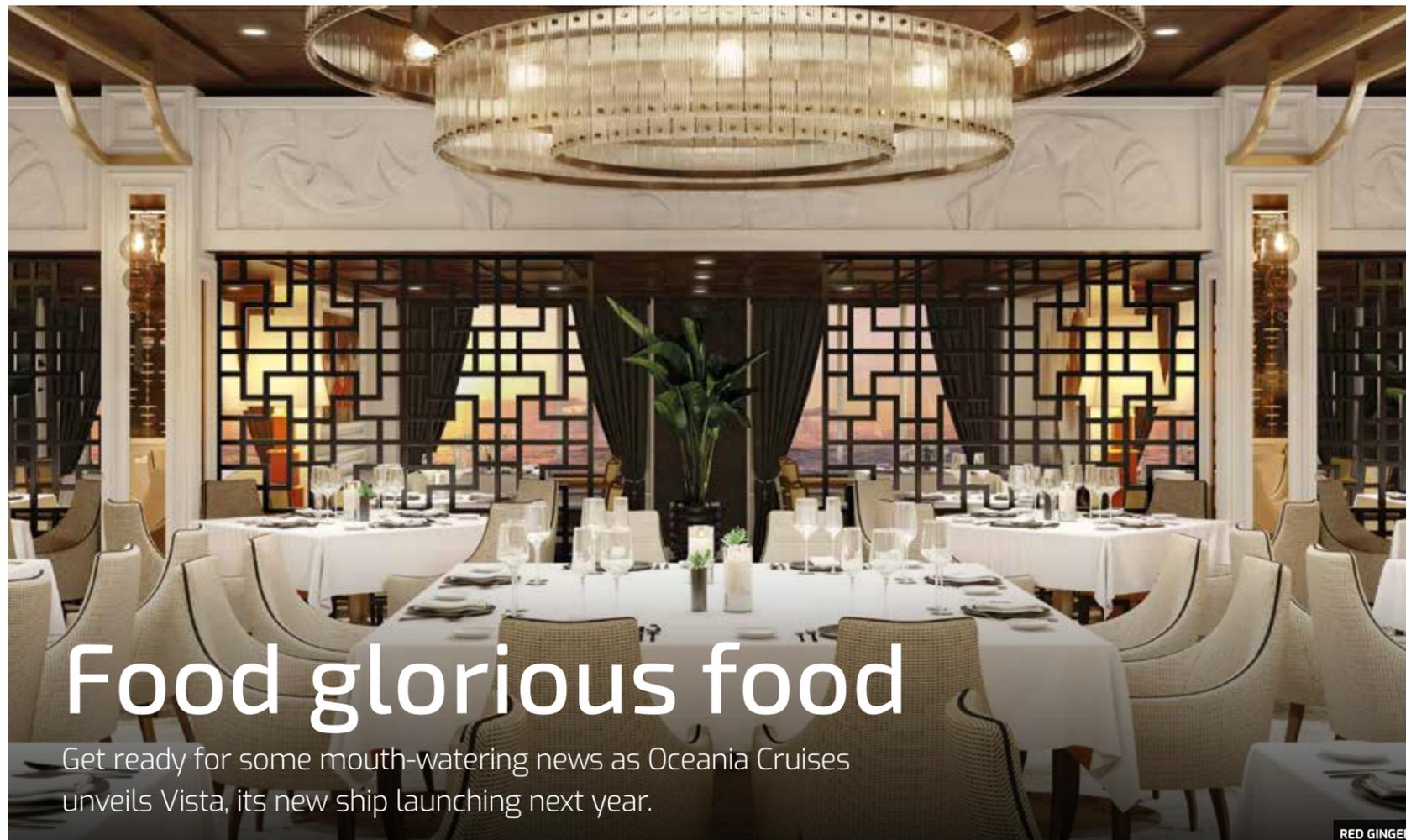
time to get to know the other passengers over a glass of wine or two rather than lavish entertainment. A fun Creole evening with local entertainers, and even a song or two from the captain, is definitely a highlight of the trip.

This is an fantastic cruise for wildlife-lovers. On Curieuse, a former leper colony and now home to some 250 giant tortoises that wander freely without fear of humans, a hike through a mangrove forest is followed by a beach BBQ prepared by the crew and time to dip in the sea.

On Aride, a hot and sticky climb to the

top of the island is rewarded with the spectacular sight of hundreds of seabirds swirling around the cliffs. Back on the beach we discover a turtle burying her eggs in the sand and watch as she finishes the job, flapping her flippers over the nest, oblivious to the oohs and aahs of her audience. Once finished, she makes her slow way back to the sea. It's an experience I will never forget.

From Baie St Anne, we go to Vallée de Mai in search of the rare Black Parrot, which we don't see, and Coco de Mer, which we do. The symbol of the Seychelles, the nut is fiercely protected, with fines running into the thousands or prison for those caught poaching. In La Digue we follow a lesson in how to make coconut oil with a few hours on Anse Source d'Argent, aka one of the most photographed beaches in the world. Wearing a hat, of course, because you never know what exotic beauty might be flying past!



# Food glorious food

Get ready for some mouth-watering news as Oceania Cruises unveils Vista, its new ship launching next year.

RED GINGER



EMBER

What's the one thing you are guaranteed to find on a new ship from a line that prides itself on food? The answer, of course, is more places to eat. Cue Vista, the new Oceania Cruises' vessel launching 2023, which will have all the restaurants its fans have come to know and love (yes Toscana, Red Ginger and Polo Grill, we're talking about you!) alongside newcomers Ember and Aquamar Kitchen.

The former blends inventive dining

with classic favourites – think braised short rib on polenta and cobb salad with smoked chicken; the latter is all about wellness, with raw juices, avocado toast and organic salmon with quinoa tabouleh and yellowfin tacos on the menu.

It's been more than a decade since Oceania Cruises launched a new ship, but it has been worth the wait because this vessel is a beauty, with huge Owners' Suites that stretch across the width of the ship, are furnished by Ralph Lauren Home and feature walls of glass so guests always have a sea view.

Vista's other accommodation is none too shabby either. There are suites that come with separate living and sleeping areas, butlers and exclusive access to the Concierge Lounge, and staterooms with private balconies and Tranquillity Beds made up with the best linens.

The rest of the ship also looks magnificent. The Martinis lounge

has been reimagined with walls of shimmering glass, there are beach-club cabanas in the pool area, the line's first purpose-built holistic centre in the spa and there, in the centre of the ship, sits Oceania Cruises' signature Grand Staircase with glistening crystals and sleek curves.

Circling back to food, which always tends to happen when talking about Oceania Cruises, the Grand Dining Room is back with an enhanced choice of classic dishes created by renowned master chef Jacques Pépin, the cruise line's Executive Culinary Director, and a new tasting menu. The Terrace Café is the place for indoor or al-fresco breakfast, lunch and dinner. Just back from a tour? Waves Grill is the place to refuel on lunchtime burgers, seafood and sandwiches. When not eating, guests can be brushing up their kitchen skills with hands-on lessons in the Culinary Center. The

new Culinary Center Dining Room promises food-and-wine pairing extravaganzas.

### Explore ashore

Alongside its culinary credentials, Oceania Cruises has built up a reputation as something of an expert when it comes to discovering the world, with terrific tours that introduce clients to local cultures, lifestyles and tastes. The choice of excursions includes wellness-themed outings for yoga fans, culinary classes with local chefs for food lovers and exclusive Go Local tours for small groups that invariably end with a culinary treat.

Guests on a call into Lisbon, for instance, can head to the Portuguese city of Setubal, to watch the fishermen bring in their morning catch. There's time to wander around the market stalls to see what's been caught before lunching on traditional seafood dishes, including 'choco frito'

(fried cuttlefish) at a local restaurant. The tour is five hours and costs £98 per person.

There's more food on the menu on a Go Local tour in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) that starts with a scooter ride through the streets to visit a Coadait Temple and Chinese apartment and ends with a cooking demonstration and local lunch at a vegetarian restaurant. The tour is five hours and costs £212 per person.

From Brisbane in Australia, tours go off the beaten track to Moreton Bay, to visit the famed Matthew Thomas Café, where General Douglas MacArthur once bought a slice of blueberry pie, and see blue soldier crabs. The tour also takes in the neighbourhoods of Sandgate and Redcliffe where the Bee Gees grew up, and ends in true Oceania Cruises' style, with afternoon tea at a local café. The tour is 7.5 hours and costs £265 per person.

## Where to find Vista in 2023

Vista makes her debut on April 14 with a 12-day cruise from Civitavecchia (Rome) to Barcelona. She then spends the rest of the summer sailing the Western and Eastern Mediterranean, including overnight stays in Istanbul. A 24-day voyage from Civitavecchia to Southampton departing July 25 is followed by a 12-day cruise around the British Isles. She then heads over the Atlantic to New York for a series of cruises between Montreal, Miami and Los Angeles.



AQUAMAR KITCHEN



TOSCANA

### Vista in numbers

**2023**

The year Vista is launching

**1,200**

The number of passengers

**67,000**

Vista's gross tonnage

**12**

The number of places to eat

**3**

The number of Owners' Suites

**2,400**

The size in square feet of the Owners' Suites



**Award-winning 2022 & 2023 Europe & Southeast Asia river cruises**

Emerald Cruises are small ship experts, combining comfort and innovation on board our state-of-the-art Star-Ships. Our award-winning promise of exceptional **EmeraldVALUE** ensures everything your guests need is included in the price, from expertly crafted menus, to exclusive **EmeraldPLUS** excursions and **EmeraldACTIVE** activities. Introducing them to the heart of culture as it exists along the rivers, there's never been a better way to explore Europe and Southeast Asia than as part of an Emerald Cruises river cruise.

DANUBE | MAIN | MOSELLE | RHINE | RHÔNE | DOURO | VOLGA | MEKONG



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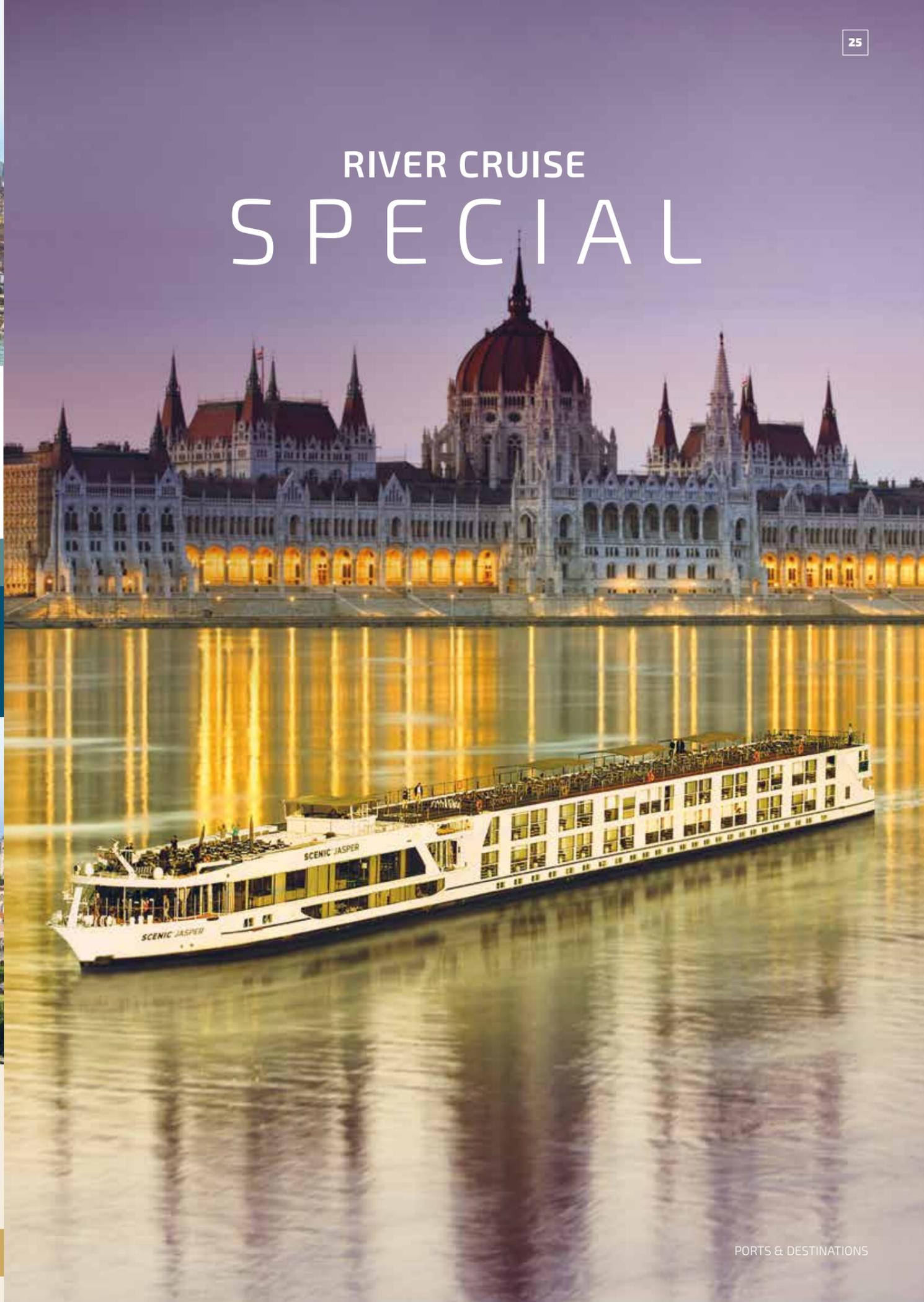
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*Truly all-inclusive luxury 2022/23 river cruises in Europe and South East Asia*

It's more than a five-star river cruise... A river cruise with Scenic is a luxurious and truly all-inclusive journey along captivating waterways. Our award-winning reputation, state-of-the-art custom-built ships and unique truly all-inclusive service make us the ultimate river cruise line in Europe, Asia and Russia. Your customers will experience unmissable cultural highlights while enjoying unforgettable excursions, fine dining, complimentary beverages and much more.

DANUBE | MAIN | RHINE | RHÔNE | DOURO | SEINE | BORDEAUX | VOLGA | MEKONG



RIVER CRUISE  
**SPECIAL**



The CLIA RiverView conference opens in Budapest on March 20.

## Countdown to Budapest



CLIA UK and Ireland managing director Andy Harmer.

River cruising was one of the fastest-growing sectors of the travel industry before Covid-19 hit and all the signs are that it will return to growth as we emerge from the pandemic.

In 2018, CLIA's annual cruise review showed the UK and Ireland river cruise market grew more than 10%, reaching 232,300 passengers. Notably the Danube overtook the Rhine and its Main/Moselle tributaries to become the most popular river with the British and after some tough years, the Nile returned to growth, with passenger numbers up more than 22%.

Looking ahead, river cruise remains strong. More than 12 river ships are due to enter service this year and there are new and exciting itineraries lined up to excite both first-timers and past river cruisers. Importantly, forward booking trends show passengers are

confident to cruise.

CLIA is continuing its support of the sector with multiple events lined up for this year to help agents increase their knowledge and sales of river cruising.

Coming up in March, CLIA's annual river cruise conference promises to be bigger and better than ever as it moves to Budapest for the very first time and spans an extra day. Agents can expect the usual mix of conference and networking sessions to bring them up to date on all things river cruise, as well as getting an in-depth look at up to nine vessels operated by CLIA's river cruise members.

River cruising will feature in the flagship CLIA Conference in Southampton on May 20-22. A UK-based River Cruise Residential day and overnight event in Q3 of 2022 will bring sellers and sponsors together for business sessions and networking, while virtual events will focus on brand product updates and new ship launches.



## CLIA RiverView Conference, Budapest 2022

CLIA's RiverView Conference runs from March 20-22. Conference and networking sessions will take place on day one at the InterContinental Budapest.

Guided tours of the river ships taking part in the event are scheduled for days two and three of the conference. Agents will visit up to nine vessels. They are:

A-Rosa: A-Rosa Donna  
Amadeus River Cruises: Amadeus Silver III  
AmaWaterways: AmaVerde  
Avalon Waterways: Avalon Envision  
Emerald Cruises: Emerald Sun  
Scenic: Scenic Amber  
TUI River Cruises: TUI Skyla  
Uniworld Boutique River Cruises: SS Beatrice

CroisiEurope: Vivaldi (note that this ship will be at the event but is not included within the guided tours so some delegates might not get a chance to visit it).

During the conference, accommodation will be provided on board a CLIA river ship. Agents are invited to join a local Budapest excursion on day two, March 21.



A-Rosa Sena will be the first river ship in Europe with a dedicated kids' club.

## Spring debut for Europe's first family-friendly eco-ship

A new hybrid river ship that operates on a combination of diesel and electric-powered batteries and is capable of generating electricity from exhaust heat is launching on the Rhine in May 2022.

Developed by A-Rosa Cruises, A-Rosa Sena promises to be one of the world's most environmentally-friendly river ships, able to switch to battery power when arriving and departing ports to cut down on both emissions and noise. While docked, the ship will connect to clean shore power.

The vessel is also the first river ship in Europe with family cabins and a dedicated kids' club, Treasure Island. It will have a children's pool on the sundeck and a family area in the restaurant.

A-Rosa Sena is one of more than a dozen new river ships due to enter service in 2022 as the sector looks forward to operating its first full year of cruising in Europe since 2019.

Others to look out for include sister ships Capella, Polaris and Vega, which will be cruising the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers for APT Travelmarvel. Amadeus River Cruises, Emerald River Cruises and Saga Cruises are each fielding one new river ship, respectively Amadeus Cara, Emerald Luna and Spirit of the Danube, while new operator TUI River Cruises is adding a third ship, TUI Isla. Arena River Cruises has new charters on the Arena and Calypso starting in April and May.

River cruising in the US and Asia is also continuing to grow in 2022. American Cruise Lines is launching new vessels American Symphony and American Serenade on the Mississippi River. In July, APT launches the new Mekong Serenity while sister brand APT Travelmarvel will set sail with Apsara. Both vessels are cruising the Mekong River in Vietnam and Cambodia.

## Now it's Sex and the Seine with Avalon

*Sex and the City* author Candace Bushnell will be a special guest on an Avalon Waterways' river cruise on the Seine in France departing July 19 as part of the line's Storyteller series of voyages.

Others taking part in the series include Cheryl Strayed, author of the novel *Wild*, which describes her 1,100-mile hike on the Pacific Crest Trail in America's Cascade and Sierra Nevada mountains, and Gillian Flynn, author of the crime thriller *Gone Girl*. They will be on Danube cruises departing July 22 and September 14 respectively.

Comic fantasy novelist Christopher Moore and billboard-topping singer-songwriter Edwin McCain are joining Rhine cruises departing September 20 and May 3 respectively.

"Through this special series of sailings, Avalon guests get to spend a week in Europe with their favourite storytellers," said Avalon Waterways UK chief executive officer Giles Hawke. "They're invited to meet legends in legendary landscapes."

## IN BRIEF

AmaWaterways has launched one-way river cruises on the Seine. The voyages, from Paris to Le Havre or vice-versa, offer everything from Calvados and cider tastings and trips to chateaux to bike rides and a tour of Monet's garden at Giverny. Pre or post-cruise stays in Paris and St Malo are available.

Amadeus River Cruises has launched a Floriade cruise-and-stay package combining an eight-day tulip-themed voyage through Holland and Belgium with an overnight in Amsterdam and tickets to the once-a-decade horticultural show. The holiday departs April 9 2022, with prices from £1,699 per person including rail travel from the UK.

## American Cruise Lines unveils 12-ship Project Blue order



American Cruise Lines' Project Blue ships will be able to cruise US coastal waters and inland waterways.

Connecticut-based American Cruise Lines has ordered 12 identical hybrid catamarans small enough to operate in US coastal waters but stable enough to sail Alaska's Inside Passage.

Developed under the code name Project Blue, the ships will hold 109 passengers and 50 crew. The first two, American Eagle and American Glory, are already under construction at Chesapeake Shipbuilding in Maryland for delivery in 2023 and will debut on the US East Coast.

American Cruise Lines president and chief executive officer Charles Robertson said: "These boats can run almost anywhere and, because there will be 12 of them, they will be deployed all over the United States."



# Exclusively yours

SCENIC GEM, LES ANDELYS

## Meet the Scenic fleet

Scenic has a fleet of 14 river ships in Europe that between them sail the Rhine, Main, Moselle and Danube in Central Europe, the Douro in Portugal, the Seine, Rhône and Garonne, Gironde and Dordogne rivers in France and the rivers and waterways in Russia that link Moscow and St Petersburg and Moscow and Volgograd.

They feature staterooms and suites with sun lounges, private butlers, spas, e-bikes that guests can borrow at no charge and a choice of tours or exclusive experiences at every port.

Prices are truly all-inclusive, covering flights, transfers, drinks, excursions, tips and Wi-Fi. Those booking by February 18 2022 will also enjoy complimentary transfers in the UK and qualify for savings of up to £2,400 per couple on selected cruises.



CABLE CARS OVER FLORIADIE

Fast cars, flowers and the weirdest brewery in the world. Welcome to the new and exclusive experiences that await guests exploring the rivers of Europe with Scenic this year.

Ever wondered what it's like to drive a Formula 1 car? Maybe you've wondered why the Dutch love their cheese? Or what life was like for knights in the days of yore?

All will be revealed on a fabulous array of new tours and excursions that Scenic's destination experts have lined up on Europe's waterways for guests desperate to get back to exploring the world after almost two years of lockdowns and restrictions. Better still, as Scenic is the river cruise line with luxury in its DNA and super-inclusive fares, there's nothing extra to pay for any of these new tours.

There really is something new for everyone in the new experiences on offer for 2022, many of which are exclusive to Scenic. Take the tour into Les Bassins de Lumières in Bordeaux, an attraction opened just two years ago in the city's World War Two submarine pens.

Guests will be welcomed inside with

a glass of Champagne after the doors have closed to the public and be wowed as major works of art are reflected onto the walls of four enormous basins. The tour features on Scenic's 11-day Beautiful Bordeaux river cruise.

If fast cars appeal, an exclusive tour to Motorworld in the German city of Cologne is just the ticket. After a welcome drink and canapés, guests will be whisked off on a private tour of vintage automobiles and racing cars, including F1 ace Michael Schumacher's private collection of vehicles – everything from the go-karts he started on to many of his Formula 1 cars. Budding Schumachers can even put the pedal to the metal on a race simulator. The tour is offered on Scenic's 15-day Jewels of Europe river cruise between Amsterdam and Budapest.

The same cruise includes a new behind-the-scenes tour to the Renaissance-style palace

and gardens of Schloss Weikersheim, visited from Miltenberg, or choose the eight-day Rhine Highlights to explore Marksburg Castle in Koblenz, one of the only fortifications along the Rhine not destroyed by marauding French in various 17th-century wars.

In Russia, guides take guests below the busy Moscow streets to see Bunker 42, a stronghold built to hold Stalin and top government officials in case of a nuclear attack. That tour is on Scenic's 15-day Imperial Russia voyage between Moscow and Volgograd (the former Stalingrad).

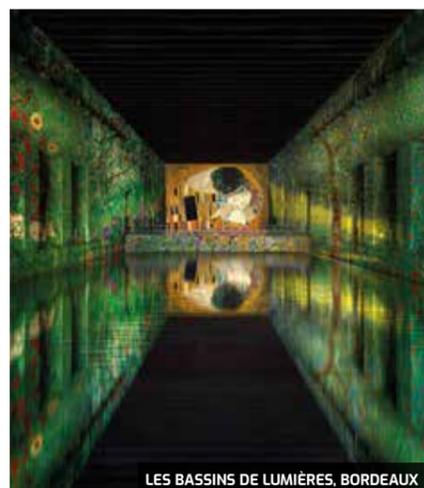
For gardeners, 2022 is a landmark year as it's when Floriade opens in Almere in Holland. This once-in-a-decade event brings the world of horticulture to life and naturally Scenic is taking guests there so they can explore the exhibits, art and live entertainment, and even take a cable car ride over the exhibition. Floriade is offered on an eight-day Windmills, Tulips and Belgian Delights cruise from Amsterdam (and can also be added to the start or end of Scenic's Rhine Highlights, Romantic Rhine and Moselle or Jewels of Europe itineraries).

Once guests on the windmills and tulips voyage have had their fill of flowers, they

can tuck into cheese on a tour to a Dutch eco-farm in Hoorn. It's one of several new food and wine tours coming up this year.

There's cheese and calvados tasting in Honfleur on the 11-day Normandy and Gems of the Seine cruise in northern France, wine tasting in a centuries-old Serbian monastery on a nine-day Black Sea Explorer and

plenty of the amber nectar to sup in what is surely the world's most unique brewery. Designed by Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Kuchlbauer's World of Beer in Abensberg is both weird and wonderful – but don't worry, the beer is great! Guests will find the tour on the eight-day Gems of the Danube cruise between Nuremberg and Budapest.



LES BASSINS DE LUMIÈRES, BORDEAUX



### A Star is born

A new Star-Ship is joining Scenic's sister brand Emerald Cruises this spring. Emerald Luna holds 180 guests, has an indoor heated pool that transforms into an cinema in the evening and offer cruises on the Rhine, Main, Danube and Moselle.



# TUI Scrumptious

DÜSSELDORF

Jane Archer reports from TUI Skylä, the second ship to join TUI River Cruises' fleet.

"And now we will go to the longest bar in the world. Have you heard of it?" guide Ingrid asks with a twinkle in her eyes. I confess I haven't, just as I'm ashamed to say I hadn't heard of most of the Düsseldorf highlights she's shown us on this walking tour.

There's a church tower that twisted when a bride-to-be lied about her virginity (nothing to do with it being badly built then?), a 42% proof liqueur called Killepitsch that is a lot nicer – and not quite as lethal, well in small quantities anyway! – as the name suggests, and five breweries, all presumably needed to keep that long bar – actually a collection of interconnected streets in the city centre lined with 260 bars – in beer.

Like many cities in Germany, Düsseldorf was almost completely destroyed during the last war; the rebuilt centre is an interesting mix of classically-inspired architecture, functional post-war constructions, and a stunning office and retail complex designed by Daniel Libeskind. We take a break on our tour in the shadow of its daring black-and-white façade cut through with deep recesses. "I love this building," Ingrid sighs. I agree; it is spectacular.

I'm in Düsseldorf on TUI Skylä, the second ship to be launched by TUI River Cruises, on day three of a festive-themed Mistletoe and Rhine sailing. We started in Frankfurt, are also calling into Cologne, Koblenz and Rudesheim, and will also have a morning cruise beneath the castles – more than 40 – that stand guard over the pretty Rhine Gorge.

My fellow passengers – all Brits and a mix of seasoned cruisers and first-timers on a pre-Christmas escape – have flown straight out to join the cruise, but I added two nights in Frankfurt before departure. It was enough time to get acquainted with the city, which boasts a newly-built old town, which is a bit Disney-esque but will look good once it has aged, and an indoor market with stalls piled high with hams, sausages and cheeses. I make a bee-line for the recently-revamped Jewish Museum. Set aside at least three hours to do it justice.

Several river cruise lines include shore excursions in the cost; TUI does things differently. Each passenger gets credit to put against any tours that appeal, but of course they can buy others if they go over their allowance. Booking is done online using

the TUI Navigate app, which is all part of the company's efforts to cut down on the amount of paper used on board. The daily programme has also been outlawed so you rely on the app to know what's happening. It's a worthy idea but falls down if you need to check the all-aboard time when you are ashore.

The evening quiz is also a paper-less affair, with multiple-choice questions and a gadget on which to select your answers. After each question, the leader board comes on the screen. It's fast, fun and let's just say I didn't win. Live music with resident duo Glen and Jean and local bands make evenings go with a swing, while the days pass with everything from strudel-making demos to Christmas jumper contests. And of course plenty of time to explore ashore.

In Cologne, I meet guide Tammy for a pub crawl with some side helpings of history thrown in. We start at the cathedral, an architectural gem even for those not into religion, that was once the tallest building in the world. For those of us who have grown up with the towering Burj al Arab and Burj al Khalifa in Dubai, that is extraordinary enough. Even more astounding is that it took more

than 630 years to finish. Thank goodness the World War Two bombs that devastated Cologne missed it.

We're heading to a Brauhaus for a Kolsch, a beer unique to Cologne and something of a religion here. It's served in small glasses (about a third of a pint) by waiters called köbes who wear blue aprons and keep the beers coming unless you put a coaster over the glass to say stop.

Tammy points out the 'confessional' by the exit. "It's where you go to admit how much you've drunk – or maybe that you can't afford the bill," she laughs.

A fountain remembering the helpful elves of Cologne who left the city when the tailor's wife set up a trap to see them and two more Brauhauses follow. We're not fast enough with the coasters at the last one and end up having another Kolsch. Luckily, on this tour Tammy is paying the bill.

In Koblenz I do my own thing, discover a museum on the Moselle River that shows how salmon and eels pass a high dam to get back to their breeding grounds, find myself walking part of the Santiago de Compostela pilgrims way and get lost amid the Christmas

market stalls that fill the streets and squares in the city centre.

Early next morning, we sail south through the Rhine Gorge to Rudesheim at the other end of the valley. Sadly Christmas here is cancelled – well the market is anyway – and the cable car to the imposing statue of Germania that celebrates the unification of Germany is not working, so I walk along the river to neighbouring Geisenheim, a small town famed for its massive gothic church and for inventing late-harvest wine.

Dusk is falling as I get back to TUI Skylä for our cruise back to Frankfurt but there's no time to relax because there's another fast and furious quiz to lose. And at least I succeed in that!

**Sample price:** Sister ship TUI Isla will be sailing the five-night Mistletoe and Rhine cruises round-trip from Frankfurt in November and December 2022. Prices start from £820pp departing November 21 based on two sharing a superior cabin and including flights, transfers, tips and wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner. All passengers receive an £85 credit to put towards excursions.



# Why take a river cruise

River ships are small and friendly, holding no more than 200 passengers and often many fewer.

Enjoy the scenery as your floating hotel takes you on a fascinating journey to iconic cities and historic towns and villages.

Don't want to fly? No problem. A Eurostar train and national rail combo can whisk you to departure ports in France, Holland, Germany and beyond.

Modern river ships have cabins with private balconies or sun lounges, speciality restaurants, swimming pools, cinemas and more.

Most lines include some or all shore excursions and drinks in the price so you don't need to worry about busting the budget once on board.

There are so many river cruises to choose from, in Europe, the US, in Asia, in South America and, starting 2023, in Central America.

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In 2022 we are bringing you new and re-imagined events, including our immersive new Residentials, the 10th Anniversary RiverView Conference in Budapest, New to Cruise and Sales Refresher Days, and of course CLIA Conference is back in May 2022.

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PICTURES OF MENDENHALL GLACIER AND BREACHING WHALE COURTESY OF HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

# Juneau

### WHY NOT?

- Harness up and go zip-wiring through the treetops. A head for heights is a must.
- Take a helicopter trip to the Mendenhall Glacier. Several tours include a landing and chance to walk on the ice.
- Head into the Tongass National Rainforest in search of brown bears fishing for salmon and soaring bald eagles.
- Canoe through the icy waters of the Mendenhall Lake, fed by the eponymous glacier.

### WHAT TO DO

- Step back in time at the Red Dog Saloon, a fun watering hole with swinging doors, sawdust floors and a honky-tonk pianist.
- Go in search of whales, sea lions, seals and bald eagles on a boat trip around Auke Bay.
- Savour some local flavours on a beer tasting and salmon cooking (and tasting) combo.
- Get a panoramic view of the cruise dock and fjord on the Goldbelt Tram – a cable car that ascends 1,800 feet up Mount Roberts.

Juneau sits on an island in southeast Alaska and is the only state capital in the US that can't be reached by car, only ferries, flights and ships. It is home to just over 31,500 people but on busy summer days, when five or six ships are in town, that number swells by almost a third. In total, on a normal year the city welcomes some 450 cruise ship calls and about 1.3 million cruise passengers. Ships dock on the edge of town – there are enough berths for four vessels at once and anchorages in the bay - so passengers can wander off and do their own thing, but most seek out local sights and adventure on ships' excursions. Whale-watching, zip-wiring and trips to glaciers are among favourites.



## CRUISE CALENDAR

### Cruise calls in Juneau 2022

(CLIA members on sale in the UK only)

Princess Cruises	Ruby Princess Royal Princess Crown Princess Majestic Princess Discovery Princess Grand Princess
Norwegian Cruise Line	Norwegian Bliss Norwegian Jewel Norwegian Sun Norwegian Encore Norwegian Spirit
Holland America Line	Zuiderdam Eurodam Koningsdam Nieuw Amsterdam Westerdam Noordam
Royal Caribbean International	Serenade of the Seas Ovation of the Seas Radiance of the Seas Quantum of the Seas
Carnival Cruise Line	Carnival Freedom Carnival Miracle
Celebrity Cruises	Celebrity Solstice Celebrity Millennium Celebrity Eclipse
Cunard	Queen Elizabeth
Windstar	Star Breeze
Seabourn	Seabourn Odyssey
Regent Seven Seas Cruises	Seven Seas Mariner
Disney Cruise Line	Disney Wonder
Silversea	Silver Muse Silver Shadow
Oceania Cruises	Regatta

### Cruise lines offering turnarounds in Juneau 2022

American Cruise Lines	American Constellation
Seabourn	Seabourn Odyssey

\* Schedules are subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions. Contact the individual cruise lines for the most up-to-date information.

# Ketchikan



### WHY NOT?

- Take a floatplane ride to Neets Bay for a chance to see black bears catching and feasting on salmon.
- Go in search of bald eagles, seals and leaping salmon on a kayak trip through the calm waters of Clover Pass.
- Look out for whales, seals, eagles and seabirds on a boat trip through the glacially-formed Misty Fjords.
- Learn about the local flora and fauna while keeping an eye out for brown bears on a hike through the Tongass National Rainforest.

### WHAT TO DO

- Head to the far end of Creek Street and follow the trail to the fish ladder where, in summer months, you can see salmon struggling upstream to spawn.
- See axe-throwing, log rolling, buck sawing and tree climbing at the Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show.
- Discover the symbolism of Native American totem poles on a tour of Totem Bight State Park.

Ketchikan is known as the salmon capital of the world and famous for its liquid sunshine – an average 162 inches of precipitation falls each a year. A rain gauge is among the town's attractions, along with one of the world's largest collections of Native American totem poles.

The town has a real frontier feel, which is very fitting given it is usually the first stop for cruise ships heading north through the Inside Passage from Vancouver or Seattle. In a good year, the locals expect more than 500 ships to call during the summer season, which runs from May to September, and more than one million cruisers.

There are four cruise ship berths right on the edge town so it's easy to stroll in (there are also free shuttle buses to the downtown) for some shopping or for a salmon and crab feast in one of the local restaurants.



PICTURE COURTESY OF HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

## CRUISE CALENDAR

### Cruise calls in Ketchikan 2022

(CLIA members on sale in the UK only)

Princess Cruises	Royal Princess Crown Princess Majestic Princess Discovery Princess Grand Princess
Norwegian Cruise Line	Norwegian Bliss Norwegian Jewel Norwegian Sun Norwegian Encore Norwegian Spirit
Holland America Line	Zuiderdam Eurodam Koningsdam Nieuw Amsterdam Westerdam Noordam
Royal Caribbean International	Serenade of the Seas Ovation of the Seas Radiance of the Seas Quantum of the Seas
Carnival Cruise Line	Carnival Freedom Carnival Miracle
Celebrity Cruises	Celebrity Solstice Celebrity Millennium Celebrity Eclipse
Cunard	Queen Elizabeth
American Cruise Lines	American Constellation
Windstar	Star Breeze
American Cruise Lines	American Constellation
Seabourn	Seabourn Odyssey
Regent Seven Seas Cruises	Seven Seas Mariner
Disney Cruise Line	Disney Wonder
Silversea	Silver Muse Silver Shadow
Oceania Cruises	Regatta

\* Schedules are subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions. Contact the individual cruise lines for the most up-to-date information.



PICTURES OF THE WHITE PASS TRAIN AND SKAGWAY COURTESY OF HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

# Skagway

## CRUISE CALENDAR

### Cruise calls in Skagway 2022

(CLIA members on sale in the UK only)

Princess Cruises	Royal Princess Crown Princess Majestic Princess Discovery Princess Grand Princess
Norwegian Cruise Line	Norwegian Bliss Norwegian Jewel Norwegian Sun Norwegian Encore Norwegian Spirit
Holland America Line	Zuiderdam Eurodam Koningsdam Nieuw Amsterdam Westerdam Noordam
Royal Caribbean International	Serenade of the Seas Ovation of the Seas Radiance of the Seas Quantum of the Seas
Carnival Cruise Line	Carnival Freedom Carnival Miracle
Celebrity Cruises	Celebrity Solstice Celebrity Millennium Celebrity Eclipse
Cunard	Queen Elizabeth
American Cruise Lines	American Constellation
Regent Seven Seas Cruises	Seven Seas Mariner
Disney Cruise Line	Disney Wonder
Silversea	Silver Muse Silver Shadow
Oceania Cruises	Regatta

### WHY NOT?

-  Hike through the rainforest along a small part of the Chilkoot Trail before floating on a raft down the Taiya River back to base.
-  Find your fortune on a gold panning trip.
-  Go in search of bears and bald eagles on a wildlife-spotting tour through the Chilkoot River Valley.
-  Learn about the local plants and animals on a cycle ride through the rainforest.

### WHAT TO DO

-  Pop into the saucy Red Onion Saloon for lunch and a tour of the former brothel upstairs.
-  Ride the White Pass and Yukon narrow-gauge railroad. Built in 1898, it rises almost 3,000 feet in 20 miles on its 110-mile journey to the gold fields.
-  Learn how to be a musher on a visit to a dog farm before hopping on a sled for a ride through the forest.
-  Get two towns for the price of one by exploring Skagway then joining a fast ferry for a picturesque 45-minute journey to Haines.

Skagway only exists because it was a staging post for tens of thousands of prospectors on their way to the Klondike during the 1896-99 Gold Rush. Many took the harsh Chilkoot Trail – a punishing trek that claimed several lives along the way (visitors can hike along a small and easy stretch of the trail – see right).

These days it is home year-round to barely 1,000 people, but that number doubles in the summer to cater for the million or so tourists that come calling. Around three quarters of them arrive on a cruise. In a normal season, which runs from May to September, there are more than 400 ships calls, the majority of them bringing 3,000 or more passengers.

Once docked, it is a short walk into the town itself but most cruisers will head off on an excursion. Trips to the Yukon gold fields, husky dog rides and ziplining are among favourites.



\* Schedules are subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions. Contact the individual cruise lines for the most up-to-date information.



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