



African expansion

Aqua Expeditions will offer new sailings in Seychelles and Zanzibar, Tanzania, from December 2025. Five-to-nine-night expeditions will explore the Seychelles archipelago (or a 14-night combo of both). These will rotate with 10- and 11-nights sailings of both Seychelles and Tanzanian islands. aquaexpeditions.com

New China voyages

Viking is offering six new Asian itineraries that expand access to Japan and China, with Tibet (Xizang) in 2025. The voyages, from 15 to 22 days, include Shanghai, Beijing and Xi'an in China, Lhasa in Tibet (Xizang), and Osaka, Japan. Available September to November 2025 on *Viking Yi Dun*, formerly *Viking Sun*. viking.com

Norway in depth

Travel company Up Norway has teamed with eco-friendly Norwegian cruise provider Havila Voyages to offer home-country experiences. For example, the Premium Lofoten Hop On/Hop Off Journey travels from northern Norway to Trondheim. In Lofoten, guests can stay in a robu fisherman's cottage. upnorway.com



Citizen scientists on board for change

Cruise lines are inspiring guests with shore excursions that shine a light on sustainability, writes Andrea Black

Sustainability was a big topic at the recent Cruise Lines International Association Cruise360 Conference in Sydney – not just emissions and environmental protections but also destination stewardship.

We often hear about overtourism in cities such as Barcelona and Venice but CLIA managing director Joel Katz says even in high-profile destinations like Barcelona, cruise tourism represents only four per cent of visitors. "Responsible management of cruise tourism is key," Katz said. "And will continue to be huge focus for our industry, as we work to create solutions in tourism management, demonstrate our environmental progress, and bring real economic benefits to communities around the world."

One tangible way that cruise lines are demonstrating progress is by offering shore excursions with a focus on sustainability. These experiences can inspire cruisers to incorporate changes into their own lives.

Coral Expeditions holds an annual citizen science-themed expedition to

the Great Barrier Reef, with the next sailing next March on expedition ship *Coral Discoverer*. Guests can learn about marine conservation at the Mon Repos Turtle Centre in Bundaberg and with the Project Manta team in the protected "green zone" manta ray sanctuary of Lady Elliot Island. There's the chance to participate in species surveys on guided snorkelling sessions while travelling with a community of conservation-minded explorers. Guests also contribute to conservation programs including Eye on the Reef, GBRMPA Sightings Network, Coral Watch and Mangrove Watch.

Another Australian line, Aurora Expeditions participates in Clean Up Svalbard, a joint effort to remove waste from the shores of Svalbard, part of Norway, by members of Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators. Dependent on weather conditions, the plan is to visit at least half a dozen beaches on a Svalbard archipelago expedition to help remove waste.

According to Aurora Expeditions, a recent voyage collected 1000 litres of plastic pollution. The aim is to

encourage passengers to reduce their own impact on the environment by reducing their use of disposable or single-use items, as well as taking part in clean-ups at home and other places.

Oceania Cruises offers a range of "Go Green Tours" on their itineraries worldwide highlighting the ways in which locals are working to conserve and sustain their surroundings. For example, in St Lucia in the Caribbean, guests can see how honeybees contribute to the island country's biodiversity while browsing the Iyanola Apiculture Collective, an organisation that supports beekeeping throughout the Caribbean.

In Tallinn, Estonia, there is a shore excursion to the Telliskivi Creative City, the largest creative centre in Estonia, with green fashion designer Reet Aus who upcycles excess textiles that would otherwise end up in landfill. At the recent Paris Olympics, Estonian athletes wore Reet Aus designs at the Closing Ceremony.

Above: Coral Expedition passengers visit Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef. **Below:** Reef expeditions include guided snorkelling sessions.



SHIP STATS



3700

Crew and contractors worked on recent *Carnival Splendor* upgrades. After 19 days in dry dock, the ship returned to Sydney with new dining venues and a new hull design.

carnival.com.au

400

The number of crossings *Queen Mary 2* has made between New York and Southampton. Cunard recently celebrated the milestone in Liverpool.

cunard.com

20

The number of dining and bar venues aboard residential ship, *MV Narrative*. There will also be a microbrewery, three pools and a business centre. Expected launch is in 2027.

storylines.com

ITINERARY OF THE WEEK



Into the heart of Antarctica

Heritage Expeditions is partnering with the Antarctic Heritage Trust to celebrate 10 years of the Trust's donor supported "Inspiring Explorers" program on an expedition to Antarctica in January. World leaders in cold climate heritage conservation, Antarctic Heritage Trust is inviting young Australian and Kiwi explorers with

an interest in Antarctic history to apply for a position on the 28-day In The Wake of Scott & Shackleton voyage. Inspiring Explorers and guests will have the opportunity to step inside the Shackleton and Scott expedition huts with Heritage Expeditions guide and the Trust's former program manager Al Foster. Applications (atnz@ht.org) close on October 7 heritage-expeditions.com

Words: Andrea Black