



P&O CRUISES AUSTRALIA FLAGSHIP PACIFIC EXPLORER SET FOR ANOTHER FIRST WITH RETURN TO BEAUTIFUL NEW CALEDONIA AND LOYALTY ISLANDS

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Having already recorded a series of restart 'firsts', P&O Cruises Australia flagship Pacific Explorer is set for another in becoming the first cruise ship to return to New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands.

Guests sailing from Sydney on October 1 on a nine-night itinerary have been advised that they will now make history as New Caledonia reopens its maritime borders to cruise tourism.

Pacific Explorer will make an overnight call to Noumea accompanied by local celebrations to mark the return of cruising followed by a call to Lifou in the Loyalty Islands.

P&O's flagship has already achieved a number of milestones as the first cruise ship to return to Sydney on April 18, first cruise ship back to Brisbane and, more recently, the first to return to New Zealand and Fiji.

"As our own return to service gathers pace the South Pacific is reconnecting with cruise tourism knowing how important its contribution is to island economies," said Marguerite Fitzgerald, President of P&O Cruises Australia.

"With New Caledonia coming back online, P&O is once again widening its cruising horizons and we look forward to Vanuatu reopening its maritime borders to cruise ships before too long.

"Our positive relationships with these countries have been built up over decades and there is shared confidence and trust in what we do."

Guests on the October 1 cruise have been given the good news about the Noumea and Lifou calls but also advised that Vanuatu is not quite ready to reopen to cruise calls. As a result, scheduled calls to Mystery Island and Port Vila won't proceed.

The amended itinerary is as follows:

Saturday, 1 October 2022: Depart Sydney
Sunday, 2 October 2022: At Sea
Monday, 3 October 2022: At Sea
Tuesday, 4 October 2022: Noumea
Wednesday, 5 October 2022: Noumea
Thursday, 6 October 2022: Lifou
Friday, 7 October 2022: At Sea
Saturday, 8 October 2022: At Sea
Sunday, 9 October 2022: At Sea
Monday, 10 October 2022: Arrive Sydney

Guests have also been advised of specific New Caledonia requirements including that to sail on the cruise all guests must hold international travel insurance with cover for cruising and COVID-19 along with the possibility of being subject to further Covid-19 testing prior to disembarking.

- ENDS -

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About P&O Cruises Australia

For 90 years, P&O Cruises (Australia) has taken Australians & New Zealanders on dream holidays to amazing destinations along the Australian coast as well as the idyllic South Pacific. The home-grown cruise line delivers a holiday with great entertainment, world-class dining and unforgettable onboard experiences while sailing to some of the most incredible destinations in the Pacific. Delivered in the Aussie way, you can choose to do everything, or nothing at all, with P&O Cruises Australia.