

SAILING SKILLS

Build on lockdown lessons aboard these cruises

LOUISE GOLDSBURY

Grounded for the past year, cruise lovers are dreaming of sailing away from life on land, and some might take along their newfound hobbies with them. Perhaps not the baking of sourdough, bingeing on Netflix or wailing at the ceiling, but other diversions learned in lockdown can be more fun at sea on a cruise designed to hone favourite skills.

GET REEL

Under the rules imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus, state and territory governments declared fishing a permissible form of exercise. One of the few cruise lines fully licensed for the pastime is True North, based in Western Australia. Even the most steadfast non-cruiser could be lured to the Kimberley for the chance to catch barramundi or a spectacular sailfish. In the remote Rowley Shoals, passengers can battle black marlin and yellowfin tuna. On South Australian itineraries, guests are taken out to the islands of the Eyre Peninsula. The 36-passenger True North adventure yacht is equipped with gear but keen anglers can bring their own; truenorth.com.au.

A DIFFERENT TACK

Recreational boating was also considered exercise during lockdown. Aspiring sailors can learn the ropes on Star Clippers' tall ships. Activities include raising the sails and climbing the mast (in a safety harness) to the crow's nest, almost 20m up. Crew members present lessons on knot-tying and chart-reading,



Clockwise from left: blue and white tiles in Lamego, Portugal; hiking Port Davey; Place de la Bourse in Bordeaux; Star Clippers ship

such as Pocinho and Lamego. Seven-night sailings, roundtrip from Porto, depart April to November 2022; evergreentours.com.au.

WHEEL DEALS

Starved of sports and gyms, record numbers of Australians bought bikes to keep fit last year. Cycling is also a great way to cover a destination when walking takes too long and driving is too hectic. Pandaw's vessels in Myanmar and Vietnam carry mountain bikes so guests can go exploring. At each river stop, crew advise the best routes to pagodas, temples and other attractions; pandaw.com.

ON THE WATER FRONT

The world's largest square-rigged sailing vessel, Tradewind Voyages' Golden Horizon, will have kayaks, windsurfers, waterskis, stand-up paddleboards, pico sailboats, snorkelling gear and a floating trampoline, accessed from its marina platform. Fitness classes will be held on the sun deck. The spectacular ship's Australia circumnavigation departs Cairns on December 22, 2021. Other embarkation options include Sydney to Adelaide (January 6 next year) and Adelaide to Perth (January 22); cruisetraveller.com.au.

BEND AND SIP

Let's face it, most of us tried to do more yoga and ended up drinking more wine. These pleasures can be combined on a Uniworld river cruise in southwest France, where a wellbeing coach will lead a yoga session in a 17th-century fortress in Blaye, with views of the Gironde Estuary and medieval ruins. In Medoc, pedal through the vineyards before sampling premier wines and oysters. Other tastings are hosted in castles and the cellars of a grand cru estate. The seven-night cruise on SS Bon Voyage departs Bordeaux weekly between March and October 2022; uniworld.com.

IN THE MIX

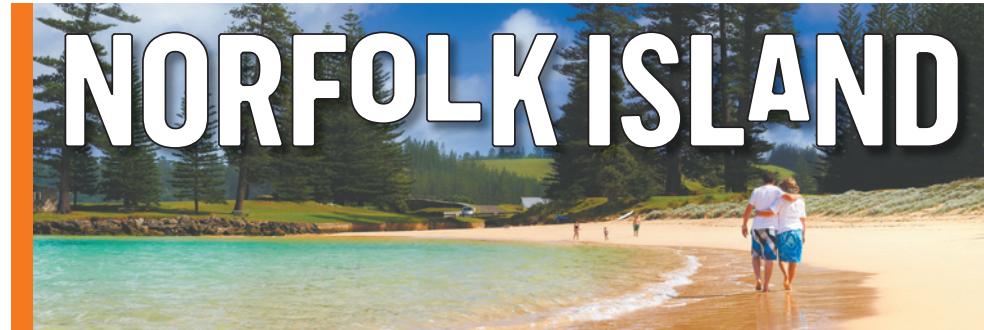
With bars closed for much of 2020, many people took matters into their own shakers. To put these lockdown learnings to the test, Celebrity Cruises offers Mixology 101 classes to master the art of cocktails. Another impressive option is the Blendtique Custom Crafted Wines experience, in which participants blend their own wine from four varietals, guided by sommeliers, then name, label and purchase it to take home. Several Celebrity ships have been outfitted with mobile wineries on board, ready to blend and bottle creations; celebritycruises.com.au.

JOIN THE CLUB

Voyages Golf has chartered the new Coral Geographer for an 11-night cruise from Melbourne to Hobart, departing February 8 next year. Rounds of golf can be played at six world-class courses: Cape Wickham Links and Ocean Dunes on King Island, and Tasmania's Barnbougle Dunes, Barnbougle Lost Farm, Royal Hobart and Tasmania Golf Club; voyages.golf.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE

Sick of cooking at home? Cook at someone else's place. Scenic has a new program called Ancestry of the Kitchen, where guests are taken to local houses to learn culinary traditions and recipes. Bake Bulgarian banitsa pastries on the Danube Delta Discovery cruise, or create a Croatian fish stew in Osijek during the Black Sea Explorer itinerary. European river sailings are scheduled throughout 2021 and 2022; scenic.com.au.



AIR NEW ZEALAND SALE!

Governor's Lodge,

While discovering all that the island has to offer, Spacifica Travel recommends a stay at Governor's Lodge. The hotel has 55 individual private cabins, onsite café, Bailey's restaurant, conference room, pool and spa set amongst 12 acres of landscaped sub-tropical gardens close to the main shopping centre and historical Kingston.



YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES:

- Return airfares flying Air New Zealand
- Return airport transfers
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- **7 days** car hire with full insurance
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- History in the Making Guided Coach Tour
- Norfolk Laengwij Class with Refreshments
- The World of Norfolk Exhibit
- World Heritage Norfolk History Tour
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HURRY! SALE ENDS FRIDAY

There's more to NORFOLK ISLAND OMNICHE HOLIDAYS AIR NEW ZEALAND

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ON THE TILES

Take newfound art skills on an Evergreen Douro River cruise, where the Portuguese tradition of hand-painting tiles is taught onboard. Get inspiration for these complimentary classes during stops in historic villages