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Trump calls time on Cuba cruising

MULTIPLE cruise brands have been forced to adjust their itineraries after the Trump Administration this week revised its travel regulations to Cuba.

The US Government has banned cruise ship operations from the United States to Cuba effective immediately, eliminating the “group people-to-people” educational travel category which allowed cruise lines to visit the Caribbean nation.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) released a statement detailing why it was “disappointed” by the decision, one it said was made without consultation or warning.

“While out of our control, we are genuinely sorry for all cruise line guests who were looking forward to their previously booked itineraries to Cuba,” said CLIA Chairman Adam Goldstein.

The fallout has seen Royal Caribbean Cruises announce immediate itinerary changes on sailings departing this week,



PICTURED: Havana, Cuba.

while Carnival Corporation’s HAL, Carnival Cruise Line and Seabourn brands have also revealed plans to replace scheduled Havana calls with alternative ports.

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, among the first operators to deploy significant capacity to Cuba, has confirmed it has ceased all calls to the country.

MSC Cruises issued a statement late yesterday informing clients that *MSC Armonia* will change course to Cozumel, Mexico instead of Havana for its current sailing, and the Cuban capital will be replaced with port calls to either Key West, the Cayman

Islands or Mexico in the future.

Newcomer Virgin Voyages, which had included Cuba in its first *Scarlet Lady* season in 2020, has stated it would release revised voyages next week.

The ban deals a heavy blow to tourism in Cuba, which had been revitalised after former President Barack Obama ended a long-standing embargo against the Cuban Government in 2014.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **NCL**.

A full spectrum of food



AUSTRALIAN and New Zealand travel agents currently on board the inaugural sailing of *Spectrum of the Seas* had the opportunity to try out the speciality dining experience on offer at the Sichuan Red restaurant, a new culinary concept designed specifically for Royal’s newest vessel.

With more than 10 signature experiences and loads of complimentary dining options available, there is no shortage of choice - especially for foodies!

Pictured: Carly Wharton, RAC Perth; Victoria Chapman RCL SA; Phil Hoffmann, Phil Hoffmann Travel; and Wayne Callaghan, RCL Western Australia.

Counting the costs

UNIWORLD has confirmed the cancellation of six upcoming sailings for the *River Countess*, following its collision with *MSC Opera* in Venice last Sun (**CW** 03 Jun).

Affected itineraries include the Gems of Northern Italy journeys scheduled for 07, 14, 21 and 28 Jun, along with 05 and 12 Jul.

“We appreciate the outpouring of support and well-wishes by our guests, travel advisor partners and industry colleagues, and would like to thank everyone for their support during this time,” said Uniworld President and CEO Ellen Bettridge.

Additional updates will be made as more information becomes available.

Take five for free

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is celebrating the Queen’s Birthday long weekend by launching its “Take 5 Free” deal, offering complimentary packages including drinks, dining, wi-fi, and shore excursions until 18 Jun.

See **cover page** for more.

See you next Wed

DUE to the approaching Queen’s Birthday long weekend, **Cruise Weekly** will not be published on 10 Jun.

But never fear readers, all of our quality cruise news will return Wed 12 Jun, so all states except for Qld and WA, enjoy the long weekend!



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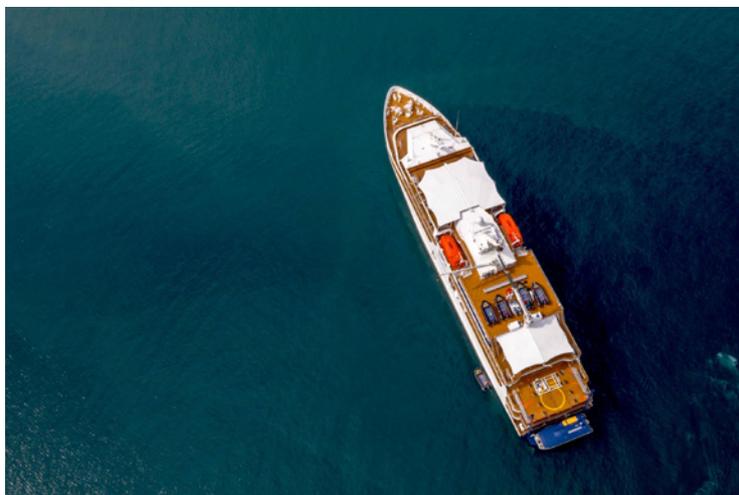
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Avalon cleans up

AS PART of the Globus family of brands' support for The Ocean Cleanup, Avalon Waterway will commit to a number of sustainability efforts, including using LED light bulbs, state-of-the-art propulsion systems and upgrade sewerage treatment.

Mapping out Geographer



CORAL Expeditions has released further details about what life will be like aboard its fifth ship, *Coral Geographer*, which is scheduled to be delivered in Dec 2020.

The 120-passenger newbuild is currently under construction at VARD Shipyard and will be a sister ship to the company's new *Coral Adventurer*, but will boast an increased proportion of bridge deck suites - up from two to six large suites.

All deck suites will also feature horizon bathtubs.

"We've witnessed significant demand for our unique style of expedition cruising, and the business has confidence to order a fifth ship only weeks after launching *Coral Adventurer*," said

Coral Expeditions Group General Manager Mark Fifield.

"We are confident in the ongoing strength of the expedition sector along with the vessel's size, her design and her capabilities...she represents the perfect balance between being large enough for ocean voyaging yet having a small and intimate ship feel to maximise our guest experience," he added.

The inaugural voyage for *Geographer* will set sail from Singapore on 06 Jan, 2021, before arriving in Australian waters in late Mar 2021.

Select voyages are open for bookings from this week.

Pictured: A rendering of the new *Coral Geographer*.

Crystal expertise

CRYSTAL Expedition Cruises has appointed experienced explorer David Sinclair to be its expedition leader for its upcoming *Crystal Endeavor* ship launching in Aug 2020.

In his role, he will help plan and develop the vessel's shore excursions where he will lead a team of expedition guides.

"David has climbed the highest peaks north of the Arctic Circle, skied across Greenland and become an avid naturalist and nature photographer during his career," said Crystal's President and CEO Tom Wolber.



YOU'RE going to need a bigger...ship?

To celebrate Discovery Channel's annual "Shark Week", Princess Cruises will "sharkify" *Caribbean Princess* with its Summer of Shark showcase on eight Northern Hemisphere summer sailings.

The celebration will see a variety of shark-related activities and games on board, challenging kids and adults alike.

Pax can sink their teeth into the festivities before 27 Jul.



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CRUISE

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