



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Viking Mississippi

VIKING has opened its inaugural 2022/23 Mississippi season for public bookings (CW 31 Mar).

The line's first custom vessel, *Viking Mississippi*, will debut in Aug 22, and will sail voyages on the Lower and Upper Mississippi River, between New Orleans and St. Paul.

Still Dreaming

THE second issue of *Travel & Cruise Weekly's* new spinoff publication, **Keep Dreaming**, is out today.

Providing a touch of inspiration, **CLICK HERE** to access.

“Cruise will come back” - HLO’s Burnes

HELLOWORLD Travel Chief Executive Officer Andrew Burnes (pictured) says he’s confident that despite the current negative publicity around cruising, the sector will return stronger than ever after COVID-19.

Writing to members of Helloworld’s Australian travel agency networks last week, he warned that the re-emergence of international travel could be 9-12 months off (TD 17 Apr), suggesting destinations such as NZ and possibly some South Pacific countries could be among the first to open up to Australians.

“I never thought I’d be looking forward so much to hearing someone say bula to me as I do now,” he quipped.

Burnes cited Minister for Tourism Simon Birmingham, who told the ABC he expected “cruise travel...to be sitting right towards the end, if not the very last thing



that is reactivated again, given the difficulties Australia has faced with the cruise sector so far”.

Burnes said comments like this, as well as the *Ruby Princess* “debacle” had caused a lot of consideration as to whether there will ever again be the huge demand for cruise product globally, and more specifically here in Australia and NZ.

“My answer is of course there will,” he said.

“Cruise has proven to be one of the most popular sectors of the leisure travel industry in the world...the product is popular, well-priced and delivers an all-inclusive break that people enjoy”.

However, Burnes noted cruise companies will have to undertake significantly increased cleaning and disinfecting measures, as well as commit to much better on-board health facilities including immediate isolation capabilities, respirators and other near-ICU facilities, as well as stringent health checks for all embarking and disembarking passengers, and crew.

“The cruise companies will address these issues over the next 12 months,” he averred.

“I firmly believe cruise will come back, most likely from mid-2021 and beyond, once the operators have sorted out their safety and health issues,” Burnes added.

These are extraordinary times, however all of us at P&O are looking positively toward the future.

As our valued Travel Agent partners you are at the heart of what we do.

You, more than anyone, understand the gravity of what is happening in the travel sector and we are standing with you during these challenging times.

A big thanks for your past, present and future support.

We look forward to working with you in welcoming guests back onboard soon

We will all get through this together.





Destination: Kids Club



SHIPS: A-ROSA's kids club is available on several of the cruise line's vessels across the Rhine, Danube, Rhone and Seine river networks, allowing parents to relax with a clear conscience while their kids experience all manner of adventures. The kid's club is available on A-ROSA *Bella, Flora, Stella, Viva, Silva, Luna, Mia* and *Brava*.

LOCATION: The on-board location of A-ROSA's kids club is dependant on the season, the weather and the activity.

WHEN: A-ROSA offers the kids club at no additional charge on selected departures during school holidays.

WHAT: Available for children and teenagers between the ages of 4 and 15 years, A-ROSA's kids club does not let



boredom arise.

Together with other children, those attending the kids club will experience a range of activities with an experienced, children's entertainer, including ship treasure hunts, a pirate day or creative arts classes.

In the evening, children will find their favourite dish at the buffet with a special kid's menu including a range of delicious favourite dishes, family tables and special surprises.

DON'T MISS: Unlike any other river cruise operator, with A-ROSA, children up to the age of 15 years who are accompanied by a full fare paying adult travel for free on most departure, making A-ROSA the perfect river cruise line for multi-generational travellers.



Cruise podcast

BARRY

Downs,
National
Sales &
Promotions
Manager
at Bicton



Travel has launched a new consumer-facing podcast about cruising, aiming to "get some positive cruise news into the universe".

Simply titled *The Big Cruise Podcast*, three episodes are now live covering weekly updates on the latest good news about cruise as well as an interview with a real cruiser about their recent holiday.

Listen wherever you get your podcasts, or online at thebigcruisepodcast.com.



NO-ONE wants to get COVID-19, especially not the scores of people away from their home country, so two Aus-based Dutchmen are taking matters into their own hands.

Backpackers and self-described nautical rookies Jordy van der Voort and Daniel Wiessing have purchased a boat to escape from our virus-riddled country and return to the "safety" of Europe.

They're preparing to embark on the 13,000 nautical mile-sailing in about a month, navigating their 47-metre ketch back to the Netherlands through the Panama Canal, which is sure to cost them a nasty kicker.

They're planning to stock up on canned food and rum, and while they're on the seas, they better hope they discover a COVID-19 cure, as Holland has four times the amount of cases as Australia.

To see if the men survive, follow their journey [HERE](#).

A Dream Zoom!

DREAM Cruises has uploaded a selection of Zoom Virtual Backgrounds to set as the setting for your next virtual meeting.

CLICK HERE to access.

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