



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### AIDA pushback

AIDA Cruises' concepts and certifications for the restart of its cruise operations are still awaiting approval from its flag state Italy, meaning a number of trips on *AIDAmara* and *AIDAprima* between 05 & 12 Aug have been cancelled.

The cruise line has received confirmation with other relevant authorities, but contrary to its expectations, has not yet received authority from the Government of Italy.

AIDA has reached out to all guests whose trip cannot take place as originally scheduled. Travellers can rebook to a different cruise if so desired.

## Future cruising positive

TRAVEL agents are predicting a positive future for domestic cruising, according to the results of an ongoing survey series conducted by Celebrity Cruises (CW 08 Jul).

Partners across Australia and New Zealand have been polled, with the results revealing that despite the ongoing challenges facing the industry, 89% of agents believe Australia-only cruises will be popular once restrictions ease, increasing to 92% for New Zealand-only cruises.

Although Australian cruise restrictions remain in place until 30 Sep, once additional health and safety measures are in place, agents think clients will opt for six -to eight-night cruises, with 84% of agents believing overnight stops are important to their clients.

"We are working around

the clock to ensure that once the government green light is signalled, we will be fully prepared to sail safely again," said AUNZ Vice President & Managing Director Susan Bonner.

"In the meantime, it is vital to the survival of the travel industry that we band together, and we're truly grateful for the travel partners who continue to support us."

The third installment in Celebrity's agent survey series launches today, featuring 12 questions focused on understanding and delivering what agents most need and want right now, including how best to support future business recovery.

The first part of the survey found confidence in health and safety protocols will be vital for the cruise industry's recovery (CW 25 Jun).

### Jalesh returning

INDIAN cruise line Jalesh Cruises will resume operations from 06 Nov, with the Government of India announcing the commencement of cruises from Oct.

To celebrate the return, Jalesh will enact COVID-19 rapid testing for all its passengers before embarkation, with the results returning in 15 minutes.

"The announcement by the Indian Government to permit sailing by cruise companies comes as a fresh breath of air to all of us," said President & Chief Executive Jurgen Bailom.

"We have been waiting to set sail with passengers and we eagerly await Nov.

"The health and safety of our passengers and our crew has been and will always be our priority."

# Tell US HOW TO HELP

Thank you for sharing your insights in our second survey. More than 300 travel partners have already helped us understand how to support you and your clients during these challenging times.

START SURVEY



To learn more, call 1-800-754-500 or visit [CruisingPower.com.au](http://CruisingPower.com.au)



*In these times we need a drink!*

Send us your cocktail recipes for our weekly feature.

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## PORTHOLE

**THE** food chain was in full and frank demonstration in Alaska recently, with a boat in Halibut Cove saving a local otter from a near-certain fate as orca lunch.

The occupant of the boat was watching nature go at it, witnessing the killer whale stalking the sea otter through the water.

The terrified weasel quickly made its way towards the rear of the boat, where it was able to leap on to the transom to safety.

The incident was captured on video by the captain, a guide for a local water taxi operator.

The whale continued to stalk the boat, before moving away, with the captain then heading to his next pickup, where the otter was released to safety.

View nature in all its glory **HERE**.



## Spirit mast raised

**SEA** Cloud Cruises' upcoming tall ship *Sea Cloud Spirit* has had its first mast installed.

The approximately 54-metre high aft mast was installed in Vigo, Spain, with the 136-guest ship still expected to enter service later this year.

The other two masts are also soon set to be erected.

## UnCruise resumes



**UNCRUISE** Adventures resumed cruising last weekend, purporting it is currently "the only small boat operator in Alaska".

The cruise line said its focus was on safety and the sustainability of "untourism", which is loosely defined as the shunning of globalised, mass-tourism in favour of unique and sustainable adventures.

*Wilderness Adventurer* (pictured) set sail from the Alaskan capital of Juneau to the state's Southeast, with 37 passengers and 30 crew members aboard.

The season includes five seven-night Glacier Bay Adventures, sailing with a 66% occupancy cap.

Streamlined safety training and protocols will feature with the departure of *Wilderness Adventurer*, as will additional physical distancing, added daily activity rosters and thorough testing.

Chief Executive Dan Blanchard is enthusiastic about the will of travellers to have a positive impact on communities and the

environment.

"Protection and stimulus for small businesses and those in travel should be a significant priority," he said.

"This is a meaningful and challenging time. One that requires us to be diversified, humble, and nimble in our choices."

The company credited its resumption to pivoting quickly as a small business, and establishing crucial conversations with government officials, such as leading the Small Boat Operators Coalition.

## Oceana sold

**GREEK** roll-on/roll-off operator Seajets is the new owner of P&O Cruises UK's *Oceana*.

Renamed *Queen of the Oceans*, the purchase will see Seajets enter the overnight cruise sector.

Greece recently introduced increased capacities for ferry travel (**CW** yesterday).



AUSTRALIAN CRUISE ASSOCIATION  
**ACA UPDATE**  
with Jill Abel - CEO

## Cruise moves to recovery

**I ENJOYED** the call held with CLIA global Chair Adam Goldstein last week about the current state of the cruise sector worldwide.

While this is a global pandemic, Adam made the important point that the resumption of cruising requires regional solutions and working with the local authorities is key to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of the guests, the crew and the destinations they visit.

He outlined four pillars to get to restart including the screening process; the onboard operations; the procedures around visiting destinations – key to ACAs members; and finally the response to any identified cases.

I suspect there will be a transition period where we do have some start/stop situations as cruising resumes, and we will learn from each one.

In our region, the next step is working with the appropriate authorities so that we can plan for the return to cruise in a safe and responsible way.

We are saddened to see the number of cases in Victoria and stand with our members there to hope for a decline in case numbers.

As we regain some confidence in this area, so will the regulator to begin discussions.