



Cruise Weekly today

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

SeaDream COVID

A PASSENGER who sailed aboard SeaDream Yacht Club's *SeaDream I* has tested positive for coronavirus upon his return home.

The passenger sailed aboard the previous itinerary the cruise ship sailed, but all passengers onboard the current sailing have been confined to their staterooms.

SeaDream I is expected to arrive in Bodo soon, where local health authorities are expected to start testing passengers and crew, with no-one allowed to go ashore.

The cruise line told passengers it was unaware of anyone else with the virus.

CLIA announces 3rd US suspension

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has announced its third voluntary suspension of United States cruise operations.

Ocean-going members of the trade organisation have agreed to suspend US operations until 31 Oct, a bit over a month on from the previous suspension date of 17 Sep.

"We believe this proactive action further demonstrates the cruise industry's commitment to public health and willingness to voluntarily suspend operations in the interest of public health and safety, as has occurred twice prior," the Association said.

However, CLIA did note should conditions in the United States change and it becomes possible to consider short, modified sailings, the Association would contemplate an earlier restart.

It is a blow for United States cruise lines, after CLIA recently



backed the European Maritime Safety Agency's guidance on the resumption of cruise ship operations on that continent.

According to CLIA's most recent Economic Impact Study, each day of the suspension of United States cruise operations results in a loss of up to US\$110 million in

economic activity and 800 direct and indirect US jobs.

Although it is unclear whether or not CLIA United States' suspension will affect Australasia, CLIA flagged if another extension was handed down in Australia and NZ past 17 Sep, job losses could reach 13,000 (CW 17 Jun).

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Darren Rudd's first official interview as AFTA CEO. Read all about his plans for AFTA in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

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WHEN the COVID-19 outbreak was officially declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, many travellers found themselves trapped overseas due to sudden border closures.

This was the fate of one honeymooning couple, who was forced to hitch a trip home to NZ from the Falkland Islands.

The 5,000 nautical mile trip was taken aboard an Antarctic fishing boat, with the newlywed bride having never spent a single night on a boat prior to the month-long voyage.

The skipper said he was nervous at first about taking the couple on his 38-metre vessel *San Aotea II*, but all made it home safely.

Windstar 2021/2022

WINDSTAR Cruises has gone digital with its 2021/22 small ship cruise brochure, with itineraries in Mexico, the South Pacific, and the West Coast of the United States.

New voyages visit the Black Sea and the Gulf of California, with 2021 to also see Windstar's transformation of its three all-suite yachts as part of its Star Plus class initiative.

With many of Windstar's new itineraries this year cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the repealing of *Star Breeze's* local deployment (**CW** 20 May), 2021 will also now feature new ports in Alaska, cruises to the Holy Lands, and additional offerings in Canada and New England.

Breeze will be redeployed in the Sea of Cortez, and will also fill in for *Wind Spirit*, which will instead visit Asia Pacific destinations such

as the Coral Sea, Port Vila and Vanuatu.

"The global cruise industry is facing its biggest challenge yet, but we're incredibly optimistic for the future of small ship cruising and Windstar," said Chief Executive Officer Andrew Todd.

"That's why we're excited to put out this brochure, because dreaming about and planning the next trip is a hopeful and uplifting experience.

"We want to celebrate that travel promise and also give our customers the confidence needed to book, along with the assurance that we will protect their investment should plans change."

Windstar recently announced it has retrofitted its fleet for health and safety post-coronavirus with HEPA filters, UV-C light and EvaClean to help with on-board sanitisation (**CW** 17 Jul).

Cairns schedule

PORTS North's 2021 Cairns cruise ship schedule was removed from its website last week, with the port authority citing the "rapidly changing environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic" for the removal of the document.

"Cruise ship schedules will continue to be subject to fluctuations throughout the remainder of 2020 and into 2021," Ports North said, adding it "remains in regular contact with cruise representatives and government agencies and will continue to monitor bookings to our ports."

"The schedules will again be published on Ports North website when cruise ship operations return."

The COVID-19 pandemic's effect on the industry in Cairns has even seen some operators band together (**CW** 05 Jun).



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Costa Safety Protocol



COSTA Cruises has announced the introduction of the Costa Safety Protocol, as it waits for final authorisation to restart its cruise operations.

The new health and hygiene protocols are supported by a panel of independent scientific experts in public health, coordinated by the Value in Health Technology & Academy for Leadership & Innovation.

Costa said it had worked with several global and national health guidelines to develop the protocols, which include a set of measures and procedures which cover the safety of crew members, the booking process, embarkation and disembarkation, life on board, medical care and shore excursions.

The initiative also encompasses the application to Registro Italiano Navale's Biosafety Trust Certification, which examines all aspects of life on board, such as hotel services, catering, fitness and relaxation areas, and confirms the correct management of health issues.

The certification is awarded following a series of audits conducted both on the ships and shoreside.

As part of the measures, Costa will implement measures to pre-screen each crew member in their country of origin, including two different swab tests for evaluation of suspected COVID-19 cases, a third test upon arrival in Italy, and a 14-day quarantine period.

Crew health conditions will then be continually monitored with daily temperature checks and monthly swab tests.

For guests, measures will include upgraded digital procedures, such as online check-in and self-certification, health screenings with temperature checks carried out at every access to the ship, conducted in all ports included in the itinerary.

Physical distancing will be enacted on shore tours, which have been redesigned with small groups of people and staggered departures, with sanitization of buses before and after each use.

FACE-2-FACE: Damian Borg

NCL's Director of Sales,
AU-NZ



1. What is your favourite part of your job?

It's the 3 "P's" – Product, People and Partnerships. Every day provides an opportunity to influence and improve.

2. What attracted you to a career in the cruise industry?

The opportunity to work with a business that was still cementing itself in the AU market was a huge drawcard.

3. What is the key to success in the cruise industry?

I firmly believe that there is a cruise ship and cruise line for everyone. It's important to sell the right product the first time!

4. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

Consumer confidence around health and safety is key. When the time is right, the entire industry will need to stand together to rebuild trust.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Today's Facebook memory is the 2019 NTIA event. So in five years' time, I hope to be on stage for NCL, accepting Int'l Cruise Line of the Year (for the 3rd year in a row)

6. What is your advice for up-and-comers?

Be loyal to your Client

FIRST, then a supplier! Listen to what they want and don't be afraid to recommend a product you are not familiar with!

7. What was your best fam trip?

2018 Norwegian Escape from New York to the amazing Bermuda! Not only a beautiful destination, but the most wonderful group I have ever escorted!

8. Favourite joke?

A guy goes to a pet store to buy a goldfish. The salesman asks him, "Do you want an aquarium?" The guy responds, "I don't care what star sign it is!"

9. What two items couldn't you live without?

Noise cancelling headphones and my phone!

10. Do you have a party trick?

Is smoke-bombing considered a party trick?

Damian is pictured above 5th from the left, wearing a white cap while hosting Flight Centre's top cruise consultants on a seven-day New York to Bermuda cruise on *Norwegian Escape* in April 2018.