



Cruise Weekly today

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

Breath of fresh air

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has announced a partnership with AtmosAir Solutions to install continuous disinfection air purification systems across its 28-ship fleet.

With the move including Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises vessels, the filtration technology will use bi-polar ionisation to continuously disinfect on-board air supplies, with the all-natural system using no harmful chemicals, radiation or having any by-products.

NCLH said the proven technology would "add yet another layer of protection".

Hunt sinks summer restart hopes

AUSTRALIAN Minister for Health Greg Hunt's move to extend the human biosecurity emergency period by three months (*CW* breaking news yesterday) has come along with a statement confirming the Government is "working closely with state and territory agencies and the cruise industry, to develop a framework for the staged resumption of cruise ships in a manner that is proportionate to the public health risk".

Cruise Lines International Association Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz welcomed the acknowledgement by Hunt that Australia's success in stemming coronavirus had created the opportunity for a carefully managed and responsible pathway towards recovery.

"We need to work towards replacing the existing blanket

suspension of cruise operations with an approval process that will allow cruise lines to progress a phased and tightly controlled resumption in 2021," he said.

Yesterday Hunt noted the extension of the emergency period would take it out to 17 Mar 2021, meaning it will by then have been in place for a full year.

As well as limiting the movement of cruise ships, the recommendation to extend the emergency period under the Biosecurity Act 2015 will also continue to restrict outbound international travel, and impacts the operation of retail stores at international airports as well.

Hunt cited advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee and Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly, who believe coronavirus continues to pose an unacceptable public health risk internationally.

However, Hunt noted the restrictions are reviewed regularly, and "can be amended or removed at any time based on the expert medical advice".

Katz said the industry had presented proposals to the Government which would see cruises initially restart with coronavirus protocols which match or exceed those of other sectors on land, including limiting passenger numbers to ensure social distancing, testing of all guests and crew members, and extensive screening, hygiene & sanitation protocols.

"Cruising delivers enormous financial benefit to communities around Australia and supports around 18,000 jobs across the country," Hunt added.

"We look forward to working with Government to plan a careful revival of the country's \$5 billion-a-year-cruise industry."

Travel & Cruise Weekly

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Travel Daily



WHAT'S worse than finding out news about yourself via Facebook?

Finding out two items of news about yourself via Facebook.

This was the recent fate of a Western Australia boat owner, who not only found out his vessel had been stolen, but also that it had been destroyed and left abandoned on the side of a road when the getaway car crashed (pictured).

"It was about 7am when I saw pictures of it on Facebook," the boat owner said.

"Initially I thought someone was taking the mickey out of me and had photoshopped my boat on to the picture, but then I realised it was mine.

"It's the only time I haven't put my trailer lock on too."



Seabourn savings

SEABOURN Cruise Line has announced its 2021 Signature Savings Event, available on its 2021-22 voyages.

Running through until 01 Mar, the sale boasts significant benefits, such as suite upgrades, shipboard credits and internet packages.

CLICK HERE for more.

CLIA sustainability support



CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) & the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) have joined forces with the Greek ports of Corfu and Heraklion, in Crete, on sustainable tourism initiatives.

Leaders in both destinations will oversee assessments co-funded by CLIA and conducted by GSTC to map out a plan for a future of sustainable tourism.

The assessments will provide benchmark data and explore the balanced development of tourism in the destinations.

Beginning now and spanning across five months, the assessments will include an initial preparatory phase of research and data compilation, a second phase of on-site assessment and stakeholder engagement, and a final phase of analysis and report.

CLIA President & Chief Exec Kelly Craighead said city leadership in Corfu and Heraklion was to be commended for mapping a sustainable future for the benefit of both residents and visitors.

"The cruise industry is dedicated to sustainability and our experience supporting previous sustainability assessments has shown what can be achieved when city leaders, local communities, and industry work together towards a common goal," she said.

"While we may only be a small part of the tourism sector, we want to play a big part in helping to preserve the heritage and environment of the world's favourite destinations."

Heraklion (pictured) Mayor Vassilis Lambrinos said his city was responding to the challenges it was being faced with through the "bold" self-assessment.

"We are cooperating with CLIA on this initiative and we anticipate that, with the knowledge and support of GSTC, new perspectives will be opened for Heraklion as a tourist destination as well as further development of cruise tourism, while respecting sustainability principles," he said.



ACA's new Committees

ACA has finalised our Executive and Management Committee which will take us forward into 2021 – a year we hope marks the phased restart to cruise.

We are delighted to confirm Port Authority of New South Wales Chief Executive Officer Phil Holliday as Chair, the ideal person to be leading ACA at this time, given he leads traditionally the busiest cruise port in Australia. Phil will be supported on the Executive Committee by Deputy Chair & Treasurer, Tourism NT's Scott Lovett and Port of Brisbane's Matthew Carley.

Inchape Shipping Services' Karlie Cavanagh remains on the Management Committee for a second term, alongside Tasports' Kristy Little; Intercruises' James Coughlan and Abercrombie & Kent's Karen Davies.

Port Authority of NSW's Natalie Godward has also been appointed to the sub-committee for the Sep 2021 Conference in Townsville.

My thanks to the previous committee for their hard work in the most challenging times our sector has ever seen, including Christine Cole and Anne McVilly, who have now left the committee as their terms have expired.

Our new committee has already approved a nationwide roadshow to be held with cruise lines and ports, aiming to clearly communicate the key health and safety protocols being delivered to support the cruise restart and to consult with destinations on their concerns and recommendations.

We look forward to moving forward together towards a brighter 2021.