



Seabourn changes

SEABOURN Cruise Line has announced updated seven-day itineraries and schedule changes to its 2021 Alaska & British Columbia season (**CW** 01 Oct).

The cruise line has revised the itineraries to operate on a rotating northbound and southbound seven-day basis to meet the requirements of the Framework for Resuming Cruise Ship Operations order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CW** 01 Nov).

Running between May and Sep aboard *Seabourn Odyssey*, the season will now consist of 18 of the seven-day voyages between Vancouver and Juneau taking guests to a range of the region's popular destinations, and a number of rare Inside Passage ports, including Glacier Bay.

Doctors on every ship

UNITED States Congress is mandating a doctor on every cruise ship as well as security cameras in all public places on board, as part of a US\$740 billion defense bill.

The requirements were part of provisions approved by the Senate on the weekend under the *National Defense Authorization*, which will also make it mandatory for ships to have a trained physician on board.

The *Cruise Passenger Protection Act* was sponsored by the Senator from Connecticut, Democrat Richard Blumenthal, who said "the significant and long-overdue cruise ship health and safety standard improvements included in this bill will make our seas safer for passengers and crew alike."

A veto-proof two-thirds majority in both chambers cleared the bill, despite the fact Trump yesterday tweeted his intention to reject

the policies.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) spokesperson Bari Golin-Blaugrund, said the group supports the new rules, with all CLIA ships already having doctors on board.

"CLIA supports the new US regulations, many of which are already in place globally as part of existing CLIA policies," a spokesperson said.

"As a condition of membership in CLIA, all member lines must agree to have a well-equipped medical facility that complies with the robust guidelines of the American College of Emergency Physicians...and must have onboard medical professionals available around the clock."

The last cruise regulations passed by Congress was 2010's *Cruise Vessel Security & Safety Act*, which required each ship to have a registered nurse on board.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Windstar relaunch

WINDSTAR Cruises is planning a return to sailing from 15 May, launching a bon voyage 2020 holiday sale in support.

As a result, the newly transformed *Star Breeze* has been redeployed to the Caribbean and Tahiti for 2021, with Windstar's United States and Mexico port calls cancelled.

Departing St. Martin, *Star Breeze* will sail three Beach Fun & Sun departures, which will be adventure-focused, with a heavy emphasis on water sports.

Star Breeze will then head to Colombia and the Panama Canal - windstarcruises.com.

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Spirit maiden trip

SEA Cloud Cruises' *Sea Cloud Spirit's* maiden voyage has been scheduled for the end of Apr, after the COVID-19 pandemic delayed this year's initial 29 Aug debut (**CW** 07 May).

The new three-mast *Sea Cloud Spirit* will set sail from Palma for the first time on 22 Apr 2021, after a naming ceremony is held.

Sea Cloud Spirit is the cruise line's third ship, and like her sisters, will combine a "private yacht atmosphere with traditional sailing".

Unlike her sister ships, *Sea Cloud Spirit* will include Balcony cabins, previously only available for much larger ships.

Also featuring on *Sea Cloud Spirit* will be a fitness centre with a sea view, a separate wellness & spa area and Lido deck bistro.

Eden taking shape



THE Port Authority of New South Wales' Eden Welcome Centre (render **pictured**) is starting to take shape, with structural timbers being erected.

Drawing inspiration from the sails and semaphore flags used in the maritime industry, the Welcome Centre will be located on the fisherman's co-op site.

Celebrating Eden's main industries of fishing, forestry

and tourism, the building will be made from the local hardwoods.

The facility will feature two floors with an approximate size of 1,000 square metres, with the ground floor to be for visitors, market stall-holders and amenities, and the first floor for office space.

More than 100,000 cruise passengers are expected to visit the region each year.

Virgin off again

VIRGIN Voyages has cancelled cruises on its first ship, *Scarlet Lady*, into May, which is more than a year past its original scheduled launch date.

The cruise line also pushed back the planned May launch of its second ship, *Valiant Lady* (**CW** 10 Jun) until 14 Nov, and, instead of sailing its Mediterranean schedule, will spend its inaugural season in the Caribbean.

Despite noting Virgin Voyages has "zero revenue", and that the delay had seen "significant" losses, Chief Executive Officer Tom McAlpin said the COVID-19 pandemic would not have an effect on Virgin Voyages' long-term viability.

McAlpin added he was heartbroken by the delays, saying "this is our baby".

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PORTHOLE

SOMEONE is getting an interesting Christmas present this year...

Sydney's Woolwich Wharf's pontoon (pictured) has been sold on Grays Online, drawing 54 bids, including a winner at \$6,049.

Sold by Polaris Marine Constructions, the Valentia Street wharf was heritage listed, having been built in 1856, and was operational up until earlier this year.

The condition was listed as "used", no warranty was offered, and the buyer had only listed "pickup only" in shipping options.

The winning bidder is located in Centennial Park, NSW - could one of the area's many ponds be getting a new pontoon?



Carnival vacation findings



CARNIVAL Cruise Line has revealed, to no-one's surprise, Australians are in desperate need of a break, with a quarter of the nation not having holidayed since last year, its research found.

On average, working Australians have taken less than six days of annual leave this year, with 81% of us saying "every day currently feels the same", and 94% of parents feeling everyone in their family needs a break.

As Australians look to book their next trip, Carnival's respondents feel the concept of "newness"

and discovering new things is a defining trait of a holiday, with 89% responding as such.

A third of us love not having to cook (and love being cooked for), while one in five love their sleep-ins and 15% thrive on not checking emails.

For parents, having the kids entertained tops the list for nearly a quarter (24%).

Among other findings, almost two-thirds (65%) miss feeling relaxed and stress-free, and 45% are longing to go sightseeing again.

Viking world cruise

VIKING has announced its 2022-2023 World Cruise aboard *Viking Neptune*.

Spanning 138 days, the voyage, from Fort Lauderdale to London, visits 28 countries across six continents.

There is also an American West Coast departure available from Los Angeles, which travels over 121 days.

Highlights of the cruise include 11 overnights and an included shore excursion in every port, starting from A\$69,995 per person.

Those who reserve by 31 Mar 2021 can receive free Business class fares, up to US\$2,000 per person in shore excursion credit, up to US\$1,000 per person in shipboard credit, a complimentary Silver Spirits beverage package and more, totalling over US\$25,000 in value per person.

Additionally, those who pay in full by 15 Nov 2021 will save up to an additional A\$20,000 per couple.

For the full 138-day World Cruise, **CLICK HERE**, and for the 121-day World Journeys, **HERE**.

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