



Cruise Weekly today

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

Hearing adjourned

THE preliminary hearing into the 2019 Whakaari eruption in the Auckland District Court has been adjourned.

The hearing will now be held 05 Mar following a request from parties involved for more time to review the evidence provided by WorkSafe New Zealand, and to receive legal advice.

WorkSafe Chief Executive Phil Parkes said 10 parties face charges which carry a maximum fine of NZ\$1.5 million each under New Zealand's *Health and Safety at Work Act*, and three others face fines of up to NZ\$300,000 each.

Cunard to add medical restrictions

CUNARD Line overnight issued an Emergency Notification to all guests with existing bookings, confirming it will be unable to accept future passengers with a range of pre-existing medical requirements.

The update is part of Cunard's enhanced protocols to protect the health and wellbeing of guests, crews, and the communities it visits once sailing recommences.

Guests who require supplementary oxygen (including via an oxygen concentrator), kidney dialysis, or mechanical ventilatory support (apart from overnight CPAP for sleep apnoea) will no longer be able to cruise with Cunard.

The cruise line will also bar passengers who, within 14 days prior to departure, have been unwell with confirmed or suspected coronavirus; have been

in close contact with someone confirmed or suspected of having coronavirus infection; or have been advised to self-isolate under an official government contact tracing system.

"We are so sorry to have to make this change, but we need to follow new industry procedures for the protection of everyone on board," Cunard said.

Any guests impacted by the requirement for supplementary oxygen, mechanical ventilatory support or dialysis will receive a full refund of monies paid to date for their bookings.

Passengers who have already completed a medical and accessibility questionnaire and advised of existing medical requirements that may prevent them from travelling under the new protocols have already been contacted by Cunard directly to discuss their options.

MEANWHILE, new requirements around face coverings and social distancing mean that guests travelling in a group are strongly advised to link their bookings.

The move will allow them to coordinate their onboard experience, with group sizes restricted to a maximum number allowed by UK Government guidelines at the time of sailing.

The linking of reservations must be done at the time of booking, with requests for travelling groups to be linked not able to be made after sailings depart.

Travel agents are being urged to make guests aware they need to ensure their bookings are linked with those of their travelling companions so that they are treated as a single group on board when considering the requirements for masks and social distancing once Cunard sailings recommence.

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Read about the change to Celebrity's pricing and what Aurora is doing to protect deposits in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin



Croisi protocols

ALL CroisiEurope passengers will have to present a negative PCR test taken less than 72 hours before embarking, or bring their vaccination certificate, upon the resumption of cruising.

Passengers will also be able to take an antigen test at the airport if they fly.

Viking announces incentive winners

VIKING'S winners for the Rewards by Viking trade incentive have been announced.

First prize is \$1,000 worth of Rewards by Viking points, going to Malvern Cruise & Travel's Justin Lawson, while Helloworld's Sue Holmes has been named runner-up, receiving \$250 worth.

Empress and Majesty depart RCG

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) has sold *Empress of the Seas* (pictured) and *Majesty of the Seas*, with the pair to depart the fleet later this month.

The ships are the oldest in Royal Caribbean International's (RCI) fleet, and have been sold to an undisclosed APAC-based party.

Royal Caribbean said the buyer would "release details for future sailings at a later time."

"Saying goodbye to these two beloved ships is a major moment in Royal Caribbean's history – one that is difficult but necessary," said RCI President & Chief Executive Officer Michael Bayley.

"*Empress* and *Majesty* of the Seas made indelible marks on the cruise industry with their revolutionary design and size.

"Touted as the cruise industry's most groundbreaking ships when they were introduced, they continued to make history



throughout their more than three decades of service.

"With plans for new, innovative ships to join our fleet in the upcoming years, we look forward to our guests and crew continuing to make new memories with us."

According to Royal Caribbean, *Empress of the Seas* was the first ship designed for three- and four-night cruises when she launched in 1990, with her initial sailings visiting the Bahamas from Miami.

Empress of the Seas also made history as the first cruise ship to sail out of Cape Liberty in New Jersey when Royal Caribbean opened the terminal in 2004, and in 2017, was the first RCI ship to sail to Cuba.

Majesty of the Seas was set to join *Empress* in Cuba this year, until the federal government of the United States applied restrictions on tourism by American citizens and residents.

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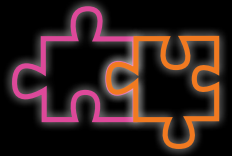
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Travel Daily



PORTHOLE

MANY have been wondering how singles have been faring during the COVID-19 pandemic - including the Tourism Authority of Thailand, apparently.

TAT has partnered with social networking application Tinder to promote domestic trips for single tourists.

Single tourists are invited to join a river cruise trip to visit nine holy temples by the river, with dinner on board included.

The Single Journey campaigns are targeting bachelors and bachelorettes to help achieve a target of seven million domestic trips, generating at least \$100 million in tourism income.

Celestial savings

CELESTIAL Cruises is hosting a 2021 and 2022 Early Bird sale, offering significant savings, a 50% discount for a second guest, a reduced solo supplement and free coronavirus travel insurance.

Prices start at \$654pp for Eastern Mediterranean and Greek Islands itineraries when booked before the end of Feb 2021.

Among the cruises included in the Early Bird sales are the three-night Iconic Aegean, the three-night Iconic Discovery, the seven-night Idyllic Aegean, the seven-night Eclectic Aegean and the seven-night Three Continents itinerary.

CLICK HERE for more info.

Celebrity hits its Apex



CELEBRITY Cruises is bringing its newest ships, *Celebrity Apex* (pictured) and *Celebrity Edge*, to Europe in summer 2022.

They will be joined by four other ships, *Constellation*, *Infinity*, *Reflection* and *Silhouette*, with the latter having been recently "revolutionised" as part of the *Celebrity Edge* program.

The ships will explore nearly 100 destinations and offer an expanded overnight program in cities such as Bordeaux, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Lisbon, Reykjavik, St. Petersburg, and Venice.

Wi-fi, drinks and service charges will be incorporated in *Celebrity's* Always Included promise.

From its homeport in Amsterdam, *Celebrity Apex* will sail Scandinavia, Russia, and the Norwegian fjords, the British Isles and the Holy Land.

Celebrity Edge will sail from Barcelona and Rome on seven-night Mediterranean itineraries

which will visit Italy, France, Spain, Turkey and Greece.

Silhouette will sail from Southampton to the Norwegian fjords, Spain, Portugal and Italy, before finishing her season in the Canary Islands.

Other highlights of the season include *Celebrity Constellation* sailing an array of nine- and 10-night Mediterranean itineraries between Venice, Rome and Barcelona, *Celebrity Infinity* discovering the best of the Mediterranean on a series of seven-night sailings between Venice, Lisbon and Barcelona and *Celebrity Reflection* treating guests to 10- and 11-night itineraries exploring Italy, Turkey, Croatia, Montenegro and the Greek Islands, from her new home port of Rome.

The season will also see *Celebrity* apply the recommendations of the Healthy Sail Panel (**CW** 07 Jul).

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**NZCA
UPDATE**

with Kevin O'Sullivan
CEO, NZCA



Trans-Tasman bubble next year

PRIME Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced New Zealand Government ministers have agreed in principle to quarantine-free travel with Australia early next year, depending on decisions by Australia.

No date for when it could be in place has been given, but probably in the first quarter of 2021.

Welcoming Australians back to New Zealand will be an enormous boost to NZ international tourism, but what will it mean for cruise?

Both Australia and New Zealand have a ban on cruise ships in place - for Australia the ban ends in mid-Mar and for New Zealand, it's open-ended.

Initially the trans-Tasman bubble will apply only to air transport, but there is a possibility that this will benefit cruise too.

Around 95% of NZ calls by cruise ships have been cancelled in the 2020-21 season, but Australian guests flying to New Zealand could see a boost in passenger numbers for late season voyages.

The positive impact of Australian cruise guests will be felt mostly in the 2021-22 cruise season - port bookings are looking good, and with New Zealand and Australian passengers we will once again have a cruise industry.