



Cruise Weekly today

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

Small ship spike

CRUISE Traveller Managing Director Craig Bowen has said the cruising pause is a chance for the small ship market to redefine itself, with the Gold-Coast-based wholesaler seeing a 32% spike in bookings for small ship expeditions in 2021.

With boutique and expedition cruise operators likely to be the first in the industry to restart cruises, Bowen said surging demand shows interest from travellers in the sector's value proposition of "eco-sustainable innovation", with Bowen closely aligning small expedition ships the with adventure travel sector.

Europe plots cruise restart

AUTHORITIES in the European Union (EU) have issued formal guidance for restarting cruise ship operations "after lifting restrictive measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic".

The European Union Healthy Gateways document notes public health risks for coronavirus transmission are a "new reality globally," saying strategies should cover the entire process right from booking through until passengers and crew have returned to their homes.

A gradual approach is suggested, including initial short itineraries with limited port visits.

Designated destinations must have the capacities to provide appropriate public health emergency response, with operators asked to submit a contingency plan for each call.

The ability to test for COVID-19 on board or ashore,

a commitment to immediate reporting of any cases and comprehensive crew training are prerequisites, and ships must be able to individually isolate 5% of passengers and crew on board when it is not possible to disembark anyone infected within 24 hours.

However if 24-hour disembarkation is possible, isolation for just 1% of those on board is required.

EU Healthy Gateways will support health authorities in each country to perform "focused inspections on board each cruise ship and ashore," while other precautions should include physical distancing, alcohol-based hand sanitisers throughout, and limiting kids clubs to outdoor areas only where possible.

Other protocols cover dining, gyms, pools, shore excursions & more - see [healthygateways.eu](https://www.healthygateways.eu).

Virgin Voyages lifts travel agent pay

VIRGIN Voyages is increasing its commission for travel agencies to 16%, as well as offering 10% commission on pre-cruise sales of add-ons such as shore excursions, spa treatments and drinks.

Chief Executive Tom McAlpin said the fledgling cruise line's "First Mates" (travel agent partners) are "a true extension of our team...we recognise how important their role is".

Carnival UK cuts

CARNIVAL UK has confirmed almost a third of its shore based staff have left the business this week, as part of "tough decisions to ensure that we can sustain and protect our business for the future," according to regional chief Simon Palethorpe.

NCL'S PEACE OF MIND™

SAIL SAFE | FLEXIBLE BOOKING

More than a new program or policy, NCL's Peace of Mind is a philosophy – ensuring the health, safety and confidence of our guests and crew on board and onshore. From new partnerships with field experts to more robust health and safety procedures to flexible cancellation policies, we're taking every precaution so your clients can continue to explore the world with those they love, safely.

ENHANCED SCREENING PROTOCOLS

ALL-NEW AIR FILTRATION

INCREASED SANITATION MEASURES

RESPONSIBLE SOCIAL DISTANCING

ENHANCED MEDICAL RESOURCES

EXTENDED SHIP TO SHORE SAFETY



The Saga begins

UK CRUISE line Saga Cruises has revealed its inaugural cruise for *Spirit of Adventure* will sail on 05 Nov.

The ship, which is the second polar expedition newbuild in the fleet following *Spirit of Discovery*, will depart Southampton to sail the Mediterranean.

Saga was earlier forced to suspend a special trade preview of *Spirit of Adventure* due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with Head of Trade Sales Iain Powell saying it was "unclear" if the cruise line would be able to reschedule the event.

MEANWHILE, Saga CEO Robin Shaw is set to leave his role, the company said.

Shaw joined Saga in Mar 2010 as CEO of the company's cruise division, and was appointed to his current post in Jan 2018.

Hungary for Whales



BUDAPEST'S Balna shopping mall (pictured), known as "the Whale", is set to be turned into a cruise ship passenger terminal for Danube River cruises.

The plan was announced by Hungarian Tourism Agency head Zoltan Guller, and has reportedly received bipartisan support from local government.

The reworked Balna would also include a permanent exhibition and conference room, gastronomic "experience stands" and an information point.

Last year, Budapest welcomed around half a million river cruise ship passengers, according to the Hungarian Tourism Agency's calculations.

South Sea extends

SOUTH Sea Cruises' sale has been extended, on a range of the cruise line's product.

The operator launched the sale at the start of Jun, offering a range of buy-now-travel-later deals, with the promotion now extended to the end of the month due to its popularity.

Currently on offer is a Malamala Beach Club special, which offers a full- or half-day pass for FJD\$99 per person, as well as a F\$40 food and beverage voucher.

Use the promo code MBC99FB to book.

A South Sea Island special is also available, offering travellers a full-day family cruise, including a buffet barbecue lunch and drinks.

Adults lead in at F\$99pp for a no-drinks package, and children F\$49pp, with infants aged 0-4 travelling free.

Use SSI0FB to redeem.

EXCLUSIVE
UPGRADE
sale

up to

4 CATEGORY
UPGRADE

The
ULTIMATE SALE
MAJOR PRICE REDUCTIONS

BOOK NOW - Upgrade sale ends 11 July 2020

Life
CHOICE

includes:
FREE Pre-Paid Gratuities
plus choose one:
FREE Shore Excursions
FREE Beverage Package
FREE Shipboard Credit

BEST PRICE GUARANTEE

OCEANIA CRUISES®



SAVOUR THE WORLD WITH THE FINEST CUISINE AT SEA® ABOARD OUR SMALL, LUXURIOUS SHIPS

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT OR CALL 1300 355 200 (AU) OR 1800 625 691 (NZ)

*Visit OceaniaCruises.com/terms for details.



TECHNOLOGY group Wärtsilä and yacht designer Pastrovich Studio are set to develop a hybrid boutique cruise ship. Aiming for the "luxury of a superyacht, the construction techniques and a passenger experience of a cruise ship, and a close focus on the environment", the vessels will be cost-optimised, and will serve the charter and luxury hotel sectors.

The design will feature a fully-integrated combination of hybrid propulsion and solar panels for minimal environmental impact and high levels of energy efficiency. The concept is built around a 60-metre long catamaran with accommodation for up to 36 passengers, and will be able to visit harbours that would otherwise be closed to large motor yachts.

Crystal Serenity open



CRYSTAL Cruises' *Crystal Serenity's* (pictured) 2023 voyages are open for booking, featuring explorations of Africa, the Black Sea, Canada, the Caribbean, Dalmatia, New England, South Pacific and more.

The ship will sail individual voyages of seven to 23 nights, as well as a full world cruise offered with 119-, 128- and 140-night options, and combination sailings of up to 100 nights.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Crystal team has been developing new procedures and policies to support public health and regulatory requirements, to be announced soon.

Crystal ships are designed to maximise personal and public space, offering nearly double the space per person compared to ships of a similar size.

"At a time when so many travellers are eager to return to exploring and seeking out new experiences and cultures, we're happy to offer more than three full years of global itineraries to inspire their next journeys," said

Crystal Senior Vice President of Marketing & Sales Carmen Roig. "The anticipation of an incredible vacation is one of the best parts of travel, the wonder about places one has never seen or the way that favourite destinations pull at the heart to return.

"The 2023 voyages planned for Crystal Serenity encompass all of this and are designed to inspire that sense of joyful anticipation for our guests."

Delayed Odyssey

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) is delaying the introduction of its new cruise ship, *Odyssey of the Seas*, for six months.

Currently under construction at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany, the new ship had been due for delivery in the northern autumn, to set out on its maiden voyage in Nov this year.

It is the second of RCI's Quantum Ultra Class ships.



Where to next in New Zealand?

DESPITE our efforts to have the cruise suspension lifted on 30 Jun 2020 it has been extended, this time indefinitely.

The relevant legislation is the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Maritime Border) Order 2020 which says quite baldly that "Foreign ships are not permitted to arrive in New Zealand."

There are exemptions for cargo ships and fishing vessels, but not cruise. On the one hand not having an end date or re-start date could be a good thing as cruise could begin earlier.

The reality is that until our government decides it is safe to do so cruise will continue to be locked out, despite NZCA promoting cruise ships with New Zealand passengers only.

So where does that leave us? We have to continue to liaise with government letting them know that cruise is safe and a very good way to get New Zealand tourists to our own regions in an enjoyable safe manner.

We can get the passengers, we can get the ships, it just takes a willingness to drag us back to being a country that can make things happen.

Ponant lectures

PONANT has announced a Kimberley Facebook webinar program, which will include a range of lectures occurring across the month of Jul.

The series aims to provide greater insight into the region's uniqueness, and what makes it so special.

It is the third set of online lectures Ponant has conducted, launched due to the popularity of the first two - **CLICK HERE** for more.