



Cruise Weekly today

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

New Viking ship

VIKING is set to launch a new ship for the Mekong River to serve its Magnificent Mekong itinerary.

Currently under construction, the 80-guest *Viking Saigon* is scheduled to debut for the 30 Aug 2021 departure.

Saigon will feature 40 outside staterooms, all of which will have hotel-style beds and a floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors with a veranda or French balcony.

Guests on the three-deck *Saigon* will also enjoy a spa & fitness centre, an infinity pool and open-air Sky bar on the upper deck, designed with Viking's Scandinavian flair.

Holland America selling four ships

HOLLAND America Line's (HAL) *Amsterdam*, *Maasdam* (pictured), *Rotterdam* and *Veendam* will all leave the HAL fleet later this year, the cruise line has confirmed.

The ships have been sold in pairs to undisclosed buyers, with *Maasdam* and *Veendam* leaving the fleet next month, while *Amsterdam* and *Rotterdam* will move in the spring.

Holland America will cancel a number of cruises for the ships' deployments, with some select itineraries being assumed by other vessels in the fleet, such as the 2021 Grand World Voyage aboard *Amsterdam*, now postponed until 2022 and sailing aboard *Zaandam*.

The 2021 Grand Africa Voyage will also now be departing aboard *Zaandam* instead of *Rotterdam*.

Other cancelled cruises will include scheduled Australia, Asia, Mexico and South Pacific



itineraries on *Maasdam*; Canada/ New England voyages on *Amsterdam*; Caribbean, Europe, Hawaii, Panama Canal and South America sailings on *Rotterdam*; and Caribbean and Europe itineraries on *Veendam*.

Guests with bookings on future sailings of these ships

will be notified, along with travel advisors, who will receive information if the cruise will operate with a different ship, or any other relevant details.

Holland America Group Chief Executive Officer Stein Kruse expressed how difficult it was to see the ships leave the fleet.

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CMV in "rescue" talks



IF THE cruise industry wants to generate publicity for its restart, it could do worse than hosting a few thousand fight fans for a heavyweight championship bout later this year.

Englishman Anthony Joshua will defend his title against Bulgarian Kubrat Pulev, with the champion's promoter reportedly considering "quirky" options for a fight venue, including a boat.

The idea is born out of a desire to have as many fans in attendance as possible, which theoretically would be optimal in international waters.

CRUISE & Maritime Voyages (CMV) has said it is hoping to finalise "ongoing discussions and negotiations with a number of financial institutions and banks

to improve its liquidity position," amid *Sky News UK* reports the cruise line could file for insolvency as soon as this week.

The line is understood to be in discussions with financial planner VGO Capital Management, which has expertise in the shipping industry, after being turned down for a government-backed bank loan.

"CMV is confident to finalise these discussions shortly, but given that discussions with several parties are still ongoing we are not prepared to make any further comment at this time," the cruise line said.

Five of CMV's seven ships were detained last month by the United Kingdom's Maritime and Coastguard Agency following complaints about late pay and expired crew contracts (**CW 09 Jul**).

Some crew members from Asia had been on board for more than 12 months but were unable to fly home due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Pictured: Vasco Da Gama.

Fox out, Cox in

APT Travel Group (ATG) Chief Commercial Officer Debra Fox is leaving the company amid a restructure announced by parent company Australian Pacific Holdings (**CW** breaking news).

The new structure will "focus on ensuring the ongoing sustainability and success of their well known travel brands", with a new management team formed, reporting to new ATG Chief Executive Officer David Cox.

The new APT Travel Group head will oversee both APT and Travelmarvel, as well as Botanica, Captains' Choice and Travel Glo.

NCL gets extra

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's series of Extraordinary Journeys for 2021 and 2022 will be the subject of the next instalment of the company's News & Network Series.

Taking place on Tue at 10.30am AEST, the next webinar will provide travel agents with an interactive, educational experience, as well as a Q&A.

Agents will also have the chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards if they answer questions during the webinar.

These sailings offer longer, one-of-a-kind and port-rich experiences to inspire our guests to embark on an adventure of in-depth discovery," said Director of Sales ANZ Damian Borg.

To register, **CLICK HERE**.

Catch up on the news of the week



Travel Daily

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