



Cruise Weekly today

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

Hurti's health vid

HURTIGRUTEN has released a health and safety video to help boost confidence in cruising.

The video showcases the sanitation protocols aboard Hurtigruten's ships, covering every aspect of the process.

"Confidence in cruising will be key to the return of a sustainable cruising industry," said Managing Director Asia Pacific Damian Perry.

"Any guest watching our new Hurtigruten health and safety video will know that our protocols will keep them, and our crew and staff, as safe as possible.

"They can feel confident booking and travelling with us."

To view the video, **CLICK HERE**.

Murray Cruises halted

AUSTRALIAN Paddlesteamers Director Craig Burgess has sent a letter to state Ministers in NSW pleading for an exemption to new health orders, which prevent the company from operating its return services from Echuca, Victoria on the Murray River.

The cruise, which ventures into New South Wales before returning to Victoria, has been ruled out due to the recent border closure between the two states, despite the fact passengers at no time alight from the ship.

Murray Regional Tourism Board Chief Executive Officer Mark Francis is working with government officials on an exemption for commercial operations along the River, with Australian Paddlesteamers' future potentially at threat if it cannot operate in its Sep tourist season.

"Current NSW health orders were recently updated to not allow our business to operate on the Murray River from Echuca... these orders have been made by NSW Police and go against

the advice provided by NSW Maritime," the letter said.

"Passengers boarding from Victoria cannot leave the vessel at any point and therefore cannot enter NSW land.

"Commercial operations therefore create no additional health risk to NSW residents.

The letter, seen by **Cruise Weekly**, also highlights the strict hygiene practices in place at Australian Paddlesteamers, such as the open-air nature of the vessels, contract tracing, an online-only booking system and reduced capacity.

Guests are also required to utilise hand sanitiser stations prior to boarding, comply with social distancing requirements of 1.5 metres at all times, and observe floor markings when moving around the boat.

There will also be no food or beverages available on board, with the cruise encouraging Victorians to visit Echuca to support local businesses and accommodation providers during a devastating nine months for regional tourism.

The border closure has been ruinous for businesses such as Australian Paddlesteamers, which tomorrow will see the departure of a sold-out four-night charter of *Emmylou* by APT's Botanica World Discoveries brand, with the Sep date also almost sold out.

Celestial purchase

CELESTYAL Cruises has bought Costa Cruises' *Costa NeoRomantica*.

It becomes the seventh ship Carnival Corporation has sold from its fleet, after Chief Executive Officer Arnold Donald announced the company was planning to sell up to 13 vessels (**CW** 13 Jul).

Aus Govt support

A LOAN scheme will be available for small employers as the Australian Govt's JobKeeper scheme is also set to undergo a major overhaul.

Smaller employers will be given greater access to the \$40 billion loan scheme to help them through the recession, with companies to be offered four times the amounts previously allowed up to a new cap of \$1 million.

Extended repayment times of five years up from three will also be available.

While the original scheme was intended to offer working capital for companies until 30 Sep, the revised terms allow loans for business investment until Jun next year.

Minister for Finance Mathias Cormann also announced continued income support would be available beyond the Sep expiration of JobKeeper.

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Fred to purchase two of HAL's ships

FRED. Olsen Cruise Lines has been revealed to be the buyer of Holland America Line's (HAL) *Amsterdam* and *Rotterdam* (pictured, **CW** 16 Jul).

The ships will become the two largest vessels in the Fred. Olsen fleet when they join in Sep.

"We have chosen these vessels as they will fit seamlessly into our existing fleet of small ships, each carrying under 1,500 guests, bringing with them new and larger public areas whilst not compromising on our small ship experience," said Fred. Olsen Chairman Fred Olsen Jr.

The two ships will be renamed *Bolette* and *Borealis* respectively.

"The naming of the vessels is important to us...*Bolette* and *Borealis* are both names of ships we have had in years gone by," Olsen added.

"With these new additions to the fleet, we will come out of this



current situation stronger than ever, ready to deliver the award-winning itineraries that we are famous for."

The acquisition will potentially see Fred. Olsen lose two of its own ships, according to holding company Bonheur, with a note

in a statement on the purchase saying "considering divestment of two vessels within the current fleet."

It is not known how the acquisition will affect Fred. Olsen's planned fleet reunion in Lisbon next year (**CW** 07 Apr).

Crystal release

CRYSTAL Cruises has announced *Crystal Symphony's* 2023 itineraries.

The new program offers cruises in the British Isles and Egypt, with a total of 36 all-inclusive voyages, ranging from six to 15 nights.

Opening for bookings on Wed, the announcement comes after *Crystal Serenity's* 2023 season was debuted in May (**CW** 02 Jul), with many combinable options aboard both ships now available for longer journeys.

Highlights of *Symphony's* 2023 season include visits to Egypt, the Holy Land & the Middle-East, India & South East Asia, and the Mediterranean.

Crystal has also recently announced greater flexibility for new and existing bookings (**CW** 10 Jul).

5-DAY

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WHILE the general public remains trepidatious of getting back on a ship at present, one way to potentially tempt them onto the water may be via a floating movie theatre.

The concept will come to Australian capitals this spring, screening a mix of new and old movies on a thus far unnamed body of water from 11 Nov.

The "floating picture house" will be made up of 12 to 24 mini-boats, holding up to eight people per boat, and we're assuming flicks such as *Jaws* and *Anaconda* will not be shown.

Hudson River resumes



HUDSON River Cruises has resumed its operations on its eponymous US waterway, with a range of enhanced passenger safety procedures.

The cruise line is currently offering sightseeing cruise departing 2.30 pm Wed to Sun, with an additional 11 am cruise on Sat.

Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocols, masks are required on all cruises, with other extensive safety measures in place including the monitoring of employee and passenger health, hygiene practices, social distancing, personal protective equipment, and thorough cleaning & disinfecting.

Pictured: Rip Van Winkle.

River cruising ok

THE United Kingdom's Foreign & Commonwealth Office has updated its travel advice to allow for river cruising.

The updated guidance also seemingly permits cruises around the British Isles, after the Government of the United Kingdom earlier in the month advised British nationals against cruising (**CW** 10 Jul).

"The Foreign & Commonwealth Office advises against cruise ship travel at this time," the advice reads, going on to define the above as "staying overnight for at least one night on a sea-going cruise ship with people from multiple households."

"Our advice against cruises applies to international travel on a ship that is exclusively for pleasure or recreation, providing overnight accommodation and other leisure facilities such as entertainment venues or swimming pools."



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Wonder delay

ROYAL Caribbean International's under-construction *Wonder of the Seas*' arrival in China will be delayed until further notice.

Being built in France, the fifth Oasis-class vessel was scheduled to arrive in Shanghai in mid-2021, but has now seen delivery delayed.

G Adv releases

G ADVENTURES has announced the early release of its 2022 Arctic expedition dates, with adventures aboard the company's namesake vessel *G Expedition* available to book now.

12 new adventures to Norway and the Arctic will run from May to Sep, allowing travellers to explore the Norwegian fjords and the wildlife of the Arctic peninsula.

CLICK HERE to book.