



Cruise Weekly today

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

Spirited away

THE Tasmanian Government has advised TT-Line the proposed vessel replacement contact for the Spirit of Tasmania service will not go ahead.

The agreement was in place with Finnish shipbuilder Rauma Marine Constructions, but has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic implications, which has prompted the Government to prioritise Tasmanian and Australian jobs.

The Government continues to view the replacement of the Spirit of Tasmania vessels as essential.

CLIA Chairman urges cruise dialogue

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Global Chair Adam Goldstein is optimistic some form of cruising can resume around the world in the coming months, but has warned it is unrealistic to expect a "full restart at the snap of a finger".

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly* from the United States yesterday, Goldstein (pictured) said CLIA was working closely with its members to come up with an industry-wide plan for a return, saying it wasn't clear at this stage whether the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention would deal with individual cruise lines or with the sector as a whole.

"Either way we will support our members to the best of our abilities," he said.

CLIA is working around the world to engage with governments and other authorities, with some success in



Europe where cruising is starting to resume on a limited basis in Germany and Norway.

"This isn't cruising as we know it - in some cases they are just cruises to nowhere, with only one nationality on board, but at least it's a start," he said.

Despite the challenges he said the global cruise industry was used to dealing with health issues, with ships representing

a controlled environment, and many people on board whose sole job is to ensure cleanliness.

However the situation in Australia and NZ remains unclear, with Goldstein hoping lines of communication about a possible restart can be expanded.

"We've been able to engage with some countries more easily with others," he admitted, saying the industry wanted to gain some certainty about the conditions required to assure officials and the cruising public that it is safe to resume operations.

"We want to resurrect this industry because of the massive economic benefits, including the participation of endless small businesses such as travel agents, tour operators and suppliers.

"We are determined and resilient, and we will find a way of resuming cruising across the globe," he promised.

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CAR tyres have been found to be a major source of ocean microplastics, according to a recent study by the Norwegian Institute for Air Research.

More than 200,000 tonnes of tiny plastic particles are blown from roads into oceans every year, the research says, emanating from tyres and brake pads as they wear down.

It is estimated that 550,000 tonnes of particles smaller than 0.01mm are deposited each year, with almost half ending up in the ocean.

More than 80,000 tonnes fall on remote ice- and snow-covered areas and may increase melting as the dark particles absorb the sun's heat.

The particles can harbour toxic chemicals and harmful microbes and are known to harm some marine creatures.

People are also known to consume them via food and water, and to breathe them.

Atlas new website

ATLAS Ocean Voyages has launched a new website, which aims to inspire adventurers for future travel.

The new atlasoceanvoyages.com website reveals new renderings for the cruise line's small expedition ship, set to launch in Jul 2021.

The website also features a range of new imagery and video clips.

Double-header package



A NEW double-header river cruise package has been released by Riviera Travel River Cruises for France in 2021.

The package sees guests fly free, with those booking by the end of Aug able access the offer.

The 19-night All About France package, offered through Cruise Traveller, is made of up two seven-night cruises, on the Rhone

and Seine rivers.

One departure date is available each month from Jul to Oct, with the package also including stays in Lyon and Paris (**pictured**) before the cruises.

Nine guided tours are included during the cruises, with the package retailing for \$7,995 per person twin share, based on the 16 Oct 2021 departure, with free flights from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth or Adelaide.

Also new for 2021 is Riviera Plus, where guests who book selected premium cabins can use a smart handset with maps, translator, currency converter, unlimited calls, text messages and internet service while on board or ashore.

Premium passengers also receive L'Occitane en Provence luxury toiletries, a bottle of chilled Prosecco on arrival, a platter of fresh seasonal fruits during the cruise and an aperitif each evening.

Call Cruise Traveller on 1300 561 001.

Buy a reef!

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises Fiji is inviting travellers to buy a coral and build a reef, with a new rejuvenation program allowing guests to participate in reef sustainability while on its now-reopened Tivua Island day cruises.

The program can see guests buy and plant a coral frag, with all proceeds going towards funding Captain Cook Cruises' Coral Rejuvenation Program.

The updated Tivua Private Island adventure experiences retail at \$99 per adult.



All the news

WE WERE disappointed to hear this week that cruise line Cruise & Maritime Voyages has gone into administration in the UK with all trading ceasing worldwide.

The company, which had planned to add new ships to their fleet in the next cruise season, will be missed in this market and reinforces the importance of getting our industry moving again within appropriate health and safety guidelines.

This news has fortunately been balanced with the Government announcement yesterday JobKeeper will continue in some form post-Sep – a bonus for the tourism industry which has been pushing for this measure.

Some great member announcements out of Queensland too - from Port of Brisbane the news that construction on the new \$177 million International Cruise Terminal at Luggage Point is fast approaching completion and will soon begin the commissioning process to ensure the facility is ready for operations once cruising is safely able to resume.

There is no doubt the Port will play a key role in our industry's recovery and we know the team there is eagerly awaiting the arrival of the first ship.

Further north, Sunlover Reef Cruises has recommenced operating their day tours four times a week to their purpose-built pontoon at Moore Reef off Cairns.

They are reporting a strong school holiday period and looking forward to welcoming cruise back to the area so they can continue their previously successful ship to shore services and Barrier Reef charters.