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**Valid on new bookings made between 23 July 2020 and 30 August 2020. Valid for clients who book their first Paul Gauguin cruise only.
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Dream's Taiwan return



DREAM Cruises has celebrated the restart of voyage operations, with a special ceremony in Taiwan to commemorate its new "island hopping" itineraries created specially for the region's market.

The resumption of cruising has been strongly backed by local authorities, with Dream hailing their "vision to reinvigorate the local economy and the tourism industry".

As well as offering voyages for locals showcasing scenic destinations and outlying islands, the initiative includes a range of collaborations to provide local produce on board.

Genting Cruise Lines President Kent Zhu said it was a great honour for the company to continue its long partnership with Taiwan, adding the resumption would "bring hope to the global cruise industry as well".

The return to cruising for *Explorer Dream* follows months of preparations, with the line enhancing all of its health,

hygiene and operating protocols to ensure the safest environment for everyone on board.

Dream has introduced a new Flexi-Feast dining concept giving guests total flexibility to choose from a wider choice of venues and dine at their leisure, while also ensuring social distancing.

Prior to restarting cruising the ship observed strict quarantine procedures including 21 days of crew isolation, COVID-19 testing and a deep cleaning.

The crew has also participated in "outbreak simulation drills" under the guidance of the Taiwan Centres for Disease Control.

"The restarting of the cruise industry is a remarkable achievement which was made possible by the Taiwan authorities' swift and effective handling of the COVID-19 crisis and their foresight in resuming the tourism industry to benefit all the ports, the economy and the lifestyle of the people of Taiwan," Zhu concluded.

NCL Eu season

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is set to sail seven ships in Europe across 2021 and 2022, in addition to offering a range of new immersive itineraries.

The new Europe sailings were detailed on the most recent instalment of the NCL's News & Network webinar series, which provided travel agents with information and tips on how to promote the new voyages.

Focusing on the Mediterranean and Northern Europe, voyages offer port-intensive itineraries, often with late departure times, meaning that guests have more time at each destination to explore.

Mediterranean itineraries will depart from Athens, Barcelona, Dubai, Rome and Venice, while Northern Europe voyages will depart from Amsterdam, Copenhagen, London, Reykjavik and Stockholm.

CLICK HERE to view the latest webinar.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of cruise industry news and a front cover wrap from **Paul Gauguin Cruises**.

Double on Paul

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has announced its double welcome offer, offering savings of \$800 per person for guests taking their first cruise with the line in 2021.

The saving is off the price of the fare, and is available on cruises booked until 30 Aug.

Paul Gauguin last month announced it would resume its French Polynesia & Tahiti voyages in Jul (**CW** 19 Jun), offering its seven-night voyage on 11 and 18 Jul, as well as a 10-night round-trip.

Comprehensive COVID-safe protocols are being implemented in collaboration with the Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire Mediterranee Infection of Marseilles, said to be one of the world's leading centres in the field of infectious diseases

See the **front page** for more.

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Travel & Cruise
Weekly



Small is the new big in cruising

OPINION

Craig Bowen is the Managing Director of Cruise Traveller, Australia's most experienced small ship cruising specialist.

Got an opinion to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to feedback@traveldaily.com.au.



SMALL will be the new big in the post-COVID cruise market with more people drawn to the appeal of boutique, river and expedition ships carrying less than 500 passengers. Post-COVID, small ships will also play a vital role in rebuilding trust in cruising.

In the years ahead, travellers will increasingly value what ships don't have rather than what they do have. Smaller ships don't have crowds, congestion, confusion, lines, delays in boarding and disembarkation, lots of noise, casinos, contests for deck chairs, large group excursions or a bewildering array of activities, shops and charge-on-arrival restaurants.

When cruising returns, more people will seek the space,

freedom, simplicity, ease, tranquility, intimacy, friendliness, eco-sustainability and personal service that smaller ships offer as well as the advantage of accessing smaller, more remote ports and sailing closer to wild scenery and wildlife. This trend was evident before COVID-19 but after the pandemic subsides, the popularity of smaller vessels will accelerate and the recent, record rate of new builds of smaller ships will gather pace to meet the surging demand.

“
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be crucial to
rebuilding trust
in cruising
”

By nature, small ships fill up fast so we always recommend advanced planning and early bookings, even for 2022 and beyond.

Cruise Traveller's bookings

for 2021 product to the end of Jun 2020 were up 31% up on the same period last year for 2020 sailings, highlighting the resilient and growing demand for small ship adventures. Cruise Traveller has grown rapidly over 17 years to become Australia's leader in the small ship market, representing 53 boutique, luxury, river and expedition cruising operators around the world.

When enhanced, onboard health protocols are ratified, river and expedition ships will be the first to start sailing, with a handful already re-commencing operations around Australia and overseas.

Before COVID-19, ships were getting bigger and bigger but in coming times, more people will see small as the new big in cruising. For many, the smaller the vessel and fewer the passengers, the better.

Small ships will be crucial to rebuilding trust in cruising, generally, but post-COVID, more people will appreciate the many benefits of boutique cruise holidays and this will prove a big boost to the small ship industry.

Hurtigruten to cruise ex UK

HURTIGRUTEN Cruises has announced plans to operate four five-night sailings departing from the UK this coming Sep aboard the purpose-built expedition ship *Roald Amundsen*.

The move follows the successful resumption of operations in Norway (**CW** 19 Jun), with the ship to accommodate just 350 guests on each sailing, using outside cabins and with full health and hygiene protocols in place.

Destinations visited will include the Isles of Scilly, Fowey, Rathlin Island, Fort William, Oban, Fishguard and Waterford.

Ruby Princess class action

SHINE Lawyers claims more than 800 passengers have registered their interest in participating in a class action filed against Carnival Corporation over the *Ruby Princess* COVID-19 outbreak.

It is alleged that the outbreak "resulted from a failure to take appropriate measures to ensure that passengers were safe and protected from contracting the virus on the ship," with Shine claiming breaches of duty of care for passengers as well as provisions of Australian Consumer Law.

German cruises on

ROYAL Caribbean Group's TUI Cruises has relaunched domestic cruise operations within Germany, with its *Mein Schiff 2* departing from Hamburg this week carrying 1,200 passengers.

The three-night scenic voyage will not visit any ports, but will cruise near Norway before returning to Germany.

Prior to COVID-19 the ship had capacity for 2,900 passengers, but has now been limited to a maximum of 1,600.

Sister ship *Mein Schiff 1* will also return to service next month, while Carnival Corporation's AIDA Cruises also plans to restart in Aug.

APT 2021 Europe

APT has launched its full program of itineraries across Europe for 2021, including a complete portfolio of European river cruises.

APT General Manager Marketing Justine Lally said the company was responding to early interest in Europe for 2021, and wanted to have product available for agents to secure preferred dates and cabins across the season.

Airfares are included in lead-in prices, and reduced deposits of just \$500pp apply to bookings made by 30 Sep.

Final payment deadlines have also been amended to 65 days prior to departure.

Travel Daily

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Read how cruise has the opportunity to be the safest way to holiday in the July issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



VENICE is reducing the capacity of its famous gondolas - another victim of the COVID-19 pandemic, you may think, but au contraire.

The real reason the boats are being reduced from six pax to five is heavy tourists.

Venice's Gondola Association President Andrea Balbi who oversees the city's 433 licensed gondoliers and 180 substitutes, said the decision was made to reduce the boatmen's strain.

"Over the last 10 years or so, tourists weigh more, and rather than having them step on a scale before they get on, we are limiting the number," he said.

The President of the association of substitute gondoliers said some pax were so fat boats had been known to take on water...well, he didn't say it exactly like that.

Oceania's insiders

OCEANIA Cruises has launched a trade insider Facebook group for travel partners in Australia and New Zealand.

Moderated by Oceania's trade support team, members of the new group will be able to pose questions, participate in competitions, and gain access to the cruise line's latest news, marketing materials, promotions, training opportunities and more.

CLICK HERE to join the group.

Carnival fleet update

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced the arrival of its second LNG Excel class ship will be Nov 2022.

The cruise line said *Carnival Mardi Gras'* sister ship will open for sale this autumn, with Carnival also announcing the sale of *Carnival Fantasy* and *Carnival Inspiration*, with both reportedly heading to wrecking yards.

Carnival Sensation will move from Miami to Mobile to take up the itineraries previously assigned to the pair, with *Sensation's* ex-Florida itineraries to be sailed aboard *Carnival Sunrise*.

Itineraries from Long Beach for both *Inspiration* and *Carnival Imagination* have been cancelled through to 19 Apr 2021, with the latter ship moving into long-term lay-up.

Carnival Radiance will also move directly from Europe after its US\$200 million transformation, homeporting in Long Beach in April of 2021, where it will assume the Baja California itineraries previously served by *Imagination* and *Inspiration*.

Other fleet changes see *Carnival Fascination* itineraries from Barbados and San Juan cancelled for 2020 and 2021, as Carnival refocuses its return to operations in the United States.

The news comes after Carnival notified its Australian guests it has extended its pause of operations in the country, cancelling six cruises scheduled to operate between 24 Sep and 29 Oct (**CW** 23 Jul).

"We have used this pause in operations to think carefully about our fleet and to build a

plan that gives our guests new choices and upgrades to current ship offerings," said Carnival President Christine Duffy.

"We will continue to invest in the four remaining Fantasy class ships that we are keeping in the fleet.

"We have many guests who prefer our Fantasy class ships which work so well for shorter itineraries from smaller ports that cannot accommodate our larger ships.

"With a fleet that gives guests lots of choices in ships, homeports, destinations and features including a multitude of dining, entertainment and accommodation choices, we are very excited about the future for Carnival Cruise Line."

Crystal Clean+

CRYSTAL Cruises has announced a range of Crystal Clean+ protocols.

The health safeguards will be continually evaluated as new information becomes available, such as from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Cruise Lines International Association.

The Crystal Clean+ protocols will be implemented on ocean ships *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony* once they return to sailing, and include reduced capacity, new embarkation procedures, enhanced cleaning protocols, social distancing, facial covering guidelines and health monitoring for guests & crew members.

Catch up on the news of the week



Travel Daily

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