



Cruise Weekly today

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

Greek reopenings

GREECE will reopen six ports to cruise ships next month.

Starting 01 Aug, the ports of Corfu, Heraklion, Katakolo, Piraeus, Rhodes and Volos are open and cruise ships are permitted to visit any or all of the ports.

After completing clearance at the first Greek port, the cruise ships will be able to proceed to any of the other ports, supervised by the authorities.

Greece's Minister of Tourism Haris Theocharis noted the ports would remain open as long as there was no change in the coronavirus level reported at the destinations.

Local cruising a step closer

HURDLES currently blocking the resumption of small ship expedition cruising in Australia are being gradually chipped away, with Minister for Tourism Simon Birmingham considering amending biosecurity orders to allow domestic operations.

The minutes of a meeting held this week by the Tourism Restart Taskforce confirm the expedition cruise sector was "having good engagement with some of the state governments, but still requires the Federal Government to exempt the ships that would deliver the service from the ban on international cruise ships entering Australia".

Birmingham, who attended the meeting on Mon, has invited domestic expedition cruise operators to submit details of state approvals, with a view to making the required changes.

Taskforce member Jacqui

Walshe from The Walshe Group also spoke about the progress during a Visit USA half-yearly update yesterday, saying fellow member Sarina Bratton of Ponant had been a "really good advocate for small ship expedition cruising within Australia," initially starting with Kimberley voyages from WA (CW 24 Jul).

However Bratton "is also working hard to try and get the definition of the maritime sector sufficient that Australian and New Zealand cruising might be possible," Walshe added.

Despite the progress, "as far as the big scale international cruising goes, that's still some way away," Walshe noted.

The current biosecurity order imposed by Australian Minister for Health Greg Hunt bans international cruise ships with capacity for over 100 passengers from local waters until 17 Sep.

NCLH out to Nov

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) this morning confirmed the cancellation of all its brands' global cruise voyages through until 31 Oct.

The suspensions include Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises, with the company saying it now plans to provide an update at the end of each month regarding the status of voyage suspensions, including any potential extensions.

NCLH said it was continuing to work with global authorities to take all necessary measures to protect guests, crew and shoreside communities.

Guests with active reservations on now suspended Oct departures will receive a 125% future cruise credit or can alternatively select a full cash refund.

Keep your clients engaged and planning their next trip with *keep dreaming...*

A weekly e-magazine with destination features, puzzles and more, to inspire your clients' next escape.



©Great Southern Rail



We want your recipes from around the world for our weekly feature.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)




THE world's largest operational flying boat was tested earlier this week in China (pictured).

The country's Aviation Industry Corporation completed the first sea-based flight test for the AG600 Kunlong in the city of Zuhai.

The vessel took off and carried out a half-hour circuit before returning for a water landing.

It was the second test for the prototype after a 2018 flight from a reservoir outside Jingmen.

The 50-tonne aircraft has an operating range far enough to allow it to reach remote islands in the South China Sea from the mainland and fly back.



RCG appoints

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) has named Dr Calvin Johnson as its Global Head Public Health & Chief Medical Officer.

The former Pennsylvania Secretary of Health will lead the company's strategic planning and operations of its global health program.

He will also oversee RCG's global health and wellness policy.

Guidance welcomed

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has backed the European Maritime Safety Agency's guidance on the resumption of cruise ship operations (**CW** yesterday).

The cruise line trade association and its members welcomed what they called the "benchmark for national maritime transport and public health authorities for the future resumption of cruising in Europe".

"CLIA and its member lines have been engaged in the development of the guidance, which will help to inform the development of protocols at the national level," the association said.

"Members are also identifying appropriate protocols, based on evolving guidance from health authorities and medical experts, that cover passengers from the time of booking their cruise, to the holiday itself and their safe return home."

CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz said the European Maritime Safety Agency guidance was an important resource for authorities and operators focused on the safe resumption of cruising in Europe.

"Globally, we envisage a gradual, phased-in approach to the resumption of cruise operations," he said.

"The progress made in Europe is a welcome step forward and will help inform processes underway in other parts of the world.

"In Australia and New Zealand, CLIA and its cruise line members will continue to engage with health authorities and

governments to demonstrate the work underway internationally to uphold the safety of guests, crew and communities, so that we can discuss a pathway towards a controlled resumption in our own region when the time is right."

Refund scrutiny

THE United States Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) will look into how long it's taking for some customers to receive refunds for cruises cancelled due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Louis Sola is suggesting the FMC create a uniform standard and make clear how passengers may obtain refunds, as part of a number of recommendations contained in an interim report on the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts on the cruise industry.

"Our analysis revealed that, for the most part, consumers are satisfied with the responses they have received from the passenger vehicle operators concerning the cruises cancelled due to the CDC no-sail order," Sola said.

"We discovered some places where we, as a regulator, could improve our ability to protect the consumer; that is why I propose amending the commission's rules related to non-performance and refunds."

Sola's interim report said the commission's Office of Consumer Affairs & Dispute Resolution Services received 418 calls about cruise lines from Feb to mid-Jul.



NEW ZEALAND CRUISE ASSOCIATION
He Waka Eke Nua
NZCA UPDATE
with Kevin O'Sullivan
CEO, NZCA

Where to next in New Zealand?

DESPITE our efforts to have the cruise suspension lifted on 30 June 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.