



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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MSC 2020-21 season

MSC Cruises has announced its new northern winter 2020-2021 program, offering more than 90 different itineraries across the Arabian Peninsula, Asia, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, South Africa and South America.

Itineraries range in length from two to 24 nights, along with the third MSC world cruise departing in Jan, now sailing aboard *MSC Magnifica* instead of *MSC Poesia* undertaking the original 119-day journey to visit 53 destinations in 33 countries across the globe.

Other changes to the program include *MSC Grandiosa* replacing sister ship *MSC Virtuosa* in the Mediterranean, *Poesia* replacing *MSC Splendida* on Southern Caribbean and West Indies trips, *MSC Fantasia* replacing *MSC Seaview* and *MSC Lirica* in the Middle East, and *MSC Sinfonia* replacing *MSC Orchestra* out of Buenos Aires, which moves

to South Africa to replace *MSC Musica*.

Despite the delay of *Virtuosa*, both it and MSC's other under-construction ship, *MSC Seashore*, will feature in the season.

Guests whose booking is affected by changes to the program will automatically be transferred to another ship serving the same or similar itinerary and date.

A range of compensation options are also available to these guests, such as upgrades from both Inside and Ocean View staterooms and up to US\$100 shipboard credit per stateroom for Suites or Yacht Club rooms.

MSC also confirmed 125% future cruise credit for guests affected by cruises cancelled yesterday as part of CLIA's extended suspension of operations in North America (**CW** yesterday).

RCL Pullmantur reorganisation

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises (RCL) has confirmed Pullmantur Cruises, its 49% Spanish joint venture with Cruises Investment Holding, has filed for reorganisation under the country's insolvency laws.

Despite the "great progress" made to achieve a turnaround in 2019 and its "huge engagement" and "best efforts" of the team, the headwinds caused by the pandemic were too strong for Pullmantur to overcome without a reorganisation.

It's understood the cruise line's three vessels have been placed into "cold lay-up" and there is speculation the brand may disappear, with cruises cancelled until 15 Nov and crew already removing equipment and other fixtures.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Ponant closes in

PONANT has announced a "close-to-home" voyage, as the cruise line looks forward to impending return of cruising in Australia (**CW** 28 May).

The Southern Australian Coastal Voyage offers a selection of coastal highlights between Melbourne and Fremantle, with the 12-night cruise departing aboard *Le Bellot* on 27 Mar 2021.

The voyage will call in on King Island, the Tamar Valley, the Limestone Coast, Kangaroo Island, Port Lincoln, Esperance and Albany, and leads in at \$10,520.

CLICK HERE for full details on the cruise.

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Have you read the June issue of *travelBulletin*? Find out the future of AFTA, why SA is great for a road trip plus more news and analysis.

CLICK to read **travelBulletin**



AS REPORTED last week in *Cruise Weekly* (CW 15 Jun), the construction of cruise infrastructure has not stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Swedish port of Trelleborg has begun constructing its own solar park, with the 3,000m² facility to consist of 1,728 panels.

Despite the Port being the Baltic Sea's climate-smartest, Trelleborg is continuing with its goal of constantly improving environmental measures, with the solar park part of the Port's work to completely supply its own electricity.

Being constructed by SolarFuture, the solar cells are connected to the Port's electricity grid, with the park to meet at least a quarter (500,000kwh) of its energy needs.

The park is expected to be operational by Jul.

Fit for a Princess



A NEW three-night cruise itinerary aboard *Murray Princess* has been introduced by Sealink South Australia.

The three-night voyage, departing on select Fri from Jul to Sep, travels roundtrip from Mannum, offering guests a slice of Australian towns, culture, food, wine, flora and fauna.

In addition to passing through the river's first lock at Blanchetown, the cruise also visits Waikerie, Morgan, Swan Reach, Kingston on Murray and Cadell.

A range of optional activities are also available at an additional cost, including a nocturnal tour at Sunnydale, and a dark night sky tour.

Sealink South Australia said it would make an assessment on the return of its four- and seven-night respective Murraylands and Wildlife cruises in the coming months, with the Upper Murraylands cruise to make a comeback for one departure a month from Jul to Sep, the company said.

Pictured: *Murray Princess*.

What agents want

VIKING'S recent travel agent survey has seen the cruise line redesign its email communications and adjust timings, to better suit the flow of an agent's typical working week.

Other improvements include a database of Viking press ads running each week, so travel agents can stay one step ahead of travellers, as well as a greater amount of tools to help create low-cost campaigns.



This month Cruise Weekly has partnered with Celebrity Cruises to give you the chance to WIN a free cruise for two people onboard *Celebrity Solstice* departing Sydney.

Just like you, we're dreaming of seeing new shorelines on the horizon. Until then, we want to ensure you are looking after yourself because a little bit of self-love goes a long way!

How to enter:

1. Snap your best wellness selfie (whatever that means to you)
2. Post the shot in **Celebrity's Trade Facebook Group**
3. Include the hashtags **#ModernLuxury** and **#CruiseWeekly**

The most creative entry which features both hashtags will win!



UnCruise confirms

UNCruise Adventures has confirmed its 2020 northern summer sailings.

The small ship operator will return to Alaska with the renewed Wilderness Adventurer itinerary, departing roundtrip from Juneau From 01 Aug.

UnCruise has also debuted a range of updated health and safety protocols, which can be viewed **HERE**.