



## NSW Health tightens disembark policy

NSW Health has confirmed that all returning cruise ships from midnight last night will be held in port and passengers unable to disembark until patients reporting respiratory issues are tested for COVID-19 and results returned.

The government agency made the announcement following reports that passengers who disembarked from *Ruby Princess* in Sydney have so far accounted for 48 COVID-19 cases.

A spokesperson for the cruise line said it was working closely with NSW Health and had provided swabs from affected guests to enable testing procedures on the ship's arrival to go ahead successfully.

"As the health authority has noted we made guest contact details available to allow quick follow up and provided guests with Australian Government advice for self-isolation," the



cruise line said.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has also highlighted that guests who have disembarked from any returning vessels to Australia have all taken place under direction from the Australian Border Force and State and Federal health authorities.

NSW Health stated it had contacted all passengers on board *Ruby Princess* to reinforce the important message of self-isolation for 14 days.

NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard has defended the

State Government's handling of returning cruise ships, but also admitted that in retrospect, coronavirus test results should have been waited on before allowing passengers to disembark from *Ruby Princess*.

"If I had my opportunity to have my two bob's worth, with the benefit of what we now know...I'd have said yeah, maybe we should hold them on the ship," he admitted to *The Guardian*.

*Ruby Princess* was carrying 2,650 passengers when she departed from Sydney on 08 Mar for New Zealand.

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Zaandam scare

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has confirmed that 131 Australian are on board a *Zaandam* voyage in South America which has quarantined all guests out of an "abundance of caution"

The line confirmed that 13 guests and 29 crew had reported "flu-like symptoms", with the ship activating a host of precautionary measures including all meals being delivered to rooms, rigorous disinfecting of public areas, quarantining of non-essential crew, and the availability of complementary phone and wi-fi services so that passengers can stay in touch family.

# REGENT

## REASSURANCE

### FLEXIBILITY | CHOICE | CONFIDENCE

Regent Seven Seas Cruises® is protecting your commission and paying it in full.

Our aim is that through our Regent Reassurance Policy, you maintain your existing bookings and drive new ones with confidence.

[LEARN MORE](#)

*Regent*

SEVEN SEAS CRUISES®

AN UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE™



We've taken the hard work out of comparing the most luxurious suites at sea in the March issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK to read**  
**travelBulletin**

## Quark cancellations

**QUARK** Expeditions has introduced its rebook anytime policy that is applicable to any Arctic 2020 cruise excluding the North Pole.

Cancellations can now be made up to 24 hours prior to the voyage start date, with rebookings to receive a 100% future cruise credit when the cruise has been partially paid for, or a 120% cruise credit for fully paid bookings.

Future cruise credits are fully transferable and rebooking charges will not apply.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

## Blue Lagoon credit

**BLUE** Lagoon Cruises Fiji has announced that funds held for any customer on a cancelled cruise will be held in credit and be available to use in full for travel up until 31 Mar 2022.

However, the line noted there would be fees associated with any cancellations, including the 10% forfeit of deposits on 60 days prior to departure, & 100% of deposits for less than 30 days warning.

## Spirits high on L'Austral



**THE** passengers and crew on board Ponant's troubled *L'Austral* voyage from Antarctica would like to let the travel industry know they are safe and well as they find themselves trying to find a port that will take them in.

The ship is currently on course to arrive in Rio de Janeiro today, with Cruise Express Australia Director Hardy Schneider, who is on board the vessel, describing the situation as a "waiting game".

"We have been in isolation to the rest of the world for three



weeks now and are totally free of the virus," he said.

"We know all involved, including DFAT, are working on a safe solution, and Ponant is treating us every day to beautiful meals and all sorts of entertainment".

**Pictured:** The stoic pax & crew.

## Bahamas suspends

**BAHAMAS** Paradise Cruise Line has announced the temporary suspension of its cruise schedule, cancelling all sailings from 15 Mar through to 08 Apr.



**OCCASIONALLY** Twitter can sum things up better than anyone else, with one user who recently spotted *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Splendor* off the coast of Port Kembla astutely quipping "*Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Splendor* social distancing".

A fairly apt observation in today's troubled cruising climate it would appear.



## PEACE OF MIND TO PLAN

Freedom to change your client's cruise up to 24 hours before departure  
Any Viking cruise, any travel date, for all cruises booked before 30 April 2020

**CLICK HERE**

We're all in this together



[cruiseweekly.com.au](http://cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[cruiseweekly.co.nz](http://cruiseweekly.co.nz)

*Cruise Weekly* is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

*Cruise Weekly* is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

### EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Contributors – Adam Bishop,  
Jasmine Hanna, Nicholas O'Donoghue,  
Myles Stedman  
[info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[info@cruiseweekly.co.nz](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.co.nz)

### ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz)

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper  
[accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia  
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220  
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

Every Thu we publish our consumer newsletter - *Travel & Cruise Weekly* - sign up free at [www.travelandcruiseweekly.com.au](http://www.travelandcruiseweekly.com.au).



*Cruise Weekly* is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.