



Cruise Weekly today

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

Easing the Payne

AUSTRALIA'S Foreign Minister Marise Payne has applauded cruise lines for acting "constructively" in the pursuit of repatriating Australians stranded overseas on cruise ships.

Speaking with the Nine Network yesterday, the Minister revealed there are more than 3,000 Australians on more than 30 cruise ships stranded around the world.

"A lot of [cruise lines] are assisting their passengers by organising charters and that's a very important step, we want to make sure that those Australians are able to return," Payne said.

"We are working directly with them in so many ports... literally from South America to Europe to the United States".

Final Hurtigruten guests repatriated

THE last guests who were on board Hurtigruten's *Roald Amundsen*, including 122 Australians, are now on their way home, 10 days after the ship's original disembarkation date.

Guests had been enjoying an Antarctica expedition cruise since the end of Feb when sudden travel restrictions prevented a safe passage to Chile, precipitating a change in course to the Falkland Islands instead.

The cruise line organised charter flights home from the British territory, having to deal with the complexity of engaging various airlines, airports and travel authorities, with the final guests from *Roald Amundsen* safely departing yesterday afternoon local time.

There are no confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 on any Hurtigruten ship.

"We would like to thank our wonderful guests for maintaining a great explorer's attitude as we have had to change our disembarkation plans," said



Managing Director Asia Pacific Damian Perry.

"We appreciate many have been keen to get home to loved ones, our guests' resilience, good humour and unwavering

spirit has been a great support for our crew and to all of us at Hurtigruten," he added.

Hurtigruten's *Roald Amundsen* was the last of the cruise line's ship with guests on board at sea.

APT Travel Group extends suspensions

THE APT Travel Group has extended the suspension of all int'l and domestic operations for its APT, Travelmarvel and Botanica brands until 31 May in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The company had previously cancelled all cruises and tours through to 24 Apr (**CW** 17 Mar). Clients impacted by the latest

cancellations will receive future cruise credits equal to the full value of the booking for travel until the end of 2021, with most third party fees to be covered.

APT is advising agents to encourage their clients to accept the offer in order to protect commissions.

For further info, **CLICK HERE**.

You can't sink our spirit



DESPITE the choppy waters ahead for the cruise sector, the enduring spirit of those who work in the industry is on display throughout the world.

This point is no better illustrated by *Sea Princess* Captain Tony Ruggero, who

has been posting plenty of stoic photos of the ship's crew while the cruise line's fleet is anchored to various ports.

"Thanks to my officers for continuing to be professional, hardworking & supportive - I'm so proud of them," he enthused.

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Fears spark crime

SCAREMONGERING over the presence of anchored cruise ships spreading COVID-19 in New Zealand has led to acts of vandalism and verbal abuse of crew, according to *Newshub Travel*.

People on a private boat have allegedly thrown glass bottles at Holland America Line's *Noordam*, which was anchored in the Hauraki Gulf, before hurling abuse at the crew of Ponant's *Le Laperouse*.

CLIA clarifies NSW

CRUISE Lines International Association has reconfirmed that no more cruise pax will be disembarking in NSW despite mainstream media reports stating otherwise.

Long journey ends

HUNDREDS of Australians have finally arrived home after being aboard the ill-fated *Norwegian Jewel*, which became stranded in the Pacific due to ongoing port closures.

The passengers flew in from Honolulu via special chartered flights, bringing the chapter of uncertainty to a close.

Norwegian Cruise Line confirmed the affected travellers will now need to undertake a 14-day quarantine period upon arrival, with all guests undergoing enhanced medical screening prior to disembarkation in Honolulu.

Jewel originally embarked on a 23-day Australia and French Polynesia itinerary.

Allison defends protocols



PRINCESS Cruises SVP Asia Pacific Stuart Allison has released a public message defending the cruise line's handling of the *Ruby Princess*' disembarkation in Sydney last week.

In the address, Allison stated that *Ruby Princess* was considered "low risk" for COVID-19 upon returning to Sydney, and that despite this, the onboard medical team took "no chances" and requested any pax reporting flu-like symptoms to self-isolate in their cabins.

"The ship then reported these cases to federal and state authorities as we're always obliged to do," Allison said.

"Tests for COVID-19 are not conducted on cruise ships, and that is the protocol that applies the world over, shoreside public health authorities do the testing as part of their surveillance measures.

"As we now know, some of the swabs from *Ruby Princess* tested positive, this news was as disappointing as it was unexpected," he added.

In light of the medical findings, Allison admitted the cruise line shared NSW Health's concerns, and that it is now "working closely" with them to ensure future health policies on board its cruise ships are at the best standards possible.

View the full video [HERE](#).

CMV out in the cold

DESPITE recording no health concerns on board, Cruise & Maritime Voyages' (CMV) *Vasco da Gama* will not be allowed to dock in Fremantle today, with West Australian Premier Mark McGowan telling reporters the ship will not be able to dock until Mon.

The cruise line has also lamented the lack of contact made by the WA Govt, with press conferences also indicating the government has back-flipped on the Rottneest Island quarantine idea, instead calling on other Australian states and territories to organise safe passage home.

Lindblad appoints

LINDBLAD Expeditions has appointed Thomas "Tad" Smith and Sarah Farrell as Independent Directors.

Smith most recently held the position of President and CEO of Sotheby's, where he implemented successful growth strategies.

Farrell arrives with a wealth of business analyst experience, serving in positions at both Blackstone's Private Equity group and J.P. Morgan.

"Sarah's and Tad's diverse talents provide not only great governance, but also helpful guidance and insights for our team," said President and CEO Sven Lindblad.



MESSAGES of support for the cruise industry are coming in thick and fast from around the world, and today we are bringing you the well wishes from the Port of Haifa in Israel.

"We want to say to all our friends around the world that we love you, we miss you, and we hope to see your beautiful ships in the holy land really soon," proclaimed Chief Executive Officer Mendi Zaltzman.

View the full message [HERE](#).

