



HURTIGRUTEN

WE CARE

Flexible and risk-free rebooking so you can plan your clients' journey of a lifetime with confidence.



Thank you for your continued support and trust during this challenging time.
Learn more at [hurtigruten.com.au](https://www.hurtigruten.com.au)

#*wewill*exploreagain



Government delays cruising further

THE Australian Government is believed to have extended its cruise ship ban until 15 Jun (**CW** breaking news), as noted by Princess Cruises and P&O Cruises Australia.

On Sat, Princess Cruises Senior Vice President Asia Pacific Stuart Allison provided an update to travel agents confirming the news, and saying the line was consequently evaluating all of its previously planned departures, which had already been suspended for 60 days from 12 Mar through to 11 May.

Carnival Australia & P&O Cruises Australia President Sture Myrmell also shared the news on Sat in an update posted on P&O Cruises Australia's Facebook page.

"We are naturally disappointed on your behalf that we must now cancel more cruises to adhere to the extended pause in operations but P&O



must continue to support the authorities in their efforts to protect the community's health and wellbeing," the post said.

"We look forward to resuming cruising from 16 Jun when we can begin normal operations and deliver amazing cruise holidays on our fleet."

P&O Cruises Australia, as well as sister brand Carnival Cruise Line, last week extended their voluntary suspensions until 15 May (**CW** 26 Mar).

The Government had previously suspended cruises for 30 days from 15 Mar (**CW** 16 Mar).

Pictured: *Ruby Princess*

Cruise Weekly today

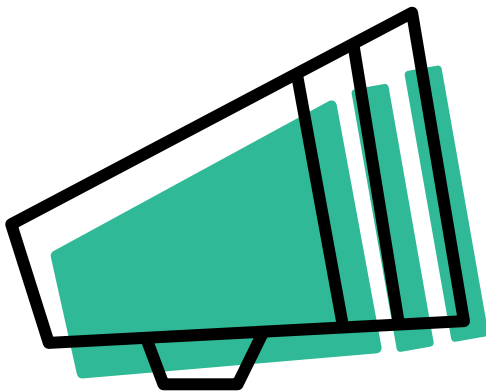
Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a front cover wrap from **Hurtigruten**.

Celebrity hits Apex

CELEBRITY Cruises on the weekend took "virtual delivery" of *Celebrity Apex*, sister ship to *Celebrity Edge*.

With everyone practicing their social distancing, Celebrity Cruises executives accepted official command of *Celebrity Apex* from Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard via video conference with officials, a ceremony which saw French and American flags exchanged.

Apex is the second ship in the line's highly acclaimed *Edge* class, with *Celebrity Edge* having launched in 2018 (**CW** 01 Nov 2018).



ATTENTION NZ TRAVEL INDUSTRY

To our Kiwi cousins, in this time of upheaval make sure you stay up to date. Sign up for a **FREE Travel Daily** subscription.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

Travel Daily



A cruise in the Galapagos offers wildlife encounters like nowhere on earth. Read more in the March issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

Martinoli support

SILVERSEA Cruises CEO Roberto Martinoli has issued a message of support to the industry, reassuring those impacted by COVID-19 that the cruise sector will return stronger than ever.

"While we can't predict the future we can assure you at the right time we will be back, we are working with our crew who are some of our most precious assets," he said.

"We are travellers, not tourists, travelling is part of our lives and I know that you miss it as much as we do."

Silversea Cruises has also pledged to send agents images of world to spark people's imaginations while cruise lines all around the world suspend operations.

Refugees on ships

THE European Union has been called on by German NGO Sea-Watch to use cruise ships to evacuate refugees from Greek migrant camps to prevent the "exponential" spread of COVID-19.

"Necessary quarantine and protection measures against corona must be implemented everywhere to prevent exponential spread, including in refugee camps," said Sea Watch's Aline Wedel last week.

Hurtigruten cares

IN THESE times of uncertainty, Hurtigruten is offering flexible and risk-free rebooking - see **cover page**.

Chinese port launched



THE launch of the redevelopment of Qingdao International Cruise Terminal Area was held at Qingdao Port (pictured) on Sat, located in the eastern province of Shandong.

The People's Government of Qingdao has signed a cooperation agreement with Shandong Port Group for 10 billion Yuan (A\$ 2.2893 billion).

The Government also inked contracts with a number of partners for 14 industrial projects in the area, equalling a total investment of 31.35 billion yuan (A\$7.21 billion).

Set to be the "core zone" of the 'China (Qingdao) Pilot Zone for Development of Cruise Tourism' the cruise aspects of the development will feature the Shanghai Fang zone, for "high-end cruise services", as well as the Tanhaifang & Tonghaifang zones for ocean exploration and ocean-related innovation respectively.

Also set to feature at the new site are a retail area,

the Lehaifang zone, and the residential Juhaifang zone.

Occurring under the country's Belt and Road Initiative, the development will total nine kilometres of shoreline and 4.2-square kilometres of land area, with a total planned construction area of 5.39 million square meters.

The ceremony was attended by Standing Committee of CPC Shandong Committee member & Secretary of CPC Qingdao Committee Wang Qingxian, Qingdao Mayor Meng Fanli and CPC Committee Secretary & Shandong Port Group Chairman Huo Gaoyuan, as well as more than 100 construction workers, preparing to break ground.

The city mentioned the transformation and renovation of the area "will play a part in the upgrading and development of the city's historic urban zones", and is a significant focus on the city's goal of building international cooperation.

Zaandam gets nod

HOLLAND America Line's *Zaandam* has been granted permission to transit the Panama Canal on humanitarian grounds, after previous indications it would be blocked because of on-board cases of COVID-19.

Panama's Ministry of Health gave the ship the okay, with four passengers aboard *Zaandam* having reportedly died, with the causes having not been released.



ALTHOUGH its ships are currently not sailing, Seabourn Cruise Line set *Seabourn Encore* out on a mission to cheer the world up and "send a little love".

Currently off the coast of Western Australia, *Encore* recently embarked on a short trip to draw a heart with the ship's tracker.

Seasonally homeporting in Sydney, Seabourn recently updated its cancellation policy, with its new Book With Confidence policy allowing guests to cancel up to 30 days prior to departure (**CW** 05 Mar).

