



Hurtigruten to phase in its return

HURTIGRUTEN has extended its suspension of operations until 15 Jun, after which it is planning a gradual phase-in.

The cruise line is proposing to first resume operations in Norway, where it is headquartered, with other resumptions to occur as global restrictions are lifted.

“Gradually restarting operations within Norwegian waters is the natural first steps towards normalisation for us,” said Chief Executive Officer Daniel Skjeldam.

“The size and scale of our step-by-step restart is dependent on national and international travel restrictions, government support and other external factors outside of our control.”

Skjeldam said while there was a lot of uncertainty regarding what the next few weeks and months would bring, he was confident international restrictions would gradually be lifted, with Arctic



expedition cruises to be restarted in the northern summer.

Although Hurtigruten did not have any confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 on any of its ships, the company will be introducing new, strict health procedures, to be imposed before the restart of operations.

“We will implement hundreds of small and larger measures to

keep our guests and crew safe and healthy,” Skjeldam said.

“Some of them are transitory, some will be permanent, but from even stricter hygiene protocols to reduced guest capacity to allow social distancing, this will give you a safer voyage”.

View a message from Skjeldam to the industry [HERE](#).

Cruise Weekly today

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

New Scenic div

MKM Yachts, a newly developed company wholly owned by Scenic Group, will take full responsibility for all new ocean ship builds in the Group’s fleet, starting with *Scenic Eclipse II* (CW 01 May).

The new division has confirmed an agreement with the Croatian Government to commence shipbuilding operations in a dedicated section of Maj. 3 Shipyard in Rijeka.

“This outcome has been the result of a massive effort by our entire Croatian team, and in particular, our new MD of MKM Yachts, Sasa Cokljat,” said Scenic Group Chairman & owner Glen Moroney.

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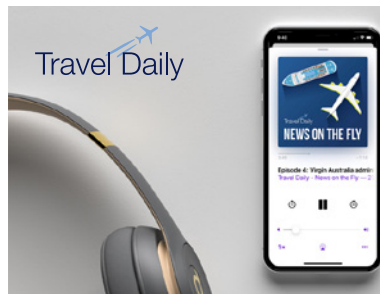
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Travel Daily

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Viking's new Journeys

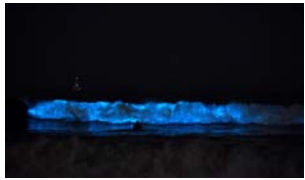


WHILE we may not be able to sail the oceans at present, we can certainly splendour in their beauty, which was on show in California last week.

Beaches on the state's coast were lit up by bioluminescent waves (**pictured**), as they started reopening last week, almost as if the "sea sparkle" was inviting residents back into the water.

The phenomenon occurs every few years along Cali's beaches, though locals say this year's sea sparkle is especially vibrant, possibly related to historic rains soaking the region and generating algal bloom.

The beaches had been closed for about two months.



VIKING is inviting its passengers to plan with confidence, extending its risk-free guarantee (**CW** 06 Mar) until 29 May.

Travellers are now able to change or postpone their cruise on any reservation made before 29 May, with the offer applicable for all cancellations made at least 24 hours before departure.

Viking will provide a future cruise voucher for the full value of the amount paid, valid for 24 months.

The cruise line has also launched a new interactive and personalisable digital catalogue, Journeys Worth Planning.

The e-catalogue invites travellers turn travel dreams into future journeys, and is live now for travel agents to customise at Viking's Marketing Centre.

The catalogue features a selection of destination insights as well as new and popular itineraries departing up to 2023, including brand new voyages to the Arctic, Antarctic, Great Lakes, and the Mississippi River.

Special offers are available for

each itinerary, including savings of up to \$5,000 per couple when booked before 31 Jul.

The company will launch Journeys Worth Planning through a wide-reaching marketing campaign, across print, digital and social media channels, designed to stimulate demand from consumers and support travel partners.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access.

Ultimate Sale

OCEANIA Cruises has launched its Ultimate Sale, featuring major price reductions, and fares beginning at \$2,220.

Travellers can select from more than 400 voyages departing up to 2022, sailing throughout Australia and New Zealand, Africa, Alaska, Arabia, Asia, Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean & Panama Canal, Europe, New England, South America and the South Pacific.

A range of grand voyages traversing the continents are also available - [CLICK HERE](#).

Project Hygiea

SHIP design company Foreship has launched Project Hygiea, which aims to keep COVID-19 off ships.

The approach comprises of four steps: interception, prevention, mitigation and evacuation.

Stage one sees Hygiea keep the biohazard off the ship, with ports to use technology for testing and measuring body temperature, with passengers screened for any potential vaccinations before being allowed to board the vessel.

Stage two is about preventing the virus from spreading, employing stringent hygiene measures and optimising spaces and routes to maintain a safe distance between individuals; technology will be contactless and automated to reduce transmission, and crew will be trained in sanitation and social distancing practices.

Stage three relates to isolating the pathogen through quarantining and decontamination to mitigate its impact, with technology such as air treatment systems and medical facilities to support these efforts.

Stage four focuses on preparation for the worst-case scenario, with evacuation procedures to be put in place, including routes through the ship designed for speedy extraction, and emergency suits, capsules and craft being made available.

Several companies are looking to initiate Project Hygiea protocols in the coming weeks, the company said.

RCI hunger strike

15 ROMANIAN crew members aboard Royal Caribbean International's (RCI) *Navigator of the Seas*, docked in Miami, are on a hunger strike until the company sends them home.

The crew members have supposedly not eaten since Thu afternoon local time, but despite this, a spokesperson for the company said the situation had been resolved.