



Cruise Weekly today

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

Heritage deposit

HERITAGE Expeditions has announced a reduced refundable deposit and a funds protection promise.

The cruise line, which has said it is "actively" working on plans for a resumption of its exploration voyages during the southern summer season, has reduced its deposit to US\$1,500 for all new 2020-21 Southern Ocean reservations.

To further reassure guests during this time, Heritage Expeditions' funds protection promise guarantees the security of guests' funds, held in a separate trust account and to only be used for future travel - call 1800 143 585.

A-ROSA outlines new health measures

A-ROSA has outlined its new health & hygiene concept for onboard ahead of its restart next month (**CW** 11 May).

The concept has been created by the A-ROSA Care Team, comprising of both internal and external specialists, with the German cruise line's restart assured by financial support from the country's northern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, in the form of a loan guarantee.

The health & hygiene concept is based on the recommendations of the Robert Koch Institute in Germany, and the World Health Organization, and considers the pandemic regulations of the individual countries through which the ships pass.

The line has said it is "closely monitoring the requirements of governments and authorities, as well as the recommendations from relevant health

organisations", with concepts continually being updated due to constantly changing conditions.

The Care Team will be responsible for implementation of the health & hygiene concept on board, of which measures include: social distancing protocols for the entire ship, enhanced cleaning procedures, the wearing of mouth and nose coverings in public spaces, pre-screening and temperature checks prior to embarkation, meals to be served at tables at set times, and the reduction of excursion numbers.

Other various key measures include a minimum social distance of 1.5 metres applying shipwide; aisles as "one-way-streets"; a reduction in size of dining areas; rules of conduct communicated by posters, information videos and ship announcements; the

enhancement of existing cleaning and disinfection plans and logs; disinfectants at all entrances; and access to the ship by external persons to be kept to the necessary minimum.

Other measures include guests being sent a declaration of fitness to travel prior to departure, as well as a copy of the rules of onboard conduct, both of which must be signed and handed over upon arrival.

"River cruises are an ideal and flexible form of travel for a safe relaxing holiday in the new normal...the ships are comparatively small and have relatively few guests on board, so that the necessary hygiene rules can be implemented efficiently," said A-ROSA Cruises Managing Director Jorg Eichler, who also recognised the support of the company's home state, as well as the bank and shareholders.

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Travel Daily

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Travel Daily



A UFO was spotted in Cleveland Bay recently - an unidentified floating object.

The local marine park authority identified it as a fish aggregating device (FAD, **pictured**), designed to attract fish such as marlin, tuna and mahi-mahi, with this particular FAD likely to have floated from a tuna fishery up to 3,000 kilometres away in the South Pacific.

If you too see an FAD, please contact local authorities.



Fly free to France

BACK-TO-BACK French cruises in 2021 with a special deal for Australians are now available with Riviera Travel via Cruise Traveller.

A fly free return offer is accessible until the end of Aug, with the cruises sailing aboard *Jane Austen* and *Lord Byron*.

The 20-night France from North to South package also includes three nights in a five-star hotel in Paris and seven-night back-to-back cruises on the Seine River and Rhone Rivers.

The package for the 2021 cruises is available departing 18 Jul, 12 Sep and 10 Oct priced at \$8,945 per person, twin-share - **CLICK HERE**.

Regent reassurance



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has launched Return With Regent, a booking promotion to inspire guests to book now and travel later.

The offer provides 10% reduced deposits and US\$1,000 shipboard credit per suite, and is applicable to all sailings through 2022.

RSSC has also extended its "cancel for any reason" policy, Regent Reassurance, with guests able to abandon their cruise up to 15 days before departure date and receive a 100% cruise credit.

The cruise line has also launched two new incentives

in Australia and New Zealand, offering travel agents who make a booking before Aug a \$500 Visa Gift Card; those also booking any three suites before Aug will have the opportunity to sail free with Regent Seven Seas as part of its Sell and Sail incentive.

"We have been overwhelmed by the ongoing tenacity shown by our valued Travel Advisors during this challenging period, and we are proud to work alongside them," said Regent Seven Seas Cruises Vice President & General Manager Australia & New Zealand Lisa Pile.

Some US cruise lines planning restart

A GROUP of US-flagged cruise lines are hoping to start operations as early as Jun, as they are exempt from the no-sail order issued by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The cruise lines are excluded from the order due to their fleet sizes, with American Cruise Lines looking at a 20 Jun restart and American Queen Steamboat Company eyeing 22 Jun.

"The CDC order really is not targeted to lines with ships of our size that just operate in the US, it is specifically for vessels with 250 or more souls on board, passengers and crew in total," said American Cruise Lines President & Chief Executive Officer Charles Robertson.

NCL extends

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is extending its peace of mind waiver policy through to Nov.

The policy enables guests to make late cancellations up to 48 hours before departure and get a full refund or a future cruise credit.

NCL this week extended its temporary pause of cruising until 01 Aug (**CW** yesterday).

CLICK HERE for more cruise line cancellation policies.

Sea Cloud support

SEA Cloud Cruises will pay travel agencies a fixed amount of US\$50 for cancelled trips, the cruise line has announced.

Each agency will receive the monetary amount for each booking the cruise line has had to cancel, applying retroactively to all bookings cancelled since mid-Mar.

The amendment has been made as Sea Cloud commissions are due upon the commencement of the trip and not by the time of booking, meaning many agents have lost their commissions.

Cancellation conditions have also been adjusted, allowing guests to cancel up to six weeks prior to the start of the cruise, and only incur a processing fee of US\$25 per person, for all departures until the end of 2021.

Sea Cloud has cancelled all departures until the end of Jun, and is repaying customers within 14 days.