



Cruise Weekly today

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

Evergreen offers

EVERGREEN Cruises & Tours has launched a series of red hot offers on 2021 European river cruises.

Book now and access a reduced deposit of \$250 per person, with savings of up to \$5,500 per couple available on the range.

Quote "EVC20" and book by 01 Jun to access the savings on itineraries such as 24-day Eastern European Escapade cruise, the 15-day Splendours of Europe itinerary, and the eight-day Sensations of Lyon & Provence journey.

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Ocean cruise ban extended to Sep

AUSTRALIA'S cruise ship prohibition (*CW* 16 Mar) has been extended again, with the restriction on cruise ships entering Australian waters lengthened for a further three months, until 17 Sep.

The move was confirmed in an update from the Australian Border Force (ABF), which said the extension was a consequence of an extension by the Governor General, based on the human biosecurity emergency period.

This has in turn allowed federal Health Minister Greg Hunt to continue to exercise his emergency powers under the *Biosecurity Act* to prevent or control the spread of COVID-19.

Last week Hunt extended his previous determination (*CW* 30 Mar) "to prohibit the arrival at an Australian port of any international cruise ship that has left a foreign port," with the ABF



noting the restrictions included both direct arrivals and round-trip cruises from Australia.

The restriction was first implemented on 27 Mar, at which point there were 28 international cruise ships in Australian waters which were forced to depart.

"The Australian Border Force has been in constant contact with the cruise industry which has been cooperative and understands the Government's

overwhelming priority to ensure the health and safety of the broader Australian community," the ABF update noted.

The announcement saw an immediate response from Carnival Corporation, which confirmed the suspension of local operations under its Carnival Cruise Line, P&O and Princess and brands through until 17 Sep, in line with the revised Government ruling.

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PORTHOLE

BLAME the raspberries!

Cruise ships, repeatedly vilified as “floating petri dishes” due to norovirus outbreaks over the years, have been completely exonerated from blame over a series of gastric infections which took place last year.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report released on Fri has identified frozen raspberries used to make on-board smoothies as the source of multiple “sudden unexplained outbreaks” of acute gastroenteritis experienced on 10 ships sailing in Europe between Jul and Sep.

The CDC didn't identify the unfortunate cruise line which was using the tainted fruit, with the investigations taking some months eventually confirming that 80% of passengers who had become sick had “implicated a smoothie made from frozen fruits and berries”.

It appears the unnamed company's food vendor had purchased almost 11 metric tonnes of raspberries from a Chinese supplier just before the start of the cruise season - with the fruit provided to the cruise line's entire fleet.

In Nov last year the investigation prompted the World Health Organization to issue a recall of frozen raspberries originating in China.

In 2015 a number of Australians became seriously ill after contaminated berries were supplied in local supermarkets.

Norwegian extensions



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has extended the date of its future cruise credit offer, in addition to its peace of mind policy, until 31 May and 31 Jul respectively.

Those choosing to cancel their cruise will receive a future cruise credit equal to the value of the full cruise fare paid, that can be used for sailings embarking through to 31 Dec 2022.

Guests can also continue to cancel their booking up to 48 hours in advance of their embarkation date, for all bookings made by 31 Jul and embarking through to 30 Nov (**CW 22 May**).

The cruise line has also launched a flash sale for new bookings made until the end of this week.

Guests who book a balcony stateroom on voyages from Jan 2021 will receive all five of NCL's free at sea offers, and will also get US\$200 onboard credit per stateroom.

The line also recently launched NCL's News & Network

(**CW 19 May**), a webinar series for Australian and New Zealand travel partners, with each BDM-hosted session having a different theme.

Interislander cash

THE New Zealand Government has allocated NZ\$400 million (A\$373 million) to state-owned rail enterprise KiwiRail for two new rail ferries for the *Interislander* service, which takes passengers across the Cook Strait.

“Our Cook Strait ferries are an extension of State Highway 1, moving 800,000 passengers between the North and South Islands each year,” said KiwiRail Group Chief Executive Greg Miller.

“They are a must-have...the two new rail-enabled ferries will be more advanced, have significantly lower emissions and last for the next 30 years... this is a once-in-a-generation investment”.



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Travel & Cruise
Weekly