

Sea you soon...

'As the tide drops rapidly, imagine 400 square kilometres of reef emerging from the sea, torrents of water cascading from the reef's edge, right before your eyes... Montgomery Reef on the Kimberley coast embodies the raw power and sheer beauty of Australia's nature waiting to be witnessed.'

'As we await the time we can explore again, let's remind ourselves of the many beautiful and exciting experiences that lie ahead of us.'

Sea you soon...

Monique Ponfoort
Vice-President Asia Pacific

Monique Ponfoort



Expedition cruises in Aus back on next month?

EXCLUSIVE

EXPEDITION cruising in Australian waters could be back on as soon as domestic travel opens up, Tourism Restart Taskforce member and Australian Chamber - Tourism Executive Chairman John Hart has confirmed.

The taskforce agreed on a timetable last week (*CW* yesterday, pictured) which mapped the return of tourism in Australia, and was created following a meeting last Fri joined by Federal Tourism Minister Simon Birmingham.

It contained a note saying domestic expedition cruises were included in the dates for domestic travel, which would begin reopening in Jun and is proposed to fully restart in Jul.

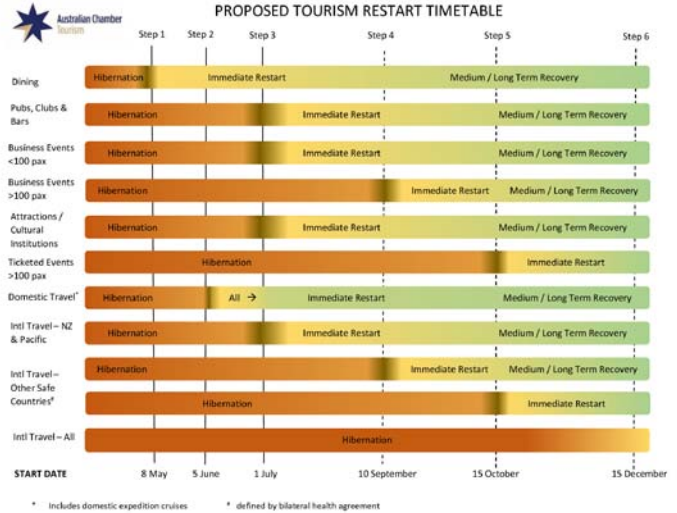
“Where cruise is on small ships that are not leaving the confines

of Australia then they should be considered domestic tourism,” Hart told *Cruise Weekly*, saying small expedition cruises of between 20 and 150 passengers, have a lower risk profile than that of a big ship operator.

“It’s basically a clear numbers game and you’re not going to be able to infect large numbers of people in that sort of environment,” he said,

“You’re getting 100 or so guests on board that are pretty well spaced and the operators are committed to having all sorts of COVID-safe practices in place.”

He highlighted expedition cruises which go around the Top End and call into the Kimberley as an example of a product which should be part of the domestic restart, emphasising it was an important part of the season and would be highly sought after by domestic tourists.



Hart said the six steps identified in the timetable could be used as “markers” for the industry and would be reviewed and adjusted based on ongoing health advice and as State Governments made further decisions.

He said establishing a timetable allowed for industry and

government to identify what could be done to reach them.

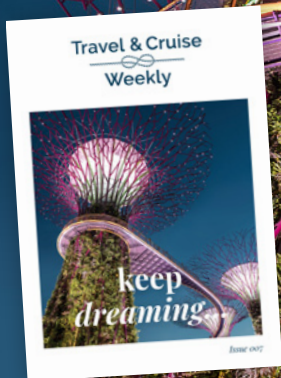
Cruise Weekly today

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



Keep your clients engaged and planning their next trip with *keep dreaming...*

Plus click here for a toolkit to help promote the magazine.





DREAM Cruises is encouraging travellers to get their cruise fix with its new #DreamCruisesAtHome initiative.

The scheme features a new series of live videos from some of the Dream crew, with viewers able to tune in via the cruise line's Facebook to get their cruise fix each Wed and Fri afternoon at 5pm AEST.

Having kicked off earlier this month, segments feature "everything from fitness and dance to cocktails and cookery."

The program is set to include a couple of special guest appearances by Dream's celebrity chef Mark Best.

CroisiEurope restart



CRUISIEUROPE is preparing to welcome back passengers, rolling out a plan for the gradual resumption of cruising.

From the end of Aug, the 130-passenger *La Belle Des Oceans* (pictured) will sail eight-day cruises to Corsica from Nice,

and from mid-Oct, will embark on eight-day cruises through the Canary Islands.

The restart will involve carefully following all health directives governments have issued for each of the cruise line's markets, with the company also issuing a number of special offers to tempt travellers back onto its ships.

All new reservations for departures up to 30 Nov will not require down payment to be made at the time of reservation, with payment only required 15 days before departure.

An early booking special offer is also available for 2021 departures.

Nassau funds

NASSAU Cruise Port (NCP) has raised over US\$130 million through its bond issue, which closed earlier this month.

The funds will help the Port undergo its proposed makeover, initially mooted as worth US\$250 million (*CW* 04 Sep 2019).

The private offering was confirmed as oversubscribed by lead placement agent Colina Financial Advisors, with the project now planning to accommodate more investors.

"Our project will immediately produce much-needed jobs and support the creation of small and medium-sized businesses," NCP said.

Ponant inspires!

PONANT is hoping to inspire prospective cruisers with a gorgeous image of the Kimberley Coast, as a reminder of the many beautiful and exciting experiences that lie at our fingertips on the other side of COVID-19.

See the **cover page** for more.



Tourism moves to recovery

I WAS delighted to read nine out of 10 Australians would consider cruising again according to a recent survey conducted with the clients of Your Travel and Cruise travel agents.

There was only one obvious caveat and that was stricter health and hygiene measures were in place.

According to Joel Katz, Managing Director of CLIA Australasia, who graciously spent an hour with our members on a recent webinar, the industry is already well underway with this initiative looking at all the touchpoints around onboard health and safety.

We look forward to reviewing these guidelines as they become available.

ACA and our members will play an important leadership role onshore working through the necessary compliance requirements to ensure cruise ship guests and crew and our communities prosper in a safe environment.

In other CLIA news, we congratulate Gavin Smith on his new appointment as Chair.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with CLIA, particularly during the coming challenging months as we reinvigorate the cruise industry in Australia, and we would also like to thank Sture Myrmell for his support of ACA and the collaborative way in which he and his team have worked with us to help grow the cruise sector over the past few years.

Pandaw discount

PANDAW is offering up to 20% off prices for its The Chindwin itinerary, which takes cruisers from Monywa to Hamlin over seven nights.

Those who are a part of the Members Club can access the full discount, with a 10% general reduction applying for non-members.

Included are all meals, a cocktail hour, daily excursions, cultural performances, movie nights, and mountain bike rides exploring Myanmar's rural villages and temples.

There is also no single supplement, and under-18s travel free.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.