



# Singapore confirms cruise restart

**SINGAPORE** Tourism Board (STB) has confirmed the state's gradual resumption of cruising, having developed a mandatory CruiseSafe certification.

As part of Singapore's stated commitment to set the "benchmark" for the future of cruising in the region, a pilot will commence next month for Singaporean residents, initially cruising on Dream Cruises' *World Dream*, with Royal Caribbean International's *Quantum of the Seas* to follow in Dec.

The CruiseSafe certification program sets out stringent hygiene and safety measures to be enacted throughout the cruise, from before boarding to after disembarkation, such as round-trips with no ports of call, and sailing at 50% capacity.

Other standards include strict & frequent cleaning & sanitisation protocols onboard, safe

management measures aligned with the prevailing national policy, ensuring 100% fresh air throughout ships, setting up onboard measures to discourage close contact & inter-mingling between groups, and emergency response plans for coronavirus-related incidents.

Passengers on the pilot cruises will have to comply with measures such as the wearing of masks, with any cruise line hoping to sail out of Singapore compelled to obtain the CruiseSafe certification, which will involve an independent third-party assessment.

Cruise Lines International Association Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz said his organisation was fully behind Singapore's initiative.

"We support a measured and carefully managed resumption of local cruise itineraries that

work within international border restrictions," he said.

"With extensive health measures in place, we see an opportunity to revive the economic contribution that cruising brings to local communities while at the same time implementing protective protocols against outside infection during international travel restrictions."

The Singapore Tourism Board said the safety and wellbeing of the community, passengers and crews was paramount.

"This cruise pilot is a valuable opportunity for cruise operators to reinvent the entire cruise experience in order to regain the confidence of passengers," said STB CEO Keith Tan.

"We will continue to work with cruise lines and our industry stakeholders to chart a new course for safe cruising."

## CruiseCO NCL deal

**CRUISECO** is working with Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) to drive sales with a new initiative that will deliver 3% up-front commission.

The offer is available until the end of the year on Norwegian cruises until 2023.

Eligible fleet-wide, the initiative is also available on all CruiseCO NCL packages, with the consortium currently offering over 40 cruise, fly-cruise and stay-cruise deals.

Only new bookings are eligible, however cash sales and future cruise credits are also applicable, with commission to be paid after the receipt of funds from NCL.

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## Cruising in NZ to return

**THE** New Zealand cruise sector looks to be ready for a restart, with Heritage Expeditions yesterday confirming it had received all necessary approvals for voyages on its 50-passenger *Spirit of Enderby* starting from late next month.

Carrying only New Zealanders, current plans involve operating the first departure, a week-long New Zealand coastal cruise, which will also visit Stewart Island, on 24 Nov.

Heritage's Aaron Russ said a plan submitted by the company had satisfied all clearance and exemption requirements from the Ministry of Health as well as Immigration New Zealand.

The 20 crew members on the *Enderby* have already started a quarantine period off the coast of Russia, after everyone tested negative for coronavirus.

Once they all pass the quarantine period and return another negative test, the ship will sail to New Zealand over the ensuing four weeks, with the

crew to once again be tested for coronavirus upon arrival.

The 2020/21 Heritage Expeditions Southern Ocean season is expected to generate about NZ\$5 million for the NZ economy, with the company hoping to help protect jobs and support local businesses.

Fares on the first Heritage departure start at NZ\$3,995ppts.

It's understood that Ponant has also applied for an exemption from the current ban on cruising in New Zealand waters for its 250-passenger *Le Laperouse*, which it's hoped will be given permission to operate a NZ domestic-only season over the upcoming summer.

Ponant Chair Sarina Bratton said if approved the voyages would begin in late Dec, with itineraries visiting around a dozen ports.

Under New Zealand's current coronavirus status of Alert Level 1 passengers would not need to be tested prior to embarkation.

## Navigator floats out



**ATLAS** Ocean Voyages' first expedition ship *World Navigator* has floated out (**pictured**) at West Sea Viana Shipyard in Portugal.

*Navigator's* launch is scheduled for Jul 2021, with the ship now entering wet dock, where she will be fitted out.

"Our first ship's float out is a momentous milestone for Atlas Ocean Voyages," said President Alberto Aliberti.

"We are another major step closer to welcoming *World Navigator* and launching Atlas'

authentic, once-in-a-lifetime adventures in some of the world's most extraordinary places."

Atlas' second expedition vessel *World Traveller* also recently had her keel laid, ahead of her scheduled launch in mid-2022.

Three additional expedition ships are on order for Atlas, for delivery by the end 2023.

## Del Rio re-signs

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line Holdings Chief Executive Officer Frank Del Rio will spend three more years at the helm, after the company earlier this week entered into a new employment agreement to keep him around until the end of 2023.

The company's top executive took home \$18 million of total compensation in 2019, and will receive an annual base salary of \$1,800,000 going forward, with Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings saying, "any reduction in base salary pursuant to the base salary reduction letter will continue to apply for so long as it applies to other executive officers."

Del Rio's annual target bonus for each fiscal year will equal 200% of his base salary, and for 2022 and 2023, 400%.

## Murray discounts

**MURRAY** River Paddlesteamers is hosting a last minute 2020 cruise sale, offering up to 50% off.

Trips aboard *Emmylou* over three, four and six nights are all available, with New South Wales residents disembarking in Moama in order to not officially cross the border into Victoria at any time.

Savings are available on a three-night cruise departing 12 Oct, a four-night cruise leaving 19 Oct and a six-night 02 Nov and 07 Dec cruise, as well as a 09 Nov All the Rivers Run-themed departure.

2021/22 cruises are also currently on sale at 10% off - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.



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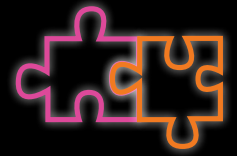
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## Seabourn extends

**SEABOURN** Cruise Line has extended its early bonus savings promotion for travellers and travel advisors, as well as its book with confidence policy.

Guests who pay their booking in full by 20 Nov will receive an additional 10% saving off the base cruise fare, with the travel agent earning their commission at the point of sale.

The promotion applies to select voyages from the northern summer 2021 through the northern winter/spring 2022 season.

Also extended until 20 Nov, the book with confidence policy provides travellers with the ability to cancel new bookings up to 30 days prior to departure.

Guests will also have peace of mind that they can always request the lowest publicly available fare offered for their voyage in the event fares are lowered following booking.

## Sea Cloud cancels

**SEA** Cloud Cruises has cancelled its winter season in the Caribbean, with a range of countries in the region continuing to disallow the calling of ships.

The cruise line also flagged the bilateral unpredictably of immigration regulations, and uncertainty about flight options, with bookings transferable to 2021 and 2022, and those doing so rewarded with a beverage credit.

## Fred round the world



**FRED.** Olsen Cruise Lines has unveiled its brand new 2022 world cruise on new ship *Borealis* (**CW** 17 Sep) will make a three-day stop in Sydney (pictured), and will also visit New Zealand.

Departing from Liverpool or Southampton, the cruise will also include a transit of both the Panama and Suez Canals, and will visit Hawaii, Papua New Guinea, the United States and more.

The full 104-night sailing departs Liverpool 04 Jan 2022, while a slightly abbreviated 100-night itinerary leaves Southampton on 06 Jan 2022.

The cruise will also be split into shorter fly-cruise sailings, ranging from 17 to 84 nights.

Those who book by the end of

Oct will receive up to £600 per person to spend on board, as well as the cost of tips covered, with sailings starting from £9,999ppp for Southampton departures and £10,449pp from Liverpool.

For more on the 2022 world cruise, **CLICK HERE.**

## Enchanted arrival

**ENCHANTED** Princess officially joined the Princess Cruises fleet last week.

The 3,660-guest ship was delivered to Princess in a live-streamed handover ceremony from the shipyard in Monfalcone, attended by executives from the cruise line and Carnival Corporation.



**THAILAND'S** first fleet of fully electric passenger ferries will hit the water later this year, helping combat the city's unhealthy air quality.

Traffic, construction & factory emissions, and the burning of waste and crop residue is commonly blamed for the pollution, with the fleet of electric catamarans forming part of a US\$3 billion plan, which includes a battery factory and range of electric cars.

Each 24m-long catamaran will be capable of carrying 200 passengers.

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