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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a front full page from Norwegian Cruise Line.

NCL webinar

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is inviting the region's travel agents to join a Groups webinar at 11am AEDT on Wed 04 Nov.

Hosted by Business Development Manager James McCullagh and the Sydney-based Groups department, the webinar will take agents through everything Norwegian Groups, including the benefits of booking a group with NCL, types of groups, features & benefits, and how to book.

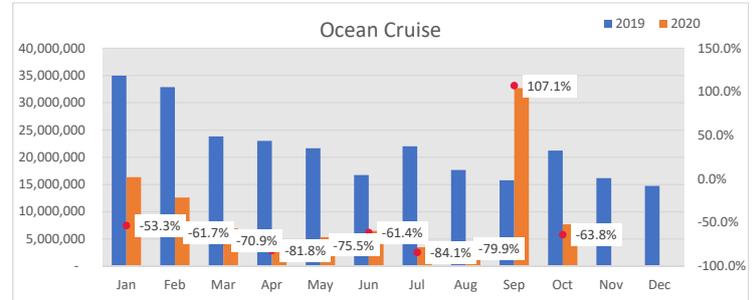
The webinar is the latest in Norwegian's News & Network series - [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.

Helloworld's massive cruise month

HELLOWORLD Travel's ocean cruise sales last month were worth over \$32 million, more than double the figure for Sep 2019, with the strong result attributed largely to the success of the Princess Cruises' 107-day round-the-world voyage departing Sydney in May 2022 which went on sale at the start of Sep (CW 04 Sep).

The result was a bright spot in an otherwise bleak 2020 for Helloworld's cruise sales, which were down 80% overall for the period May-Aug, according to an update issued this morning.

Helloworld said ongoing cruise cancellations and the very limited amount of available product for future bookings had heavily impacted sales, but highlighted the huge Sep result as evidence of the "extraordinary pent up demand for travel, for cruise travel, for international travel and



for travel with Princess".

Just over a quarter of those who made bookings with Princess via Helloworld during the month were redeeming future cruise credit as a result of cancelled voyages in 2020 and 2021, while 74% were "new bookings with new customers," the firm said.

Interestingly, the figures (pictured) indicate sales were already being impacted as far back as Jan, where sales were only about half of the same month in 2019.

The decline has continued

across the year, down to a low of 16% of prior-year bookings in Jul.

After the bumper Sep, Helloworld's cruise sales this month again slumped to about a third of levels in Oct 2019.

The Helloworld update said the company was optimistic that "travel bubbles" would be established with countries such as Japan, Singapore, China and South Korea during 2021, but doesn't expect long-haul travel to Europe or the United States to resume with any material volume until late 2021 or early 2022.

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Aussies love a beach getaway and those heading to NSW's North Coast are spoiled for choice. Read more in the October issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

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Tas golf charter

A **NEW** Tasmanian golf cruise charter with Coral Expeditions is now available through Voyages.Golf.

The 11-night cruise departs 08 Feb 2022, travelling from Melbourne to Hobart, with eight nights aboard *Coral Geographer* followed by three nights at Hobart's newest five-star hotel The Tasman.

The itinerary will also showcase gourmet food and fine wine, in addition to playing courses such as Ocean Dunes, Cape Wickham, Barnbogle Dunes, Barnbogle Lost Farm, Royal Hobart and Tasmania Golf Club.

A pre-extension is also available, in which guests will stay for two nights at the Sofitel on Collins, and enjoy a round at Royal Melbourne or shopping at Chadstone.

CLICK HERE to view the brox.

Silversea out until Dec

SILVERSEA Cruises has extended its global suspension of voyages until the end of next month, although several of the cruise line's vessels will not resume sailing until 2021.

Some will recommence sailing in Jan, including *Silver Spirit* (04 Jan), *Silver Muse* (05 Jan), *Silver Moon* (07 Jan), *Silver Shadow* (08 Jan), and *Silver Origin* (09 Jan).

Silversea is now expecting its new *Silver Dawn* to debut late next year (09 Nov 2021), while other scheduled resumption dates include *Silver Explorer* (09 Feb), *Silver Cloud* (19 Mar), *Silver Whisper* (06 Jun), and *Silver Wind* (14 Jun).

Guests on canx voyages will receive a fare refund of up to 110% in the form of a cruise credit, which can be applied toward any future cruise and is valid two years from issuance.

Members of Silversea's Venetian Society loyalty scheme will also accumulate VS days on the cancelled voyage as well as on the new booking with the future cruise credit.

Silversea also recently announced a makeover of its Academy digital training platform, which now features 18 modules accessible to the cruise line's travel partners across the globe (**CW** 30 Sep).

Free pre-tour

ATLAS Ocean Voyages is offering complimentary pre-cruise tours for its inaugural northern summer 2021 season.

The one- to four-night tours are available for every new booking aboard *World Navigator*.

Riviera deal

RIVIERA Travel River Cruises has launched a range of Christmas season river cruises in Europe for Dec 2021, with a number of solo supplement-free departures available.

A total of 19 Christmas, New Year and Yuletide market cruises have been released, with departures starting from \$1,339 per person.

Riviera has also extended its flexible booking policy until the end of the year, with new bookings made until then able to be changed, free of charge, up to 45 days before sailing.

Highlights of the new season include the Enchanting Rhine and Yuletide Markets five-day roundtrip sailing from Cologne and the Danube's Imperial Cities and Yuletide Markets six-day roundtrip sailing from Budapest - for more details see www.rivieratravel.com.au.



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PUTTING cruise ship pollution in the shade, a new study has found that metals from Chinese smokestacks are landing as far away as the North Pacific Ocean. Emissions from coal-fired power plants in the country are riding long-distance winds, and could alter the balance of carbon in the atmosphere or change the ocean's ecosystem, although it's not known yet whether it's for better or worse, the study says.

US cruise law change?

REPRESENTATIVE for Alaska's at-large congressional district in the United States' House of Reps Don Young (pictured) is attempting to change a 100-year-old law, which could save the state's 2021 cruise season.

Under the 1920s law, large, foreign-flagged cruise ships departing the United States must stop at a foreign port before returning to the US.

Cruises departing the West Coast typically call in Canada before heading to Alaska, but with that country continuing to enforce border closures with the United States and ban large ships from its ports, there's no indication on when cruise ships will effectively be allowed to return to Alaska.

Young is seeking a way to ensure cruise ships can get to Alaska even if Canadian ports and borders remain shuttered, with one solution being to change the *Merchant Marine Act of 1920*, which currently prevents US-to-US sailings without a foreign stop.

The Congressman said he is in discussions with the airline and cruise industries to find a way to enable tourists to travel into and out of the state if Canadian ports are still off-limits by the time the cruise season starts.

Young is being aided by the Alaska Travel Industry Association, with its Chief Executive Officer Sarah Leonard saying the organisation started advocating in Mar for a waiver of the law, also known as the Jones Act, for vessels with a capacity of 500 passengers or more until Canadian ports reopen.



"This action remains a high-priority federal assistance for tourism businesses in Alaska as a way to mitigate continued job and revenue loss due to COVID-19," she said.

Aurora webinar

AS PART of the official launch of Aurora Expeditions' Arctic & Global 2022 program on 10 and 12 Nov (**CW 29 Sep**), the cruise line is running two launch webinars hosted by program designer, Product Manager Mark Lee.

The webinar will showcase Aurora's 12 new itineraries to destinations including Alaska, Baja California, Raja Ampat/ West Papua Islands and the Russian Far East.

To sign up for the first session, **CLICK HERE**, and for the second, **CLICK HERE**.

RSSC's record day of bookings

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) recently set the record for the largest booking day in the cruise line's history, on the opening day of sales for its 2022/23 voyage collection (**CW 23 Oct**).

Reservations surpassed RSSC's previous booking day record in Apr 2018 by nearly 40%, which coincided with the launch of *Seven Seas Splendor's* inaugural season.

Notably popular for the record day were cruises to Africa, Asia, the Baltics, the Mediterranean and Northern Europe.

The launch also saw more than a 100% increase in bookings from when RSSC launched its 2021-2022 voyage collection in Aug 2019, surpassing that total number of bookings within two hours.



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