



Norwegian Spirit sailing Australia & New Zealand from December 2021



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cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Thursday 24th September 2020

Cruise Weekly today

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

Get into the Spirit

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is inviting travellers to get in the spirit - the Norwegian Spirit, of course - with the ship sailing Australasian waters beginning Dec 2021.

Travel agents can presently receive a \$100 gift card per booking in Australia and New Zealand, and can also win one of five available cabins for themselves aboard Norwegian Spirit, which emerged from a bow-to-stern refurbishment earlier this year (CW 18 Feb). Head to the cover page of Cruise Weekly today for more

information.

Coral eyes restart in WA, SA, Tas

CORAL Expeditions Commercial Director Jeff Gillies has revealed details of the cruise line's full restart plan, flagged last week upon the announcement of its return to operations (CW 18 Sep).

With Coral announcing it would return to cruising in Queensland next month, Gillies told Cruise Weekly the line had also developed itineraries across the next six months in Tasmania, WA and SA.

Beginning in the summer, the cruise line plans to redeploy Coral Adventurer and Coral Geographer - which was floated out on the weekend - from their cancelled Maluku Islands, Indonesia & Sulawesi series to Western Australia and South Australia.

"The plan is for some Broome to Fremantle trips across 12 nights, and if the environment is right and we can get approval, we know South Australia is very keen," Gillies divulged.

He also teased a Fremantle to Adelaide departure had been workshopped, provided approval could be secured from the Government of WA.

It would include "Geographe Bay, some of the wineries, Esperance, the Bight and the national park islands around South Australia," Gillies said.

If approval was received, Coral would then commence its usual summer deployments to Tasmania and the Kimberley from Jan through to Mar 2021.

"Some of those are still under development and need to come with the blessing of various state and territory governments," Gillies added, admitting Coral foresaw 2021 as a year focused mostly on Australia, but hoped NZ and the Pacific would enter the frame later in the year.

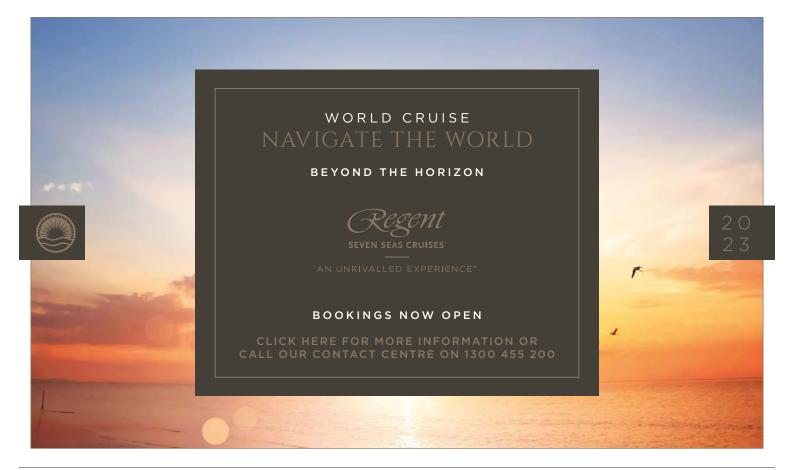
However, boding well for the future, Coral is seeing a strong response to its on-sale itineraries.

"Through Oct we're reaching a 60-70% occupancy rate with no marketing and a short runway and in the environment where there's a lot of caution out there, which is encouraging.

"They're predominantly Qlders, but we're starting to see some more interest out of SA, the NT, we're starting to see some trade inquiries from the ACT."

Gillies also mentioned how grateful Coral was to its guests, with 98% of affected passengers rebooking their travel, and noted the cruise line would continue to support the trade.

"We've kept a team in reservation and sales direct to customer and direct to industry, we're answering the phones, we're on the end of an e-mail and we're keeping the energy up."





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PASSENGERS on board cruise ships may be scanned by radar detectors to enforce social distancing, under an innovative advanced technology currently being promoted.

New sensors with "intelligent LiDAR" technology can be fitted around vessels, linked to intelligent software to automatically track the population of public areas.

An associated application is claimed to measure the distance between people in areas such as restaurant and entertainment area foyers where lines form.

Spencer scores!



SPENCER Travel Eastside in Mascot, NSW, has been awarded Oceania Cruises' OCLUB trophy. Pictured accepting the award

are Spencer Travel Managing Director Penny Spencer, Oceania Business Development Manager NSW/ACT Martine Nunes, and Spencer Travel's Maria Theodosatos, Heather Del Vecchio and Lucy Vieira.

Travel Daily **CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT** We want your recipes from around the world for our weekly feature.

ATG suspends

APT Travel Group (ATG) is suspending all Australian and international cruises through to the end of Nov.

ATG will offer a future holiday credit to all suspended tours, equal to the full amount paid for the booking, and valid for travel on any cruise or tour with the Group's brands.

Credit is applicable for multiple bookings for the same client if desired, and can be transferred to another person.

ATG is in the process of contacting all affected guests.

For all current policies, and terms & conditions, CLICK HERE.



Cruise coming together

IT'S really heartening to see strong movement toward beginning cruising again.

In Europe, several lines are already up and running in some form, with increasing success despite local and international issues.

In Florida, politicians are supporting cruise lines to push government to be more active in working with cruise.

The Set Sail Safely Act will be welcomed to allow cruise lines in the US to begin operations.

In New Zealand we are in the middle of an election that has slowed work toward a new beginning, but once that is done and dusted we will see some real progress in getting domestic cruising around New Zealand, later in the year and early in

NZCA has worked on a Cruise Recovery Plan for several months, and of course, as circumstances change, so does planning, of which a crucial part is to have support from all parties to let the world know about the value of cruise.

We expect the government in particular will be much more vocal on the importance of international tourism, including cruise, to New Zealand.

Of course we will have to prompt them continually, but bringing back tourism is essential to our wellbeing.



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