



Cruise Weekly today

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

Scenic 23 open early

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has released its 2023 Europe River Cruising Collection early for Australians, at 2022 prices.

The advance release enables future travel credit holders to re-book their preferred suites and dates.

Travel advisors will earn a bonus 2% commission on all new Europe River Cruising bookings made online via ExpressBook before the end of next month.

To encourage travellers to book, a range of practical policies have been included, with all reservations to receive Scenic's complimentary down payment protection plan.

CLIA pleads with Morrison for sense

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) is seeking the Prime Minister's support, writing to Scott Morrison (**pictured**) searching for a breakthrough in discussions over the industry's future ahead of next month's review of Australia's cruise suspension.

CLIA Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz said the industry had renewed its call for cruising to be included in Australia's four-phase plan for reopening and was seeking further discussions on a framework for resumption before the current suspension ends on 17 Sep.

"We need the Prime Minister to provide a breakthrough and allow detailed discussions to move forward, so we can have certainty for the 18,000 Australians whose jobs depend on cruising," Katz said.



He added Australia remained one of the only major cruise markets in the world where governments had yet to achieve progress on a resumption of cruising, despite 12 months of discussion with governments and the availability of stringent COVID-19 health protocols which already work successfully where cruising has resumed.

"With the release of the Doherty advice, it is clear there is an opportunity to align a carefully

managed cruise restart with the national four-phase plan," Katz said.

"This should be highly achievable - the new health measures cruise lines have adopted globally are the most stringent to be found anywhere in tourism.

"Already more than 900,000 people have sailed successfully overseas, providing extensive insight and evidence to support a resumption in Australia."

Katz said now the country has clear vaccination targets and a plan for reopening, it needs to ensure cruising is included in this scheme, and there is an agreed framework for resumption.

"It can take months to prepare for operations, so we need to be having those detailed discussions now to ensure we're ready for a careful resumption when conditions allow."

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PORTHOLE

AMERICAN entrepreneur Brock Pierce has bought the ocean liner *Funchal* (pictured), once owned and operated by Australian line Classic International Cruises.

The actor-turned-philanthropist dropped almost US\$2 million on *Funchal*, and has promised to pour millions more into it, telling the *New York Post* "you never know when you're going to need an ark".

Pierce plans to turn *Funchal* into a hotel and museum.

"We have 180 people working on the boat right now to turn it into a five-star hotel, but with regular rooms on the inside - all classes - and to effectively be a museum permanently stationed in Lisbon," Pierce said.



Azamara Europe 2023



AZAMARA has unveiled the voyages of its full fleet for Europe in 2023, with new Destination Immersion Experiences.

Including almost 100 itineraries, as well as more than 35 Country Intensive Voyages and new pre- and post- land explorations, Azamara will visit more than 40 countries across Europe during the season.

Azamara will also visit more than 200 ports throughout Europe, with guests able to experience over 300 late nights and overnights in destinations

Mykonos, Lisbon, Barcelona, Bordeaux, and Monte Carlo.

Country Intensive Voyages will explore destinations including Spain, Croatia, Italy, Norway, Scotland and more, with Azamara to also debut its highly anticipated Black Sea Intensive itinerary, where travellers can explore the history and wonders of ancient cities in Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine.

In addition to several existing pre- and post-land exploration favourites, Azamara will introduce a new itinerary aboard the Switzerland Glacier Express Train, crossing 291 bridges and passing through 91 tunnels, or a two-night local stay in Gran Canaria, with highlights including a visit to the Bandama Caldera, one of the largest extinct volcanic craters, followed by a stop in La Atalaya, one of Spain's prime pottery-producing villages.

Azamara has also opened for booking the remainder of next year's debut season for *Azamara Onward*, the newest member of its fleet (CW 03 Jun).

New Bahamas rules

THE Bahamas has issued an emergency order to require cruise passengers to show proof of vaccination at ports.

Cruise ships will not be allowed to enter ports in the Bahamas if there are unvaccinated passengers on board aged 12 and older, unless they have a medical excuse, the country said on Fri.

The order takes effect 03 Sep and is valid through to the end of Oct.

The new rule is also applicable to private islands such as Royal Caribbean's Perfect Day at CocoCay.

In order to dock, a cruise ship's Captain is required to transmit a crew and passenger manifest before arrival, disclosing the vaccination status of everyone on board to the Port Medical Officer.

CDC update

THE Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has updated its COVID-19 & Cruise Ship Travel advice, and is now recommending travellers who are at an increased risk for severe illnesses avoid cruise ship travel, regardless of their vaccination status.

"If you are at increased risk for severe illness and considering cruise travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, discuss this type of travel with your healthcare professional," the CDC said, warning those with a weaker immune system may not be protected against coronavirus.



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