



Colombia is cruising

THE arrival of Windstar Cruises' *Star Breeze* into Cartagena yesterday saw cruises resume in Colombia.

Almost 30 lines are projected to arrive in Cartagena and seven in Santa Marta during the 2021/22 season.

Colombia expects to recover 57% of the number of calls it recorded in the 2019/20 season.

Breeze is on a 14-day sailing, with passengers scheduled to tour the Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas and the old city, and take part in an exclusive Colombian coffee tasting.

Other lines booked to visit the country include Celebrity Cruises, Royal Caribbean International, Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours, Carnival Cruise Line, Holland America Line, Princess Cruises, MSC Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line and the Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection, among others.

New way to pay

CARNIVAL Corporation's Holland America Line and Seabourn Cruise Line have introduced a new way to pay, POLAR Online.

Travel advisors can process bank payments instantly and for free, 24 hours a day.

Funds for approved payments are applied immediately, and is available in addition to credit/debit.

Feds failed *Ruby Princess*

THE federal Inspector-General of Biosecurity Rob Delane's report on *Ruby Princess*' spread of COVID-19 (**CW** 25 Mar 2020) has found failings by the Australian Government likely contributed to the disaster, the ABC has reported.

Delane detailed how protocols were not followed during the inspection of *Ruby* the morning it docked in Sydney, including the "crucial error" in the failure to interview sick passengers.

The report showed the agriculture officer sent aboard *Ruby* upon her return was not "senior and experienced", and found no record they were trained to perform the inspection.

Sick travellers were supposed to be individually screened using a checklist, but this did not happen.

Ruby's Master was also not interviewed, nor were the vessel's medical logs inspected.

"There's a whole sequence of events that led to the Department and its frontline officers not being as ready as the nation needed them to be," Delane's report read.

"If Agriculture had administered the Traveller with Illness Checklist in the way intended, passenger disembarkation could have been appropriately managed to minimise the human health risk.

"If the Acute Respiratory Diseases log had been viewed on the morning of the 19 Mar, it would have been noted that the

log had not been updated since 17 Mar."

Delane said Agriculture should have contacted NSW Health, whose officials had deemed *Ruby* low-risk the day before it arrived, based on the out-of-date information.

Notes from the inspection only mentioned a handful of diarrhea cases, and no record of any respiratory illnesses.

Delane's review also catalogued years of problems inside the Department of Agriculture, Water & the Environment.

Years of missed opportunities include a 2018 internal audit of biosecurity for arriving ships that was largely not acted upon.

"Frankly, if the department had done what it agreed to do, then the chances of a *Ruby Princess* incident happening were significantly reduced," he told the ABC's 7.30 program.

Federal Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud conceded his department could improve, but said it was not solely to blame, adding the disaster was chiefly a failing of NSW Health - the outcome reached by last year's NSW special commission of inquiry (**CW** 17 Aug 2020).

Commissioner Bret Walker stands by his finding from that commission, but after analysing the new report, he said if the federal system had performed better, it was "quite likely" the debacle could have been avoided.

Cruise Weekly today

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

RCI needs vax proof

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) will require proof of vaccination on cruises from Florida from 03 Sep.

Cruisers aged 12 and older will now have to show proof of vaccination to sail from Florida until at least Nov, which RCI was previously allowing passengers to opt out of.

Due to changing vaccine regulations in the Bahamas (**CW** 23 Aug) RCI's policy for voyages leaving from Florida will now be the same as those from all other embarkation ports in the United States.

Travellers unable to show proof of vaccination will be unable to sail, while guests under 12 who are currently ineligible for the vaccine can still cruise with RCI as long as they provide a negative test result at boarding and follow health & safety protocols.

Earlier this month, a Florida judge issued a preliminary injunction in a lawsuit filed by Norwegian Cruise Line against the state of Florida, arguing Governor Ron DeSantis' executive order limited the cruise line's ability to require vaccine proof as a way to keep passengers safe (**CW** 18 Aug).

OFFER ENDS 31 AUG

GREAT GETAWAY SALE

RECEIVE **5 FREE OFFERS*** + **US\$ 200 ONBOARD CREDIT*** ON 2022 CRUISES

LEARN MORE

NCL

Feel Free™

*Conditions apply.



Play it again Crystal

CRYSTAL Cruises has celebrated *Crystal Symphony's* resumption of service as the first ship to restart cruising from Boston.

Symphony departed the capital of Massachusetts for the first of her four seven-night Luxury Bermuda Escapes.

Scheduled to depart weekly on Sun, *Symphony's* return was delayed by one day due to Hurricane Henri.

Symphony's four Boston sailings will be followed by eight Luxury Bermuda Escapes cruises set to depart round-trip from New York City beginning 24 Sep, departing weekly on Fri.

"This day is the culmination of months of anticipation and behind-the-scenes planning to ensure safe and meaningful travel experiences for our guests," said President Jack Anderson.

Yippee for South Sea



SOUTH Sea Cruises' (SSC) recent fundraising raffle for more than 300 out-of-work tourism staff raised almost FJD\$30,000.

Along with its subsidiary brands Awesome Adventures, Blue Lagoon Cruises, Malamala Beach Club, and South Sea Sailing, SSC's raffle saw 100% of donations reach staff.

The relief assistance started funnelling through today, with each staff member receiving a FJD\$100 supermarket voucher.

"It has been nearly 18 months

since a huge number of our staff have had no income due to Fiji's borders being closed as a result of COVID-19," said SSC Chief Executive Officer Brad Rutherford.

"This has a massive impact on these staff members and their families and along with regular relief assistance provided by the company, this additional help is certainly well-received and sincerely appreciated by all."

Donors went into the draw to win a seven-night Blue Lagoon Cruise.

Star Clippers p'ship

STAR Clippers and Adventure World Travel have launched new Costa Rica packages.

The partnership has created three pre- or post-cruise sampler holiday packages, allowing visitors to experience Costa Rica on board *Star Clipper* for seven nights with one of three add-ons.

Option one is a free San Jose city stay, including two nights' hotel accommodation with breakfast and transfers, and option two is a visit to Tortuguero National Park including two nights' accommodation at the eco-friendly Laguna Lodge with all meals, and scheduled lodge activities.

Option three is a visit to Arenal Volcano including a one-night stay at Volcano Lodge, breakfast and dinner, a volcano tour, and entry to the hot springs.

FOR YOU

 \$150
GIFT CARD

[CLAIM HERE](#)

FOR YOUR CLIENTS

 Life
CHOICE*

plus receive

REDUCED
50%
DEPOSITS*

OCEANIA CRUISES®

Earn UPFRONT
BONUS COMMISSION

ENDS 31
AUGUST
2021



EXQUISITELY CRAFTED CUISINE | CURATED TRAVEL EXPERIENCES | SMALL SHIP LUXURY

*Terms and conditions apply

Access our toolkit of assets to help spread the word and #givetravelashot

[CLICK HERE](#)



CARNIVAL Cruise Line is implementing a temporary bacon limit due to shortages.

The cruise line has temporarily moved to an every-other-day bacon schedule fleet-wide, citing supply issues.

"We purchase thousands and thousands of pieces of bacon every week, and our suppliers - the people that supply us and the cruise industry - are having some challenges sourcing bacon for our ships at the moment," said Carnival brand ambassador John Heald.

"Every other day, the bacon is going to go on a bacation."

Carnival says the pork shortage only applies to bacon, and the rationing is intended to be implemented for one week only.

Breakfast sausage and ham will still be available every day.

Earlier this year, economists warned of a possible shortage of a variety of pork products, such as hot dogs and bacon.

Virgin out of Key West



VIRGIN Voyages is temporarily replacing cruise calls at Key West (**pictured**) following community outcry.

The cruise line cited its desire to respect Key West's decision to ban cruise ships carrying more than 1,300 passengers, after a vote last year (**CW** 05 Nov 2020).

Earlier in 2021, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed a bill overturning the right for Key West to self-determine such matters (**CW** 29 Apr).

Despite this, Virgin has swapped calls to the city with visits to

Nassau.

The change will be in effect from *Scarlet Lady's* four-night Fire and Sunset Soiree sailings in Oct.

"Part of our brand ethos is... respecting the communities we visit and making a positive impact," Virgin said last week in a statement to travel advisors.

"We are actively working on a plan that suits the local Key West community, as well as our [passengers], and are hopeful that we'll [return to] Key West."

In Nassau, Virgin plans to offer activities such as snorkelling & diving, forest treks, fish fries and distillery tours.

The Key West Committee for Safer, Cleaner Ships tweeted a thank-you note to the cruise line, saying "huge respect to [Virgin] today for doing the right thing and pulling out of Key West.

"A lot of cruise lines say they respect the communities they visit...Virgin is the first to back it up with concrete action."

At least two other cruise lines, Carnival Cruise Line and Holland America Line, are scheduled to call on Key West later this year.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

More cruise milestones

CRUISING'S global recovery has advanced further in recent days as the first ships to sail from key American ports set out on landmark voyages.

Carnival Cruise Line resumed Mexican Riviera sailings on Sat as *Carnival Panorama* set out from Long Beach, California, Royal Caribbean International operated the first cruise from the New York region on Sun when *Oasis of the Seas* began a test cruise from Cape Liberty in New Jersey, and on Mon, Crystal Cruises began the first cruise from Boston aboard *Crystal Symphony* for Bermuda.

This progress further highlights the lack of action in Australia, where governments have still yet to agree on a framework for cruising's resumption.

CLIA this week renewed its call for cruising to be included in Australia's four-phase plan for reopening and has written to the Prime Minister seeking a breakthrough in discussions.

Despite frustrations in Australia, our industry has achieved an enormous amount internationally, with almost 1m pax successfully sailing since resumption.

This success – and the challenges we still face – will be a big part of our Virtual Cruise Forum on Fri, where CLIA members will gain important insight from international and regional cruise leaders - register [HERE](#).




Travel Daily

LEARN MORE ABOUT VIKING WITH THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY

Click here to discover