



Cruise Weekly today

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

Embark once more

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has announced a new episode of Embark, *Adventure Alaska*.

Highlighting the very best of the state from the sea, land and air, the episode is aimed as a tool to entice travellers considering visiting Alaska.

The episode follows two members of Norwegian's team as they travel to Alaska for the very first time.

Their journey takes them through the Inside Passage, where five Norwegian ships will offer a selection of five-to-16-day itineraries during next year's northern summer.

CLICK HERE to view the two-part episode.

Government scuttles embarkation

THE extension of Australia's cruise ban until 17 Feb (**CW** breaking news Fri) is a devastating blow for thousands of local workers, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has said.

Around 18,000 were depending on the ban coming to an end this Fri - the date originally slated back in Sep (**CW** 03 Sep).

However, those hopes were snuffed out when Minister for Health Greg Hunt on Fri evening delivered a two-month extension to the ban, which at its currently scheduled completion, will have been in place for a month short of two years.

CLIA MD Australasia Joel Katz said Australia had become the only major cruise market in the world without an agreed plan to resume cruising, which is ordinarily worth more than \$5b a year to the local economy.

"The suspension of cruising has been devastating for the 18,000 Australians who depend on cruise tourism, including travel agents, tour operators, food and produce providers, entertainers, port workers and many other industry suppliers," said Katz.

"In other countries, close to five million people have already sailed successfully under the cruise industry's extensive new health protocols...we need federal and state governments to use the coming weeks for genuine discussions with the cruise industry so we can plan a similar revival in Australia."

Katz said the extension of Australia's cruise ban was a further disappointment for thousands of cruise fans who faced uncertainty around their future holiday plans.

"Cruising has changed enormously in response to the

pandemic and the work our industry has done with medical experts internationally has resulted in health protocols that are successful in mitigating the risks of COVID-19," he added.

"With vaccination rates increasing and borders opening, we need agreement on the way forward throughout Australia so there can be a careful revival of cruise tourism in communities around the country."

The ban's extension until mid-Feb means ships will be unlikely to sail in Australian waters this season until mid-Apr, if at all, due to the several months of preparation required to stand a ship up and fill it with passengers.

"Cruising involves long lead-times, so it is essential that the industry can work closely with all governments and health authorities to establish detailed operational plans," Katz said.

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Travel Daily



TALK about keeping it in the family - Tasmanian country duo The Wolfe Brothers will headline P&O Australia's Country Music Festival at Sea 2022, around 50 years after the siblings' father performed on the cruise line with his act Midnight Revival.

"Our dad often spoke so fondly about the wonderful memories he had of playing on P&O cruise ships," said band member Tom Wolfe.

AQV Xmas 2022

SAVE now on 2022 Christmas river cruises down the Mississippi with American Queen Voyages (AQV).

Those who book by the end of Feb can save USD\$1,500 per couple on a range of AQV's all-inclusive cruises.

The cruise line has seven Christmas and holiday season cruises on the Mississippi in Dec 2022, with cruise & stay packages from five to eight nights also available, either round-trip from New Orleans or between New Orleans and Memphis.

All fares include guided hop-on-hop-off shore excursions during the cruise, locally inspired gourmet meals, unlimited onboard beverages, onboard gratuities and unlimited wi-fi.

To book, contact Cruise Traveller, on 1800 507 777.

Ambassador + ORCA pact

AMBASSADOR Cruise Line has partnered with charity ORCA to launch the company's first anti-whaling campaign.

The cruise line will host two ORCA ocean conservationists on 11 sailings on board *Ambience* in 2022 and 2023.

The conservationists will visit destinations such as the Black Sea, Greenland, the Iberian Peninsula, Iceland, and the Irish Sea.

During their voyages they will collect important scientific data and deliver an enhanced onboard experience.

Two of the 11 cruises will be Ambassador's multi-generational sailings in next year's northern summer, where ORCA will provide a multi-generational-focused education program, working with families to teach them about the marine environment, and involving them in onboard conservation projects.

ORCA will also have a permanent presence onboard *Ambience*, including models of whales, dolphins and porpoises, & replica whale and dolphin bones; and information about its conservation programs, and how they are working to protect whales and dolphins around the world.

There will also be a dedicated enrichment area which will include educational material focused on whales and dolphins, centred around the ORCA OceanWatchers application, which allows guests to try their hand at ocean conservation.

Ambassador's cruises will feature no Destination



Experiences or excursions to Oceanariums or encounters with captive marine mammals.

Ambassador will also be monitoring the outcome of the review planned to be undertaken by the Faroe Islands government with respect to its commercial whaling policy, and will cancel ports of call if it is deemed that activity in the destination contradicts the cruise line's pledge.

Our Merriest Deals

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has unveiled some of its "Merriest Deals" in preparation for this Christmas and holiday season.

Australian travellers are invited to treat themselves by booking a cruise, with reduced deposits of just \$149pp.

Guests will enjoy savings of up to 35% on their cruise fare together with all five of Norwegian's popular Free at Sea offers, including a complimentary beverage package, a shore excursion credit, a specialty dining package, a wi-fi package and a reduced rate for the third and fourth guest.

Valid for new bookings made before 27 Dec, travellers can take advantage of this offer on a range of 2022 and 2023 cruises sailing around the world.

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