



Royal Caribbean looks to the future

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) Chief Executive Officer Richard Fain gave an investor update overnight, confirming while the COVID-19 pandemic was having a “painful and profound impact on our world and our business...we are encouraged to see the sharp decline in cases and the growing availability of vaccines”.

“We can’t wait to get back to the business of showing people the world and making great memories,” he said, saying RCG remained confident in its ability to recover and return to the positive trajectory it was on prior to the pandemic.

RCG reported a full year loss of US\$5.8 billion - compared to a US\$1.9 billion profit for the prior year.

The company continues to work and collaborate with the Healthy Sail Panel, epidemiologists, health authorities and various governments around the world

to ensure a healthy and safe return to cruising for guests, crew and the communities visited, according to the update.

“While the situation remains highly fluid, knowledge of the virus and how it spreads continues to improve.”

The limited operations currently under way, including *Quantum of the Seas* in Singapore (**CW** 11 Feb 2021), were achieving “very positive reviews,” Fain said, noting a higher proportion of first-time cruisers than had been anticipated.

“We believe that these cruises, even before the availability of vaccines, are helping us learn and demonstrate to others how we can operate successfully under the current COVID-19 environment,” he added.

While RCG continues to develop its plan to meet the United States Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) Framework for Conditional

Sailing, “many uncertainties remain as to the specifics, timing and cost of implementing its requirements.

“Overall, and due to the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Company expects to re-start its global cruise operation in a phased manner, with the initial cruises having reduced guest occupancy, modified itineraries and enhanced health and safety protocols,” the RCG Chief Executive Officer said.

After the formal results announcement, a media conference saw Royal Caribbean International Chief Executive Officer Michael Bayley saying he believed new CDC regulations may now be “just around the corner”.

Bayley noted the next step was likely to be trial sailings, with over 250,000 people having already volunteered to take part.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Cruiseco**.

Don’t give up, says Cruise Traveller

CRUISE Traveller Managing Director Craig Bowen has urged the industry to not give up, insisting “we are getting somewhere”.

Bowen told **CW** a “positive, resilient attitude” and “continued willingness to serve current clients and pursue new ones” during the COVID-19 pandemic will see travel companies and advisors thrive when int’l borders reopen.

“Australians love to travel and want to travel and if they book with us now, entrusting us with their money, what a wonderful stamp of faith in us,” Bowen said.

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travelBulletin



A MINI-CFO version of Carnival Cruise Line Chief Fun Officer and former basketball player Shaquille O'Neal (pictured) has been launched.

Debuting in a new digital marketing campaign to promote Carnival's short cruise offerings, Shaq now has a tiny sidekick, who features in a series of videos and digital media.

The campaign sees the Big Daddy and his pocket-sized counterpart playfully highlight the convenience and affordability of Carnival's array of three- to five-day voyages - view **HERE**.

Really, if the Diesel can't convince you to cruise, there's no getting you aboard a ship.



NCLH en pointe



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings' upscale brands - Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) - have announced an exclusive partnership with the Queensland Ballet for 2021.

The collaboration will provide an opportunity for Oceania and Regent Seven Seas cruisers to attend invite-only experiences on offer, including exclusive access to opening nights, intimate dress rehearsal performances, cocktail receptions with performers,

backstage experiences & tours, and interval drinks in the private dressing room of Queensland Ballet Artistic Director Li Cunxin.

"There is a natural synergy between Oceania Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Queensland Ballet," believes Oceania and RSSC Managing Director Asia-Pacific Steve Odell. "Our leading upper-premium - and luxury cruise lines - offer some of the most electrifying entertainment at sea, extensive art collections and enriching cultural activities, reflecting the same level of luxury and prestige as Queensland Ballet."

"On behalf of Queensland Ballet, I am delighted to be partnering with two premier cruise lines that have the same degree of appreciation for the local arts industry as we do," Li said.

"We look forward to working with Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises this year and to connecting more people with dance across Australia".

Quark is hiring

QUARK Expeditions sales teams are hiring, as the line's new ship *Ultramarine* nears completion.

The cruise line is seeking a Business Development Manager and Polar Travel Client Experience Advisor, both based in Melbourne, and other positions in California, the midwestern United States and Toronto.

Apply via the Travelopia jobs portal.

Sea Cloud resumes

SEA Cloud Cruises will resume sailing early in the northern summer, with certified COVID prevention and hygiene protocols.

The Hamburg-based cruise line will restart operations this summer with new itineraries in the Mediterranean, with trips to start aboard *Sea Cloud* in Piraeus from 07 May.

Starting from 02 Jun, *Sea Cloud II* will voyage from Nice, alternating along the Cote d'Azur and around Corsica.

Starting the same date, *Sea Cloud Spirit* will focus its voyages from Rome, travelling to Sicily and Tuscany.

All initial Sea Cloud cruises will start and end in the same port.

"Because we are focusing on one country and one region per ship, we can bring each destination particularly close to our guests," said Managing Director Daniel Schafer.

The catalogue is available **HERE**.

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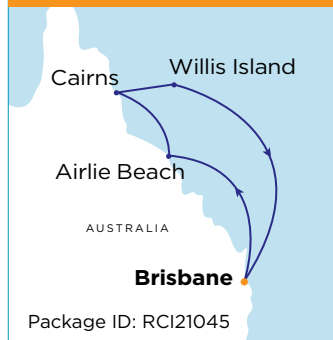
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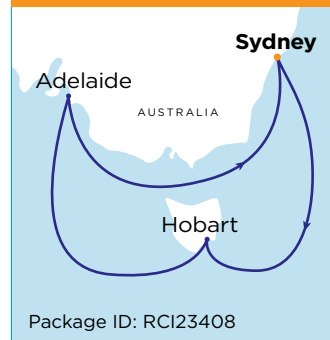
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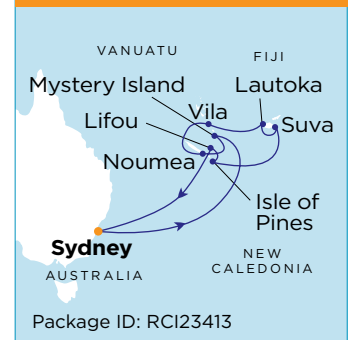
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