



Coral Expeditions introduces more

CORAL Expeditions has announced new voyages for this month, including the Great Australian Bight and the Houtman Abrolhos.

The cruise line's flagship *Coral Adventurer* will return to operations from Cairns later this Jan after a 10-month hiatus, having recently completed an eight-voyage season alongside *Coral Discoverer* on the Great Barrier Reef (**CW** 28 Oct).

The new series of expeditions will involve several coastlines previously unvisited by Coral, focusing on pristine nature, rugged landscapes and rarely explored corners of South Australia, the Great Australian Bight, and the coral reefs and islands of Queensland & Western Australia.

"As we head into 2021 with ongoing uncertainties for the travel industry, there is no better sanctuary than our own home shores," said Commercial Director Jeff Gillies.

"Our new voyages celebrate Australia with small numbers of



local guests and crew traversing a large tract of the continent that we have not explored before on a number of unique voyages between Cairns, Brisbane, Adelaide and Fremantle".

The new expedition series includes a 10-night Wild Islands & Walks of South Australia voyage roundtrip from Adelaide, a 12-night Outer Reefs & Cays of the Coral Sea voyage from Cairns to Brisbane, a 12-night Abrolhos

Islands & the Coral Coast voyage from Fremantle to Broome, and a 13-night Across the Great Australian Bight voyage from Adelaide to Fremantle.

Staterooms start from \$6,390 per person, twin share, and journeys are all-inclusive.

Cruises are limited to Australians and guest numbers will be capped at under 100.

Coral operates an all-Australian flagged fleet with Australian crews, and its SailSAFE health protocols have been approved by all state authorities, and will remain in place until risks recede.

For enquiries, call 1800 079 545.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Murray still open

THE Murray River remains open for cruise operations, in contrast to information provided by Victoria's 24-hour coronavirus hotline.

Those not coming from New South Wales can still cruise the River with commercial tourism operators, with Murray River Paddlesteamers Managing Director Rohan Burgess saying the perception of a closure had dealt considerable damage to the region's operators.

"We have already refunded over \$10,000 since the border announcement was made and fielded many calls seeking information about the River being open," Burgess said.

"The River is open for business as long as people do not land on the northern side".

All Murray River Paddlesteamers' daily cruises are currently operating as scheduled, including the Wharf to Winery luncheon cruise, which is now limited to residents who reside within the 50 kilometre border bubble, as the winery is in New South Wales.

Other passengers on this cruise can switch to a two-hour *Emmylou* lunch cruise for no extra cost, or can place the booking on hold for up to three years, or can cancel the booking and request a refund.

Murray River Paddlesteamers said it expects to receive an exemption to operate accommodated cruises mooring on the New South Wales side of the River by Feb.

For more information, please contact Murray River Paddlesteamers at info@mrps.com.au.

Do you listen to Travel Daily - News on the Fly to catch up on the news?

Use the podcast to update our listeners with your company's news.

Sponsorship opportunities are available now.

[CLICK HERE TO ENQUIRE](#)

Travel Daily

Norwegian hoping for Apr restart?

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has cancelled its remaining Mar sailings, meaning operations will start in Apr at the earliest.

Norwegian Encore, *Norwegian Escape* and *Norwegian Joy* are all affected, with *Encore* scheduled to cruise from Miami on 01 Mar, *Escape* from Port Canaveral on 11 Mar and *Joy* from Miami on 07 Mar.

Affected guests will receive a full refund plus an extra 10% credit for those rebooking within one year.



Read about the change to Celebrity's pricing and what Aurora is doing to protect deposits in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin



ALREADY an admired figure in Hawai'i, Australian professional surfer Mikey Wright has gone up even further in the estimation of locals after making a dramatic ocean rescue in O'ahu.

The brother of more notable professionals Tyler and Owen Wright, Mikey rushed into the ocean on NYE to save a woman struggling in rough waters.

The woman had apparently been taking a video from rocks when a "freak" 4.5-metre wave dragged her out into the ocean.

This prompted Wright to discard his beer and his phone, rip off his shirt and save the endangered woman, likely perpetuating the slightly erroneous perception of Aussies.

New Reef Venture

TOUR operator Tasman Venture has launched an "island escape" private charter experience on the Fraser Coast.

Fully guided and catered, the cruises will visit Fraser Island and Lady Elliot Island in the Great Barrier Reef aboard a fully crewed catamaran.

Guided hiking, cruising, swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, standup paddleboarding, tube rides, sunbaking, beach-hopping, fishing and wildlife spotting will all be on offer.

For further information please contact 07 4124 3222.

Ponant gets NZ tick



LATE last year Ponant received the green light to commence luxury expeditions in NZ (**CW** breaking news), following months of engagement with the country's Ministry of Health.

Le Laperouse (pictured) will recommence operations exclusively for New Zealanders in NZ's waters from next month, making use of its 3-shield COVID-safe protocol it has been utilising on cruises for the past six months.

The initial departure, a 14-night Chatham Island & Subantarctic Islands Expedition itinerary, is scheduled for 08 Feb.

Chairman Asia Pacific Sarina Bratton welcomed Ponant's ability to support its partners, and deliver economic benefit to New Zealand, as well as "to have the opportunity and privilege to offer bubble expeditions for Kiwis, enabling exploration of some of the most remote and inaccessible parts of that country, so rich in

natural beauty and extraordinary wildlife.

"Kiwi travel agents, tour operators, ground operators, airlines, port authorities, food and beverage suppliers, technical suppliers, fuel suppliers, service and waste suppliers all benefit from our small ship operation", Bratton added.

"This is an important step forward and it takes us closer to the time when borders re-open and cruising resumes in Australia, and to when we will be able to confirm the return of our luxury expedition small ships.

"Ponant's relaxed, refined and French-inspired style complements this extraordinary experience."

Ponant also recently partnered with Qatar Airways subsidiary Discover Qatar to launch an expedition cruise series travelling around the country's coastline (**CW** 10 Dec) - for more, visit au.ponant.com.

Tropicale scrapped

FORMER Carnival Corporation ship *Tropicale* has been scrapped in India.

The vessel was most well-known in Australia as *Pacific Star*, having sailed for P&O Cruises Australia from 2005 to 2008.

Under its original name *Tropicale*, the vessel sailed for Carnival, and also voyaged as *Costa Tropicale* for Costa.

AVAILABLE ON THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY 'HUB'

Travel Daily

