



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Quark protocol

QUARK Expeditions has launched what it is calling the industry's "most rigorous and guest-empowered" COVID travel policy, in time for its 2021 sailing season.

The cruise line's S.A.F.E. COVID Policy is an acronym, standing for "state-of-the-art testing & health protocols", "anytime cancellation & rebooking", "free from crowds in the polar regions", and "experience will not be compromised".

Quark will require a negative PCR test prior to guests arriving at their hotel, where they will be tested again, ahead of a charter flight to the ship.

The cruise line's testing system is capable of providing 100% detection, even when guests are pre-symptomatic, with results available in 30 minutes, and all passengers able to be tested within two hours.

Travellers will be able to rebook up to a month before their voyage, and if a coronavirus-related reason keeps a guest from travelling, they will be covered until the day of departure.

## P&O furthers NZ pause

P&O Cruises Australia has extended its pause in operations in NZ to departures on and before 25 Apr, planning to commence a 150-day season in Jul.

Initially scheduled to begin sailing from Auckland from 06 Feb, *Pacific Explorer's* operations were previously paused to 04 Mar, and have now been extended again.

P&O Australia said it was continuing to work with government and public health authorities on an appropriate time to restart sailing, with the cruise line's President Sture Myrmell saying the new year brought renewed optimism.

However, Myrmell admitted it was important to remain realistic about the immediate future.

"We know that much better days lie ahead and we remain positive about the resumption of cruising," he posited.

"While we've paused operations, P&O Cruises together with the wider industry has been using the time wisely to plan for cruising's return.

"As we work towards this goal, we wanted to provide our Kiwi guests with as much certainty as possible and flexibility around their 2021 bookings and an opportunity to reschedule their cruise holiday.

"I want to thank our New Zealand guests for their loyalty to P&O Cruises Australia during this time and we look forward to

welcoming them back onboard."

P&O will make contact with guests whose cruises have been affected, either directly or via their travel advisor, to let them know of this development and the options available to them.

Guests who have not yet received an offer are entitled to a full refund, or bonus onboard credit, if they choose a future cruise credit.

P&O will pay refunds to travel advisors, and will also protect commissions on all bookings for cancelled cruises paid in full as of 05 Jan.

Guests with bookings affected by the pause in operations can track the progress of their future cruise credit or refund request via a new tracking tool found on P&O's website.

In Australia, *Pacific Adventure* is currently scheduled to begin sailing from Sydney on 30 Apr, while *Pacific Encounter* is due to call Brisbane home from 07 May.

Both *Adventure* (former *Golden Princess*) and *Encounter* (former *Star Princess*) are on track for delivery, with P&O noting additional voyages may be added earlier, depending on the timing of the return of cruising.

"We can't wait to resume cruising because it also means opportunity for our devoted crew who do so much to deliver exceptional cruise holidays and for whom 2020 was a particularly tough year," Myrmell said.

## Seabourn Journeys

SEABOURN Cruise Line has introduced three new pre- or post-cruise extension Seabourn Journeys for later this year.

The extensions in Greece, Israel and Portugal will provide in-depth, land-based itineraries going beyond the single-day excursions available from ships.

The four-day Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Masada & Dead Sea and Jerusalem extension includes the ancient city of Jaffa, Tel Aviv, Bethlehem the Church of the Nativity, Gethsemane, the Cenacle & King David's Tomb, the Western Wall and the Dead Sea.

The other four-day option - Lisbon, Fatima, Porto, and Douro Valley - includes Portuguese monuments such as Avenida dos Aliados & Porto Sao Bento; a wine tour of the Douro Valley including a tasting in a Port Wine Cellar; lunch at Quinta da Pacheca; Santa Clara Monastery; the University of Coimbra, and the Chapel of the Apparitions.

The Welcome to Greece option travels across five days, taking guests to the Acropolis of Athens, the Parthenon, Argolis, Mycenae, Nafplio, the Rio-Antirio Bridge, Pythia on the hillsides of Mt. Parnassus and Meteora & its monasteries.



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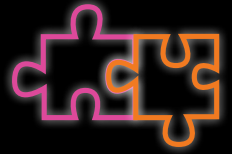
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Travel Daily



**KATE** Winslet played one of the most famous fictional cruise ship passengers of all-time in 1997 when she appeared as Rose in *Titanic*, but apparently, one scene from the movie still haunts her - and it's not the one in which her lover dies.

Ever since Leonardo Di Caprio's Jack Dawson sensually painted Rose like one of his French girls, the nude drawing still elicits a cringe from Winslet.

The English actress is often handed replicas of the drawing to sign - a request she refuses.

"There's a photo of it as well that someone has lifted from a still of the film, and that photo gets passed around too," Winslet bemoans.

Winslet added she absolutely did not mean for the screenshot to continue showing up all these years later.

## L'Occitane hits the sea



**ATLAS** Ocean Voyages' *World Navigator* will feature the first-at-sea SeaSpa by L'Occitane en Provence.

Located on the main deck, Deck 4, the new 88m<sup>2</sup> SeaSpa will feature two treatment rooms, an infrared sauna (inset), an oceanview serenity lounge (pictured), and a reception room with L'Occitane's signature scent, Pillow Mist.

Treatments will combine exclusive, hand-performed sequences with authentic ingredients from Provence.

Guests can choose among L'Occitane's exhaustive spa treatments menu, which features the Destination Deluxe 2020 Sleep & Reset Massage, a 90-minute treatment which aims to help boost sleep quality.

All staterooms will also include complimentary L'Occitane shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and handwash.

"We are glad to partner with L'Occitane to bring their signature treatments to the open seas," said Atlas parent company Mystic

Invest Chairman Mario Ferreira.

"*World Navigator's* SeaSpa by L'Occitane will offer experienced, inquisitive and fun-seeking guests the luxury brand's Mediterranean art-de-vivre with the same top-quality service and ingredients for which L'Occitane is world-renowned.

"Our two companies have already been working well together for Mystic Invest's hotel brands and river vessels, and this is a positive, organic next step."

L'Occitane Global B2B & Spa General Manager Frederic Darque said the company was delighted to further its partnership with Mystic Invest in bringing L'Occitane to the sea.

"Travellers at sea can enjoy the same high-quality treatments as they do on land, a fully integrated wellbeing journey to the sunny soils of the south of France," he said.

## Antarctica w/ Hurti

**HURTIGRUTEN** is currently offering 2022 Antarctica fly-cruises from \$10,995 per person with flights included.

The deal is available on a range of dates through to 2023, on itineraries such as the Antarctica & Falklands Expedition, the Highlights of the Frozen Continent, the Antarctica and Patagonia Expedition and more - [HERE](#).

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## Drinks on AQSC!

**COMPLIMENTARY** drinks have been announced for all American Queen Steamboat Company (AQSC) river cruises, with savings on 2022 departures.

The itineraries sail on five American rivers and four paddlewheelers, including *American Countess*.

Earlybird savings currently amount to US\$2,000 per couple when booked through Cruise Traveller by the end of Mar - [CLICK HERE](#).