



Cruise Weekly today

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

NCLH out to 30 Apr

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) overnight confirmed the extension of its ongoing pause in operations, announcing the cancellation of all Apr cruises across the Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises brands.

NCLH said it continued to work through its return to service plan, to meet the requirements of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order issued by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, working with expert advisors and regulators to take all measures necessary.

Azamara sold by Royal Caribbean

ROYAL Caribbean Group has entered into a definitive agreement to sell its Azamara brand to private equity company Sycamore Partners.

The all-cash, carve-out transaction is worth US\$201m, and is subject to adjustments and closing conditions.

Sycamore will acquire the entire brand, including its three-ship fleet and associated intellectual property, with the transaction expected to close later in the first quarter of this year.

The sale is not expected to have a material impact on Royal Caribbean Group's future financial results.

Azamara's value proposition and operations will remain consistent under the new arrangement, and Royal Caribbean Group will work in close collaboration to transition Azamara employees, customers and other stakeholders to the



new ownership.

The cruise line recently expanded its local sales team from one to four, all of whom are expected to be retained following the transaction (**CW** 16 Oct 2020), which will also see Azamara Chief Operating Officer Carol Cabezas (**pictured**) appointed President of the brand.

The details of future cruise credit arrangements under Sycamore are unclear, with the company declining to comment on the matter.

Royal Caribbean Group noted

the transaction allows it to focus on expanding its Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Silversea Cruises brands.

"Our strategy has evolved into placing more of our resources behind three global brands, Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Silversea, and working to grow them as we emerge from this unprecedented period," said Royal Caribbean Group Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Richard Fain.

"Azamara remains a strong brand with its own tremendous potential for growth, and Sycamore's track record demonstrates that they will be good stewards of what the Azamara team has built over the past 13 years," he said.

The cruise line has paused cruising until 01 May, planning to return with a 14-night Black Sea sailing on *Azamara Quest*.

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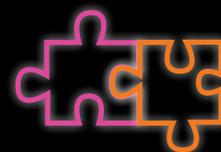
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Travel Daily



Celestyal to recommence



POLICE in Victoria have rescued a would-be thief, after she found herself stranded on a boat anchored off the Mornington Peninsula.

Officers were called to reports of an intoxicated couple paddling out to a boat moored off Capel Sound one night last week.

The couple ransacked the boat searching for more alcohol, but came up empty-handed.

The man swam back to shore, but the woman decided she was too drunk to make it back.

As the situation deteriorated and the woman clung to the back of the boat, a police officer stripped to his undergarments and swam out to the boat to assist her back to shore.

She was charged with drunk & disorderly, tampering, attempted DUI, and parole breach, as well as possession, after a cocktail of drugs was found in her handbag, which was abandoned on shore.

CELESTYAL Cruises has announced its new spring 2021 commencement date will be 24 Apr.

The cruise line will embark on three- and four-night itineraries to the Eastern Mediterranean and Greek Islands, with the first sailing of the season the seven-night Idyllic Aegean itinerary.

Celestyal will be operating from a new dedicated facility at Lavrion (**pictured**), which will allow for the thorough implementation of Celestyal's comprehensive health protocols.

"We are thrilled to be able to announce the exciting news of our new and convenient departure port of Lavrion Port & Marina with its dedicated terminal facility opening to welcome our guests for the first sailing of our well established three and four-night Iconic Aegean itineraries for the 2021 season," said Celestyal Chief Commercial Officer Leslie Peden.

"The port and city of Lavrion is definitely one more interesting destination worth discovering."

The start of the season was initially planned for Mar, with guests currently booked on cancelled voyages through Apr having the option to receive a refundable future cruise credit equivalent to 100% of the amount paid plus an additional non-refundable bonus credit equal to 20% of the actual cruise fare paid.

Murray goes green

THE Victorian State Government has declared its border bubble in New South Wales as a green permit zone, meaning travellers from border towns can freely travel on the Murray River.

Green permits are valid for 14 days from the date of travel, and can be used multiple times.

Applying for a permit only takes a few minutes, and approval is instant, with the permit e-mailed straight away.

Travellers can apply for a permit **HERE**.



Expedition cruising

EXPEDITION cruising is the big news for cruise as we head into 2021.

With many of the larger ship itineraries still on hold for a few months, we were nonetheless excited to hear the news that 36 new expedition cruise ships will enter the global market between now and 2023.

Overall, they represent nearly 7,500 berths and will deploy around the world.

In Australia, the list includes Coral Expedition's new ship *Coral Geographer* which is due for delivery in Q1 of this year.

In other good news, the company will bring its flagship, *Coral Adventurer* back into service.

Coral has also announced new itineraries exploring coastlines between Cairns, Brisbane, Adelaide and Fremantle.

In other news, Ponant has received the green light for their ship *Le Laperouse* to begin cruising in New Zealand waters in Feb.

The company has also announced "commitment free" registration of interest for nine upcoming Australian and NZ itineraries to give travellers confidence.

With expedition ships back in the water, many partners benefit – food and beverage providers, fuel suppliers, post authorities, ground and tour operators.

A reminder of this important supply chain was in the news recently when Tjapukai announced they would close due to the lack of business resulting from COVID.

We thank them for the wonderful indigenous cultural programs which entertained and educated our pax.

AQSC new hire

AMERICAN Queen Steamboat Company (AQSC) has named Rodney Bailey as its new Vice President Hotel Operations.

Bailey joins American Queen Steamboat having served as RAB Hospitality President & owner, which specialises in hospitality operations consulting.

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