



Tehan pledges Jun cruise ban review

MINISTER for Tourism Dan Tehan has confirmed the current health advice, which bans the operation of foreign-flagged cruise ships in Australian waters, will be reviewed this month.

Speaking yesterday at a Future of Travel industry forum hosted on Sydney Harbour by News Corp Australia, Tehan backed the cruise sector, saying "it would be wonderful to get more cruise ships operating around Australia, and also taking into account the bubble we've got in operation with New Zealand, also seeing cruise ships operating between Australia and New Zealand".

However Tehan deferred to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), which comprises all state and territory Chief Medical Officers.

"That's a panel set up to advise the Government through this pandemic, and it's one of the



reasons we're in such a strong position as we are today," he said.

"They've given advice on the cruise industry, now that advice will be reviewed towards the midpoint of Jun," Tehan added.

"My hope is that if we can continue managing the pandemic like we are, we will be able to see

more cruise ships being able to ply our waters, and hopefully ply the waters between Australia and New Zealand as well."

The Minister said he looked forward to working with the cruise industry over the coming weeks "to continue to increase cruising here in Australia".

"It will help the airlines, it will help the wonderful holiday destinations that we have around Australia where the cruise ships stop," he added.

"So to me, it's something we should be looking at, and so I look forward to working with the cruise industry as the next decisions are made by our medical expert panel."

The current Biosecurity Emergency Declaration, which bans foreign passenger shipping in Australian waters, is set to expire on 17 Jun, just over two weeks from today.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Big Balcony event

CUNARD Line's Big Balcony Event is back, with upgrades available on select *Queen Elizabeth* sailings.

Starting today, guests can score a Balcony stateroom for the price of an Inside stateroom with Cunard's double upgrade.

This offer applies for bookings made between Jun and Aug on 74 selected itineraries in 2022/23, including Australia, Asia, Alaska, the Mediterranean, New Zealand, and more.

Cunard has also launched its first-ever regularly distributed trade newsletter, available to all travel advisors with a POLAR account.

Clients itching to get on the water?

Send them this week's *Keep Dreaming*, which includes an agent review of houseboating along the Murray River.



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Travel & Cruise Weekly

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More Escapes

SIX new autumn sailings for Crystal Cruises' *Crystal Serenity's* Luxury Bahamas Escapes are now open to book.

The new departures expand options for the popular seven-night all-Bahamas itineraries including three cruises round-trip from Nassau on 23 Oct, 30 Oct, and 06 Nov, and three cruises round-trip from Bimini on 24 Oct, 31 Oct, and 07 Nov.

The northern summer 2021 debut of Luxury Bahamas Escapes marks Crystal's return to cruising.

The cruise line witnessed the biggest opening day in its history upon the initial booking opening of the Luxury Bahamas Escapes in Mar (CW 23 Mar).

Hurtigruten positivity

HURTIGRUTEN Group has reported record booking numbers for next year's small ship experiences, with levels almost 50% higher than pre-pandemic.

Across both Expeditions and Norwegian Coastal Express, bookings for next year are currently 45% ahead.

Moreover, the recent lifting of travel restrictions and the introduction of vaccine passports to ease international travel has further accelerated reservations over the past 30 days, with an increase in booking momentum expected from larger markets such as Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In fact, next year's booking inflow over that period is 101% higher than the last year's

booking inflow for the same 30-day period in 2019.

If adjusted for re-bookings, the growth in new reservations is 34% when compared to the same period in 2019.

"There is a huge pent-up demand for travel, and we see a substantial and growing demand for authentic adventure travel," said Chief Executive Officer Daniel Skjeldam.

"After a very challenging year and a half for the entire travel industry, we are extremely excited about our step-by-step return to operations."

Skjeldam added Hurtigruten had historically seen travellers seek out unique travel experiences, with a recent extreme increase in demand for the type of small ships/big experiences adventure travel it offers.

Hurtigruten will be hoping bookings accelerate even further, with Norwegian Coastal Express to be fully operational by Jul, and the Expeditions program to be gradually ramped up in the third quarter.

Unfortunately, revenue for the first quarter remained down 74.3% from €140.2 million to €36.1 million, but was in line with the fourth quarter of last year.

The total contrasts with a net cash burn rate of around €15 million per month, with prepayments from customers increasing to €16.6 million as of the end of the first quarter.

Hurtigruten also noted in its first quarter earnings presentation brand awareness had increased in Australia, as well as other large markets.



WHAT could possibly be a better use of money during a pandemic than a new ship for the personal use of a monarch?

The Government of the United Kingdom is planning a new national flagship at the cost of £200 million in order to promote the "best of British".

The vessel, which is planned to be built in the UK, will be the successor to *Britannia*, which was retired in 1997.

The ship is set to be commissioned in a bid to boost British trade and industry globally, PM Boris Johnson said - after all, in the current pandemic, why would the National Health Service need the money?



send us donut ditties to win

The best donut ditty, poem or song each week will be read out on our podcast and the best overall entry will win themselves a dozen donuts on International Donut Day on 4 June.

Send your entries to donuts@traveldaily.com.au



Spain cruises back

SPAIN will welcome back international cruises from Mon after 12 months, the Ministry of Transport announced.

The country's maritime authorities approved the reopening because of falling coronavirus rates and an increase in vaccinations, after it initially banned cruise ships from docking in Jun 2020.

Spain was the second-most-popular destination for international cruises in Europe before the COVID-19 pandemic, and was also the second-most-visited country in the world.