



Cruise Weekly today

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

No job, no job...

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has confirmed the departure of its US-based Chief Sales Officer Katina Athanasiou because she has decided to delay getting a COVID-19 vaccination.

Athanasiou, who had been in senior roles with Oceania, Regent and Norwegian for about a decade, told trade media in the USA that the "separation was amicable".

"I have the utmost respect and appreciation for NCL, but regrettably there wasn't a path forward after I made the personal health decision and choice to delay getting vaccinated," she said.

Athanasiou, who is stepping down effective immediately but will consult to the line until Nov, also expressed her full support for Norwegian's restart plans including 100% vaccination for guests and crew, with the policy extending to the cruise line's shoreside staff including the sales team.

NCL CEO Harry Sommer thanked Athanasiou for her contributions, and announced the promotion of VP of International Business, Todd Hamilton, to become Senior Vice President of Sales.

Diamond Princess to Singapore



PRINCESS Cruises has released details of its 2022/23 South East Asia Cruise and Cruisetour program, which will see the MedallionClass *Diamond Princess* (pictured) homeported in Singapore for four months between Dec and Mar.

The trips have been designed for Australian cruisers and their families, taking passengers to 19 destinations in eight countries.

A total of 21 departures are available on eight unique itineraries, with Princess Cruises Director of Sales and Marketing Nick Ferguson saying "of all our fly-cruise destinations, cruising from Singapore would be one of the most popular amongst Australians".

He noted the program included convenient departures through the Australian school holidays, meaning "we expect strong interest from families".

The voyages feature the most popular fly-cruise itineraries,

with more 7-night, 10-night and 17-night options.

"These cruises will showcase the best local culture, cuisine and award-winning shore excursions available," he said.

Ferguson confirmed *Diamond Princess* would sail in Japan in 2023 following the Singapore season, including the return of Cherry Blossom itineraries.

The MedallionClass vessel offers MedallionNet high-speed internet access, touchless embarkation and disembarkation, keyless stateroom entry, on-demand food and beverage delivery anywhere on board, entertainment content via smart devices and payments via the Ocean Medallion.

The Singapore season goes on sale 17 Jun, with Ferguson also noting a launch offer of up to \$400 air credit per stateroom available for bookings made through to 18 Jul.

For more details call 1300 587 473 or onesourcecruises.com.au.

A Dream response

DREAM Cruises has thanked the citizens of Hong Kong for their overwhelmingly enthusiastic response to the upcoming *Genting Dream* local cruise restart (CW 27 May).

The company said the first two "Super Summer Seacation" departures, on 30 Jul and 01 Aug, are already 90% booked, while weekend getaways throughout Aug are now at 50% capacity.

"We are truly grateful for the tremendous response we have received from the people of Hong Kong," said *Genting Dream* Cruise Lines President Kent Zhu.

"The interest in *Genting Dream* has even extended to enquiries from corporate groups, charity organisations and wedding parties who are looking at chartering the ship later in the year," he said.

More CDC ticks

DISNEY Cruise Line has been granted approval by the US Centers for Disease Control to conduct a simulated cruise from Port Canaveral, carrying volunteers to test Disney's health and safety protocols.

The CDC said it had also now approved port agreements for 22 vessels to cruise from five home ports, as well as a total of four test voyages and two conditional sailing certificates for highly vaccinated cruisers.



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White Island trial

THE Whakatane District Court in NZ yesterday kicked off a hearing relating to the tragic volcanic eruption of White Island in late 2019 which saw the deaths of 22 people, including a number of passengers on a Royal Caribbean cruise excursion.

Worksafe New Zealand has laid charges against 13 parties including White Island Tours, ID Tours NZ, Tauranga Tourism Services, helicopter operators Volcanic Air Safaris, Aerius, Kahu and Inflight Charters, the Institute of Geological Nuclear Sciences, the owners of the island and the NZ Emergency Management Agency.

The hearing has now been adjourned until mid-Sep.

Spike in P&O Vanuatu support



P&O Cruises Australia is continuing its partnership with the Pacific islands this month, supporting the Vanuatu Women's Beach Volleyball team as it vies for selection for the upcoming

Tokyo Olympic Games.

P&O Cruises and its passengers, through their donations to the P&O Pacific Partnership, are assisting the team (pictured) with the cost of air travel and accommodation to compete in the Continental Cup Final in Thailand this month - after also helping fund a purpose-built gym and training facility.

"International travel is no longer routine in a world affected by the pandemic, and the Vanuatu team has faced every obstacle imaginable to get to the competition in Thailand, which will decide whether they make it to Tokyo in just a matter of weeks," said P&O Cruises Australia President Sture Myrmell.

"If courage, resilience and determination were the deciding competition factors, the team and their supporters would already have earned gold."

Myrmell said passengers knew that in supporting the Vanuatu team "they are also supporting the aspirations of a nation that is so special to our cruising community".



CELEBRITY Cruises looks set to tap into the frenzy around the new Netflix show *Friends: The Reunion*, with US travel agency Fana World Travel operating a special *Celebrity Equinox* voyage for fans of the beloved sitcom.

The series, which ran for 10 seasons between 1994 and 2004, will be celebrated on board with specially themed events, trivia contests and cooking demonstrations aboard the Caribbean sailing from Fort Lauderdale on 15 May 2022.

"Get ready to eat like Joey, joke like Chandler, cook like Monica, shop like Rachel, yoga like Phoebe and dig like Ross," prospective cruisers are told, with space limited to 1,000 die-hard cruisers - about a third of the ship's total capacity.

Bookings must be made via the group's special website at cruisewithfriends.net, which also interestingly carries a disclaimer noting that "Cruise With Friends Fans At Sea is not endorsed by NBC, Warner Brothers/Warner Media Studios or any entities associated with them".



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Cruise Baltic adds

THE German port of Sassnitz has rejoined Cruise Baltic, boosting the organisation's membership to 32 ports and destinations - its largest ever.

Sassnitz is a gateway to the island of Rugen and is an ideal transit call for cruise ships in the Baltic Sea region.