



US\$150m for NCLH

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has raised an additional US\$150 million as part of a previously announced public offering, with the underwriter, merchant bank Goldman Sachs, exercising an option to purchase an additional five million shares at \$30 per share.

The company said it expects to use the net proceeds from the sale of the shares for "general corporate purposes".

With the underwriter taking up its optional allocation, the total share offering comprised more than 52 million shares, with the company now trading at US\$31.56 per share.

NCLH shares have more than quadrupled since their low point in the early stages of the pandemic, and are up 50% over just the last month amid hopes of a cruise restart.

Viking Sun arrives in China

VIKING'S new joint venture with China Merchants Shekou (*CW* 30 Nov 2020) has taken a major step forward this week, with arrival of *Viking Sun* in Shenzhen.

Under the agreement, the ship will be transferred to the joint venture and become Chinese-flagged, thus being allowed to operate coastal voyages under local cabotage regulations.

Viking Sun, which launched in 2017, was the fourth ship to be constructed as part of Viking's ocean-going fleet, and visited Australia early last year during her mammoth 245-day world cruise which was ultimately disrupted due to the pandemic.

The ship will undergo a makeover before debuting in the Chinese market, including changes to catering and entertainment to "organically integrate simple Nordic style with Chinese culture,

to provide a high-end cruise travel experience and exclusive services".

China Merchants Viking Cruises will be the "world's first five-star cruise operation sailing under the Chinese flag," the JV said.

The move means *Sun* is no longer listed on the Viking website, with the line's founder, Torstein Hagen, saying last year the initiative is an "important milestone in the development of China's cruise industry".

China Merchants Shekou Chairman & Party Secretary, Xu Yongjun, said "the impact of the pandemic on the cruise industry is temporary and the fundamentals of the cruise industry long-term improvement remains unchanged".

In 2019, the Chinese group also signed a MoU with MSC Cruises to cooperate on developing cruising in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Hurtigruten Discover Antarctica sale

HURTIGRUTEN is hosting a Discover Antarctica Sale, offering cruises from \$7,999 per person twin share.

Available on itineraries from late 2021 through to 2023, travellers can plan their expedition with Hurtigruten's Book With Confidence offer, which allows no rebooking fee.

Hurtigruten has witnessed a renewed surge in consumer confidence in international travel of late (*CW* 29 Jan), particular to Antarctica.

Travellers are buoyed by the rollout of the coronavirus vaccine, the cruise line has said.

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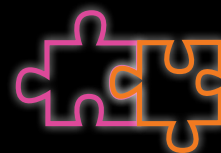
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Travel Daily

Lirica catches fire

NO INJURIES have been reported in a fire which took place aboard *MSC Lirica* in Corfu.

The ship, which had 51 crew members and no passengers aboard, caught fire on Fri afternoon while in port, sending clouds of smoke into the air.

Local emergency services assisted the ship's two fire brigades in bringing the blaze under control in just a few hours.

MSC Lirica is currently in warm layup, with the fire believed to have started aboard an empty lifeboat on the starboard side of deck 6.

A preliminary assessment has shown damage to the side of *Lirica* due to the flames and dense black smoke, but no scarring to the inside of the ship.

Viking Bics a winner



BICTON Travel's Phil Smethurst (pictured) is the Feb winner in Viking's agent incentive.

Smethurst is the winner of \$5,000 worth of Rewards by Viking points, as part of its Discovery Cruise Sale.

Second prize was won by Angas Travel's Kate Collins, who took

home \$2,500 worth of points, while Helloworld Saints Road's Drew Currell claimed third prize, winning \$1,000 points value.

All bookings made by registered members in the sale by the end of the month will go in the draw to win points to spend in the Rewards by Viking store.

Pandaw pleas

THE breakdown of law and order in Myanmar has seen Pandaw Clinics medical teams providing aid to injured people in Middle Burma.

Pandaw established seven clinics in the region in the wake of Cyclone Nargis in 2008, with the ongoing Pandaw Clinics initiative paid for through the generosity of the cruise line's passengers.

All seven medical facilities are now open offering assistance to striking workers while all government hospitals and doctors are closed.

"Our doctors are out with the demonstrators and ready to assist," Pandaw said, urging donations to help show support for the struggle of Myanmar's people to "regain freedom and democracy".

For more info and to donate see www.pandawclinics.com.

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ATASMANIAN man has been reunited with his surfboard, which he lost in strong swell.

The catch? The surfboard was found four years later, and almost 3,000 kilometres away.

The man was surfing the islet of Pedra Branca off the state's southern coast when he was forced to ditch his surfboard thanks to a monster wave heading his way.

The man finally learned of the surfboard's fate nearly four years later, when two tourists from Magnetic Island visited Tasmania, and mentioned to some locals how their sons had found a surfboard floating in the water, which was figured out to belong to a local.

The tourists are now coordinating with the man to have the board returned to him.

Cruise Online offer

CRUISE Online is offering increased commission with Swan Hellenic.

Those booking any of the cruise line's five-star voyages between now and 04 Apr will get 20% off, plus \$250 per guest to spend on board.

Travel advisors can also score an 8% increased trade commission on the Ushuaia-Dunedin 08 Feb 2022 itinerary, and 5% increased trade commission on the Dunedin-Auckland 13 Mar 2022 and Auckland-Rabaul 25 Mar 2022.

Celeb says lettuce party



Photo: Zachary Griffith

CELEBRITY Cruises Strategic Sales Manager Jessica Jones recently hosted some of the cruise line's trade partners at the Canberra Good Food Week launch party last week.

Held at Ovolo Nishi's Monster Kitchen & Bar, attendees sampled some of the restaurant's vegetarian menu items, and tasted some local beers, wines, and espresso martinis.

Pictured are Jenny Cooper, Queanbeyan City Travel & Cruise; Emma Sullivan, Weston Cruise & Travel; Maria Slater, Maria Slater Travel; Vanessa Solomon,

Reis & James Travel Associates; Jones; Pintip Suthayakhom, Reis & James Travel Associates; Anne Calder, Ozcruising; and Deb Long, Weston Cruise & Travel.

Riviera offer

RIVIERA Travel River Cruises has extended its €500 onboard spending credit offer to include next year's sailings.

For cruises booked by the end of the month, passengers can spend the onboard credit on drinks, spa massages, salon haircuts, boutique shopping or (with the exception of Douro cruises), gratuities.

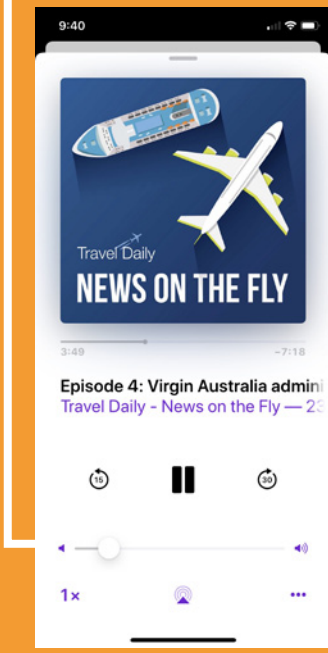
Seabourn extends

SEABOURN Cruise Line has extended its Book with Confidence policy through to the end of May.

Allowing travellers the option to cancel their booking up to 30 days prior to departure on any new bookings and receive a future cruise credit, the policy is available on sailings departing this year only.

Guests may cancel up to 30 days prior to departure and receive a 100% future cruise credit equal to the amount of the non-refundable portion of cancellation fees based on payment already received.

The future cruise credit will be valid for 12 months from the date of issue.



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