



### New Hurti trip

**HURTIGRUTEN** has revealed its flagship expedition cruise for 2023, the New Northwest Passage itinerary.

Guests on the 26-day voyage can follow in the footsteps of famous Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, on board his namesake ship *Roald Amundsen*.

Expeditioners will venture from the Gold Rush town of Nome in Alaska through the Bering Strait, Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea, and the Amundsen Gulf before arriving in Halifax.

Known as one of the most challenging stretches of water to sail through, *Roald Amundsen* will navigate the ice floes and islands of the Passage.

Expedition leaders will bring to life the local history and culture of the surrounding area for guests.

Other locations visited on the cruise include Vancouver, Ilulissat, Sisimiut, Red Bay, and Corner Brook.

Starting from \$26,236 per person twin share, the voyage departs 18 Aug 2023.

**CLICK HERE** for more information.

### Cruise Weekly today

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

## European restart for Celebrity, RCI

**ROYAL** Caribbean Group overnight announced new cruises in the Europe, where it will homeport Celebrity Cruises' brand new *Celebrity Apex* (pictured) out of Athens and Royal Caribbean International's (RCI) *Jewel of the Seas* in Limassol, marking the European restart for the two cruise lines.

The series of week-long voyages, starting from 19 Jun, will cruise to Mykonos, Rhodes and Santorini in the Greek Islands as well as Limassol, Haifa and Jerusalem, marking *Celebrity Apex*'s global debut.

The deployment of the newbuild out of Athens is particularly appropriate, with the brand having been founded in Greece by the Chandris family, before later becoming part of the Royal Caribbean Group.

The company said Celebrity was still "rooted in its Greek origins today," with 70% of marine officers across the fleet having Greek heritage.

"This is a very special homecoming for Celebrity Cruises and is made possible with the



strong collaboration of the Greek Government," said Celebrity Cruises Chief Executive Officer Lisa Lutloff-Perlo.

RCI's *Jewel of the Seas* will operate seven-night voyages from Cyprus to most of the same Greek Islands as the Celebrity ship, with the addition of Crete.

Both operators have recently announced deployments in Haifa, Nassau, and St Maarten, with all crew members on both ships to be vaccinated against

coronavirus, and they will only accept adult passengers who have also been vaccinated, as well as children who present a negative COVID test performed within 72 hours of sailing.

RCI Chief Executive Officer Michael Bayley said the line was "thankful to the Cypriot government for their support and enthusiasm in making these incredible itineraries possible."

Both Celebrity and RCI's seasons go on sale shortly.

### ATG extends global cruising suspension

**THE** APT Travel Group (ATG) yesterday advised its industry partners of a further extension to the pause in its operations, with all international touring and cruises now suspended until 31 May for travellers departing

from Australia.

ATG said due to the urgent nature of the suspensions and to alleviate agent workload it would start directly advising impacted clients from today, in departure date order.

### P&O UK debut

**P&O** Cruises UK has announced that *Arvia* will homeport out of Barbados and Antigua in the Caribbean when she makes her debut in Dec 2022, offering a maiden season of fly/cruise voyages.

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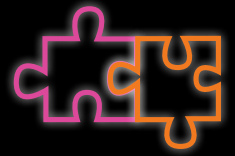
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## Regent's Odell: restart not far away

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) Vice President Asia-Pacific Steve Odell (pictured) yesterday expressed optimism about the potential for both local and international cruising resumptons, during an event where he also confirmed ongoing strong demand for the cruise line's future sailings.



With a restart of cruising clearly a hot topic, Odell said "it is an evolving situation as far as we're concerned, we're still working with Government agencies and ports around the world to get to a place where we can effectively and efficiently and safely start up the business again".

"When you look at what's happening around the world in other places and how it's being successfully done, i don't think it's far away.

"In Australia CLIA has been working night and day with the Federal Government and with the State Governments representing all the cruise lines here about a local startup...we still don't have progress to a point of a

start date but I think we ought to lean towards what's happening, especially in Singapore around the protocols, because I think that startup can happen safely, and that's what we've been trying to voice to the Government here in Australia".

"It's still a bit of a way off, but we would certainly hope that the summer season next year could be the starting point," he added.

He also noted the ongoing efforts around the upcoming Kimberley cruise season, which continues to be the subject of urgent discussions.

"We need to continue to pressure Governments with the

good news stories about cruise, because there are a lot," he said.

**MEANWHILE** RSSC is seeing strong evidence of pent-up demand for cruising, with booking numbers for its 2022-23 Voyage Collection and 2023 World Cruise surging to be up almost 40% within two hours of going live.

There's also strong enthusiasm for close-to-home itineraries, particularly with the planned Dec arrival of *Seven Seas Explorer* in local waters.

Odell wrapped up his presentation by echoing a recent upbeat assessment by Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings CEO Frank Del Rio, who has a strong expectation of a massive boom.

"A golden era of cruising will happen over again...after every war comes boom times - think of the Roaring 20s, the 50s and 60s.

"The cruise business will take off like we've never seen before," he said, adding that Regent was already seeing early signs in the luxury sector with a boom of pent-up demand.

## CLIA says no to CSO

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) is calling for the United States' Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) to lift its framework for conditional sailing order (CSO).

Citing the hundreds of thousands of passengers sailing outside of the United States, CLIA called the CSO "outdated", saying it does not reflect the COVID-19 pandemic's current conditions, nor the effectiveness of "science-led protocols" supporting the cruise restarts implemented in other countries.

CLIA is also calling for a phased resumption of cruise operations from American ports by the beginning of Jul, a timeframe which is in line with President Joe Biden's forecast for when the United States will be "closer to normal."

"Over the past eight months, a highly-controlled resumption of cruising has continued in Europe, Asia, and the South Pacific, with nearly 400,000 passengers sailing to date in more than 10 major cruise markets," said CLIA President & Chief Executive Officer Kelly Craighead.

"These voyages were successfully completed with industry-leading protocols that have effectively mitigated the spread of COVID-19."

The call for a decision on American cruises resuming was echoed by the American Society of Travel Advisors, with Chief Executive Officer Zane Kerby urging the Biden Administration to "set 01 Jul as the date that cruising can resume from US ports".

Kerby said as the pandemic subsides almost every other form of human activity had been cleared for resumption with appropriate protocols "but inexplicably, the CDC keeps cruising suspended".

## Fincantieri plugs into the future

**ITALIAN** shipbuilding behemoth Fincantieri has confirmed a letter of intent with global energy solutions provider Enel to collaborate on the development of "next generation port infrastructure".

The initiative envisages the development of a range of solutions to reduce environmental impact, including shoreside power for docked ships and electrically-powered solutions for ground logistics services.

Fincantieri said it expected to roll out the technology at ports in Italy initially, with plans to replicate the project in other countries such as Spain, Greece and Portugal.



Travel Daily

# Cocktail Compendium

Fancy a drink? Check out our Cocktail Compendium today.



## CLIA LIVE back in Bris



**CRUISE** Lines International Association's (CLIA) travelling education program CLIA LIVE returned in Brisbane this week after last year's hiatus (*CW* 22 Mar).

The event provided a welcome lift for CLIA's members, with dozens gathering at Sofitel Brisbane Central on Tue and Wed to hear presentations from 27 different cruise lines, which provided insight into their latest initiatives and their evolving guest experience in the new era of cruising.

The event was a sell-out, with a following two to be held next month in the Gold Coast and Sydney, before heading to other cities across Australia later in the year.

Attendee Rose Febo from TravelManagers said the event was a reminder the travel industry is all about people.

"Relationships and human interaction involved in serving clients which is at the heart of what drives us," Febo said.

**Pictured** are Wade Eastburn, Atlas Travel Centre; Lisa Dodds, iTravel; Marita Nasic, CLIA; Rose Febo; and Jane Eastburn, Atlas Travel Centre.

## Cruisewatch debuts new AI feature

**CRUISE** startup Cruisewatch has introduced a new algorithm that shows travel advisors alternatives to a traveller's formerly booked cruises.

Cruisewatch's AI engine compares trips with similar specifications, and suggests relevant sailings for customers.

The startup is inviting those interested in harnessing the technology to get in contact.

Former Cruiseco Chief Executive Officer Amanda McClelland helped develop the AI, in her role with Cruisewatch, which is listed as 'Cruise Nerd' (*CW* 05 Mar 2020).



**EARLIER** this month *Cruise Weekly* covered off-the-wall funeral arrangements in the porthole column, with a Port Lincoln operator offering at-sea celebrations of life.

However, the American state of Maine may be about to take end-of-life arrangements a step further, with the region's legislature weighing up whether or not to allow open-air Norse funerals, complete with a pyre.

Anyone who has watched *Star Wars* would be aware of the practice, which sees a typically wooden structure house a corpse which is set alight as part of a funeral rite or execution.

The bill before the state's legislature proposes NPOs that possess at least 20 acres (8 hectares) may carry out the open-air cremations, and permission to scatter the ashes on the property.

One advocate is Good Ground, Great Beyond, which is proposing to let you burn on its pyre in its riverside acreage - not a bad way to go out.

## Live Heritage tour

**HERITAGE** Expeditions will host a guided tour of its new yacht *Heritage Explorer*, live with Commercial Director Aaron Russ.

Hosted on Facebook Live next Thu, Russ will be answering questions after the tour - register now [HERE](#).



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