



### Florida to sue CDC

**FLORIDA** Governor Ron DeSantis has threatened to sue the federal government of the United States if the Centers of Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) doesn't allow cruises to resume by the northern summer.

DeSantis appeared alongside Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody and the leaders of Carnival Cruise Line, Disney Cruise Line, Norwegian Cruise Line, and Royal Caribbean International, to make the case for lifting the no-sail order at Port Canaveral on the weekend.

DeSantis accused the CDC of not making an effort to return cruising.

"This has a kind of ripple effect throughout all businesses...when they're sailing, there is more economic opportunity for people".

## NT slays 2021 Top End cruise plans

**THE** Government of the Northern Territory has made a change to its ban on cruise ships, and will now only allow vessels to operate out of Darwin (**pictured**) if they have no more than 100 people on board, including crew members.

The new rules, announced by NT Chief Health Officer Hugh Heggie on Fri, will also only allow two vessels in NT waters at one time, will require all ships entering the Territory's waters to berth in Darwin first, and will cap ports to one berth.

The move has already seen Coral Expeditions scrap *Coral Adventurer*, *Coral Discoverer* and *Coral Geographer's* Darwin calls, scheduled to take place from Apr to Sep (**CW** 13 Nov 2020).

Other cruise operators set to be affected include APT, Aurora Expeditions, Ponant, Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours and



Silversea Cruises, which all plan to operate in Northern Australia later this year.

Tourism Top End General Manager Glen Hingley told *NT News* the changes would see the Territory risk losing significant business to more welcoming ports in Western Australia, as

cruise lines would not be able to afford to come to the NT.

Hingley said he was dumbfounded how the NT Govt decided on a 100 person per ship limit, with a **CW** reader pointing out The Ghan, which carries almost 350 pax, continues to operate to the NT uninterrupted.

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## Scenic celeb tour

**SCENIC** Luxury Cruises & Tours has introduced an Idyllic Rhone itinerary, sailing with chef Lynn Crawford & designer Tommy Smythe.

The Canadian duo will be on board *Scenic Sapphire* for a sailing which will feature cooking demonstrations, a customised evening dinner menu, and discussions about the delights of French design.

The all-inclusive itinerary, departing 21 Jul 2022, sails from Tarascon to Lyon, and takes in medieval castles & cathedrals, and diverse foods and wines.

Other highlights include excursions to Avignon's Roman-era aqueduct Pont du Gard, walking tours of the ancient village of Viviers and the medieval hilltop town of Perouges, and an e-bike cycling tour through Vienne - [HERE](#).

## Celeb guests want it all

**CELEBRITY** Cruises Vice President & Managing Director, Australia & APAC Tim Jones told *Cruise Weekly* the cruise line's introduction of Flights by Celebrity (**CW** 24 Mar) was born out of the shift to the Always Included pricing model (**CW** 11 Nov 2020).

With Celebrity targeting the "new luxury" market, which sits at the higher price point, expectations from guests are that a lot more is included.

"We've been looking at what else we can build into those packages that really added value for the customer and ease for the travel agent community as well," Jones explained.

"Obviously we've been managing disruption over the past 12 months and managing that disruption is a lot easier

when there's a single point of contact.

"We've always had the capability to sell flights but we never really pushed it to the forefront."

Jones said the other piece to the Flights by Celebrity puzzle was the advancement of technology, and its ability to manage the complexity of offering flights.

Flights by Celebrity is underpinned by a strong technological platform, he explained, which is still being developed as the service launches.

Jones added Flights by Celebrity has been up and running in the United States market, returning results far stronger than expected from customers and advisors.

Flights by Celebrity's Australian rollout also follows on from its launch in Europe.

## Make Travel Matter

**A VARIETY** of Make Travel Matter Experiences have been announced by Uniworld Boutique River Cruises and U by Uniworld to help advance The Travel Corporation's sustainable development goals.

The new experiences will be implemented into itineraries throughout Europe, India and the Middle East, and aim to directly advance Uniworld's long-standing commitment to having a positive impact on the people and communities visited on its sailings.

They will feature on itineraries such as Amsterdam & Brussels Bound, Castles Along the Rhine, Enchanting Danube, Holland & Belgium, India's Golden Triangle & the Sacred Ganges, Rolling Along the Rhine, and Tulips & Windmills.



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\*Up to \$500 credit based on airfare for two people. Prices in AUD. Offer excludes children aged 3-12 yrs. Offer applies to cruises 6nights or longer booked 23/03/2021 – 30/04/2021 departing 1/10/2021 – 24/04/2023 except Galapagos sailings. Cruise fare credit equals \$250 per person for cruises 6-nights or longer, on flights from Departing Gateway Cities only. Cancellation charges may apply, for full details visit [Celebrity Cruises at www.celebritycruises.com/au](http://www.celebritycruises.com/au).

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**SHARKS** do a lot of damage to other living things in the ocean, but as it turns out, they are also lending a hand in the world's waters, helping restore damaged habitats and fight climate change.

As reported in *The Hill*, researchers tested how the absence of tiger sharks is affecting seagrass coverage in Australia, finding increased herbivore feeding from a lack of predation exacerbates ecosystem degradation, with sirenians in particular eating more and being eaten less.

## Fred spots an ORCA



**MARINE** wildlife charity ORCA will join Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines for its Welcome Back no-port scenic sailings in the northern summer (**CW** 22 Mar).  
Guests aboard Fred. Olsen's

itineraries will be joined by Cruise Conservationists from ORCA, who will be offering wildlife-spotting tips, hosting sessions from the deck, and giving guests the chance to assist in vital conservation research on board *Balmoral*, *Bolette* and *Borealis*.

Across seven sailings in Jul and Aug, ORCA's team of experts will spend their days helping Fred. Olsen guests to spot, identify and record data about the marine wildlife that they see, as well as holding lectures and Q&As.

"British waters are incredibly rich with wildlife and to have the opportunity to celebrate and showcase them to Fred. Olsen guests is something that ORCA is delighted to be involved in," said the charity's Head of Partnerships Steve Jones.

"Not only will our cruise conservationists be able to teach guests about the wonderful world of whales and dolphins around the UK, but they will also be able to collect important scientific data to help ORCA protect them for future generations."

## Captain in Jul

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises is offering three-, four-, and seven-night Christmas in Jul cruises on board *Murray Princess*.

With Christmas festivities, Xmas carols and a traditional South Australian holiday dinner or lunch, guests will also enjoy day trips exploring the Murray River's history, culture and wildlife.

Travellers will visit historic ports, learn about Aboriginal history at the Ngaut Ngaut Aboriginal Site, experience a Woolshed Shearing show, and visit a Native Wildlife Shelter - call 1300 729 938.

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## Supply > demand?

**UBS** Global has flagged demand could exceed supply when cruising restarts.

Although the return of cruising in North America will happen later than expected, the industry's recovery will be strong once it begins, the multinational investment bank has flagged.

"While the near-term outlook has gotten worse, with continued delays in restart, the longer-term outlook has improved as vaccines become more widespread than what we originally factored into our estimates last year," wrote analysts Robin Farley, Arpine Kocharyan and Scott McConnell.

"As a result, our 2021 and 2022 estimates are lower, but our 2023 estimates are higher," the analysts reported.