



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### CDC to allow restart?

**CRUISE** lines could start American sailings by Jul, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has said.

In a letter to cruise industry leaders last Thu the CDC pronounced cruise ships can proceed to passenger sailings without test cruises if they attest that 98% of crew members and 95% of pax are fully vaccinated.

The move was a result of twice-weekly meetings between the CDC and cruise representatives over the past month, after Republican Senators introduced legislation which would overrule the CDC's conditional sailing order.

## MSC Cruises reveals Red Sea details

**MSC** Cruises has revealed details of its new itinerary in the Red Sea for the 21/22 season, with *MSC Magnifica* (pictured) to visit Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt (**CW** 22 Apr).

The brand-new seven-night itinerary will see *Magnifica* become the first cruise ship to homeport in Jeddah, with fly-cruise packages available through a partnership with Saudia Arabia's flag-carrier Saudia.

From 13 Nov 2021 through to the end of Mar 2022, *Magnifica* will call at Aqaba, Safaga, Al Wajh and Yanbu before returning to Jeddah.

*MSC Virtuosa* is also adding a call to Saudi Arabia for her winter 2021/22 program in the Persian Gulf.

"The introduction of Saudi Arabia to our winter programme is one of a kind itinerary as it also offers Egypt and Jordan in



an unparalleled combination of sun, beach, tradition and culture," said Chief Executive Officer Gianni Onorato.

"Travelling through the Red

Sea by cruise ship is one of the most spectacular ways to take in the stunning coastline and enjoy the region's unique and still untouched beauty of sea and nature."

Cruise Saudi Chief Commercial & Operations Officer Mark Robinson said the partnership is the perfect starting point for the business's journey.

"[MSC] aligns with our vision to develop mainstream cruising along the Saudi coastlines with Jeddah as the key homeport that offers a wide variety of pre- and post-cruise stay options," he said.

"Jeddah benefits from its proximity to Europe and is easily reachable by plane within five hours from most major cities on the continent.

"Due to its warm weather, Saudi Arabia is an ideal destination for winter holidays and has the potential for year-round cruising."

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## PORTHOLE

**HAVE** you ever heard the famous last words, "we'll be safe so long as we always remain in the vessel"?

A South Alligator River crocodile jumped out of the water and into a boat of NT fishermen last month, after the men stopped for a bite to eat.

The group is believed to have stopped on the river to cook dinner on board when the crocodile, likely in search of his own meal, attacked.

Only one of the men was injured, escaping with minor wounds, which were treated at Jabiru Health Centre.

Warning signs have since been placed on a noticeboard on the banks of the River notifying the public of two problem crocodiles in the area, which Kakadu National Park Rangers are searching for.

The first four months of 2021 have already marked the most Top End crocodile attacks since 2017.

## Disney grants cruisers' Wish



**DISNEY** Cruise Line's *Disney Wish* will sail its maiden voyage - a five-night cruise to Nassau and Disney's private island Castaway Cay - on 09 Jun 2022.

This will be followed by an inaugural season of three- and four-night cruises to Nassau and Castaway Cay from Port Canaveral, with bookings open to the general public from 27 May.

Guests will be immersed in *The Wonderful World of Mickey Mouse* animated shorts aboard the first-ever Disney attraction at sea, AquaMouse (pictured).

Complete with show scenes, lighting and special effects, this water ride will see guests zigzag through more than 200 metres

of winding tubes suspended high above the upper decks.

Passengers will also enjoy Disney's first *Frozen*-themed theatrical dining experience, which will bring the world of Arendelle to life through immersive live entertainment featuring characters like Elsa, Anna and Kristoff.

"With the *Disney Wish*, we're continuing our tradition of delivering the most magical and relaxing vacations at sea, combining legendary service and entertainment with imaginative storytelling and all the care you expect from a Disney vacation," said Disney Parks, Experiences & Products Chairman Josh D'Amato.

## Oceania package

**CRUISERS** can save \$8,000 per couple on a luxury Australia to New Zealand voyage in 2023, thanks to Cruise Traveller.

The new package aboard Oceania Cruises' *Regatta* includes Business class flights, a five-star hotel stay and on-board bonuses, and is available for bookings made by the end of Jun.

The 16-night Great Southern Lands package begins on 16 Jan 2023 with the highlight the 14-night voyage from Sydney to Auckland.

*Regatta* will take guests to Melbourne and Burnie before sailing across the Tasman to Milford Sound, Timaru, Christchurch, Wellington, Napier, Gisborne and the Bay of Islands, before ending in Auckland.

After disembarking, guests will spend two nights in a five-star hotel in Auckland with breakfast before flying home in Business.

Fares from Sydney are available from \$7,995 per person, twin-share - [HERE](#).



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