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PRIMA
COMING AUGUST 2022



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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a cover page from Norwegian Cruise Line.

Be the f1rst on Prima

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has opened its much-anticipated new ship *Norwegian Prima* for sale, the first of six in its new namesake class.

Prima will launch multiple Norwegian firsts, including the Concourse, Indulge Food Hall, Infinity Beach, and Oceanwalk, with the vessel to also offer guests exciting itineraries, more wide-open spaces, and a variety of new experiences.

Upon its delivery from Fincantieri mid-next year, *Prima* will offer the highest staffing levels and space ratio of any new cruise ship in its market segment - see **cover**.

RCI cancels Israel debut of *Odyssey*

THE current Israel-Palestine crisis has led to Royal Caribbean International (RCI) cancelling its *Odyssey of the Seas* (pictured) Jun journeys (CW 02 Mar) through to Oct.

RCI was set to visit Israel for the first-ever time next month, with its newest ship *Odyssey* set to make its debut in Haifa, but will now spend its inaugural season sailing Florida.

"Due to the unrest in Israel and the region, *Odyssey* has not been able to complete the preparations required to operate from Haifa as planned," RCI said in a statement.

"The cruise line's change of plans was driven by the safety and wellbeing of guests, crew and the surrounding communities.

"[RCI] will continue to closely monitor the changing situation in Israel and remains hopeful to return to this popular destination with its ships in the future."



RCI said travel advisors and guests on the affected sailings are currently receiving information and assistance to confirm the refund process.

Details of the future cruises have not yet been announced.

Residents of Israel were set to be the first guests to cruise on *Odyssey* during its inaugural season, where RCI was planning to be the first line in the world

to offer fully vaccinated sailings, with both guests and crew members over the age of 16 vaccinated against coronavirus.

Belligerence between the two states erupted earlier this month, when Palestinians began protesting in Jerusalem over a forthcoming decision of the Israeli Supreme Court regarding the eviction of four Palestinian families from East Jerusalem.

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New Heritage trip

HERITAGE Expeditions has announced a new voyage exploring New Zealand's primeval Stewart Island.

The new eight-day Unseen Stewart Island voyage takes 18 guests aboard expedition yacht *Heritage Explorer* to some of Stewart Island's hardest-to-reach and historic spots, many of which are only accessible by sea.

Beginning next month, travellers can explore the quirky town of Oban, before setting sail for Paterson Inlet, Prices Inlet, Kaipipi Bay, and bird sanctuary Ulva Island, which will offer a great chance to see New Zealand's national icon, the Kiwi bird, during the day.

MSC Sea-shores up its F&B



MSC Cruises' upcoming new flagship *MSC Seashore* will offer guests a reimagined dining experience upon its entry to service on 31 Jul, with the ship to bring guests closer to the sea with al fresco eating and drinking options.

Seashore's Chef's Court has been completely redesigned and relocated to Deck 8, where it will feature a range of new restaurant concepts for MSC's Seaside-class.

Chef's Court will offer guests five specialty restaurants, including the new Kaito Sushi Bar and the new-to-class HOLA Tacos & Cantina, alongside signature MSC favourites such as Kaito Teppanyaki, Ocean Cay, and Butcher's Cut, which will feature a new al fresco dining area.

New bars and lounges, such as Chef's Court Cocktail Bar, The Uptown Lounge, and The Wine Cellar, will offer guests more opportunities to let loose, while the classic Sports Bar now features a new billiard room.

MEANWHILE, the Seaside-class' eponymous ship, *MSC Seaside*, has returned to the sea in the Mediterranean with new destinations and a new itinerary.

Joining *MSC Grandiosa*, *Seaside* welcomed back guests on 01 May with weekly seven-night cruises in the Western Mediterranean, featuring the new destinations of Siracusa and Taranto.

Pictured: *Seashore* Aft Bar.



THE Suez Canal is set to be expanded, after container ship *Ever Given* became grounded in the waterway in Mar (CW 30 Mar).

Egypt has announced plans to widen and deepen the southern part of the Canal - the location where *Ever Given* ran aground.

The plan also includes a 10-kilometre-long extension of a second lane of the Canal, which opened in 2015 - a move which would bring the double-lane stretch of the Canal to 82km.

The moves may not be too little, but for one ship, they are certainly too late.

CDC cruise updates

THE Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has amended its guidelines for masks on cruise ships, with guests able to remove facial coverings in outdoor areas so long as they are vaccinated.

Unvaccinated passengers must continue to don masks while lounging by the pool and eating outside.

The only exception to the new stipulation is in crowded areas, where all guests and crew members must be masked.

Fully vaccinated guests are now also able to explore on land by themselves during port calls, rather than only on approved excursions.

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