



RSSC drops local season

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has been forced to suspend its previously planned 2021/22 *Seven Seas Explorer* season in Asia-Pacific, with Chief Executive Officer Jason Montague confirming the move this morning.

The highly anticipated program was set to see the vessel make her Australian debut (**CW** 13 Nov 2020) operating 14 all-inclusive itineraries between Oct 2021 and Apr 2022.

The canx are part of RSSC's return to service plan, which will also result in the *Seven Seas Voyager* 2021/22 season in Africa and South America suspended.

"Considering the continued impact of the pandemic in certain parts of the world we thought carefully about how, when, and where reuniting the entire Regent family would enable us to consistently deliver an unrivalled experience as well as provide exceptional destination explorations," Montague said.

"We're excited to share with you our plan which will see all

of our ships back in the water by early 2022...unfortunately this does mean we've had to make some difficult decisions.

"As a result and with much regret we've had to suspend further sailings including *Seven Seas Explorer's* upcoming Asia-Pacific season and *Seven Seas Voyager's* upcoming Africa and South America sailings."

Montague said RSSC shared in the disappointment of those who've had their "much anticipated and much deserved experiences cancelled".

Instead of operating locally, *Explorer* will return to service in Venice on 16 Oct, while *Voyager* will be deployed from Barcelona on 15 Feb 2022.

Miami will see *Seven Seas Mariner* restart on 18 Dec, followed on 06 Jan 2022 by *Seven Seas Navigator*.

All voyages up to each ship's respective restart date have been cancelled, with impacted clients to accordingly receive a 100% refund, automatically paid within 60 days of the cancellation.

Spirit to sail in Feb

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) this morning unveiled more of its restart plan, with eight vessels to be phased in over the next nine months, including *Norwegian Spirit*, which will make her return out of Sydney from 09 Feb 2022.

Previously, NCL had announced a local season for 2022 for the newly upgraded ship (**CW** 25 Feb) with Sydney departures in Apr, May, Oct and Nov in 2022.

Guests will also once again sail aboard *Norwegian Breakaway*, *Norwegian Encore*, *Norwegian Escape*, *Norwegian Pearl*, *Norwegian Jewel*, *Norwegian Sun* and *Pride of America* to explore Hawaii, the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, Asia, and more.

In conjunction with the redeployment, the cruise line has cancelled all voyages on *Bliss* through to 24 Oct, *Pride of America* through to 30 Oct, *Escape* through to 02 Nov, *Pearl* through to 07 Dec, and *Jewel* through to 09 Jan 2022.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Dream to Hong Kong

DREAM Cruises has announced it will begin sailings in Hong Kong with *Genting Dream* by Jul.

Featuring two- and three-night Super Summer Seacations, fares will start at a special earlybird promotional rate of HK\$1,188 per person.

Bookings open today, with Genting Cruise Lines President Kent Zhu saying the company has been eagerly looking forward to more vacation alternatives while overseas travel is not permitted.

"These new Super Summer Seacations will provide Hong Kong residents the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of cruising again and will bring much-needed benefits to the tourism industry," he said.


"We will mobilise our resources across the region to bring *Genting Dream* into Hong Kong by Jun to begin her quarantine process so that she will be ready for Jul".



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Travel Daily



Aurora Expeditions webinar next Wed

AURORA Expeditions is hosting an Australia & Antarctica webinar for 2021-22 next Wed.

The program will be discussed by Expedition Leader Liz Pope and Snorkelling & Dive Supervisor Peter 'Scuba Pete' Szyszka.

The two will take attendees on a visual journey of the program, which includes Ningaloo Reef, Kangaroo Island, the Subantarctic Islands and East Antarctica.

It will also give watchers an overview of *Greg Mortimer*.

Register now for session one at 2pm AEST [HERE](#) and session two at 7pm AEST [HERE](#).

RCI COVID positives

FOUR crew members aboard Royal Caribbean International's (RCI) *Odyssey of the Seas* tested positive for coronavirus as the empty ship repositioned this week.

The crew members disembarked in Spain, after which *Odyssey* continued on to the United States.

Another crew member returned an inconclusive test result, with all five tested asymptomatic.

"We are working with local health authorities to safely disembark these crew members and oversee any medical care they need," RCI told *USA Today*.

No other positive cases of coronavirus were identified.

Pause punishing suppliers



JOHN Sharpe, whose Brisbane-based company Riverlife operates the P&O Edge Adventure Park attractions on P&O Cruises Australia ships, has highlighted the need for a pathway to resume cruising, saying he has had to borrow nearly \$1 million to enable his business to survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sharpe is one of two cruise-connected businessmen to recently open up on the impact the suspension of cruising has had on the supplier community, with Inter-Marine Managing Director Graeme Blackman saying his company has also seen turnover plunge dramatically after cruise ships were sent away.

Blackman, whose business has provided services to the industry since P&O Australia operated *Fairstar* in the 1990s, said the outcome has been devastating, having spent 40 years in the maritime industry.

"In 2019-20, our gross turnover was \$6.5 million but to date our turnover is just over \$1 million from our land-based work so, without any shipping, we have dropped by approximately 80%

overall," he said. "Unfortunately, we had to let a number of our staff go and we are down to the bare minimum at the moment just trying to survive until the ships come back...we have lost six permanent people." Inter-Marine's Blackman and Ross DiBartolo are **pictured**.



INDONESIA'S unusual "tank boat" (pictured) prototype underwent sea and weapon trials earlier this week.

The Antasena Tank Boat, which is able to accommodate up to 60 passengers and five crew members was put through testing in waters off East Java.

It has a top speed of 40 knots, and is armed to the teeth with cannons, turrets, machine guns and more.



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