



## Fain to step down as Chief Exec of RCG

**ROYAL** Caribbean Group (RCG) CEO Richard Fain is stepping down after more than 33 years at the top of the company.

He will continue as Chair of the board of directors, with Chief Financial Officer Jason Liberty named to succeed him.

Fain, who is the third-longest-serving Chief Executive Officer among current S&P 500 companies, will serve his last day as CEO on 03 Jan 2022.

Under Fain's leadership, RCG introduced new and distinctive ship categories, including Royal Caribbean International's Sovereign, Voyager, and Oasis classes; and Celebrity Cruises' Solstice and Edge classes.

Fain also oversaw the development of Royal Caribbean International's highly anticipated Icon class, to be introduced in 2023; and Silversea Cruises' Project Evolution, which will

become the industry's first hybrid-powered ship when introduced in 2023.

He will continue his involvement in RCG's ship construction program upon stepping down as Chief Executive Officer.

Fain said with most of RCG's ships operating, and a full return to cruising approaching, it was the right time to step down.

"There are no words to express my admiration and appreciation to the people of the Royal Caribbean Group, who have been the real drivers of our success; and my profound appreciation for the support and guidance of the board of directors during good times and bad throughout this long period of sustained growth."

Fain added he and the board had developed a succession planning process for when he decided the time was right to step down.

Liberty joined RCG in 2005, and has served in several financial, strategic and operational roles, before becoming Chief Financial Officer in 2013.

He will also join the board upon taking up his new role.

His operational duties have expanded over the years and gone well beyond the responsibilities normally associated with a CFO, such as oversight of Silversea; RCG's joint ventures with TUI Cruises & Hapag Lloyd Cruises; and the company's strategy, technology, supply chain, port operations & legal functions.

Naftali Holtz, currently Senior Vice President Finance, will become Chief Financial Officer when Liberty assumes the Chief Executive Officer role.

Holtz is currently responsible for corporate, capital and revenue planning and more.

### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Cruise Lines International Association**.

### South Sea branding

**FIJI'S** South Sea Cruises has announced it will now operate under a new identity, South Sea Cruises Group.

The new company's branding has changed "to recognise the reach and range of South Sea Cruises, and to better position our future growth," it said.

South Sea Cruises will remain one of the company's six brands, alongside Awesome Adventures Fiji, Blue Lagoon Cruises, Malamala Beach Club, South Sea Sailing, and Vinaka.

The cruise line's Chief Executive Officer Brad Rutherford will serve as CEO of South Sea Cruises Group.



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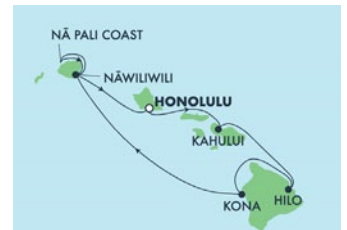
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## Older generations to move from cruise?

**WHILE** older generations of travellers may have been a popular and responsive segment for the cruising industry in pre-COVID times, they are now less likely to cruise post-COVID, the University of Queensland's *Cruising in the COVID-19 era* study has found.

The report, which incorporated responses to four different scenarios about future cruising, also found cruise lines may have more luck targeting higher-end segments of passengers who are well-travelled.

The study suggested these travellers may look to substitute their overseas travel adventures with a local cruise itinerary.

It also suggested pricing strategies should consider safety and quality over low-cost deals, aiming for high yield over high occupancy, with respondents opting for smaller ships of less



than 1,000 passengers when given the choice.

Frequent cruisers will continue to be a valuable source market, thanks to their devotion to cruising, and status attained via loyalty programs.

However, it may be that the older generations within this

segment may be less responsive, the study pointed out.

Associate Professor Gabby Walters told *Cruise Weekly* the study enabled researchers to see how prospective cruisers are likely to respond to the pandemic and the constantly changing travel environment.

## Cruise Croatia '22

**BEYOND** Travel is reporting strong interest in its small ship cruises for next year with exclusive savings of up to \$1,140 per cabin on selected sailings around Dalmatia.

Australians considering a Croatian cruise next year can take advantage of significant savings on a variety of deluxe small ships.

Lower deck cabins for the eight-day Adriatic Discovery cruise between Dubrovnik and Split or vice versa are now on sale from \$1,865 per person twin share, including seven nights cruise accommodation, most meals, numerous port tours, arrival and departure transfers, port charges and tourist tax.

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**DESPITE** initial fears of a ghost ship, a boat anchored in a marine conservation area off San Diego has been confirmed as being occupied.

The boat is anchored off the coast of Bird Rock, with some residents previously fearing it was dropped illegally, or worse - no-one was aboard.

However, some locals are unconvinced, with one woman swearing she'd seen someone abandon the boat in rough seas and not return.

## MSC fundraising for Haiti



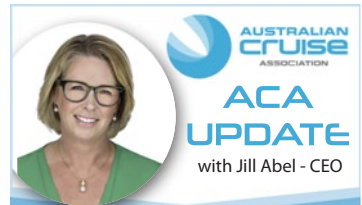
**THE MSC Foundation, Food For The Poor, and Miami-Dade**

County have joined forces to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Haiti.

The Foundation is donating 20 shipping containers to victims of the earthquake earlier this year for immediate use as temporary shelter and the storage of provisions.

In addition, MSC Group will support its Foundation through the firm's cargo business, MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company, to coordinate additional shipments of relief goods from PortMiami.

**Pictured**, the Port's Chief Executive Officer Juan Kuryla; Food For The Poor Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Mark Khouri; Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava; MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company Trade Manager Central America & Caribbean Alessio Lombardi; and Elizabeth Owens, Chief of Staff for Miami-Dade Commissioner Jean Monestime, with a donated container filled with relief items for Haiti.



### Sea-ing green

**WITH** the eyes of the world on Glasgow and the COP26 Climate Summit, it is timely CLIA has released their Environmental Report produced in conjunction with Oxford Economics reviewing the progress by the cruise industry in going carbon neutral cruising by 2050.

It was encouraging to see several cruise leaders participating in the Summit and discussing the challenges and opportunities to be faced.

Technology is driving the global goals in this space and cruise is certainly leading the way there.

Extensive discussion was held around fuels – with much support given to the current use of LNG while looking at bridging to even more environmentally sound synthetic and carbon neutral fuels as new ships come online which have the technological capabilities to make that possible.

Advanced gas cleaning systems and advanced wastewater treatments systems will also play a major role in meeting the 2030 carbon intensity reduction goal and onwards to 2050.

For some years now, the sector has been very focused on the destinations and the connection between the ship and shore.

With more opportunities to include eco-friendly and sustainable tours in their programs, the communities visited are destined to benefit.

It is critically important for our industry to work with such commitment to development.

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