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at a cocktail party hosted by Travel Daily
on Tuesday 30th November 2021 from 6pm at Doltone House,
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*All guests are required to be fully vaccinated in line with NSW Government mandate.

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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a **cover page** from *Travel Daily's* Still Standing Celebration.

Easter cruising more likely than Xmas

THERE may be light at the end of the long dark cruising tunnel, with Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt last weekend commenting on the possibility that Australians might be cruising by Christmas.

While welcoming Hunt's optimistic outlook, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has tempered any excitement with a caution that due to the lead time for any deployments, departures around Easter-time, in early Mar 2022, are more likely.

CLIA MD Joel Katz told **Cruise Weekly** this morning that "discussions with the Federal Government are going well - we are engaging both at the political level and at the medical level".

"We're cautiously optimistic that the biosecurity ban won't be extended," he added, but with eight to 12 weeks required for ships to ramp up operations "we're unlikely to see any cruise ships here by Christmas".

The current ban on foreign cruise ships entering Australian waters expires on 17 Dec, and earlier this month National Cabinet "noted" a report on cruising (**CW** 08 Nov) while also highlighting the necessary involvement of states and territories which, once the ban is lifted, "will control the recommencement of cruises in each jurisdiction".

Katz said the positive signals coming from Canberra had



created new opportunities to engage with state and territory governments, who have until now been reluctant to progress discussions until there was more clarity on the ban.

He particularly highlighted comments from NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet, who last weekend noted that cruising was an important part of the state's tourism mix.

Ongoing discussions with NSW authorities are hoped to lead to the finalisation of new health orders allowing cruises to resume, while CLIA is also similarly engaging with authorities in Vic and Qld, and in other states as they move closer to their post-COVID reopenings.

"We now need the states to buy in...we are leveraging all our discussions with various state governments to plot a way forward in earnest," he said.

The CLIA MD also highlighted the successful resumption of cruising in other markets, where around 80 countries are already welcoming ships and close to four

million people have sailed safely since the cruise restart.

"The protocols are working, and the overwhelming feedback from passengers is that the underlying cruise experience that they love so much is unaffected," he said.

MEANWHILE the New Zealand Cruise Association has expressed hopes that progress in Australia may lead to a follow-on effect for the Kiwi cruise sector too.

NZCA CEO Kevin O'Sullivan said the successful engagement of the Australian cruise industry with state and federal governments was a stark contrast to the NZ situation where "our government agencies have been unwilling to discuss cruise ships coming back to New Zealand waters".

"We have been advised that they are following the decisions made by Australia very closely, but we need much more than that...an official announcement that cruising will be back in Australia in Dec should be the push that our agencies need to begin work with us on a cruise restart for New Zealand."

ATG free insurance

APT Travel Group (ATG) has today released a range of APT and Travelmarvel offers for European river cruises in 2022, with complimentary travel insurance provided when Emirates flights are booked in conjunction with the journey.

The cover includes up to US\$500,000 for overseas medical expenses and emergency evacuation, and up to US\$7,500 if travel plans are disrupted due to COVID-19.

The insurance offer is valid for bookings made before 24 Nov 2021, while all new bookings made before 31 Dec will include ATG's Flexible International Booking Cover which allows guests to postpone their international travel and transfer their deposit to another date or trip up to 65 days prior to departure.

Current offers include the popular APT 15-day *Magnificent Europe* cruise priced from \$6,495 ppts including economy flights, or the 15-day Travelmarvel *European Gems* cruise for \$5,495ppts - call 1300 278 278.



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Norwegian return

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) now has more than half of its fleet back in operation, with the resumption of sailings out of Port Canaveral near Orlando, Florida aboard *Norwegian Escape*, implementing the line's multi-layered safety protocols.

The Breakaway Plus Class vessel becomes the eighth in NCL's 17-strong fleet to restart passenger operations.

"We have welcomed back more than 110,000 guests worldwide as part of our global redeployment efforts," said the line's President and CEO, Harry Sommer.

"Our Great Cruise Comeback stems beyond the relaunch of our vessels, but also the return of our shipboard team members who have been excited to return to deliver unforgettable vacation experiences for our guests".

Port Canaveral will also late next year see a homeport season by the brand new *Norwegian Prima*.

Katarina expands

CROATIAN small ship cruise operator Katarina Line has announced additional departures and enhancements for its inland tours as it sees cruises for the 2022 season being booked "at record pace".

New cruises with guaranteed departures include the seven-night "Breathtaking Croatia" between Split and Opatija, taking in the Adriatic coast and numerous islands, historic port towns and national parks.

Guided walking tours of Split, Hvar, Zadar and Opatija are on offer, and there's a new Brijuni National Park excursion.

Each Katarina Line Deluxe Superior vessel carries less than 40 passengers, with air conditioned cabins and ensuite bathrooms along with outside lounge areas, a hot tub and sundeck.

See katarina-line.com.

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Living the Hong Kong Dream



DREAM Cruises last week marked a milestone of 100 days of safe sailings in Hong Kong, with its *Genting Dream* (pictured) welcoming thousands of both new and repeat guests.

As of 12 Nov *Genting Dream* has hosted more than 65,000 passengers on its "Super Seacation" getaways, with strong upcoming demand reported too.

The landmark Hong Kong achievement comes alongside *World Dream* also successfully completing one year of post-COVID-19 operations in Singapore.

Genting Dream's arrival in Hong Kong last Fri was also the 800th port call at the city's Kai Tak Cruise Terminal since it was inaugurated in 2013 - during which Genting Cruise Lines has accounted for 50% of all visits to the facility.

"We have been very encouraged by *Genting Dream's* first 100 days in Hong Kong providing our guests with a safe and fun space at sea and we have received tremendous feedback from guests of all ages and across demographics," said Kent Zhu, President of Genting Cruise Lines.



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Celebrity Edge repositioning

CELEBRITY Cruises has released details of an epic 52-night *Celebrity Edge* journey from Rome to Sydney, as the vessel heads Down Under for its inaugural Australian season (*CW* 23 Sep).

Also available as four back-to-back sailings, the journey takes in 11 countries after departing on 30 Oct 2023 and arriving in Sydney on 21 Dec.

Celebrity Cruises' local chief Tim Jones said "this Grand Voyage is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reconnect with the world, experience new cultures, explore diverse and exotic landscapes, and experience something new and exciting every day - all while sailing in complete luxury on board a ship uniquely designed to connect guests with their surroundings".

More info on 1800 754 500.

Ponant first to return to Antarctica

PONANT is claiming to be in "pole position" as the first cruise operator to resume luxury expeditions to Antarctica.

The company's brand new *Le Commandant Charcot* (pictured) departed on its maiden voyage to the White Continent from Chile's Punta Arenas on 01 Nov, the first in a season of 14 different itineraries and 33 sailings scheduled through until Mar.

The vessel's captain, Patrick Marchesseau, said welcoming the first guests on board was the culmination of six years of hard work creating the vessel.

"Our guests were even fortunate enough to observe emperor penguins from the first days of our cruise, an extremely rare encounter," he said.

The 16-day maiden expedition explored the Bellingshausen Sea, and included a 20-strong team of onboard naturalists.

Le Commandant Charcot is one



of five Ponant ships set to visit Antarctica this season, with *Le Lyrial*, *L'Austral*, *Le Boreal* and *Le Soleal* also heading south.

Ponant has also released a new campaign showcasing the hybrid-electric *Le Commandant Charcot*

vessel, with a digital showcase including a two-minute video initially rolling out in Europe and the UK and then in the Americas and Asia-Pacific in 2022.

A sneak peek (in French) is live at cruiseweekly.com.au/videos.

JOIN OUR GROWING TEAM AT CORAL EXPEDITIONS



Coral Expeditions, Australia's leading small ship cruise line, has over 36 years of innovation in expedition cruising. Our singular focus on experiential voyages to remote locations, together with disciplined execution have driven strong guest loyalty over the years. To meet continued market demand we are looking to expand our Sales & Distribution Team.

SALES & DISTRIBUTION EXECUTIVE

If you are a seasoned sales professional with a passion for exploration, this could be the role for you. You'll own and develop business relationships with key partners within the trade, nurture FIT and Group travel and be involved in the engagement of existing clients and guests through loyalty events.

This role is perfect for you if you:

- Are a passionate self-starter, a great communicator and team player, with strong relationship building and interpersonal skills to nurture positive internal and external stakeholder relationships.
- Have a minimum of 5 years' experience in a sales role, with experience-based travel products. Experience in the tourism, hospitality, or leisure sectors is desirable.
- Have demonstrated commercial skills to build business by identifying, qualifying and selling prospects, with a track record of exceeding targets
- Have outstanding presentation skills

INSIDE SALES EXECUTIVE

We are seeking a passionate and proven Inside Sales Executive to join the Sales & Distribution Team and be a long-term addition.

This role is perfect for you if you:

- Have 3 years' experience in a sales & administration related role, with a proven track record managing data, CRM systems & using MS Office
- Have experience with online training and advanced presentation skills
- Have strong relationship building and interpersonal skills to nurture positive internal and external stakeholder relationships
- Have demonstrated commercial business development skills to identify, qualify & convert sales prospects
- Are a great team player with an ability to prioritise multiple tasks

Contact us to find out more: careers@coralexpeditions.com

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Cruise sustainability guide

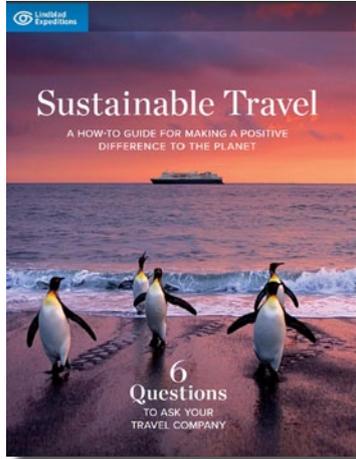
LINDBLAD Expeditions has released a new guide for travellers aiming to help them learn about responsible travel and “make more informed decisions when picking a travel company”.

Titled *Sustainable Travel: A How-To-Guide for Making a Positive Difference to the Planet*, the document claims that sustainability credentials are “more than ever impacting travellers’ decisions to seek out companies who not only practice responsible travel, but are leading the way with net-zero experiences”.

Lindblad highlights the “six core concepts of sustainable travel”: single-use plastics, sustainable food, climate action, protecting nature, culture and community, and green operations.

The document also looks at carbon offsetting, conservation and supporting local cultures, and includes “six questions to ask your travel advisor about minimising your impact on the environment”.

Lindblad noted that it became carbon-neutral in 2019, offsetting



100% of emissions from its ships, all land-based operations, employee travel and offices, as well as eliminating guest-facing single-use plastics across its entire fleet in 2018.

CEO Dolf Berle said “with Lindblad’s legacy in responsible travel and sustainability, we set out to create a resource that travellers can use to make informed decisions about the travel companies that they choose to support”.

The guide (**pictured**) is available for download from the Lindblad website at expeditions.com.

Discover Aqua

AQUA Expeditions will tomorrow present an exclusive live webinar to showcase its new *Aqua Mare* superyacht.

The 50m vessel is set to navigate the diverse Galapagos Islands from May next year (**CW** 02 Nov), and is described as “the first superyacht experience in the region”.

Aqua Expeditions CEO Francesco Galli Sugaro will participate in the online event, along with the line’s Global Director of Sales, Milly Alva Haimberger, with a live Q&A conducted after the presentation.

The free session takes place at 12 noon AEDT tomorrow, 17 Nov - **CLICK HERE** to register.

New P&O UK chef

PASSENGERS aboard P&O Cruises UK’s new *Arvia* will be able to enjoy authentic Caribbean dining courtesy of a partnership with celebrity chef Shivi Ramoutar.

Ramoutar is joining the P&O culinary line-up as a Local Food Hero for *Arvia* when she debuts in Dec 2022 on her maiden season from Barbados.

An exclusive collection of dishes will be offered at onboard eateries including The Beach House and Taste 360, joining other P&O chefs including Marco Pierre White, Olly Smith, Jose Pizarro and Kjartan Skelde.



QUEEN MARY, the retired Cunard Line transatlantic ship which has been docked in Los Angeles’ Long Beach for some years as a floating hotel, ceased operating last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic - but since then she hasn’t been sitting completely idle.

Hollywood TV producers seem to have latched onto the vessel’s potential for authentic seagoing location shots, with *Queen Mary* to appear as the setting for a couple of upcoming shows including comedy series “Reno 911” in an episode where bumbling police officers run afoul of a shipboard QAnon convention.

The *Long Beach Post* reports the ship will also be seen in a new US ABC-TV program called “Career Opportunities in Murder & Mayhem,” described as “a sort of Agatha Christie/ Love Boat mashup in which rich and powerful passengers on an ocean liner...are each hiding something, and one may be a murderer”.

Starring Homeland’s Mandy Patinkin as the indefatigable detective hero, the report adds that the thriller is set on a ship that actually works - which is perhaps “a stretch role for the *Queen Mary*”.



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