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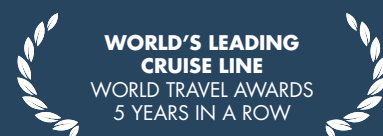
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## ACCI joins chorus calling for cruise

**THE** Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) has added its voice to sector-wide efforts urging the Federal Government to allow cruise ships to return to local waters, saying that while cruising has already resumed responsibly in other parts of the world, "our own industry remains anchored".

ACCI CEO Andrew McKellar (pictured) said that despite suggestions from Australian Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt that cruising could resume before Christmas (**CW** yesterday), a firm commitment and timetable is needed for the industry to recommence.

"Indications are not enough...we cannot expect the cruise industry to set sail again with so much uncertainty," McKellar said.

"Restarting the industry is not as simple as the Federal Government just lifting the



ban...a restart to the cruise industry takes months of planning with staffing, catering and ship storage all needing to be considered," he added.

McKellar said the Federal Government must provide a clear timetable for ending the current biosecurity determinations, adding that COVID-safe measures required for cruise ships to operate must also be outlined.

"Further, we need state and territory governments to commit to accepting cruise ship arrivals,"

the ACCI CEO said.

The organisation, which represents Australian businesses of all shapes and sizes right across the economy, noted that prior to the pandemic the \$5.2 billion local cruise sector supported more than 18,000 jobs.

John Hart, Executive Chair of ACCI's tourism division, said "the economic impact of cruising is significant, with the industry bringing key tourism dollars to regional and remote communities, while also benefiting the accommodation, hospitality and retail sectors".

"Just as the cruise ships that have recommenced operations internationally, the Australian cruise sector is ready and willing to operate within any required COVID safe measures.

"They just need to know what they are so they can start to prepare," Hart added.

### Norwegian savings

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line is offering up to 35% off a wide range of voyages as part of a special Black Friday sale launching today.

The savings come alongside NCL's popular 'Free at Sea' offers including a complimentary beverage package, specialty dining package, wi-fi package, shore excursion credit and access to NCL's "third and fourth guest sail at a reduced rate" deal on selected sailings.

To access the bargain fares cruisers must book before 09 Dec - see the **cover page** for more information.

### Cruise Weekly today

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

**EXCLUSIVE UPGRADE Sale**

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## Around the Azamara world



**AZAMARA** Cruises this morning announced a new five-month World Voyage aboard its newest ship, *Azamara Onward* (pictured).

The massive 155-night journey will visit more than 40 countries in six continents, with the trip including 22 overnight stays and 27 late nights in port to give cruisers the opportunity to fully immerse themselves into each destination.

Azamara President Carol Cabezas said "with opportunities to visit the Seven Wonders of

the World and other iconic sites such as the Great Barrier Reef, the Galapagos, and the Black Sea, we are allowing our guests to check off all their bucket list destinations in one sailing and to connect with more countries and cultures than ever before.

Departing Fort Lauderdale, Florida on 05 Jan 2024, the cruise is now on sale to Azamara Circle Loyalty members only, with a public release on 07 Dec.

A video showcasing the trip is at [cruiseweekly.com.au/videos](http://cruiseweekly.com.au/videos).

### Inclusive Windstar

**WINDSTAR** Cruises has added a new all-inclusive pricing model for its voyages, with fares including unlimited beer, wine and cocktails, wi-fi and gratuities.


President Christopher Prelog said the previous a-la-carte option remains for those who prefer to enjoy the freedom to choose their add-ons, while the all-inclusive pricing is "an effort to be more in line with other luxury offerings in the cruise industry".

### Seabourn special

**SEABOURN** has launched a Black Friday Sail event, featuring the best prices of the season on select sailings through into 2022.

Deals include up to \$1,000 of regular fares, as well as up to \$1,000 shipboard credit on certain departures, and offers can be combined with several other promotions including Seabourn Club Savings of up to 5% off for loyalty members.

125 voyages are included in the offers - [seabourn.com](http://seabourn.com).



### CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz  
MD, CLIA Australasia

#### Gaining clarity for cruisers

**THE** past week has brought further positive comments from the Australian Government on cruising, this time from Health Minister Greg Hunt who has said he'd like to see cruising back by Christmas.


It's an encouraging sign and a very welcome comment, but we're still months away from achieving a resumption in this region.

Even if the Federal Government withdraws its ban on cruise ships, it will still be necessary to establish detailed plans with state governments before cruising can resume. It will also take months of preparations before cruise ships can return to our part of the world.

This has been one of our key messages for some time – cruising involves long lead times, cruise lines need clarity so they can plan ahead, and guests need certainty so they can book with confidence.

Unfortunately, the current lack of clarity in Australia means cruise lines have again been forced to make difficult decisions and cancel upcoming cruises. This undoubtedly causes yet more disruption for cruise guests and travel agents.

While we're pleased that governments are hearing our calls and that our discussions are making progress, it's important that we manage expectations and recognise there's still work to be done before ships can again sail in Australian waters.



**NEW** Zealand's Heritage Expeditions has announced what must be one of the world's most unique shore excursions - an opportunity for cruisers to stay on the remote Wrangel Island in the far north Arctic Circle.

The experience is limited to just five intrepid passengers, who will live ashore as guests of the rangers working at the Wrangel Island Nature Reserve - best known as the "polar bear denning capital of the world" as well as for having a large population of Pacific walrus.

There's also a local population of musk ox and reindeer, and Wrangel Island is also claimed to be the last known survival place of the Woolly Mammoth

(pictured), with tusk and skull showing evidence the massive creatures were on the island as recently as 4,000 years ago.

The Ultimate High Arctic Expedition leaves Nome, Alaska on 24 Jul 2022 aboard the new *Heritage Adventurer* (formerly the *MS Hanseatic*), dropping off the five lucky adventurers before venturing further afield with other guests on board and returning to pick up the Wrangel Island contingent 10 days later.

