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Pandaw closes down after 26 years

PANDAW has announced due to the many continuing impacts on international leisure travel, it has no alternative but to cease its river cruise operations (**CW** breaking news yesterday).

The line cited a lack of financial liquidity, and the failure to find additional funding, due to the impact of COVID-19; the closure of its destinations in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and India; and the Myanmar coup d'etat, as the reasons for its closure.

Pandaw said forward bookings for a restart for 2022 remained strong, but it lacked the funding to continue layup operations of its 17 ships for another year, in addition to undergoing essential refurbishment to prepare for renewed operations - "the timing of which is highly uncertain, even assuming this may occur for the winter 2022/23 season," the cruise line said.



The company said it had worked tirelessly over the past 12 months to find new investors or other forms of finance to carry it through, but without success.

Pandaw founder Paul Strachan said he was truly sorry to disappoint regular passengers who were looking forward to a trip after the lifting of restrictions. "We are also heartbroken for

our 300-plus crew members and shoreside personnel who have stood by Pandaw and were hoping to get going again next year," he said.

Despite the closure, the Pandaw Charity, which has done much to support the people of Myanmar during the coup d'etat (**CW** 15 Apr), will continue its work under the guidance of its trustees.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, a **cover page** from **Ponant** and a **page** from **Cruise Lines International Association**.

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Join CLIA for 2022

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) will be your partner on the path to recovery next year.

2022 memberships for CLIA are open now - discover the benefits on **page four**.

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CRUISE Weekly's face-2-face column (see **page 3**) commonly asks "which celebrity would you most like to sail with," and now, Disney Cruise Line is offering this opportunity - with a catch.

The company will bring a range of Marvel movie actors aboard each sailing of its newest ship, *Disney Wish*, in CGI form.

Through an interactive dining experience, Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Brie Larson and Anthony Mackie, or as they're more commonly known, Ant-Man, The Wasp, Captain Marvel and Captain America respectively, will participate in *Avengers: Quantum Encounter*, the cinematic dining adventure that takes place at *Wish's* Marvel-themed restaurant.

Coral's Qld Christmas

CORAL Expeditions has released a new Queensland journey, To the Heart of the Reef & Outback.

Exceptional experiences and wines feature in the newly released Queensland Christmas expedition, which sails on board the brand-new *Coral Geographer*.

The two unique and all-inclusive itineraries combine the best of Queensland's reef and outback in a distinctive package, such as a private charter flight to Longreach to spend an immersive day in the Queensland outback, and a private sailing yacht to a Whitsundays beach lunch.

Guests will also indulge in two gala dinners on board, which will showcase 10 iconic local wines selected from the 'Exceptional' category of Langton's Classification of Australian Wine.

Geographer will call on many of the remote islands and reefs of the Great Barrier Reef Marine

Park, allowing guests to enjoy encounters with dolphins, rays and turtles.

Other nature experiences will be had on guided walks at Lizard and Magnetic islands.

"The Christmas season is traditionally a time to celebrate with family and friends," explained Commercial Director Jeff Gillies.

"Our vision is to deliver an expedition occasion like no other. It has been a trying time for all over the past two years, and we want our guests to get back to travel with a quintessential Queensland experience".

The voyage will depart once from Cairns to Brisbane and once from Brisbane to Cairns, both across 14 nights.

Both itineraries start from \$11,990 per person twin share.

For more information and bookings, phone 1800 079 545.

Viking Hawaii

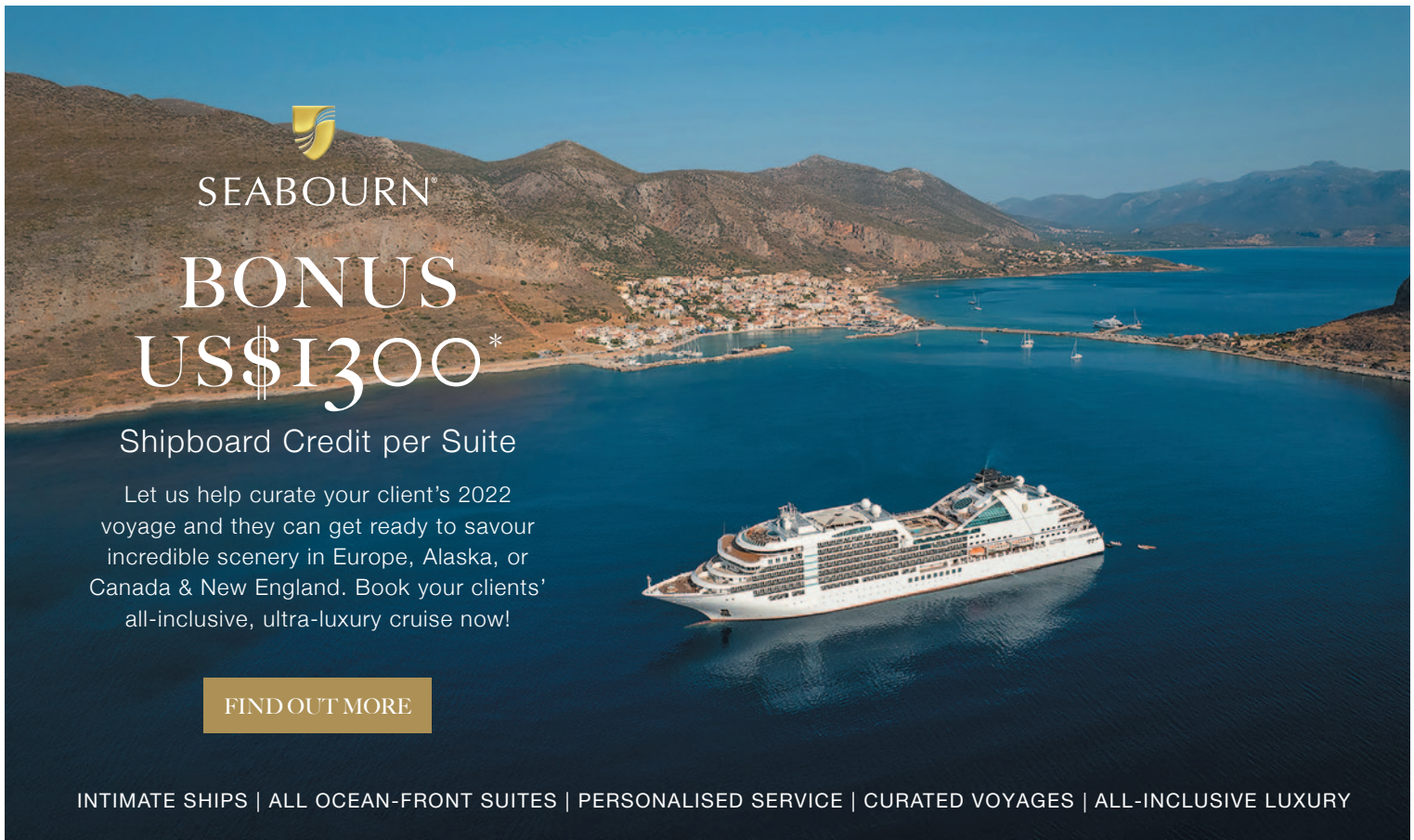
VIKING Cruises has released a new ocean itinerary for later this year, the 17-day Hawaiian Islands Sojourn.


Inviting travellers to celebrate Christmas and welcome the new year in Hawaii, the two Dec departures are priced from just \$5,495 per person in a Veranda stateroom, with a saving of up to \$2,000 per couple, and Viking's Risk-Free Guarantee.

Highlights include stops on the islands of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai - allowing guests to take in the lush rainforests, volcanic peaks and idyllic beaches of the destinations.

The move follows confirmation Hawaiian Airlines will restart flights from SYD to HNL effective from 15 Dec.

For additional information, agents should contact Viking at 138 747.




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Celestial Black Fri

CELESTYAL Cruises has launched a Black Fri sale, offering up to 40% off.

All-inclusive cruises start as low as \$599 per person, and children cruise free.

There is also no single supplement for solo travellers.

The campaign runs until the end of next month, and is valid on select cruises for next year.

For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

FACE-2-FACE: Julie Donaldson

Key Partnership Manager NSW/ACT, Cruise Traveller

1. What is your favourite part of your job?

Every day is different, which I love. Meeting new people, working with my trade partners and of course, the travel.

2. What attracted you to a career in the cruise industry?

That started a long time ago whilst working in London. An opportunity came about to work with Princess Cruises and all I knew of cruising at the time was *The Love Boat*, so who could refuse that! I was hooked after my first cruise to the Canary Islands.

3. What is key to success in the cruise industry?

Positive attitude, hard work, working successfully with your trade partners, keeping yourself up to date on your product knowledge. Cruising is always evolving.

4. How has COVID-19 changed the way you do your job?

I'm usually out on the road educating my NSW/ACT agents on all the wonderful products that Cruise Traveller represent. Now my days are spent either on Zoom calls or on the phone.

5. What is the best thing to say to people who are hesitant to cruise?

You will never know until you give it a go, but more importantly, match the needs



and wants of your holiday with the right cruise and destination/s.

4. What was your best fam trip?

I have been very fortunate in the cruise industry to see some extraordinary places, but hands down, at this stage of my career, it has been the Canadian Arctic with Adventure Canada. Wildlife, wilderness, mountains, glaciers, indigenous communities – just amazing.

5. How do you wind down after a busy week?

I work in the cruise industry... with a wine of course!

6. The celebrity you would most like to cruise with?

Joanna Lumley as she is intelligent, funny and interesting. I'm sure she would have a story or two to tell over a few wines.

7. What should the cruise ship of the future look like?

Small, whether that be for river, ocean or expedition. Fewer passengers, environmentally friendly, technically advanced, especially now with COVID procedures in place. Leaving mainstream destinations to explore new and untouched parts of the world where there will be less crowds.



Positive outlook

FURTHER positive advances for tourism as states start to re-open with Victorians now out of lockdown and border openings announced for Qld and Tas in mid-Dec and SA on Nov 23.

Very importantly, the Australian Government has accelerated the re-boot of international travel with Australian citizens and permanent residents allowed to depart overseas from 01 Nov.

Cruise is now also finally on the agenda with increasing momentum around discussions with Government, and we could see an announcement in the next week or two on an industry re-start.



We need to remember that it will take 60-90 days to get ships back into Australia, but this is tremendously exciting progress.

Great news on the membership front too, as Captain Cook Cruises has re-started their dining and explore experiences on Sydney Harbour just in time for Christmas and NYE bookings.

On the western seaboard, we are delighted to welcome Southern Ports, Bunbury and Esperance - as new members.

Citing the "positive, ongoing economic impact that cruising has on regional communities," the important group will complete the Association's ports representation in Australia.

Like many tourism organisations, Southern Ports is interested in providing education and advice around cruise re-start to give confidence to their communities.

WIN 4 X \$2000 vouchers and 20 x \$100 vouchers when you book a Princess Plus cruise.

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"The online training has been invaluable and the CLIA Masters course is a total game changer for any travel advisor who is focused on cruise as a specialty. It really made me think about my business in a whole new way with a whole new passion. Events such as the Cruise360 Conference and CLIA Live are my source for up-to-date information about our cruise industry and its future."

**Leanne Kuntze,
I Love Cruising, NSW**



2022 MEMBERSHIP OPEN NOW

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