



Cruise Weekly today

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

Riviera returns

RIVIERA Travel River Cruises recently returned to service with two Douro sailings.

The line completed its first cruise in 18 months, with 120 passengers on board two Douro, Porto and Salamanca eight-day sailings.

The voyages featured excursions to a Porto vineyard and UNESCO World Heritage site, the Old City of Salamanca, along with guided tours of medieval village Castelo Rodrigo, and the spectacular gardens of Mateus Palace.

Riviera Travel will now operate a series of river cruises across Europe up until early Nov, as bookings boom across the United Kingdom and United States markets, with next year already down to limited availability.

IAATO gears up

MEMBERS of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) are preparing for the start of the Antarctic travel season, following months of discussion and collaboration with the continent's gateways.

IAATO, which turned 30 this year, held a meeting with members last Thu to discuss operations for the season ahead, following recently released COVID-19 parameters for travel from Antarctic gateways Argentina, Chile and the Falkland Islands.

The Association, which has more than 100 members worldwide including a range of cruise lines, has been working diligently over the last 16 months to deliver keystone recommendations regarding COVID-19 protocols when Antarctic operations resume later this year.

CLIA welcomes US travel



CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has welcomed the White House's decision to lift international travel restrictions to the United States from 19 Nov.

The White House announced overnight it would be lifting the COVID travel ban, allowing entry for vaccinated travellers.

White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Jeffrey Zients said fully vaccinated travellers from anywhere in the world would be able to fly to the United States, though they would also be subject to new testing and contact-tracing procedures.

Zients said the new system will be "relying on individuals, rather than a country-based approach".

CLIA joined its peers in the travel and tourism sector in showing its appreciation for the Biden Administration's recognition of the importance of international travel to

the American economy, and for establishing a path for international visitors to travel to the United States responsibly.

"The cruise industry is an important driver of international visits to the United States, prompting approximately 2.5 million international visitors to travel to the United States to embark on a cruise in 2019, representing nearly 18% of all US cruise embarkations," CLIA said.

"International cruise visitors in the United States spend US\$4.5 billion annually on hotel stays, transportation, retail and other US businesses, supporting nearly 60,000 American jobs.

"Our members look forward to welcoming international travellers, including from the United Kingdom and the European Union, back to the United States while continuing to prioritise public health."

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Atlas to Antarctica

ATLAS Ocean Voyages has confirmed *World Navigator's* inaugural Antarctica season will sail in Nov through Mar.

World Navigator will sail nine- and 12-night Antarctica expeditions, departing round-trip from Ushuaia, with guests to enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime adventure to the Southern Continent, where they will witness penguins, seals, walrus, whales and large sea birds, all set against towering icebergs.

Private charter jet services have been established for a safety bubble from the United States in order to operate the expeditions.

As part of its All Inclusive All the Way commitment, Atlas will bring guests directly to Ushuaia to embark the ship using its own chartered private jet.

MSC in eleventh heaven



MSC Cruises' *MSC Divina* has become the line's 11th ship to resume passenger operations.

Divina departed her new homeport of Port Canaveral for a three-night sailing to the Bahamas, visiting Nassau and MSC's private island destination, Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve (pictured).

The ship joins *MSC Meraviglia* for sailings in the Caribbean Sea and The Bahamas, giving United States-based travellers the choice

of three-, four-, and seven-night itineraries from the two embarkation ports.

There are six MSC ships also currently sailing in the Med – *MSC Grandiosa*, *MSC Magnifica*, *MSC Orchestra*, *MSC Seashore*, *MSC Seaside*, and *MSC Splendida*, with *MSC Virtuosa* set to join them tomorrow.

MSC Bellissima is also operating in the Red Sea from Jeddah, while *MSC Seaview* is sailing in the Baltic Sea from Kiel.

CLIA + Samoa pact

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has welcomed Samoa Tourism Authority as an Executive Partner to support the destination's presence in Australia.

CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz said the new partnership was a sign of long-term confidence in cruising and its role in supporting tourism in the South Pacific.

"Cruise lines have a long history of investment in the South Pacific and have been important contributors to the development of tourism and employment opportunities in island destinations," he said.

"Samoa Tourism Authority joins CLIA at a time when our industry is closely focused on achieving a revival, and we are delighted to have them as a part of our community".

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Unique to Croatia

UNIQUE Cruises has released a new Croatia program, to respond to the pre-pandemic popularity growth in the destination.

The cruise agency will also organise travellers' land touring both pre- and post-cruising.

Unique founder Walter Nand said he was excited by the new product range.

"We know Croatia is a bucket list destination for many travellers, and we want to see them have the best trip for their budget".

Travel advisors can register for Unique Cruises Croatia Training next Tue at 10am AEST **HERE**, and find the new brochure **HERE**.

THERE have been plenty of expensive ships sold in the past 18 months, and James Packer's *IJE* is set to become the next.

With a price tag of just under \$300 million, Packer has advertised *IJE* with the United Kingdom's Burgess superyacht brokers, which recently posted an advertisement for the ship.

"With a timeless sculptural exterior from the board of sought-after designers Redman Whiteley Dixon and a relaxed beach house-style interior by Benetti, she was built as the ultimate world-cruising family yacht," the ad reads.

FACE-2-FACE: Hannah Taylor



Strategic Sales Manager VIC/TAS/SA, Celebrity Cruises

1. What is your favourite part of your job?

Definitely the people I get to work with every day. I am part of a small but incredible and supportive team, and love working with key accounts and trade partners.

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

I began my travel career as a retail travel agent over 20 years ago. Since then, I have worked as crew onboard ships, in both frontline consulting and wholesale roles, and I moved into sales five years ago, combining my love of cruise with my sales/business development role - it's my dream job!

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

A combination of building and maintaining great relationships, a thick skin, a sense of humour, and this past 15 months has also required resilience and a positive attitude in an ever-changing world.

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

I have worked primarily from home since Mar 2020. Most meetings have been via Zoom instead of in person, and like all of us it's definitely made me appreciate the industry and its people on another level!

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

I tell them that cruising is, and will continue to be one of the safest, cleanest and easiest ways to travel. The ease of a cruise holiday and being able to unpack once and visit many different cities and countries, while being spoiled by delicious food and so many things to do onboard and onshore is why cruise will always be a favourite way to see the world.

6. What was your best fam trip?

Oh this is hard! I would have to say it's an equal first place tie for New Zealand and Greece. Both incredible parts of the world (that can be visited on a Celebrity ship!) that absolutely hold a special place in my heart.

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

Catching up with friends for a glass (or two!) of wine, or snuggling on the couch with my dog and cat while reading a book.

8. When not at work, how do you spend your time?

I play hockey, go to the gym and also love relaxing at home, cooking and reading.

ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND CLIENTS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM COVID-19 AND HELP AUSTRALIANS BE ABLE TO TRAVEL BY GETTING VACCINATED.

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