



Cruise Weekly today

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

AQSC rebrands

AMERICAN Queen Steamboat Company (AQSC) looks set to broaden its offering with a rebranding of the business as American Queen Voyages.

The new brand also incorporates sister Hornblower Group company Victory Cruise Lines, with the combined companies offering River, Lakes & Ocean and Expedition divisions, with the addition of new Alaska and Central America itineraries in 2022.

American Queen Voyages has seven ships in its fleet including Victory's two 202-passenger small ships and four US-based river vessels.

Hurtigruten Antarctic season

HURTIGRUTEN Expeditions is returning to Antarctica from Nov with two ships, both of which will depart from Chile.

Roald Amundsen will leave from Punta Arenas on 25 Nov, with her first departure to be a Solar Eclipse sailing, bringing guests to the Scotia Sea, the best place to experience the cosmic event.

Fram, originally scheduled to depart from Ushuaia, will join *Roald Amundsen* from Chile, from 14 Dec.

MD Asia-Pacific Damian Perry told **Cruise Weekly** the decision to choose Chile over Argentina was due to clearer rules regarding travellers and cruisers.

Guests arriving to Santiago de Chile will fly to Punta Arenas by domestic charter flights.

The third ship planned for Antarctica, the newly named *Fridtjof Nansen*, will instead be offering expedition cruises to the

coast of Norway from Hamburg from Jan.

Fridtjof Nansen will complement the refurbished battery-hybrid powered *Otto Sverdrup*, which is almost sold out for the first quarter of next year already.

The godmothers of *Fridtjof Nansen*, environmental advocates Hilde Falun Strom and Sunniva Sorby, will be on board (**CW** 15 Sep).

Affected guests have been contacted with rebooking options, and all passengers and crew members for all Antarctica expedition cruises must be vaccinated with a vaccine approved by the European Medicines Agency.

Hurtigruten Group Chief Executive Officer Daniel Skjeldam said preparing for a two-ship Antarctica season this coming summer marks a remarkable turning point for the company.

Government of NZ hikes cruise levy

THE New Zealand cruise and travel sectors are bitterly disappointed at a government decision to increase the country's border processing levy (BPL).

From Dec, the cost per cruise passenger will go from NZ\$21.06 to NZ\$36.72, and the cost for airline passengers will be more than doubled to a hefty NZ\$43.73 per return trip.

The levy, introduced in 2016, aims to fund customs and biosecurity services for all arriving and departing pax, including NZ citizens.

New Zealand Tourism Industry Association CEO Chris Roberts expressed dismay, saying "we are surprised the BPL is going up before we know when our borders will actually open and what the demand for travel will be".

ITINERARIES NOW OPEN FOR VIEWING



FREE Pre-Paid Gratuities

plus choose one:

- FREE Shore Excursions
- FREE Beverage Package
- FREE Shipboard Credit

EARLY BOOKING EXCLUSIVE

Reduced 50% Deposits For Limited-Time*

2023 COLLECTION

EUROPE and NORTH AMERICA

INCLUDING VISTA INAUGURAL VOYAGES

Pre-register your clients' interest by calling 1300 355 200 (AU), 0800 625 691 (NZ) or emailing res.apac@oceaniacruises.com. Open for reservations on 7th October 2021.



EXQUISITELY CRAFTED CUISINE. CURATED TRAVEL EXPERIENCES. SMALL SHIP LUXURY.

PREVIEW ITINERARIES

*Terms and conditions apply



Travel Daily

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
MALAYSIA WITH THE TRAVEL
DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY**

Click here to discover

malaysia TOURISM MALAYSIA



MSC says shell yeah!



A RECENT sighting of a wild beaver family in the United Kingdom's Avon River is "extremely significant".

Three generations of beavers were sighted in a single location, which is of the utmost notability, as it is the first time in 400 years the endangered animals have established themselves without help from humans.

The discovery follows a five-year scientific study conducted by the Avon Wildlife Trust, which shows the presence of beavers has a wide range of positive effects on the environment, nature and people.

The research found active beavers improve water quality, reduce flood risk and increase biodiversity.

A new Beaver Management Group, consisting of conservation bodies as well as local community groups, has been appointed to monitor the new population and work with landowners.

MSC Cruises' Ocean Cay Marine Reserve has welcomed its first loggerhead sea turtle hatchlings (pictured).

More than six nests and hundreds of loggerhead turtle hatchlings have been identified since last month, a culmination of MSC's successful project to return Ocean Cay and its surrounding waters to its former status as a thriving environment for indigenous flora and fauna.

All nesting sites were marked and are monitored regularly, in order to protect these vulnerable species, and ensure their best chance of survival.

Procedures are in place within the island-wide Biodiversity Management Plan to encourage the turtles and assure their protection, particularly during

their egg-laying season.

Ocean Cay's successful coral restoration program has transformed the waters around the former industrial site back into a rich marine ecosystem.

As a result, marine life around Ocean Cay is thriving, and the waters have become popular with loggerheads, as well as green sea turtles and hawksbill turtles, both of which are sighted frequently.

During the restoration of Ocean Cay, a freshwater wetland was identified as an important ecological feature that supports the avian population, which was safeguarded, and as a result, a number of different bird species have also been seen on the island, including breeding pairs, a resident burrowing owl, and an increase in migrating populations.

New dining options

EUROPEAN Waterways has announced new, unique dining opportunities.

From a gourmet lunch at the home of a 19th century artist to dining at *Domaine Chanson*, the experiences are available aboard *Renaissance*, *La Bella Vita*, and *La Belle Epoque*.

Guests booking river cruises for next year and beyond can enjoy these experiences and more, based on the region they are cruising in.

"Fine dining is an integral part of European Waterways' hotel barge cruises," said Managing Director Derek Banks.

"To that end, our guests already enjoy sumptuous gastronomic meals and wine pairings every day on their luxury barges, prepared by their onboard master chefs."

"Now, they can look forward to new and wider selections of private gourmet experiences at historic domaines, stately homes and other unique sites that will further immerse them in the culture and history of their cruise regions".



Follow the Northern Lights

Up to \$1,400 Onboard Credit*

HURTIGRUTEN
Norwegian Coastal Express

Book now

*Offer amount per cabin, twin share. T&Cs apply.