



Cruise Weekly today

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

Resilient through tests

VIRGIN Voyages' *Resilient Lady* has completed her final sea trial from Sestri Shipyard in Genoa.

The trial aimed to test *Resilient's* speed, which reached an impressive 23 knots (42kmh).

"We're continuing to work closely with the Fincantieri team to get *Resilient Lady* ready before her debut in Aug out of Athens," Virgin said.

"Together, our marine teams are testing her safety systems, automation, power generation and propulsion systems."

Virgin noted that it witnessed its strongest day of bookings ever last week, following the CDC's update (**CW** 31 Mar).

Cover-More to add cruise coverage

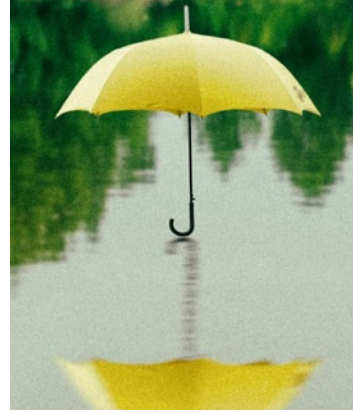
EXCLUSIVE

INSURANCE provider Cover-More has confirmed it will shortly roll out updated policies which for the first time since the pandemic cover medical and evacuation expenses if a traveller contracts COVID-19 while on a cruise.

The initiative was unveiled yesterday during the Travel Associates business leaders conference on the Gold Coast, with Cover-More National Account Manager Simon McNally telling **Cruise Weekly** the change was in response to feedback from trade partners.

"We've listened to what customers want and need and will continue to adapt and evolve our policies to suit the post-COVID landscape," he said.

McNally noted that while Cover-More had been the first company to issue a travel insurance



product covering COVID-19, complexities around cruising had meant pandemic-related medical treatment or evacuation was not able to be covered initially.

"We've since been negotiating with underwriters to create this new coverage and remove the exclusion," he said.

The updated Cover-More policy conditions will be rolling out in the coming weeks, with a staged

release through some trade partners starting tomorrow.

He said insurance was a key driver of travel decisions at present, with COVID-19 having created a desire in customers to ensure they are protected for pandemic-related issues.

Another key change being introduced is the option of unlimited cancellation cover for domestic itineraries - replacing the previous \$10,000 maximum.

The current maximum age limit of 74 for Annual Multi-Trip policies is also being removed, McNally confirmed, while a new, more granular pricing structure which bases policy costs on countries rather than regions will be implemented.

Cover-More is also working on transitional arrangements for customers who already hold policies without the additional enhancements, McNally said.

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FRED. Olsen Cruise Lines made the most of Apr Fool's day last Fri by unveiling a "Magical Music of the Beatles" world cruise out of Liverpool in 2024 - including a specially commissioned yellow submarine offering tours of Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

The jocular itinerary will see Beatles fans Come Together for a trip that follows as closely as possible in the footsteps of The Beatles 1964 world tour, with a call into Copenhagen to mark 60 years since the opening night of the inaugural world tour.

Guests will find "newspaper taxis" waiting ashore to take them on tours to many of the venues played by The Beatles during the tour.

They will also be able to purchase a *Ticket To Ride* aboard Fred. Olsen's new submarine, *Penny Lane*, to witness the Great Barrier Reef.

In addition to a visit to the Reef, Magical Music of The Beatles will also visit Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, on the 118-night cruise.

MRPS Geelong deals

MURRAY River Paddlesteamers has released a number of Geelong Travel Expo specials, available for three days only.

Save up to 20% on specially discounted cabins for three-night and four-night cruises, as well as the six-day 'All the Rivers Run' - (03) 5482 5244.

Oceania event series

OCEANIA Cruises has announced an exclusive event series to celebrate the launch of its biggest collection in history.

The '2023/2024 Tropics & Exotics' and '2024 Europe & Americas Collections' have been launched at the same time, and to celebrate, Oceania is hosting a series of exclusive events around Australia.

The event series will launch on 03 May in Perth, followed by Sydney, Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, and Gold Coast, before concluding in Brisbane on 01 Jun.

Reservations for both collections will open on 05 May.

To further encourage travel partners to invite guests who have not sailed with Oceania before, the cruise line is offering a \$500 Bonus Upfront Commission for bookings secured for new-to-brand guests within 10 days of each event.

This is in addition to the double points available via Oceania Trade Rewards.

The new Tropics & Exotics voyage collection includes sailings in the Caribbean, South America, South Pacific, Africa and the Far East; while the Europe & Americas launch features journeys within Northern Europe, Iceland, Greenland, the Mediterranean, the Greek Isles, the Holy Lands, Alaska, Canada, and Bermuda.

With a variety of options on offer, ranging from seven-day sojourns, extended sailings of more than 45 days, and grand adventures blending multiple voyages, collections feature more

than 350 itineraries, including intriguing new ports.

"A launch of this scale is a first for Oceania Cruises and we're delighted to be hosting events once again with our valued travel partners and their key clients, especially those who are new to the Oceania Cruises experience," said local Vice President Jason Worth.

"There's nothing like a face-to-face event to inspire excitement and anticipation for the exceptional itineraries and shore excursions within these voyage collections".

Celestial deals

CELESTYAL Cruises is inviting travellers to "dream big, dream blue" through its new sale.

Included in a Celestial fare when booking by 14 May is onboard dining, unlimited classic drinks, select shore excursions, onboard entertainment, all gratuities, and the "Celestial Promise", which assures free cancellation up to 90 days prior to departure, with the fare's full balance due 30 days prior to departure.

For booking and enquiries, **CLICK HERE.**



**PRESENTS
AN EXECUTIVE
INTERVIEW**

with publisher Bruce Piper and the Norwegian Cruise Line executive leadership and sales team

The Great Cruise Comeback
Join us for a chat with NCL. There'll be a Q&A panel discussing exactly what cruising looks like today, what's in the pipeline for the global cruise innovator as well how to maximise your selling potential now that local cruising is back on the agenda, plus more.


Eamonn Ferrin


Ben Angell


Damian Borg


Angela Middleton

FRIDAY 8th APRIL
1.00pm (AEST)

REGISTER