



NZCA pleads for cruise certainty

THE New Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA) has escalated its ongoing calls for the country's Government to urgently set reopening dates for its shuttered cruise sector, with the current impasse likely to have a significant impact on deployment decisions.

NZCA Chief Executive Officer Kevin O'Sullivan said "the continuing silence from Government on reopening our maritime borders is squandering the enormous contribution that the NZ cruise sector could make in providing desperately needed revenue to help regional tourism operators survive into 2023".

He noted that the ongoing lack of certainty was continuing to put at risk hundreds of ailing tourism businesses which support the sector around the country.

"New Zealand has already lost 250 port calls and around

NZD\$150 million in revenue due to the uncertainty on when the border will open," he said.

"Cruise lines need time to plan their schedules for the 2022-23 cruise season and time is rapidly running out.

"More than 80 countries around the world are now open to cruise, including Australia...we know there is considerable pent-up demand among travellers for cruise, but international cruise lines are unwilling to put New Zealand on their list because we are still closed."

Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic the cruise sector contributed NZD\$550 million to New Zealand's economy, meaning the country has lost more than NZD\$1 billion in the more than two years since its borders were closed.

"This can't continue...we cannot lose another cruise season

without a serious breakdown in our ability to service all visitors to New Zealand," O'Sullivan said.

He highlighted the leadership taken by the cruise sector in terms of COVID health measures, with all passengers and crews required to be vaccinated and regularly tested.

"Ventilation has been enormously enhanced and there are extensive proven health measures on board," he added, noting that the impact is falling most heavily on regions which rely on cruise ship income in the summer months, particularly while international tourism is still in the recovery phase.

"The Government must announce urgently when the maritime border will open or we will continue to see yet more cancellations, and we will all miss out on the vital opportunities that cruise offers to our communities."

Cruise Weekly today

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

New CLIA gov role

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) is expanding its ranks with the recruitment of a local Director of Government Affairs and Stakeholder Relations.

An experienced professional with demonstrated complex industry experience is sought for the newly created government relations role, with responsibility "for developing proactive, forward-looking political and regulatory engagement strategies, and working alongside internal and member subject matter experts to tailor these for execution across various stakeholder groups across the region".

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MSC World Cruise

MSC Cruises has opened sales for its 2024 World Cruise, with a brand-new 121-day itinerary.

The sailing aboard *MSC Poesia* includes 31 countries and 52 destinations, including the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, Africa, the Americas, and Scandinavia.

Set to depart 05 Jan 2024 from Rome, the cruise also offers embarkation ports of Genoa, Marseille, or Barcelona in the days afterward.

MSC Voyagers Club members will benefit from a 5+5% discount if they book by 04 May, plus triple membership points that will be added to the account straight away.

To find out more about the 2024 World Cruise, call 1300 028 502.

Gwyneth to join goop cruise



GOOP and Celebrity Cruises are set to go “Beyond” this year, with the line bringing back the exclusive wellness retreat sailing, goop at Sea (**CW** 13 Jan 2020), with special guest, goop founder Gwyneth Paltrow (pictured).

This time, goop at Sea will cruise aboard the brand-new *Celebrity Beyond*, which the line took delivery of earlier this month (**CW** 12 Apr).

The nine-night Italian Riviera & France sailing will depart from Barcelona on 24 Sep, and will feature a variety of exclusive programming curated and hosted by goop, including a live interview hosted by Paltrow with a top wellness expert; several interactive practitioner-led sessions; nourishment through exclusive pop-up experiences such as tastings, product trials, massages, and more; and goop-curated gifts and surprises.

Celebrity has also further extended its partnership with goop to now offer a selection of the brand’s signature products on board *Beyond*.

Paltrow will continue as Celebrity’s Wellbeing Advisor, a collaboration first announced in Apr 2021; and she and the goop team will also continue to curate innovative wellness offerings for the cruise line’s ships.

These will include on-demand wellness classes on stateroom televisions, a custom detox smoothie, and fitness tools for guests of AquaClass staterooms.

There will also be a fully immersive, next-level wellness experience, which will be taken further on *Beyond* with the new Aqua Sky Suites, featuring floor-to-ceiling ocean views, private verandas, luxurious bedding, and other wellness amenities.

“Our partnership with Celebrity Cruises has been focused on the intersection of exploration and wellness,” explained goop’s VP of Content Kiki Koroshetz.

“We’ve been fortunate to bring some brilliant experts and teachers onboard, literally, and this new adventure - a mix of discovery and restoration—will be a wholly unique experience.”



A WESTERN Australian family recently had a close encounter with a great white shark, when it circled them for close to an hour.

The family was fishing on its seven-metre boat off the coast of Mandurah on Fri when the shark approached.

Measuring between three and four metres, the animal was fixated on the boat’s motor, chomping on it several times.

It was first led to the boat via the son’s catch.

The family still named it the highlight of their weekend.

Viking Downton

VIKING will continue its partnership with the Downton Abbey franchise, ahead of the release of the film *Downton Abbey: A New Era*.

In cinemas from Thu, Viking will be the presenting partner of national premiere events of the film in Australia next week.

The partnership will be supported by an integrated marketing campaign including press advertising, cinema advertising, digital activations and competitions with selected media partners.

Viking offers exclusive access to explore one of the franchise’s key locations, Highclere Castle (**CW** 11 Sep 2019).

EW Opera Cruise

EUROPEAN Waterways’ (EW) Opera Cruise has a limited number of cabins left.

The cruise offers travellers an opportunity to catch a performance of *Carmen* at one of opera’s most famous venues, the Verona Arena in Venice.

A limited number of cabins on the 17 Jul departure of *La Bella Vita* hotel barge include premium seating to the opera.

The six-night, all-inclusive sailing will also see cruisers enjoy private excursions including a wine tasting and dinner with a countess, featuring regional wines with gourmet meals prepared onboard by their master chef.

Prices for the “Opera Cruise” start at USD\$4,940 per person, based on double occupancy.