



CRUISE

WEEKLY

delivered daily!



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Thursday 3rd February 2022

Cruise Weekly today

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

NCL's huge sale

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has released special fare savings of up to 35% along with US\$200 onboard credit on cruises departing in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

The new offer, available for bookings until 15 Feb, also includes all five of NCL's 'Free at Sea' offers including free beverage package, wi-fi, shore excursion credit, specialty dining package and access to the "3rd and 4th guests sail at a reduced rate" deal.

All departures are covered by NCL's comprehensive Sail Safe health and safety protocols - for info or to book 1300 255 200 (AU) or 0800 969 283 (NZ).

Qatar to showcase Azzurra

EMERALD Cruises and Qatar Tourism have announced a new series of superyacht luxury cruises aboard the new *Emerald Azzurra* in Jan 2023.

Eight-day itineraries ex Doha will take in Sir Bani Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, Khasab and Zighy Bay in Oman, as well as Fujairah and Dubai, with packages available offering three day pre- and post-cruise tours of Qatar.

The move extends Qatar's

cruise focus, with the ongoing construction of the new Grand Cruise Terminal in central Doha which will have the capacity to host two megaships along with attractions such as an aquarium and art gallery.

The *Azzurra* deployment will also enable the industry to capitalise on interest in Qatar as it hosts the upcoming FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 - more details at emeraldcruses.com.au/qatar.

Carnival Spirit is "scheduled to return"

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has confirmed that both of its local vessels, *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Splendor*, are scheduled to return to Australia when cruise operations resume, with planned voyages from their home ports of Sydney and Brisbane.

The company was responding

to revelations that *Spirit* will be deployed in Jacksonville, Florida from early next month (**CW** yesterday) - the first time she has sailed outside of Australia for almost a decade.

Carnival said it looked forward to resuming guest operations in Australia "when government officials can provide clarity".

TD Events offering

CRUISE Weekly's sister brand **Travel Daily** has this week launched **TD Events**, in partnership with Richard Taylor of the Travel Community Hub, as a new, cost-effective and powerful way for suppliers, brands and destinations to connect with the travel trade.

Taylor, who is well known for his engaging online industry discussions since Mar 2020, will facilitate bespoke webinars as part of **TD Events**, alongside curated promotional packages.

"Suppliers are rightly concerned about their outdated email databases, so the combination of **Travel Daily's** enormous reach alongside my own community of thousands of people who are keen to remain connected offers a terrific potential audience," he said - for more details see traveldaily.com.au/events.

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Kiwi long-haul demand returning

NEW Zealand-based small ship specialist Cruise World has hinted at a light at the end of the tunnel, with 2022 having begun promisingly with steady enquiries from Kiwis keen to travel again, after two very challenging years.

Cruise World Director, Joe O'Sullivan, said many guests were realising they need to book ahead to secure cabins, in light of high global demand.

He highlighted a recent successful zero-deposit promotion on American Queen Voyages Mississippi River departures, with most bookings having confirmed their intention to travel by placing deposits by the due date of end of Jan 2022.

"With ships successfully operating in many parts of the world, New Zealanders will soon be travelling again," he optimistically enthused.

Cruise World is highlighting a range of American Queen Voyages offers valid for bookings made by 15 Feb - more on 0800 500 732.

ROYAL Caribbean's *Harmony of the Seas* is in the firing line - literally - after she sailed too close to the launch of a SpaceX rocket over the weekend.

The US Coast Guard is conducting an investigation into the incident, which saw blast-off aborted just 33 seconds before schedule when the vessel entered the designated "hazard zone" around the Elon Musk-backed space vehicle.

A SpaceX spokesperson confirmed the reason for the stopped countdown, saying "we did have a cruise liner making its way towards the no-go zone, that the coast guard was unable to clear out in time".

The CEO of Port Canaveral, John Murray, said it was an isolated incident, while the rocket was finally successfully launched the following day after four consecutive attempts to take its payload, an observation satellite for the Italian Space Agency, into orbit.

You can slide to survive



CRUISE ship evacuation drills could become a lot more fun in the future if a new product from global safety and survival solutions provider Survitec takes off as hoped.

The Seahaven Advanced Evacuation System is described as a "novel lifeboat system that offers helical slide-based mass evacuation from large passenger vessels" - meaning it's basically a giant spiral slippery dip.

The system has just passed heavy weather sea trials, in a test conducted in high winds as it was deployed from an 80m offshore

support vessel (pictured) called *EDT Jane* with key representatives from Lloyd's Register in attendance.

The two-craft system has a total capacity of 1,060 people and can travel independently at six knots for 24 hours.

Seahaven's Ron Krisanda said the successful test, conducted in line with SOLAS requirements for Novel Appliances, was a "huge step forward in the critical development of Seahaven which brings this game-changing cruise evacuation system one step closer to full market introduction".





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