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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news, a front cover page from **Norwegian Cruise Line** and a full page from **Uniworld Boutique River Cruises**.

NCL dub rewards

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is offering members of its Partners First Rewards program double rewards on Europe and Hawaii bookings. Learn more about the offer on the **front page**.

Uniworld's all in

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection is inviting travellers to fly back into cruise with Qatar Airways. More information about the cruise line's all-inclusive voyages is available on **page 3**.

CLIA upbeat despite ban extension

DESPITE Minister for Health Greg Hunt (**pictured**) extending Australia's pandemic emergency measures until Apr (**CW** breaking news Fri), Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has welcomed the government's commitment to engage with industry.

CLIA Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz said it was hoped Fri's two-month extension of the cruise ban to 17 Apr, under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, would be the last before international cruise ships can return to Australia.

He also welcomed Thu's National Cabinet announcement that the eastern states and the federal government will jointly develop plans for cruising's revival (**CW** 11 Feb), saying close cooperation with cruise lines would be essential to achieving a successful resumption.



"Though the cruise ban has been extended, we can now see hope for thousands of Australians whose livelihoods depend on cruise tourism," Katz said.

"Australia is still the only major cruise market in the world without confirmed plans for cruising's resumption, so it's important that governments work in partnership with the cruise industry to achieve a swift solution."

Katz noted more than seven

million cruisers had sailed successfully in dozens of other countries where the industry has already resumed, with stringent new health protocols in place.

"Cruising has changed enormously in response to the pandemic and the work done with medical experts around the world has resulted in health protocols that have been successful in mitigating the risks of COVID-19," he declared.

Katz has called for concrete plans to be finalised as soon as possible.

"Most cruise lines have cancelled sailings through to the end of May and it will take several months to prepare ships for their return, so we need governments to sign off on industry protocols as soon as possible so we can begin a careful and responsible revival of cruise tourism in Australia," he said.

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PREVIEW VOYAGES

*Exclusive Upgrade Sale runs from 17th to 23rd February 2022. Reduced 50% Deposits and OLife Choice offers end 31st March 2022. Upfront Bonus Commission is in the form of a Visa gift card for AU/NZ\$150. To submit a claim or for terms and conditions click here. Visit OceaniaCruises.com for full terms and conditions.



YOU might have heard of Stephen King's *Pet Semetary*, but have you heard of the Pacific Ocean's 'Spacecraft cemetery'?

Last month, NASA announced a planned date of Jan 2031 to de-orbit the International Space Station and direct any remnants into the remote area of the South Pacific Ocean known as the 'Spacecraft cemetery'.

Located east of New Zealand, many vessels that have reached the end of their usefulness are routinely crashed into this point, which is roughly centred on "Point Nemo", which is the location on earth farthest from any land.

As you can imagine, this region is beyond legal jurisdiction of any country and therefore faces less regulation.

Vega hits the water



SWAN Hellenic's second bespoke expedition cruise ship *Vega* (pictured) is now on the water, with Helsinki Shipyard floating out the second of three next-generation vessels for the cruise line.

Vega is the twin ship of *Minerva*, which was launched at the end of last year and is now exploring Antarctica (CW 04 Jan).

Steelwork production for the third slightly larger vessel commissioned from Helsinki started in the last northern summer, and about 50% of the blocks are now ready at the yard.

All three ships are designed for minimal environmental impact and comply with the latest emission standards.

They are also battery-ready for future emission-free silent sailing in port as well as wildlife and marine reserves.

Providing elegant and spacious five-star accommodation for 152 guests in 76 spacious cabins and suites, *Vega* is designed for immersive experiences and extensive open views.

She features an expedition laboratory, a marine life library, and an observation lounge for lectures by expert expedition leaders and specialists from a wide range of disciplines.

Expedition day trips by Zodiac are a central feature of the programs that will be offered, along with kayaking, trekking and other activities.

Moving to Geelong

SPIRIT of Tasmania has confirmed it will be moving its Victorian port to Geelong in the spring (CW 09 Nov).

Until an official moving date is confirmed, sailings from 01 Sep through to the end of the year will remain scheduled as Melbourne – Devonport, with official Geelong sailings open from the new year.

Creative + Celebrity

CREATIVE Cruising has produced six exclusive Celebrity Cruises packages to celebrate the anticipation of a cruise resumption in local waters.

The voyages sail to Croatia, Greece, Italy, Japan, the Mediterranean, Montenegro, Russia, Scandinavia, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, and more.

For more information, contact 1300 362 599.

Spotlight on Princess

A NEW production, *Spotlight Bar*, is debuting on board *Discovery Princess*.

Starting in Apr, the show is set to transport guests to a vibrant bar atmosphere, where they will meet and connect with local storytellers who will share tales of their lives through song.

The show includes a modern musical playlist, with cast performances of various songs such as 'Brave' by Sara Bareilles, 'Don't You Worry About a Thing' by Stevie Wonder, and 'Havana' by Camila Cabello.

Travel Daily

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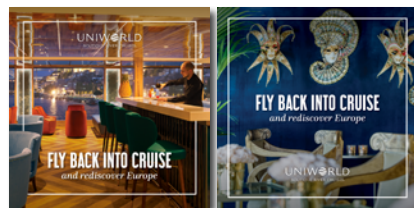


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