



Cruise Weekly today

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

New C360 date

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has chosen 25 Aug as the new date for this year's Cruise360.

The rescheduled event will again be hosted at the Hyatt Regency Sydney, providing an opportunity for CLIA members and the wider cruise community to reunite in person as the industry begins its revival.

This year's event will focus on the global recovery of the cruise sector, and the opportunities this will provide for agents and stakeholders.

Full details and speakers will be announced in coming months, with existing registrations to be transferred.

Genting "washed hands" of Crystal

DESPITE layoffs, a halt to future sailings, and a petition to wind up Crystal Cruises, Genting Hong Kong was still assuring the cruise line's employees the brand was not in jeopardy, with passengers still being funnelled onto ships.

In actuality, Genting effectively washed its hands of Crystal when it filed for liquidation in Bermuda, the cruise line's last President Jack Anderson told *Bloomberg*.

"At that point our relationship with Genting was effectively severed, and we were cut loose to fend for ourselves," he said.

Crystal is currently responsible for more than USD\$100 million in customer payments, according to *Bloomberg*, all held in reserve accounts under the control of various credit card companies.

Most future itineraries were paid by credit card, which will make for easier refunds, but customers who paid in cash



may not be as lucky, and those holding future cruise credits are completely out of luck.

This is despite Crystal suggesting in Oct it was close to finalising all of its outstanding refunds (*CW* 21 Oct), at a time when *Cruise Weekly* was being inundated with messages from a number of dissatisfied travel advisors regarding unpaid refunds, some from as far back as the beginning of the pandemic.

"There wasn't even time for an official statement," Anderson said of Crystal's shuttering.

"What occurred minute by minute over the last two weeks could fill a book."

Reports also surfaced Mon that Heritage Group, which is managed by former Silversea Cruises owner Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio, has made two fully funded offers to acquire Crystal. (*CW* 16 Feb).

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Fred 2023 itineraries

FRED. Olsen Cruise Lines has teased its first look at its new northern summer 2023 program with the launch of Adriatic and Arctic sailings.

In May 2023, *Borealis* will take guests on a journey through history and culture when she sets sail to some of the Adriatic's most fascinating ports, including Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance period, along with the historic cities of Venice, Split, Kotor, and the Amalfi Coast.

In Jun, flagship *Bolette* will depart on her own voyage of discovery to the Arctic as she explores many "off-the-beaten-track" destinations.

The 23-night sailing will offer chances to experience the Midnight Sun, as well as scenic cruising of many fjords, glaciers and mountainous landscapes, and in-between explorations of some of the most remote locations in Norway and Iceland.

"These sailings are perfect for those looking to excite their inner explorer".

Viking hits 7/7



WITH the launch of its new expeditions, Viking now explores all seven continents, with the cruise line celebrating its first voyages to Antarctica and the launch of Viking Expeditions.

As the cruise line begins its 25th anniversary, it embarks on a number of firsts, including *Viking Octantis'* (pictured) inaugural Antarctic season.

By the end of the year, Viking will welcome a second expedition ship, as well as two new ocean

ships, new Viking Longships in Europe, and new purpose-built vessels for the Nile, Mekong and Mississippi rivers.

"When we started Viking 25 years ago, we wanted to do things differently - and since then, our mission has resonated with curious travellers," said Chair Torstein Hagen.

"This week alone our guests are enjoying voyages north of the Arctic Circle and south to the Antarctic Peninsula—as well as to many great destinations.

"Antarctica has always inspired the most intrepid explorers; for many, visiting the White Continent is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Octantis will spend the Austral summer in Antarctica, before travelling north to be named in Apr in New York City by her ceremonial godmother, Norwegian educator Liv Arnesen, who became the first woman in the world to ski solo and unsupported to the South Pole.



MORE than 1,400 ships have been wrecked off the coast of Western Australia, mainly due to the state's long and strenuous coastline with very few natural harbours.

Some of those ships are now being remembered in the form of LEGO bricks, with a new travelling exhibition, 'Brickwrecks: Sunken Ships in LEGO Bricks'.

Following its successful debut at the WA Maritime Museum, the exhibition will now tour Albany, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton.

The exhibition features some of the world's most famous shipwrecks reimagined as LEGO models, and displayed alongside real artefacts from the actual wrecks.

Fortunately, the only recreated cruise ship you'll find is *Titanic!*

Aurora offer

AURORA Expeditions has just released an offer for its upcoming Costa Rica voyage of 30% off all remaining cabins for sale.

Available from \$11,196 per person for a Balcony Stateroom Category C, the offer ends 13 Mar, or until sold out.

'Costa Rica and the Panama Canal' travels from 18 - 30 Apr, embarking from San Jose, Costa Rica and ending in Cartagena - **CLICK HERE.**

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