



Cruise Weekly today

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

Hong Kong canx

MORE than 3,000 passengers are being held on Royal Caribbean International's *Spectrum of the Seas* after a COVID scare prompted authorities to order the ship to return to Hong Kong.

Nine people on board *Spectrum*, which was on a cruise to nowhere around the South China Sea, were identified as close contacts of a positive COVID case.

Hong Kong's authorities have since suspended cruises to nowhere for two weeks.

Royal Caribbean said it was informed of the close contacts on 04 Jan, and subsequently tested and isolated the passengers in question.

NCL cancels cruises through to Apr

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has cancelled several sailings as Omicron variant cases surge.

NCL has cancelled trips on eight ships, including embarkation dates as far out as late Apr.

All *Norwegian Pearl* (pictured) cruises with embarkation dates through and including 14 Jan, *Norwegian Sky* cruises embarking through 25 Feb, *Pride of America* cruises embarking through 26 Feb, *Norwegian Jade* cruises through 03 Mar, *Norwegian Star* cruises through 19 Mar 2022, *Norwegian Sun* cruises through 19 Apr 2022, and *Norwegian Spirit* cruises through 23 Apr 2022 have been cancelled.

NCL has also cut short a 12-day round-trip from Miami aboard *Pearl*.

"Due to ongoing travel restrictions, we've had to modify a few sailings and unfortunately have had to cancel," NCL said.



"Our first priority is the health and safety of our guests, crew and the communities we visit."

All guests booked on these sailings will receive an automatic full refund returned to the form of payment provided at the time of reservation, as well as a bonus future cruise certification valid for

a future cruise, Norwegian said.

"We understand the inconvenience and frustration this disruption may cause, and we appreciate the continued understanding of our loyal guests and travel agent partners.

"We will share additional information as appropriate."



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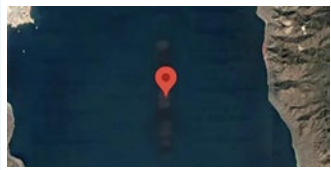


EVER since the launch of Google Earth (more than 20 years ago now, if you can believe it), sharp-eyed internet users have been spotting neat finds.

Now it seems we may have to add a sunken ship to that list.

A Reddit user, who spotted a shadowy, ship-looking figure in a lake in Nevada, has sparked debate which has raised a number of theories.

Some of these include an underwater military base, a specialist research hub, and an ancient archaeological site.



Celestyal deals

CELESTYAL Cruises has launched its Wave Season campaign, "Escape Back to the Blue".

Savings of up to 30% off select sailings for next year can be booked from now through the end of Mar.

Prices start at \$649 on the three-night Iconic Aegean itinerary, which is normally priced at \$900, reflecting a saving of more than 25%.

The popular seven-night, Idyllic Aegean itinerary, which is normally priced at \$2,210 has also been reduced by more than 30% to just \$1,499.

[CLICK HERE](#) for information.

MSC COVID cases

MSC Cruises has confirmed 45 COVID cases have disembarked from its Mediterranean-based ship *MSC Grandiosa*.

The passengers disembarked in Genoa on Tue, with MSC saying the identification and removal of the sick passengers demonstrated its health and safety protocols are working.

Positive passengers and their close contacts were "immediately isolated in cabins with balconies," it said.

"In line with the protocol, we organise transportation back home, all done in alignment with the relevant health and other authorities."

Grandiosa continued its voyage following the disembarkation.

Brazilian pause

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) members have paused sailing in Brazil to seek "alignment" with authorities on COVID protocols, following inconsistencies in their interpretation.

The cruise lines have voluntarily suspended operations until 21 Jan, affecting Costa Cruises and MSC Cruises, whose ships will halt after their current sailings.

CLIA Brazil said it has begun urgent talks with health surveillance agency ANVISA and state and local authorities to go over issues related to the interpretation of health and safety protocols.

P&O presents presents



P&O Cruises Australia has delivered much-needed supplies to Port Vila Central Hospital, thanks to generous donations from guests raised through the cruise line's Pacific Partnership.

The Hospital received the donation through the Giving Hands Vanuatu fundraising campaign, enabling P&O to provide much-needed supplies to the maternity unit and children's ward.

Mosquito nets, reusable nappies, and locally made soaps & creams were provided to mums

and their newborns.

In addition, doctors and nurses were also treated to a delicious smoothie delivery and fruit boxes, while children received a visit from Santa Claus, who came with Christmas presents in tow.

While ships still cannot visit Vanuatu, P&O's relationship with the destination and its people continues to remain strong.

Last year, P&O supported the Vanuatu women's beach volleyball team as it vied to qualify for last year's Summer Olympics (**CW** 04 Jun 2021).

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