



Cruise Weekly today

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

Norwegian bonus

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is offering discounts of up to 40% along with an expanded Free at Sea bonus program on its global program of cruise voyages departing in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

The deal means passengers can access a free beverage package, wi-fi package, specialty dining and shore excursion credits along with reduced rates for third and fourth guests on select sailings.

Travellers who book before 28 Jul will also receive a bonus USD\$200 on board credit.

For more information call 1300 255 200 in Australia or 0800 969 283 in New Zealand.

Island Escape cancels another cruise

EXCLUSIVE

NEW Zealand-based Island Escape Cruises insists guests booked on cancelled Kimberley cruises will receive refunds, amid a storm of protests about the boutique line on social media.

The firm's phones and general email addresses are not being answered, while former CEO Peter Bissett has stepped aside.

He told **CW** via email he'd resigned on 04 Jul and referred any enquiries to Erik Helseth, one of the directors of the company.

Cruises scheduled to depart on 03 Jul and 16 Jul were cancelled at late notice - in some cases while pax were in the air en route to WA, or already in Broome.

Last night agents were also advised of the cancellation of the 28 Jul Kimberley departure.

Another director was Christina Riisnes, Norway's honorary consul in Auckland, who told **CW** this

morning she had resigned from her Island Escape role last month.

Helseth, who is now designated as the company's Chief Executive, provided an update on the status of future voyages overnight.

"We are working day and night to resume operation," he assured **Cruise Weekly** in an email.

"All guests on cancelled cruises has [sic] been informed that they will receive refund of tickets, but due to lack of staff and a huge effort to resume operation this unfortunately takes longer than we hoped for," Helseth added.

"We are in the final stages of solving the issues and hope to be able to share the good news with the industry very soon and to come back stronger than before."

He also provided a copy of an email to guests saying "the stop of operation is caused by a combination of practical and administrative challenges faced

by Island Escape Cruises...these difficulties have caused severe and abrupt disruptions of operations".

Island Escape told cruisers it had been unable to provide prior information about the cancellations to travel advisors "so they are not to be blamed".

Qld-based agent Raymond Lewis from Departure Point had seven passengers booked on the 28 Jul trip, and told **CW** "Island Escape Cruises used to have a good reputation but it seems something has gone terribly wrong in the past 6-8 weeks".

He estimated based on its published program Island Escape must be currently holding millions of dollars in passenger funds.

For his part Helseth appeared upbeat, adding in his update that "our new itineraries in the Pacific next year have been very well received together with our ultimate Fiordland voyages".

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*Offer correct as at 15 July 2022 and subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 29 July 2022 unless extended. For full terms and conditions click here.



Aurora deals

AURORA Expeditions has announced last-minute 2022/23 Antarctica deals.

Up to 20% off is currently being offered on all Antarctica bookings before 31 Aug for the 2022/23 season, the first which will see Aurora deploy two ships to the continent - *Greg Mortimer* and the upcoming *Sylvia Earle*.

"We are incredibly excited for the start of the upcoming season," said Chief Marketing Officer Hayley Peacock-Gower.

"In anticipation of this season, we wanted to give travellers who are looking for a life-changing experience the opportunity for some extraordinary savings."

The upcoming season commences in only three months time with the South Georgia & Antarctic Odyssey on 21 Oct - **CLICK HERE** to view a new mini-brochure.

And the winner is...

THE winner of Creative Cruising's Royal Caribbean International "win a cruise" incentive is Global Travel Network's Phyllis Glavinas (**pictured**).

She will be embarking on a six-night Far North Queensland voyage this Nov in a Balcony cabin, which she will be sharing with a companion while they sail through Airlie Beach, Cairns, and Willis Island on board *Quantum of the Seas*.

The ship will be arriving to Australia and settling into her new homeport in Brisbane in Oct.

The incentive was part of Creative Cruising's ongoing



partnership with Royal Caribbean, offering a host of deals in the lead-up to the line's highly anticipated post-pandemic return to Australian waters.

UnCruise skiff flood

UNCRUISE Adventures' eight-metre skiff has been partially flooded in Bartlett Cove in Glacier Bay National Park.

The noninjury incident occurred after a successful day of operations while manoeuvring away from the dock as it was being towed by *Wilderness Legacy*.

No passengers or crew were aboard the skiff, and UnCruise's immediate priority was to recover the two portable, 23-litre fuel containers and coordinate with federal and private response management.

It has been determined that the environmental impact from this is minimal, with an estimated two cups of gasoline escaping inside the boom the crew set up around the skiff.

It is unknown why the flooding occurred.



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DISNEY Cruise Line has revealed some of the more than 20 Marvel-themed foods available aboard *Disney Wish*.

The Worlds of Marvel restaurant is a technology showcase Ant-Man and The Wasp are hosting on behalf of The Avengers.

Each table is outfitted with a piece of new technology known as the "Quantum Core", which diners will have a chance to test for themselves throughout the meal.

While diners are occupied with the Quantum Core, they will wait for meals, all of which are themed after Marvel tropes, such as the Stark Industries smoked salmon, and the W.E.B steamed bao buns.

MSC offers up to 80% off solo supp

MSC Cruises is offering solo travellers minimum fares and maximum fun, with a saving of up to 80% off the single supplement.

Solo cruisers can save up to 80% off all northern hemisphere summer and winter 2022-2023 sailings.

Singles can also enjoy a range of dedicated benefits and activities, starting with a free exclusive welcome cocktail party and flexibility on dinner sittings.

Call 1300 028 502 to book now.

HAL plans 150th b'day

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has revealed plans to mark its 150th anniversary with two Commemorative Celebrations voyages.

The Oct 2022 and Apr 2023 crossings of the Atlantic will be filled with memorable moments honouring HAL's history.

The 15-night Oct crossing will see HAL's new flagship *Rotterdam* (pictured) depart her namesake city exactly 150 years to the date of the departure of *Rotterdam I's* maiden voyage.

The crossing will recreate HAL's first sailing, leaving the Netherlands and visiting Plymouth and Le Havre before crossing the Atlantic Ocean to New York City for a rare overnight call.

Rotterdam will then sail to Fort Lauderdale to complete the cruise.

The Apr voyage, departing Florida, will see the ship head to New York City for an overnight call, before her eight-day crossing of the Atlantic Ocean, calling at Plymouth and Dover, before arriving at Rotterdam on 18 Apr, HAL's official 150th anniversary, for a night full of festivities.

During the crossings, guests will be treated to a host of experiences, including commemorative historic menus and cocktails offering a taste of HAL's history; live music with special performances by guest artists; presentations reliving the history and roots of the brand; and an Olympic-style event with classic cruise sporting activities



and games.

The 2023 crossing has opened for booking, while the Oct departure is already almost sold out.

Kimberley package

SAVINGS for solos and couples are available on a new Kimberley package with Heritage Expeditions for next year.

Those booking the 12-day package with Cruise Traveller before the end of next month will receive complimentary accommodation in Broome, and savings of \$4,580 per couple, and \$2,999 for solos.

The adventure begins on 19 Jul, with two complimentary hotel nights in Broome before travellers board the 140-guest *Heritage Adventurer* for a 10-night voyage to Darwin that showcases the best of the ruggedly spectacular and pristine Kimberley landscapes.

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