



Cruise Weekly today

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

Alaska rerouting

THE closure of a cruise ship dock in Skagway, Alaska due to a rock slide has led to itinerary changes on several Princess Cruises ships scheduled to call there this week.

The impacted vessels will instead cruise to Sitka, after a risk assessment on the forward berth on Skagway's Railroad Dock highlighted the potential for further slippages.

Princess said it appreciated and supports the decision, with its primary aim of keeping passengers and crew safe.

The line said it would continue to work with local officials to determine when scheduled calls can return.

CLIA unveils packed Cruise360 agenda

EXCLUSIVE

NEXT month's Cruise360 Australasia conference in Sydney will give the Australian and New Zealand cruise community its first opportunity to reunite in more than two years, with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) this morning confirming details of "a packed program exploring renewal, opportunities, evolution and authenticity".

The event, taking place on Thu 25 Aug at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, will be formally opened with a virtual address by CLIA Global Chairman and MSC Cruises chief Pierfrancesco Vago, while a key "State of the Industry" panel session will provide full and frank insight into the industry's renewal and resilience, featuring Carnival Australia President Marguerite Fitzgerald, Royal Caribbean International MD Gavin Smith, and Regent Seven Seas/Oceania

Cruises MD APAC Steve Odell.

Uniworld CEO Ellen Bettridge will present a keynote speech titled "Making the Most of Cruising's Revival," discussing the growing opportunities for travel agents through renewed demand, market evolutions and new cruising demographics.

There will also be a session on the evolution of cruising with an expert panel including Carnival Australia's Michael Mihajlov, Tim Jones from Celebrity Cruises, Scenic's Lisa Bolton and newly appointed Explora Journeys Head of Sales Nicole Costantin, moderated by Jill Abel, CEO of the Australian Cruise Association.

Phil Hoffmann will moderate a panel of CLIA travel agents discussing the challenges being faced and foundations for optimism, with participants including House of Travel NZ's Jeff Leckey along with Roslyn Ranse

from iTravel and Melinda Gregor of Gregor & Lewis Bespoke Travel in Noosa.

Expedition cruising will also be a focus, with a panel moderated by Wild Earth Travel's Aaron Russ featuring Ponant's Mick Fogg, Coral Expeditions Commercial Director Jeff Gillies, Quark expedition leader Annie Inglis and Aurora's Steve McLaughlin.

The day will be MC'd by ABC personality James O'Loughlin - and as well as the conference sessions will feature a sold out trade show with over 40 cruise exhibitors.

All delegates will also be welcomed at a new industry-wide cocktail party on the evening of Wed 24 Aug, with CLIA MD Joel Katz saying "every aspect of our program has been designed to give travel agents the edge when it comes to understanding the new landscape we operate in".

Tickets at cruising.org.au.

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CRUISING hearts across the globe are a-flutter at the huge news about Virgin Voyages *Valiant Lady*, which has been confirmed as appearing in the current season of US romance reality TV show *The Bachelorette*.

The update got the **Cruise Weekly** team stocking up on the popcorn, ready to watch the "most dramatic season yet" - featuring not one, but TWO eligible single ladies, Gabby and Rachel, as they are pursued across Europe by a cohort of hunky suitors.

It's season 19 of the show, but it's fresher than ever - and *Valiant Lady* provides the perfect setting for episode four which screens on US TV network ABC next Mon night.

Unfortunately our popcorn is likely to be a little cold, because local aficionados at this stage still have to wait: Aussie streamer 9Now is only up to *Bachelorette* season 18.

Nevertheless Virgin is making the most of the moment, noting that on 01 Aug "we're thrilled to announce that a very familiar contestant is making her fashionably-late entrance. Gorgeous. Stunning. Multi-faceted. It's our very own *Valiant Lady* and she'll be making her grand entrance on episode 4 of *The Bachelorette*".

Check out the drama at cruiseweekly.com.au/videos.

Seabourn Venture sets sail



SEABOURN Cruises has debuted its first ever expedition ship, with the newbuild *Seabourn Venture* (pictured) welcoming guests onboard overnight in Tromso, Norway for her maiden commercial voyage.

The inaugural journey will take *Venture* on a 12-day Northern Isles expedition bound for the Arctic and the Svalbard Archipelago.

Seabourn President Josh Leibowitz hailed the introduction of the vessel, saying "exploration has always been part of our brand legacy, but the launch of *Seabourn Venture* turns the page on a new chapter for us, offering our guests opportunities to explore remote destinations in every corner of the globe and truly be a part of the natural wonders, wildlife, history and culture they'll find there".

After a range of voyages in the far north, *Venture* will head to warmer climes in Oct, stopping in the Caribbean, Central America, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile on a series of 10- to 14-day cruises, including a Panama Canal transit.

Venture's crew includes a

26-strong expedition team, with the ship featuring 132 oceanfront suites, luxury bars, lounges and restaurants, along with a full complement of kayaks, enough Zodiacs to transport all guests at the same time, and two custom-built submarines.

A&K confirms Crystal roles

ABERCROMBIE & Kent Co-Chairman Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio has formally confirmed the appointment of former Crystal Cruises chief Jack Anderson as the relaunched line's President (**CW** 08 Jul).

Speaking as *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony* arrived in Trieste where the ships will undergo "extensive upgrades" before relaunching under the Crystal brand next year, d'Ovidio confirmed that Bernie Leybold would also return to the phoenix brand as SVP Hotel Operations.

He said the return of the two senior executives would provide continuity and stability under Crystal's new ownership.



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