



Cruise Weekly today

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

AIDA, Disney, RCI all cancel Russia calls

AIDA Cruises, Disney Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean International (RCI) have become the latest companies to cancel stops in Russia.

Carnival Corporation's AIDA has cancelled all calls to St. Petersburg, and announced new alternative ports of call for its upcoming summer season.

Four AIDA ships had been scheduled to visit Russia with three of those vessels being given new itineraries, while the return-to-service date for AIDAVita has been postponed until Jul.

"In the coming days, we will adjust the itinerary of our cruise ships in the summer season of 2022 in the Baltic Sea region and inform our guests about the changes as soon as possible," AIDA said.

"The safety and well-being of our guests and crew are our highest priority."

Disney also removed St. Petersburg from two of its Disney Magic sailings, one which would have been an overnight stay.

The cruise line is still in discussions with ports in other countries, and will share updated itineraries later this month.

Meanwhile, RCI said: "with the recent events, we have made the decision to cancel our visits to St. Petersburg, Russia on all Summer 2022 itineraries.

"We have planned alternative ports and will communicate itinerary changes in the next few days to our guests and travel partners...customers can reschedule their cruises."

The three cruise lines join a litany of companies which cancelled their Russian calls upon the country's invasion of Ukraine (CW 28 Feb).

Norwegian offer

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is inviting travellers to enjoy the best of both worlds with its great value offers.

Available until 24 Mar, Australian cruisers can access savings of up to 35% on fares, together with USD\$200 onboard credit, and all five of Norwegian's Free at Sea offers.

The deal is available for sailings in Australia, as well Alaska, Asia, Europe, Hawai'i, New Zealand and more.

For additional information, **CLICK HERE.**

RCI perks return

PRIORITY theatre seating and dedicated lounges are among the perks to return to Royal Caribbean International (RCI) cruisers this year.

Crown and Anchor Society loyalty members will also enjoy continental breakfasts, as perks are slowly brought back, after they were eliminated for ease upon the return of cruising.

Among other returning perks will be a special onboard event will be available to Platinum level members and higher, and in-cabin treats and a personalised gift to Diamond level, as first reported by *Royal Caribbean Blog*.

However, several perks which promote gatherings in small spaces, including dinner with officers, and behind-the-scenes entertainment & galley tours, are still suspended until the cruise landscape becomes even safer.

The changes come ahead of RCI's *Wonder of the Seas'* official debut today from Fort Lauderdale.

Wonder arrived in southeastern Florida late last month (CW 23 Feb), and will first set sail on a seven-night cruise to the Caribbean.

Coral goes international

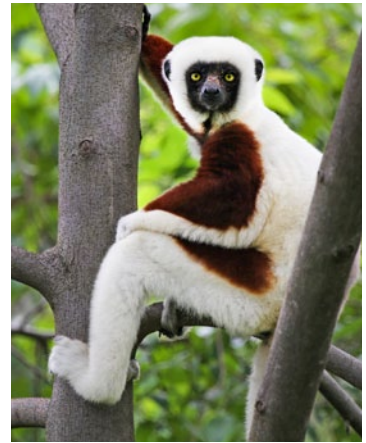
CORAL Expeditions has launched its new international 'Small Islands of the World' series.

The sequence of five Indian Ocean voyages aboard *Coral Geographer* will kick off the cruise line's 2022/2023 international sailing, with the ship to cruise from Australia all the way across the Indian Ocean to the isles at the edge of Africa, including Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, and the Zanzibar Archipelago.

The inaugural Indian leg of this series will see *Geographer* sail from Fremantle to Sulawesi and Borneo, then farther westward for an overland safari excursion in Sri Lanka, three days snorkelling and diving in the Maldives, and an extended exploration of the ancient trade gateways of Mauritius, Zanzibar, Madagascar and the Seychelles.

"This is a much-anticipated milestone for our guests and crew," said Commercial Director, Jeff Gillies.

"We are eager to resume our adventures beyond the shores of Australia and to realise the exploration potential of our new



blue water fleet."

Gillies noted the islands of east Africa are best explored by small ship, such as *Geographer*.

"We have many loyal guests and trade partners who have been patiently awaiting this news and a substantial portion of the berths on these voyages are already spoken for including many joining for the entirety of the series."

To view Coral's full 2022/2023 sailing schedule, **CLICK HERE.**

The good news comes after Coral in Jan was forced to cancel four Australian sailings due to Omicron variant fears (CW 12 Jan).

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RCYC delayed again

AFTER another delay, The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection (RCYC) is now two-and-a-half years behind schedule.

The cruise line said earlier this week it had pushed back the debut of its much-awaited first vessel, the 298-passenger *Evrima*, for a sixth time, from May to Aug.

RCYC blamed ongoing supply chain and labour challenges created by the pandemic for slowing *Evrima's* construction.

"Like many in manufacturing, we have experienced significant impact from COVID-19 variants as it relates to labour and supply chain disruptions, and we have had to re-evaluate the timing of our first voyage," said RCYC Chief Exec Douglas Prothero.

"We continue to make significant progress on *Evrima* and look forward to welcoming guests onboard this summer."

Prothero last month purchased Sea Cloud Cruises through his maritime investment company, (CW 02 Feb).

Oceania sees Vista float



OCEANIA Cruises has celebrated the float-out of its new ship *Vista* at the Fincantieri shipyard in Sestri Ponente.

Presiding over the ceremony were Fincantieri Shipyard Director Giuseppe Torrente; Fincantieri Madrina Anna Trucco; and Archbishop of Genoa Marco Tasca (pictured).

After the blessing of *Vista*, Trucco released a bottle of prosecco against the ship's hull to invite good fortune for her, and all those she carries.

Vista will sail her gala maiden voyage from Rome to Barcelona on 14 Apr 2023, followed by 12 additional European voyages, after which she will sail from the United States, to the Maritimes, New England, the Panama Canal, and the Caribbean.

The cruise line's President & Chief Executive Officer Howard Sherman said: *Vista* is Oceania Cruises' most anticipated ship in the history of our company, and I am thrilled to be here with our partners from Fincantieri as the ship morphs from blueprints and steel into reality.

"*Vista* is truly a ship of dreams, and we cannot wait to welcome her inaugural season guests next year."

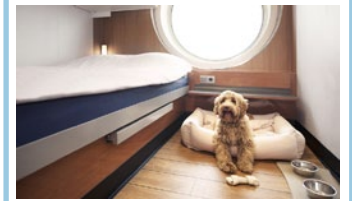
The ship's highlights include 12 dining options, four of which are brand new; a ratio of two crew members for every three guests; spacious staterooms of more than 26m²; a top-of-ship library styled exclusively by Ralph Lauren Home; and new concierge-level Veranda staterooms for solo travellers.



SWEDISH ferry company Stena Line's two biggest ships are receiving upgrades, among which will be new dog-friendly cabins (pictured).

Fifteen of the vessels' 500 staterooms have been converted to allow passengers to travel together with their dog.

The cabins have been one of the most popular suggestions passengers have been requesting via Stena's satisfaction surveys.



UnCruise appt

UNCRUISE Adventures has promoted Kirsty Bozlee to Vice President of Operations.

The promotion will strengthen UnCruises' developmental efforts and operational teams, the cruise line said.

"I am thrilled to move into the role of Vice President of Operations for UnCruise Adventures," Bozlee said.

"I look forward to working with our shoreside and vessel leadership teams to continue to make improvements that will benefit our guests and operational teams' experiences."

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