



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from Norwegian Cruise Line.

NCL offers double reward promotion

DOUBLE rewards on Alaska and Hawai'i bookings this year are currently available with Norwegian Cruise Line, as part of its Partners First Rewards program.

Giving travel advisors a range of benefits, partners can earn up to 70 points (\$70) for every Alaska & Hawai'i 2022 deposited booking made in Mar.

A \$35 gift card (35 points) can also be earned on all other destinations deposited between Jan and Mar.

To join Partners First Rewards and submit your bookings, visit partnersfirstrewards.ncl.com/rewards.

See **page 3** for more details, or call 1300 255 200.

Cruise ban set to expire on 17 Apr

AUSTRALIA'S cruise ship ban is slated to end next month, with a formal announcement expected in the next couple of days, according to Minister for Tourism Dan Tehan (**CW** breaking news).

With the current ban set to expire on 17 Apr, the Australian Government is now awaiting approval from New South Wales and Queensland, which are finalising state health protocols, Tehan said.

"We have agreed in the next day we are going to get all the work necessary so hopefully on Wed we can announce that 17 Apr is the day that cruising can begin again," Tehan told Sky News Australia.

"We now see absolutely no reason why we can't make that formal announcement now that we have New South Wales, and I am pretty sure we are going to have Queensland on board."

Tehan said the Australian Government has been ready to go for a number of weeks, and that he personally had been pushing for a restart for months now.



The news comes following the one-sentence statement that emerged from National Cabinet on Fri, which provided no further clarity for the sector (**CW** breaking news Fri).

In what some believe may have been the last National Cabinet before the federal election is called, the intergovernmental decision-making forum "noted" positive progress by stakeholders for a resumption of cruising, but offered no indication of what was to come.

Tehan's announcement also preceded yesterday's 'Lift the Cruise Ban' rallies, held by cruise blogger Honida Beram (**CW** 08 Mar).

The publisher of the popular 'Cruising with Honey' blog rallied her followers in both Sydney and Brisbane on Sun, at Sydney Cove Overseas Passenger Terminal, and Portside Wharf respectively.

In addition to hundreds of protesters, the demonstration was attended by a number of associated industry supporters and suppliers, including well-known Sydney travel advisor Richard Davey, who addressed the crowd, and added his own reworking of former United States President Ronald Reagan's famous Berlin Wall Speech, pleading: "Mr. Morrison, tear down this ban!"

Beram told **Cruise Weekly**: "the rally is an important event to take place to represent all the cruise lines, the industries that are associated with cruise lines, and associated with the cruise

industry, and to ensure we are supporting the cruise industry to bring back cruising, lift the cruise ban, and invest the money in our economy & support jobs."

Despite no formal presence at the event from cruise lines or peak bodies, the self-styled "cruise-fluencer" was unflappable, saying "I think it was important this was a grassroots initiative"

"I'll support any initiative that CLIA and the cruise lines will initiate," Beram added.

When quizzed on their main reason for attending the rally, one protester told **Cruise Weekly**: "getting back to those islands and helping those people that we can't help at the moment."

In addition to missing cruising themselves, the protester expressed disappointment some of the Pacific islands they often visit were not benefitting from the support the industry provides.

"I miss them I'm so sorry that we can't be there to help them and all we want (is) to get back there so we can help them because we know how much they've struggled," they said.

They also expressed their profound disappointment at the govt for letting Australia slip so far behind the rest of the world.

"People here are paying money to travel to other countries just so they can cruise and it's costing hundreds and thousands."

Pictured: Beram (second from left) with her group of enthusiastic Sydney protesters.

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A ROMAN boat that sank in the Mediterranean around 1,700 years ago is now giving up its treasures.

Finds from the 4th-century wreck, which is located just two metres below the surface off one of Mallorca's busiest beaches, are being recovered as part of an operation overseen by the island's governing body.

The ship's treasures are perfectly preserved, and had lain untouched until last month.

About 300 amphorae, as well as other objects, have been retrieved by the team thus far, offering priceless insights into the Mediterranean of the time, as well as the crew's daily lives.

In addition to clay jars, archaeologists have found shoes, a cooking pot, an oil lamp, and only the fourth Roman carpenter's drill recovered from the region.

The wreck emerged three years ago after a summer storm.

MSC breaks ground



MSC Cruises has broken ground on its new PortMiami cruise terminal (render **pictured**), which will be North America's largest.

The new facility will provide a seamless guest experience for up to 36,000 passengers per day, and will be capable of hosting three of MSC's latest-generation ships at once.

The new four-storey building is expected to be completed at the end of next year.

Aside from the terminal building, the new complex will include a multi-level parking

garage for 2,400 vehicles, new road construction to ensure traffic flows smoothly, and related shore infrastructure, including water supply stations and four passenger embarkation decks.

The project reflects an investment of approximately USD\$350 million.

"Our new terminal at PortMiami represents MSC Cruises' commitment to growing in North America and will help drive our expansion in South Florida and beyond," said President USA Ruben Rodriguez.

"It's also part of our larger sustainability goals, which include deploying our most modern and environmentally advanced ships to North America, the continued development of our one-of-a-kind Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, and our pledge to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

"We're proud of our partnership with Fincantieri, PortMiami and Miami-Dade County, and it's a privilege to be able to contribute to the region's continued growth and vitality."

Riviera savings

SAVINGS have been released by Cruise Traveller on a new back-to-back adventure in Europe next year with Tradewind Voyages.

Save up to \$3,520 per couple on a double cruise along the French and Italian Riviieras when booking this month.

Solo travellers can save \$695, and all passengers booking by 31 Mar will pay a low deposit of \$400 per person.

The new, 16-night 'Grand Italy, Spain and France' combo cruise package starts on 18 May 2023, with a night at a hotel in Barcelona, followed by 15 nights aboard the 272-guest *Golden Horizon*, as she sails to 10 destinations on her way to Rome.

The package is available from \$10,995 per person, twin-share, in an Oceanview cabin.

Call Cruise Traveller in Australia on 1800 507 777.

No call for you

PRINCESS Cruises' *Sky Princess* was denied her scheduled visit to St. Thomas on 08 Mar, instead taking a longer visit to St. Maarten.

Sky was denied entry into the US Virgin Islands, so instead sailed straight to St. Maarten for a longer port stay.

Few details were released, but reports indicate COVID-19 cases on board contributed to the itinerary change.

Sky was sailing her seven-day Eastern Caribbean itinerary, which departed from Fort Lauderdale on 05 Mar.

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