



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Cunard to Canada

CUNARD Line will call on Vancouver and Alaska in the northern summer, joining a litany of cruise companies announcing their return to the market (see **page two**).

With Canadian authorities once again welcoming cruise ships (**CW** 08 Mar), *Queen Elizabeth* will sail to the Last Frontier, the Hubbard Glacier, and Glacier Bay National Park.

*Queen Elizabeth* will sail a coastal transit from Los Angeles to Vancouver on 30 May, and begin cruising in Alaska on 05 Jun, offering seven and 10-day voyages through Jul.

At the conclusion of the season, *Queen Elizabeth* will sail down the west coast of the continent, providing guests the option to join the ship in San Francisco or Los Angeles, as she journeys onward through the Panama Canal.

*Queen Elizabeth* will then sail in Alaska again in 2023 with an expanded series of itineraries.

"Guests enjoy the line's hallmark experiences and amenities in a large ship environment but with fewer guests on ships of her size," said Vice President Sales North America Jamie Paiko.

He added this year, Cunard will debut its new 'Ice White Ball' with its 'Taste of Alaska' Gala dining menu, among other enrichment programs.

## Ban lifting welcomed



AUSTRALIAN Cruise Association (ACA) Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel has welcomed the federal government's suggestion it is set to lift the cruise ban next month (**CW** yesterday).

Yesterday's comments from Minister for Tourism Dan Tehan suggested the human biosecurity emergency period will expire on 17 Apr, with a formal announcement expected in the next couple of days.

Abel said ACA acknowledges the work done by the states and territories, particularly New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, in conjunction with the Aus Govt.

"After a two-year pause in cruising, we are looking forward to seeing cruise ships back in Australia signalling a return to economic growth for this important sector of the tourism industry," she said.

"We also acknowledge the heavy lifting which has been done by CLIA, with whom we have worked closely during the past two years to develop the necessary protocols onboard and

onshore which would prepare Australia for a full cruise re-start."

Joel Katz, CLIA Managing Director Australasia, described Tehan's comments as "encouraging", and suggested the industry now has "greater confidence" it could see a green light soon.

"CLIA and cruise lines are having more detailed discussions with the states around the specific health protocols that will need to be in place," he revealed.

"There's still work to be done, but all indications are that we're on track for a revival in Australia over coming months."

In his appearance on Radio National's *RN Breakfast* yesterday, where he announced the news, Tehan said he expected only those who have had two doses of COVID-19 vaccination would be allowed to board.

However, in addition to rules handed down by the cruise lines themselves, Tehan added it would be up to state and territory health officials to provide their own health measures.

### Hurtigruten gets cooking

HURTIGRUTEN'S Norwegian Coastal Express has introduced two culinary ambassadors ahead of its 130th anniversary next year.

The two award-winning chefs, Astrid Regine Nasslander and Halvar Ellingsen, have close links to the Norwegian coast, and will develop locally inspired & sustainably sourced seasonal dishes on board all seven ships in the fleet.

"We always look for ways to connect with the local food traditions and the food culture along the Norwegian coast," explained Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Express Chief Executive Hedda Felin.

"Astrid and Halvar share our food philosophy, and both have the same unique connection with Northern Norway that Hurtigruten has."

### Bahamas is back!

THE Bahamas' Minister of Tourism Chester Cooper has signalled cruise tourism numbers are nearing pre-pandemic levels once more.

Cooper noted the Bahamas has been seeing up to six cruise ships in the harbour at a time of late.

He said the addition of Royal Caribbean International's *Wonder of the Seas*, now the largest cruise ship in the world, will put those tourism numbers over the top.

"We anticipate that at the end of the year...we are going to rival pre-pandemic levels," Cooper said.



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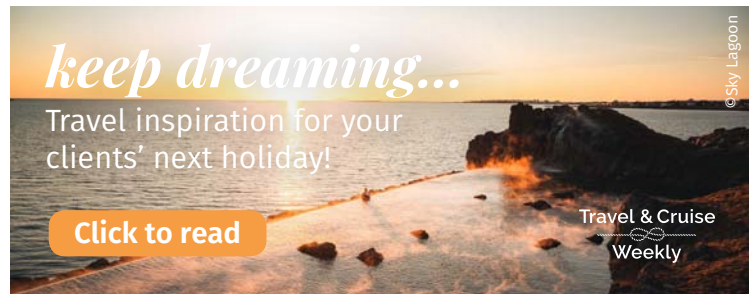
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**ARE** there any cruise lines out there which would be open to welcoming aboard Minister for Tourism Dan Tehan?

During his appearance on Radio National's *RN Breakfast* yesterday, Tehan revealed an end date for the cruise ban may be announced officially as early as this week, but he also divulged another cruise tidbit.

Tehan told *RN Breakfast* host Patricia Karvelas that although he'd boarded a cruise ship before, he'd never actually been on a cruise.

"I've been on cruise ships, I've never actually taken a cruise, but they call in at the port of Portland and I've been on and had a look around the ships," Tehan said, doffing his cap to the port in his Division of Wannon.

"If my job ever allows it, Patricia, there's nothing I'd like to do more than take a cruise," he added.

Are there any cruise line takers to have Tehan aboard?

## Seabourn to sail full Canada season

**SEABOURN** Cruise Line is set to explore Alaska & British Columbia and New England & Quebec this year, as Canada reopens its ports to cruise ships (**CW** 08 Mar).

From May through to Sep, *Seabourn Odyssey* (pictured) will sail to Alaska & British Columbia with a series of 7-day voyages between Vancouver and Juneau.

Each cruise can be combined to create a 14-day round-trip Vancouver voyage.

In addition, *Odyssey* will sail four 10- and 11-day round-trip voyages from Vancouver.

Each journey will include spectacular glacier experiences in destinations such as Glacier Bay, the Hubbard Glacier, or Tracy/Endicott Arm.

The popular Ventures by Seabourn program of expedition-style experiences will also be offered on these cruises.

Beginning late Aug, *Seabourn Quest* will explore the vivid fall colours along eastern Canada with a series of 12-day voyages to New England & Quebec.

*Quest* will sail between Montreal and Manhattan, with one 12-day Canadian Autumn



cruise, heavier on Canadian content, sailing round-trip from Montreal on 22 Sep.

When the season cools in late Oct, *Quest* will head south, from Montreal on a 14-day Atlantic Coast Harbors cruise to Miami.

"We welcome this new guidance from the Canadian Government that will allow our guests to visit beautiful ports in Canada again," said President Josh Leibowitz.

"We look forward to returning

to these amazing destinations and offering our travellers a world of experiences on land and at sea.

"With only 458 guests on board the *Seabourn Odyssey*, these voyages to Canada this summer space is very limited."

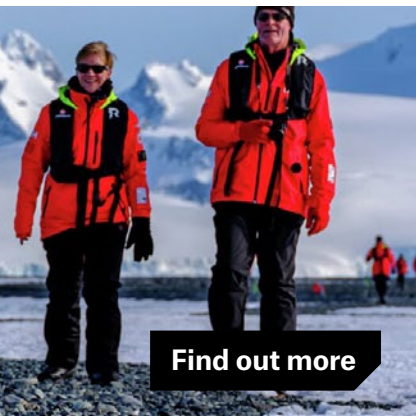
Seabourn also recently modified select Baltic itineraries this year on *Seabourn Ovation*, which were originally scheduled to visit St. Petersburg, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine (**CW** 07 Mar).



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