



### Cruise Weekly today

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

## Chimu launches Antarctica 23/24

CHIMU Adventures has launched its 2023/24 Antarctica season.

Antarctica cruises include multiple departures aboard *Ocean Endeavour*, which features a high staff-to-passenger ratio, a fleet of 22 Zodiacs, and a host of optional activities such as kayaking, snow-shoeing, citizen science programs, and a photography program.

Earlybird specials, including up to 15% off select departures, are available for those booking now.

**CLICK HERE** for further details.

## NZ cruise ban set to ease

**AUTHORITIES** in New Zealand have hinted that the country's maritime border restrictions will be lifted in line with yesterday's announcement about the reopening of the country to foreign tourists from next month.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern confirmed that the planned Jul reopening date for vaccinated Australians was being brought forward to 11.59pm on 12 Apr, while tourists from visa waiver partner countries will once again be able to enter New Zealand from 11.59pm on 01 May, with no isolation or quarantine requirements.

During a media conference announcing the changes, Ardern was asked about cruise, and she said "that's something we actively have a work program on right now, how to ensure that we have consistency with these decisions today for our maritime border,



including for cruise ships".

"We will see the return of cruise ships...we haven't made those alterations formally the border here today...extra work that we need to go through but we are expecting of course to bring forward the reopening for those borders as well."

However Ardern wasn't able to provide an estimated timeline for the return, flagging a further update as protocols are finalised.



"AVOID the ocean or risk diarrhoea."

That is the advice being given by New South Wales Minister for Health Brad Hazzard.

Fortunately, it is not just another example of risk-averse, pencil-pushing public servants trying to rally against the cruise industry, but a genuine warning it is not wise to go swimming after floods as bad as the state has seen this past month.

Hazzard said such a flood event may mean our oceans and waterways are filled with bacteria, parasites, or worse.

New South Welshmen should also make sure their drinking water is safe and properly treated, and those with open cuts should pay extra attention.

*Regent*

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## Celestyal appts

**CELESTYAL** Cruises has appointed David Noyes as a non-executive Chair.

He brings more than 35 years of travel industry experience to the role, having worked extensively in aviation, travel management and cruise, most notably with Carnival Corporation, where he held executive positions for P&O Cruises and Cunard Line.

## RCI Quantum leap to Aus



**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) will make its long-awaited return to Australia with two Quantum class ships sailing from Brisbane and Sydney from Oct.

The milestone is more than two years in the making, with both *Ovation of the Seas* (pictured) and *Quantum of the Seas* to offer a range of adventures.

"We are delighted that cruising has been given the green light to resume in Australia, and we can't wait for even more guests to create lifetime memories spending their holidays beginning in 2022," said MD Gavin Smith.

"We've hosted over a million guests worldwide marking a successful cruise comeback, and now we can't wait to bring the magic back to Australia.

"I know that so many Australian families have been waiting a long time for this moment, and we can now finally start creating special memories onboard again."

To celebrate the return of cruising, travellers who book from 17 to 22 Mar will be able to enjoy up to 30% per guest, and savings of up to \$600 per booking.

Sale highlights include a saving of up to \$1,550 per booking on a \$1,899 per person on a six-night Queensland Highlights cruise from Brisbane on *Quantum*; a discount of up to \$850 per booking on a \$1,149 per person on a seven-night Tasmania cruise from Sydney on *Ovation*; and a saving of up to \$350 per booking on a \$399 per person on a two-night Sydney Weekender cruise from on *Ovation*.

This season, cruisers will be able to take in the sights from North Star – the highest viewing deck on a cruise ship; or the RipCord by iFLY skydiving experience.

Travellers can also catch a wave on the FlowRider surf simulator, or take to new heights on the RCI rock climbing wall.

## Escape aground

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's *Norwegian Escape* ran aground recently in the Caribbean.

The hull of the ship was slightly damaged, meaning the next departure scheduled for 19 Mar has been cancelled in order for necessary repairs to be made.

*Escape* ran aground shortly after leaving the port of Puerto Plata on her way to the USVI.



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