



Hurtigruten takes Galapagos stake

HURTIGRUTEN has announced it has taken a 24.9% shareholding in Ecuador-based Metropolitan Touring - a business which it has a long-term regional partnership with.

Group Chief Executive Officer Daniel Skjeldam said the deal was a "unique opportunity for us to contribute to a more meaningful partnership, where we can expand quickly, strategically and deliver on our vision for the future together".

The current partnership sees the two companies operate the 90-passenger *Santa Cruz II* in the Galapagos, with Hurtigruten more than doubling its capacity in the region (**CW** 15 Dec 2021) to now offer year round itineraries in 2023 and 2024, with pre- and post- tours.

Fuel charges hit cruise

TWO European cruise lines have introduced fuel supplements as the 2021–2022 global energy crisis begins to hit the cruise industry.

Celestyal Cruises will charge an additional AUD\$11 per person per day on all bookings made and deposited from Apr for sailings departing from 18 Apr "until further notice."

"We are disappointed that we have had to make this decision but [it] is necessary under current circumstances," read an email sent to travel partners, and seen by **Cruise Weekly**.

"In view of this, please ensure we receive names and deposits for all existing bookings by latest 31 Mar 2022."

"Celestyal Cruises commits itself to return to its guests this supplement in the form of onboard credit, should there be a downward adjustment or

elimination of the supplement in the two weeks preceding the guests sailing date."

The cruise line said it will continue to monitor global fuel prices closely and act accordingly.

Meanwhile, river cruise line CroisiEurope said it is charging a "small amount."

The two cruise lines join Adventure Canada, which last week said it had been "left with no choice" but to implement a USD\$44 per person per day surcharge for its upcoming 2022 and 2023 expeditions (**CW** 22 Mar).

The last time fuel surcharges hit the cruise industry was when oil prices spiked over USD\$100 a barrel in 2007-08.

At the time, major brands such as Royal Caribbean International and Carnival Cruise Line added fuel surcharges of USD\$5 to USD\$10 per person per day.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection**.

Uniworld celebrates with flash sale

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection is celebrating the start of the European river cruise season with a limited-time flash sale.

Save on an all-inclusive luxury river cruise with limited-time low fares of \$2,999 per person, as well as waived single supplements on many European sailings.

The deal is for those who book by 14 Apr - contact Uniworld Boutique River Cruises on 1300 708 231 to book, or visit **page three** for more information.

HURRY, OFFER ENDS 31 MARCH

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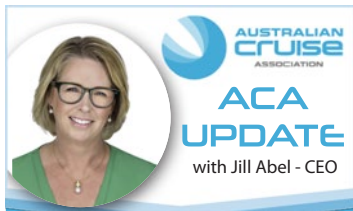
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*Offer correct as at 25 March 2022 and subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 31 March unless extended. For full terms and conditions visit ncl.com.



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Cruise return rides a wave

THE exciting news around the lifting of Australia's cruise ban has seen a welcome flurry of activity by the states and cruise lines to prepare for the restart.

Ponant is due to arrive first into Australia with two of their luxury expedition ships expected to dock in Darwin at the end of Apr.

As New South Wales and Queensland open their ports in late May and Jun respectively, cruise lines are already ramping up their itineraries.

P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Explorer* will be the first ship to arrive down under in late May, followed by Princess Cruises in Jun, Royal Caribbean International in Oct and Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Oceania Cruises in Dec.

These arrivals will deliver strong shore excursion programs – welcome news for our destinations.

With this backdrop, our second set of workshops in Victoria a couple of weeks ago generated a strong operator turnout.

At the Phillip Island gathering, discussion centred on the importance of the return of the larger cruise ships providing much-needed economic input and job opportunities to the region.

At the Melbourne event, the opportunity to add shore excursion product around the desire for outdoor experiences and smaller groups was discussed.

We believe that cruise could be a key driver in ramping back up to pre-COVID numbers based on the extreme loyalty of cruise passengers and the pent-up demand which is now translating into strong bookings.

Lights, camera, MSC!



MSC Cruises has revealed its new Carousel Productions at Sea shows, available exclusively aboard its Meraviglia-class ships.

The cruise line has added seven exclusive, original shows to its entertainment program, which have been created exclusively for MSC's multi-million-dollar Euro Carousel Lounge venues by Carousel, its new production brand.

The 40-minute shows "push creative boundaries", according to MSC, with multi-sensory experiences which "take guests to imaginary universes".

One of the new shows available on MSC's newest cruise ship *MSC Virtuosa* is *Ajedrez*, which is an operatic rock spectacular inspired by the game of chess.

Ajedrez will introduce two opposing queens, as they fall in love with the same king and challenge each other to win his heart.

Also available aboard *Virtuosa* is *Arkymea* (pictured), which sees a scientist find a hidden world where "the wildest ideas and the

most ambitious dreams become reality".

With the help of a mysterious device, the scientist breaks through dimensions to reach Arkymea, a strange place populated by extravagant characters performing acrobatic feats and where magic comes to life.

"Our experienced entertainment team work tirelessly to bring the most immersive, high-tech, spectacular entertainment to our guests, creating experiences they will never forget," said Head of Entertainment Steve Leatham.

"Each show pushes creative boundaries and challenges the status quo to explore new territories to create inspiring experiences that are sure to delight our guests of all ages.

"The Carousel Lounge is one of our most intimate and technologically advanced venues on board our ships and we wanted to offer seven truly original shows that take audiences through unique story routes and imaginary universes".



WHEN even the volcano seismologists are seeking answers, you know it's serious!

An island in Portugal's Azores won't stop tremoring, as its inhabitants prepare for a possible natural disaster.

Volcanologists have been monitoring Sao Jorge's soil gases for volcanic activity, but so far, they remain normal.

The more than 14,000 small earthquakes which have taken place in the past seven days have even seen Portugal's President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa visit Sao Jorge, as soldiers are mobilised to set up evacuation tents.

Diverse Celebrity

CELEBRITY Cruises has launched an "All-inclusive Photo Project," a diversity-focused open source image library for the whole industry to "improve the representation of all people who travel" in supplier marketing materials.

Aiming to start a movement, the collection features the work of several acclaimed photographers including Aussie Jarrad Seng, as well as Annie Leibovitz, Giles Duley, and Naima Green.

The photos feature models, musicians, artists, activists, refugees and more, enjoying the varied offerings both aboard Celebrity ships and in a range of destinations.



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But hurry, there is limited availability and a short time to save, so make sure you **book by 14 April, 2022**.

This is the deal your clients have been waiting for!

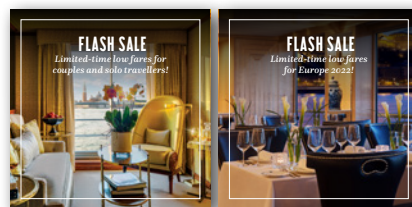
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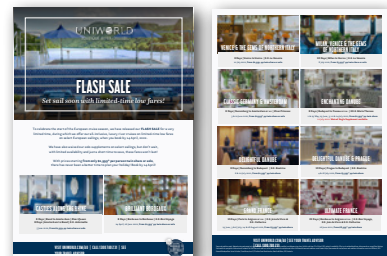
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