



### Cruise Weekly today

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

## Norway to require net zero ships

### NZ cleaning up

THE New Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA) wants the country's government to build a safe cleaning facility for ships, following two years of cancelled sailings due to biofouling (CW 14 Mar).

Last season 11 ships, mostly cruising from Australia, were barred from entering New Zealand, and informed their hull needed extra cleaning, leading to the cancellation of almost 40 port calls.

Only one ship has had to cancel her planned itinerary this season, however NZCA Chief Exec Jacqui Lloyd told local radio station NewstalkZB a more permanent solution for vessel cleaning is required.

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) said it hopes to work closely with Norway's national and local authorities, in the wake of reports the country is looking to phase in a zero emission mandate for ships visiting its fjords.

CLIA told **Cruise Weekly** it hopes to ensure good access to new fuel solutions so its members' ships can continue to sail in the Norwegian fjords.

A proposal from the country's National Maritime Authority will require cruise ships using low- and zero-carbon fuels to transition to zero emissions from 2026 to 2035.

CLIA's current timeline for its members is to carry out their net zero emissions goal by 2050.

"Cruise lines have committed to a vision of net zero emissions by 2050 and are investing in new technologies to achieve



this ambition," CLIA told **Cruise Weekly** in a statement.

"The cruise sector is exploring a range of fuel solutions including green ammonia, battery technology, and advanced biogas and biofuel.

"The cruise fleet is being continuously upgraded to use shoreside electricity, and several ports along the Norwegian coast have shoreside electricity projects

underway," CLIA added.

Most cruise lines which visit the Norwegian fjords have ordered LNG-fuelled ships, however many of these newbuilds will not be delivered by 2026.

It is unclear what Norway's slated transition landscape to net zero from 2026 will look like, nor whether any cruise lines which visit the region will be able to meet the targets. *MS*

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## Cruises cancelled to avoid Red Sea

MSC Cruises has cancelled three Grand Voyages in Apr to avoid transit through the Red Sea, as the Houthi involvement in the Israel-Hamas war continues to impact ships in the region.

The three voyages are all repositioning cruises, and were scheduled to sail from South Africa and the UAE.

The ongoing attacks on merchant vessels in the Red Sea have seen the cancellation of a 24-night cruise of *MSC Splendida* from Durban to Genoa, a 21-night sailing of *MSC Opera* from Dubai to Genoa, and a 23-night voyage of *MSC Virtuosa* (pictured) from Dubai to Southampton.

The three ships will instead transfer around West Africa to Europe without any passengers on board, and avoid transiting through the Red Sea.

All passengers booked on the three repositioning cruises have



been, or are in the process of being, contacted directly or through their travel advisors.

They can transfer their booking to a future Grand Voyage of a similar duration for free.

Affected passengers can also rebook to any other cruise in MSC's global network, with either a partial refund or additional payment for the difference in price of the original booking, or receive a full refund with no

cancellation fee.

"The safety of passengers and crew is the number one priority and as there was no viable alternative itinerary, the company has regrettably had to cancel the voyages," MSC said.

The series of Houthi attacks has also seen Silversea Cruises cancel two *Silver Moon* voyages between Muscat and Dubai.

The cruises were scheduled to sail from 16 Jan to 26 Jan, and from 26 Jan to 11 Feb, with affected guests and their travel advisors informed of their re-protection options.

Silversea told *Cruise Weekly* the safety of its guests, its crew members, and the communities it visits is always its top priority.

"Our global security team continues to closely monitor the situation in the region and will make any additional changes if required." MS

## APT Group deals

APT Travel Group is offering deals on two river cruises this week, along the Douro with APT, and the Mekong with Travelmarvel.

The 'Douro Delights' cruise with APT is a 14-day journey available from Sep 2024 to Dec 2025, with guests able to save up to \$1,600 per couple.

The special price of \$6,495 per person twin share is available until the end of Mar, or until sold out.

Meanwhile, Travelmarvel's 'Essential Vietnam & Cambodia' cruise is a 12-day sailing available from \$4,140 per person twin share.

Cruisers can save up to \$5,000 per couple until the end of next month, unless sold out prior.

Travelmarvel said the deal applies to travel between Feb 2024 and Mar 2025.

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**SOME** cruise lines are now apparently creating shore activities for those who aren't even guests on the vessel!

Popular online surfer Ben Gravy's latest video captures his attempts to surf the "mini-tsunami" waves created by ships from lines such as Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises.

Gravy's mission is to surf the world's weirdest and most difficult waves, and his latest escapade saw him head to Fort Lauderdale to tackle the wake created by many of the port's cruise ships.

"Not every novelty wave is the most epic wave ever...but it's not about that...it's about committing to it and getting the ride...we f\*ckn did it, dude," Gravy exclaims.

View the video [HERE](#).

## Azamara's early return



**AZAMARA** has announced its earlier than expected return to Canada and New England, with two new sailings scheduled for later this year.

The company's new 12-night Canada/New England voyage, departing 12 Oct, and the 15-night Colonial America Voyage, sailing from 24 Oct, will include maiden port calls for the cruise line.

They will also depart earlier than Azamara's previously announced return to the region in 2025.

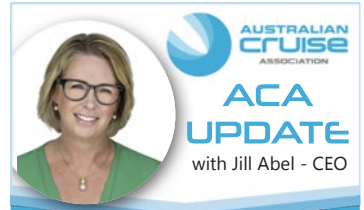
The 12-night cruise will see passengers wander the historic streets of Boston and discover charming coastal cities in Maine before making their way to

Canada aboard *Azamara Journey*.

The ship will sail Quebec's one and only fjord at Saguenay Fjord National Park, and will stay overnight in Quebec City, where guests can immerse themselves in French-Canadian culture and its diverse food scene.

Meanwhile, the 15-night cruise will embark from Montreal, and see passengers explore Quebec City, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, before making their way down the East Coast of the United States.

The voyage cruises the Cape Cod Canal, spends 14 hours in iconic New York City, and visits quaint seaside spots such as Newport and Charleston before concluding in Miami. *MS*



### 2024 - a strong outlook

**WHAT** a welcome return to 2024 with TTF Australia announcing the results of their latest cruise research, which shows that the percentage of Australians surveyed who plan to cruise in 2024 has risen from 7% to 26%!

Not only is this a reflection of the appealing array of services that cruise lines are providing on board, but we know that the itineraries on offer, coupled with the onshore experiences, are playing strongly into travellers' decisions on which cruises to take.

Australia has always performed well with high quality shore excursions showcasing wildlife, history, spectacular landscapes, Indigenous culture and our strong culinary scene.

While Far North Queensland topped the list of most popular cruise destinations in the survey followed by Tasmania, then Sydney and Kangaroo Island, I witnessed firsthand during our roadshows the diverse offerings right across our country.

Interestingly, the survey also reinforced what we have been seeing for some time - an increased appetite for cruise by younger generations, with 35% of Australians under 35 planning to cruise in 2024.

This will mean a renewed focus by our onshore operators to deliver services and experiences to cater to that market, many of whom will be "new to cruise" and looking for highly engaging, high-quality services designed to meet their particular interests.

A great challenge to have and an exciting way to start the new year!

## New year, new sale

**CRUISERS** can currently save up to 40% off Lindblad Expeditions voyages in 2024 and 2025 with the cruise line's wave offer.

Lindblad cruisers can score a travel credit of up to \$2,500 per person, and can save up to 40% on solo staterooms, while also enjoying an additional 10% off when paying in full.

For more information on the sale, [CLICK HERE](#), or call 1300 361 012.