

### Cruise Weekly today

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

## Carnival closing

**CARNIVAL** Corporation earlier today closed both public and private investment opportunities in the company, after receiving a tremendous response (**CW** 02 Apr).

Carnival offered qualified institutional buyers a private offering of US\$1.95 billion aggregate principal amount of 5.75% convertible senior notes due 2023, as well as 71,875,000 shares of common stock at a price of US\$8 per share.

The offerings saw Saudi Arabia take a stake in the Corporation, with the country's Public Investment Fund reporting an 8.2% share.

## Greg's large-scale COVID outbreak

**81 PEOPLE** have currently tested positive for COVID-19 on Aurora Expeditions' *Greg Mortimer*, which is currently anchored off the coast of Uruguay.

*Mortimer* (pictured), which is believed to have 96 Australians on board, also disembarked three more-serious cases (two crew and one passenger), so they could be transported to a non-ICU facility.

All 126 passengers, and staff, have been tested in total, with 45 coming back negative and another 90 test results still being processed.

The vessel, which has been stranded off the coast of Montevideo for almost two weeks (**CW** 02 Apr), has not been allowed to dock, as Aurora works with Uruguayan officials to get everyone on board home as quickly as possible.

The company is currently finalising flights for all on board,



with Aurora believing those who have tested negative will be allowed to fly commercially, while the fate of those who have tested positive is unclear.

However, the company is working with the Australian government to develop exit

strategies for COVID-19 cases who are recovering, or showing vague or no symptoms.

"We have informed our passengers that the advice from the authorities is that everyone who can leave, must leave," the cruise line said.

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Travel Daily



**IN TIMES** like these, especially when it comes to cruise ships, international diplomacy is of the utmost importance.

The British Government this week set the trend for the rest of the world to follow, in this letter (pictured) thanking Cuba for taking in the passengers stuck on *Braemar*, describing the show of statesmanship as a "great act of solidarity".

Well done to these two!



## No spitting at this!



**A POTENTIAL** Gold Coast cruise ship terminal (**CW** 01 Nov 2018) has received a vote of support from the city's Mayor, who recently won a third term.

Despite COVID-19 crippling the industry, and fierce opposition from locals and fellow politicians, Tate described the project as "long-term", and likened it to the city's airport.

The terminal would be built at The Spit in Southport (pictured), cost between \$463 million and \$600 million, and allow for vessels carrying up to 4,000 passengers (**CW** 19 Nov 2018).

Previous studies have indicated

a cruise ship terminal could reverse fledgling domestic tourism numbers in the city by latching onto Australia's cruise boom (**CW** 06 Jun 2017).

Mayor Tate said the decimation of the industry by coronavirus should result in nothing other than the postponement of the project.

"If it means that industry is decimated and is not economically viable then we should postpone it," he said. "We asked for the terms of reference, we got it and then just to turn back on it is like we're wasting our time."

## New US restriction

**THE** Trump Administration is restricting air travel for cruise ship passengers, with The Department of Homeland Security and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now banning them from boarding domestic flights.

The restrictions will apply even to those not showing symptoms, and requires 14-day quarantines for cruise passengers and crew.

A government official told CNN the new protocols would see cruise ship companies forced to follow the rules in order to dock, but that a range of exceptions would be applicable, especially for foreigners.

The restrictions will limit passengers and crew to charter aircraft or using private transportation.

## Virtual Lindblad

**DESPITE** being unable to sail, Lindblad Expeditions is now offering "virtual expeditions", promising to offer viewers "inspiration and a peek inside daily life onboard the ships".

The initiative will feature an expedition team of naturalists and experts in isolation, lectures with the line's naturalist team, live musical performances, artisan & cooking demonstrations, and activities for kids.

A special evening recap will also reveal the newest addition to the fleet, *National Geographic Endurance* - **CLICK HERE** for more.

## Dream as you wish

**GENTING** Cruise Lines' Cruise As You Wish policy has been extended for Dream & Star Cruises sailings booked until 30 Oct.

The policy allows bookings made during this period to be cancelled up to 48 hours prior to sailing, and receive a 100% future cruise credit to be redeemed on any Dream or Star Cruises sailing embarking on or before 31 Mar 2021.

## Four Fred.s in Funchal turns to Lisbon

**FRED.** Olsen Cruise Lines has confirmed its next fleet reunion will take place in Lisbon on 22 Oct 2021, after this year's event in Funchal on 04 Apr was cancelled.

The Four Fred.s in Lisbon event will see Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' four ships - *Balmoral*, *Black Watch*, *Braemar* and *Boudicca* - all call at the Portuguese capital.

Those booking on any of the Four Fred.s in Lisbon sailings by 05 May can also enjoy up to £200 per person to spend on board and the cost of tips covered, and more - call 1300 786 863.