



Cruise Weekly today

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

MSC Sales Connect

MSC Cruises is allowing travel agents to book a virtual meeting with its new Sales Connect by MSC platform.

The virtual meeting-place allows agents to book a 30-minute sales call with their MSC Cruises Business Development Manager.

The sessions can be organised via video or phone call, and can be utilised for anything the travel agent would like to learn more about, including the restart of sailings, health & safety protocols, product training, current promotions, business development planning and group opportunities.

Viking sets off for Mars

THE eighth Viking ocean cruise ship will be named *Viking Mars*, with the moniker revealed during this week's video update on the cruise pause by the line's founder Torstein Hagen (**CW** yesterday).

Looking optimistically to the future, Hagen noted the planned 2021 launch of *Viking Venus* which was announced last year (**CW** 18 Sep 2019) and floated out from Fincantieri's shipyard in Ancona, Italy two months ago.

Some online sources had previously suggested Viking's eighth ship would be named *Viking Tellus* based on information from the shipbuilder's website.

However according to yesterday's update, the eighth ocean ship will now be called *Mars* and will debut in 2022.

Viking's ocean newbuild program currently extends out to 2027, and it appears likely the

cruise line's planetary theme will continue.

A keen-eyed **Cruise Weekly** who conducted a trademark search found the company also has registrations in place for *Viking Mercury*, *Viking Neptune*, *Viking Saturn* and *Viking Pluto*.

Interestingly there is no corresponding lodgement for the name *Viking Uranus*.

As well as the 930-passenger Viking ocean newbuilds, the line is constructing two expedition ships, *Viking Octantis* and *Viking Polaris* which are scheduled for a 2022 debut, which is shaping up to be a huge year for Viking.

The year also includes the planned launch of its new *Viking Mississippi* United States-based river ship (**CW** 15 Jul).

The *Viking Saigon* river ship is also currently under construction with a planned launch on the Mekong in 2021.

RCG acquires loan

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) has announced it has secured a new US\$700 million loan from investment bank Morgan Stanley.

Purposed for "general and corporate purchases", Royal Caribbean Group has the ability to increase the loan's capacity by an additional US\$300 million subject to receiving additional or increased commitments and the issuance of guarantees from additional subsidiaries of the company.

Royal Caribbean Group earlier this week reported it had US\$4.1 billion in liquidity as well as an estimated monthly cash burn of US\$250 million to US\$290 million, which it is considering ways to further reduce under a prolonged out-of-service scenario.

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Travel Daily

NEWS ON THE FLY



SEATTLE startup Zin Boats has reinvented the electric speedboat in a bid to become the "Tesla of the sea".

The company's 20-foot Z2R (pictured) is minimalist, and built almost entirely from carbon fibre.

The design is less than half the weight of a comparable craft, offering it quicker acceleration and ease of handling, and can travel 100 miles per charge, which only costs about \$US5 and takes just one hour.

It's also capable of going extremely fast, according to the company's owner and namesake Piotr Zin, clocking in at 55 knots, which equates to just over 100 kilometres per hour.



HAL virtual voyage



HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is taking cruisers on a week-long virtual voyage to Norway.

Commencing this Sun, the second of Holland America's virtual voyages will "set sail" on its Facebook page ([CLICK HERE](#)), with guests able to "board" *Nieuw Statendam* (pictured) as the ship follows the popular Norse Legends itinerary.

Sailing roundtrip from Amsterdam, the virtual voyage will include live events, scenic videos, imagery and interactivity, and incorporates every moment of life aboard *Nieuw Statendam*, beginning with breakfast on the verandah or coffee at Grand Dutch Cafe through to an after-dinner performance from Step One Dance Company, or a viewing of the midnight sun.

Each evening, the When & Where daily program for the following day will be posted on Facebook, with the virtual voyage to make calls at Eidfjord, Alesund, Geiranger and Bergen, and when in port, Holland America will show off shore excursions and local customs.

On select days, fans can also join brand ambassador Seth Wayne for live events, including his popular Tuesday Trivia,

Norwegian lessons, an Aquavit tasting, towel animal folding demonstration, cocktails with a local and the reading of a Norwegian children's story.

Other activities include "coffee with the ship's engineers," a downloadable word search, and a Lincoln Center Stage performance of an Edvard Grieg piece.

Crystal 2.0 plans

CRYSTAL Cruises has announced Crystal Clean+ 2.0 protocols for its river fleet.

The measures are designed to help safeguard guests and crew members along Europe's rivers, and will be continually evaluated and adjusted as new information becomes available.

Crystal is committed to being in full compliance with all local regulations set by the destinations the ships visit, with the protocols to comprise enhanced cleaning procedures, social distancing and facial covering requirements, health monitoring for guests and crew members, new streamlined embarkation procedures and more.



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Next NCL webinar

NEW and unique Asia itineraries for 2021 and 2022 will be showcased in Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) next News & Network webinar.

To be hosted on Tue at 10.30am eastern, travel agents can also win one of five \$50 gift cards during the webinar.

The session will be hosted by Qld BDM Craig McLaurin - [CLICK HERE](#) to register.