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Naomi Ages

Head of Sustainability, Hurtigruten

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Cruise lines cancel voyages in China

THE growing health emergency in China has begun to affect some of the major cruise lines, with MSC Cruises and Royal Caribbean both cancelling cruises departing from the country to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus.

In a statement, MSC said it was required to cancel a planned sailing on board *MSC Splendida* from Shanghai on 28 Jan, in line with guidelines mandated by the Chinese Government.

Guests who had purchased tickets for the cruise have been given the option to receive a full refund or book on an alternative sailing with an equivalent price.

Rescheduled bookings will receive additional onboard credit for any cruise departing before the end of the year.

The cruise line also indicated to **CW** that *Splendida* is likely to remain in port for the duration of the cruise from 28 Jan to 01 Feb.



"We will continue to closely monitor the public health and safety situation in China and are consulting with int'l and local health authorities...and will strictly follow their advice & recommendations," MSC said.

Meanwhile Royal Caribbean has informed **CW** that it has suspended *Spectrum of the Seas* sailings that were due to depart Shanghai on 27 & 31 Jan.

The decision was made in consultation with the World

Health Organization and are characterised as "preventive measures" to protect the health of its guests and crew.

Guests who were booked on the sailings will be given full refunds.

Royal also stated that pax who have travelled to the Hubei Province in China would be denied entry to its ships, and anyone who has visited other regions in China in the past 14 days would also need to undergo medical screenings.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, a cover wrap for **Travel Daily's** Sustainability Summit plus a full page from **Tauk**.

A-ROSA promotion

RIVER cruise line A-ROSA is offering a 50% discount on the fare of a second passenger booked across select seven-night Danube, Rhine and Seine sailings, available for agents who register on its travel agency website **HERE**.

The deal can be combined with its existing earlybird discounts which have been extended to the end of Mar.

A-ROSA's Regional Director ANZ, Birgit Eisbrenner, said she was "delighted" by the response the line is currently getting from local agents.

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Australia is 100% open

CRUISE pax were warmly welcomed on Fri when *Norwegian Jewel* became the first ship to visit the NSW town of Eden since the recent bushfires.

Together with the return of *Sun Princess* to Kangaroo Island, the arrival means 100% of Australia's cruise ports are now operating and ready to welcome visitors.

Eden has become one of the success stories of regional cruising in Australia and its passionate community has put great effort into welcoming cruise ships and creating experiences for their pax.

Having last year opened a new wharf funded by state, federal and local governments, the town has become a model for regions hoping to attract and support cruise tourism.

In all there are almost 50 cruise ports around Australia, many enjoying a greater number of ship visits as cruise lines increase the number of regional destinations in their itineraries.

Each ship visiting a regional destination brings a huge economic boost, often from international visitors who might not ordinarily visit these areas by land.

As we welcome Tourism Australia's new "Holiday Here This Year" campaign, we hope cruising helps bring confidence to local tourism operators and plays an important part in the recovery of communities affected by fire.



CMV links with CLIA

CRUISE & Maritime Voyages (CMV) has partnered with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) to become a regional member of Europe and Australasia.

CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz said CMV's decision to join reflected the growing importance of cruising and its expanding role in the wider tourism community.

"CMV has put particular focus on developing new destinations and regional itineraries," Katz said.

"It's a great example of the expansion of cruise tourism into regional locations around Australasia and we're delighted CMV has shown such a commitment to our part of the world," he added.

MEANWHILE CMV has also revealed the names of the two ships it purchased from P&O Cruises last year (CW 29 Nov 2019), with *Pacific Dawn* now called *Amy Johnson*, while *Pacific Aria* will sail under the name *Ida Pfeiffer*.

The names honour a pair of pioneering women of travel, with Amy Johnson the first woman to fly solo from London to Australia, while Ida Pfeiffer was a famous Austrian explorer and travel writer.

CMV CEO Christian Verhounig confirmed *Amy Johnson* will take over from *Columbus* as the fleet's new flagship vessel.



WASHWATER discharges from open-loop Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS) technology will worsen the accumulation of carcinogens in marine environments, according to Senior Researcher, Marine Program for The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) Bryan Comer.

Countering the findings of a recently released CE Delft report which contends the impact of the technology would be "minimal" on the environment (CW 28 Jan), Comer believes the evidence suggests increased use of open-loop scrubbers in the cruise sector would result in more polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and heavy metals in the water, in the sediment, and in marine life.

"As more ships use scrubbers to comply with fuel sulphur regulations, the risk to aquatic ecosystems, wildlife, and by extension humans will grow," Comer said.

Open-loop EGCS utilise seawater to scrub the exhaust and the resultant washwater is then often mixed with fresh seawater before being discharged into the sea.

Despite cruise ship operators increasingly turning to scrubbers to help meet new emissions

targets, Comer told *Cruise Weekly* the industry should instead focus on investing in the transition to fossil-free, zero-emission propulsion.

"Solutions include energy-saving tech such as hull air lubrication, and wind-assisted propulsion, as well as battery-hybrid propulsion, hydrogen fuel cells, & perhaps ammonia," he argued.

Comer also took aim at the cruise sector's uptake of LNG fuels, concurring with Viking Chairman Torstein Hagen's scathing assessment last week while in Los Angeles in the United States (CW 24 Jan), that LNG engines can leak "high amounts" of unburned methane.

"This technology emitted 70% to 82% more lifecycle greenhouse gasses compared to marine gas oil, this engine type is especially popular for new cruise ship designs," Comer said.

"We conclude that there is no short-term climate benefit from using LNG, regardless of the engine technology, after taking into account upstream emissions.

"This makes it unlikely to contribute to the International Maritime Organization's goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions at least in half by 2050," he added.





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THE wreck of a long-lost merchant ship, the *SS Cotopaxi*, has been located almost 100 years after it mysteriously disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle (cue the conspiracy theories) with 32 passengers onboard, on its way to Havana, Cuba from Charleston, South Carolina in 1925.

In fact, the shipwreck had turned up 35 years ago, but was only recently identified as the ill-fated *Cotopaxi*.

A group of underwater explorers and maritime archaeologists, along with the help of a historian, solved the case of mistaken identity after finding a crucial piece of information in ship records at the archives of Lloyd's of London.

The shipwreck, located off the coast of St Augustine, and locally known as the Bear Wreck, will feature in the new series *Shipwreck Secrets*, starting next month on the Science Channel.

Oceania earlybird

OCEANIA Cruises has revealed a range of special offers on select 2020 sailings. The deals include savings of up to 25% on an 18-day Memorable Far East sailing from Hong Kong to Tokyo from 24 May, as well as 20% off the price of a 10-day voyage from Copenhagen to Stockholm, departing 26 Jun.

Also on offer is a 10% discount on a 16-day sailing from Sydney to Bali departing 01 Dec - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Deals hit for six

HURTIGRUTEN has announced six special offers on six different polar destinations departing in 2020/21.

Savings of up to \$9,000 per cabin are available on voyages to Antarctica, while further discounts are on offer for cruises to Iceland, Greenland, Svalbard, Norway and the Northwest Passage.

Hurtigruten's Explore the World Global Sale is valid until 15 Mar - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Spiking volleyball dreams



P&O Cruises Australia has helped to build new gym facilities for Vanuatu's female beach volleyball team, as part of its Pacific Partnership program.

The new training facility, located in the country's capital Port Vila, is comprised of two repurposed shipping containers that feature air-bikes and exercise mats, with rowing machines and weights to be added shortly.

"It might be a modest gym by many Olympic teams' standards, but it is a very big step forward for the Vanuatu team as well as all the other young women who want to become the nation's next

generation of beach volleyball athletes," said P&O's President Sture Myrmell (pictured).

P&O's Pacific Partnership Program sees adult guests donate A\$1 to help support community-based activities in destinations the line visits, such as Vanuatu.

Perks of cruising

WINDSTAR Australia has announced a range of Pick Your Perk special fares when bookings are made by 28 Feb.

Deals include up to \$US1,000 of onboard credit or unlimited wi-fi - call 1300 749 875.



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- Choose a walking tour of Delft, the historic city known for its blue-and-white pottery, or visit the Royal Delft factory for a tour and a painting workshop
- Explore the city of Rotterdam on a culinary walking or bicycling tour



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- Enjoy a full transit aboard *Le Bougainville* of the 19th-century Corinth Canal, too narrow for most modern ships to navigate today
- In Gytheio, choose from excursions to Mystras, kayaking, a sea-cave visit, an organic cooking class or beachfront fun
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