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RCL and NCLH collaborate on health

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises (RCL) and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) have announced the formation of a joint "Healthy Sail Panel" which is working on the development of recommendations for cruise lines to advance their public health response to COVID-19.

The expert panel is co-chaired by Dr Scott Gottlieb, the Commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration from 2017 to 2019, and Mike Leavitt, former Utah Governor and ex-Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Other members include seven eminent physicians and scientists, NCLH EVP Vessel Operations Robin Lindsay, and Captain Patrik Dahlgren, RCL SVP Global Marine Operations.

It has been tasked with delivering its initial recommendations by the end of next month.

The work of the group will be "open source" and can be freely adopted by any company or industry that would benefit from its scientific and medical insights.

"This unprecedented disease requires us to develop unprecedented standards in health and safety," said Royal Caribbean Group CEO and Chairman Richard Fain.

"Bringing aboard these respected experts to guide us forward demonstrates our commitment to protecting our guests, our crews and the communities we visit," he said.

NCLH CEO Frank Del Rio said "we compete for the vacationing consumer's business every day, but we never compete on health and safety standards".

"While the cruise industry has always had rigorous health standards, the unique challenges posed by COVID-19 provide an opportunity to raise the bar even

higher," Del Rio added.

Fain and Del Rio said they had created the panel to ensure the plans they submit to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other regulators will apply the best available public health, science and engineering insights.

MEANWHILE Carnival Corporation has also announced its own health initiative, in the form of a joint "virtual scientific summit" conducted in partnership with the World Travel & Tourism Council.

To take place on 23 Jul at midnight Australian time, the three-hour public summit will share the latest scientific knowledge and evidence-based best practices related to prevention, detection, treatment and mitigation of COVID-19.

Details on the program and panellists are now available at covidsciencesummit.com.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a front cover wrap from **Cunard**.

Cunard savings

CUNARD is offering savings of up to 30% on launch fares as well as 5% deposits for bookings confirmed by 31 Jul as part of its annual savings event - for more details see the **cover page** of **CW** today.

Fancy some choc?

THIS week's edition of our consumer-facing sister publication **Keep Dreaming** from **Travel and Cruise Weekly** is a special chocolate issue, created to celebrate World Chocolate Day today.

Share with your clients to feed their cruise and travel appetite - **CLICK HERE**.

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PORTHOLE

DESIGNERS take cues from nature all the time, with Swedish electric boat manufacturer X Shore's latest vessels (pictured) inspired by the electric eel.

These new boats are quieter, and create less emissions than those powered by fossil fuels.

X Shore also says the cost of refuelling an electric boat can be as low as one-tenth the cost for fossil fuels.

Deck and hull colours are customisable, with three options: moss, sandy, and coffee, and can run for eight hours without recharging.

X Shore has two new models, to buy, the Eelex 8000 and the Eelord 6000 - if you have a spare \$280,000 lying around.



True North strong & free



TRUE North has resumed operations, departing Broome on 04 Jul, serving only Western Australian customers.

The seven-night trip explored the Kimberley, with the region set to play focus of True North's early sailings, on classic itineraries such as Kimberley Snapshot and Kimberley Ultimate.

True North has also released an amended sailing schedule for the remainder of the year, with an emphasis on small group and nature-based adventures in

remote locations.

The adventure yacht operator will bring back popular adventures from last year, Coast & Coral, in late Aug, and the perennial favourite Over the Top itinerary will return from late Oct.

True North plans to keep up its Christmas & holiday season itineraries in Sydney, which feature the start of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race and NYE.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

Pictured: *True North*.

Flam funding

THE Port of Flam in Norway has received funding to build an onshore power supply for cruise ships.

The initiative is an effort to meet more stringent requirements regarding emissions from the cruise industry.

The port has been working to offer locally produced hydropower to cruise ships, and submitted an application to ENOVA in Apr, which has now been granted, and was prepared in collaboration with local stakeholders, the cruise industry, and the local energy supplier.

The developments come following Norway's decision to make the country's fjords emission free by 2026.

Pandaw's portal

PANDAW has introduced a new portal designed specifically for its industry partners.

Those who register on the site will have access to a range of information on different topics, including the latest promotions and extra commission opportunities, an images library, itineraries, and instant access to immediate bookings via the Pandaw booking engine - **CLICK HERE**.

Pandaw also recently added a new voyage on North India's Brahmaputra River, with the cruise operating between Guwahati and Silghat, and offering a range of safari land extensions (**CW** 22 Jun).

Costa extends

COSTA Cruises has extended its pause in operations until 15 Aug, as well as the cancellation of all cruises in Northern Europe for the remainder of the 2020 summer season.

The cruise line linked the decision to uncertainty on the gradual reopening of ports to cruise ships, and the restrictions that may still be in place for the movements of people due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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