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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a front cover from **Carnival Cruise Line** plus a full page from **Tauck**.

Booking engine

CARNIVAL Cruise Line is reminding agents that its new booking engine will launch to the market soon.

New features include enhanced search filters and interactive deck plans.

See **front page** for details.

Seabourn support

SEABOURN says that despite travel warnings for cruise, the sector remains the best vacation value available, & the line is continually enacting protocols to protect its pax.

Sapphire expands Western Australia

PRINCESS Cruises has unveiled a range of new expanded itineraries for *Sapphire Princess'* inaugural season in Western Australia, scheduled to kick off in May this year (**CW** 19 Feb).

Redeploying from Asia to Australia in response to a number of port closures in the region brought on by COVID-19, Princess will look to capitalise on the growing WA cruise market by offering 27 new voyages which feature nine maiden calls.

The extended program includes an eight-night Coral Coast voyage from Fremantle, visiting Broome, Geraldton and Exmouth.

The cruise departs 04 May, with prices starting from \$599ppts.

Also new is the 17-night Northern Explorer between Fremantle and Sydney, taking in Broome during the Broome Cup, as well as Geraldton and Cairns.

The sailing leaves 10 Aug and



prices lead in from \$1,999ppts.

But perhaps the most marquee addition is a new sailing to the Kimberley coast, visiting the scenic Kuri Bay and Yampi Sound.

"The Kimberley is renowned for being a vast and untouched destination with never-ending rugged coastlines, ancient land formations and iconic boab trees," said Princess' Destinations Director Michael Mihajlov.

"Exploring it by sea opens up new opportunities to access and experience this quintessentially

Australian environment".

WA's Tourism Minister Paul Papalia has also backed Princess' new Kimberley call, claiming the visit would inject much needed cash into the region's economy.

"It means cruise guests can more easily enjoy the region's attractions, while providing a welcome boost for the local tourism industry," he said.

The additional port calls are expected to generate an extra \$2m for WA's economy overall.

Pictured: *Sapphire Princess*.



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*Visit OceaniaCruises.com/terms for details.

Expert okays cruise

THE Director of the US National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases has defended the cruise industry, stating “there is no reason” not to embark on a cruise if you are young and healthy.

Speaking at a White House press conference this week, Anthony Fauci clarified that warnings about cruises are primarily targeted at the elderly and those with underlying medical illnesses.

“If you are a healthy young person, there is no reason if you want to go on a cruise ship,” he advised.

“An individual who has an underlying condition, particularly an elderly person...I would recommend strongly that they do not go on a cruise ship,” he added.

US Vice President Mike Pence backed Fauci’s comments, stating its advice about the cruise industry is targeted at older people with “serious underlying conditions”.

Northern exposure

TRUE North Adventure Cruises’ ship *True North* has recently emerged from its annual refurbishment in Fremantle, Western Australia, boasting a number of rejuvenated amenities.

The refit included the forward sundeck and alfresco bar areas being refined to become “more user-friendly” spaces, Tefroka decking on all external stairs, additional soundproofing in the ship’s lounge, and the complete repaint of the ship’s exterior.

For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).



P&O backs SA recovery



P&O Cruises has commenced its South Australian cruise season today, with expectations of bringing almost 5,000 visitors to Kangaroo Island via four cruises.

The first sailing of the program departed Adelaide bound for the popular island destination, which was badly affected by the recent bushfire crisis.

“With the support of our guests, we’re happy to be returning to this wonderful part of the country and helping to play a part in its recovery which continues the message that the local community is resilient, courageous and ready to welcome visitors,” said P&O Cruises President Sture Myrmell.

“We have been offering cruises to Kangaroo Island from Adelaide for more than 85 years, and together with our guests, appreciate all that the region has to offer from its diverse native

wildlife to striking coastal rock formations,” he added.

Pacific Aria will also offer six round-trip cruises from Adelaide until 06 Apr, before departing on a six-night, one-way cruise to Auckland in New Zealand.

Pictured: Admiral’s Arch on Kangaroo Island.

Avalon assistance

AVALON Waterways has introduced a temporary policy update that provides travellers with greater flexibility to move deposits on any future cruise.

The move means guests can change destination or itinerary in 2020/21, or migrate to another Globus family of brands experience with Cosmos or Monograms.

Cancellations can now also be made up to three days prior to departures.

Expedition info

VIKING has announced three new travel agent information sessions aimed at communicating more details of its Viking Expeditions product.

The workshops will also provide agents with the tools to better sell new expedition sailings available when *Viking Octantis* and *Viking Polaris* join the fleet in 2022.

“As the travel industry weathers challenging conditions, it pays for agents to educate themselves,” said Viking’s National Sales Manager ANZ Keira Smith.

The sessions will be held in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne in Mar, & RSVPs are essential - call 138 747.



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Travel Daily



[CLICK HERE FOR THE ENTRY GUIDELINES](#)

Refund clarification

SILVERSEA Cruises has clarified that its new policy preserving travel agent commissions (**CW 10 Mar**) is only protected when the refund is in the form of a future cruise credit.

The policy is not applicable when a client has been issued with a cash refund.

Call 1300 306 872 for more.

The diamond in the rough

DESPITE enduring weeks in lockdown on board *Diamond Princess*, AKA Travel's Kareem Abdelmaksoud said he would have no qualms about going on another cruise in the future - only his preference might be a river cruise next time.

The Canberra-based travel agent found himself at the centre of the media's gaze when the vessel was quarantined by the Japanese Ministry of Health last month, after a passenger aboard tested positive for COVID-19, presenting he and his wife both professional and personal challenges.

"Usually I take my laptop with me when I go travelling, however as this was only going to be a two-week trip I did not bring it with me and this has limited my capacity to be able to finalise bookings and invoicing," he said.

Thankfully, Abdelmaksoud adds, in his case suppliers were very helpful in extending timeframes for customer deposits, and being understanding of his plight.

However, the biggest personal obstacle for Abdelmaksoud was not knowing how at risk he was of contracting the virus.

"Being confined was frustrating and my wife and I discussed what we would do if either one of us were diagnosed with the virus.

"Getting information from the media prior to being informed by the cruise ship was also difficult at times," he lamented.

However, the overall impression of the way Princess Cruises' crew handled the challenging situation was a very positive one.

"The staff were quite exceptional in very difficult



circumstances, they were quite cheery when they delivered food...in the last week in particular we got lots of treats delivered to our rooms, on Valentine's Day, which my wife and I do not usually celebrate, we got a single red rose, lots of chocolates and lollies, face masks and treats," Abdelmaksoud said.

Despite the taxing situation, the stoic agent said he learned a lot from the experience, advising agents and travellers to make sure they take their laptop on cruises if they rely on it, check the fine print in the travel insurance policies, and have contact details for embassies and airlines.

Pictured: Abdelmaksoud on his way to quarantine.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

YOU will have read yesterday that the Australian Government followed the US this week with an ocean cruising travel advisory.

It is undoubtedly another challenge for cruising and for our travel agent community, but we remain focused on doing everything we can in response to the coronavirus challenge.

This is a time unlike any we've seen before, but our first priority is to protect our guests, our crew, our suppliers and trade partners, and the communities we visit.

The Government has not said "do not cruise", but it does advise travellers to reconsider overseas cruises - particularly for people with underlying health concerns.

Hundreds of thousands of pax are still enjoying cruise holidays across the world, so travellers will therefore need to make their own informed decisions.

We encourage you to reference our website **HERE** where you can find resources to help your clients consider the robust and extensive measures that have already been put in place by the cruise industry globally.

The cruise industry has committed to do even more, and we are continuing to work with stakeholders and government to develop even more responsive plans that go beyond the already significantly enhanced screening, boarding and health protocols that are in place.

We will keep you updated in the coming days.



P&O Cruises found an extra sweet way to say thanks to women all over the world to mark International Women's Day, with staff on *Pacific Dawn* putting their baking skills to the test for the big occasion.

A giant women-themed cake was baked and shared with guests on board, with the crew also encouraging passengers to share their thoughts about the important role that women play in their daily lives.

Crew members also handed out 750 plates of petit fours to guests, which included the inscribed message: "Shine on, not just today, but everyday".





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- Visits to Dordrecht and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kinderdijk's 18th-century windmills
- Choice of a bicycling excursion among the windmills of Kinderdijk
- Excursions to the well-preserved medieval Flemish cities of Ghent and Bruges
- A visit to a local brewery for a "bier" tasting in Antwerp



[View Itinerary](#)

Budapest to the Black Sea

13 days from Budapest to Bucharest (or reverse)
 Departing Eastbound: 4 May; 16 Jul; 10 & 24 Aug
 Westbound: 10 May; 8 Jul; 16 & 30 Aug 2021
 Onboard *ms Joy* or *ms Treasures*

Starting from **\$8,340***pp twin share | **\$8,340*** solo travellers

No single supplement on all departures

TAUCK VALUE INCLUDES

- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – Exclusive evening at Belgrade's Royal White Palace
- Two nights at a hotel in Budapest and three nights in Bucharest at a hotel with an ideal location next to the Parliament Palace
- Dinner at the massive Parliament building (the "People's Palace") in Bucharest
- A visit to the city of Pécs in Hungary, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Passage through the Iron Gate on the Danube River
- Choice of Romanian excursions exploring the story of Vlad Tepes, 15th-century inspiration for Bram Stoker's "Dracula"



[View Itinerary](#)

Impressions from the Seine

8 days from Paris to Normandy
 Departing 10 Apr; 23 May; 11 Aug; 23 Sep & 27 Oct 2021 Onboard *ms Sapphire*

Starting from **\$6,240***pp twin share | **\$6,240*** solo travellers

No single supplement on all departures

TAUCK VALUE INCLUDES

- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – Dinner at 16th-century Château du Taillis in Duclair
- Choice of museum visits in Paris from the Musée d'Orsay, Rodin Museum or the Musée National de l'Orangerie
- A locally guided walking tour of historic Rouen, including the Cathedral painted by Monet more than 30 times and Joan of Arc Square
- Guided exploration of D-Day sites with a local expert, including Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery, with lunch at the Omaha Beach Club
- A visit to the Château Gaillard ruins in Les Andelys
- Early-opening visit to Monet's house and gardens and the Impressionist Museum in Giverny



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*Prices are per person in Australia dollars and are correct as at 2 March 2020. Prices are subject to availability and seasonal surcharges. River Cruises have other dates available for 2020, however price per person may differ than what is advertised. Pricing for Holland & Belgium in Spring is based on Northbound and Southbound 4 April 2021 departures in Category 1. Pricing for Budapest to the Black Sea is based on 16 Jul, 10 & 16 Aug 2021 departures dates in category 1. Pricing for Impressions from the Seine is based on 10 April 2021 departures in Category 1. Museum visits in Paris are subject to opening times and days. No Single Supplement is applicable to select 2021 River Itineraries in Category 1 staterooms only, other categories will incur a single supplement. International airfares from Australia are not included. Special offers are valid for new bookings only. Change and cancellation conditions apply and will be advised at the time of booking. Lic 21A00374.