



Cruise Weekly today

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

More cruise canx

AIDA Cruises and Costa Cruises have both extended their pause in operations until the end of Jul.

AIDA cited the continuing adjustment of international tourism regulations in many of the destinations it visits, while Costa added the uncertainty of the reopening of ports to cruise ships, as well as travel restrictions, as reasons for its extension.

AIDA has committed to reimbursing all guests whose cruises have been cancelled in the form of a travel credit, for payments already made, with a bonus of 10% on top, with bookings to be processed chronologically according to departure date.

The cruise line will also pay travel agencies a liquidity advance of 10% of the credit value, to be transferred as soon as AIDA has issued the travel credit for the customer.

Costa added it was "taking steps to inform both travel agents and guests affected by the changes.

"They will be guaranteed a re-protection in accordance with the applicable legislation."

Ponant ready and waiting to cruise

PONANT "would welcome" the opportunity for expedition operations to recommence in Australia (*CW* 25 May), the cruise line has said.

Following the announcement on Tue expedition cruises might be able to restart with the rest of domestic travel, Ponant Vice President Asia Pacific Monique Ponfoort told *Cruise Weekly* the line's ship *Le Lapereuse* was waiting in New Caledonia for the green light to recommence operations.

"Ponant teams around the world are working with head office in Marseille on plans to redeploy the fleet when the time comes," Ponfoort said.

"Hopefully this will start in Australian waters, perhaps even in time for the end of this year's Kimberley season.

"There are so many variables in play that all we can do is look at



options as best we can, including monitoring when borders are likely to be reopened, and when domestic and int'l flights will again operate at a viable level.

"We are undertaking the groundwork to recommence as soon as possible."

The cruise line's new training module is also now available on the Cruise Line International Association Australasia learning academy, and is available for both members and non-members.

CLICK HERE to access.

Pictured: *Le Lapereuse*.

Seabourn extends book with confidence

SEABOURN'S book with confidence cancellation policy (*CW* 05 Mar) has been enhanced, now extended to sailings in 2021, and also including a new best fare guarantee.

Travellers can cancel their new booking up to 30 days prior to departure and receive a future cruise credit, with the new best fare guarantee ensuring if fares are lowered, guests can request the lowest publicly available price, even after they have booked.

"We've enhanced our book with confidence policy to give travellers assurance for a longer period of time that they can cancel closer to departure and have the opportunity of receiving the best pricing available," said SVP of Global Marketing & Sales Chris Austin.

"These updates should give them the confidence they need to finalize their travel plans now but know they have flexibility".

Olivero and out

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's (NCL) longtime US-based Senior Vice President Sales & Trade Partnerships Camille Olivero will leave the cruise line at the end of Jun.

She has enjoyed eight years and two stints at the company, and is largely credited with helping drive NCL's outreach to the American travel trade, including developing its Partners First program.

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WHILE you may not be able to sail from it at the moment, the Port of Seattle is inviting you to celebrate the sounds of its city with a new Spotify playlist.

The Emerald City is famous for both its seaport and its music scene, birthing the careers of Alice in Chains, Ray Charles, Foo Fighters, Jimi Hendrix, Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Quincy Jones and Soundgarden.

The Port has now partnered with local radio station KEXP to produce a bespoke playlist which contains a number of the city's favourites, as well as some up-and-coming local talent.

It contains some totally sick tracks for you to rock out to, bro - just **CLICK HERE**.

Celebrity Celeb-rates



CELEBRITY Cruises has recently marked its 30th birthday, and is celebrating with a look back on its past.

The cruise line has championed many industry firsts, with Celebrity President and Chief Executive Lisa Lutloff-Perlo saying she was confident the trend would continue in the next 30.

"As we look ahead to the post-pandemic world we will sail in, there is more progress to be made in our industry," she said. "I am confident Celebrity, and

the entire RCL family, will lead every step of the way."

A special celebratory birthday tribute video highlighting some of Celebrity Cruises' defining moments can be viewed **HERE**.

Aurora accusations

A REPORTED war of words with medical staff on board *Greg Mortimer* is the latest development in a proposed class action against Aurora Expeditions over the ship's COVID-19 impacted sailing to Antarctica (**CW** 13 May).

Nine yesterday published the alleged exchange, citing one of the doctors on *Greg Mortimer* claiming he felt pressured.

Aurora says it was transparent at all times with information provided to government bodies, crew and passengers, adding that "highly selective leaking of portions of communications may serve the...agendas of individual parties but do not reflect the facts".

Adv Canada deals

SAVINGS are now on offer for Adventure Canada's Arctic adventures in Sep 2021.

The season, which is already half-full, is now being sold with savings of up to US\$4,470 per person, or 15%, with no single supplement on selected cruises.

Those wishing to cruise must book by Oct, with a range of relaxed booking conditions available until Jul, including a half-priced deposit of US\$500 per person, and a flexible transfer policy allowing travellers to change bookings up to 121 days before departure - **CLICK HERE**.

Disney changes

THOMAS Mazloum will now oversee the operations of Disney Cruise Line, having recently been named President Disney Signature Experiences.

He will report to new Chairman Disney Parks, Experiences & Products Josh D'Amaro.

Disney recently announced its cruise line would not sail again until early Jul at the earliest (**CW** 15 May).



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