

cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Wednesday 4th November 2020

Cruise Weekly today

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

COVID on Ponant

A TOTAL of 17 people, including 14 crew members and three guests, have tested positive for coronavirus aboard Ponant's Le Jacques Cartier over the weekend.

The vessel suspended her planned itinerary and has since returned to Marseille.

Two crew members were diagnosed with coronavirus upon Le Jacques Cartier's arrival at Syracuse on 26 Oct.

The ships' guests were refused access to disembark in Syracuse, and were quarantined in-port by Italian authorities, following which the ship departed for Marseille.

Ponfoort praises Aurora adaptability

NEW Aurora Expeditions Chief **Executive Officer Monique** Ponfoort (pictured) has opened the curtain on rays of positivity her cruise line is seeing, including one of the most-subscribed Arctic preregistrations it has ever seen.

Amid what she called the "most challenging year in the history of the global travel and cruising industry", Ponfoort praised the response from the Aurora team, as well as the cruise line's customers, with the sales opening for the 2022 Arctic & Global season (CW 29 Sep) pushed back to accommodate earlybirds.

"I've been blown away by the passion, the optimism and the excitement of the Aurora team," she said.

"From entering Aurora Expeditions I've seen a homegrown Australian business where the team spirit is very much alive



and thriving.

"Yes, it's been an incredibly tough year for everyone but I see light at the end of the tunnel...it's a time to focus on your customer, focus on your team, I think the future is bright.

"One of the most important things to do when you join any company is to understand its

purpose and its spirit, and I can see now that's what makes Aurora so special."

Ponfoort said the cruise line also has strong bookings for Arctic '21 and Antarctica at the end of 2021.

"People are very keen to book, some of our source markets are still booking for 2021...there is strong demand."

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page 1



Wednesday 4th November 2020

Key West decides

VOTERS in Key West, Florida, will decide on three cruise initiatives today.

Citizens will vote on whether to limit the number of persons disembarking from cruise ships to a total of 1,500 per day, prohibit cruise vessels with capacity for 1,300 or more persons from disembarking, and give priority to cruise lines with the best environmental and health records.

"The destructive environmental impacts of cruise ships on air and water quality are well-established," according to the Key West Committee for Safer, Cleaner Ships.

"A return to previous cruiseship size and disembarkation numbers in Key West would resume its negative impacts on the local environment and pose a serious risk".

CLIA extends suspension **CRUISE** Lines International Association's (CLIA) ocean-

going members have voluntarily extended their suspension of American operations through to the end of the year (CW 06 Aug).

Its members will use the remainder of 2020 to prepare for the implementation of the extensive measures to address the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's (CDC) Framework for Conditional Sailing (CW 02 Nov). Measures will include 100%

testing of passengers and crews, expanded onboard medical capabilities and trial sailings.

CLIA said in a statement the extension will provide additional time to align the industry's "extensive preparation of health protocols with the implementation requirements under the CDC's Framework for Conditional Sailing and

Initial Phase COVID-19 Testing **Requirements for Protection of** Crew."

keep dreaming... Inspiration for your clients next tropical getaway

"We will work with urgency to advance a responsible return to cruising while maintaining a focus on effective, sciencebased measures to protect public health," the Association said.

The Centers for Disease Control on the weekend lifted its "no sail" order on American cruise ships, and set out a framework for how cruising could restart, which stated cruise lines must demonstrate adherence to stringent health and safety protocols including extensive testing, quarantine measures and social distancing.

Cruise lines must meet these standards on a series of crewonly test sailings before they will be allowed to resume passenger sailings.

Lindblad positivity

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Weekly

LINDBLAD Expeditions Chief Financial Officer Craig Felenstein said bookings for 2021 are looking "great", and demand for future travel "remains very strong".

Felenstein noted bookings for 2021 were still within historical ranges, 4% ahead of 2019's year-on-year number.

"While bookings are now behind where they were for 2020 at the same point one year ago, that is predominantly due to individual voyages and cancellations for Q1 of next year," he said.

"Looking into the last nine months of 2021...we remain 12% ahead of the same point a year ago for 2020."

Felenstein also highlighted Lindblad feels encouraged by the fact the majority of guests have opted for future travel credits as opposed to refunds.

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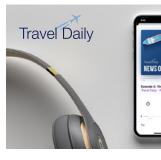
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Catch up on the news of the week

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MANY cruise fanatics have been wondering where all the world's ships have gone during the COVID-19 pandemic, so Cruise Weekly has attempted to track down some of the masses of vessels laid up in different parts of the world.

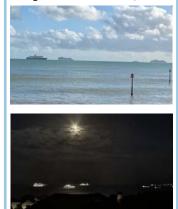
Bournemouth, UK

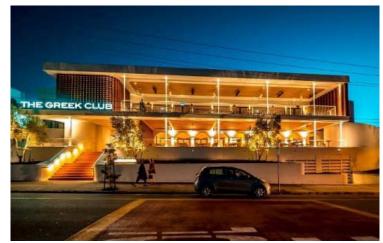


Torbay, Western Australia



Teignmouth and Devon, UK





Oceania events series

OCEANIA Cruises has launched a comprehensive event series across Australia and New Zealand, which will see its first live occasions in seven months.

The cruise line has returned its popular Agent Bring Client (ABC) events, which will be held across the next two months, and will provide information about Oceania's new sailings and destinations in its new 2022 Europe & North America Collection, set to launch next week.

Running for two hours each, there will be a 2pm and 4pm event in each city, starting at The Greek Club in Brisbane (pictured) on 12 Nov, then heading to Cruise Bar in Sydney on 24 Nov, before rounding out at Hotel Realm in Canberra on 01 Dec.

"Our past guests and their agents are our greatest ambassadors, and there is significant pent-up demand to start sailing with Oceania Cruises again as soon as cruising resumes," said Vice President Australia & New Zealand Jason

Worth.

Seats are limited, meaning travel agents wishing to bring their clients to an ABC event must RSVP HERE.

Oceania is also running a series of exclusive live and virtual high teas, co-hosted by select agency partners in Perth, Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, and Adelaide.

Designed to bring the onboard high tea experience to guests, Oceania recently held the first of these events at the Intercontinental Sanctuary Cove on the Gold Coast, hosted by **Business Development Manager** QLD, WA, & NT James Sitters.

Attended by O Club members, guests enjoyed champagne while taking a deep-dive into Oceania's product and experiences.

Guests attending high teas virtually won't miss out, with specially curated high tea in a box packages featuring a selection of sweet and savoury pastries, scones with jam, champagne and tea delivered to their doorstep or office on the day.



MD, CLIA Australasia

Let your voice be heard **INDIGÉNOUS** operator Wijingarra Tours is among thousands of Aussie businesses impacted by the suspension of cruising, having been forced to cancel its 2020 season due to a lack of cruise visitors.

Wijingarra features in the latest #WeAreCruise video, highlighting the economic impact suffered by local businesses and the 25,000 jobs that are at risk while the industry remains at anchor.

With the industry's commitment to extensive new COVID measures to support future operations, and thousands of jobs at risk in communities around Australia and New Zealand, it is vital to plan for a phased and carefully controlled resumption of local cruising.

If you haven't already reached out to your Member of Parliament to ensure they understand your personal story of how the cruise suspension is impacting you and your business, now is the time.

Given our region's success in stemming the transmission of COVID, this is an opportunity for a controlled restart of domestic cruises - restricted to local residents only and with extensive testing and screening measures in place. Protocols to protect against outside infection while borders are closed will create opportunities for economic revival for businesses. Visit www.wearecruise.org for more info, resources and links.





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page 3