



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Pandaw revamp

**PANDAW** River Expeditions has announced a new tiered benefits system for guests registered for its Pandaw Member's Club loyalty scheme.

The free-to-join program aims to reward returning passengers, with the new tiers based on the number of voyages undertaken.

The top level "Pandaw Legacy Members" for those who have cruised with the line five times or more offers a Free Flow Drinks & Wine Package at no cost where available, along with a 20% discount on any departure and a gift bag on embarkation.

More at [pandaw.com](http://pandaw.com).

## HAL suspends sales of long US cruises

**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) has overnight announced the temporary suspension of sales for all cruises eight days and longer which call in a US port and depart before 01 Nov 2021.

The company said it was responding to the recently released Framework for Conditional Sailing from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (**CW** 01 Nov).

Holland America Line said it was seeking additional clarification to fully understand the requirements under the framework, and had implemented the stop-sell while it awaited further information.

Under the CDC's 40-page Conditional Sail Order, there are a range of minimum standards including a stipulation that "the cruise ship operator must not sail or offer to sail on an itinerary longer than 7 days".



"CDC may shorten or lengthen the number of days permitted to sail based on public health considerations and as set forth in technical instructions or orders," the document notes.

Other conditions require cruise lines to notify prospective passengers prior to accepting a reservation of any CDC travel advisory, warning or recommendation relating to cruise travel.

Operators must also conduct

testing, make regular reports to the CDC, meet standards for hand hygiene, face coverings and social distancing, and modify meal service and entertainment venues to facilitate social distancing.

Currently HAL's global pause of operations is in place for all departures through until 31 Dec 2020, but passengers affected by the new suspension of sales are being asked for patience while the cruise line clarifies whether their voyage is impacted.



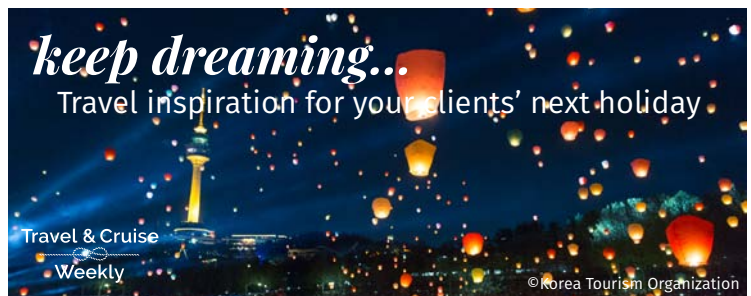
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## Aurora unveils new livery for *Sylvia Earle*

**AURORA** Expeditions yesterday released computer-generated images of its second purpose-built expedition ship.

The new *Sylvia Earle* (pictured) is scheduled for delivery in about a year's time, and like sister ship the *Greg Mortimer*, is based on Sunstone's Ulstein X-BOW design.

Aurora CEO Monique Ponfoort said "it is really exciting to see a second X-BOW ship coming into market for Aurora Expeditions.

"Its innovative, eco-sensitive design captures the essence of small-ship expedition travel pioneered by Aurora Expeditions," she said.

The ship is named after marine biologist, oceanographer and explorer Dr Sylvia Earle, who is also actively involved in the development of her namesake.

Unlike the *Greg Mortimer*, the *Sylvia Earle* will feature Aurora's signature teal colouring



on her livery which will make her "instantly recognisable as an Aurora Expeditions ship," according to the company's Global Head of Marketing, Victoria Primrose.

"We are thrilled that the build is on time despite the challenges the world has faced in 2020," she added.

The *Sylvia Earle* will feature a

new two-level glass lounge in the bow to provide guests with "extraordinary views to the front of the ship," along with an outdoor swimming pool which is heated using repurposed energy from the vessel's engines.

Prospective destinations for the new ship include Alaska, the Russian Far East, Baja California, Raja Ampat and West Papua.

## Cruise jobs scam

**SEABOURN** Cruise Line has issued a warning about an Indian-based company which has been carrying out illicit recruitment drives for the company via ads on social media and online job sites.

The bogus Mumbai business called "Seabourn Cruise and Marine India Private Limited" is apparently charging fees for job applications.

Seabourn said "this is completely fake and we urge cruise ship job applicants not to fall prey to such fraudulent companies".

The cruise line noted that as part of Carnival Corporation, any of its recruitment activities in India are carried out exclusively by Carnival Support Services India, which does not charge registration fees and also recruits for Costa, HAL, Princess, P&O and Cunard.

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### Seadream scare

**SEADREAM** Yacht Club has swiftly reacted to the preliminary diagnosis of COVID-19 in a passenger aboard its *SeaDream I* which just last week became the first vessel to resume cruising in the Caribbean.

The vessel is carrying 53 passengers and 66 crew, with a range of pre-departure testing requirements in the aim of creating a COVID-free bubble.

Passengers had to test negative 72 hours before boarding, and again on the day of departure, with a third test scheduled mid-cruise.

The captain has advised those on board that a rapid test came back positive, and although only a preliminary result the ship was now working under the assumption that it had a case on board and would terminate the sailing.

### Aqua restarts in Amazon



**AQUA** Expeditions has hailed the lifting of borders in Peru which will allow the resumption of its Amazon operations.

The first departure of *Aria Amazon* is scheduled for 18 Dec, with prospective cruisers required to comply with strict safety protocols imposed by LATAM Airlines and Lima Airport, with all travellers into the country required to present a negative RT-PCR test certificate or an antibody test for COVID-19.

Aqua will also require a pre-boarding health assessment and a negative COVID-19 test result

issued no later than 72 hours prior to embarkation.

The company's founder Francesco Galli Zugaro also confirmed that the brand new and highly anticipated *Aqua Nera* will debut on 03 Apr 2021.

"She will grace the mystical Amazon river with unparalleled contemporary luxury and bold design aesthetic," he said.

The *Aqua Nera* (pictured), which was constructed in Vietnam, is currently sailing the full length of the Amazon to her home port of Iquitos, after an epic 19,866km journey across the world.

### Crystal rant

**AN INTERNET** domain-name entrepreneur has weaponised his collection of high-profile online addresses against Crystal Cruises, after being unable to obtain a US\$83,000 refund for a 19-day European voyage in the owner's suite.

Rick Schwartz, who describes himself as "The Domain King", owns thousands of domain names and has traded some for millions of dollars including porno.com and candy.com.

His internet portfolio also includes [bitch.com](http://bitch.com) which is for sale for US\$4.75m, but in the meantime appropriately features a comprehensive rant by Schwartz about the lack of any outcome from the cruise line about his cancelled voyage.

He said the site will come down "SOON" - just like the promises from Crystal about payment of his refund.



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**IT WASN'T** quite Noah's Ark, but in a similar vein a man in Rochester, New York, has gone all out to celebrate Halloween by building a full scale pirate ship in his front yard.

Tony DeMatteo, who admitted to local TV station *Fox 10* "I'm a big fan of Halloween," said he created the 17m-long, 6m high ship using wood offcuts that he had accumulated over time, meaning "it might look expensive, but it really was inexpensive" (or at least we bet that's what he's telling his wife).

The vessel became an instant tourist attraction, complete with fog machines and flashing lights which he described on social media as **ARRR-MAZING** - to check it out **CLICK HERE**.



## AIDA €400m loan

**CARNIVAL** Corporation's European offshoot AIDA Cruises has applied for a €400 million loan from the German Economic Stabilisation Fund, noting that talks with the government are "ongoing".

The application has been submitted to Germany's Federal Ministry of Economics, turned in by a banking consortium which includes the investment banks Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase.

After a brief restart in Italy, AIDA was forced to suspend operations due to another German coronavirus lockdown, and now hopes to restart cruises to the Canary Islands and Middle East before the end of the year (**CW** 30 Oct).

Other German brands aligned with the industry, such as MV Werften and TUI, have already received large aid packages from the fund, with MV Werften's parent firm Genting Hong Kong receiving a €193 million Government subsidy to enable operations to continue at its shipyards.

## Living the Singapore Dream



**DREAM** Cruises last week celebrated the recommencement of operations in Singapore, with the launch of the first "Super Seacation" itinerary aboard *World Dream* created specifically for the local market.

The short getaways are currently operating at 50% capacity, with the inaugural voyage carrying about 1,400 enthusiastic cruisers.

The two- and three-night voyages showcase the ship's wide variety of leisure and recreation facilities alongside engaging experiences to keep guests entertained throughout.

All activities on board are organised in accordance with permitted group sizes, in line with prevailing regulations in Singapore, and measures are in place to encourage social distancing between groups.

"It is a great honour for us to continue our long and fruitful partnership with Singapore which began in 1993, almost 30 years ago," said Dream Cruises President Michael Goh.

"We could not have done this alone and I would like to acknowledge the great support we have received from the Singaporean Authorities, and especially the Singapore Tourism Board for their trust and confidence in us."

The local operations have seen Dream's parent company Genting Cruise Lines fill more than 100 jobs within Singapore, with the company reinforcing its "commitment to reviving seafaring opportunities in Singapore and cultivating local cruise talents through new employment prospects and educational partnerships that will provide more jobs for Singaporeans during this difficult pandemic period," the company said.

**Pictured** at the official ceremony to commemorate the inaugural *World Dream* voyage last week are, from left, the ship's Captain Robert Bodin, along with Annie Chang, Director of Cruise for the Singapore Tourism Board and Dream Cruises President, Michael Goh.

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