



Celebrity webinars

CELEBRITY Cruises Australia/ NZ Director of Sales, Cameron Mannix, will next week host a webinar for the line's industry partners about Celebrity's new Always Included pricing approach (**CW** 11 Nov).

The company says it's also redefining luxury, with a 'New Luxury' positioning that focuses on culinary exploration, holistic wellness, cultural discovery and elevated design.

"By debunking myths that all-inclusive can't be luxurious, or that large ship guests aren't luxe, Celebrity will break through the luxury glass ceiling, allowing travellers to become more open, more curious and more fulfilled," the company said.

Register for the webinars by **CLICKING HERE** (Tue 17 Nov at 2.30pm AEDT) or **HERE** (Wed 18 Nov at 12pm AEDT).

Aurora deposits into trust

AURORA Expeditions has unveiled comprehensive measures to give travel advisors and clients confidence to plan future voyages, including ensuring that deposits for new bookings are placed into a separate trust fund.

The escrow account means deposits for future travel will only be used for payments related to the passenger's expedition, with the initiative coming alongside what the cruise line claims is the "ultimate in booking flexibility".

Under this policy passengers will be offered a full refund or a future travel credit if, during the period 30 days prior to departure, their home country does not allow or recommends against international travel or cruising.

Refunds and/or credits will also be offered if passengers are required to travel to a COVID-19 hotspot location for their voyage or en route at any stopover point

that is part of their itinerary, or if they are required to quarantine at their voyage destination or at any stopover point en route.

Finally, Aurora will also provide a refund or credit if there is no travel insurance available that includes coverage for COVID-19.

The measures were detailed by the Aurora team during a media webinar yesterday which gave a sneak peek at the company's new Arctic and Global 2022 program (**CW** 29 Sep), including voyages aboard the new *Sylvia Earle*.

Aurora also today revealed renders of the interiors of the new ship - to see them **CLICK HERE**.

Pre-registrations for the season have been so strong that the program's public release has been deferred by almost a month to 24 Nov, according to Aurora CEO Monique Ponfoort.

For details of Aurora's Book with Confidence plan **CLICK HERE**.

NZ cruise impact

THE latest video in Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) #WeAreCruise series highlights the economic impact of the cruising pause on Christchurch-based Hassle-free tours.

The company has been forced to lay off almost 60 staff due to suspensions, with owner Mark Gilbert describing the loss of 75% of his customer base which normally comes from international cruise visitors to New Zealand.

CLIA MD Joel Katz said given NZ's success in stemming COVID-19 "we see an opportunity for a controlled reintroduction of domestic cruises" - view the video **HERE**.

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Regent offers close-to-home sailings

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has highlighted its 2021/22 collection of voyages in Australia and New Zealand aboard *Seven Seas Explorer*, which will undertake her inaugural Asia-Pacific season next year.

Billed as the “most luxurious ship ever built,” *Explorer* will offer 14 all-inclusive itineraries in local waters between Oct 2021 and Apr 2022, providing a new option for those disappointed by

the recent cancellation of three Australia and NZ sailings in early 2021.

Regent’s VP of Sales ANZ, Ilsa Pile, said “*Seven Seas Explorer* delivers a level of luxury never seen before in this region, and we can’t wait to share it with discerning local travellers”.

Local Regent chief Steve Odell showcases the program in a new video which is now online at cruiseweekly.com.au/videos.

Silversea now on pause until Apr 2021

SILVERSEA Cruises now looks set to phase in cruising over the upcoming Northern Summer, with the company’s website indicating no resumption of cruising until Apr 2021 apart from the Galapagos return of *Silver Origin* in early Feb.

The first classic Silversea ship to recommence service will

be the brand new *Silver Moon* which is scheduled to voyage from Barcelona to Athens on 01 Apr, followed by *Silver Spirit* on 20 Apr, *Silver Shadow* on 28 Apr, *Silver Cloud* on 05 May, *Silver Muse* on 20 May, *Silver Wind* on 14 Jun, *Silver Whisper* on 20 Jun and finally *Silver Explorer* in the Kimberley on 24 Jun.

RCI volunteers

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has received thousands of registrations from avid cruisers volunteering to take part in its proposed “mock” voyages which have been mandated under the Centers for Disease Control Framework for Conditional Sailing (**CW** 01 Nov).

After getting over 3,000 emails this week alone, not to mention tweets, comments and messages on social media, the company has established a dedicated “Volunteers of the Seas” website and Facebook page to allow people to express interest.

The new ‘RCIbackatsea’ Facebook group has so far garnered more than 16,000 members, promising to “serve the community of adventurers who are excited and ready to be the first back at sea”.

Five now positive on *SeaDream I*

SEADREAM Yacht Club, the first cruise line to recommence operations in the Caribbean (**CW** yesterday), has confirmed that five people on board its *SeaDream I* have now tested positive for COVID-19.

The Points Guy contributor Gene Sloan is on board the ship, and told *Travel + Leisure* that the diagnoses were a massive blow to the industry’s efforts to restart operations.

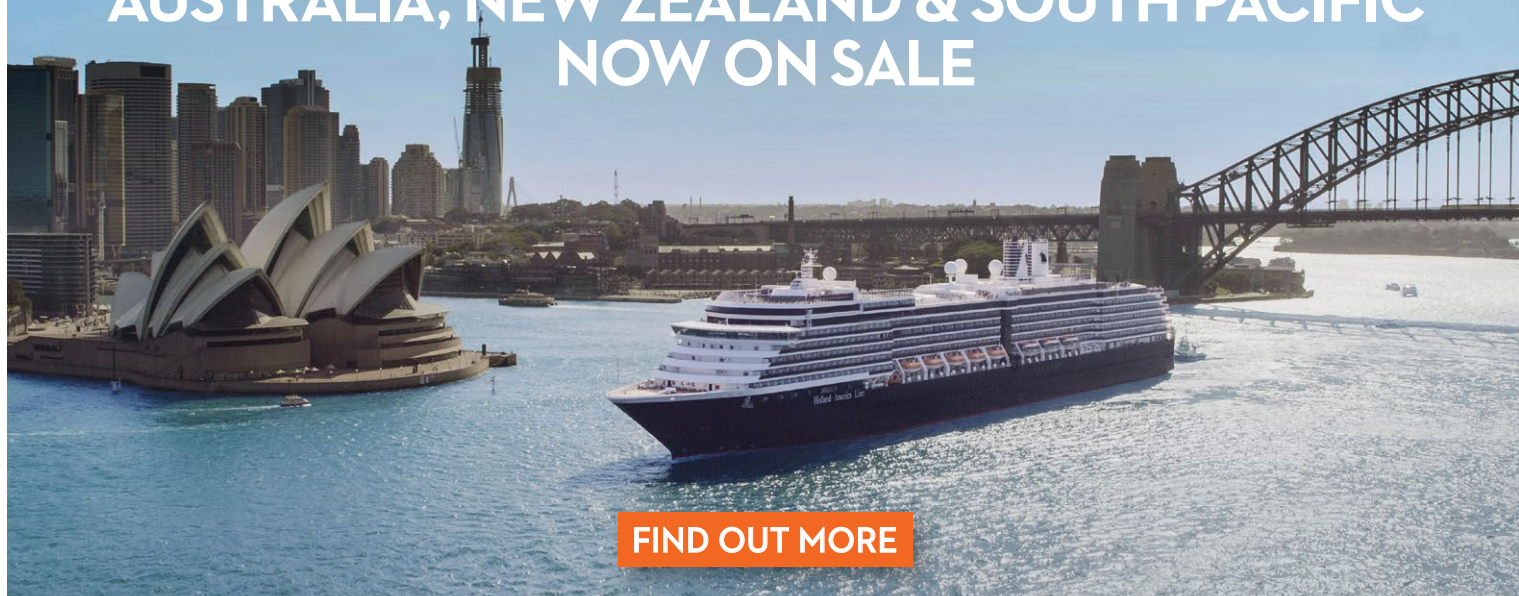
“*SeaDream’s* return to cruising in the Caribbean was a watershed moment for the industry, and many were hoping it would go smoothly,” he said.

Initially a single passenger returned a positive test after feeling unwell, but it’s now understood more comprehensive testing has uncovered the additional cases as the ship’s itinerary has been cut short.



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YESTERDAY we featured a story about a pirate ship in someone's front yard, so we couldn't resist a follow-up about a true-life vessel which was previously owned by the one and only Johnny Depp, the movie star who has been so much in the news lately.

Apparently not a pirate ship despite his starring role in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series, Depp's seagoing investment was surprisingly not brought up during his high profile defamation lawsuit against London tabloid newspapers.

That's probably because he had it refitted during his brief marriage to Amber Heard, naming it *Amphitrite* before selling it in early 2016 to none other than Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling.

The yacht was one of a range of assets acquired by Depp as part of his lavish lifestyle unveiled during the trial, with testimony revealing him lashing out on a French village, several islands in the Bahamas, private jet flights and more than US\$30,000 per month on wine.

It's believed that Rowling has since offloaded the Depp vessel (pictured), because she was spotted cruising around Iceland with her family in Aug aboard a superyacht named *Calypso*.



MSC 2023 World Cruise on sale

MSC Cruises has opened sales for its 2023 World Cruise, which will see *MSC Poesia* voyage from Genoa in Italy on a 30,000 nautical mile journey over 119 days.

The Pacific leg of her cruise will see the ship visit Fiji, Auckland, Sydney, the Gold Coast and Cairns, while the trip will also take in the Caribbean, a Panama Canal transit, Central America, Asia, the Middle East and then return to the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal.

The itinerary is the same as the previously planned MSC 2021 World Cruise which was cancelled due to the ongoing closure of the majority of ports along the voyage.

Booking benefits include 15 shore excursions, a 30% laundry discount and a dine and drink package included for *Bella* and *Fantastica* experiences.

See msccruises.com.au.

Windstar Mar start

WINDSTAR Cruises has cancelled more departures due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, with its operations now set to resume with a Tahiti departure in Mar 2021.

Wind Spirit will recommence first on 25 Mar, followed by *Star Breeze* on 27 Mar in the Caribbean, *Star Legend*, *Wind Star* and *Wind Surf* in the Mediterranean during Apr, then *Star Pride* in Northern Europe from 06 Jul 2021.

Coral Kimberley expansion

CORAL Expeditions has unveiled a comprehensive 2021 Kimberley cruising program, with the company operating three vessels and more than 40 departures over the season.

Coral Discoverer and *Coral Adventurer* will be joined by the new *Coral Geographer* in her debut season, with all three vessels Australian-flagged and crewed and each carrying fewer than 100 guests.

The Mar-Oct 2021 season will see the ships operating 10-night expeditions ex Darwin and Broome, with the comprehensive program being Coral Expeditions' biggest ever Kimberley season in its 25-year history.

The release of the new program follows the successful restart

of Coral operations in Qld last month (**CW** 16 Oct), with Commercial Director Jeff Gillies saying "we are pleased at the outstanding guest response we have received over the past four weeks since we recommenced our operations on Qld's Great Barrier Reef."

"We are proud to have forged a way back and the wonderful feedback from our guests reinforces our feeling that there is no better sanctuary than our expansive Australian coast."

To make bookings easier, Coral Expeditions has launched an online 'Kimberley Stateroom Finder' tool, and the company has also released its 2022 Kimberley season for sale - see coralexpeditions.com.



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