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Tuesday 17th November 2020

APT now selling 2021 Australian cruises

APT Travel Group has begun promoting local departures aboard *Caledonian Sky*, with a nine-day Cape York & the Great Barrier Reef Expedition set to operate on two departures in Apr and May 2021.

The trip will take in the remote islands of the Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea, en route to Thursday Island and Cape York, and includes a full day exploring Lizard Island.

The 114-passenger ship (pictured) is believed to have remained in Australian waters during the pandemic despite being flagged in the Bahamas, after an agreement was reached with the Australian Government not to kick it out despite the official edict against international ships introduced after the *Ruby Princess* outbreak (CW 16 Apr).

As well as the new Queensland voyage, APT is offering a Sep 2021



departure on *Caledonian Sky* in Western Australia, starting with a tour of the state's Wildflower Way from Perth before joining the vessel in Geraldton and cruising north to Broome.

There's also a reverse itinerary from Broome to Perth in Aug, with all voyages including the services of APT's expedition team.

The Apr Queensland cruises are priced from \$8,995 per person, while the Western Australia trips

lead in at \$15,140.

The APT website also features a 10-day Grand Kimberley Coast trip from Kununurra to Broome departing on 15 May 2021.

APT's parent company, Australian Pacific Holdings, acquired a significant stake in UK-based Noble Caledonia in 2012, which is the owner of *Caledonian Sky* alongside the 116 passenger *Island Sky* and the 118-passenger *Hebridean Sky*.

Regent bonus

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises is offering a US\$500 additional shipboard credit per suite as part of a Black Friday Bonus promotion.

The deal is valid for selected 2021 European sailings booked between 17 and 30 Nov.

Details at rssc.com.

Get more with CLIA

CRUISE Lines International Association Australasia (CLIA) is highlighting the range of special benefits for travel agents who renew their membership for 2021 - see **page six** for details.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **CLIA**.

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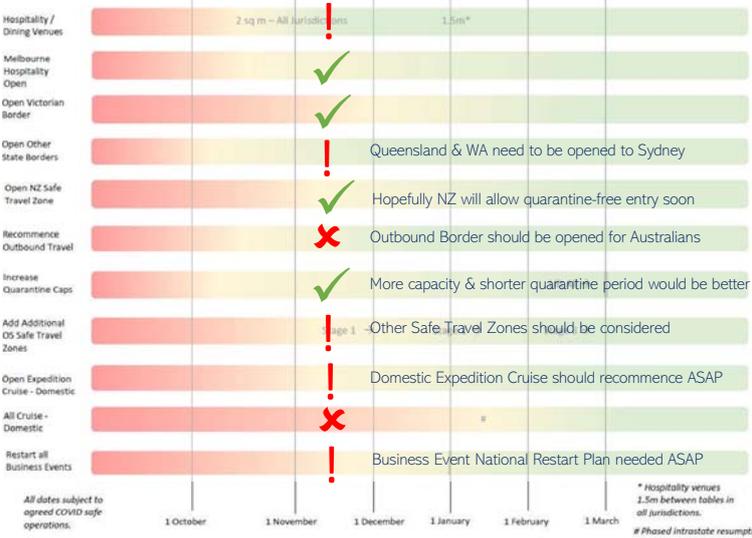
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Taskforce urges resumption



THE Tourism Restart Taskforce is pushing for the immediate restart of expedition cruising for smaller ships in Australia, seemingly unaware operators such as Coral Expeditions and True North have already recommenced operations around the country.

A progress report (pictured) posted on LinkedIn by Taskforce Chair, the Australian Chamber's John Hart, hailed significant progress on tourism restart with border openings and venue capacities increasing, but noted a range of unfinished business including that "local expedition cruise should recommence ASAP".

Hart said there should be quarantine-free travel across Australia now, adding "Australians do not pose a global public health risk so they should not be

stopped by their Government from leaving Australia". He said expedition cruising for smaller ships in Australia was an activity that can be operated in a COVID-Safe way.

Coral Expeditions Commercial Director, Jeff Gillies, commented by urging Hart to "broaden his industry contact base and sphere of understanding.

"Domestic expedition cruise has restarted from Oct with successful operations by Australian flagged vessels such as Coral Expeditions and True North.

"Don't make your reference point international companies... we have worked bloody hard to get here and been true leaders.

"Happy for you to use us to gain a tick in that box - it's not falling behind at all," Gillies said.

100,000 RCI volunteers

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) says over 100,000 people have now expressed interest in being part of its proposed "mock" cruises which are set to operate under the United States' Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Framework for Conditional Sailing (CW 01 Nov). The "Volunteers of the Seas" Facebook group alone has 38,000 members, while many more have signed up via a website form, according to a post by RCI chief Michael Bayley.

"We can't wait to start this next phase with you all," he said. However the group also appears to have attracted some unwanted attention, with the company reminding members that "we have not sent emails and have not called to share additional information or to confirm guests on sailings as of

this time. "All official details will be provided within this group... do not share your private information with others," read a post from RCI yesterday.

MEANWHILE RCI has joined other cruise lines in removing United States-based voyages longer than one week from its website, in line with a clause in the CDC framework which suggests these longer itineraries will not comply with the new rules.

The trips appear to be closed for new bookings but have not been cancelled at this stage.

Similar changes have been made by Carnival Cruise Line and Holland America Line, which last week said it was awaiting clarification from the CDC to "fully understand the requirements under the framework" (CW 12 Nov).

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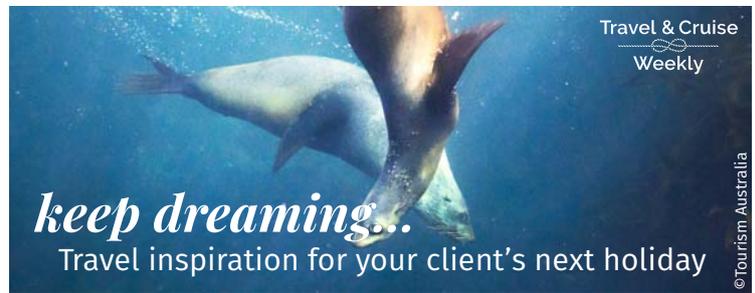


PRE- & POST-CRUISE EXTENSIONS



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*If booked prior to departures



Big Cruise Podcast adds merch!

CRUISERS can now flaunt their ocean- or river-going dreams in public via a new range of merchandise (pictured) from WA cruise legend Barry Downs.

Bicton Travel's long-time National Sales & Promotions Manager, Downs was one of the joint winners of Most Supportive Travel Consultant WA in the recent *Travel Daily* Awards.

This year has seen Downs also launch his own weekly podcast series called *The Big Cruise Podcast* (CW 20 Apr).

In the most recent episode, Downs revealed a new offering of cruise merchandise in partnership with print-on-demand store Teemill, offering "organic, plastic-free, fair-trade cruise fashion".

A full online store has debuted allowing fans to select from a wide range of whimsical cruise-focused designs, along with the ability to create your own t-shirt



blueprints, which Downs said was ideal for groups planning to voyage together.

The range has also launched just in time for the festive season, with offerings including Christmas-themed t-shirts and garments with the message "All I want for Christmas is a cruise".

With the podcast becoming increasingly popular, Downs told

Cruise Weekly the idea to add merchandise had been in the works for some time.

"I like that it is ethical, organic and has green credentials," he said, with the Teemill products sold plastic-free and made from 100% natural materials.

The new offering is available via Downs's Big Cruise Podcast site at thebigcruisepodcast.com.

Heritage arrival

HERITAGE Expeditions' *Spirit of Enderby* has arrived in New Zealand after 29 days at sea, in the lead-up to the cruise line's upcoming Southern Ocean season (CW 09 Oct).

The cruise line has gained approval from the NZ Govt to restart cruising, specially exempt as it is a locally, family-owned company.

Spirit of Enderby, also known as Russian icebreaker *Professor Khromov*, docked at the new NZ\$67 million (A\$63 million) cruise berth in the Port of Lyttleton yesterday, with the facility set to be officially opened next week.

The season will operate under strict protocols which have already seen the crew spend 14 days in quarantine at anchor in Vladivostok.

The first voyage heads to Stewart Island on 24 Nov.

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Read about Cover-More's COVID insurance and Webjet's thoughts on those ads in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin



Europe goes black

EUROPEAN Waterways has announced a Black Fri special offering 30% off select 2021 Hotel Barge charters in France.

Cruises on sale are all-inclusive, with pax to enjoy all gourmet meals, onboard liquor, private wine tasting excursions, guided tours, and onboard amenities such as deck-top spa pools and bicycles.

The special is valid from 27 Nov to 04 Dec, on eligible cruises such as the 11 Apr and 02 May departures of the eight-passenger *Anjodi*, cruising the Canal du Midi, and the 25 Apr and 09 May departures of the eight-passenger *Renaissance*.

Charters are priced at €20,650 (A\$59,000), a saving of €8,850 off the regular €29,500 price.

Call 1800 828 050 for details.

New Valencia terminals



GLOBAL Ports and its partner Balearia Group have won a 35-year concession agreement for the Port of Valencia in Spain, where it will build two new terminals (render pictured).

The concession will see Global Ports operate and manage the facility, and comes with a 15-year extension option.

Balearia will invest up to US\$37 million (A\$51 million) into the Port of Valencia's infrastructure, including two new terminals, ferry piers, car parking, retail and food & beverage areas.

The concession is expected to start in the first quarter of next year, which will also mark the commencement of the expected two-year investment phase.

The new terminals will set a new benchmark for sustainability in the passenger transport industry, according to Global Ports, producing all their electricity needs from their own renewable energy sources, and all waste to be recycled.

Last year Valencia received 203 cruise calls and welcomed 435,000 passengers.

Canaveral flexible

PORT Canaveral Chief Executive Officer John Murray has said his facility remains "flexible" and "nimble", despite jarring revenue losses.

With the cruise industry's shutdown in Mar, Murray said Port Canaveral saw 80% of its revenue stream come to a stop in one day, which led it to defer capital projects, introduce immediate cost mitigations and implement workforce reductions.

Since then, Port Canaveral has completed its third cruise terminal, which is set to welcome Carnival Cruise Line's *Mardi Gras* in Feb.

Without cruise ships calling at Port Canaveral, the region is expected to lose US\$1.2 billion (A\$1.4 billion) in revenue, 11,000 total jobs and US\$400 million (A\$547 million) in annual wages.



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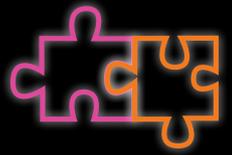
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ALTHOUGH most of the world is doing it tough at the moment, the exception is always the very top end of town, and of course, the 2020 World Superyacht Awards did not miss a beat.

This year's recipients include Design & Innovation Award winner *Lady S*, which possesses the first ever Dolby 3D IMAX cinema installed on a superyacht, and *Pi* (pictured) accepting the highly coveted Motor Yacht of the Year award.

The ceremony, hosted virtually, welcomed a global audience, and included special video messages from Prince Albert II of Monaco and English competitive sailor Ben Ainslie.



Sapphire to Taiwan

PRINCESS Cruises' *Sapphire Princess* is trading Alaska for Taiwan next year, sailing routes around the country during Aug.

The cruise line has since cancelled all Alaska and trans-Pacific voyages on *Sapphire Princess* from Jun to Oct 2021.

Sapphire Princess has previously served in China and South East Asia, as well as Australia.

A glance at the Moon



SILVERSEA Cruises has unveiled the first glimpses of the interiors of its new ship *Silver Moon* (CW 02 Nov).

With the delivery of *Moon* from Fincantieri completed in Ancona on 30 Oct, Chief Marketing Officer Barbara Muckermann (pictured) will take travellers through a series of virtual tours of the ship, which will showcase its new S.A.L.T. venues, public spaces (pictured), restaurants, and suites.

"We have made many innovative enhancements from [*Silver Moon's*] sister ship, *Silver Muse*," Muckermann explained.

"From our new S.A.L.T. ecosystem, which will enable travellers to delve deeper into destinations through the lens of food and drink, to the enriched public spaces, the enhancements aboard *Silver Moon* symbolise a refinement of Silversea's already

ultra-luxury cruise experience."

To view the playlist of virtual tours, **CLICK HERE**, and to view photographs of *Silver Moon's* interiors, **CLICK HERE**.

Meyer layoffs

MEYER Turku has confirmed it is laying off 250 people, with 84 newly announced, permanent layoffs.

Workers from outfitting and design functions are among those now permanently laid off, made up of "nine blue-collar and 75 white-collar workers," Meyer Turku said.

"Part of the reduction of the workforce is done through retirement and other personnel arrangements. "The people being laid-off will be offered personal guidance, support and specialised training to ease the transition."

The 250 layoffs is a smaller number than the predicted 450 back in Apr (CW 29 Apr).

Catch up on the news of the week



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