



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Croisi coronavirus

SEVEN people have tested positive for coronavirus connected to a previous sailing in Portugal of CroisiEurope's *Vasco de Gama* river ship.

Five crew members and two passengers tested positive, with one French guest taken to hospital and another pax quarantined in a hotel.

The five crew members are in a 10-day lockdown aboard the ship near Santa Maria de Sardoura, while the 62 other passengers have been urged to quarantine themselves.

The passengers reportedly fell ill on disembarkation day.

CroisiEurope does not test passengers for coronavirus before boarding.

## Another five Carnival Corp ships to go

CARNIVAL Corporation has released a financial update for the three months to 31 Aug, confirming that a total of 18 "less efficient ships" have left or are expected to leave the fleet - five more than had been previously announced (**CW** 13 Jul).

The company said the vessel divestments represent about 12% of pre-COVID-19 capacity, but just 3% of its 2019 operating income.

CEO Arnold Donald said "we continue to take aggressive action to emerge a leaner, more efficient company," with the smaller fleet also leading to a "structurally lower cost base while retaining the most cash generative assets in our portfolio".

"With two thirds of our guests repeat cruisers each year, we believe the reduction in capacity leaves us well positioned to take advantage of the proven resiliency of, and the pent up

demand for cruise travel."

Donald said Carnival would emerge from the pandemic with a more efficient fleet, along with a stretched-out newbuild order book which has been paused, with no deliveries scheduled for 2024 and only one in 2025, allowing the company to pay down debt.

Carnival did not provide details of which ships would be leaving the fleet, with previously revealed sales and scrappings include ships from various Carnival brands such as Carnival Cruise Line, Costa, Holland America and P&O Cruises UK.

The update also confirmed the ongoing impact of COVID-19, with Carnival reporting a quarterly net loss of US\$1.7b.

Donald highlighted the recent resumption of Costa in Italy, with the company's German brand AIDA Cruises also set to restart in

the coming weeks.

"Our business relies solely on leisure travel which we believe has historically proven to be far more resilient than business travel and cannot be easily replaced with video conferencing and other means of technology," the Carnival Corp chief said.

"Our portfolio includes many regional brands which clearly position us well for a staggered return to service in the current environment," he added.

Cumulative advance bookings are at the "higher end of the historical range," with Donald saying Carnival believes this demonstrates the long-term potential for cruising, with the company continuing to take bookings for both 2021 and 2022.

Carnival has also overnight filed an "at market" equity offering seeking to raise up to US\$1 billion from investors.

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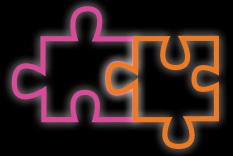
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Travel Daily

## RCI, Celebrity out until Jan 2021

**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) and Celebrity Cruises have suspended Australasian sailings through to the end of the year.

The two cruise lines have extended their suspensions beyond that which is required by the Australian Government to "allow guests booked on Christmas and New Year sailings to make alternative holiday arrangements," the pair said.

The cruise lines will be reaching out to guests and travel partners to share further details and address any questions or concerns.

## Seabourn world cruise



**SEABOURN** Cruise Line has announced its 2022 world cruise, 'Extraordinary Horizons', which will depart 11 Jan 2022 for a 145-day voyage.

Visiting 72 ports in 28 countries, *Seabourn Sojourn* (pictured) will embark from Los Angeles, travelling westbound to her final call in Athens, and stopping in Australia and New Zealand along the way.

She will also visit Hawaii, the South Pacific, Asia, Arabia and Africa, before ending in Greece on 06 Jun 2022.

Among the highlights are Seabourn's first visit to Egypt since 2014, with an overnight visit scheduled for Safaga, and a stop at Sharm el-Sheikh.

The voyage will include 20 overnights and 21 late evening departures, as well as two of Seabourn's most popular signature events: Caviar in the Surf beach barbecue at Ko Kood and Evening at Ephesus at Kusadasi, featuring a private classical concert under the stars among the ancient ruins.

*Sojourn* will be in Australasian waters from 13 Feb 2022 to 05 Mar 2022, with local highlights including visits to Sydney and Qld, including the Great Barrier Reef.



**COULD** the ocean's residents be rising up?

That's the worrying concern raised by scientists after a spate of killer whales ramming boats along the coasts of Portugal and Spain in recent weeks.

A number of distress calls have been sent by sailors after the worrying encounters, which have seen some vessels lose parts of their rudders and bruising of crew members from the impact of the massive mammals.

It may even be a coordinated attack, with two incidents last Fri occurring simultaneously - one off the coast of A Coruna on the northern coast of Spain, at the same time as another attack about 115km south, at Vigo.

Maritime authorities in Spain have issued a warning advising vessels to "keep a distance," but *The Guardian* reports this may be a little difficult because some sailors have been reporting active pursuit by the aquatic beasts.

Researchers are unclear as to whether the attacks are part of orchestrated territorial ambitions by the orcas, which appear to have organised themselves into aggressive underwater gangs.

Marine biologists who have studied the Gibraltar sea life believe the unusual behaviour is coming from a particular pod which regularly chases tuna from the Gulf of Cadiz into the Bay of Biscay.

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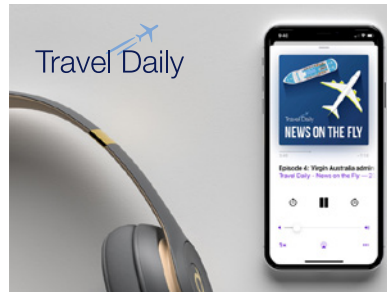
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## A royal return

**AMERICAN** Queen Steamboat Company (AQSC) has announced a range of unique itineraries for its 2021 season.

The year will take guests to the “glass canyons” of Chicago, and embark on itineraries from Memphis to Nashville and Louisville to St. Louis, with new protocols that are being developed through an ongoing partnership with Ochsner Health.

“As travel recovers in 2021, we are excited to offer these routes along American rivers so our guests can discover the beauty and heritage of our own back yard,” said AQSC Chief Executive Officer Josh Waggoner.

## Sluggish CDC slammed

**A MIAMI-DADE** County Commissioner has joined cruise line executives on the region’s Tourism & Ports Committee zoom meeting, urging the United States’ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to let cruising resume.

Commissioner Rebeca Sosa rebuked the national public health institute, saying it has been too slow to communicate with the industry.

“The problem is it’s not fair that the CDC is not paying attention and communicating with the cruise industry,” she said.

“While other industries have been allowed to reopen in phases, the cruise industry remains totally shut down.

“In Apr, the CDC gave the cruise

industry seven days to come up with a lay-up plan, and the cruise industry worked tirelessly and gave them the plan in seven days.

“The CDC took 14 weeks to somewhat respond to the plan that was presented.”

Sosa, who serves as Miami-Dade County’s Tourism & Ports Committee Vice Chair, said the County would be writing to the CDC, and would be campaigning for Florida’s Senators to pressure the public health institute to respond more quickly to cruise lines.

Sosa was joined by Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) Chief Exec Frank Del Rio in saying cruise ships are no more dangerous than hotels or airplanes, a claim which the CDC refutes.

“We see airplanes flying...I want someone to tell me how is it possible COVID-19 transmission doesn’t occur on an airplane,” Del Rio said.

“The cruise industry is close to devastation...we should not take for granted that because we’re here today we will always be.

“We’ve got to get back to work...and all we’re asking for is the opportunity to demonstrate that we take this very seriously.”

Del Rio said the Healthy Sail Panel NCLH and Royal Caribbean Group partnered to form (**CW** 07 Jul) will submit the results of its work in the next 10 days.

MSC Cruises President & Chief Executive USA Rick Sasso was also present, adding his cruise line’s relaunch (**CW** 10 Aug) shows the industry can operate safely, with protocols put in place in Europe working effectively (**CW** 11 Sep).



**AUSTRALIAN CRUISE ASSOCIATION**

**ACA UPDATE**

with Jill Abel - CEO

## Open borders

**AUSTRALIA’S** move toward a reopening of borders before Christmas is critical for the restart of a viable 2021 cruise season.

The Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has lent its support to the industry led campaign #SaveAussieTourism, launched late last month, which urged the federal and state governments to take a cohesive approach to reopening our borders in order to kickstart tourism in a meaningful way.

The open letter was signed by hundreds of companies, including leading hoteliers, airlines & airports, tourism associations and car rental agencies, signalling a united voice on this matter.

Another petition, this time spearheaded by Qantas, has also been launched this week to keep pressure on the reopenings, and includes an advertising campaign by the airline in conjunction with rivals Virgin and leading travel agency Helloworld.

It will run in Queensland through to the elections promoting the lifting of border restrictions.

ACA has previously hypothesised intrastate cruising will begin first but this can only move the dial so far.

The opening of borders to interstate cruises needs to happen to not only allow for greater economic benefit but also importantly passenger enjoyment.

Behind these efforts needs to be a set of stringent health protocols and procedures adopted by the industry to allow us to find a safe path to re-start.

We look forward to supporting these initiatives.



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