



Carnival Corp plots full fleet return

CARNIVAL Corporation is “working toward having all of our ships back in service by the end of the year,” according to an update overnight from Chief Executive Officer Arnold Donald.

The company reported a US\$2.2 billion net loss for the three months to 30 Nov 2020 in its quarterly financial results.

“2020 has proven to be a true testament to the resilience of our company,” Donald said.

“With the aggressive actions we have taken, managing the balance sheet and reducing capacity, we are well positioned to capitalise on pent up demand and emerge a leaner, more efficient company, reinforcing our industry leading position,” he added.

Carnival Corporation currently has 30 vessels in American waters, and they are working toward permission to set sail this year, but timing of the

proposed “test cruises” to prove the effectiveness of coronavirus protocols was still up in the air due to ongoing work with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

Donald said Carnival was implementing the CDC’s Framework for Conditional Sailing, but was also awaiting additional technical guidelines for further phases of the resumption.

“While the framework represents an important step in our return to service, many uncertainties remain as to the specifics, timing and cost of implementing the requirements,” he said

“The company continues to work closely with governments and health authorities in other parts of the world to ensure that its health and safety protocols will also comply with the requirements of each location.”

In other jurisdictions such as Europe, operations were already underway on a limited basis for both the AIDA and Costa brands.

Carnival also announced it now expects to dispose of a total of 19 ships, one more than previously advised, with 15 of those already having left the fleet.

The divestment means Carnival’s total capacity is expected to be reduced by 13%.

Donald said the company was seeing consistently strong booking trends, with advance reservations for the first half of 2022 currently ahead of comparative 2019 levels.

He also noted Carnival was well-positioned to tap into demand, with its multi-brand offering facilitating a staggered return, and the ability to operate domestic or close-to-home voyages supported by local homeporting in each country.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Swanning into USA

SWAN Hellenic has opened an office in North America to offer customer support to the US, Mexico and Canada.

Based in Fort Lauderdale, the North American team will be headed by GM Tom Russell, previously Cruise & Travel Executives President; Sales Director Mitchell Schlesinger; and Customer Relations Director Andrea Corman.

“Historically, North America was always one of Swan Hellenic’s most enthusiastic markets, so we’re delighted to welcome such an accomplished team to once again support it,” said Senior Vice President Alfredo Spadon.

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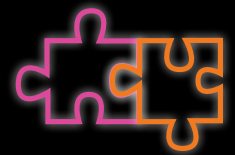
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A NEW Orleans sailor is looking to break an ocean sailing record for the fastest single-handed journey from New York City to San Francisco.

The current record is 81 days, but Ryan Finn is hoping to reset it at 70.

Finn, a cancer survivor, will sail his 36-foot Jzero from a marina in Brooklyn, eating mostly freeze-died "mush" as he goes.

He will sail the Atlantic Ocean, around Cape Horn, and enter the Pacific Ocean, passing under the Golden Gate Bridge.

In recent weeks, Finn put the finishing touches on the boat's sails, finishing the edges and corners of the canvas on what has been called an "old, piece-of-s***" sewing machine, which he bought secondhand.

"I always wanted to prove that you don't have to have millions of dollars for a boat that's capable of setting an impressive record."

Seabourn AK & BC '21



SEABOURN Cruise Line is pushing on with plans to sail Alaska & British Columbia in the northern summer.

The cruise line's *Seabourn Odyssey* is scheduled to sail on a series of newly-revised, seven-day voyages between Juneau and Vancouver, in a way that is "different from the mainstream", featuring ports such as Alert Bay and the Inian Islands (pictured), as well as favourites such as Ketchikan and Sitka.

Each voyage will include glacier experiences in destinations such as Glacier Bay, the Hubbard Glacier or Endicott/Tracy Arm.

On offer with each sailing is the popular Ventures by Seabourn program of expedition-style experiences led by the onboard team, featuring guided Zodiac and kayak excursions launched directly from the ship, as well as hiking and wildlife viewing.

"Our seven-day ultra-luxury voyages and experiences, combined with the splendor of this region, will provide the ultimate Alaska experience," said President Josh Lebowitz.

Seabourn's entire 2021 Alaska & British Columbia season is now open for sale, and itinerary details with more information on the specific destinations visited on each are available **HERE**.

Viking incentive

VIKING has launched a new travel advisor incentive, offering more than \$25,000 in Rewards by Viking points.

All bookings made by registered members during the Discovery Cruise Sale until 31 Mar will go into the draw to win one of three prizes per month.

First place is \$5,000 to spend in the Rewards by Viking store, second is \$2,500 and third is \$1,000.

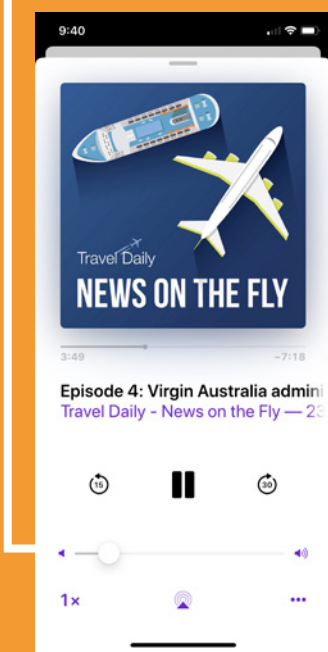
Viking ANZ Managing Director Michelle Black said the cruise line foresees a huge amount of pent-up demand for its cruises, saying "we are coming into the new year with hopes of change within the travel industry."

Costa Victoria sold

COSTA Cruises' *Costa Victoria* is being scrapped.

The 1996-built ship will be demolished in Turkey later this month.

Carnival Corporation earlier this month sold *Costa Victoria* to shipping conglomerate GIN Group, after a deal to turn it into a hotel ship through Cantiere Navale San Giorgio del Porto fell through.



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