



Cruise Weekly today

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

Viking, Celebrity local cancellations

WHILE the cruise restart is proceeding apace across the globe, Australia continues to fall further behind, with the upcoming 2021/22 summer seasons planned by Viking and Celebrity Cruises both cancelled in the last 24 hours.

Celebrity had planned to deploy *Celebrity Eclipse* locally, but has this morning advised travel agents that "regrettably the situation in many parts of Asia, Australia, NZ and South America remains uncertain".

All *Eclipse* sailings departing 13 Dec 2021-17 Apr 2022 have been cancelled, along with *Celebrity Infinity* from 13 Dec 2021-23 Mar 2022 plus *Celebrity Solstice* departures from 26 Sep-19 Dec 2021.

Viking had already suspended its *Viking Orion* Asia program (CW 08 Jul), and yesterday confirmed the ship will also not operate its planned Aus season.

The fully sold-out program of trans-Tasman voyages had been set to kick off in Dec.

Viking recently announced *Viking Mars* will join *Orion* in Australian waters in 2022/23 (CW 16 Jul).

Norwegian resumes

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has returned to cruising, with *Norwegian Jade* departing from Athens on Sun.

The first NCL ship to sail after 500 days of suspension, *Jade* will voyage on immersive Greek itineraries, which were sold out shortly after they were announced.

Guests will wake up in a new destination every day, able to spend eight-to-nine hours exploring some of Greece's most picturesque islands including Crete, Mykonos, Rhodes and Santorini.

Jade will be deployed in Athens through Nov, as part of a long-term strategy to further increase NCL's presence in Europe, which is one of the line's most popular destinations.

Through 2023, Norwegian plans to position nine ships in the region, with *Jade* joined in Greece by *Norwegian Dawn*, *Norwegian Epic*, *Norwegian Escape*, *Norwegian Getaway*, *Norwegian Gem*, and *Norwegian Star*.

Encore will also feature as part of NCL's restart efforts from 07 Aug, when she will become the first NCL ship to return to service in the United States, with her inaugural season of Alaska cruises from Seattle.

The fleet-wide redeployment will continue in partnership with local governments, and all crews and guests must be fully vaccinated on all voyages

embarking through to the end of Oct.

"Welcoming our guests and crew on board has been one of the most memorable moments of my over 30-year career," said NCL President & Chief Executive Officer Harry Sommer.

"With such strong demand, we are glad to expand our offering in Greece with seven ships through 2023, providing our guests with a range of innovative vessels and itineraries to choose from."

Greece's Minister of Tourism Harry Theoharis added, "we are overjoyed to welcome *Norwegian Jade* and her guests to Greece."

"The planned itineraries will offer unique experiences that combine our rich history, bustling culture and famous gastronomy."

NCL Vice President & Managing Director APAC Ben Angell said the cruise line's global return to cruising brings it one step closer to a restart in the Asia-Pacific region.

"When *Norwegian Spirit* arrives in Australia for the very first time in 2022, guests will have the chance to cruise from their doorstep on the recently transformed ship, following an extensive bow-to-stern revitalisation," Angell said.

NCL recently launched *Embark*, a docuseries chronicling its return to service, with the next episode to live stream on Fri.

CLICK HERE for full details of the series.

More cruise returns

AZAMARA'S *Azamara Quest* has departed from Glasgow ahead of the cruise line's return to service next month.

Quest is sailing for her drydock in Cadiz, where she will finalise preparations ahead of her return to service, with five back-to-back Greece Country-Intensive Voyages.

Following more than a year docked in Glasgow, Azamara thanked the community, which welcomed and supported the cruise line.

"We want to extend our thanks to Peel Ports for hosting the Azamara fleet and to the Glaswegian community who have not only welcomed our ships and crew with open arms but have also made an integral contribution in maintaining and preparing our vessels, ensuring that we can get back to doing what we do best this summer," said Azamara President Carol Cabezas.

MEANWHILE, the global return to cruising has continued with Holland America Line (HAL), Celebrity Cruises, and Princess Cruises.

HAL kicked off its Alaska season with *Nieuw Amsterdam* sailing on Sat, with *Celebrity Equinox* and *Millennium* returning in the Caribbean and Alaska the day after.

Also coming back on Sun was Princess' *Majestic Princess*.

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MSC hydro-ship

MSC Cruises has partnered with Fincantieri and Snam for the world's first oceangoing hydrogen-powered ship.

The partnership will initially conduct a feasibility study to examine the requirements to build the ship and its supply infrastructure, with an aim to bring attention to the need for the take-up of hydrogen fuel in shipping to achieve decarbonisation.

The study will also attract public and private investments to make this take-up possible at scale.

The initiative is part of MSC's journey toward achieving net carbon neutral operations by 2050, with the first step to determine the conditions for the design and construction of the ship.

Noumea cruise facelift



NOUMEA'S Cruise Ship Terminal has received a facelift (pictured & inset), transforming into a spectacular waterfront precinct.

Located at the entrance to the city centre, the Terminal has been re-branded as Les Quais Noumea,



after three years of intensive work.

Les Quais Noumea features a new 5,200m² shopping complex on the seafront, in which several business have already settled, as well as bars and restaurants. For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

Paul Gauguin canx

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has cancelled its resumption aboard *Le Paul Gauguin* later this month.

A range of cruises in Jul and Aug have been cancelled due to the "international health situation, and the international context remaining particularly complex in French Polynesia".

Paul Gauguin will now resume cruising in the region on 28 Aug.



THERE has been plenty of talk of travel bubbles lately, but this is ridiculous.

A Florida man in a bubble-like vessel has washed up on the beach, after Flagler County deputies responded to calls from concerned citizens who spotted the strange vessel near Palm Coast.

The craft's sole occupant was discovered safe inside without any injuries, and told authorities he had set off for New York from St. Augustine before encountering "complications" that brought him back to shore.

It is not the first time the man has been rescued in such a contraption, and likely won't be the last.

EW Italy relaunch

EUROPEAN Waterways (EW) has announced the relaunch of its annual solo cruise in Italy.

Available exclusively on EW's largest hotel barge, the 20-passenger *La Bella Vita*, the six-night cruise currently features a 10% off special.

The itinerary takes guests on a scenic and gastronomic journey between Venice and Mantua along the Po.

Departing 10 Oct, the all-inclusive cruise features a series of "extra touches" designed to enhance the solo experience among its group of travellers.

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