



Disney test cruise

DISNEY Cruise Line will conduct test cruises aboard *Disney Dream* later this month. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention has approved a two-night test from Port Canaveral.

TX spars with CCL over vax

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) has confirmed its plans for a Jul restart from the Port of Galveston for vaccinated guests, which Governor of Texas Greg Abbott (**pictured**) has responded to with a ban on vaccine passports.



CCL plans to return to cruise operations on 03 Jul with *Carnival Vista* followed by *Carnival Breeze* on 15 Jul for guests who have received their final dose of an approved coronavirus vaccine at least 14 days prior to the beginning of the cruise.

However, Abbott took the news as an opportunity to announce his plans to sign a law banning businesses in Texas from asking for vaccine information.

"I'm signing a law today that prohibits any business operating in Texas from requiring vaccine passports or any vaccine information," Abbott wrote on Twitter.

"Texas is open 100% without any restrictions or limitations or requirements."

CCL President Christine Duffy said Carnival appreciates the support from Abbott in making vaccinations available to cruise line personnel for its American restart, but added cruising with a guest base that is unvaccinated will be "very difficult".

"The current [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention] requirements for cruising with a guest base that is unvaccinated will make it very difficult to

deliver the experience our guests expect, especially given the large number of families with younger children who sail with us," she remarked.

Although Duffy said Jul cruises at the least would be open to vaccinated guests only, the proposed bill will take effect immediately once Abbott signs it, leaving questions about whether CCL will be forced to make any cancellations once it is law.

CCL also hopes to restart *Carnival Horizon* from PortMiami next month, and continues to work with both the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the state of Florida, which has already banned the requirement of vaccine passports.

An update is planned by the weekend for protocols specific to these Florida sailings.

CCL also said it will be revealing its plans for Aug sailings over the coming days.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Funds for Werften

GERMANY is pumping millions into Genting Hong Kong-owned shipbuilder MV Werften to keep it afloat.

The country last week agreed to inject up to €300 million, building on the €193 million of credit the state offered it last Dec.

Germany took a stake of €60 million and offered further loans of €47 million.

The shipbuilder has three shipyards along the Baltic Coast in the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and has been forced to reduce the working hours of most of its 3,000 employees.

Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Peter Altmaier said the investment would allow MV Werften to fulfil its orders and continue to develop ships.

"This is an important decision that will give confidence to workers in the region and in the country as a whole," he said.

MV Werften is not the only cruise-aligned business Germany has bailed out since the pandemic began, with tour and cruise operator TUI also the beneficiary of funding.



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The end of sorry saga of Bestjet has wrapped up with no good news for creditors - read more the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

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AK cruise in balance

A **WIN** for Florida in its lawsuit against the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (**CW** 31 May) could also spell the end to Alaska cruises, the national public health agency has warned.

In its filing with the District Court handling the case, the CDC's attorneys noted Alaska cruises announced in recent weeks are dependent on a recent law signed by President Joe Biden (**CW** 18 May) which is only effective if the CDC's Conditional Sailing Order remains in effect.

Florida's lawsuit, which objects to the right for cruise lines to query the vaccination status of passengers, is seeking to have the order deemed unlawful, which would also see cruising in Alaska unable to proceed.

Venice cruises resume

THE first post-pandemic ship to leave Venice has done so amid protest, with locals objecting to the passage of large vessels through the Venetian Lagoon.

Hundreds rallied on land and in small boats as MSC Cruises' 2,550-passenger *MSC Orchestra* departed Venice en route for Croatia and Greece.

Port authorities and the Republic of Venice welcomed *Orchestra's* departure, viewing it as a symbol of a return to normal.

"We are happy to be back... to restart the engines," Cruise Lines International Association National Director Italy Francesco Galietti told *Reuters*.

"We care a lot about Venice and we've been asking for a stable and manageable solution for ships for many years," he said.

However, the local government has for years been urged to ban large ships from passing through

the Lagoon, forcing them to dock farther from St. Mark's Square.

Campaigners worry about safety and the environment, including pollution and underwater erosion in a city already in peril from rising sea levels.

"We are here because we are against this passage but also against a model of tourism that is destroying the city, pushing out residents, destroying the planet, the cities, and polluting," said one of the protestors.

The Government of Italy ruled in Apr cruise ships must not enter the centre of Venice, but rather dock across the Lagoon (**CW** 31 Mar).

However, the ban will not take effect until terminals outside the Lagoon have been completed.

Some of the traffic might be diverted to the nearby Porto Marghera facility starting from next year.

New Sweden quay

PORTS of Stockholm is investing in a new quay which will double the city's cruise capacity.

The quay will be fully operational for the 2023 cruise season, with the project to start later this year.

"The cruise industry is very important for Stockholm, and Ports of Stockholm has a clear mandate to support tourism," said City Planning Commissioner Ports of Stockholm Joakim Larsson.

"This investment in a new cruise quay improves our offering as a destination, which is important in promoting Stockholm's standing as a port city".

Pre-pandemic, around 300 cruises called into Stockholm per year, with visitor expenditure creating around €176m for the economy.



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St. Maarten sailings

CELEBRITY Cruises' *Celebrity Millennium* has returned to the Caribbean, setting sail from Sint Maarten as the first ship embarking from North America since the pandemic.

Millennium is also the first of the *Celebrity* fleet to return to sailing, embarking on a seven-night itinerary that will visit Aruba, Curacao and Barbados.

The sailing also represents the first time *Celebrity* has homeported in Sint Maarten, which occupies the southern part of a Caribbean island shared with Saint Martin.

Celebrity now begins sailing Caribbean itineraries through Aug, which President & Chief Executive Lisa Lutloff-Perlo called a "significant moment".

SOS. We need a cruise



ADVENTURE tours & activities operator Cairns Adventure Group has called for domestic cruising to resume to help stimulate the recovery of the visitor economy. Director Roderic Rees said

tourism has the capability to rebuild, but it would not do so in the absence of cruising or international travellers.

Supported by Carnival Australia & P&O Cruises Australia President Sture Myrmell, Rees said there was a strong case for allowing domestic cruising to restart as a first step to inject life into the hard-hit travel industry until the return of international visitors.

"While other industries are booming and the economy is two-thirds positive, that's fantastic but you've got a pretty big industry that sells Australia to the world that is still on its knees," Rees said.

"The public has been led to believe that everything is fixed and everything is fine but the hole left by losing the 'internationals' is so vast.

"Domestic cruising was already taking off and there were a lot of great forward bookings for the seasons ahead.

"People can jump on planes and travel together so I don't see why domestic cruising can't be on the cards," he added.



PORTHOLE

SHARK nets result in many incidences of bycatch, which threaten endangered species such as sea turtles, dugongs, dolphins and whales, but that may all be about to change.

One of the world's leading shark deterrent technology companies Ocean Guardian has announced for commercial sale its new LR1000 Shark Barrier, designed as a replacement for physical shark nets and drum lines.

The LR1000 is the product of six years of research and development, and testing, resulting in a scalable solution for beaches, all while avoiding the 93% of all animals caught that are bycatch - 55% of which die.

Powered from the shore, the LR1000 consists of surface buoys spaced three metres apart, and can be installed in sections up to 400 metres in length, with multiples of this possible to cover larger areas.

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