



## Norwegian boosts restart

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) has this morning confirmed a strong line-up of additional voyages departing from the United States, including the deployment of its newest ship *Norwegian Encore* in Alaska.

Sailing itineraries previously flagged for *Norwegian Bliss*, *Encore* will cruise out of Seattle, making her West Coast debut with calls to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and Icy Strait Point.

*Bliss* will instead be deployed out of Los Angeles on cruises to the Mexican Riviera in Oct, and then to the Caribbean from Port Canaveral in Nov.

Today's announcement also includes NCL's return to Miami, where *Norwegian Gem* will operate cruises to the Caribbean from 15 Aug.

Additional departures are also now on sale aboard *Norwegian Breakaway* from New York City

to Bermuda and on *Escape* from Port Canaveral to the Caribbean.

All voyages in the United States are contingent upon receiving authorisation from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, NCL said.

"With these additional itineraries we're providing travellers with more opportunities to set sail from some of their favourite homeports," said President & Chief Executive Harry Sommer.

"We're very excited to sail in the US again, and to sail first with our latest beautiful ship, *Norwegian Encore*," he said.

NCL recently extended its 60-day final payment requirement to all voyages with embarkations through to the end of the year, while its protocols also mandate full vaccination of all crews and guests for voyages departing through until 31 Oct.

## MSC US restart

**MSC** Cruises overnight confirmed its CDC-approved plans to recommence

sailings in American waters, including a simulation cruise aboard *MSC Meraviglia* from PortMiami on 17 Jul.

New itineraries will operate aboard *Meraviglia* and *MSC Divina*, with bookings set to open next Wed 17 Jun.

"After what has been a challenging period, we're thrilled to say it's finally time to cruise again," said MSC CEO Gianni Onorato.

*Meraviglia* revenue sailings will commence on 02 Aug with three- and four-night cruises from Miami to the Bahamas, including calls at the Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve.

*Divina* will resume from Orlando on 16 Sep, with cruises to the Bahamas and the Caribbean.

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## ATG getting online

**APT** Travel Group (ATG) now has its reservations email back up and running, after experiencing significant network disruption due to a cyber incident two weeks ago (**CW** 31 May).

The investigation into the incident is ongoing, with the assistance of external forensic networks, and while most systems are now reinstated, at this stage ATG Connect remains unavailable.

ATG's phones have also returned to service but wait times may be longer than usual, with non-urgent enquiries better to be directed to [resretailintadmin@aptouring.com.au](mailto:resretailintadmin@aptouring.com.au).

ATG said it was not aware of any misuse of the subset of data.

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## Regent & Oceania theatre treat



**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises' Steve Odell and Oceania Cruises' Jason Worth last night hosted some of their key industry partners at a special performance of the musical *Come From Away* at Sydney's Capitol Theatre.

The tickets were made available by Rodney Rigby, Director of the show's producer Newtheatricals, with attendees

also enjoying celebratory drinks before the show to welcome guests.

Odell is **pictured** above with Spencer Travel's Penny Spencer and Oceania's Martine Nunes, while **below** are Trendsetter Travel's Adrienne Witteman, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings' Jodie Hart and Flight Centre GM Premium Leisure Brands Danielle Galloway.



## Equinox approved for Florida cruises

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has confirmed *Celebrity Equinox* will begin sailing from Fort Lauderdale on 25 Jul.

The deployment follows approval of *Equinox's* restart plan by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, and will follow the landmark 25 Jun recommencement of *Celebrity Edge*, which will be the first large cruise ship to operate in American waters.

The *Equinox* announcement means nine of the 14 ships in the Celebrity fleet now have plans to resume sailing by mid-Sep.

*Equinox* will sail with at least 95% of crew members and guests vaccinated against coronavirus, and from Aug, all guests aged 12 and over will need to have been jabbed.

Other health & safety measures include staggered arrivals and departures, contactless transactions and face coverings in the terminal.

*Equinox* has recently undergone a makeover as part of the "Celebrity Revolution" program, and features redesigned staterooms and suites, reimagined restaurants, bars and lounges (**CW** 05 Jun 2019).

Importantly for *Equinox's* Aussie clientele, she also features more than 40 handcrafted boutique beer selections.

For more details on Celebrity, **CLICK HERE**.

## Cruise ship G7 accommodation

**MORE** than 1,000 police officers who will provide security for delegates at this year's 47th G7 summit will stay on board a cruise ship.

The high profile global gathering is scheduled for 11-13 Jun in Carbis Bay, Cornwall in England, with the massive logistics requiring significant accommodation support.

The cruise vessel *Silja Europa* will house 1,000 of the 6,500-strong police contingent, having been chartered for the purpose by the Devon and Cornwall Police for 10 days during which she will be moored off Falmouth.

*Silja Europa* is one of the largest cruise ferries in the world, and normally carries passengers in the Baltic Sea between Helsinki and Tallinn.

However for this deployment she will "serve as a floating hotel and meeting space for the policing operation," with the deal brokered in record time by Miami-based Landry & Kling Global Cruise Services.

The company noted that "passenger ships, accommodation barges and other seagoing vessels present a turnkey solution to the challenge of housing workers and teams of people," with all amenities in place including dining and meeting facilities.





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## Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients.



**SEAWEED** may be unsightly, but conserving it is a must for migrating sea birds, University of South Australia ecologists have learned.

The University of SA team is urging coastal communities to embrace the macroalgae, with a first-of-its-kind study showing it provides shelter, microclimates, and food, that ensures the survival of many bird species.

Specifically, the wrack species acts as a reverse-cycle air conditioner, creating cooler conditions when the weather is hot and warmer conditions when it is cold, helping seabirds regulate their body temperatures.

The study was undertaken at Danger Point in South Australia, an important ecosystem for migratory shorebirds such as the double-banded plover and the red-necked stint.

Something to look out for from the observation lounge of your next domestic cruise!

## P&O hatches a clutch...



**EXTRAORDINARY** news has broken in the Conflict Group atoll, with the record release of 13,000 endangered turtle hatchlings (**pictured**) as part of a marine biodiversity project supported by the guest-funded P&O Pacific Partnership.

The landmark achievement marked yesterday's World Ocean Day, and represented the most successful hatchling season to date for the Conflict Islands Conservation Initiative (CICI), a charity dedicated to the protection of the rare turtles.

The release of the hatchlings into the warm waters of the Coral Sea is part of CICI's partnership with P&O Australia to monitor marine turtle populations, and to develop a long-term tagging and nesting program.

The release took place over a four-month period from Nov 2020 to Feb 2021, with CICI tagging more than 1,200 turtles to confirm how many are nesting among the atoll.

P&O Australia President

Sture Myrmell said the Pacific Partnership support for the turtle project was a natural extension of the amazing experiences guests enjoyed during calls to the atoll.

"Our guests know the Conflict Islands are a jewel of the marine environment and many visit the turtle sanctuary during their visits," he said.

"Through their contributions to the P&O Pacific Partnership, our guests know that they are making a difference in the protection of endangered marine life.

"We are looking forward to our ships returning to the Conflict Islands but it is good to know that this important project is continuing in the meantime."

CICI Project Manager Hayley Versace said the Pacific Partnership support would help increase the number of hatchlings released and also help educate and inspire local communities.

"The program's reach goes beyond communities that P&O guests visit because the lesson travels with individuals," she said.



### Vax = Pax

IT'S been an exciting week for Australia's travel industry as we gathered in Sydney for ATE.

A hybrid gathering this year – with some participating in person and some online – the only drawback was that no representatives from Victoria were able to attend.

This then led to numerous discussions around vaccinations being the key to open the borders both domestically and internationally with the issue of free movement for the fully vaccinated apparently having been discussed in Canberra last week.

Several industry leaders at the conference welcomed a "test case" whereby fully vaccinated Australians could travel freely around the country – immune to any border closures or lockdowns.

ACA supports this positive approach to finding a solution which would open up travel in a safe manner.

We were also encouraged by the comments from Federal Tourism Minister Dan Tehan recently when he noted that he was looking forward to working with our industry to increase cruising opportunities in Australia.

We are hopeful that as we continue discussions with Government ahead of the end of the current Biosecurity Declaration on 17 Jun that we can at least find a way to bring in smaller foreign-flagged ships as a first step.

This would be a great start to building on the current capacity we currently have with only four smaller vessels in the country and would work toward satisfying the current strong demand for cruise.

## MSC certification

**ALMOST** all of MSC Cruises' fleet has been food safety management system certified under ISO22000, with the accreditation announcement coinciding with the World Health Organization's World Food Safety Day this week.

The certification is based on comprehensive food audits by Bureau Veritas.



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