



Cruise Weekly today

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

Cruise ban extended

THE Australian Government's COVID-19 emergency measures have been extended for a further three months, until 17 Sep.

The human biosecurity emergency period has been in place since 18 Mar 2020, with Cruise Lines International Association MD Australasia Joel Katz leading the industry call for an end to inaction on a cruise resumption in Australia.

"The cruise industry has done an enormous amount of work to implement extensive new health protocols globally, but Australia is now the only major cruise destination in the world where there is no progress," Katz said.

MSC debuts luxury brand Explora

MSC Group has revealed its new luxury cruise brand Explora Journeys (pictured) (CW 18 Mar).

With trips starting at seven nights, non-conventional arrival & departure times combined with overnight stays will allow Explora to offer guests exclusive access to the destinations the cruise line visits.

Explora will bring guests to lesser-travelled harbours to enjoy a more authentic experience and a slower pace of travel, with itineraries in the inaugural collection to offer stops such as Saint Tropez, Bordeaux and Reykjavik, and hidden gems such as Kastellorizo, Tenedos and Lofoten.

The first of four luxury ships built by Fincantieri, *Explora 1*, will set sail in 2023, and will offer 461 oceanfront suites and residences, with striking views, with floor-to-ceiling windows and personal



Explora

JOURNEYS

private terraces.

Suites will start at 35m², which is among the most spacious for the category in the industry.

With a total of 14 decks, there will be ample indoor public space, while generous outdoor decks will boast more than 2,500m² overlooking the sea, with 64 private cabanas across four pools, one with a retractable glass roof.

Flexible dining times at nine distinct restaurants will provide unrivalled variety at sea, while several indoor and outdoor bars and lounges will also be available.

A spacious indoor-outdoor spa and fitness area will offer state-of-the-art fitness equipment, group workout classes, personal training appointments, and tailor-made programs.

Explora 1's design incorporates provision for battery storage, allowing future hybrid power generation.

The ship will be built with ship-to-shore power capabilities to avoid carbon dioxide emissions while at berth.

Explora hosted a steel-cutting ceremony for *Explora 1* this morning at the Fincantieri shipyard in Monfalcone, with the remaining ships to be ready in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

Each will utilise the latest in cutting-edge maritime technology to provide journeys to destinations both on and off the beaten path - ExploraJourneys.com.



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New Silversea tool

SILVERSEA Cruises has launched a new e-mail tool for travel advisors, allowing them to customise mailouts by selecting up to four voyages to promote.

The email can be tailored by each individual advisor with a bespoke hero image, subject line, logo, offers and call to action.

This service is available in Silversea's Marketing Central, with Director of Sales Steve Richards saying the new initiative will allow travel agents to present a simple and polished marketing campaign.

"We are committed to our trade partners and continue to invest in that partnership," Richards said.

Experience the debut



CELESTYAL Cruises has announced its deployment for 2022-2023, with the cruise line's new *Celestyal Experience*

(pictured) to debut in Mar 2022.

The cruise line's new flagship will launch a Three Continents sailing, followed by a re-imagined Eclectic Aegean itinerary, which will introduce a call to Kavala.

The Three Continents itinerary will call on Athens and Rhodes, Kusadasi, Ashdod, Port Said, and Limassol, with all-inclusive pricing starting at \$499 per person.

Experience will set sail beginning 05 Mar 2022, having originally been added to the fleet last year, and scheduled to be introduced this year, which has since been postponed due to the pandemic.

Then, beginning on 09 Apr 2022, *Experience* will set sail on the Eclectic Aegean itinerary, a seven-night voyage which visits the historical city of Thessaloniki.

In 2023, *Experience* will operate seven- and -14-night voyages year-round, commencing 07 Jan, and beginning 04 Mar, will again sail six more Eclectic Aegean, and a further 10 beginning 28 Oct.

All 2022 and 2023 sailings are available for booking.



AN IRISH man has been left homeless after Waterways Ireland seized his houseboat, calling it an "illegal construction".

The man is now staying with a friend after his vessel was removed from Ireland's Grand Canal.

He first floated his vessel in Apr, which is comprised of a steel cabin structure on top of large plastic barrels.

The man then subsequently received a letter from Waterways late last month serving him notice to remove the vessel from the water by the end of May.

The removal notice said Waterways is seeking a payment of €2,447 for costs incurred in the removal of the vessel, and advised failure to reclaim her by 05 Jul will result in it being disposed of by public tender or destroyed.

"The bye-laws are clear on what constitutes a boat, and a set of barrels with a garden shed on top does not meet the minimum safety, seaworthy or navigation criteria," Waterways said.

Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients - giving you a reason to reach out to your database.

Click here to view *Keep Dreaming* magazine

Click here for a toolkit to help you share it with clients



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