



Cruise Weekly today

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

Gold Coast cruises?

THERE are fears from opponents of a Gold Coast cruise ship terminal the project may be refloated when the cruise industry awakens.

With the sector on hiatus for more than 18 months, the Gold Coast City Council and Mayor Tom Tate, a supporter of a cruise ship terminal, put the proposed project on hold.

Advocacy group Save Our Broadwater Vice-President Judy Spence told ABC she is concerned the idea will be refloated.

"I guess it's never going to go away," she said.

"The idea of a cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast has been around for more than a decade.

"Various options have been looked at and none of them have proved particularly successful."

Spence said she hoped other great alternatives for tourism come to mind in the future, rather than a cruise terminal.

Locations for such a project have previously been identified at Wave Break Island on the Broadwater, and inside the Gold Coast Seaway.

The latest proposal is for an off-shore terminal.

CDC's CSO to be voluntary

THE Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has extended its Framework for Conditional Sailing Order (CSO) until 15 Jan, with minor modifications.

After the end of the Temporary Extension & Modification of the CSO, the CDC intends to transition it to a voluntary program, in coordination with cruise ship operators and other stakeholders, to assist the industry to detect, mitigate, and control the spread of COVID-19 on board cruise ships.

Vessels that have been operating restricted passenger voyages with a 95% vaccinated crew and 95% vaccinated passengers may transition to voyages with less than 95% vaccinated passengers by conducting modified simulated voyages procedures, in lieu of a full simulated voyage.

Similarly, cruise ships that have been conducting passenger operations in jurisdictions outside the United States, and intend to operate in American waters with less than 95% vaccinated passengers, may apply for a COVID-19 Conditional Sailing Certificate after conducting modified simulated voyage procedures, instead of a full simulated voyage.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky signed the Temporary Extension & Modification of the CSO overnight, which will be effective upon expiration of the current

Order, on 01 Nov.

Changes incorporated were based on discussions and feedback from cruise lines.

The Temporary Extension & Modification of the CSO shall remain in effect until 15 Jan, unless the Secretary of Health & Human Services' declaration COVID-19 no longer constitutes a public health emergency, or Walensky rescinds or modifies the order.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has said the updated CSO underscores the importance of ongoing dialogue and collaboration between the federal government of the United States and the industry, as the Order enters its final phase.

"The changes to the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order, announced today, show that the Biden Administration and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention recognise the cruise industry's successful resumption of operations," it said.

"We look forward to demonstrating the industry's continued leadership in this final phase of the CSO, and to carrying out a smooth transition when the Order comes to an end."

CLIA noted the cruise industry's protocols are unique in their approach to monitoring COVID-19, meaning its members are sailing with some of the highest levels of COVID-19 mitigation of any industry.

Hunt's cruise reply

MINISTER for Health Greg Hunt has said the resumption of cruising will be dependent on the capacity of state and territory health systems to respond to outbreak events.

In responding to a petition to resume cruising in Australia (**CW** 12 Aug), Hunt said the broader epidemiological situation in the country would also be contingent for a return for the industry.

"Any relaxation of requirements will be dependent on expert health advice, and may be amended or reinstated at any time," Hunt said.

While the resumption of cruise operations and other discretionary forms of travel are being considered, in context of the National Plan, Hunt said the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, which regularly reviews the cruise ship ban, would need to be satisfied vessels can operate in a COVID-safe way, and the risk of outbreak events impacting the Australian community and the health system is acceptable.

100,000km achieved

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's Walk for Wellness has marked its 100,000km milestone.

The goal was reached on Friday evening, nine days before the end of the challenge.

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American savings

A **SAVING** has been released on a triple back-to-back river cruise package in the United States in 2023 with the newly rebranded American Queen Voyages (**CW** 12 Oct).

Travellers can save USD\$4,616 per couple on an all-inclusive 22-night package and pay no deposit until next year, if they book by the end of 2021.

The 3,100 kilometre Grand Heartland of America package combines three seven-night cruises to create an extended and memorable journey along the fabled Mississippi and Ohio rivers all the way from New Orleans, Louisiana to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **CLICK HERE** for more.

These guys are on the ball!



CARNIVAL Cruise Line has christened *Mardi Gras*, in the first cruise ship naming ceremony in the United States since the industry's restart.

The cruise line christened

Mardi Gras at Port Canaveral at a 'Universe of Fun' celebration, attended by Carnival Chief Fun Officer, former professional basketball player Shaquille O'Neal.

The *Inside the NBA* presenter also cut the ribbon of his first Big Chicken restaurant at sea, which debuted on *Mardi Gras* when she began cruise operations on 31 Jul.

Miss Dominican Republic Kimberly Jimenez served as *Mardi Gras's* Godmother, and officially named the ship, alongside Miss Universe Andrea Meza, and Miss USA Asya Branch, who sang the American national anthem.

The event featured a World of Nations flag procession to highlight the diversity of the 120 nationalities of Carnival's crew members, and a Mardi Gras-style parade with a Second Line.

Jimenez blessed the ship and conducted the traditional champagne bottle christening, officially naming the ship.

Pictured are Meza, O'Neal, Carnival President Christine Duffy, Branch and Jimenez.



DISNEY Cruise Line will be represented in this year's annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade when it debuts an "enchanted cruise ship" float.

The float has been inspired by *Disney Wish*, which sets sail in the coming northern summer.



Creative HAL offer

CREATIVE Cruising is celebrating the return to travel with an exclusive Holland America Line (HAL) offer.

Travel advisors can earn a \$100 eGift card if they are one of the first 20 deposited Holland America bookings for next year departing in Australia, as well as Alaska, Asia, Europe, or New Zealand.

Guests who make a booking with Holland America before the end of next month will receive six amenities per person included in the cruise line's Have It All fare.

Amenities include, up to USD\$200 onboard spending money, AUD\$99 deposits per person, shore excursions, drinks package, specialty dining and wi-fi.

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