



Cruise Weekly today

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

Getting an Edge

THE development of *Celebrity Edge's* inaugural Australian season is focused heavily on fly-cruise and new-to-industry/new-to-brand, Vice President & Managing Director, Australia & APAC Tim Jones told *Cruise Weekly*.

The sailings for the first-ever Edge-class season in Australia, particularly the Queensland, trans-Tasman and Tasmania cruises, have been designed to accommodate *Celebrity's* key fly-cruise market, Jones said, while another focus was new-to-cruise and new-to-brand, with the line curating an inviting range of sailings in Tasmania - one of its most popular destinations.

Carnival Corp records strong cashflow

CARNIVAL Corporation has released its trading results for the three months to 31 Aug, confirming voyages during the period were cash-flow positive, with revenue per passenger day increasing compared to 2019 "despite the current constraints on itinerary offerings, which did not include many of the destination-rich itineraries offered in 2019".

The company, which has eight of its nine brands now sailing once again (with the outlier being P&O Cruises Australia which is still stymied by Australia's border ban), said the increase was partly driven by "exceptionally strong onboard and other revenue," with vessel passenger occupancy building consistently month-to-month, from 39% in Jun to 59% in Aug.

However the overall bottom line continued to suffer, with

the company reporting a US\$2.8 billion net loss for the quarter.

Chief Executive Officer Arnold Donald said "we are very glad to be back doing what we do best, delivering memorable vacation experiences for our guests, while doing so in a way that best serves the interests of public health".

"It is difficult to demonstrate just how successful our restart effort has been because many cruises, while generating positive cash flow, were limited to scenic cruises without ports of call, and generally priced well below the attractive destination rich cruises we normally offer," Donald said.

While its cruises generated cash, Carnival continues to incur heavy cash burn rates as it spends money to restart sailings, finance debt and bring crew onboard.

"Being the largest in the industry, it is not surprising that we are now successfully

operating at a larger scale than anyone else in the industry," Donald said.

"Our protocols have been working well and are enabling us to build occupancy levels as we return more ships to service.

"Looking forward, we continue to work towards resuming full guest cruise operations by next [northern hemisphere] spring, in time for our important summer season, where we make the bulk of our operating profit".

Future bookings are strong despite reduced marketing spending, with Donald noting the broader environment for travel had improved dramatically.

The current trend of vaccine rollouts and advancements in therapies should further drive confidence, with Carnival opening bookings with longer lead times through to 2023, with "unprecedented early demand".

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JEFF Bezos' philanthropy may not be quite as notable as fellow computer engineer Bill Gates', but the Amazon founder and Executive Chairman recently pledged to spend US\$1 billion on ocean conservation.

Bezos made the announcement last week, as part of a US\$10b commitment toward climate change.

The Bezos Earth Fund will spend US\$1 billion to "create, expand, manage, and monitor protected and conserved areas," the initiative said in a statement.

The fund plans to spend on "areas that are important for biodiversity and carbon stocks," referring to the Pacific Ocean as a target for donation.

Regent for the stars



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has revealed further details of its \$14,000-a-night, 413m² Regent suite aboard *Seven Seas Grandeur*.

The accommodation, which can host up to six guests, features a master bedroom with an extravagant four-poster bed housing a Hastens Vividus mattress, two-and-a-half marble & stone-detailed bathrooms, and an expansive living room with a personalised bar set-up and dining room.

The reimagined master bathroom (render pictured), which uses nine different types of marble, provides a complete in-suite spa experience, featuring a personal sauna, steam room, and a treatment area, where residents will be pampered with unlimited complimentary spa services.

Additional features include a separate guest bedroom with private bathroom, three walk-in closets, and the exclusive

use of private dining room The Study, which seats up to a dozen, and is hidden between specialty restaurants Prime 7 and Chartreuse.

The suite also offers unobstructed 270° views from the 114m² wraparound veranda overlooking the bow of *Grandeur*.

Guests can enjoy these stunning vistas either on deck in their very own Tresse Minipool, or in a new space, the glass-enclosed Parlor, offering guests skylight relaxation.

Clients will enjoy a vast range of complimentary amenities, including a dedicated personal butler, a personal car with a driver and guide in every port, unlimited in-suite spa services, unlimited laundry and dry cleaning, a selection of luxurious bed linens, a pillow menu, a selection of aromatic suite fragrances, an in-suite caviar service, daily canapes, personalised stationery, shoe-shine service, free wi-fi, and more.

AIDA winter cruises

AIDA Cruises' *AIDAnova* will sail around the Canary Islands in the northern winter 2021/2022.

The move will see *AIDAbella* take over *AIDAnova's* scheduled voyages in the Orient, beginning with the From Mallorca to Dubai cruise from 06 Nov.

AIDAnova's new program was initially scheduled for *ADIAcosma*.

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NCL webinar Thu

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is inviting travel advisors to its Selling Alaska with NCL webinar, hosted by Business Development Manager Craig McLaurin on Thu.

Topics to be covered include immersive shore excursions, extended cruise-tours and exploring NCL's fleet in Alaska.

Advisors will also have the opportunity to learn about the tools available to support selling Alaska to travellers.

There are two sessions available - 10am or 2pm AEST - **CLICK HERE** to register in the morning and **CLICK HERE** to register in the afternoon.