



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Venture delayed

**SEABOURN** Cruise Line has made the "difficult decision" to delay *Seabourn Venture's* inaugural voyage from 10 Apr to 15 Jul.

The line said that it had encountered some global supply chain challenges, despite *Venture's* construction making good progress.

"Additionally, we understand that many travellers are hesitant to commit to travel plans this spring and would prefer to travel this summer," Seabourn added.

The cruise line will automatically transfer bookings to the comparable 2023 voyage aboard *Venture*.

Reservations will transfer at their current fare, or their same per-day fare, if the voyage length is different, and in the same equivalent suite category.

Guests will need to contact their airline themselves.

## Tide for cruise turning?

**THE** federal government, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland have agreed to work with the cruise industry to implement new protocols to enable the resumption of cruising over the coming months, according to a statement from the National Cabinet.

The intergovernmental decision-making forum agreed that, following a decision by the federal government to lift the biosecurity orders currently preventing cruise ships from coming to Australia, the states and the NT will determine when commencement of cruises will occur in each jurisdiction.

Cruise Lines International Association Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz said the news was positive, and he was encouraged a number of states have committed to working with industry to finalise plans for a cruise restart.

"It's a glimmer of hope for the 18,000 Australians who rely on the cruise industry for their livelihoods, and they will be expecting genuine and concrete progress," he said.

Carnival President Australia



Marguerite Fitzgerald (pictured) said the decision for the three eastern states to work with the cruise industry on a restart was a breakthrough development for the resumption of cruising in the country.

Fitzgerald said this development would be welcomed by travel advisors, fresh produce suppliers, tour operators, the hospitality and accommodation sector and thousands of passengers who simply can't wait to cruise again.

"For two years, all of these groups, including our own employees, have faced uncertainty as to when cruising and its contribution to Australia's national, state, and regional economies might resume," she said.

"They at last have reason for optimism and confidence that cruising will return and we will certainly support the cruise industry in working closely with government authorities, both federal and state, to achieve this outcome."

"There is much to be done and agreed but we can at last look forward to the prospect of our ships coming home where they belong and resuming domestic cruises subject to comprehensive protocols."

### CLIA hits out at CDC

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) has described the latest Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guidance as "out of step" and "unnecessary".

The CDC's new COVID-19 program adds a new "vaccination status" tier which offers a tailored approach for ships that operate with passengers and crew members who are almost entirely fully vaccinated and boosted.

Cruise ships are split into three tiers under the new program: "vaccination standard of excellence," ships which have at least 95% of passengers and crew members fully vaccinated with any eligible booster shots; "highly vaccinated" ships which have at least 95% of passengers and crew fully vaccinated; and "not highly vaccinated" ships which have less than 95% of passengers and crew fully vaccinated.

"We are confounded by the CDC's imposition of even more complex and unwarranted measures which ignore empirical evidence that the industry's protocols have provided a greater level of COVID mitigation than most any other setting," CLIA said.

"The CDC's guidance for multitiered cruises is counterproductive to consumers, creating market confusion between the various tiers, and potentially unworkable in practice.

"We continue to be dismayed by the CDC's decision to maintain any Travel Health Notice for cruise...CDC has long recognised the paramount importance of vaccination in protecting against COVID-19 and the vaccination rate on cruise ships is close to 100%, whereas on land it is only about 63%."

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## Scenic 2023/2024



**SCENIC** Luxury Cruises & Tours has announced the full release of its 2023/2024 *Scenic Eclipse* ultra-luxury Antarctica and South America brochure collection.

Featuring new Fly & Sail and Beyond the Antarctica circle voyages, the full release builds upon the preview collection, which was released late last year (*CW* 17 Dec).

The new program features the addition of *Scenic Eclipse II*, which will increase the cruise line's capacity in the Polar regions.

*Eclipse II*, along with her Discovery Yacht sister *Eclipse*, will meet for the first time when sailing in Antarctica during Dec 2023 (**pictured**).

New for the 2023/2024 season is the nine-day Wild Antarctica: Fly the Drake voyage, which enables guests to fly over the passage, one of the most treacherous voyages for a ship to make, on a short two-hour flight to and from King George Island, landing in Antarctica fresh and ready for exploration.

Super Earlybird prices for the

voyage start from \$20,750 per person, saving \$3,615, plus Economy flights included up to the value of \$1,500 per person, if booking and paying for a full 12 months prior to departure.

Also new is the 16-day Beyond the Antarctic Circle voyage, combining the splendour of the Antarctic Peninsula with a journey endeavouring to reach farther south than many have explored before.

Super Earlybird prices for the once-in-a-lifetime voyage start from \$25,710 per person, saving \$5,585 per person, plus Economy flights included up to the value of \$1,500 per person, departing 09 Feb 2024.

Scenic saw strong demand during the first two months of sales for these expedition voyages, with Antarctica bookings more than 50% up year on year.

With limited availability for the 2022/23 season, and pent up demand for Australians seeking luxury travel experiences, this trend is forecasted to continue for the 2023/24 season.

## No progress on biosecurity bill

**AFTER** three days of its first parliamentary sitting for the year, the Australian Senate has failed to even mention the vital *Biosecurity Amendment (Enhanced Risk Management) Bill 2021*, which the federal government has flagged as one of the key steps required for the return of cruise ships to local waters (*CW* 05 Jan).

The legislation, which lays out new provisions such as allowing ships and passengers to be detained for up to 12 hours, requires passage in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Senate is now not scheduled to sit until the end of Mar, with the passage of the *Bill* another requirement alongside the lifting of the cruise ban currently in place until 17 Feb.



## DID you lose a boat years ago?

A British Columbia man is looking to solve the mystery of who owns a boat which has been abandoned on his father's property in Gabriola Island for years.

The man took to social media to try and solve the mystery of who the boat belonged to, after his father passed away.

He tried to get hold of a nearby boat registry but came up short.

"We don't know anything about it, somebody must have brought it onto the property," the man said.

"Somebody must of brought it on without my dad's knowledge, which is pretty unlikely, or with his knowledge and he just didn't tell anyone."



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