

NCL Australian season is cancelled

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has postponed *Norwegian Spirit's* debut in Australia until Dec, due to ongoing uncertainty around the resumption of cruise in Australia, and in support of a gradual redeployment of its fleet.

The postponement means NCL will not sail in Australia during the 2021-22 season, with the cruise line saying it appreciates the patience and understanding of its guests and travel partners with impacted bookings.

"We...apologise for any inconvenience caused," NCL added.

The confirmation comes after the cruise line yesterday modified a range of sailings across seven ships (**CW** yesterday).

All *Norwegian Pearl* cruises with embarkation dates through and including 14 Jan, *Norwegian Sky* (pictured) cruises embarking through 25 Feb, *Pride of America*



cruises embarking through 26 Feb, *Norwegian Jade* cruises through 03 Mar, *Norwegian Star* cruises through 19 Mar 2022, *Norwegian Sun* cruises through 19 Apr 2022, and *Norwegian Spirit* cruises through 23 Apr 2022 have been cancelled.

NCL also cut short a 12-day round-trip from Miami aboard *Pearl*.

"Due to ongoing travel restrictions, we've had to modify a few sailings and unfortunately have had to cancel," NCL said in a statement.

Hurtigruten appoints a new CMO

HURTIGRUTEN Group has appointed Steven Taylor as Chief Commercial Officer.

A highly respected commercial, brand and marketing leader with global experience, Taylor has worked at Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts and Accor, where he was most recently Chief Marketing Officer.

In his new position, Taylor will lead the development and execution of Hurtigruten's strategic commercial initiatives, and he will sit on the company's Executive Management Team.

"We are delighted to welcome

Steven to the Hurtigruten Group family," Chief Executive Officer Daniel Skjeldam commented.

"His wealth of experience in the travel and hospitality sector will hugely enhance our ambitious growth plans and help maximize visibility of our brands while attracting and nurturing engagement with new and existing guests."

Taylor said he is "honoured" to join Hurtigruten at such an important time in the line's history.

"Hurtigruten was built by adventurers and explorers in 1893 and I'm excited to lead and

support Hurtigruten to become the global leader in sustainable adventure travel."

MEANWHILE, Hurtigruten has cut short an Antarctic voyage after a COVID outbreak.

Ten people on board *Roadl Amundsen* have tested positive for COVID-19, and the ship will return to port in Chile two days ahead of schedule, a spokesperson for Hurtigruten told *Reuters*.

Roadl Amundsen set out for an 18-day cruise from Punta Arenas in southern Chile on Boxing Day, and will now return back to its homeport.



MANY who cruise to the Antarctic learn of Ernest Shackleton, who led three British expeditions to the region.

However no-one has laid eyes on Shackleton's *Endurance*, which was crushed by drift ice in 1915 and sank in the Weddell Sea on an expedition which had set off three years earlier.

That may all be about to change this winter though, when *Endurance* will be searched for on the seabed with remotely operated submarines.

Operating two miles beneath *Endurance's* last known location, this is the team's second attempt to find the ship, after the previous try in 2019 failed when contact was lost with the submersible.

The expedition is due to leave Cape Town on 05 Feb, reaching the Weddell Sea when the ice is least pervasive in the late Antarctic summer.

Let's hope the expedition does not wind up like the last, or even worse - like Shackleton in 1912.

Pax spending up

PASSENGER spending has been "off the charts" this year, with major cruise companies such as MSC and Royal Caribbean Group reporting an increase in on-board spending.

According to *Business Insider Australia*, cruise-goers have been spending more on retail, dining, spas, and more.