



Cruise Weekly today

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

Silversea boosts

SILVERSEA Cruises has expanded its current COVID-19 mandatory vaccination requirement to also include a booster immunisation.

The new policy is effective for all embarkations on or after 01 Mar 2022, for all eligible guests for whom the required time has elapsed since the completion of their primary COVID-19 vaccination series.

Silversea accepts vaccines that are fully approved or authorised for emergency use by the FDA or the WHO.

Guests who have had COVID in the last 90 days can also present a Certificate of Recovery - for full details of the policy see silversea.com.

Carnival now out until Jun

CARNIVAL Cruise Line continues to postpone the resumption of its Australian deployments, with continuing uncertainty about any lifting of the Government's cruise ban.

The company this morning told travel advisors that "while we continue to make progress on our plan to return to service, there is still no certainty when cruise departures from Australia can resume.

"Regrettably, that means we have made the difficult decision to cancel the following cruises and we apologise for this disappointing news."

The impacted departures include *Carnival Splendor* sailings through to and including 31 May 2022, and *Carnival Spirit* voyages through to and including 29 May.

The company has also extended the "book by deadline" for clients through until 31 Jul, with a new

sail-by date of 31 Mar 2024.

"Carnival will resume cruising when the time is right, and will do so with enhanced health measures developed in conjunction with government authorities, public health experts, local ports of call and the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)," the update added.

Spectrum to SIN

ROYAL Caribbean

International will continue its current Singapore program after the upcoming departure of *Ovation of the Seas* for Alaska, with *Spectrum of the Seas* to operate a six-month Singapore program from Apr.

The Singapore Cruise Society confirmed *Spectrum* would take over operations of RCI's Singapore Ocean Getaway on 11 Apr, with 24 new sailings.



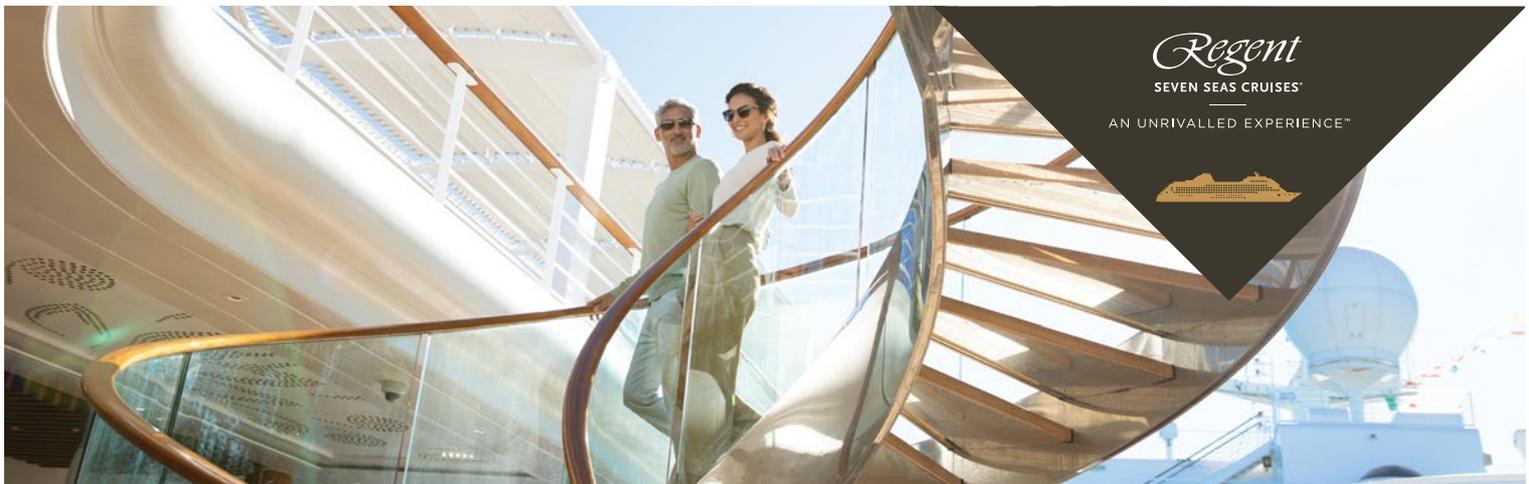
On location in the Antarctic Peninsula

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Aurora Expeditions as she journeys in the globe's far southern waters.

GREG Mortimer will spend today in the Lemaire Channel, discovering some of the islands of the Wilhelm Archipelago.

Penguin-heavy Petermann Island will be Mortimer's first call of the day, with cruisers to head ashore to discover a vast range of Antarctica's flightless friends.

In the afternoon, guests will take a Zodiac cruise around Pleneau Island, and Aurora will host its "polar plunge", which will see a number of brave passengers strip down to brave the freezing waters.



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Cruise's voice rings loud



CRUISE WEEKLY

Thursday 27th January 2022

LAST Tuesday's nationwide Day of Action conducted by grass-roots travel agents, cruise suppliers and other industry stakeholders has significantly raised the profile of what the sector is going through, with the visits to Parliamentary representatives across the country gaining significant attention from mainstream media.

The initiative, spearheaded by Belle Goldie from western Sydney travel agency itravel Penrith and Clean Cruising's Dan Russell, activated hundreds of passionate current and former cruise industry business owners and staff, who rallied outside the offices of MPs to present cogent arguments for a cruise restart to give the industry some certainty.

Coverage on all of the major TV networks allowed participants to clearly articulate why the cruise ban should be lifted and the urgent need for support, with CLIA, AFTA and CATO all supporting the initiative.



OCEANIA, Silversea and Azamara Cruises joined with key industry partners including Main Beach Travel, Travel Studio, Travel Masters and Bob Wood Cruise Group to raise awareness on the Gold Coast.



BELLE Goldie from itravel Penrith makes another media appearance courtesy of Channel 7.



VICTORIAN cruise stakeholders gather outside the office of Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg.



LEFT: The contingent from MSC, Your Travel & Cruise, CruiseMart, MSC Cruises and Clean Cruising which managed an audience with Qld Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchcliffe, who is reportedly very keen for Queensland to lead the cruise restart.



GETTING the message through to Federal Member for Brisbane, Trevor Evans.



BELOW: A strong turnout in Adelaide included Phil Hoffmann from Phil Hoffmann Travel, CATO Chairman Dennis Bunnik and many others.



Agents and suppliers must be heard

FOR almost two years, CLIA and our members have been highlighting the enormous economic cost of Australia's cruise ban and the huge impact this has on travel agents and other businesses.

This has been one of our core messages to politicians, government departments, national media and cruise stakeholders, conveyed through countless government meetings, presentations, television interviews and social media initiatives like the #ReadySetSail campaign.

This week Australian politicians got to see the real faces behind this economic impact, as teams of travel agents and suppliers converged on MPs' offices around the country. Through vigils, meetings and media interviews, our MPs have been reminded that the 18,000 Australians who rely on cruising for their livelihoods are real people and real voters.

Despite our industry's success in dozens of other countries, Australia still poses a political challenge unlike any other major market.

The key to confronting this is our industry's united voice, and the effort of travel agents and suppliers this week provides more support for the messages CLIA and cruise lines are driving through direct government lobbying.

Our calls are louder thanks to your efforts.



Swan Hellenic to the rescue



AN ANTARCTIC voyage aboard Swan Hellenic's brand new *SH Minerva* has evacuated a scientific team from the Antarctic Peninsula, after a rise in COVID-19 measures in Argentina meant the researchers could not be picked up as originally planned.

The Antarctic Quest 21 group (pictured) had been in Antarctica for five weeks collecting samples and data as part of an expedition commemorating the centenary of pioneering British polar explorer Ernest Shackleton's final voyage.

However it suddenly became clear they would need to attempt an early return, with increasing

restrictions leading several polar operators to cancel their programs.

"Indeed, there was a very strong risk they might have been stuck on the peninsula," Swan Hellenic said, with *Minerva* stepping in to pick them up from Portal Point as she sailed into Charlotte Bay earlier this month on her second Antarctic departure.

Swan Hellenic CEO Andrea Zito said with the cruise line committed to assisting and building links with the research community "this was a very fitting early episode for the first ship in our fleet".

Virgin refresh

VIRGIN Voyages has confirmed it will update cabins on board its *Scarlet Lady* and *Valiant Lady*, in response to feedback from guests.

The refreshed interiors will "provide a warmer and more sophisticated feeling" with the addition of new wooden beams and additional wood finishings - in contrast to the previous minimalist look.

The company said it was also increasing storage space for guest clothing and shoes, while the makeover also includes newly selected artwork which complements Virgin's "playful and contemporary nature".

Key elements will remain including the so-called Seabed concept which allows passengers to switch the bed into a sofa.

The upgrade is currently under way aboard *Scarlet Lady*, with the new look to feature right across *Valiant Lady* when she enters service as scheduled in Mar this year with a series of UK-based departures.



DISNEY Cruise Line is taking its onboard magic to a new level - perhaps infinity and beyond - with the launch of Pixar Day at Sea, a specially themed event included on nine *Disney Fantasy* voyages in early 2023.

The weeklong sailings out of Port Canaveral will include the special day which brings to life such animated movie favourites as *The Incredibles*, *Toy Story*, *Monsters Inc.* and naturally the aquatic *Finding Nemo*.

Passengers will be able to experience themed dining in an interactive breakfast experience hosted by Sheriff Woody, Jessie and Bullseye, followed by dance parties, special theatrical performances and of course encounters with their favourite characters, and if they're not already too exhausted after all that, the day culminates in a Pixar deck party.

They can possibly catch some shut-eye during special screenings of Pixar movies.



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