



Cruise Weekly today

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

No P&O UK tests

P&O Cruises UK has reportedly dropped its pre-departure testing for one of its ships.

The mandate will no longer apply for five P&O UK voyages aboard *Iona*, and apparently the cruise line hopes to remove testing throughout the fleet in the future.

In a letter to guests, P&O said from 25 Jun to 23 Jul, vaccinated *Iona* passengers would not be required to receive a pre-departure test.



Newly released 2024 ocean itineraries

Viking has released a number of new 2024 departure dates for some of its most popular ocean cruise itineraries, including those that cover northern Europe and the Mediterranean. They've also released three brand-new voyages including the 36-day *Grand Fjords & Iconic Viking Shores* itinerary sailing from New York to Amsterdam or vice versa. This presents a great opportunity for guests to forward plan well into 2024. Viking is encouraging agents to secure their clients' preferred stateroom and departure dates now before it's too late.

View itineraries here.



A&K buys Crystal ships

ABERCROMBIE & Kent (A&K) has been revealed as the acquirer of the defunct Crystal Cruises brand (**CW** breaking news), as well as two of the line's former ships, *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony*.

Both ships, which were sold at auction last week for a total of USD\$128 million (**CW** 17 Jun), are scheduled to resume service next year under their former brand.

The assets were acquired by A&K Travel Group, which is owned by former Silversea Cruises Chair Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio's Heritage holding company, and Abercrombie & Kent founder Geoffrey Kent.

"When the opportunity arose to acquire Crystal Cruises, I did not think about it twice," d'Ovidio revealed.

"I am thrilled to start this new chapter and to be back in an industry that has always had, and

always will have a special place in my heart."

He said having alongside him his friend Geoffrey Kent, who co-Chairs A&K Group alongside d'Ovidio, makes the venture "even more enjoyable".

Added Kent: "the idea of combining the unparalleled onboard service that Crystal Cruises is known for, with the extraordinary tailor-made experiences Abercrombie & Kent has been successfully providing for our guests for the past 60 years, fills me with excitement, enthusiasm and pride."

d'Ovidio's former cruise line Silversea is believed to be the new owner of a third of Crystal's ships, the expedition vessel *Crystal Endeavor*, after the filing of a trademark application for the name Silver Endeavor with the United States' Patent & Trademark Office.

MSC's double delight

MSC Cruises and Chantiers de l'Atlantique have celebrated double newbuild milestones, with *MSC World Europa* completing her first set of sea trials (**pictured**), and *MSC Euribia* floating out.

The cruise line's first two liquified natural gas-powered ships celebrated their respective milestones on the weekend.

World Europa ventured out to the Atlantic Ocean, where her performance was tested, as were her engines, manoeuvrability, fuel consumption, safety systems, speed, and stopping distance.

Meanwhile, *Euribia* was successfully floated out, and has now been moved to a wet dock for work to continue on her before she also joins the MSC fleet in Jun 2023.

"We made an important



pledge last year to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, leading the cruise industry on the path to decarbonisation," MSC Cruises Executive Chair Pierfrancesco Vago said.

"*World Europa* and *MSC Euribia* will play a fundamental role in this journey."

"LNG is the cleanest marine fuel currently available at scale that reduces emissions significantly and also offers compatibility with future alternative fuel solutions".

Carnival sanctions

CARNIVAL Corp is no longer selling cruises to residents of Russia, Belarus, or Donetsk and Luhansk in Ukraine.

The company said it is "vital" its travel agent partners comply with this policy in order to support compliance with sanctions laws.

"We would like to reiterate the importance of ensuring accurate guest details are input into our booking systems," Carnival said.

"We would therefore like to remind you of the requirement to enter a valid and current address for all guests at the time of booking", or for existing bookings where the information is outstanding.



Last chance to win a free Viking self-famil

Australian and New Zealand travel agents still have the opportunity to win one of 100 free self-famils and experience a Viking European River cruise in 2022. Simply make two or more new twin share or single supplement reservations for any 2022 Viking European river cruise before 30 June and you'll win a complimentary stateroom on a select 8-day Viking European river cruise in 2022. The best part – you can choose your travel date in 2022 based on availability.

Learn more here.

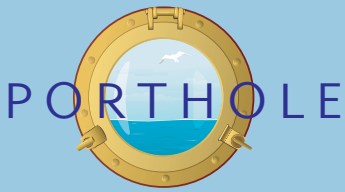


The Metaverse is quickly approaching, but what does that mean for the travel industry? Read all the details in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK
to read

travelBulletin

Take our breath away!



A 48-YEAR-OLD man will attempt to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a home-made floating "wheelie bin", as it is described.

The vessel is so small her skipper Andrew Bedwell won't be able to lie down, as he attempts to shatter the world record for smallest vessel to cross the Atlantic.

Bedwell spent three years designing the 1.4-metre-long *The Big C* (pictured), which he will sail across the Atlantic next May.

Because the vessel is so small, Bedwell will be restricted to eating sachets of high-protein mush which will be packed into the walls of *The Big C*.



THE health and safety of passengers and crews is Princess' top priority...except for this week, with the line taking a number of Australian travel advisors to the "danger zone" during *Top Gun: Maverick* movie nights.

Agents previewed the follow-up to the 1986 action film *Top Gun* with Australia's first D-BOX immersive cinema experience, as well as new musical biopic *Elvis*, at events across Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, and Adelaide.

Princess saw an opportunity to promote its line of smart ships alongside the new D-BOX motion technology, which allows guests to synchronise the movement of their seat to the content and audio observed in the cinema.

The technological cross-promotion comes as the entire Princess fleet is now

MedallionClass enabled.

"For many agents, this was their first time experiencing this level of technology in cinema, and most will have the same sense of awe once they experience MedallionClass on board, making holidays with Princess more simple, effortless, personalised and connected," said Senior Director of Marketing, Sales & Service Nick Ferguson.

With cruise returning - not to the screens, but to the high seas - the line also engaged with agents to build excitement for *Coral Princess*, which recently set sail for her inaugural winter season from her new homeport of Brisbane (**CW** 17 Jun).

Pictured flying fully inverted is the sales team David Craven, Brett Wendorf, and Helen Mezzen.

Aurora levels Up

AURORA Expeditions has partnered with UpSchool to support Arctic education.

The Aussie start-up provides free courses and resources for children and teachers, and is currently being used by more than 1,000 teachers in 110 different countries, with around 30,000 children attending class each week.

The next project for UpSchool is a 10-week trip to the Arctic with Aurora this month.

NW Passage tax

THE hamlet of Cambridge Bay in Nunavut, Canada, is planning a CAD\$100 tax per passenger for cruise ships calling at Victoria Island this season.

When a cruise ship calls at the western gateway to the Northwest Passage, the tax will cover "the costs of the entertainment that the municipality supplies to the visiting passengers," Community Economic Development Manager Angela Gerbrandt told CBC.

This includes guided walking tours through Cambridge Bay to sites such as the heritage park and Canadian High Arctic Research Station, interpreters, and a rest-stop with local food samples and tea at the Community Hall.

The tax will not apply to passengers in transit.

Cruise lines calling in the region this coming season include Hurtigruten, Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, and Silversea Cruises.

RCI Jun savings

FROM today until 28 Jun, Royal Caribbean International (RCI) guests can enjoy 50% off select sailings from Brisbane on *Quantum of the Seas*.

Cruises available as part of the savings include the eight-night South Pacific cruise on *Quantum* sailing from 01 Nov, starting from \$799, and the 10-night South Pacific cruise on *Quantum* sailing from 27 Nov, starting from \$899.

CLICK HERE to book.