



Cruise Weekly today

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

Biz Syd hits cruise

THE decks of P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Adventure* hosted Business Sydney yesterday for an event heralding the start of the upcoming season.

The event aimed to send a message to governments at all levels, as well as to the business community, that cruise's contribution to Sydney is real, and is a relationship which should be valued and nurtured.

In attendance were Business Sydney Executive Director Paul Nicolaou, Cruise Lines International Association Managing Director Joel Katz, and Carnival Cruise Line President Christine Duffy.

NSW set to repeal cruise COVID rules

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) said it looks forward to further details from the Government of New South Wales, after Premier Chris Minns (pictured) revealed to *The Daily Telegraph* the state's outdated COVID-19 restrictions on cruise ships are set to be axed.

Minns said the Government of NSW will be removing restrictions such as being vaccinated against COVID to board a cruise ship, and wearing a mask while on board.

"We need to move on and get life back to normal," he declared.

"Passengers should continue looking after their health before and during their cruise, including through vaccination...but Australia can't remain the only country globally with these rules for cruising.

"These protocols were important at the time to get the cruising industry going again after COVID...they were never meant



to remain forever."

CLIA said in a statement the removal of COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements for cruise ship passengers will bring Australia into line with other jurisdictions around the world.

"The revival of cruise operations in Australia has been carefully managed since the middle of last year and many hundreds of thousands of Australians have sailed successfully in local waters," the statement said.

"As the current settings have become increasingly confusing for guests, CLIA and cruise lines have engaged with federal and state health authorities to seek a consistent approach in line with current community standards.

"As other countries have now removed COVID-19 measures relating to cruising, Australia is now the only significant cruise destination in the world with ongoing testing and vaccination mandates."

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ENIT ITALIAN NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD

RCI thinks AK is OK

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) is celebrating Alaskan culture with a new Locals Onboard program.

The cruise line will bring local artists on board to create immersive experiences, in partnership with online marketplace Voyji.com.

Local artists will lead guests through unique programming, including photography workshops, Alaska Native culture and dance, watercolour sessions, storytelling, and more, with 52 experiences in total.

The program will showcase 16 talented artists and local business owners from six Alaskan communities: Juneau, Ketchikan, Skagway, Haines, Sitka, and Seward.

The program is part of RCI's "SEA the Future" commitment.

Star Clippers unveils 2023-25 cruises

STAR Clippers has released its 2023-2025 Collection brochure, with those who book early able to save up to 30% on select adventures.

The 2023-2025 Collection brochure presents a curated selection of voyages to the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, and Costa Rica, ranging from short weekend getaways to multi-week cruises.

The Collection includes itineraries on all three of Star Clippers' ships, including *Star Clipper*, *Star Flyer*, and *Royal Clipper*.

Star Clipper will cruise Costa Rica and Panama, visiting Central American beaches, port towns, and Parque Nacional Manuel Antonio.

A highlight will be *Clipper's* trip through the Panama Canal.

Royal (pictured) will be in Monaco for the destination's



famous Grand Prix.

Travelling from Cannes to Monaco in May for the Formula 1, *Royal* will then move to Italy, Corsica, and Sardinia.

Meanwhile, *Flyer* will journey through Italy, visiting the Amalfi Coast, Ravello, and the ancient city of Pompeii.

The cruise line is encouraging Australian travellers to book early and save, with up to 30% off departures to the Mediterranean between Apr 2024 and Nov 2025.

Book by the end of Jan to access this offer.

Cruisers can score up to 30% off Caribbean and Panama Canal voyages when booking by the end of Apr.

There is also up to 30% off Star Clippers' 2024/25 Costa Rica season for those booking by the end of Apr.

"We want to make it easy for Australian travellers to experience the magic of sailing with Star Clippers," National Account Manager Roger Condon said.

"Star Clippers' 2023-2025 brochure Collection encapsulates our unwavering dedication to crafting unforgettable sailing experiences.

"Travellers are eager, more than ever, for unique and specialised experiences in their holiday and our tall ships offer a blend of superior comfort and adventure under sail."

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FEAR not Royal Caribbean International (RCI) enthusiasts, as Chief Executive Officer Michael Bayley has confirmed one of the scariest online rumours about the cruise line is untrue.

The RCI head recently confirmed the cruise line will not be charging for pizza, which should delight fans of the company.

A customer survey had been making its way around the internet which posed whether passengers would consider paying extra for the pizza which is currently free on board.

RCI fans erupted in condemnation of the move, and the criticism reached Bayley, who got the message loud and clear.

"To calm all our pizza lovers, don't worry, we are not charging for pizza," he declared.

New Viet cruise

VIETNAM'S Ambassador Cruise has set sail on board its latest vessel *Ambassador Signature*.

The 39-berth vessel counts chic cabins, an onboard spa, a plush piano bar, and a giant sun deck among its attributes.

The one-night voyage explores Lan Ha Bay, a quieter alternative to Ha Long Bay, which is equally as stunning.

Carbon-neutral UK port



PORTSMOUTH is leading the way with the recent opening of its "landmark" sustainable passenger terminal (pictured).

Guests from Saga Cruises' *Spirit of Discovery* were the first to be welcomed to the carbon neutral terminal, which has spent 18 months being constructed.

The facility has been made possible through £11.25 million of funding from the Government of the United Kingdom to transform Portsmouth's cruise & tourism economy.

Cutting-edge environmental engineering has been at the forefront of development plans, with the port the first in the United Kingdom to use sea water to heat and cool the building.

Other environmental features include wind and solar technology, and internal and external living walls to help purify the air.

These elements mean the building will generate more energy than it consumes, eventually moving from net

carbon neutral to carbon positive.

The new terminal has also been built to accommodate a growth in cruise ships coming to the port, as Portsmouth expects to receive more than 100 calls next year, with forecasts predicting an additional 250,000 passengers per year.

Following a major berth extension, coupled with the new terminal, the port is now in a position to handle ships up to 300 metres in length and the additional passenger capacity such vessels carry.

The design also features a walkway to the existing terminal; an exclusive lounge area for passengers; and a sky garden, a public viewing space to watch port activity.

"This terminal transformation follows a number of significant infrastructure projects to position Portsmouth as not only one of the UK's leading ports, but a global one too," Portsmouth International Port Director Mike Sellers said.



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

NZ ready for summer

NEW Zealand is undoubtedly a jewel among the world's cruise destinations, and the coming summer looks set to bring renewed passion for its spectacular coastal scenery.

Cruising might have returned late to this part of the world, but it's clear New Zealand will catch up swiftly thanks to a highly dedicated community of tourism operators, ports, destinations, and industry suppliers, all working closely with cruise lines.

At the New Zealand Cruise Association's annual conference in Christchurch last week, we had a taste of just how strong that cruise community is, and how hard its members are working to revive the country's cruise economy.

After a small-scale resumption last summer, cruise lines have scheduled a stronger presence in New Zealand over the summer ahead. About 55 cruise ships will visit, a higher level than had been planned in 2019-20 before the pandemic.

Australia, too, is gearing up for a strong summer, as we'll hear next week when the Australian Cruise Association hosts its annual conference in Wollongong.

With the support of the NZCA, the ACA, and the communities they represent, the cruise industry has a very positive outlook in this region.

