



Stranded Aussies

SBS is reporting 107 Aussies are among the hundreds of cruise ship crew members stranded off the Floridian coast thanks to the United States' COVID-19 restrictions.

Australia's Ambassador to the United States Arthur Sinodinos has written a letter to the crew members, assuring them the government is "working tirelessly to assist with your safe and timely repatriation to Australia," including with cruise lines, as the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention prevents cruise ship crew members from travelling on commercial flights in the United States.

Cruise Weekly today

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

CLIA developing new health policy

A NEW health framework is being developed by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and its members to uphold the safety of guests and prepare for future operations in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

The proposed policies will define the specific screening, cleansing and medical protocols cruise lines would adopt globally, in addition to those already in place.

CLIA Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz said the industry was working with medical experts and international health authorities to lay a new foundation for the cruise sector as it prepared for its long-term recovery.

"While cruise operations are suspended, we are using this time to define the new landscape we will work within and make sure we're ready when the time comes



to sail again," Katz said.

"Many teams of people around the world are working in tandem with experts to ensure we learn as much as possible from these unprecedented events and exceed community expectations in our response."

Katz said while it was too early to discuss specific procedures or timing, the industry's priority would be to ensure the safety

and security of guests, crew and the communities cruise lines visit.

"The challenges before us are great and there is no quick fix, which is why we have embarked on a process that will be extremely thorough and will address the concerns that communities and authorities expect to see us confront."

He said once finalised, the new protocols would provide further opportunity to communicate with industry stakeholders, governments, and the wider public to provide reassurance on future cruise operations.

"Our thoughts are with all those who have been impacted by COVID-19.

"The cruise industry is not alone in having to confront this disease, but we will aim to set standards that other sectors may follow when it comes to our response."

Pictured: Joel Katz.

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Travel Daily



IT'S no secret there are plenty of places some travellers would prefer to be right now than a cruise ship - but not everyone, apparently.

Passengers on a world cruise aboard *Costa Deliziosa*, which has reported no COVID-19 infections, are aggrieved to be heading home, with their cruise now at its business end.

After 15 weeks at sea, *Deliziosa* disembarked the 168 Spanish passengers of the ship's 1,831 total pax this week in Barcelona, with the remaining guests to get off tomorrow at the cruise's final destination, Genoa.

Being on the ship for weeks during the pandemic "was not surreal, it was incredible", passenger Carlos Paya told the *Associated Press*.

"The news that was arriving from home was causing us all a lot of worry and grief... for us, it was a stroke of good luck to be where we were."

Silversea new measures



SILVERSEA Cruises is introducing extended flexibility to travellers to encourage the planning of future trips.

The cruise line's double bonus offer now provides guests with a reduced deposit of A\$1,500 per suite for any new booking made before 30 Jun, with guests also able to receive US\$1,000 shipboard credit per suite.

The reduced deposit offer applies to all Silversea voyages, except full World Cruises and Grand Voyages.

The line has also expanded its Cruise With Confidence program to all voyages scheduled to depart this year, and is soon launching 'Virtual Visit' - a series of videos to keep travel partners informed and up-to-date with the company's latest developments.

Lindblad endures

LINDBLAD Expeditions has offered a sneak preview of the new *National Geographic Endurance*, originally slated for her maiden voyage this month (**CW** 12 Dec 2019).

The video is led by Captain Aaron Wood and members of his team, and showcases different areas of the ship, including the Bridge, the Observation Lounge, cabins, suites, and features such as the glass-walled yoga studio, infinity jacuzzis, and the first igloos at sea - view **HERE**.

The company took delivery of the ship in Mar, marking the completion of the line's first polar newbuild.

Chinese Carnival?

CARNIVAL Corp Chief Executive Officer Arnold Donald has said China may be among the first countries to cruise again, as the COVID-19 pandemic eases.

Although he isn't sure where said Chinese cruises would go, Donald said it might be possible, as it is one of the first countries to resume some forms of social gathering.

"Because of that, and that alone, it's possible that China could be one of the first markets where cruise can be renewed," Donald said.

Donald also said Carnival was seeking additional funding by evaluating where it fits into stimulus packages from European governments.

H-L homecoming

HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises (H-L) is bringing the majority of its fleet home, positioning four of its five ships in Hamburg.

Hanseatic Nature will be the first to arrive, on 20 Apr, followed on 02 May by *Hanseatic Inspiration*, with the two expedition ships to undergo repair work at shipbuilding company Blohm+Voss.

Luxury ships *Europa* and *Europa 2* are also currently headed for Germany, while *Bremen* will remain off the coast of Auckland.

The last of Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' guest returned home on 21 Mar, with the cruise line repatriating around 1,000 guests.

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