

AFTA INDUSTRY NOTICE

The AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS) is the cornerstone of the Australian travel industry. It sets standards, future proofs and protects the integrity of our industry.

ATAS is the means by which both consumers and trade can identify trusted, reliable and quality travel businesses.

AFTA and ACS does not take its role lightly and does not make cancellations without good reason!

In the last 6 months, two large scale, non-accredited wholesalers have become insolvent. It is a stark reminder to all industry that if a business is NOT accredited – ask why not?

It is unacceptable that a company can make statements and issue press releases which turn out to be misleading and deceptive. It is a clear demonstration of the lack of integrity of these companies.

AFTA is NOT to blame for the demise of these companies. Poor financial management is the only cause of a company becoming insolvent.

AFTA recommends that travel agency owners only work with reputable accredited wholesalers and tour operators.

All CATO members are required to be ATAS accredited.

AFTA has 63 years of representing, supporting, and innovating for the Australian Travel Industry. In 2020 we will continue to seek new solutions to provide all involved with confidence in the travel value chain and make the payment eco-system in the Australian travel industry more robust.



Sapphire Princess pivots Down Under

PRINCESS Cruises has announced plans to redeploy *Sapphire Princess* (pictured) from Asia to the local market for a year-long season from 01 May (*CW* breaking news yesterday).

The ship will service Australia six months earlier than planned as she repositions from the troubled Asian region, which continues to see port restrictions implemented amid the battle to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

Sapphire will add 44 new cruises from five major Australian cities to Princess' offering, embarking on 171 port calls and injecting \$140m into the local economy.

Princess Cruises Senior Vice President Asia Pacific Stuart Allison said the decision to expedite *Sapphire's* entry to the local market would represent a significant boost to domestic and regional tourism.

"With the ongoing uncertainty



of travel restrictions and port closures in Asia impacting our cruise operations in the region, we hope that this extended deployment in Australia will benefit local tourism, particularly in regional areas with 102 visits to regional ports around the country during her year-long deployment," Allison said.

"Never has there been a better time to cruise from your doorstep, with convenient new departures from Sydney, Perth (Fremantle), Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane between May and

Oct 2020," he added.

Highlights include an inaugural Australia circumnavigation voyage sailing roundtrip from Adelaide, with similar options from Fremantle and Sydney, as well as 19 maiden calls along WA's coast to cities such as Geraldton.

Also on offer will be roundtrip voyages to Fiji from Brisbane and Sydney, including a 12-night Fiji cruise from Sydney departing 25 Jun priced from \$999 per person, twin share.

The extended *Sapphire* program will go on sale Mon 27 Feb.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest news, a front cover from **AFTA** plus a full page from Tauck.



On location aboard
Voyager of the Seas

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of **CruiseCo** whose annual conference is this week.

LOCAL members of CruiseCo, are aboard Royal Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas* docked in Sydney today to kick off its annual conference.

The seven-day conference at sea will make stops at Hobart and Melbourne.

Regent

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APT small ship brox

APT has launched a trio of brochures covering the small ship cruises available in 2021.

The new program covers expedition cruising, luxury sailing, as well as voyages exploring the Kimberley region.

Highlights from the expedition brochure includes trips to destinations such as Papua New Guinea, the Arctic Circle, the Baltics and the British Isles, while luxury product focuses in depth on Croatia and now Montenegro.

To access the brochures online, **CLICK HERE**.

The Corbett double-threat



PONANT'S Commercial Director Australasia Deb Corbett and her daughter Annie have been recently enjoying a 10-night luxury expedition from Ushuaia to the Antarctic Peninsula onboard the cruise line's expedition vessel, *L'Austral*.

Reflecting on her amazing

voyage, Corbett said it provided a great way to truly understand the local culture.

"This is the way to meet the locals and gain in-depth product experience," she enthused.

Pictured: Deb and Annie Corbett enjoy the company of Antarctica's penguin population.

Westerdam update

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has confirmed that no further guests or crew who were on board the troubled *Westerdam* ship have reported symptoms of the coronavirus.

"During disembarkation in Cambodia, guests underwent an additional health screening including the completion of a written health questionnaire," the line said in a statement.

"The guest who tested positive did not visit the ship's medical centre to report any symptoms of illness and an additional 20 guests who reported to the medical centre during the cruise were tested by health officials for COVID-19, and all results were confirmed negative".

Westerdam is now docked at Sihanoukville, Cambodia, with 233 guests still awaiting final travel arrangements.

AFTA's reminder

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) is reminding agents why it is the cornerstone of the industry on the **front page** today.

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CMV Arctic & NE

CRUISE & Maritime Voyages' (CMV) new ship *Amy Johnson* will visit Canada, Greenland and Northern Europe on a 35-night trip in her inaugural season with the cruise line.

Also on offer is a smaller, 22-day Arctic Greenland & Iceland Voyage, visiting destinations such as Reykjavik and Ilulissat.

The voyages are available to book from Thu, with prices leading in from \$3,479 per person, twin share.



A GHOST ship, sailing under the Tanzanian flag, has recently washed ashore in Cork, Ireland.

MV Alta (pictured) has caused many local residents to scratch their heads as to how the cargo ship managed to find its way to Irish shores without anyone on board the vessel.

One interested sleuth is Ballycotton RNLi Lifeboat Operations Manager John Tattan, who claimed the journey was a "one in a million".

"It has come all the way up from the African coast, west of the Spanish coast, west of the English coast and up to the Irish coast," he said.



Destination: Aquamar Spa + Wellness Center



Sit back, relax and let Oceania Cruises take care of you

SHIPS: *Riviera, Sirena, Nautica, Regatta, Insignia, and Marina.*

LOCATION: *Sirena, Nautica, Regatta, and Insignia - Deck 9. Marina and Riviera - Deck 14.*

DRAWING inspiration from the fundamental benefits of travel and discovery, Aquamar Spa + Vitality Centre, set to debut across all six of the cruise operator's ships this summer, offers an array of wellness encounters designed to enhance the guest experience & encourage personal renewal.

The Center features everything from healthy food and drinks, rejuvenating spa treatments including hot stone massages and healing Thallasus pool (inset), plus a range of Wellness Discovery Tours, all uniquely curated to ensure guests have everything they need to rest and relax.

Cruisers can also enjoy a range of healthy "Aquamar



"Vitality" cuisine in The Grand Dining Room, including an extensive plant-based and vegetarian menu, while freshly pressed juices, smoothies and energy bowls are also served at the only cold-pressed raw juice and smoothie bars at sea (pictured).

DON'T MISS: The Wellness and Mindfulness experience at Vina Casa Marin, Chile.

This unique experience pairs yoga, pranayama breathing and mindful meditation with a gourmet luncheon at a picturesque boutique winery, Vina Casa Marin, where guests will also learn about its history and micro-terroirs.

We can feel the stress floating away already...

QM2 Darwin spend

THE impending arrival of Cunard Line's *Queen Mary 2* in Darwin later this month is expected to inject \$700,000 in guest spend into the Northern Territory's economy.

The ocean liner is scheduled to arrive 24 Feb and will now dock overnight in the city due to itinerary changes resulting from the coronavirus.

"Darwin enjoys year-round cruise activity which is great for our local operators and businesses - the *Queen Mary 2*'s overnight visit will offer a strong boost to our local economy," said the Member for Port Darwin, Paul Kirby.

The vessel's extended stay forms part of the 80 cruise ships scheduled to stop in Darwin this season, carrying an anticipated 74,434 passengers.

MEANWHILE, *Radiance of the Seas* visited Darwin this week, bringing in 2,496 visitors to the Northern Territory.

Serving up strength

PRINCESS Cruises has partnered with World Central Kitchen (WCK), a non-profit organisation founded by chef Jose Andres, which uses the "power of food to heal and strengthen communities in times of crisis".

Starting this week, meals on board the troubled *Diamond Princess* in Japan will be provided by the organisation and offered to the quarantined passengers across breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Learn about WCK **HERE**.

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Children 12 and under save up to AUD \$670!*

TAUCK VALUE INCLUDES

- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – An evening at a private Viennese palace – with dinner, entertainment, and a waltzing lesson
- A visit to Baroque Salzburg and funicular ride up to the city's hilltop fortress
- In Passau, take a walking tour of Old Town and a sweets-making workshop at a local café
- In the Wachau Valley, enjoy a guided hike with a holiday theme and storytelling or a hike to Kuenringer Castle in Dürnstein
- Visits to Schönbrunn Palace and the Prater amusement park in Vienna



[View Itinerary](#)

Grand European Family Holiday

12 Days from London to Rome
Departing 6 & 20 Jun; 4 Jul & 1 Aug 2020

Starting from **\$11,990***pp twin share

Children 12 and under save up to AUD \$530!*

TAUCK VALUE INCLUDES

- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – After-hours guided tour of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, without the crowds!
- An insider tour of Harry Potter's Secret London
- A time-travel detective game along Regent Street in London
- Tea party for kids at The Langham
- In Paris, Enjoy a scavenger hunt at Musée du Louvre & cruise on the magnificent River Seine



[View Itinerary](#)

Alpine Adventure

8 Days from Zurich to Munich
Departing 16 Aug 2020

Starting from **\$7,050***pp twin share

Children 12 and under save up to AUD \$330!*

TAUCK VALUE INCLUDES

- Visit to Ötzi Dorf, an archaeological open-air park interpreting life in the time of "Ötzi," the Neolithic "iceman" found mummified in the Ötztal Alps
- Mountain bicycling, suspension rope climbing, rock climbing, summer tobogganing & whitewater rafting
- Cruise Lake Lucerne & travel to St. Moritz aboard the Glacier Express
- Traditional Tyrolean evening featuring food, fun and games
- An Engadine Valley day: ride a cable car, hike to a glacier, visit a cheesery, go rock climbing and have lunch in a meadow



[View Itinerary](#)

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*Prices are per person in Australian dollars correct as at 19 February 2020. Prices are subject to availability and seasonal surcharges. Price for Grand European Family Holiday is based on 06 Jun '20 departure. Price for Alpine Adventure is based on 16 August 2020. Land Tours & River/Small Ship Cruises have other dates available for 2020, however price per person may differ than what is advertised. International airfares from Australia are not included. Child Savings amounts advertised is inclusive of the twin share fare. Special offers are valid for new bookings only. Change and cancellation conditions apply and will be advised at the time of booking.