



Cruise Weekly today

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

Jewel scrapped

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has confirmed several *Norwegian Jewel* local sailings have been cancelled, resulting in the termination of the entire Australian season.

Norwegian said the news was the “result of changes to the redeployment of our fleet”, with all *Jewel* sailings from 25 Sep to 27 Feb now canx, and no longer live on the website.

The cruise line confirmed a full refund will be automatically returned to the form of payment provided at the time of booking, with a future cruise credit of 10% also issued, of the price paid for the cruise.

A Quantum leap for Royal Caribbean

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) is making a “Quantum leap forward” in Australia, today opening bookings for summer 2021-22, which will see *Quantum of the Seas*’ (pictured) first ever season in the country (**CW** breaking news).

The Quantum-class ship will join her sister *Ovation of the Seas* in sailing from Sydney, while Radiance-class ship *Radiance of the Seas* will sail from Brisbane during RCI’s biggest season in the city, which will see it sail a range of South Pacific holidays.

Voyages range from eight to 12 nights, including 10- to 13-night New Zealand trips and seven-to-eight night Australian vacations.

After debuting in North America, *Quantum* was then based year-round in China, before splitting her season between China and Singapore.

The ship will now divide her



time between Alaska in the northern summer alongside *Oasis* and *Radiance*, before the trio repositions to Australia.

Quantum enjoyed a refresh last year, receiving a new escape room and a pop-up laser tag

venue, as well as updates to her interior.

Royal Caribbean International’s parent company Royal Caribbean Cruises also recently sold US\$2 billion of bonds to boost its liquidity (**CW** yesterday).

We can't wait TO WELCOME YOU ON BOARD AGAIN

Just like you, we’re dreaming of seeing new shorelines on the horizon. Experiencing new cultures and savouring new flavors. Meeting people far and wide and realizing we aren’t so different after all. And the moment these dreams can become reality, we’ll be ready to welcome you back. Until then, the world is changing, and we’re changing with it. We’re taking every step to ensure you and our crew stay healthy and safe when we set sail. That’s our top priority—so that enjoying your holiday can be yours.

#WeCantWait



CALL 1-800-754-500

CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR

VISIT CELEBRITY.COM/AU

©2020 Celebrity Cruises Inc. Ships' registry: Malta and Ecuador.



Post-COVID, cruise could be the safest kind of holiday

OPINION



Bruce Nierenberg is the former CEO of Costa Cruises, former

EVP of Norwegian Cruise Line, and founder of multiple others, including Victory Cruise Lines.

NEITHER the cruise industry nor any other sector of the travel and tourism industry could ever have enough plans in place for the total meltdown that just happened, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been imbalanced in its response to the cruise industry in comparison to land-based resorts and other travel venues.

Yes, there were things that could have been handled better, but I have not seen one story or comment about deaths and COVID-19 cases except when it's about cruising.

In fact, while the CDC has shut down the cruise industry until it comes back with a solid plan for re-entry, why have resort business been given a free pass and allowed to reopen without such requirements?

The irony is that a cruise ship with the proper protocols and protections in place is at least as secure as a land-based hotel or resort, and in many ways safer.

Why? Assuming, again, protocols are updated for both a cruise ship and a land-based resort, there are very controlled exit and entry points on a cruise ship. The service personnel on a ship live in the vessel and don't go home at night. At a land-based resort there are no controls in place to limit outsiders from coming into the hotel or eating meals at the hotel, even if they are not staying at the hotel and the workers leave the property every day after work

and therefore are exposed to the conditions of the entire community they live in. Not so with cruise personnel.

I'm not saying that any vacation alternative deserves a free pass. In fact, all vacation destinations and transportation systems need to be held accountable.

For the cruise lines, they should take this opportunity, with more than 90% of ships in the world laid up, to present to the CDC a bullet-proof new health safety operation protocol that includes the embarkation process and the protection of guests when in ports of call and which protects the communities the ships visit.

In all cases, the ship owners onboard the physical plants of their ships could and should install modern new technology that is available into their A/C systems that one way or another purifies the air we breathe 23,000 times per day, and if the right tech is chosen can even turn the air into a constant 24/7/365 destroyer of pathogens and bacteria on the entire vessel for passengers and crew anywhere the air flows to.

These devices can be easily and economically installed in any ship HVAC system and can also be used when individual A/C units are in each cabin.

They could also apply available new high-tech solutions to all surfaces on the vessel, both inside and outside on decks, which also actively kill pathogens and virus/bacterial agents.

You can even add new solutions to the laundry that are much safer than traditional laundry products and make the textiles onboard completely safe to use, as well as allowing them to continue to kill pathogens after the item is in use.

It's up to the cruise industry to do the right thing. If it does, it can develop and present a solution to the CDC that will put cruises head and shoulders above the

remainder of the resort business. These are solid quantum changes in the protections provided by vacation alternatives. It's way above the procedures used by the industry to 'spray and pray', as they have done for years.

We can't reverse the results of the pandemic but it would be criminal if we didn't take the opportunity to use this terrible event to make our industry safer in a meaningful way and give it the best product available to minimise any future attacks from the unknown disease world, which historically we can expect every five-10 years.

Until a vaccine is readily available for everyone, which will have a huge impact on vacation demand, we can also add temporary reduced capacity and social distancing onboard and masks and gloves, etc. That's okay, but there is not a ship or hotel built that was designed to make money with half its space not available for sale.

Plus, vacationers and staff walking around with so much protective gear on they are

ready for heart surgery is not the vacation environment people want. Okay for now until a vaccine is ready, but I have seen too much of it being "the solution". That's not the case. If the industry does the right thing, we can have normal vacation experiences for our guests.

The cruise industry has been one of the most innovative sectors of tourism over the past 30-plus years. Its innovation in physical plants, itineraries and activities onboard are amazing. What's surprising is, that while willing to invest billions in these amazing new products, incredible ships and resorts, they stumble through the process required to protect those investments. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they united and did it together? Safety, health and security are not competitive issues for the marketplace, they are basic requirements of what people expect when they travel. By taking advantage of how ships are built, cruises have the chance to re-enter the market as the safest vacation destination on earth.

INDUSTRY SURVIVE & REVIVE SESSIONS

Industry support Facebook LIVE speaker series

CLICK HERE TO TAKE PART

We're still hungry for recipes

Send us your meatball or mince recipe for our weekly feature.

CLICK HERE




PORTHOLE

AFTER months at sea, *Artania*, the final cruise ship carrying stranded passengers, has made it home.

The eight guests aboard finally disembarked in Bremerhaven on Tue, with the cruise ship desperate to see out its 140-day world cruise.

36 passengers initially tested positive for COVID-19 following a check from Australian health officials during its stay in Fremantle.

Wings no longer clipped



FLYING *Clipper*, the largest sailing ship ever launched, will now sail for a new UK cruise line, Tradewind Voyages.

Following a rebrand, the US\$100 million ship will sail for the novel cruise operator, having sat laid up at the Brodosplit shipyard since her completion, following a legal dispute with Star Clippers (**CW** 03 Jan).

The shipyard claimed the vessel's buyer had "failed to meet contractual obligations".

Pictured: *Flying Clipper*.

Travel bubble boost

NEW Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tahiti's tourism bodies have thrown their support behind a South Pacific travel bubble, forming a working group to help it become a reality.

The group's stated objective is to "forge collaboration and positive discussion between the national governments of the South Pacific and Australia, as well as relevant stakeholders throughout the region, and demonstrate there's a strong appetite from the tourism industries in these countries".

A formal letter was recently submitted by the group to the offices of both the Australian and New Zealand Prime Ministers, outlining the benefits of including its nations in a regional travel bubble.

Canaveral hits back

PORT Canaveral Chief Executive Officer John Murray believes the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention is unfairly blaming the cruise industry for COVID-19.

Murray's Port's revenue is down by US\$7.5 million a month, with the former Hapag-Lloyd USA Chief Executive Officer asserting the cruise industry has been scapegoated as the vehicle for the coronavirus in the US.



CELEBRITY X CRUISES
SAIL BEYOND™

POST YOUR BEST WELLNESS SELFIE TO WIN A CRUISE FOR 2

This month Cruise Weekly has partnered with Celebrity Cruises to give you the chance to WIN a free cruise for two people onboard *Celebrity Solstice* departing Sydney.

Just like you, we're dreaming of seeing new shorelines on the horizon. Until then, we want to ensure you are looking after yourself because a little bit of self-love goes a long way!

How to enter:

1. Snap your best wellness selfie (whatever that means to you)
2. Post the shot in *Celebrity's Trade Facebook Group*
3. Include the hashtags #ModernLuxury and #CruiseWeekly

The most creative entry which features both hashtags will win!

