



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Travel Daily's Sustainability Summit**.

RCL cashes up

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises (RCL) has increased its revolving credit capacity by US\$550 million in order to boost its liquidity in light of the impacts of COVID-19.

The cruise line said it will also reduce capital expenditures, operating expenses and take other actions to improve liquidity by at least a further US\$1.7 billion this year.

RCL also announced it will withdraw its first quarter and full-year 2020 guidance, citing "uncertainty of changes" in relation to COVID-19.

CLIA unveils new one-stop platform

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia will launch a new generation online platform next month, which will see all its education and member services hosted in one location (*CW* breaking news).

The new platform, which will combine the existing CLIA Learning Academy and CLIA Member Hub, will introduce new features, new content and streamlined services.

The new CLIA Member Hub will provide travel agents with dedicated areas for individual cruise lines, featuring BDM contact lists, webinars, brochures, news and promotions, and cruise line training.

Agents will also be able to access a calendar that combines CLIA events with cruise line initiatives, such as information evenings, ship inspections and roadshows.



Additionally, existing education components will be updated, while entirely new courses will also be rolled out.

"The new platform will be a fantastic asset for travel agents, delivering education in a more engaging and visual format," said CLIA Head of International Training & Development Peter Kollar.

"It will offer important resources to use as day-to-day references, while at the same time giving

agents better education options to support their development into the future."

CLIA is advising agents who are currently working on education modules to ensure they are completed by 05 Apr, as partially finished work cannot be transferred to the new platform, which goes live on 06 Apr.

Members can expect to receive further details and step-by-step instructions from CLIA before the launch of the new platform.



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Uniworld update

UNIWORLD told *Cruise Weekly* it has experienced some cancellations by guests who were booked for destinations such as Italy as a result of the COVID-19 situation, with others simply delaying their travel plans.

The company said there is, however, a spike in bookings for other destinations that are currently less affected, such as South America.

The river cruise line said it “has always and will continue to reinforce stringent safety and thorough sanitation protocols aboard all ships”, including professional health and hygiene training for crew members.

For more information on Uniworld’s precautionary measures and updated cancellation policy, [CLICK HERE](#).

Avalon cans christening



AVALON Waterways has cancelled the christening celebration of its newest ship, the *Avalon View* (**CW** 14 Nov 2019), in light of the “heightened sensitivity” in the travel industry surrounding COVID-19.

The 166-passenger suite ship (**pictured**) was set to be christened by journalist Meredith Viera, who was appointed as the vessel’s godmother, on the Danube River in Austria in Apr.

“We understand the importance of our partners to be close to home and connected with their clients and teammates,” a spokesperson for the cruise line said.

“We will use that time and energy to continue to work through the challenges and changes that our partners are facing, and will look to a new day of celebration for all of us when the situation eases.”

Policy changes

SOUTH Sea Cruises will provide a full refund to guests who cancel their booking in writing more than 24 hours before departure.

Additionally, amendment fees will be waived for bookings changed more than 24 hours before departure.

CroisiEurope Cruises has also amended its policy, allowing guests to cancel without fees up to 30 days before departure, for new bookings made from 09 Mar-01 May, for departures before 31 Aug.

Hurti British Isles

HURTIGRUTEN has announced its 2021 collection of British Isles sailings, featuring four new itineraries with prices from \$3,885pp - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.



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NZ warns off cruise

NEW Zealand has followed in Australia's footsteps (**CW** 10 Mar), and is now advising its citizens, particularly those with underlying health conditions, to "reconsider" taking an overseas cruise due to the COVID-19 situation.

New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade issued a statement saying "the virus can spread quickly on board cruises due to the close contact between passengers", warning travellers that some cruise ships have been placed into quarantine.

Cruise agent rates online



THE Travel Industry Club (TIC) has today rolled out a new 24/7 online booking engine for cruises and flights, with the aim of arming its members with the "ultimate travel research tool".

Powered by Odysseus, the system gives users access to TIC's global network of cruise and airline deals exclusively available to staff working in the industry.

TIC's owner, Sue Francis, told **CW** the system was the culmination of years of experience.

"Over 15 years ago I made a commercial decision to focus on becoming a cruise specialist...I could see even back then how the

cruise industry was growing and I was determined to be part of it."

She said the new Odysseus platform would make The Travel Industry Club "a one-stop shop for travel professionals to create their own dream holiday".

Industry staff wanting to become a TIC member can phone 02 9700 8711 or see the website at industryclub.com.au.

The new portal was unveiled aboard Journey Beyond Cruise Sydney's *Spirit of Migaloo*.

Pictured are Craig Owens, Journey Beyond; Sue Francis, Travel Industry Club; and Dave Upton from Odysseus.

NEW ZEALAND CRUISE ASSOCIATION
He Waka Eke Nua

NZCA UPDATE

with Kevin O'Sullivan
CEO, NZCA



Industry continues to weather the storm

WE ARE extremely disappointed that the New Zealand Government has decided to implement a travel advisory that warns New Zealanders not to cruise.

This followed on from similar advisory notices from the United States of America and Australia, aimed at travellers from those countries, and will have a negative impact on the global cruise industry.

Stringent hygiene standards on cruise ships and strict controls on embarkation make it a safe environment, probably more so than many other activities.

Many will continue to choose to cruise, but these poorly conceived warnings may deter others who will miss out on the great experience that cruise offers.

At this difficult time for tourism we need more support from government, and not be targeted with warnings that have little basis in sound risk evaluation.

I hope that these advisory notices will be in place for a short time only and we can continue to rely on cruise tourists to grow the New Zealand economy in the future.



YOU'VE heard of hot dogs, but how about ice dogs?

Just ask Heidi, a seven-month-old German Shepherd, and King, an 18-month-old small mixed breed, who were stranded on an ice floe in Chaleur Bay, Canada, for five days.

It is believed the two pups had been chasing a fox when it led them onto the ice, where they found themselves stranded.

Despite many unsuccessful rescue attempts, the dogs found their way ashore on Sat after an estimated 80km adventure and are now home safe and warm with their owner.



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Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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