



Cruise Weekly today

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

P&O's pause

P&O Cruises Australia has joined Carnival Cruise Line (CW yesterday) in extending its pause in operations in Australasia until 31 Aug.

"Australia and New Zealand have led the world in flattening the COVID-19 curve, which adds to our optimism for the future," enthused P&O Cruises Australia boss Sture Myrmell.

"We also recognise a further extension is the prudent and responsible course."

Itineraries directly affected include Dawn's scheduled Brisbane departures between 16 Jun and 26 Aug and Explorer's Sydney departures between 24 Jun and 24 Aug.

NCLH moves to shore up finances

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has admitted the effects of COVID-19 on the shipyards where it has nine newbuilds on order are likely to result in potentially prolonged delays to deliveries, with the pandemic "expected to depress demand for cruise vacations into the foreseeable future".

The downbeat brief was part of a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission overnight, which also confirmed a range of measures to raise about US\$2 billion to boost the company's liquidity.

Without raising cash, the financial report cited "substantial doubts about the company's ability to continue as a going concern," but also detailed share offerings, US\$515 million in capital expenditure reductions and other financing measures currently being finalised.

Additionally, NCLH is in negotiations to further reduce spending by US\$170 million for newbuild-related payments.

The company said that as of 31 Mar it has US\$1.8 billion in advanced ticket sales, including about US\$850m for previously announced voyage cancellations.

As of 24 Apr about half the guests on cancelled sailings with Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises have requested cash refunds, the company said.

"We continue to take future bookings for 2020, 2021 and 2022, and receive new customer deposits and final payments on these bookings which will offset a portion of the outflow from expected cash refunds".

The wide-ranging update also confirmed the company is facing three class action lawsuits that allege it made false and

misleading statements to the market and to its customers about COVID-19.

Shares in the company slumped almost 25% in trading after the announcement was released.

However the update also confirmed a US\$400 million convertible note placement with private equity firm L Catterton, which said the cruise sector had overcome numerous challenges in the past.

"We expect that the industry will rebound and prosper with even further enhancements to their already rigorous health and safety protocols in place in the future," the financier said.

"We couldn't be more excited to support the team at Norwegian as they work through this suspension of travel and begin to commence operations after their voluntary suspension of voyages," it added.

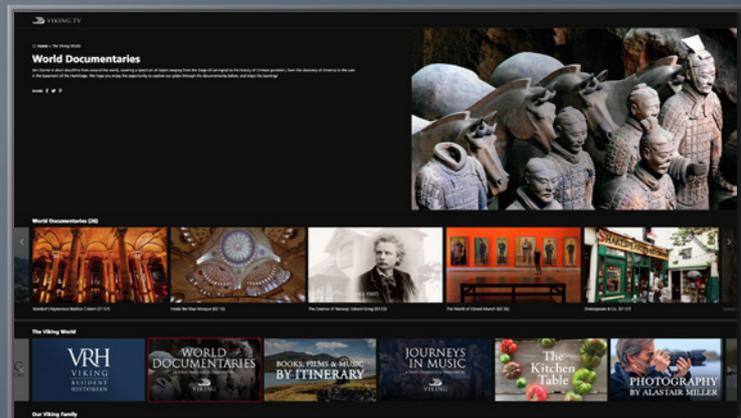
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We've been busy using the time in self-isolation to create and launch our brand new digital destination, *Viking.TV*.

It's a way for us to unite our community and inspire our culturally curious guests from their own homes, until we are able to explore the world together again.

It's also a great tool for you, our trade partner, to see all that's happening in the world of Viking through inspiring, informative and enriching content in one location.

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How have cruise operators coped with the coronavirus crisis? Read more in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

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WE ALL miss hitting the water, but it appears some of us are missing it more than others!

Three British men have been fined for flouting lockdown restrictions following their rescue, after they became stranded in a boat on the Exe River near Topsham, United Kingdom.

Devon and Cornwall Police were called at around 10pm following reports the trio of 30-somethings had become stuck rowing their boat.

The situation soon called on the expertise of the local fire service, a police helicopter and the Coastguard Rescue Team.

The United Kingdom's lockdown regulations preclude recreational water sports activities, which are classed as "non-essential".

It is one of a number of recent incidents in the area, where emergency services have been required to attend.

Genting offers its ships

GENTING Hong Kong has extended support to Singapore to provide temporary accommodation on *SuperStar Gemini* and *SuperStar Aquarius* for foreign workers who have recovered from COVID-19.

Following stringent evaluation checks of the ships by the Singapore Government, the company's Head of International Sales Michael Goh thanked Singapore for the show of trust.

"We thank the Singapore

Government for their confidence in our ships to pioneer such an important initiative for the country and the region during these challenging times," he said.

"Singapore has been our homeport for over 26 years and we are proud to extend our support with *SuperStar Gemini*, as well as *SuperStar Aquarius*, that had recently arrived in Singapore.

"From the onset of the pandemic, Genting had implemented stringent precautionary measures, including the highest standards of preventive hygiene, sanitization and disinfection procedures to safeguard the well-being of all guests and crew.

"As such, there have been no reported cases of COVID-19 among guests or crew to date while on board or transmitted via any of Genting's cruise ships."

Uniworld preps

UNIWORLD has revamped its health & safety protocols onboard its ships in preparation for return to service.

President & Chief Executive Officer Ellen Bettridge & her team have reviewed "every protocol of interaction" in preparation for the industry's return, with new safety measures to be added to onboard dining, the maintenance and service of guest suites and more.



CLIA UPDATE

with **Joel Katz**
MD, CLIA Australasia

Education is more important than ever

CLIA Australasia's next-generation education platform is now live, giving travel agents access to new learning experiences in a single, streamlined location. Its development has been a long-term project – partly prompted by the retirement of Adobe's Flash technology – but the current crisis in travel has made education more important than ever, so we're pleased to offer new resources.

Combining the previous CLIA Learning Academy and CLIA Member Hub, the new platform introduces new features, new content and simplified services to make life easier and boost cruise knowledge.

Key additions include dedicated areas for individual cruise lines, offering tools such as BDM contact lists, webinars, brochures, news, promotions, and cruise line training. There is also an amalgamated calendar combining CLIA events with cruise line initiatives such as info evenings, ship inspections and more. Existing education components have been updated, while new courses are also being introduced.

Importantly, the new CLIA Member Hub provides a home for some of the resources we are developing in response to COVID-19. An initial selection of materials is available via the CLIA Members Hub, including links to information and downloadable assets, and more will be available soon. CLIA members can access the new Members Hub at www.cruising.org.au.



Adv Canada offer

SAVINGS are available on 2021 expedition voyages with Adventure Canada around the eastern province of Newfoundland.

A 15% discount is available to 31 Oct for the 11-night Newfoundland Circumnavigation, departing 30 Sep 2021, with relaxed booking conditions also accessible until 30 Jun.

Travelling aboard *Ocean Endeavour*, the offer is available through Cruise Traveller, and includes a free one-night pre-cruise stay in the province's capital, St. Johns.

shout out to...

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