

Cruise Weekly today

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

Fain is optimistic

ROYAL Caribbean Group Chief Executive Officer Richard Fain has shared an update on how the Delta variant is impacting cruise bookings, admitting the company's position was behind where it had hoped.

However, Fain was resolute Delta had not budged the industry's underlying course.

"Bookings, especially those in the near term, are still not at the level we and you want to make the kind of money that we all need," Fain said.

"Forward booking shows that the pent-up demand is strong - all in all it's precisely the direct trajectory that we hoped for pre-Delta".

Govt hurting Aboriginal communities

THE Australian Government's inaction on a cruise restart is hurting Aboriginal communities, Ponant Chair Asia Pacific Sarina Bratton told Fri's Cruise Lines International Association Cruise Forum (**CW** 27 Aug).

The many Indigenous communities Ponant deals with, particularly in North West Australia (**pictured**), have now missed two years of revenue tied to shore excursions, including \$1.6m this year, Bratton revealed.

"These people give you an example of the scale we're talking about," she said.

"It's devastating for them."

Bratton said the affected communities have recently written to the Prime Minister to draw attention to the situation.

The circumstance is one example of many similar situations Bratton detailed, which also included food & beverage



operators and travel advisors.

"You have a look at the Australians who are employed aboard ships...we've got expedition leaders, we've got naturalists, we've got guest lecturers, we've got entertainers, we have spa personnel, all of these people don't have jobs,"

Bratton said.

"When we're talking about domestic restarts, 90% of the business is booked through travel agents, against where there's been govt subsidies to domestic flights or vouchers - how much flows through our valued travel agent - very, very, little."

AUSTRALIANS WILL BE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL WHEN WE REACH 80% OF THE POPULATION VACCINATED, SO LETS

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#letsgetto80



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Crystal returns to the river



CRYSTAL River Cruises has celebrated the resumption of European river cruising aboard *Crystal Debussy* and *Crystal Ravel*.

Sailing from Vilshofen on a seven-night Danube itinerary featuring calls in Germany, Austria and Hungary, *Ravel* departed on Sun, while *Debussy* left yesterday from Basel to cruise the Rhine on a seven-night itinerary with calls in Switzerland, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Crystal's staff has recently been prepping the vessels, refreshing their training, and implementing

new Crystal Clean+ procedures.

All guests and crews are required to be fully vaccinated as part of Crystal Clean+, which means guests will be allowed to explore ashore independently.

"After months of planning and preparation we are excited to welcome our guests back on board to experience the attentive service and personalised care of our devoted staff on cruises to the best-loved destinations of Europe's scenic rivers," said Crystal River Cruises Senior Vice President & MD Walter Littlejohn.

Princess returns

PRINCESS Cruises has updated its return to operations timings for *Diamond Princess* and *Island Princess*.

Diamond will return to service in northern spring 2022 with a season of Japan sailings, while *Island* will also return to service in the northern spring 2022, with a series of cruises to the Caribbean.

Details of both new programs will be announced shortly.

HAL coming back

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has announced May 2022 return-to-service dates for *Volendam* and *Zaandam*.

Returning on 01 May, *Volendam* will offer longer explorations ranging from 14 to 35 days to the Baltic, Norway, and the British Isles, all roundtrip from Rotterdam.

Volendam will also sail along the Iberian Peninsula to the Mediterranean and down to Egypt and Israel.

Zaandam restarts on 12 May in the Canada/New England region, with a cruise from Fort Lauderdale to Boston, followed by itineraries between Boston and Montreal.

The ship will offer the popular 35-day Voyage of the Vikings itinerary next Jul, sailing roundtrip from Boston to Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Ireland.

Meanwhile, *Zuiderdam* will also sail the Grand World Voyage in 2023.



WHEN you picture hot pursuit, you often imagine movies such as *Bullitt*, *Gone in 60 Seconds* and *The Blues Brothers*.

However, a recent fresh pursuit wasn't quite that, after British officers utilised pedal boats, canoes and paddleboards, after a suspect entered a lake.

It all started when police received a report of a robbery in Dartmouth, with an initial motorbike chase taking place.

After crashing, the suspects took off on foot, at which point one was captured, and the other tried to swim away in a local lake.

Officers went after him on a pedal boat, in a canoe and on a paddleboard, but after going under, he was rescued by the police, at which point he was arrested, and joined his not-so-fleet friend in custody.

New Aurora sale

AURORA Expeditions is offering up to 25% off its worldwide destinations for a variety of journeys in 2022 and 2023.

The Iceland Circumnavigation (01-11 Aug 2022), the Greenland Odyssey (10-26 Aug 2022), the Across the Antarctic Circle (07-09 Jan 2023), and the Antarctica Complete (13 Mar-04 Apr 2023) itineraries are all included.

Voyages must be booked and deposited by 30 Sep.

Other terms and conditions apply - **CLICK HERE** for more information.



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