



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Canada 2022 plans

**AUTHORITIES** in Canada are expected to shortly announce details of a 2022 cruise restart.

Andrew Dixon, Cruise Committee Chair at the Association of Canadian Ports Authorities said he was optimistic that Transport Canada would lift the country's current blanket cruise ban effective from 01 Jan next year.

A letter from the Committee to new Canadian Minister of Transport, Omar Alghabra, noted "Canada is approaching a significant threshold in its fight against COVID-19 as increasing numbers of Canadians receive their vaccinations".

Dixon urged the government to "send a clear signal to the cruise industry that it wants cruise in Canada" by rescinding the current no-sail order by 31 Dec to allow for vessel fit-up and staff training in advance of the normal cruise season.

The Committee also asked that the order be modified to allow ships with a maximum of 500 passengers and crew to undertake trial voyages in specific regions from 31 Oct, to "clearly signal that Canada is planning for safe recovery, and open to safe cruise tourism".

## Ponant Tropics 2022-23



**PONANT** has announced its 2022 and 2023 Tropical Expeditions with 67 diverse offerings including the Kimberley (pictured), as well as East Africa, Melanesia, and Southeast Asia.

The release includes some brand new itineraries, many of which are off the beaten track and perfect for explorers, according to General Manager Sales & Marketing Asia Pacific Deb Corbett.

A highlight is the Japanese Subtropical Islands itinerary, the first expedition cruise in the world that goes to the heart of destinations in southern Japan such as Kikaishima, Zamami, Kumejima, Iriomote Ishigaki National Park, and Yonaguni.

Travelling between Osaka and Keelung on board *Le Soleal*, the seven-night itinerary departs twice during May 2022.

Ponant has also added a "twist of exotic" to its regular Kimberley season of expeditions by adding

a new 14-night itinerary that departs Broome on 05 Sep 2022 onboard *Le Laperouse*.

The Wild Landscapes of the Kimberley & South-East Asia itinerary features the highlights of the Kimberley, including the Lacepede Islands, the Hunter River, King George Falls & Jar Island, Montgomery Reef, and Wyndham, as well as Dili in East Timor, and the Alor Archipelago in Indonesia.

The season also includes the Zanzibar and the Jewels of the Indian Ocean, and the Revealing the Mysteries of Melanesia.

"I am pleased to say that with Ponant's responsible protocols onboard as well as ashore, its fleet of modern eco-sensitive small ships and limited guest numbers, there is no risk of overwhelming any local communities during our privileged visits to these scattered coastal and island destinations," Corbett added.

### Viking near sellout

**MANY** of Viking's most popular ocean voyages for 2022 are already sold out, or have limited staterooms available on remaining departures, the cruise line announced today.

Just a handful of cabins remain on the Viking Homelands voyage next year, while fully sold itineraries for 2022 include the 15-day British Isles Explorer and the 15-day Iceland's Majestic Landscapes.

The 29-day Mediterranean's Iconic Shores is also fully sold for Apr-Jun and Aug-Sep next year, with just Jul 2022 left.

Viking Managing Director Aus & NZ, Michelle Black, said "while we may not be able to explore beyond our shores just yet, the rest of the world is starting to travel once again".

Staterooms can be held for a \$500 per person deposit, with Viking's Risk-Free Guarantee extended for bookings until the end of this month - 131 787 (AU)/0800 447 913 (NZ).

### MSC US role

**MSC** Cruises has recruited former SeaDream Yacht Club VP of Sales for the Americas, Kris Endreson, as MSC's new VP strategic sales for the USA.

MSC said the appointment reflected the fact that "the US remains a key pillar of our global growth strategy".



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## Carnival app-date

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has expanded its HUB application to include additional food & beverage functionality, health & safety and more.

Guests will find spa and shore excursion booking capabilities, and virtual queuing for onboard venues as part of the new HUB.

The app was the first to enable pizza and beer delivery, and this popular function will be expanded to include menus for all shipboard dining and beverage offerings, which will be available in a digital form using QR codes.

HUB will also be expanded to include dining check-in functionality to additional guests and venues, in addition to Your Time Dining.

Guests will soon be able to reserve seats virtually for various venues on board, and be alerted when it is time to arrive for their function.

Additionally, guests will be able to check-in to virtual queues for select locations on board, including guest services, and be alerted when their place in line is ready.

Guests will also be able to leverage HUB to reserve tickets for BOLT, the first roller coaster at sea, debuting on *Mardi Gras* 31 Jul from Port Canaveral (CW 17 Dec 2018).

Additional enhancements to HUB capabilities will be rolled out in the coming months.

## Proud to be partners



**P&O** Cruises Australia has launched its new partnership with the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) ahead of the line's inaugural Pride Cruise, which will sail from Sydney in Nov next year (CW 25 Mar).

The alliance will add even more glamour and glitz to the cruise, while also raising funds for Australia's oldest community-based HIV organisation.

P&O will donate one dollar for every guest booked on the Pride Cruise to BGF, and will also create a range of special onboard events to raise money for the charity, including a themed cocktail evening, and a dazzling ticketed gala night, which will be hosted by one of the partnership's ambassadors, Simon Dunn (pictured right next to BGF Chief Executive Officer Nick Lawson).

Dunn is the first openly gay male to represent any country in bobsled, and guests who want

to enjoy some fitness fun during the cruise will be able to book a personal training session with him, with proceeds going to BGF.

As part of its commitment to the Foundation, P&O recently donated a stateroom on the Pride Cruise for auction at a BGF event, raising thousands of dollars.

The line's President Sture Myrmell said his company was proud to create an alliance with BGF, as part of its celebration of diverse communities.

"P&O is committed to diversity and inclusivity so we're excited to forge this new partnership with Bobby Goldsmith Foundation which will create even more ways for our Pride Cruise to benefit the LGBTQIA+ community.

"The Pride Cruise is a fantastic addition to our suite of Main Event cruises, which are known for their celebratory atmosphere and great entertainment, and we think it's going to be a huge hit."



**NEW ZEALAND CRUISE ASSOCIATION**  
*He Waka Eke Noa*  
**NZCA UPDATE**  
with Kevin O'Sullivan  
CEO, NZCA

### Vaccination the key

**AUSTRALIA** and New Zealand have had to focus on regional and nationwide responses to outbreaks of COVID-19.

This changed everything, not just in tourism but in everyday life, with so many restrictions imposed, and brought to the surface the fears we have had engrained in our psyche.

So much depends on both countries improving our woefully inadequate vaccination roll out.

*The New York Times* publishes a list of countries' vaccination rates, and you have to scroll a long way down to find Australia, and even further to find NZ.

Our earlier response to COVID-19 had been regarded by many as the best in the world.

But when it comes to vaccinations the wheels have fallen off.

There are very good reasons advanced by government for this, but we need to do much better if we are to move towards economic recovery in tourism.

Until we see a greater degree of vaccination in our two countries we are resigned to very little happening in cruising in Australian waters and around New Zealand.

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## Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients.



**THIS** year's list of most popular boat names, as compiled by BoatUS Boat Graphics & Lettering, contains one or two opportune inclusions.

Perhaps owing to the ease with which the seas lend to this practice, *Social Distancing* was the second most-popular boat name last year.

It finished second to *Andiamo* (meaning "let's go" in Italian), which was listed as the most popular name for boats last year.

*Social Distancing* joined a number of fitting vessel names given the pandemic, such as *Freedom*, *Serenity*, and even *Shenanigans*.

Popular returnees from last year include *Cool Change*, *Island Time* and *Knot On Call*.

**CW** wonders if *Anti-vaccination* will appear on next year's list.

## Swan Hellenic float out



**SWAN** Hellenic's first bespoke expedition cruise ship *SH Minerva* (pictured), and her sister ship *SH Vega*, recently floated out in Helsinki, with the cruise line's CEO Andrea Zito (inset) on hand.

The first and second of three next-generation ships under construction for Swan Hellenic will be battery-ready for future emission-free silent sailing in wildlife and marine reserves as well as ports, as will project name Vega 3, the cruise line's third ship.

The largest ship commissioned from the yard, steelwork production started for Vega 3 a few days prior to the float-out.

*Minerva* provides spacious five-star accommodation for 152 guests in 76 spacious cabins and suites, the vast majority of which will feature large balconies.

She prides herself on the latest hygiene technology, which includes air conditioning with HEPA filters and UV sanitisation systems.

*Minerva* features an expedition laboratory, marine life library and

observation lounge for lectures by expert expedition leaders and specialists from a wide range of disciplines.

Expedition day trips by Zodiac are a central feature of the programs offered, along with kayaking, trekking and more.

The on-board amenities include a gym, spa, sauna, panoramic restaurant, a pool deck with bar, and a club lounge serving world-class cuisine.

## Save almost \$10k

**SAVINGS** of almost \$10,000 are available on a new Crystal Cruises Business class air and cruise package from Australia in 2023 on offer from Cruise Traveller.

Solo travellers booking the Australia to Singapore fly, cruise and stay package by the end of the month can save \$8,425, while couples can save \$5,080, the wholesaler said.

Travelling in Mar 2023, the 24-night holiday begins in Brisbane on 02 Mar 2023, when guests will board the 980-passenger *Crystal Serenity*.

The Pathways through Papua package visits destinations including Papua New Guinea, the Sunshine Coast, Gladstone, the Solomon Islands & more, before flying home in style from Singapore - **CLICK HERE**.

## More Tauck tours

**TAUCK** will further resume operations by Sep, after a staged restart of its operations in Europe and Africa last month (**CW** 03 Jun).

The announcement includes the return of Tauck's Danube and Rhine river cruises, which will take place in the coming two months.

Tauck expects to operate more than 80% of its pre-pandemic portfolio of tours and cruises this year, with a full return of all itineraries slated for 2022.

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