



Cruise Weekly today

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

Escape to WA

ISLAND Escape Cruises' inaugural season has expanded (CW 05 Feb), with the line granted a permit to now offer voyages in Western Australia.

The company has released a 12-night Wild Kimberley Coast itinerary, operating from Jul to Sep, before the commencement of its Great Barrier Reef season.

The maiden voyage will be departing roundtrip from Broome on 04 Jul.

Prices are all-inclusive, and start from \$12,950 per person, with six voyages currently listed on the website - for more, [CLICK HERE](#).

Cunard and Viking to restart in the UK

CUNARD Line and Viking will offer United Kingdom-based sailings from May for British guests, with the Government of the UK having recently confirmed cruising within the country can restart in around two months.

Queen Elizabeth (pictured) will sail from Cunard's home port of Southampton, with voyages to go on sale later this month.

Viking will restart with three special eight-day sailings departing roundtrip from Portsmouth exploring England's shores on board the cruise line's newest ocean ship *Viking Venus*, which will be delivered in Apr.

Pre-registration for Viking's season is currently open only to Viking past guests, with more details about the voyages to be released and general reservations available in due course.

More details about Cunard's season will be revealed later



this month, with a number of international sailings to be cancelled, including *Queen Elizabeth's* Mediterranean summer fly-cruise season, and all departures up to and including 11 Oct.

All Cunard guests whose cruises have been cancelled

will automatically receive a future cruise credit worth 125% of what they paid, which can be redeemed against any new booking made by the end of the year on any cruise on sale.

A 100% refund is also available through the form on www.cunard.com.

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Cruise Saudi appoints two more

CRUISE Saudi has further strengthened its shoreside team to aid the development of the country's cruise industry.

Barbara Grabenweger and Serafin Blazquez will serve as Director of Shore Excursions & Product Development, and Executive Director of Port and Terminal Operations respectively.

Previously with Royal Caribbean Group, Grabenweger's specialities lie in the development of sustainable shore experiences to protect the environment.

Blazquez, previously of InterCruises, has significant experience delivering innovative advancements in port operations.

Both will be responsible for developing each cruise line's tailor-made shore excursion product, as well as overseeing service delivery and consistency.

"I am delighted that Barbara and Serafin are joining our team," Chief Commercial & Operations Officer Mark Robinson enthused.

"Their expertise in both shorex and ports operations will be extremely valuable to the realisation of the vision that Cruise Saudi plans to deliver to the cruise market," he added.

Dreaming of more pax



DREAM Cruises yesterday welcomed Singapore's 100,000th passenger at the city's Marina Bay Cruise Centre.

The lucky guest Amin Abdul Rahim and his family (pictured), were presented with a collection of prizes and goodies, including an upgrade to the all-inclusive, all-suite Palace accommodation for their voyage.

"My family and I were surprised and are extremely honoured to be the 100,000th cruise passenger, as this is our first time on board *World Dream*," Rahim said.

"We had heard many good things about the cruise and we are especially looking forward to the Halal-certified cuisine which is so important to us.

"We are also excited about experiencing The Palace and we

can't wait to share our experience with our family and friends."

Starting with *World's* first sailing on 06 Nov (**CW** 09 Nov 2020), the Super Seacation itineraries have been worry-free, Dream noted.

"Having pioneered the safe pilot cruises in Singapore, we are excited to be part of this important milestone to celebrate Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore's 100,000th cruise pax since the program started," said President Michael Goh.

"We hope to continue to welcome more Singapore residents aboard *World Dream* throughout the year."

Goh also announced the ship had become the first in the world to receive a 3-year Certification in Infection Prevention - Maritime (CIP-M) from international accredited registrar DNV.

Canx update

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) have announced extensions of their global cruise voyages through to the end of Jun.

HAL has paused all Alaska cruises sailing roundtrip from Seattle, with six new voyages on *Eurodam* and *Oosterdam* with a call at Victoria impacted.

Guests will be able to rebook a comparable voyage in 2022, with Holland America noting that at this time, Alaska cruises sailing roundtrip from Seattle and departing in Jul and onward have not been cancelled.

For more information, guests are encouraged to consult their travel advisor.

NCLH's suspension includes all voyages for its Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises brands.

The company said it will continue to work in tandem with global government and public health authorities, as well as its Healthy Sail Panel experts, to take all necessary measures to protect its guests, crews and the communities visited.

Guests who are currently booked on a cancelled voyage are asked to contact their travel advisor or the cruise line for more info.

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Travel Daily



WE KNEW Aurora Expeditions' Greg Mortimer was arriving in Australia (CW 04 Mar), but we didn't know it would be so soon!

Viewers of Network 10's *The Amazing Race Australia* were last night treated to an appearance by Aurora's founder, who joined the show's host Beau Ryan (pictured) at the pit stop to greet teams as they completed the race's 20th leg.

The episode saw contestants race through the Blue Mountains, and complete tasks such as abseiling down Empress Falls and crossing over an abyss at Mount Boyd, making the legendary mountaineer the perfect choice to greet adventure-weary teams as they reached the end of the leg.



Meet Vista right



OCEANIA Cruises has announced the name of the first of its two 1,200-guest Allura class ships will be *Vista*.

Currently being constructed by Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri, Oceania's seventh vessel will set sail in 2023, followed by her sister ship in 2025.

Named to reflect the "dawn of a new age in travel", *Vista's* aim will be to deliver "the best cuisine at sea", as well as personalised

service, with two staff members for every three guests.

Guests will experience a warm and welcoming ambiance through *Vista's* residential furnishings, with the ship to introduce several firsts for Oceania in the realms of dining and guest experience.

A highlight will be *Vista's* public spaces, such as the Grand Dining Room (pictured), which will be almost two decks in height, and pay homage to early 20th-century Parisian society through its contemporary interpretation of Belle Epoque.

"Oceania Cruises is an innovative and ever-evolving brand," President & Chief Executive Officer Bob Binder declared.

"We are always looking over the horizon, and *Vista* represents our view to the future."

"Our officers and crew are always bringing great new ideas to the forefront and then implementing them."



Start me up Scottie

ENCOURAGING news out of Singapore with Dream Cruises and Marina Bay Cruise Centre announcing the 100,000th cruise passenger since the commencement of their COVID safe program "Safe Pilot Cruises" in Nov 2020.

This milestone is a beacon for other countries approaching cruise re-start, illustrating that when industry and Govt work together following a stringent set of protocols and procedures guided by good science, successful outcomes can follow.

The UK industry has also announced their plans to begin cruising in May with their strategy to encourage domestic cruising closely aligning with our proposed pathway in Australia.

We are hopeful that these success stories will build confidence with the Government to green light our start-up here.

The cruise industry has traditionally provided much needed economic support for regional communities around the Australian coastline.

While the Government has recognised the importance of some of these communities with the discounted airfare program, a long term sustained approach is needed to make sure the money flows to all levels of the community.

Cruising allows this to happen with port fees and refuelling through to the support of local tour operators, guides and experiences along with dollars going into f&b outlets.

This much-needed support comes from both crew and passengers who are regular visitors.

We look forward to ongoing discussions with the Govt and more urgency focused on the industry start-up for the economic good of the country.

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