



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Indo canx calls

**INDONESIAN** cruise stakeholders have raised concerns over conflicting port regulations in the country.

While recent cruise calls in Jakarta and Bali have gone ahead as normal, stops in Surabaya and Semarang have been rejected, ostensibly due to COVID-infected passengers on board.

The issue was brought up during the Indonesia Inbound Tour Operator Association meeting with cruise stakeholders in Jakarta, local media has reported.

Ships with cancelled calls include Oceania's *Regatta* and *Viking Orion*.

## Carnival Corp to offload three ships

**CARNIVAL** Corporation says it is "continuing to close the gap" towards profitability, releasing figures for the three months to 30 Nov, showing improvements on revenue per passenger cruise day, improved cancellation trends and a "measurable lengthening in the booking curve across all brands".

Total customer deposits hit a fourth quarter record of USD\$5.1 billion as of 30 Nov, surpassing the previous record of USD\$4.9 billion, as of 30 Nov 2019.

However, occupancy for the quarter remained 19 percentage points below 2019 levels, despite capacity in guest cruise operations approaching pre-pandemic levels.

This was however better than the prior quarter, which was 29 percentage points below 2019 levels, on 8% lower capacity than pre-pandemic.

"Throughout 2022, we have

successfully returned our fleet to service, aggressively building occupancy on growing capacity, while driving revenue per passenger cruise day higher than 2019 record levels, both in the fourth quarter and full year overall," Chief Executive Officer Josh Weinstein said.

"We have also actively managed down our costs while investing to build future demand."

Weinstein said highlights for the quarter included booking volumes strengthening following the relaxation in protocols, cancellation trends improving globally, and a measurable lengthening in the booking curve across all its brands.

"The momentum has continued into Dec, which bodes well for 2023 overall as more markets open for cruise travel, protocols continue to relax, our closer to home itineraries play out, our

stepped-up advertising efforts pay dividends and our brands continue to hone all aspects of their revenue generating activities," he said.

Carnival also said it expects to remove three smaller, less-efficient ships from its fleet, two of which will be from the Costa Cruises brand.

The plan is part of Carnival's strategy to right-size the Costa brand in light of the continued closure of cruise operations in China, where the line has a significant presence.

Once completed in spring 2024, Carnival's fleet optimisation strategy will have reduced Costa's capacity so that it approximates the cruise line's 2019 capacity it dedicated outside of Asia to its core markets in Europe.

Carnival now expects total capacity growth of 3% for next year, compared to 2019.



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## PORTHOLE

**ROYAL Caribbean**  
International's *Symphony of the Seas* has saved more than 20 Cubans floating on a raft in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.  
*Symphony* was travelling near Cuba, en route to the Bahamas, when it encountered the distressed vessel, which had been floating around for six days.  
"The whole crew and all 5,000 passengers that were up top watching this unfold were all cheering and were just kind of happy to see people being rescued," one of the passengers told *Fox News*.

## HAL spices up Christmas



**HOLLAND America Line** (HAL) has chosen 11 winners for its popular Gingerbread housemaking competition.  
Jeff Dimand, Susan Gowlett, Patricia Greene, Karen Hale, Elyse Hebblewhite, Tracy King,

Vanessa McGrath, Kezza O'Neal, Rodney Pattison, Tracy Solomon, and Chantelle Stewart all scored themselves a \$50 voucher for their sweet creations.

The **Cruise Weekly** team believes OVC's submission (**pictured**), courtesy of Chantelle Stewart, to be of particular distinction - well done guys and a merry Christmas!

## MSC TX homeport

**MSC Cruises** has announced plans for a fourth American homeport in Texas.

The cruise line is negotiating with Galveston Wharves for the development of a cruise terminal at the Port of Galveston.

The facility will join MSC's American terminals in Miami and Port Canaveral, with the cruise line's New York City home port to launch in Apr.

MSC said it will announce more details next year, including the timing of the launch, itineraries, and which ship(s) will sail from Galveston.

"Bringing our modern, glamorous ships to Texas would provide even more access and opportunities for guests and travel advisors to experience the future of cruising," President United States Ruben Rodriguez said.

## Viking Egypt 2025

**VIKING** has released its 2025 Egypt river cruise dates, with 120 new departures and a range of pre- and post-cruise extensions.

In response to the strong demand for the region, Viking has committed to the production of additional ships to service the Nile, including its newest purpose-built vessel *Viking Osiris*, which launched earlier this year (**CW** 24 Aug).

The release provides an opportunity for travellers to secure their preferred departure date and stateroom category, with next year's Pharaohs & Pyramids itinerary completely sold out, and limited staterooms available for the 2024 season.

## O Captain my Captain, says Crystal

**THE** reborn Crystal Cruises has announced the return of four of its veteran Captains to take the helm of its ships.

The Abercrombie & Kent-owned cruise line announced the return of Captain Birger Vorland, who was previously at the helm of *Crystal Serenity*, and Captain Nenad Willheim & Captain Tonci Hladilo, both of whom have led *Crystal Esprit*.

Also returning is Captain Vincent Taillard, who has previously commanded a variety of cruise and expedition ships.

Crystal did not announce any specific appointments for the Captains.

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