



Cruise Weekly today

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

Report: Crystal US office shuts down

Chimu luxe range

CHIMU Adventures has launched an Antarctica luxury range for this year.

Options include fine dining in a private camp, indulging in state-of-the-art polar accommodation, while visiting an emperor penguin colony, and the South Pole.

"We've always prided ourselves in having Australia's most comprehensive range of Antarctica product, but there have been a few gaps in our range, mainly in the luxury space," said co-founder Chad Carey.

"Our extended program now includes shorter trips and options for people to lodge on the Antarctic mainland".

CRYSTAL Cruises will shut down its United States office by the end of the week, according to a report from sailor-run website *Crew Center*.

All office employees have received their termination letters earlier this week, and all will wind up their roles by Fri, according to an audio recording spoken by *Crystal Serenity's* (pictured) Captain.

The banks that hold mortgages on Crystal's vessels have appointed V.Ships to act as the cruise line's new management company, with the fleet having reportedly been listed for sale, the Captain said.

V.Ships was unable to return a request for comment by *Cruise Weekly's* deadline today.

"Unfortunately this is the end of Crystal Cruises, and we don't know what's going to happen in the future," the Captain said.



"I have been waiting for a statement from our President, but so far haven't heard a word from their side.

"What's going to happen now and coming ahead I have no clue...as soon as we get a letter from our President I will share it with you."

The reporting brings to an end a long and painful saga for Crystal, which has come under

an increasing amount of financial pressure since the outbreak of COVID, with the first domino to fall the closing of the Australian office (*CW* 09 Apr 2020).

The situation most recently came to a head when *Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony* were both arrested in Freeport at the start of the week after lobbying to Bahamian authorities from creditors.

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ALTHOUGH perhaps once thought to be a life-risking endeavour, the United Kingdom's Thames River could soon get its first designated swimming site.

A local group is applying pressure for a stretch of the Thames through Oxford to be given bathing water status, with members of the public invited to offer their views.

It would be the second river designated for swimming in England.

Azzurra delivered to Emerald



EMERALD Cruises has taken delivery of its first luxury superyacht, *Emerald Azzurra* (pictured) the first of two for the brand.

Departing Ha Long Shipyard in Vietnam on Tue, the 100-guest luxury yacht is headed to Aqaba, where she will welcome guests on board her inaugural sailing on 11 Mar, the Best of the Red Sea cruise.

Azzurra will then transit via the Suez Canal to embark on a season of Mediterranean and Adriatic cruises between Apr and Nov, before she travels to Doha in Dec.

"Today marks a major moment for our team at Emerald Cruises, as the first in our fleet of ocean-going superyachts takes a giant step towards completion," said Scenic Group Chair & founder Glen Moroney.

"We look forward to welcoming

our first guests on board *Emerald Azzurra* and are confident she will exceed all expectations.

"The demand has been unprecedented with her inaugural season almost fully sold."

A first for yacht cruising, *Azzurra* features an innovative infrared sauna for a longer guest wellness experience.

She also features a large infinity pool, a spa, a gym and a marina platform, with SEABOBS, paddleboards and snorkelling equipment available for guests.

A fleet of the latest in e-bikes from Gocycle are also available on board – perfect for local village trips and active explorations.

Azzurra will be joined by her sister yacht *Emerald Sakara* in Feb 2023, which will sail to the Seychelles, the Black Sea and the Middle East, on sale now.

Celebrity Beyond aces sea trials

CELEBRITY Cruises' newest ship *Celebrity Beyond* has taken an important step toward her Apr debut, successfully completing her sea trials over the weekend.

Beyond conducted her sea trials in the Bay of Biscay near her Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint Nazaire.

They were overseen by more than 50 crew members, engineers and nautical experts.

Celebrity Beyond will make her highly anticipated debut on 27 Apr when she sets sail from Southampton on a 10-night Western Europe cruise visiting Bordeaux, Lisbon, Seville, Malaga, Palma, and Barcelona.

"I can't tell you how excited I am to have completed this important milestone as it brings us that much closer to welcoming our guests onboard to enjoy their own 'Journey WonderFULL,' on *Celebrity Beyond*," said President & Chief Executive Officer Lisa Lutoff-Perlo.

Explora new appt

EXPLORA Journeys has announced a new Head of Culinary, Franck Garanger.

He will bring his extensive range of skills to lead the nine gastronomy experiences on board the cruise line's inaugural ship, *Explora I*, which is set to launch on its maiden journey in May 2023.

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