



Cruise Weekly today

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

AQV savings

SAVINGS have been announced on American Queen Voyages' (AQV) new expedition ship *Ocean Discoverer* in Alaska next year.

Travellers can save \$600 per couple and pay no deposit until 30 Jun 2022 on the all-inclusive expedition cruise next year.

Those booking by the end of next month can also access a host of complimentary inclusions, such as a pre-cruise hotel stay, all onboard meals, onboard beverages, comprehensive shore excursions, port charges and ships gratuities.

CLICK HERE for more info.

Cruise reacts to invasion of Ukraine

THE cruise industry's reactions to the Russian invasion of Ukraine have begun, with Atlas Ocean Voyages already cancelling its calls to St. Petersburg.

In lieu of an extended visit to Russia's second-largest city, Atlas' *World Navigator* will call on alternative ports, such as Mariehamn, Finland, and Saaremaa, Estonia.

"Atlas Ocean Voyages' top priority is the safety and comfort of our guests and crew," President Alberto Aliberti said in a statement.

"With unrest in Eastern Europe, we have adjusted our voyages and replaced our Russia calls."

Other lines such as Celebrity Cruises, have said they are monitoring the situation, and will evaluate any visits to Russia when necessary.

"We are not currently sailing in this region and we will evaluate

whether or not we will visit St. Petersburg as scheduled for sailings starting in May," said a Celebrity statement provided to **Cruise Weekly**.

"We have plans for alternative ports as needed and will communicate any updates to our guests."

"Guests do have the option to reschedule their sailing without penalty through our Cruise with Confidence program."

In a conference call with Wall Street analysts, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) Chief Financial Officer Mark Kempa said the company had begun mapping out contingency plans for adjusting the Baltic itineraries of its three brands - Norwegian Cruise Line, Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Oceania Cruises.

Nothing has been decided yet, Kempa made clear, and for now, NCLH's Baltic sailings still are

scheduled to visit St. Petersburg.

However, NCLH is prepared to pull St. Petersburg from Baltic itineraries, Kempa claimed.

"We are looking at alternative ports as we speak," he said.

"Worst-case scenario, if we're not able to call on St. Petersburg or the surrounding areas, there are plenty of other ports in that Scandinavian region that we have the ability to call on."

NCLH's cruise lines have 50 departures this year which include a stop in St. Petersburg, with the city accounting for about 5% of the company's northern summer schedule.

SAGA Cruises, which had already rerouted an upcoming Black Sea cruise, said the rest of the itinerary remains unaffected.

"We are now looking at the impact of today's developments on our Baltic cruises later this year," the cruise line said.

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Moran to join Cunard



CUNARD Line has announced Matt Moran (pictured) will headline its inaugural Great Australian Culinary Voyage.

The acclaimed chef & restaurateur will spoil food aficionados on board *Queen Elizabeth* on the five-day voyage, which will depart Sydney on 28 Jan 2023.

While on board, Moran will create exclusive dishes for *Queen Elizabeth's* passengers, and share his passion for Australian food and produce with guests through talks and interviews.

The inaugural Culinary Voyage will celebrate all aspects of Australia's unique food and wine offerings through a vibrant program of curated events, dinners, demonstrations, interviews, and onshore experiences.

The sailing takes in two of Australia's culinary hotspots, sailing to Melbourne and Burnie for a number of bespoke shore excursions, before arriving back in Sydney on 02 Feb.

"My love for Australia's food culture and produce runs deep," Moran enthused.

"We are so incredibly lucky in this country with the variety of experiences and ingredients available to us, and the amazing landscapes and destinations we can all access through travel.

"Cunard's Great Australian Culinary Journey brings these two elements together in a unique showcase and I'm thrilled to be part of it!"

Cunard Commercial Director Australia Katrina McAlpine said: "Matt is synonymous with Australian food culture and produce and we're extremely excited to have such an acclaimed chef like him headline the program for our Great Australian Culinary Voyage.

"Guests will be in for an absolute treat on board with Matt, and we look forward to hosting him and showing off Cunard's incredible culinary offering."

More epicurean royalty will be joining the sailing, with additional names to be announced soon.

The Voyage is currently available for a special launch fare starting from \$1,309 in a twin share Inside Stateroom.

Creative + SCL

CREATIVE Cruising is launching a \$200 travel advisor eGift card incentive for those who book a Seabourn Cruise Line (SCL) sailing next month.

To help agents learn more about the incentive, Creative is also co-hosting a webinar with SCL on Tue.

Agents can learn all about the exclusive packages, including free stopovers at five-star hotels in Venice, London, and Copenhagen.

Register to join the webinar [HERE](#).

Book your way to Alaska with Lindblad

TRAVEL advisors who book and deposit three cabins across a number of Lindblad Expeditions' voyages for its Alaska season this year will win a cruise to the destination in 2022.

The new booking incentive was launched yesterday in Lindblad's Australian trade partners Facebook group - [CLICK HERE](#) for more info.



SALVORS have finally boarded the burning *Felicity Ace* (pictured), the roll-on/roll-off cargo ship which caught fire last week off the coast of Portugal. Up until yesterday, weather had delayed efforts to steady the fire burning aboard the ship, which was carrying a range of luxury cars from Germany to the United States.

The intensity of the fire has finally weakened to the point where it can be addressed by a salvor crew.

The total value of goods aboard the ship is almost USD\$500 million, according to risk consultancy Russell Group.

Apparently, the batteries inside some of the electric vehicles aboard the ship have contributed to intensifying the blaze.



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