



P&O Aus to pioneer Vanuatu return

P&O Cruises and Vanuatu will work together to achieve a restart of cruising in the country later this year, with two voyages from Australia.

Pacific Encounter's 05 Nov Brisbane departure and *Pacific Adventure's* 14 Nov Sydney departure will be used to test protocols and procedures in Vanuatu to allow for a broader restart of cruising in the archipelago.

Encounter will call at Port Vila (pictured) on 09 Nov, and *Adventure* will visit Mystery Island on 18 Nov, Port Vila on 19 Nov, and Santo on 20 Nov.

Carnival Corporation President Marguerite Fitzgerald said she is grateful the government of Vanuatu has put its faith in her company with P&O having already helped pioneer cruise restarts in Australia, as well as New Zealand and Fiji this season,



among other destinations.

"Vanuatu's decision to reopen completes the network of cruise destinations that makes the Pacific one of the world's most dynamic regions for cruise tourism," she said.

"We...reaffirm our commitment to Vanuatu's island communities for whom cruising is such an

important part of their economic life," Fitzgerald added.

"It will be fantastic to reconnect with island communities in Vanuatu and we hope and expect that these initial P&O cruises will lead to Vanuatu's reopening to ships from our other brands including Princess Cruises and Carnival Cruise Line."

Cruise Weekly today

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

HAL biofuel test

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has reported positive results from what one of the industry's first biofuel tests, on board *Volendam*.

The 20-day trial of advanced biofuel achieved a 78% decrease in lifecycle emissions compared to marine gas oil.

In the first five days of the test, *Volendam* used a mix of 30% biofuel and 70% marine gas oil, and for the remainder of the trial, 100% biofuel.

The test was conducted in partnership with GoodFuels, a leading producer and supplier of sustainable biofuels, and Wartsila, a global leader in power & propulsion, and associated technologies.

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Celebration trials

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Carnival Celebration* has successfully completed her sea trials ahead of her debut at PortMiami in Nov.

Celebration set sail on her first round of sea trials in the Baltic Sea earlier this month from Meyer Turku shipyard in Finland, the same facility where her sister ship *Mardi Gras* was built.

The vessel's arrival in Miami will continue Carnival's 50th anniversary commemoration.

Celebration will feature several unique zones, including 820 Biscayne – a tribute to Miami, where Carnival was born, showcasing the styles and flavours of the city.

She will also include many of the features that made *Mardi Gras* so anticipated, including BOLT, the first roller coaster at sea.

Cruise lines cancelling Bermuda calls

CRUISE lines are cancelling Bermuda (pictured) calls over its continued COVID-19 requirements, as the country continues with compulsory supervised on-board testing.

Celebrity Cruises has cancelled four visits to Bermuda aboard four ships: *Celebrity Beyond*, *Celebrity Silhouette*, *Celebrity Edge* and *Celebrity Reflection*.

In a statement, the line told **Cruise Weekly** its guests have indicated a strong preference for avoiding mid-cruise testing and related expenses, particularly on trans-Atlantic voyages.

"We will continue to visit Bermuda with other itineraries where the island is the first port of call and doesn't trigger the additional testing requirement," Celebrity confirmed.

Meanwhile, Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) has cancelled three Bermuda calls scheduled for three



ships: *Norwegian Sun*, *Norwegian Escape*, and *Norwegian Gem*, similarly citing the complexity of travel requirements.

NCL too committed to its future in Bermuda, and told **Cruise Weekly** it will continue to offer voyages on which the country is the one and only port of call.

"We always strive to deliver

an exceptional experience both onboard and onshore," NCL said.

"We appreciate the understanding and support of our guests."

All seven of the visits were scheduled to take place during long trans-Atlantic cruises which started in Europe and ended in North America.

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NCL'S
WALK FOR WELLNESS

1 - 31 OCTOBER 2022

Join the NCL team for a walking challenge like no other in October.

For this year's challenge we're promoting health and wellbeing within the travel industry, while also celebrating the all-new Norwegian Spirit's inaugural Australia & New Zealand season.

Get active and track your steps alongside your travel industry friends as we journey around an interactive map of Norwegian Spirit's voyage to New Zealand from Hawai'i. There'll be fun weekly challenges and \$16,000 worth of prizes up for grabs too — our highest value prize pool to date!

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Registration ends 30 September.





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Feel Free



WITH just over a month until Royal Caribbean International brings two of its Quantum-class ships back to Australia, the cruise line's staff members are tuning up the fleet's robot bartenders, B1-o and N-1-C. Able to be found at Royal Caribbean's Bionic Bar, the robot arms use more than 30 spirits to produce two drinks per minute, for a total of 1,000 drinks per thirsty day.

Once *Ovation of the Seas* arrives in Australia, guests boarding her for a seven-day cruise will sample almost 130 different specialty cocktails, using ingredients such as almost 300 kilograms of limes and more than 1,300 kilograms of pineapples.

Guests can also find 40 brands of beer and 340 brands of wine.

Passengers will need something to cool these drinks down too, which leads to beverage staff producing 37,000 kilograms of ice cubes per day.



RCI to ditch HK restart?



THE Government of Hong Kong's "slow speed" has been blamed for Royal Caribbean International's (RCI) possible abandonment of its plans to resume service from the country (**CW** 19 Aug), the *South China Morning Post* has reported.

Royal Caribbean is expected to scupper plans to relaunch its service from Hong Kong (**pictured**) because it has taken too long to receive Government approval, it was reported, with the country among the last markets to have not yet returned to the world of cruising.

The voyages to nowhere were set to be operated aboard *Spectrum of the Seas*, and while Royal Caribbean was unable to respond to **Cruise Weekly's**

inquiry ahead of our deadline, the report quotes a spokesperson for the cruise line, who said it is difficult to include Hong Kong in any of its plans, due to no clear road map from officials.

"We understand Hong Kong may have different views, and we have been working with the local authorities for over eight months now since our suspension ... but we are really running out of time," she told the *SCMP*.

Royal Caribbean first made a formal presentation to Hong Kong's Legislative Council in Aug, detailing protocols and plans for a proposed cruise restart in the country.

The cruise line initially ceased voyages in Hong Kong in Feb, moving *Spectrum* to Singapore.

Meyer approval

THE next step to Meyer Werft's climate-neutral ship has been ticked, with the methanol-powered fuel cell system being produced by Freudenberg e-Power Systems receiving class approval.

This means the concept can now be used on seagoing vessels, representing an important development step toward climate-friendly shipping.

Meyer Werft is currently working on fuel cell systems aboard the under-construction *Silver Nova* (Silversea Cruises) and *AIDAnova* (AIDA Cruises).

RCI cruise switched

ROYAL Caribbean International's (RCI) *Harmony of the Seas* has reportedly switched itineraries for its current cruise due to Tropical Storm Fiona.

While the call to Perfect Day at CocoCay will go ahead, the rest of the original itinerary has been changed from the eastern Caribbean to the western Caribbean.

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, and Philipsburg, St. Maarten have been swapped out for Costa Maya and Cozumel in Mexico.



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