LIVES OF THE LINERS: CRUISING & CRUISE SHIPS



Above: Evening first arrival – the mighty, 228,000-ton Oasis of the Seas is seen off Lower Manhattan. She is the largest passenger liner ever to visit the Port of New York.

From Bill Miller

Update: September 2021

Sun Aug 29th Norwegian Cruise Lines is again sailing from Miami and from their brand new, state-of-the-art terminal.



Mon Aug 30th **Farewell!** The 48-year-old *Boudicca* of Fred Olsen cruise line is meeting her end out in Aliaga in Turkey (below). The 28,500-ton ship has had a long & diverse career, beginning as the *Royal Viking Sky* of the legendary Royal Viking Line.



Tue Aug 31st Italy's Alitalia Airlines has come to end – no further reservations are being accepted and the last flights completed. The largely Government-owned company is being replaced by a new, privately owned Italian airline.



Wed Sep 1st Return! Over 200 cruise ships – or more than 50% of the worldwide cruise industry are back in service.

Virgin Cruises has removed Key West port calls from its itineraries, citing its desire to respect locals' decision to ban ships carrying more than 1,300 passengers.

P&O Cruises is returning to service including UK-Caribbean air-sea cruises. Below: The *Aurora* at New York's Pier 88.



China: The first Chinese-flag high luxury cruise ship, the *Zhao Shang Yi Dun*, is planned to set sail in October as cruising resumes in mainland China. The former *Viking Sun* is the first ship in a joint venture between China Merchants Shekou and Viking. The 940-bed *Zhao Shang Yi Dun* will offer a series of seven-night cruises to destinations on China's coast. Thirteen voyages are scheduled in 2021.

Below: The Viking Sun & MSC Meraviglia at New York





More News from Viking Ocean: Viking today announced its new 2023-2024 Viking World Cruise, which will span 138 days, 28 countries and 57 ports, with overnight stays in 11 cities. As a result of strong demand among guests, with the 2021 and 2022 World Cruises selling out in record time, according to a press release, Viking for the first time

will offer a choice of two departure dates for this extended voyage. Guests can pick from the *Viking Sky*, which will depart on December 20, 2023, from Ft. Lauderdale – or the new *Viking Neptune*, which will depart Ft. Lauderdale on December 23, 2023; both ships will sail the identical itinerary in parallel.



Thu Sep 2nd Azamara Cruises is among those now back in business with their first cruise to the Greek Isles. The Company has 4 ships and is already projecting greater expansion by 2030.



Royal Caribbean reports that 60% of its huge cruise fleet are now back in service.



Fri Sep 3rd **New York**: Our good friend Sam Ruda informs us: After a 17-month pause, the *Oasis of the Seas* is back in cruise service for Royal Caribbean International. Sailing on its first post-pandemic commercial cruise later today, the first Oasis-Class vessel is launching service from Bayonne, in the New York region. Based in New York for the first time, the 228,000-ton vessel is now offering a series of seven-

night voyages to the Bahamas. Through the end of October, the *Oasis* is making weekly visits to Nassau, Port Canaveral and Perfect Day at CocoCay – Royal Caribbean's private island in the Bahamas.



Sat Sep 4th **Brazil**: After a silent winter cruise season in 2020-21, several cruise lines including Costa & MSC are preparing for full '21-22 winter (summer down there, of course) seasons of cruises.



Hong Kong: Genting Hong Kong, with its Dream Cruises, has completed its first month of cruises from Hong Kong & with great success.



Hurricanes! Cruise lines such as Carnival, Norwegian Cruise & Bahamas Paradise Cruise Lines are all but queuing up to secure Government charters for use as assistance & accommodation ships during recent North American hurricanes.





Mon Sep 6th Cunard: The *Queen Mary 2* (below) is now in the big graving dock at Brest in France and is being readied for a return to service in mid November.



World Cruises: Sister companies: Holland America, Princess & Seabourn have canceled their 2022 world cruises.

Cargo: Big container companies such as French-based CMA-CGM are reporting record amounts of cargo, income & therefore profits.

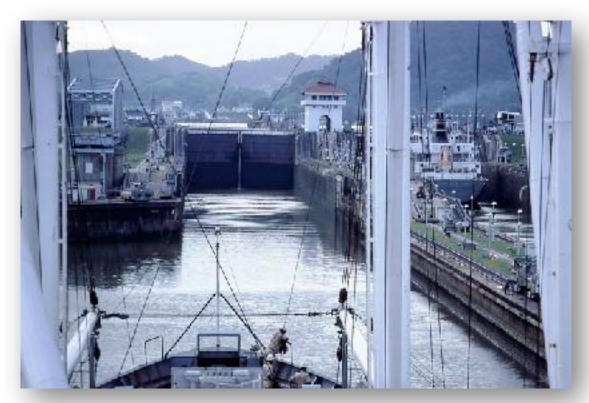




Tue Sep 7th **Cunard:** The *Queen Mary 2* was scheduled to resume Southampton-New York crossings & then cruises in mid-November. But now, the ship will remain in UK waters and instead cross to New York (for the very first time in some 18 months) in mid-December, spend several nights at her Brooklyn berth and then sail as scheduled on Dec 22nd on a New York-Caribbean Christmas-New Year holiday cruise.



The Panama Canal published a proposal that modifies the waterway's toll structure and the measurement regulations for passenger ships.



Late Summer Sales: The lists are seemingly endless – but as examples cruise travelers can do Royal Caribbean with as much as 60% off or as little as \$59 per person per night or Norwegian Cruise at \$54 per person.



Out of the old shoebox:



Thank you to all our readers, correspondents, those "agents" in faraway places!