

Yesterday I joined a zoom meeting with the heads of the global cruise industry. At present cruises in Australian waters are on hold – they are hopeful to start up later this year. Interestingly, internationally a few cruise lines have been operating throughout this close down period – mainly in Europe and many of these without incident. It's a shame that the press only report when there is an issue. One cruise line has operated 40 cruises in the last 3 months successfully with everyone having a wonderful time.

In a survey of over a 1000 people who regularly travel 50% said they had already booked a future cruise and 45% said they would consider booking a cruise and 5% said they would not cruise – interestingly none of the 5% had previously cruised. I think that once the borders come down travellers will be excited to get going again.

Cruise lines worldwide have taken the opportunity to really ramp up their health and safety protocols. Most ships will take fewer passengers to give more space and the small ships already offer a spacious environment.

Oceania have a small fleet of beautiful ships and a large return client base. They are at the forefront of the global development of new safety protocols which include

- Daily ship wide disinfection and daily fogging of all suites, staterooms and public areas
- All new hospital grade air filtration systems
- Dedicated public health officer
- Monitoring and changing itineraries where advisable
- Pre-embarkation health screening of all guests
- Socially responsible check-in
- No touch food service ship wide
- Increased social distancing through reduced capacity
- Partnering with local destination and tour guides who adhere to safety protocols
- High standards for staff and crew health
- Enhanced onboard medical teams and health services

With all of these protocols in place cruising will be one of the safest places on earth to be!

Winning Boutique Cruise Line of the year awards you are bound to love Oceania's country club style, with smart casual dress for the evenings and a relaxed atmosphere during the day. Of the fleet of 6 ships, four take a maximum 684 passengers while Marina and Riviera take up to 1250. So with small to mid-sized vessels you are bound to feel comfortable and pampered. Staterooms are elegantly appointed and most have a verandah. Dining on ships is always fun and with up to 5 restaurants on board you can taste a different cuisine every night. Enjoy an intimate dinner with your travel companion or meet new friends and enjoy chatting over dinner, the choice is yours.

Oceania have released a fantastic special on 60 voyages departing from July 2021 to April 2022. Book and deposit now and receive free, up to a 4 category cabin upgrade and lots of extra inclusions with free pre-paid gratuities, free beverage package, free specialty restaurants, free shore excursions, ad a free on board credit. If you are travelling solo, which quite a few of our clients do, there are reduced single supplements being offered too. Oceania also offer a peace of mind cover which allows you to change your booking to a later travel date without any fuss or to change to a different destination. One thing is for certain you will have a fabulous time sailing the Med, Scandinavia and the Baltic, Canada, the Caribbean, South America, Tahiti, Asia and even to Australia. By booking now for travel at the end of next year or even in 2022 and you will secure a great deal without any risk.

Contact Travelling Places now for details P: 55451600.