

# Return of Cruise to Sydney Harbour

**APRIL 2022**

The Australian Government will lift its Biosecurity Determination to allow cruising to resume in Australian waters from 17 April 2022.

Port Authority of NSW looks forward to welcoming back cruise in NSW.

As part of preparations for the return of passenger cruise ships to Sydney Harbour, Port Authority has worked in close partnership with the Federal Government, NSW and other State Governments as well as cruise industry operators to plan for the safe resumption of cruising once the ban is lifted.

## Safety protocols

The priority for all parties involved with the resumption of cruising is to ensure strong safeguards are in place to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. The protocols include:

- All passengers over the age of 12 and crew must be fully vaccinated to board domestic and international cruises
- All passengers and crew will be required to have a negative COVID test before embarkation and must wear masks at embarkation and disembarkation
- COVID safe plans will be developed for all shore excursions, which will consider the specific needs of local communities, particularly regional communities

- COVID safe plans have also been developed for disembarkation of any positive cases and close contacts
- Cruise operators will provide enhanced on-board public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission, including information to travellers about COVID safe practices including social-distancing, enhanced cleaning, and the availability for on board COVID testing

## Return of the *Pacific Explorer* - 18 April

P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Explorer* will return home to Sydney on Monday 18 April 2022. After an absence of two years, *Pacific Explorer* is making the journey back to Sydney from Europe. The ship will berth at several locations during its six-week stay including the Overseas Passenger Terminal in Circular Quay and White Bay facilities in Balmain.

## Where will *Pacific Explorer* berth?

*Pacific Explorer* is expected to:

- arrive at the Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT) on 18 April until 19 April
- arrive at White Bay on 19 April and remain until 6 May
- return to OPT from 7 May to 10 May
- go on 'work up' or activation voyages, and potentially spend a couple of days at Athol Anchorage and Gore Bay (weather dependent) from 11 to 17 May
- return to White Bay from 17 to 30 May
- depart White Bay on 26 May for an 'activation' cruise from 26 – 29 May
- Depart White Bay for its first passenger cruise on 31 May

**Please note these dates are indicative only and subject to change.**

### **Pacific Explorer's preparations at berth**

*Pacific Explorer's* stay in Sydney Harbour will allow the cruise line to train crew, conduct operational manoeuvres, prepare for 'work up' or test voyages, the first passenger voyage, and inner harbour activities.

While at berth, additional crew will board the ship each day and supplies will be loaded onto the vessel.

Vessel staff and contractors will also conduct maintenance tasks on and around the ship in preparation for its return to service.

### **Noise mitigation**

After an absence of two years Port Authority recognises the return of cruise ships is a change for local port communities.

Port Authority has reminded cruise lines of restrictions on deck music and external public announcements not related to safety on cruise ships as well as limiting engine, generator and ventilation noise for ships berthed at White Bay Cruise Terminal and White Bay 4.

For *Pacific Explorer's* stay, P&O Cruises Australia will minimise the number of engines/generators running whilst the ship is berthed.

P&O Cruises Australia will also provide a schedule of required safety announcements to Port Authority so we can provide advance notice to the community.

Port Authority will undertake noise and air quality monitoring while ships are berthed at White Bay Cruise Terminal and White Bay 4 to measure emissions.

### **Air emissions and light spill**

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) regulates emissions from all ships to protect the marine environment and human health from air pollution and ensure international emission standards are met.

AMSA issues directions to cruise ships berthing at Sydney Harbour to use either low sulphur (maximum 0.10% m/m) fuel or an alternative measure that achieves an equivalent outcome. AMSA inspectors regularly conduct checks of cruise ships visiting Sydney Harbour to ensure compliance with the conditions of the issued Directions.

The *Pacific Explorer* will use low sulphur fuel while berthing at Port Authority cruise facilities. P&O Cruises Australia has also advised it will manage light emissions by avoiding light spill into night sky or neighbouring properties, where safe and possible.



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