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J. M. BAXI & CO.

MONTHLY REPORT

CRUISE SHIPPING

APRIL 2021



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PORT ANALYSIS

Cruise ships handled by J M Baxi & Co. during April 2021

Cruise ships handled by J M Baxi & Co. during April 2021	
Ports	No of Vessels
Goa	01
Cochin	01

CORDELIA CRUISES TO START ITS CRUISE OPERATIONS IN INDIA FROM MAY 2021

Waterways Tourism Private Limited, affiliated with Indo-American Hotelier, Padma Bhushan Sant Singh Chatwal's Dream Hotel Group launches Cordelia Cruises in India which is scheduled to begin its operations from May 2021.

Cordelia Cruises by Waterways Leisure Tourism Private Limited, a Dream Hotel Group venture will begin its cruise operations in India from May 2021. Cordelia Cruises will be India's premium cruise liner cruising along the west and east coast of India to domestic destinations like Goa, Diu, and Lakshadweep and international destinations like Colombo, Galle, Trincomalee, Jaffna, and the Maldives. Waterways Leisure Tourism Private Limited has forayed into the Indian cruise industry under the maiden brand, Cordelia Cruises, and is affiliated with the Dream Hotel Group which is a hotel and brand management company with more than 30 years of experience in managing properties around the world. Asserting his belief in the potential of the Indian cruise market, Sant Singh Chatwal, Founder and Chairman of the Dream Hotel Group stated, "Success through innovation has been the foundation for all our brands over the last three decades. We have seen the growth and evolution of cruise tourism around the world. With 7500 km of coastline and recent initiatives by the Indian government for coastal development, India is ready for cruising. There's tremendous potential in the cruise market and we are confident that Cordelia Cruises will lead this new era of travel through experience and innovation. Incredible India will soon be an Incredible cruise destination as well for travelers around the world." The Group plans to invest approximately USD 300 million in the next 3 to 5 years for the development of the cruise sector in India. "Until 2021, Indians were traveling to destinations like Europe and South-East Asia to experience cruise holidays. Echoing honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' ideology, we are extremely delighted to launch Cordelia Cruises – A cruise liner by Indians for Indians. It's time to lead by example and tell the world India is ready for a post-pandemic comeback with its very own cruise brand," added Jurgen Bailom, CEO & President for Waterways Leisure Tourism Private Limited.

Imperative to mention and to manifest the 'Lead by Example' ideology Waterways Leisure has already signed an MOU with the Mumbai Port Trust during the launch of Maritime India Summit 2021 with the intention to cooperate, develop and promote the cruise industry in India. Jurgen Bailom who has more than 30 years of experience in the global cruise industry is confident about the growth of cruise tourism in India and its potential to create 2 million job opportunities by 2022. With facilities and services on board at par with international holiday standards, Cordelia Cruises has launched 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7-night itineraries from May 2021. The Cruises will be offering accommodation, on board dining or entertainment to guests. The amenities include luxurious, state-of-the-art suites, private balcony cabins, ocean views and plush interiors. When it comes to dining, it is key to note that the fare is specially curated to suit the needs of Indians and the Indian palate. There are innumerable options including a mélange of global, local and hyper local flavors. Besides, the food can be customized to suit special preferences whether for Jains or for individuals with special needs.

Source: BW Hotelier

CRUISE TOURISM IN INDIA: SAILING INTO TROUBLED WATERS

The shipping industry contributes around 3.01 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions annually; a single ship emits particulate matter equivalent to 100 million cars

Irish ballads and American pop, Gulliver's Travels and Treasure Islands – the romance of ships and sailing has been with us for many centuries. It has now taken the form of cruising. While they have been a major part of tourism since the 19th century, cruises are viewed in a very different light. They are no longer seen as an unattainable luxury. The allure of the open ocean is becoming possible for more and more people with increasing affordability. It is no wonder then that cruise tourism has been growing exponentially: From 17.8 million passengers opting for it in 2009 to 28.5 million passengers in 2018. Today's cruises are significantly bigger, more than 1,100 feet long and 200 feet wide, which is nearly five times the size of the Titan. India is in the race to capture this growing market. In 2017, the first international cruise docked in India, described as: "At the Mumbai Port, over 1,800 passengers waited with bated breath and undisguised excitement. It was, after all, their first International voyage, from an Indian port." Since then, cruise tourism in India has increased manifold: In 2017-18, 138 cruise ships called on ports in India carrying 1.76 lakh passengers. But behind the grandeur and glamour of cruises lie some disturbing realities. Globally, the negative effects of cruise tourism have been well-established. This was brought to fore most recently during the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic by multiple outbreaks in cruise ships. More than 700 passengers and crew members tested positive for the virus in the Diamond Princess ship that was anchored in Yokohama, Japan, earlier in 2020. This was followed by the Grand Princess ship that reported the second-highest number of COVID-19 positive cases on the ship. A total of 10 people died on these two ships. The media referred to these cruises as "floating petri dishes". Issues of health, however, are not the only concerns. Cruises are also known for their devastating socio-ecological impacts. The shipping industry contributes around 3.01 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions annually. Estimates show that a single ship emits particulate matter equivalent to 100 million cars. They also generate massive amounts of waste; one person on a cruise produces about 2.6-3.5 kilograms of waste a day. Average waste production on land amounts to 1-2 kg. This waste is often dumped into the sea due to a lack of proper waste disposal practices. Cruise tourism has several negative impacts on the 'host' communities as well. Research showed a decline in the use of regional language in Dubrovnik in Croatia and Caribbean countries because its residents "adopted the habits of the visitors". Other research pointed out to a rising cost of living due to higher spending capacities of the tourists. The same paper also suggested that ecological costs may be up to seven times higher than the local economic benefit. These are the realities we have to keep in mind while thinking about cruise tourism in India. As many as 3,300 villages across India are populated by more than 39 lakh fishworkers, who are dependent on the oceans for their lives and livelihoods. India is among the 17 mega-biodiversity hotspots in the world and home to 400 species of corals, 2,500 kinds of fish and several vulnerable animals such as dugongs and turtles. It is, therefore, important to ask how cruises will impact our ecosystems and the communities that live in these landscapes. Very little research has been done on the impacts of cruises in India. But we can make a few good guesses regarding what tourism may mean for biodiversity and communities in India from our experiences. Looking at the socio-ecological systems may show us the way. Odisha has showed eagerness in introducing cruise tourism to the state. It has proposed cruises through protected areas such as Chilika, Satkosia Tiger Reserve

and Bhitarkanika National Park, among others. The fieldwork done by EQUATIONS, a research, campaign and advocacy organisation working on supporting environmentally sustainable and people-centered forms of tourism in Chilika between 2018 and 2019 showed that tourism in these regions severely affected the biodiversity and communities. Dolphin watching in Chilika, for example, severely affected the well-being of Irrawaddy dolphins. Chilika is one of the only two lagoons in the world that has this species of dolphins. Boat drivers in Chilika said they often go as close as 30 metres to dolphins on tourists' insistence and chase them sometimes when they move away from the boat. Most boats have outboard engines with rotors that injure the dolphins. Odisha is also known for mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles on the state's beaches. Researchers have voiced concerns about the unorganised way in which tourism was brought in the state, and the manner in which tourists handled turtle eggs and hatchlings. However, if cruise tourism is introduced in this region, increasing tourist activities will increase the hindrances in the nesting process of turtles. These landscapes are also conflict-ridden; bringing in cruise tourism can exacerbate them. In Satkosia, which is home to various adivasi communities, conflicts are common between community members and government officials. Researchers informed us that locals are asked to relocate constantly and prevented from fishing so that "tigers could be conserved". So while the lives and livelihoods of adivasis are compromised in the name of the tigers, how can cruises, which are likely to be highly detrimental to the ecosystem, be allowed to operate here? Ports, coastal tourism and other coastal / marine industries have been experiencing strong resistance from local communities. The existing problems are complex and deep-rooted. With the introduction of cruise tourism, the ongoing conflicts may increase.

Source: Down to Earth



SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD ORGANISES CRUISEWORLD INDIA 2021 TO RE-CONNECT WITH INDIAN TRADE PARTNERS

Singapore has piloted safe cruises from November 2020, with enhanced protocols to safeguard passenger health from pre-boarding to disembarkation. More than 120,000 Singapore residents have set sail on approximately 90 sailings on Genting's World Dream and RCI's Quantum of the Seas from Singapore since the pilot kicked off, with no reported cases of COVID-19 spreading on board. This is an encouraging response in the restart of cruising.

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) connected virtually with its in-market cruise stakeholders from India. Based on the theme "Charting our Pathway to Cruise Recovery", CruiseWorld India 2021 aimed to re-engage with key cruise line and cruise agent stakeholders, after almost a year. The event was presented by STB in partnership with Travel Weekly Asia. A key event highlight was the panel discussion titled "Power up for a safe return to cruising in Singapore" with well-known industry veterans such as Naresh Rawal, Vice-President, Sales and Marketing, Genting Cruise Lines, Varun Chadha, Chief Executive Officer, TIRUN Travel Marketing, Mr. Sanjay Kothari, Founder and Managing Director, Just Holidays and Pradeep Saboo, Managing Director, Guideline Travels. It was moderated by G.B Srithar, Regional Director, India, Middle East and South Asia, Singapore Tourism Board. Srithar said: "Pre Covid-19, India was Singapore's top source market for cruise tourism. While commercial travel between the two countries remain paused, it was important for us to reconnect with our cruise partners and renew our close ties through CruiseWorld India 2021. This platform brought together industry leaders to offer valuable insights on how to gear up for when cruising returns, as well help STB to gather feedback on how we can better support our partners." Two of STB's key cruise line partners, Genting Cruise Lines ("Genting") and Royal Caribbean International ("RCI"), shared updates and learnings on their resumption of operations in Singapore. Chadha from TIRUN said: "We were delighted to participate in CruiseWorld India 2021 as it was a key platform to engage with Indian cruise stakeholders and share with the cruise community about Singapore. We remain confident that Singapore is a preferred cruising hub for Indian travelers, given its strong reputation for hygiene and safety, which should give visitors a peace of mind." Rawal from Genting said, "We have observed that Indian travellers are still keen to cruise and demand is very much in place. We have resumed our operations on a pilot basis in Singapore on the World Dream, which has been well-received by domestic visitors. Our experience in Singapore is a testament that cruising can continue to be safe and enjoyable, even in a pandemic. STB also shared about enhanced support for stakeholders under the Cruise Development Fund (CDF), which supports industry players in their work to build consumer demand for cruises from Singapore. STB had invited Mr. Rajeev Kale, President & Country Head – Holidays, MICE, Visa, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd to be part a of the event. Kale said, "It was an honour for us at Thomas Cook India to be selected by STB to partner in their pilot CDF (Cruise Development Fund) India initiative. This enabled us to curate a range of vibrant cruise products that could effortlessly coalesce with our Singapore land product. Keeping an unerring eye on the value seeker Indian market, I am delighted that we were successful in creating a fit for multiple segments – from value to super luxury." He added, "We look forward to working closely with the STB on the CDF initiative as this will be of great support to us at Thomas Cook India and the industry as a whole as we progress on our path to recovery, for when international cruising picks up again."

Source: VOYAGER'S WORLD

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NORWEGIAN CRUISES ASKS CDC TO ALLOW TRIPS FROM US IN JULY

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd plans to begin US sailings at 60% of capacity and raise that to 80% in August and 100% in September

The Norwegian Cruise Line is seeking permission to resume trips from US ports on July 4, requiring passengers and crew members to be vaccinated against Covid-19 at least two weeks before the trip. The Miami company said its precautions go well beyond steps taken by others in the travel and leisure industry that have already reopened, including airlines, hotel, restaurants and sporting events. Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd plans to begin US sailings at 60% of capacity and raise that to 80% in August and 100% in September. Norwegian also operates Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises. The company's shares jumped 7.2% Monday and pulled the shares of rival cruise lines higher. Carnival Corp. rose 4.7% and Royal Caribbean Group gained 2.9%. CEO Frank Del Rio detailed the request in a letter to Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC has blocked cruise ships from US ports with a no-sail order since March 2020, after outbreaks on several ships around the world. The CDC updated its guidance to say that fully vaccinated people can travel within the US without getting tested for the coronavirus or going into quarantine afterward. It also issued more technical details around its conditional plan to allow cruise ships in US ports, but it did not say when cruise lines could resume sailing. Still, Walensky urged caution and said she would "advocate against general travel overall" given the rising number of The CDC said Monday that it "is committed to working with the cruise industry and seaport partners to resume cruising" following a phased approach. "Cruising safely and responsibly during a global pandemic is difficult," especially with concern over new variants of Covid-19, the agency added. An industry trade group, the Cruise Lines International Association, blasted the CDC's updated guidance and called for the agency to lift its no-sail order. "The new requirements are unduly burdensome, largely unworkable, and seem to reflect a zero-risk objective rather than the mitigation approach to Covid that is the basis for every other US sector of our society," the group said. It said the CDC's requirements are hurting nearly half a million American workers at businesses that service cruise ships, "with no reasonable timeline provided for the safe return of cruising."infections.

Source: Livemint

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