

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Cunard, Seabourn extend voyage moratorium through mid-May as COVID-19 lockdowns continue

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Future voyages on Cunard ships such as Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria have been postponed again through May 15 due to the ongoing COVID-19 national lockdowns. Image credit: Cunard

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Cunard and Seabourn, both owned by Carnival Corporation and plc, have extended the suspension of voyages for another 30 days as countries across the globe have not lifted embargoes on ships entering their harbors over fears of importing more COVID-19 coronavirus cases.

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The preventative measures mean that Cunard voyages will not resume April 11, as originally planned. The new suspension of trips on luxury cruise liners such as Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria will extend through May 15.

"The impact of COVID-19 is affecting personal routines and businesses as well as placing significant travel restrictions around the world," said Simon Palethorpe, president of Valencia, CA-based Cunard, in a statement.

"Everyone in the Cunard team is aware of the need to support the management and containment of COVID-19 globally," he said. "This includes protecting the health and safety of our guests and crew. It is therefore right we extend the pause in operations."

"It is too soon to know exactly how this situation will evolve. But I do know that we, the Cunard team, will commit all our resources, energy and talent to weather this storm and come out stronger than ever for our guests."

"We have been sailing for 180 years and we look forward to many more. We will get through these tough times together and look forward to welcoming our guests back on board again soon, when the time is right."

Out at sea

Seattle-based **Seabourn**, known for its ultra-luxury cruises on five ships, will extend its moratorium through May 14.

Both **Cunard** and Seabourn have offered a refund in the form of a 125 percent future cruise credit.

Many ships are still out at sea with passengers who had boarded prior to the COVID-19 lockdowns.

For example, the Queen Mary 2 is still sailing, set to arrive April 11 at its home base of Southampton, England. The Queen Elizabeth arrived last week in Southampton and the Queen Victoria is currently docked in Australia.

CRUISE LINES, along with airlines, hotels and retailers, have borne the brunt of national lockdowns worldwide that ban movement of consumers across and within borders.

Cunard extends pause in operations until May 15 over COVID-19 global measures

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