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TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Cunard cancels all voyages until spring 2021

August 25, 2020



Queen Elizabeth sailing by Venice, Italy. Image courtesy of Cunard

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Luxury cruise line Cunard will continue its suspension of sailings into spring 2021, as uncertainty and challenges surrounding the coronavirus endure.



Cunard originally "paused operations" in mid-March (see story), only to announce several extensions in the pause since. The next Cunard voyage will set sail in March 2021, at the earliest.

"We are so sorry to all those guests who were due to sail on any of the cancelled voyages and for the disappointment this news will cause," said Simon Palethorpe, president of Cunard. "After very careful consideration and reviewing the latest guidance, we simply do not feel it would be sensible to start sailing again with our current schedule so we have reviewed future itineraries."

Cunard cancellations

As of now, Queen Elizabeth will resume sailing on Mar. 25, 2021, followed by Queen Mary 2 on Apr. 18 and Queen Victoria on May 16. This means voyages will have been suspended for at least a year as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Government regulations, however, forced Cunard to make additional changes in itineraries.

We are extending our pause in operations and making some itinerary changes for 2021 and 2022.

Here's Simon Palethorpe, President of Cunard, with an update https://t.co/BEloxtRwnRpic.twitter.com/WAtbEHlrvg

cunardline (@cunardline) August 25, 2020

Twitter announcement from Cunard

Queen Elizabeth's voyages to and around Australia, Japan and Alaska have been canceled for the 2021 season. These will be replaced with shorter sailings, between 3 and 14 nights, to various European destinations.

Additionally, Cunard is canceling the 2021 World Voyage for the Queen Mary 2 and replacing it with a 2022 World Voyage.

The 118-night journey is scheduled to depart from New York City on Jan. 3, 2022 with stops in Greece, Dubai, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong and Australia, among others. Travelers can book the entire world voyage or choose from six different legs of the trip.

Cunard will contact impacted guests and travel agents. The cruise line is extending its policy of offering guests an automatic 125 percent future cruise credit, or they may request a 100 percent refund (see story).

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