



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise news.

A new Chat is out

THE latest episode of *The Chat* with **Cruise Weekly's** Jenny Piper is out, featuring Oceania Cruises/Regent Seven Seas Cruises' Jodie Hart.

The Chat presents a series of one-on-one conversations with some of the amazing women in the Australian travel industry.

The new podcast has already featured travel industry personalities such as Travel Associates' Kathy Pavlidis and 1000 Mile Travel Group's Nicola Veltman.

There is a new episode released each week.

To listen to all episodes of *The Chat*, **CLICK HERE**.

NCLH announces mixed profit result

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) reported a strong second quarter overnight, but forecasted a downbeat Q3 profit, as elevated costs are expected to offset gains from robust demand and higher fares.

NCLH's second quarter revenue rose to US\$2.21 billion, above estimates of US\$2.17 billion.

The company met or exceeded guidance for all key metrics during the quarter, improving occupancy to approximately 105% for the period, reflecting the completion of its phased ramp-up.

NCLH's cumulative booked position for the remainder of the year continues to be at record levels and at higher pricing, remaining within its optimal booked position of approximately 60-65% on a 12-month basis.

Advance ticket sales balance increased versus the prior quarter



reaching a record US\$3.5 billion, approximately US\$167 million higher than prior quarter.

However NCLH's annual adjusted EBITDA did not benefit quite as strongly as expected, with the company forecasting between US\$1.85 billion and US\$1.95 billion, up from a floor of US\$1.8 billion.

NCLH has been bogged down

by inflation and higher labour costs, despite a sequential improvement in operating costs, with the company's total cruise operating expenses in the Jun quarter jumping 29% to US\$1.38 billion.

The company is reducing costs by re-engineering food menu items and optimising crew movements.

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THE Kimberley is just about the hottest expedition destination in the world right now, but one must always be careful when plying its waters.

An Ord River man attempting to sell his boat has been met with crickets, likely after those interested noticed a glaring detail within the photo.

The 12-foot tinny, which is currently beached on the banks of the river, is for sale "as is, where is", but the man has had no biters, presumably because of another kind of biter.

Eagle-eyed buyers have presumably noticed that leading up to the boat are crocodile tracks - and they are absolutely massive.

One guess thought each foot to be roughly 1.5m across.

Princess Alaska 2025

FOLLOWING its debut in 2024, Princess Cruises' National Parks Cruisetour will return the following year, among a number of new itineraries and longer adventures highlighting the line's 2025 Alaska season.

The 15-night adventure cruises to five of the state's national parks, offering guests the opportunity to explore Glacier Bay, Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, Kenai Fjords, and Klondike Gold Rush.

Unique to Princess, this experience combines a seven-day Voyage of the Glaciers cruise, scenic rail travel, and multiple days on land, including stays at four of the cruise line's wilderness lodges.

In 2025, seven Princess ships will sail to Alaska, including *Caribbean Princess* for the first time.

The number of Princess homeports offering Alaska voyages also expands to five with the addition of Los Angeles, with the season featuring 21 cruise destinations and four glacier-viewing experiences, highlighted

by 88 visits to Glacier Bay.

On sale on Fri, the program features three roundtrip itineraries, including a 22-day voyage sailing from San Francisco on *Ruby Princess* which coincides with the summer solstice.

There is also a 17-day roundtrip cruise from Seattle on *Grand Princess*, featuring three days of scenic glacier viewing.

For guests seeking to sail from Southern California, a new 16-day roundtrip Inside Passage voyage from Los Angeles on *Grand* offers a convenient option.

"As the market leader in Alaska, we're excited to offer guests even more exciting ways to see the natural beauty of Alaska with itineraries in 2025 that serve up new adventures and extended journeys that first-time guests and repeat visitors are going to find intriguing," President John Padgett said.

"We're also making it easier for guests to access an Alaska cruise by bringing back a roundtrip option out of Los Angeles, which also make it more affordable for millions within that drive market."



Southern hospitality

WHAT an exciting couple of weeks visiting with operators and industry – first in Western Australia and then in Victoria.

I have just returned from an incredibly productive week in Geelong, Portland, and Melbourne where I participated in a series of cruise industry workshops supported by famil programs showcasing the latest product in each region.

The workshops were a collaboration between Visit Victoria, the relevant port authorities, as well as the local councils and tourism organisations.

With presentations from destination management companies Akorn and Intercruises, as well as Carnival and Royal Caribbean and ACA, it was a great opportunity to do some important planning as well as anticipate future challenges around continued resourcing issues still being faced by the tourism and hospitality industries.

It was encouraging to see such a high level of participation at each destination and to witness first-hand the enthusiasm for the upcoming season.

What really impressed me though is the incredible range of experiences available to guests.

From new restaurants, masterclasses at gin distilleries, tourism trains, World Heritage listed Indigenous cultural centres and wildlife experiences, I left feeling incredibly proud of the world-class offerings provided to our visitors.

I am looking forward to continuing these discussions.

Haifa to expand

HAIFA Port is ready for Israel's first purpose-built cruise terminal, selecting a designer for the facility.

Previously known for its relatively modest number of passengers, Haifa has experienced a surge in popularity, attracting an influx of more than 600,000 port calls and embarkations.

This growth has been accompanied by the arrival of almost 30 different cruise lines, 10 of which are home porting a ship in Haifa.

The Chat with Jenny

A Conversation with Jodie Hart

of Oceania Cruises & Regent Seven Seas Cruises

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