



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **APT**.

### New Quark portal

**QUARK** Expeditions' new AI-driven partner portal includes Parker the Polar Bear, an industry-first AI platform which will help make every travel advisor a polar expert.

The Partner Portal provides customisable promotional and marketing materials, incentives, and Quark's learn-from-anywhere PolarPRO training platform.

It also includes Parker the Polar Bear, the industry's first real-time, AI-driven virtual polar resource.

**CLICK HERE** to learn more and register.

### New Vantage point

**VANTAGE** Explorations will be the name of the new brand, formerly known as Vantage Deluxe Travel, which was recently acquired by Aqua Expeditions' subsidiary Pacific Travel Partners (**CW** 22 Aug).

A spokesperson for Aurora said the cruise line plans to formally announce the new brand and its plans for it in the coming months, with hints at a new 'Vantage style' offering set to be introduced.

## Another year of Wonder



### EXCLUSIVE

**DISNEY** Cruise Line will deploy its *Disney Wonder* in Australian waters for a third time for the 2025/26 season, with port schedules confirming the company's long-term commitment to the local market, as anticipation builds for the ship's maiden arrival in Oct.

Port schedules in Sydney confirm *Wonder* will arrive back in local waters on 27 Oct 2025, with her final call for the 2025/26 season on 02 Feb 2026.

Provisional schedules for other ports which are scheduled to be called by *Wonder* this year, including Melbourne and Brisbane, do not currently list any 2025/26 calls for the vessel, however these are expected to be added in the coming months.

**MEANWHILE**, Disney last night hosted key industry partners for a special event in Melbourne for the first Disney Days roadshow

of the year, where Business Development Manager Amy Mortlock also confirmed details of a dedicated new training app to further equip the trade to sell the company's product.

The 'Magic Ahoy!' app takes travel advisors on a 10-day virtual cruise, featuring visual learning guides, activities, top tips, and insider info, and the chance to win limited edition prizes.

"We're inviting you to come on board and discover why Disney Cruise Line is so magical," she enthused.

"Whether you're a cruise expert or you've never sold cruise before, this training will uncover the key Disney differences, and you'll be on your way to becoming a Disney cruise expert."

Launch details for 'Magic Ahoy!' are set to be announced soon.

**Pictured:** Steph and Courtney from Disney spy another season in the distance.

### APT is a nominee

**APT** Travel Group is delighted to be a nominee for the National Travel Industry Awards' Most Popular River Cruise Operator, and is today thanking its trade partners - see **page three**.

**Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL**

## LAST CHANCE DEALS

HAWAII TO SYDNEY  
17 NIGHTS FROM  
**\$999\***  
PER PERSON

[LEARN MORE](#)

\*T&Cs apply. Based on Brilliance of the Seas 4 Oct 2023.



## WE'D REALLY LOVE YOUR VOTE!

MSC Cruises is delighted and deeply honoured to be nominated in the NTIA 2023 Most Popular Ocean Cruise Category.



Your unwavering support has brought us this far, and we couldn't be more grateful!

**VOTE NOW**



## Sun is rising in Australia



**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's (NCL) *Norwegian Sun* will offer two departures from Melbourne for the very first time, as part of its APAC itineraries for the 2024/25 season (**CW** 20 Jun).

Other first-time voyages during 2024/25 include a French Polynesia cruise from Papeete to Melbourne via Queensland, and NCL's first sailing to Bali from New Zealand, which will also include the cruise line's first visit to Australia's north coast since 2019.

Further highlights include a 14-day Australia and New Zealand Christmas cruise from Melbourne to Auckland (**pictured**), combining ports in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania with the best of NZ.

A second 14-day sailing to Auckland will depart Melbourne on 15 Feb 2025, and include Burnie as a second port in Tasmania, where guests can admire art deco architecture, stroll the beautiful Emu Bay beachfront on the lookout for little penguins, or sample local whisky at Hellyers Road Distillery.

NCL announced earlier this year it will be redeploying *Sun* to Australia for 2024/25 to replace *Spirit's* cancelled Down Under program, with the ship to instead

head to Asia to accommodate for increased demand.

*Spirit's* eight-month 2024/25 Asia season will offer 14 itineraries sailing from five departure ports, including Manila, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo, and Seoul, from Sep 2024 through to Apr 2025.

"Having more ships and an expanded selection of itineraries in Asia Pacific underlines NCL's firm commitment to this region, both as a source market and destination," Vice President & MD APAC Ben Angell said.

"We know Asia is a popular choice for local travellers - Japan is one of my personal favourites - and we are excited to expand our options in this market."

## Carnival names Jubilee fun chiefs

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has announced the duo who will lead the Texas-sized fun aboard its all-new *Carnival Jubilee* - Cruise Director Kyndall "Fire" Magyar and Entertainment Director Matthew Boyd.

Both Magyar and Boyd are accomplished leaders who bring a combined 20 years of Carnival experience.

Magyar is a Texas native who has been working on Carnival ships since 2016.

She most recently served as *Mardi Gras'* Cruise Director, and was also part of the inaugural team for *Carnival Horizon*.

Boyd was recently named Carnival's 2023 Entertainment Director of the year.

He has been part of the Carnival family since 2010, and has served as an Entertainment Director aboard several ships since 2018, including most recently *Carnival Celebration*.



**THERE** are less than 50 days until Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Luminosa* returns to Queensland, and to celebrate, the company is calling on those from the Sunshine State to design a new flag for the ship.

The banner will fly on board *Luminosa* for the entire Australian season, and should embody the true meaning of "fun" to the state.

Queenslanders who want to get involved can submit a photo of how they "Choose FUN" **HERE** for a chance to be included on the flag.

Submissions must be put forward by 10 Sep, and will be combined into a visual mosaic that makes up the design of the new flag - inspired by Queensland, for Queensland.

The new 'Flag of Fun' will be unveiled upon *Luminosa's* return to Brisbane on 15 Oct, with an official flag-raising ceremony, marking the start of the summer cruise season.

## RCI kicking goals

**SOUTH** Florida powerhouses Royal Caribbean International (RCI) and Lionel Messi's new soccer team Inter Miami CF have forged a partnership, which will see the cruise line become the club's new 'Official Holiday Partner'.

The two will unite through on- and off-field activations.

Travel Daily

## The Chat

with Jenny

### Conversations with women in travel

In case you missed these, catch up now!

- Kathy Pavlidis - Travel Associates
- Nicole Veltman - 1000 Mile Travel Group
- Jodie Hart - Regents Seven Seas/Oceania Cruises
- Rachel Kingswell - Travel Associates
- Debra Fox - Abercrombie & Kent

CLICK HERE to listen



# Thank You!

We are delighted to be **NTIA** nominees for the **Most Popular River Cruise Operator**, thanks to you, our amazing agents!

We would love your vote and support for this prestigious award.

Simply click below and chose **APT Travel Group** as your favourite River Cruise Operator.

**VOTE NOW**



Once again, a **HUGE THANK YOU** to you all.

From all the team at APT Travel Group

