



Cruise Weekly today

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

Thinking Hawaii?

IF YOU'RE thinking Hawaii, think Norwegian Cruise Line.

The company's *Pride of America* allows you to see four islands in seven days, with overnight stays in Maui and Kaua'i, and visits to two ports on the Island of Hawai'i.

Pride of America departs every Sat of the year from Honolulu, and is the only cruise ship which sails exclusively around Hawaii.

Now's the time to book your client's next Hawaii cruise - for more information, visit the **back page** of today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Viking's 10 new river ships

VIKING has announced 10 additional river ships will be welcomed to its fleet in Europe, with construction having started on the vessels which will be delivered in 2025 and 2026.

Eight of the new vessels will sail Viking's popular itineraries on the Rhine, Main, and Danube, while two new ships, one which was announced in Feb (**CW 02 Feb**), will join the fleet on the Seine.

Five of the new vessels will be delivered in 2025, with the remaining five to be delivered the following year.

A keel laying ceremony was held yesterday at Neptun Werft shipyard in Rostock to officially mark the start of construction of the 10 new ships.

Neptun Werft has constructed all rivergoing 'Viking Longships' since they debuted in 2012 (**CW 20 Mar 2012**).

The new vessels feature a hybrid

propulsion system with batteries, and are also equipped for shorepower to reduce reliance on fuel while in port, while onboard solar panels further contribute to the ships' energy efficiency.

Viking's Longships host a maximum of 190 guests, and feature a wide variety of stateroom choices, an indoor/outdoor Aquavit Terrace, and Viking's signature Scandinavian design aesthetic.

"We look forward to welcoming these new Longships to our European fleet and introducing The Viking Way of exploration to even more guests in the coming years," Chair Torstein Hagen said.

Viking currently has a fleet of 80 river ships, and also recently announced a new ship for the Mekong in 2025, *Viking Tonle*, which is set to double the cruise line's capacity in Southeast Asia (**CW 15 Nov**). *MS*



On location on board *Resilient Lady*

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you from Virgin Voyages' *Resilient Lady*, which shortly departs Sydney for its Aussie Preview Sailing to Melbourne.

VIRGIN Voyages' *Resilient Lady* leaves Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal with plenty of Australian trade partners on board for a quick trip down the east coast to Melbourne, her home port for the summer 2023/24 season.

Guests are able to sample more than 20 dining locations, bars, and of course the nighttime offerings - all the while experiencing the Virgin difference, in one of the newest cruise ships to have ever graced Australian waters.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A VIKING SHIP INSPECTION

Join us this summer for an exclusive ship inspection of our magnificent ocean vessels. Experience the Viking Difference firsthand at one of two locations, but hurry, spaces are strictly limited. Reserve your spot by selecting your preferred location below and use the password "Viking".

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PORThOLE

AUSTRALIAN businessman Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest is known for his occasionally zany behaviour, and his latest hare-brained scheme involved sailing his banned 75-metre luxury yacht into Dubai.

At first thought one would consider the United Arab Emirates' most populous city the ideal place for a vessel like Forrest's, however, the yacht is powered by green ammonia - a propulsion source which is currently not permitted to berth in any port under maritime law.

The Green Pioneer dropped anchor in Dubai last week, travelling from her base in Singapore, to be displayed on the sidelines of the UN Climate Change Conference.

"I actually thought it's better to...be blocked...sail it in, then be blocked and make it a demonstration to the entire world ports," Forrest said.

"This is what you're doing, you're actually stopping the world from being able to save itself if you don't immediately change regulations to let the ships in...instead of blocking pollution-free ships, prioritise them immediately."

RCI debuts *Star of the Seas*



ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has launched its newest and one of its most anticipated additions to its Icon class, *Star of the Seas* (pictured), which will debut in Aug 2025.

Star promises seven-night sailings to the Caribbean, with every cruise to feature a visit to Royal Caribbean's private island, Perfect Day at CocoCay.

The ship's debut lineup is now open on Royal Caribbean's website, and Crown & Anchor Society loyalty members have special access to book now in advance of this month's official opening of sales.

Adventurers can island-hop eastern or western Caribbean destinations aboard *Star*, with the newly opened sailings featuring idyllic locales such as Basseterre, Cozumel, Philipsburg, Roatan, and San Juan.

Star will feature eight distinct neighbourhoods, catering to every type of traveller, from the Category 6 waterpark and Crown's Edge for thrill-seekers, to Surfside for families, and Cloud 17 for young couples.

Royal Caribbean last week welcomed *Icon of the Seas* to the fleet ahead of her Jan debut (CW 28 Nov). MS

Aus circumnavigation

CORAL Expeditions is set to return its Expeditionary Circumnavigation of Australia in 2025, with the cruise line's *Coral Adventurer* to undertake the 60-night 'Australia's Coastal Legend' cruise.

The itinerary will depart Cairns on 17 Oct 2025, and with guest numbers limited to just 112, Coral is anticipating high demand for the voyage, following the single week sell out of the inaugural cruise last year (CW 19 Dec 2022).

The new voyage has a planned schedule of almost 50 excursion experiences around Australia, including a special cultural feast and performances in the Thursday Islands, a winemaker's lunch event in Margaret River, and a charter flight to enjoy a day in the Queensland outback at a legendary country homestead.

Coral's culinary team has also developed a program of shore excursions and onboard offerings inspired by the regional produce encountered along the way.

Commercial Director Jeff Gillies said Coral is excited to launch the new circumnavigation.

"The first voyage in 2022 has become legend," he said.

"Our focus will be to deliver a product that is more than just a sail around."



The Chat with Jenny Travel Daily

A conversation with Lisa Pile
Regent Seven Seas Cruises

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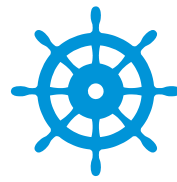
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CRUISE WEEKLY

Thursday 7th Dec 2023

THE Sydney offices of the Port Authority of NSW were once again the venue for the Australian Cruise Association's pre-Christmas gathering yesterday.

It was the first time in some years the event returned to the seventh floor of the building at Walsh Bay's Windmill Street,

which provides a splendid vista of Sydney Harbour.

Attendees from key cruise industry stakeholders were in attendance, including cruise lines, ground operators, shore excursion providers and regulators, with **Cruise Weekly** capturing these pics.



AUSTRALIAN Cruise Association CEO Jill Abel with Shane Murray, Cruise Broome.

CARNIVAL Australia's Lynne Scrivens with Ports Authority of NSW chief Phil Holliday.



JOANNA Schultz and Sarah Dwyer from Virgin Voyages with Tourism Australia's Leigh Sorenson.



PAUL Mifsud from Carnival Australia with Natalie Godward, Saltando Consulting.



JILL Abel with ID New Zealand's Debbie Summers.



TASPORTS' Kristy Little with CLIA's Hugh Cavill.



MARGY Osmond from TTF Australia with Sam Palmer from Austrade.



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