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Thursday 14th Sep 2023

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a front cover wrap from **Oceania Cruises**.

Luminosa is on her way!



An Icon-ic opening

ROYAL Caribbean International is opening *Icon of the Seas*' 2025-26 bookings three months early, due to a record-breaking response for the upcoming ship's first season next year.

The cruise line saw its single largest booking day and its highest-volume booking week in its history when *Icon* was first revealed almost 12 months ago (**CW** 28 Oct 2022).

The early release of *Icon*'s 2025-26 holidays will allow cruisers to secure their place on a seven-night voyage from Miami to destinations such as Royal Caribbean's private island, Perfect Day at CocoCay, and new ports of call Puerto Plata and San Juan.

"Since *Icon of the Seas* was revealed almost a year ago, the response has been unprecedented by every measure," President & CEO Michael Bayley said.

"Families and friends are looking for holidays where everyone can make memories their way without compromise, and that's what we set out to create."

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Carnival Luminosa* (pictured) is set to depart from Seattle on the company's longest-ever itinerary, with the 30-night trans-Pacific repositioning voyage ending in Brisbane on 15 Oct.

The Carnival Journeys voyage will take in several ports in Alaska before crossing the Pacific Ocean to arrive in Japan after 12 full days at sea.

Following an exploration of

Japan, *Luminosa* will head to Puerto Princesa in the Philippines and then Bitung in Indonesia, the ship's final call on the voyage prior to her arrival in Queensland for her second Australasian season (**CW** 10 Feb).

Luminosa will sail locally out of Brisbane to the South Pacific until Apr before heading back to North America for another Canada/Alaska season, before returning in 2025/26. **BP**

CLIA creates new North American MD role

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has welcomed Jason Park to the newly created position of Managing Director in North America and SVP for Global Government Affairs.

Park will oversee government relations, public affairs, policy development, membership and

commercial efforts in the USA and Canada, "reflecting similar CLIA structures in Europe, Australasia and South America".

Park joins CLIA with more than two decades of government affairs experience, most recently as Head of Federal Government Affairs, Americas at online travel giant Expedia Group.

Oceania evolving

EMBRACE the continued evolution of Oceania Cruises in 2025, with the addition of *Allura* to its fleet.

The cruise line is today advertising the upcoming ship on the **cover page of CW**.

The Chat with Jenny

Travel Daily



A Conversation with Jean Summers-Reeves

of Clean Cruising

Click **HERE** to listen



FINAL CALL FOR VOTES!

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

Your vote can make a significant difference in helping us achieve this recognition.

VOTE NOW

Thank you for your ongoing support!

China ship testing

CHINA'S first home-made luxury ship has completed its test voyage, after six days and 1,600 nautical miles, local media has reported.

Adora Magic City has been built by the state-owned China State Shipbuilding Corp, has passed all tests and is now ready for operation.

A total of 88 test projects were conducted and thoroughly verified *Adora Magic City's* manoeuvrability, automation level, navigation safety and comfort, and emission standards.

Adora Magic City has a capacity of 5,246 passengers and a length of 324 metres, making it one of the largest cruise ships ever built in China.

The country's Ministry of Transport approved the restart of international cruise operations in Mar.

Oceania festive season cruises

TRAVELLERS are being invited to set sail on a festive voyage with Oceania Cruises, with the company today detailing its 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 holiday season sailings.

More than 40 cruises will depart from Sydney, Miami, Lima, Singapore, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai during the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 holiday seasons.

The festivities will see Oceania's ships festooned with enchanting seasonal decorations, glittering lights, festive garlands, elegantly dressed trees, and gingerbread villages, and more.

Joyful entertainment includes a reading of *The Night Before Christmas* on Christmas Eve, visits from Santa Claus and his helpers, carol singing, glistening evening shows on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, a beautiful display for the lighting of the menorah, and special dedicated services on



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Travellers can also ring in the new year in style with ship-wide entertainment, including countdown parties with a special Champagne toast to mark the turning of the calendar.

Meanwhile a decadent gala brunch on New Year's Day will feature lavish desserts ranging from tarts & tortes to cheesecakes, macarons, and light

and fluffy profiteroles.

This year cruisers will revel in the myriad of delights of the eastern states with the 'Awe of Australia' 14-day voyage from Sydney to Bali aboard *Regatta*.

Highlights will include renowned vineyards, galleries, the Gold Coast, the Great Barrier Reef and much more.

Departing 21 Dec, cruisers will take in both Christmas Day and New Year's Eve aboard *Regatta*.

Almost 12 months to the day, the ship will return for the 'Wonders of Australia' cruise, which travels from Sydney to Perth over 20 days.

Cruisers will experience Northern Australia, enjoying the Great Barrier Reef, Aboriginal culture, and the country's frontier spirit, and will enjoy overnight stays in Bali and Perth.

For additional information, call 1300 355 200. *MS*



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A BRITISH man who lives on a cruise ship says he saves thousands of pounds, but faces one daily struggle not many of us may be able to put up with.

The man works as a house musician, and lives on board a cruise ship, where he spends 10 months of the year.

He shares glimpses into his life onboard the ship on his TikTok account

@jackcruisesaround, where he loves the free board & food, the travel, and meeting people from around the world.

However, he says poor internet is his number one bugbear, branding it a "daily struggle".

For someone who works on a computer, we feel the struggle.

UnCruise software

UNCRUISE Adventures has partnered with IBS Software to optimise cruise packages and transform its guests' experience.

The partnership will allow UnCruise to adapt in real-time to constantly evolving passenger demands through IBS' iTravelCruise Enterprise Reservation system.

The platform is designed to address the emerging needs of the cruise industry by transforming back-end IT to give lines the ability to aggregate product data.

P&O has a whale of a time



P&O Cruises Australia Key Account Manager Erin King last week hosted 50 travel advisors on a morning whale watching cruise in Brisbane.

Following last Thu's Cruise360 in the Queensland capital, King and her group of agents took to the "humpback highway" with SeaWorld Cruises in search for the 40-ton beasts.

Trade partners were spoilt to a show of mugging, tail slaps, head-rises, and some breathtaking close encounters from the whales.

Guests were also given the opportunity to participate in vital marine research, with the cruise joined by volunteers from Humpbacks & Highrises, a nonprofit organisation dedicated to the research and protection of marine mammals in South East Queensland.

Trade partners were shown the various behaviours they can expect from whales, and how to

record and collect vital data.

"Learning about the habits and behaviours of humpback whales is vital to help the population grow further, and as a cruise line, it is important we do our part in understanding and protecting the oceans we cruise on and the beautiful animals that call the ocean their home," King said. *MS*

Pictured: the group attempts to channel the animal they hope to see ahead of their cruise.

Hurtigruten funding

THE Hurigruten Foundation is inviting coastal communities to apply for funding, with new grant opportunities in the charity's second allocation of the year.

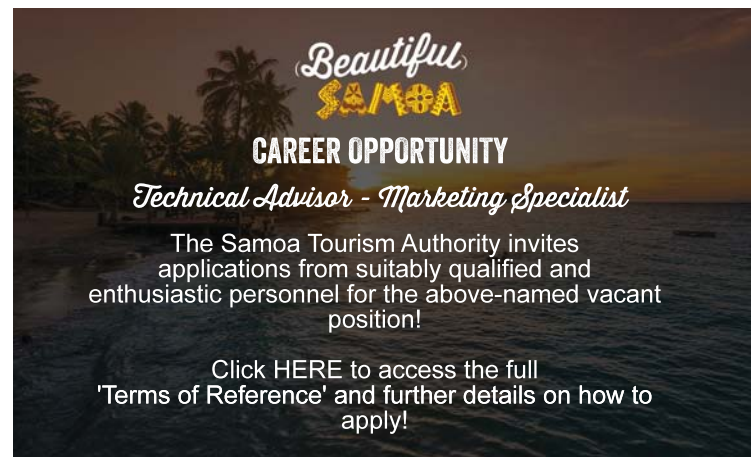
Communities where Hurtigruten operates are encouraged to appeal, with applications open until 01 Nov.

A record-breaking sum of €83,000 was distributed to 14 projects in the first funding cycle of the year (*CW* 16 Mar), which was Hurtigruten Foundation's largest single-round distribution to date.

More than one-third of allocated grants last year were recommended by Hurtigruten employees, with the company encouraging its people to put forward projects which positively impact the communities they visit.

Interested parties can download the application and submission guidelines **HERE**.

Hurtigruten Foundation has allocated kr7.25 million in funding since its establishment in 2015.



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