



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Cruise Weekly today

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

HAL new '25 WC

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has released a refreshed 2025 Grand World Voyage itinerary, including new ports.

The cruise aboard *Zuiderdam* features new portions to replace the previously announced route through the Red Sea, adding new ports of call in Africa, Europe, and North America.

The changes will only affect the last 43 days of the 124-day voyage, which will conclude in 09 May in Fort Lauderdale, Holland America said.

MSC dominating the World

MSC Cruises and Chantiers de l'Atlantique have marked two important milestones for the line's World-class ships, with construction beginning on the newly named *MSC World Asia*.

Work has officially commenced on the third ship in the class, which is due in 2026.

MSC also announced its second World-class ship, *MSC World America* (pictured), has floated out, and has entered the final phase of construction, readying for her naming ceremony in Miami on 09 Apr 2025.

The float out took place on Sun at the shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, with *World America's* naming ceremony followed by a celebratory sailing to Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, the cruise line's private Bahamian island.

World America and *World Asia* will become the third and fourth LNG ships respectively to join the MSC fleet, and will deliver one of the lowest carbon footprints in the cruise industry.

Both ships will also be fitted with shorepower connectivity, while smart technology will be used through the vessels to ensure energy and water use is kept low.

"*World America* is another example of the incredible professional partnership between us and Chantiers de l'Atlantique with whom we have designed five distinct and innovative



prototypes - the most recent being the ground-breaking World Class platform," MSC Cruises Executive Chair Pierfrancesco Vago explained.

"With each and every ship we strive to improve and enhance not only the environmental technology but also new features that enrich the experience for the guest as we design for the future holiday experience.

MEANWHILE, MSC has introduced 'Cliffhanger', the only over-water swing ride at sea, which is coming exclusively to *World America*.

The state-of-the-art attraction will tower 50 metres above the ocean, above *World America's* top deck, in the heart of the ship's Family Aventura district, one of seven distinct neighbourhoods aboard the vessel (CW 05 Apr).

Cliffhanger's four seats start off close to the deck, before powered arms lift them into the starting position up and out over the edge of the ship.

Riders are then propelled back and forth, high above the waterline and dangling 50 metres above the ocean. *MS*

New Windstar duo

WINDSTAR Cruises is welcoming two new ships to the fleet, *Star Seeker* and *Star Explorer*, which are expected to be delivered across the next two years.

Seeker is currently being constructed in the WestSEA shipyard in Portugal, and is expected to be delivered in Dec 2025, followed by *Explorer* in Dec 2026.

Each ship has 112 suites, featuring full private verandas and infinity windows, ensuring unparalleled views for every guest on board.

Two new Owner's suites with wrap-around balconies have also been added to the aft of the ships.



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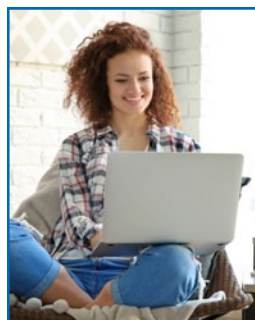
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READING is one of the most popular activities on board a cruise, and Holland America Line has teamed up with Audible for a virtual book club.

The alliance includes curated destination-focused collections, accessed via an extended Audible free trial, as well as free in-stateroom content available to all guests.

From travel and well-being titles to language lessons and more, the collaboration offers a robust selection of options for both on board while cruising and ashore from the personal device of any Audible member.

Pax can sign up for a two-month extended free trial of Audible Premium Plus to gain access to its entire catalogue of titles, including audiobooks, podcasts and more.

Cruise pax reaches new high



CRUISE passengers around the world reached a new high of 31.7 million last year, an increase of about 2 million on the pre-pandemic figure.

The statistic was confirmed earlier this week by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) at Seatrade Cruise Global in Miami, with Chief Executive Officer Kelly Craighead (**pictured**) describing the industry as “resilient and thriving all over the world”.

“We are an industry breaking records in ways we might never have imagined only a few years ago,” she said.

“CLIA forecasts passenger numbers will break further records this year, reaching 34.1 million worldwide, and 36.4 million in 2025.”

Managing Director Australia Joel Katz said it is clear industry leaders have a positive outlook for cruise sales globally.

“Of those who have cruised before, 82% say they are likely to

cruise again,” he reported.

“Even among those who have never cruised before, 71% say they would consider a cruise.”

Katz said a key emerging theme is efforts to attract new-to-cruise guests and younger generations are succeeding.

“The average age of a cruise passenger continues to come down, and some of the most enthusiastic new cruisers are emerging from among Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z,” he added.

Coral's new tech

CORAL Expeditions has embraced next-generation hull surface technology to redefine eco-friendly and fuel-efficient maritime operations.

The cruise line's *Coral Adventurer* is now the first Australian passenger vessel to adopt GIT Coatings' innovative technologies, including the XGIT-FUEL hull coating.

Viking weekly deal

VIKING'S weekly deal is its European Sojourn cruise from Amsterdam to Bucharest.

Cruisers can explore three rivers and eight countries on board the 23-day voyage, which is priced from \$11,595 per person, allowing those booking before the end of next month to save up to \$4,600 per couple - for more information, call 138 747.

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Jenny

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Fiona Dalton

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HAL seafood tick

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has become the first line to receive international seafood certifications with the Marine Stewardship Council & Aquaculture Stewardship Council for sustainable and responsible seafood.

The certifications underscore HAL Global Fresh Fish Program, building on the cruise line's commitment to bringing fresh seafood dishes from port to plate in 48 hours, CEO Gus Antorcha said.