



Cruise Weekly today

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

New tune for HAL

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is enhancing its entertainment with new productions, new music, and new performances.

The cruise line is introducing several new main stage experiences this year, with four new shows putting a fresh spin on the classic cruise production format.

New productions will be tailored to various regions to provide a variety of performances focusing on the local culture where HAL's ships are cruising.

The cruise line is also adding the Rolling Stone Lounge to more ships.

Oceania announces Tropics & Exotics 25-26

OCEANIA Cruises has announced its new 2025-2026 Tropics & Exotics Collection, which includes more than 130 itineraries spanning Australia, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, South America, and the South Pacific.

The Collection opens for sale on Thu, visiting five continents and well over 300 ports on cruises ranging from seven to 180 days, including *Vista's* debut 2026 Around The World Voyage (**CW** 08 May).

More than 90 sailings feature overnight stays allowing passengers the chance to immerse themselves in ports of call such as Melbourne, Panama City, Bali, and new overnight destinations Willemstad, San Juan, and Port Louis.

There will be 40 Grand Voyages which afford opportunities for epic journeys across distinct regions and multiple continents.



Riviera will be based in Oceania, cruising a range of 14- to 22-day sailings visiting Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific.

Other season highlights will see *Regatta* cruise in Japan and Southeast Asia; *Nautica* sailing in Africa; the Caribbean and the Panama Canal visited aboard *Insignia*; and six South America sailings aboard *Marina*.

Destinations highlighted in the Tropics & Exotics Collection, such as Africa and Asia, are some of the most popular with Australian cruisers, Vice President International Sales Jason Worth

revealed at the program's launch in Sydney this week.

"The most popular itineraries out of Australia, Cape Town and Singapore are very popular," Worth said.

He also highlighted the value proposition posed by Oceania, which has seen both land guests and new-to-brand passengers booking with the cruise line.

"We've seen a lot of people coming into cruise [and] not just from other cruise lines... hotel costs are through the roof, breakfast is \$50 [but with us], it's all included." *MS*

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A CARNIVAL Cruise Line Captain and his team have been recognised for their heroic rescue at sea, which saved 16 lives.

The Association for Rescue at Sea honoured the *Mardi Gras* Team with the Cruise Ship Humanitarian Assistance Award, led by Captain Niccolo De Ranieri.

Mardi Gras was returning to her home port of Port Canaveral in Jun 2022 when the crew spotted a stranded vessel carrying 11 men and five women in rough seas near Cuba, rescuing them in very challenging conditions, as the ship was avoiding a hurricane.

Viking Mongolia

VIKING has announced new Mongolia extensions for its China voyages, beginning later this year.

The new five-night 'Spirit of Mongolia' extension offers fully guided, immersive experiences either before or after Viking's China voyages.

Guests will further immerse themselves in the rich traditions of the region, from the ancient city of Ulaanbaatar to the Gobi Desert.

The program joins the variety of other pre- and post-extensions, including Hong Kong and Beijing, available on Viking's China voyages.

Azamara launches 25/26



AZAMARA has launched its 2025 and 2026 voyages, with the new itineraries including a 79-night Grand Voyage and back-to-back Caribbean sailings with more time in port than ever.

The season will see Azamara visit eight maiden ports, such as Santa Marta, Maizuru, St. Pierre, and Celukan Bawang.

Azamara's new sailings include a Grand Voyage circumnavigating South America and back-to-back Caribbean sailings without any sea days, while the cruise line's 79-night Grand Voyage begins and ends in Miami, immersing guests in South America.

Azamara has also designed its Caribbean itineraries to prioritise days in port, so guests can book

back-to-back sailings to spend up to 14 days exploring the vibrant culture of each island with no days at sea.

"We're thrilled to be bringing our guests to eight new ports of call in 2025 and 2026, from Scarborough, capital of the small island of Tobago, to Pointe des Galets on the beautiful French island of Reunion," Azamara Head of Itinerary Planning Michael Pawlus said.

"As longer trips continue to trend with our guests, we've also added a Grand Voyage that brings guests all the way around South America and Caribbean sailings that guests can combine for more immersive island travel without any days at sea." *MS*

Cunard eclipse

CUNARD Line's Solar Eclipse at Sea will offer prime viewing of the celestial event, with three of the company's ships to be in the path of totality.

The next eclipse will take place on 12 Aug 2026, with Cunard's flagship *Queen Mary 2*, *Queen Victoria*, and *Queen Anne* to be positioned in extraordinary destinations directly along its path.

Queen Mary 2 will embark on a 14-night voyage through Norway and Iceland, providing guests the rare opportunity to witness the eclipse during an overnight stay in Reykjavik.

Queen Anne will traverse Spain and France on a seven-night itinerary round trip out of Southampton, with passengers to witness the event from A Coruna.

Queen Victoria will sail a seven-night Western Mediterranean voyage, from Civitavecchia to Barcelona, with guests to view the eclipse from Tarragona.

"Watching a total solar eclipse from sea is an utterly unique and very rare experience," President Katie McAlister said.

"Cunard is therefore thrilled to offer three remarkable voyages positioned along the path of the 2026 eclipse - two in the Mediterranean and one in Iceland - which will give guests the chance to witness this extraordinary phenomenon from the water, an unforgettable moment observed from the luxurious vantage point of our Queens."

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