



Cruise Weekly today

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

The power of One

SILVERSEA Cruises' former *Silver Explorer* has entered service for a new cruise line, Exploris Expeditions & Cruises.

The 132-guest ship, which has been renamed *Exploris One*, set sail on her maiden voyage with her new cruise line on 23 Dec, following a significant refit in Chile.

The newly renovated vessel departed from Valparaiso for an 18-night cruise to South America and the Antarctic Circle - one of 30 departures during the ship's inaugural season with Exploris.

One will serve the French-speaking market, sailing in Antarctica, the Amazon, the Atlantic, and more.

AROYA reveals details of new ship

NEW cruise line AROYA Cruises has revealed its first ship, which is rumoured to be named *Aroya Manara* (render **pictured**).

The new line, which is being operated by Cruise Saudi, is currently refurbishing the former *World Dream*, which it acquired in Mar (**CW 06 Mar**).

The 335-metre *Manara* is set to include 19 decks, 1,682 staterooms, 17 restaurants, and a water park with five slides.

"We are delighted to sail into the new year with the unveiling of our first AROYA Cruises ship," Cruise Saudi Chief Executive Officer Lars Clasen said.

"This marks an exciting milestone for Cruise Saudi in creating a world-class cruise industry in Saudi while offering a new way to holiday in the Kingdom for locals.

"We look forward to welcoming the first passengers on board."



Additional details about *Manara* will be announced in the months leading up to her inaugural sailing, which will take place from Jeddah later this year.

Cruise Saudi was officially launched in 2021 to develop the infrastructure and services required to scale a full-suite cruise market in the country (**CW 02 Feb 2021**).

The company is responsible for

the development and operation of cruise berths and terminals as cruise gateways to key Saudi destinations, as well as scaling cruise services, including marketing, shore excursions design and coordination, ship operations, and more.

Cruise Saudi launched AROYA in Jun, with the cruise line being funded by the country's Public Investment Fund (**CW 19 Jun**). *MS*



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DISNEY Cruise Line's *Disney Fantasy* rescued passengers aboard a stranded boat on New Year's Eve (**pictured**), in what was certainly a karmic way to begin 2024.

Fantasy's crew spotted a stranded boat filled with several passengers north of Havana, with the rescue captured by passengers aboard the cruise ship (**CLICK HERE**).

Four passengers were brought aboard *Fantasy*, before being delivered back to the Cuban coastguard, in the last of a string of cruise ship rescues completed in 2023.



The Magic commences



CHINA'S first home-grown cruise vessel, Adora Cruises' *Adora Magic City* (**pictured**) has sailed from Shanghai, after being delivered from the shipyard late last month (**CW 22 Dec**).

Magic City set sail round tripping from Shanghai to South Korea and Japan, with the *Financial Times* suggesting more than 80% of fares have been sold for the inaugural voyage.

The 16-deck, 5,246-passenger ship includes more than 20 restaurants and bars, indoor palm trees, a theatre seating nearly

1,000 passengers, and a 2,000m² shopping mall.

Magic City is a joint venture between China State Shipbuilding Corp and Carnival Corporation.

Authorities have hailed the launch as a landmark for China's shipbuilding sector, which hopes to chip into Europe's dominance of the industry.

The name *Magic City* reflects the ship's "Shanghai design" and "Shanghai manufacturing", according to the Shanghai Administration of Culture & Tourism (**CW 25 May**). *MS*

Star's keel laid

THE keel has been laid for Royal Caribbean International's *Star of the Seas*, the cruise line's next LNG-powered ship, at shipyard Meyer Turku.

The celebration took place at the end of last year, with a crane lowering a massive steel block to the bottom of the construction pool on trestles to signal the start of the assembly of *Star's* hull.

"Once the ship is complete, it will strengthen a completely new kind of cruise experience with the standards set by its sister ship [*Icon of the Seas*]," Meyer Turku Chief Executive Officer Tim Meyer said.

Coins were left under the steel block by representatives from Royal Caribbean and Meyer Turku, a tradition which ensures the safeguarding of the vessel and all who sail upon her.

Star is planned for delivery in Aug 2025, and will debut from Port Canaveral (**CW 07 Dec**).

She will be the company's third ship powered by LNG, using the cleanest-burning marine fuel available.

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