



### Cruise Weekly today

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

## American orders five new ships

FIVE new ships are currently under construction for American Cruise Lines, the company has announced, which are scheduled for delivery to the brand over the next two years.

The consignment will include a mix of 'American Riverboats' and 'Coastal Cats', as the cruise line furthers its expansion on the US' coasts, and renews its focus on the Mississippi and Columbia rivers.

The new ships will be built by Chesapeake Shipbuilding in Maryland, with more details, including schedules, to be available later this year.

## LTC "great support" from cruise sector

### EXCLUSIVE

THE Luxury Travel Collection Member (LTC) Portfolio has seen great support for the cruise industry, which has been "very keen" to partner with the new Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) division, GM Nikki Glading (pictured) revealed to CW.

FCTG has great relationships with the sector, the division's new head added, and combined with Glading's former roles with Carnival Corporation and Infinity Cruise, the Member Portfolio is planning to interact closely with the industry.

"I've got very strong relationships with a lot of the cruise lines, so it makes sense so far they've been our biggest supporters, very keen to partner with us," she enthused.

Cruise lines have supported the trade during the good times



and the bad, Glading noted, and understand the value of the industry's expertise.

"They truly value [the trade] now more than ever, the cost of sale versus the expertise of having an advisor that will work really hard to understand a guest and they will get the right guest onto the right ship," she added.

Glading pointed out most of the

Member Portfolio's initial travel agencies sell a lot of cruise, such as 2023 CLIA Small Cruise Agency of the Year winner Bicton Travel.

Home Travel Company, which will join the Member Portfolio next month, was also recognised at last year's CLIA Awards, through its owner Robyn Sinfield, named last year's 'Cruise Champion' (CW 13 Mar). MS



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**ROYAL Caribbean**  
International's nine-month Ultimate World Cruise has become TikTok's favourite new "reality show", with social media users turning the voyage's passengers into unintentional "cast members".

TikTok has been flooded with posts from voyeurs on land since the cruise departed, on 10 Dec.

Users are dissecting the videos shared by cruise passengers, and speculating on *Serenade of the Seas*' potential as a floating arena for high-level drama.

Videos with the hashtag #UltimateWorldCruise have had more than 138 million views on TikTok - now that's the kind of exposure you can't pay for!

## Ride the RCI wave

**ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI)** is encouraging passengers to "ride the wave" with its new year travel deals, allowing guests to claim up to 40% off all local sailings.

Globetrotters can also save big with a buy-one-get-one 60% off on all international sailings, including world cruises segments.

The wave season deals can be claimed until the end of the month - **CLICK HERE**.

## CCL drops the ball on '23



**"NO ONE** does New Year's Eve like Carnival" was the claim from the company, as it lit up Times Square and celebrated on board all of its 26 ships on Sun.

President & Chief Executive Officer Josh Weinstein lit the famous Times Square Ball, ahead of its famous descension at one minute to midnight.

Revellers celebrating in Times Square would've also seen a number of the intersection's iconic LED billboards displaying the company's new "No One Does Fun Like Carnival" campaign to help set the tone for 2024.

Guests sailing with Carnival Cruise Line (CCL) for new year's also celebrated at sea.

"We start off 2024 with gratitude for our great guests, team members, travel advisors and business partners who have helped make our brand such a success and position us for a great year ahead," CCL President Christine Duffy said. *MS*

**Pictured:** Weinstein testing the giant light switch ahead of the big moment on 31 Dec.

## New Crystal cruise

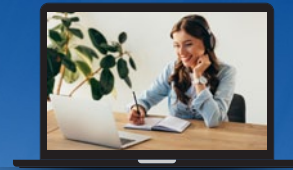
**CRYSTAL Cruises** has announced its Chairman's Cruise for this year, which will offer the opportunity to sail with industry legends, such as Abercrombie & Kent's Executive Chair Manfredi Lefebvre and company founder Geoffrey Kent.

The cruise sails from 02-08 Apr aboard *Crystal Symphony* from Jeddah to Rhodes, with a highlight to include a pre-voyage trip to Al-'Ula, joined by Lefebvre and Kent.

The five-day trip will include the iconic Jabal Al-Fil, known as Elephant Mountain; Hegra archaeological site, Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage site; and an exclusive dinner on the final night.

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**Journalists** - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai  
**Editor-at-large** - Bruce Piper  
**Publisher** - Damian Francis  
**Associate Publisher** - Anna Piper  
[info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[info@cruiseweekly.co.nz](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.co.nz)

### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

**Head of Sales & Marketing** - Sean Harrigan  
**Advertising Operations** - Nicki Harford  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz)

### ACCOUNTS

[accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia  
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220  
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