



Cruise Weekly today

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

Aroya President

CRUISE Saudi has appointed Aroya Cruises' first-ever President, Joerg Rudolph.

The Costa Cruises Managing Director Germany will bring with him 20 years of experience in the global cruise sector, which also includes senior roles with TUI Cruises, AIDA Cruises, Carnival Corporation, and Royal Caribbean International.

Rudolph will be responsible for delivering Aroya to the market, including overseeing the cruise line's operations and financials, sales, marketing, guest experience, itinerary planning, revenue management, customer services, and more.

CLIA to showcase new ships in Feb

NINE new ships will be promoted in a Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) online showcase for travel advisors next month.

Some of the most anticipated new ships of the year will be introduced to travel advisors in the 2024 Ocean Debut Virtual Showcase, which will run from 05 to 08 Feb.

The presentation will see live online sessions presented by eight leading CLIA cruise lines outlining the essential facts and features of their ships.

New ships to be profiled include Royal Caribbean International's *Icon of the Seas* (pictured) and *Utopia of the Seas*, Disney Cruise Line's *Disney Treasure*, Explora Journeys' *Explora II*, Princess Cruises' *Sun Princess*, Ponant's *Paspaley Pearl*, Virgin Voyages' *Brilliant Lady*, Silversea Cruises' *Silver Ray*, and Cunard Line's



Queen Anne.

The sessions will cover elements like dining options, entertainment, accommodation styles, public spaces, unique features and designs, and what type of experience guests can expect when they step on board.

The showcase is available exclusively to CLIA member travel

advisors, who can register online for each of the sessions via the Association's Members Hub.

Participants will earn CLIA points and have a chance to win prize packs by tuning in live, collecting a code word, and completing a quiz.

For more information, **CLICK HERE.** MS



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WHO are you sharing the ocean with when you're on a cruise ship?

New mapping techniques have found the ocean is filled with "dark vessels", with researchers exposing an enormous quantity of previously untracked human activity at sea.

Researchers have found, using a combination of satellite imagery, vessel GPS data, and AI, more than three-quarters of the world's industrial fishing vessels aren't being tracked.

Almost a third of transport and energy vessel activity has also been found missing from public tracking systems.

Most of this activity is located in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa.

Antarctic lounge

TOUR operator Antarctica21 has opened a private club for fly-and-sail expedition guests.

The new Explorers House, located in the centre of Punta Arenas, is a first-of-its-kind facility for guests preparing to fly to Antarctica.

Amenities include a restaurant, a bar, a coffee station, a library, and a presentation space.

There is also a welcome area, a restaurant serving Chilean cuisine, and a lounge space for 250 people.

Celestyal going year-round



CELESTYAL Cruises is set to expand to year-round operations, adding Persian Gulf destinations, in the biggest-ever change to the Piraeus-based brand's operations.

The all-new seven-day Persian Gulf itinerary will launch in Nov, and run from Jan to Mar, marking the first time Celestyal has sailed during the northern winter.

The Desert Days itinerary, cruising aboard *Celestyal Journey*, will visit four new countries and six new ports of call, sailing round trip from Doha, with calls in Bahrain, Dubai, Khasab, Sir Bani Yas, and Abu Dhabi.

Celestyal will double its winter offering the following season, bringing back its popular Three Continents itinerary, which includes stops in Israel, Egypt, Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus.

These are scheduled to start up again in Nov 2025 and will run through Mar 2026, having previously run during the northern summer, before pausing due to the Israel-Hamas war (**CW** 24 Nov 2023).

There will also be changes to Celestyal's "core program" next

year, with the cruise line to expand its recently introduced Heavenly Adriatic itinerary, which visits Montenegro, Croatia, and Italy from Greece.

"We are finding our sea legs on a more global stage," Celestyal Chief Commercial Officer Lee Haslett said.

"We know we do the Greek islands and Mediterranean like no other, but we have heard from our customers that they want more destinations, bigger itineraries, and a chance to discover more with Celestyal.

"The Persian Gulf cruises deliver this, with a homeport in Doha, stops at marquee destinations such as Dubai, Bahrain, and Abu Dhabi, as well as more bespoke gems in Oman and the island of Sir Bani Yas. We are starting the year strong and intend to keep growing and delighting our customers across 2024."

The changes come as Celestyal welcomes two new ships to its fleet (**CW** 17 Nov 2023), *Celestyal Discovery* (**pictured**), formerly *AIDAaura*; and *Celestyal Journey*, formerly *Aegean Goddess*. **MS**



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Another big year of cruise

HAPPY new year, and a big year of cruising it will be.

Australia is likely to experience one of its busiest years for cruising, with more local ships, more sailings and more cabins than ever before.

Cruise lines have made significant capacity increases in their local 2024 deployments, and this is a reflection of the huge passion Australians have for cruising.

The year ahead will also bring a succession of new ships into the world fleet.

Having launched 13 new ocean cruise ships in 2023, CLIA cruise lines are preparing to welcome a further nine over the year ahead, each illustrating the huge diversity of cruising styles available to today's traveller.

Our travel agent members have been a huge part of the success cruising is now enjoying worldwide, and we're grateful for your support.

To help back our members in their cruise sales, CLIA plans a busy year of events and education opportunities to ensure travel agents continue to thrive and grow.

If you haven't already renewed your CLIA membership for 2024, do so now, and if you'd like to be a part of the CLIA community, visit CLIA to find out more about how you can get involved.



EDITORIAL

Associate Editor - Myles Stedman
Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Publisher - Damian Francis
Associate Publisher - Anna Piper
info@cruiseweekly.com.au
info@cruiseweekly.co.nz

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
Advertising Operations - Nicki Harford
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au
advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz

ACCOUNTS

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
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

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