



Cruise Weekly today

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

An Icon-ic arrival

ROYAL Caribbean International's highly anticipated *Icon of the Seas* has arrived in Miami for the first time.

The cruise line's fans, executives, and employees, as well as local inhabitants, were on hand as the first to see Miami's newest resident.

The ship arrived in style, with fire boat salutes, banner planes in flight, and a community celebration at Perez Art Museum Miami.

Icon is set to embark on her inaugural cruise in just under 20 days, commencing her season of seven-night Eastern or Western Caribbean adventures from Miami.

Ponant opens Kimberley '25 for sale

PONANT has opened its Kimberley 2025 season, with 18 departures from May to Sep.

The cruise line's *Le Jacques Cartier* will return for her second year in the Kimberley after her inaugural season in the region begins later this year, alongside sister ship *Le Soleal*.

The two vessels will sail the 10-night 'Australia's Iconic Kimberley' itinerary between Broome and Darwin, offering an expert-led immersion into the region's spectacular untouched landscapes and fascinating Indigenous culture.

Guests will discover the Hunter River, the King George River, and the majestic Twin Falls, the highest falls in Western Australia.

The cruise, priced from \$10,170, will also visit Vansittart Bay, Swift Bay, Ashmore Reef Marine Park, Collier Bay, and more.

"We are thrilled to announce



the opening of our 2025 Kimberley expedition season," General Manager Sales & Marketing Deb Corbett said.

"As award-winning expedition leaders in the region, we are excited to showcase our expertise and continue to provide the unrivalled experience our Ponant expeditions are known for."

Le Soleal features just 132 staterooms, and *Le Jacques Cartier* only 90.

This year is also expected to see the debut of Ponant's *Paspaley Pearl* project, the former Island Escape Cruises luxury superyacht which was purchased by the line's partner Paspaley Pearling Company, in Oct (**CW** 26 Oct). *MS*

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JAW-DROPPING plans for a shark-inspired £826 million (\$A1.5 billion) yacht have been revealed - and the vessel is so big you need a golf cart to get around it.

The fittingly named, 332m *Outrageous* is the brainchild of Italian design studio Lazzarini, *The Sun* reports, and will welcome her A-list guests with a two-berth helipad.

Outrageous will pay homage to a hammerhead shark, featuring grey paint, windows representing teeth and gills, and a huge top deck which overhangs the bow, mimicking the animal's distinctive eyes and nostrils.

Other features include five swimming pools, solar panels, ample deck space for lounging, and room for several tenders at the stern.

Lazzarini is known for producing bizarre and outlandish concepts such as *Outrageous*, including a floating city inspired by a turtle (*CW* 22 Nov 2022).

Lennon is back

FORMER CW Assistant Editor Matt Lennon is joining the team once again, as the masthead's new Deputy Editor.

Lennon will work across both *CW* and *Travel Daily*.

Star to rise next month



BOOKINGS are set to open next month for Australia's first five-star overnight riverboat (*CW* 29 Nov), with fares now announced ahead of her launch in May 2025.

Murray River Paddlesteamers' luxury \$6.75 million, 38-passenger *Australian Star* (render **pictured**) will offer year-round, all-inclusive cruises of up to a week on the Murray River from Echuca, with bookings open to the public on 05 Feb.

Aussies who pre-register for the *Australian Star* Members Club can book from next month, while those attending the Geelong Travel Expo can book in person at the Murray River Paddlesteamers stand on 04 Feb.

A saving of 10%, and bonuses such as free secure parking in Echuca and a maiden season commemorative gift, are available for earlybird bookings made by the end of next month.

A 10% commission will be paid to travel advisors booking *Australian Star* sailings.

The ship's inaugural cruise will be a four-night sailing on 05 May 2025, followed by a three-

night cruise on 09 May 2025, continuing in rotation all year.

Guests will be able to combine both for a seven-night journey from 12 May 2025 onward.

"We're confident that when bookings open in Feb 2024, cabins for our inaugural season will sell quickly, with Australians keen to experience the birth of a new era for river cruising in this country," the line's Director Craig Burgess said.

He also announced *Australian Star* has been confirmed as the name for the luxury vessel, despite early plans to run a public competition to come up with a new name, with the early working title quickly building a strong resonance.

"It's clear the name *Australian Star* has stirred the imagination of many Australians and struck a chord, embodying the essence of heritage, elegance and the Australian spirit," Burgess added.

"Our majestic riverboat and its distinguished name will celebrate and keep alive the rich and storied era of paddlesteamers in Australia." *MS*

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	12 Jan
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	13 Jan
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	13 Jan
<i>Noordam</i>	13 Jan
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	14 Jan
MELBOURNE	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	12 Jan
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	13 Jan
PENNESHAW	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	13 Jan
BRISBANE	
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	12 Jan
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	13 Jan
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	14 Jan
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	14 Jan
BUSELTON	
<i>Regatta</i>	12 Jan
HOBART	
<i>Silver Muse</i>	13 Jan
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	14 Jan
BURNIE	
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	14 Jan
AUCKLAND	
<i>Resilient Lady</i>	12 Jan
CHRISTCHURCH	
<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	12 Jan
<i>Star Breeze</i>	12 Jan
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	13 Jan
WELLINGTON	
<i>Viking Orion</i>	12 Jan
<i>Azamara Journey</i>	14 Jan
<i>Grand Princess</i>	14 Jan