



Cruise Weekly today

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

MSC adds Starlink

MSC Cruises' fleet is being boosted with Starlink, with two-thirds of the line's ships now equipped with the onboard connectivity.

The fleet roll-out program will be completed by May, with Starlink to provide faster internet speeds, improved wi-fi in staterooms and public spaces, reduced latency levels, and lower operational costs.

The first MSC vessel to be equipped with Starlink was *MSC Magnifica* in Dec 2022, with the cruise line seeing bandwidth consumption continue to rise, driven by the increase in the number of devices connected.

Sun rises on new era for Princess

PRINCESS Cruises' "next-level" new ship *Sun Princess* (pictured) has debuted on her maiden voyage to the Mediterranean.

The 4,300-guest ship officially started her inaugural season on a 10-day Grand Mediterranean cruise round trip from Rome, taking guests to Naples, Crete, Kusadasi, Athens, Sicily, Mallorca, and Barcelona.

Sun debuts new eye-catching venues including The Dome, a geodesic, glass-enclosed structure at the top of the ship inspired by the terraces of Santorini.

"This is an historic day as our new *Sun Princess* sets sail on her inaugural voyage, and our guests get to experience our sensational, next-level, Love Boat first-hand," President John Padgett said.

"The ship is a magnificent showcase of advanced design, technology and craftsmanship, with elevated spaces and



experiences all focused on taking the Princess vacation experience to a new level."

The outward and suspended Sphere Atrium, the namesake of this new class of ship, takes *Sun's* central Piazza hub into a new dimension, enveloping guests with expansive ocean views and inspired to deliver the desired lifestyle of relaxed indoor and

outdoor living.

Sun's reimagined staterooms include new Cabana Mini-Suites with extra space for secluded outdoor relaxation.

The ship is also Princess' first LNG vessel, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and featuring ingenious energy recovery systems for eco-conscious cruising. *MS*

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CRUISING enthusiast Olivia, who helms TikTok account @cruisinginsiders, recently shared one of her best cruising hacks - buying a sponge and some dishwashing liquid before setting sail.

"First things first, go to your local supermarket and purchase some of the cheapest sponges you can find or use a sponge you've already got at home," she instructed viewers.

"Once you've done this, cut the sponge into little squares.

"Place them all onto a plate, grab some dishwashing liquid and make sure you drizzle it over the sponge squares.

"Take them outside and let them dry in the sun...once it's dry, this is how it works.

"Instead of having to wait for your mugs to be replaced every day, you can clean them so easily in no time."

Many cruise lines offer a kettle and only a handful of mugs, which are rarely replaced during a trip, as this TikToker recently discovered.

She also suggested using the small sponges multiple times before the liquid is completely dissolved, making them a quick and easy way to wash items during your holiday.

So far, the video has attracted 84,900 likes.

"Good for when you bring your insulated tumbler to an all-inclusive," she enthused.

Taiwan targeting cruise



TAIWAN Tourism has doubled down on the opportunity provided by the cruise industry to increase its numbers of tourists.

At the launch of the 2024 Taiwan Lantern Festival,

Taiwan Transportation and Communications Ministry Director General Dr Chou Yung-hui told media, "we want to develop cruise travelling in Taiwan to attract more people to visit in different ways".

When asked directly by *Cruise Weekly*, a spokesperson added,

"since Taiwan reopened its ports to cruise ships on 24 Oct, 2022, there has been a significant rebound in international routes, and the number of cruise ship visits to Taiwan in 2023 has recovered to 50% of the pre-pandemic level in 2019, and it is estimated to reach 70% by 2024".

Taiwan boasts seven international commercial ports and six domestic commercial ports including key ports of Taipei, Keelung (pictured), and Taichung. *DF*

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Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY		
<i>Majestic Princess</i>		01 Mar
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>		02 Mar
<i>Volendam</i>		02 Mar
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>		02 Mar
<i>Queen Victoria</i>		03 Mar
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>		03 Mar
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>		03 Mar
MELBOURNE		
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>		01 Mar
<i>Resilient Lady</i>		02 Mar
<i>Noordam</i>		03 Mar
PORT ADELAIDE		
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>		01 Mar
<i>Europa 2</i>		02 Mar
PENNESHAW		
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>		02 Mar
<i>Europa 2</i>		03 Mar
BRISBANE		
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>		01 Mar
<i>Coral Princess</i>		02 Mar
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>		03 Mar
CAIRNS		
<i>Silver Shadow</i>		02 Mar
<i>Borealis</i>		03 Mar
AIRLIE BEACH		
<i>Silver Shadow</i>		01 Mar
BURNIE		
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>		02 Mar
<i>Resilient Lady</i>		03 Mar
DARWIN		
<i>Seabourn Sojourn</i>		03 Mar
AUCKLAND		
<i>Royal Princess</i>		02 Mar
CHRISTCHURCH		
<i>Hanseatic Spirit</i>		01 Mar
<i>Grand Princess</i>		01 Mar
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>		03 Mar
WELLINGTON		
<i>Grand Princess</i>		02 Mar
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>		02 Mar