

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Riviera Travel River Cruises**.

Star new home port

STAR Clippers has announced Grenada as its new northern winter home port for 2025/2026 itineraries.

The new sailings from St. George will be of longer duration and showcase multiple new ports of call, with the 10- and 11-night voyages including visits to Charlottesville, Castara Bay, Carriacou, Charlestown Bay, Saint-Pierre, and Saline Bay.

The lengthened itineraries have been introduced to meet increased demand from guests for longer sailings in the Caribbean, Star Clippers said.

"Although our ships have been visiting Grenada on our many Caribbean itineraries for some years, when we saw the opportunity to home port one of our clipper ships there, we immediately set to work with the Grenada Tourism Authority to make it a reality," Chief Executive Officer & President Mikael Krafft said.

"The Caribbean is an ideal region for us as the famous Caribbean winds are always there to power our clipper ships, and to be able to offer our guests more."

HX goes all-inclusive



HX HAS launched an all-inclusive offering across its fleet, which will be phased in from later this year.

The all-inclusive offering will start with Antarctica & the Galapagos in Oct, and be standard across the whole fleet from Nov.

The offering includes more expert-led daily expeditions, a series of science-led activities both on board and ashore, more alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, professional photographs, upgraded Starlink wi-fi, and more.

Other inclusions HX offers are full board dining; gratuities; access to the onboard sauna, hot tubs, fitness room, and more; and take-home expedition gear.

Managing Director Damian Perry told **Cruise Weekly** the all-inclusive offer will resonate with the Australian market in particular, which has to travel long haul for any HX expedition.

Perry said the decision to go all-inclusive makes the job easier for both passengers and the trade.

"It's just going to be a great proposition for the seller because they will be at ease, because they

will be able to say 'choose the expedition leader in the market and know that it's all inclusive'," he said.

"To be able to remove any of that sort of stress and give [pax] peace of mind that when they're there, all they need to do is take the world and not worry about if something's included or something's not included."

Perry added the key concepts behind the all-inclusive offer are transparency and clarity, making it easy for HX's partners to do business with it, and easy for its guests to understand, which is the right tone for today's market.

"This will help redefine and give clarity to all those partners and those sellers of how HX sits in the market, that premium proposition that we bring to the market as an expedition leader, and the fact it'll be a really simple and clear value-led story for HX," Perry said.

"Having that all inclusive element and that real clarity around what's in there will give the agent peace of mind and give the guests peace of mind," Perry told **CW**. *MS*

Riviera bonus offer

RIVIERA Travel River Cruises' latest bonus promo offers \$1,500 per person off any 2024 or 2025 river cruise of 10-14 nights.

Meanwhile, travel advisors who sell four river cruises can get a free itinerary themselves.

Riviera Travel's featured river voyage is its 'Castle Hops & Mountain Tops' 16-night fly, stay, and cruise package, on sale from \$8,699 per person, departing 15 May - head to **page 3** for more information.

Cunard games

CUNARD Line has revealed *Queen Anne's* daytime activities, which will include, pickleball, archery, and more.

The cruise line's new partnership with PickleballENGLAND will see *Queen Anne's* top deck boast its very own pickleball court.

The ship will also be the only vessel in the world where travellers can master their archery skills with a real bow and arrow, as Cunard elevates its deck game offering with a new Archery GB partnership.

Meanwhile, golfers will enjoy a putting green and fully stocked driving range, allowing travellers to practice their game on *Queen Anne's* Observation Deck.

Ever-popular games such as quoits and shuffleboard will also feature.



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MANY cruisers (including yours truly) suffer from seasickness without some form of medication, and these people are being urged to avoid a particular experience in Bali.

A video shared on social media and on *Yahoo! News* shows what tourists travelling to Indonesia's islands can expect when seas are rough, and spoiler alert: it's not pretty.

The video depicts a fast boat travelling to an island off the coast of Indonesia during the wet season, with the vessel struggling to navigate the violent seas.

One passenger said the three-hour journey was "absolutely horrendous", and others agreed, with one saying they "didn't think they'd make it".

The vessel, which could be mistaken for a bounce house, is also seen taking on water through its windows - yikes!

MSC resumes from China

MSC Cruises has become the first international line to resume operations from a mainland China home port, with *MSC Bellissima* recently celebrating her maiden call in Shanghai.

Bellissima will home port in Shanghai, Keelung, and Shenzhen throughout summer 2024, with the cruise line marking the maiden call with a special event on board the ship.

Government officials, travel advisors, media, and partners were invited on board *Bellissima*, where MSC announced its winter 2024-25 deployment in the region which will see *MSC Splendida* operating from Shenzhen and Xiamen from Dec 2024-Apr 2025.

Meanwhile *Bellissima* will return to Shanghai from Jan 2025.

This will mean MSC will be the only international line to deploy two ships in China this year.

"*Bellissima's* maiden call in Shanghai reaffirms our commitment to a market that continues to play an important strategic role for us," Chief Executive Gianni Onorato said.

"We are fulfilling our

commitment to bring to the region a modern Asian flagship and we are dedicated to further invest in China and benefit the local economy.

"We want to push high-quality development of the cruise industry in the region, promote the cultural tourism industry and related home port markets."

Meanwhile, MSC has also announced it will host the naming and celebratory inaugural sailing for *MSC World America* in Miami at the cruise line's new terminal.

Guests attending the naming ceremony and celebratory sailing will be among the first to experience *World America* on 09 Apr 2025.

The celebratory sailing will follow with an extended call at Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve.

The ceremony will honour MSC's investment in Miami and the North American market, with the traditional breaking of a champagne bottle and a slate of events on board *World America*, and an overnight call at Ocean Cay, where guests will enjoy the destination's signature evening lighthouse show. *MS*

Albatros christened

THE christening ceremony of Albatros Expeditions' *Ocean Albatros* will take place on 07 May in Copenhagen.

Guests of the ceremony will have the chance to step aboard *Albatros* (pictured) for a guided tour, with the day to be completed with the traditional champagne christening on the ship's bow.

The christening ceremony symbolises a moment of pride for the Danish-owned cruise line in its country's capital.

"While we usually only traverse between Antarctica and the Arctic, we are looking forward to welcoming the *Ocean Albatros* to our hometown and celebrating with our family, friends, and partners," Albatros founder & Chair Soren Rasmussen said.



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