



Cruise Weekly today

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

Seabourn incentive

TRAVEL agents can earn themselves a \$500 Mastercard gift card in a new incentive launched by Seabourn.

To pick up the handy prize, simply book and deposit any of the luxury line's 2024 Kimberley and South Pacific itineraries on *Seabourn Pursuit* before 20 May.

There's no cap or restriction on the number of bookings and the number of gift cards an agent can receive.

The incentive is available until 20 May 2024 or until all voyages are sold out.

More information can be found on the GoSeabourn travel agent site - [CLICK HERE](#).

Ponant's Polynesia plan

PONANT will offer travellers two different propositions in French Polynesia for the 2026/27 summer, deploying one of its luxury expedition vessels to the area alongside a mainstay of the tropical region.

While specific itineraries are yet to be revealed, the 184-passenger *Le Jacques Cartier* vessel will provide a boutique alternative to the 332-guest *M/S Paul Gauguin*,

which has been based year-round in the region for 25 years.

Guests on *Le Jacques-Cartier* will be able to view the spectacular coral reefs and surrounds via the Blue Eye Lounge, while a team of expedition leaders will take guests ashore each day.

Ponant General Manager Sales and Marketing Asia Pacific, Deb Corbett, said the company's expansion in French Polynesia was a pivotal moment.

"With the introduction of *Le Jacques-Cartier* alongside the enduring legacy of *M/S Paul Gauguin*, we're unveiling two distinct avenues for travellers to delve into the rich tapestry of this breathtaking region," Corbett said.

Separately, *M/S Paul Gauguin* was extensively refurbished in 2021 and features a French Polynesian atmosphere onboard with local musicians, dancers and entertainers on each voyage. *ML*

Crown stepping in

PRINCESS Cruises has told **CW** it will contact all travellers and agents holding bookings on *Grand Princess* prior to the ship's relocation to San Juan, Puerto Rico (**CW** yesterday).

The ship was originally slated to sail from Australia for the 2025/26 summer, but will now see its bookings absorbed by fleet-mate *Crown Princess*.

Royal recruitment

UP TO 10,000 workers from around the world will be hired by Royal Caribbean this year as the line works to staff its ships in line with record demand.

The company is working with tourism boards around the world to seek applicants for a variety of roles onboard, with one of the major challenges being educating candidates about careers at sea.

Royal Caribbean's sea-based workforce numbered 88,700 at the end of 2023, around 6% lower than the year before.

Aranui discounts

ARANUI Cruises is offering no single supplement and 50% off second travellers in a twin share room in a new sale offer.

Discounts are available on all 2025 sailings booked by 21 Jun on all twin share cabin classes.

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CRUISE ships often collect various things that attach themselves to the hull while out at sea - barnacles, algae and all kinds of small fish.

However, *MSC Meraviglia* recently returned to its New York home with the carcass of an enormous 13-metre whale (pictured below) on its bow.

MSC Cruises notified marine authorities on discovering the dead whale on its bow, which was identified as a Sei whale and removed for examination.

Scientists are now working to learn whether the whale was already dead and floating when it was collected by the ship, with MSC adding it routinely alters itineraries to avoid areas highly populated by whales.



Emirates re-signs with MSC



EMIRATES and MSC Cruises have renewed their partnership for another two years, building on a 10-year relationship.

During the next couple of years, guests will be able to book a Fly&Cruise holiday package with MSC Cruises inclusive of return Emirates flights from 21 airports in Europe and the United States, with the offer set to become available to Australians in the coming weeks.

The two brands will also share insights to improve service delivery, as well as coordinate flight and cruise schedules. *JHM*

P&O booze rethink

BRITISH line P&O Cruises UK has amended its BYO alcohol policy, now only allowing pax embarking to bring one litre of wine or champagne onboard.

Previously, travellers were permitted to bring one litre of beer, spirits and liqueurs onto the ship with them.

A spokesperson for P&O UK said the change was made so the line can better adhere to its health, environment, safety and security responsibilities.

Milestone at NOLA

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has celebrated 30 years of sailing to New Orleans, taking more than 400,000 guests a year.

Nearly seven million travellers have cruised from NOLA with Carnival since 1994.

In honour of the milestone, Carnival donated \$30,000 to the Emeril Lagasse Foundation, supporting NOLA's education and culinary youth programs.

Princess Americas

PRINCESS Cruises has just released new adventures for 2025-26 across South America and Antarctica.

The cruise line is offering seven departures across five itineraries, covering 11 countries, sailing from Nov 2025 to Jan 2026.

One very special itinerary is the Antarctica 17-day Adventure cruise, which features four days exploring the Antarctic, in addition to a festive Christmas and New Year's Day voyage at sea, with an overnight stay in Buenos Aires.

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