



### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a full page from **Royal Caribbean**.

### Dial up the weekend with RCI

**ROYAL** Caribbean is inviting cruisers to ramp up their weekends, as the line takes getaways to the next level.

Agents can extend their clients' stays with two- to four-night sailings departing from Brisbane and Sydney.

Short escapes are available from \$459 per person, while until the end of the month, travel advisors can score \$50 bonus cash on every short sailing booking between 01 Jan and 30 Apr.

Head to **page 5** of today's **Cruise Weekly** for more information on the deals.

## Growth rate has FCTG targeting cruise

### EXCLUSIVE

**THE** cruise sector's predicted growth rate over the coming years is one of the key reasons for Flight Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) heavy investment in the industry, Global Leisure Chief Executive Officer James Kavanagh (pictured) told **Cruise Weekly**.

FCTG late last month acquired Cruise Club UK (**CW** 30 Oct), amid plans to expand the ready-made holiday packages business model of Ignite Travel Group into the United Kingdom.

The purchase allows the company to further lean into a sector with notable forecasted growth rates over the next few years, Kavanagh said, adding he believes FCTG can be a serious player in cruise.

"There are a lot of new ships that are coming to the oceans, rivers, over the next few years.

"Lots of new products [are]



coming online, and that's going to accelerate a huge amount of demand," he enthused.

"When we look at the cruise opportunity [and] the type of packages we bring to market, we address the entire marketplace, travellers who may not have even considered a cruise.

"If you look at some of the stats, it shows that 27% of cruisers over the past two years are new-to-

cruise...the type of products that we create is [such] great value that they [say]: 'I want to try one of those, that's such a great deal', so it's actually an excellent entry point to give consideration to testing out the cruise industry."

The new acquisition also helps FCTG in the layering of its offerings, Kavanagh added.

"Each of our brands have a different proposition - Flight Centre does a lot of close-to-home as well as fly-cruise," he said.

"Travel Associates and Scott Dunn are at the luxury end; independent agents are across the spectrum; and My Cruises is a fly-cruise, pre-packaged business with lots of bonus value included.

"Then you've got Cruiseabout, which is very much a specialist business focused on cruise.

"So you can see across the portfolio we're able to compete," Kavanagh concluded. *MS*



# VIKING

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## KrisFlyer sets sail

**SINGAPORE** Airlines has branched its loyalty program into cruising, allowing KrisFlyer members to earn points on a huge range of global cruises.

The program's new KrisFlyer Cruise division allows members to earn two KrisFlyer miles for every US\$1 spent on more than 30,000 eligible itineraries with 40 global cruise lines.

Participating brands include Royal Caribbean, Princess Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, MSC Cruises, Celebrity Cruises, Virgin Voyages, Disney Cruise Line and many more.

As an opening bonus, new bookings made by 12 Dec will earn 20% extra miles.

KrisFlyer miles will be added to guest accounts around four weeks after disembarkation, with points earned on cruise fares only, excluding taxes.

## HX explores in Sydney



**TOP** brass from Hurstigruten Expeditions (HX) gathered with an exclusive group of senior travel executives at Manta restaurant in Sydney last night to discuss the future plans for the luxury expedition cruising business.

Freshly installed London-based CEO Gebhard Rainer joined the dinner with other London-based executives, CCO Alex Delamere-White and EVP of Communications, Chloe

Couchman, while Asia-Pacific Managing Director Damian Perry hosted the night and conducted a short fireside chat.

"The most important mantra that we can have is that we are effortless to do business with," Delamere-White shared.

"We're still not completely there but there are a number of initiatives that we have got that will make it as easy as possible."

More from HX in **CW** tomorrow.

## Black Friday deals

**UNIWORLD** and Hurstigruten have released major discounts on various itineraries as part of the Black Friday sales blitz.

Travellers can enjoy 30% off a luxury Europe river cruise with Uniworld under the promotion, with prices starting from \$3,709pp for an eight-night 'Enchanting Danube' trip from Budapest to Passau, with bookings open until 22 Nov.

On the expedition front, Hurstigruten's Black Friday offering is inviting guests to explore Norway's remote coast with up to 50% off bookings made from 15 Nov to 02 Dec.

The deal, described by the line as 'spektakulart' sees the 12-day round-trip from Bergen priced from \$1,220pp.

Early access to the deal is available to trade partners bookings by phone and quoting 'BLACKFRIDAY24'.



#THECLIAS

22<sup>ND</sup>

# CLIA

CRUISE INDUSTRY

Awards

## ARE YOU AUSTRALIA'S MOBILE CRUISE AGENT OF THE YEAR?

Nominations are now open for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cruise Industry Awards

Nominate yourself or a colleague today

For more information on Award Criteria and how to nominate, please visit [cruising.org.au](http://cruising.org.au).  
Nominations are open to all CLIA Travel Agent members and close Friday, 29 November 2024.



## Travelmarvel NZ

**TRAVELMARVEL** has released its 2025/26 season, with one of the highlights set to be the ever-popular 15-day 'New Zealand Getaway'.

Guests will explore the Bay of Islands, including a cruise to Cape Brett Peninsula, and the iconic Piery Island.

The itinerary features an evening of Maori culture and cuisine, along with breathtaking views from the iconic TranzAlpine.

The journey culminates with a cruise through Milford Sound, showcasing its fjords and cascading waterfalls.

This trip can also now be experienced in reverse order on the 15-day 'Incredible New Zealand' itinerary, offering greater flexibility for travellers.

Prices begin at \$6,795 per person and earlybird savings of up to \$2,000 per couple.

## HAL searching for gold

**AN EXPLORATION** of the site that launched Canada's Klondike Gold Rush will be a new highlight added to Holland America Line's 2026 range of Alaska Cruisetours.

The adventure will be narrated by a Parks Canada guide and will immerse guests in the late 1800s era that saw up to 100,000 prospectors flock to Dawson City in search of fortune.

Eighteen new Cruisetours make up the 2026 range, each including a stay at the newly-renamed Holland America Denali Lodge (known prior as McKinley Lodge) or a visit to Canada's Yukon region.

Guests on HAL's Yukon and Denali Cruisetour extensions can also enjoy a Tundra Wilderness Tour in Denali National Park, another new feature that has been added to the range for 2026.

Cruisetour extensions range in length from 9-17 days and include either a three- or four-day cruise



on *Koningsdam* or *Zaandam*, or a seven-day 'Glacier Discovery' itinerary on *Nieuw Amsterdam* or *Westerdam* with a two- or three-night stay at Denali and Dawson City in northern Canada.

HAL has also introduced a 13-day Cruisetour itinerary beginning in Fairbanks with a flight to Dawson City before embarking on a glass-domed rail journey and a seven-day cruise to Vancouver.

The cruise line has renamed its wholly-owned Alaskan Lodge as Holland America Denali Lodge as a move to highlight the significance of its location. *ML*

## Ama African dream

**CRUISING** on the Congo River in Africa could one day be a possibility if passenger safety could be better assured, AmaWaterways co-founder Rudi Schreiner has suggested.

However, the problem in that area is infrastructure at several points along the river, including a lack of hotels.

"I've been looking at the Congo for a number of years, but it's not the safest area," Schreiner told *TTG News*.

The AmaWaterways boss said the brand had investigated launching on the Elbe, Loire and Po rivers, however all three had water level concerns.

The line also revealed *AmaRudi* will be the name of its second double-wide ship as a complement to the 2017-launched *AmaKristina*, named after AmaWaterways co-founder, Kristina Karst.

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**UNIWORLD**  
BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES.





**RESIDENTS** within earshot of Port Canaveral Cruise Terminal woke this morning to a medley of Disney movie tunes as Disney Treasure made a grand arrival at its new homeport.

After a 14-night trans-Atlantic repositioning, the ship was welcomed with a water cannon salute and saluted its new home with a soundtrack of Disney melodies on its horn.

These included *Be Our Guest* from *Beauty and the Beast*, *Hi-Diddle-Dee-Dee* from *Pinocchio*, plus *Yo, Ho! (A Pirate's Life For Me)* from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, an odd choice for a cruise ship.

## Fly free with Viking

**THERE** is still time to enjoy Viking's 'fly free' deal on select river journeys, as well as the 'companion flies free' offer on selection ocean voyages, for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Customers who book before 15 Nov 2024 will receive included return economy air on itineraries like the 23-day 'European Sojourn' voyage from Amsterdam to Bucharest or vice versa, which is priced from \$13,895 per person.

The free flights are also available on Viking's eight-day 'Danube Waltz' journey from Budapest to Passau or vice versa, which is priced from \$5,295pp - more info [HERE](#).

## Oak you have a great day



**PONANT** and Journey Beyond hosted an exclusive luncheon for valued travel partners to celebrate Oaks Day at Eureka 89 in Melbourne last week.

Partners joined the brands for an "afternoon in the sky", enjoying a three-course meal, flowing champagne, and plenty of networking and camaraderie.

A number of local travel agent partners were also among the guest list at the elegant soiree.

The event provided a special opportunity to strengthen trade relationships as the two brands

look ahead to next year.

The day underscored Ponant's commitment to its partnership with Journey Beyond, and a shared vision for the future of luxury and sustainable travel with further trade partners.

There was also a 'Fashions in the Sky' showcase, elevating the Oaks Day spirit with "haute couture" to new heights. *MS*

**Pictured** in their top-of-the-line horse racing best are Ines Iniesta, Journey Beyond; Judy Gillard, Bayview Travel; and Annabelle Brown from Ponant.



## CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz  
MD, CLIA Australasia

### Unlocking Asia's potential

**ASIA** is one of Australia's favourite cruise regions and it holds enormous potential, so it's important that we work with destinations to ensure our industry can prosper in a positive and sustainable way.

Over recent days, I've joined industry leaders from across Asia for a series of events focused on harnessing the power of cruise to create lasting positive benefits.

Among these has been the Shanghai International Cruise Summit, where I spoke about cruising's global strength and its potential in countries like China.

By fostering a regulatory environment that is predictable, business-friendly, and conducive to growth, China can create a fair and competitive marketplace where domestic and international cruise lines can succeed.

It also has the opportunity to lead in sustainable tourism practices, embracing innovations that make cruising more efficient, and environmentally-friendly.

We are exploring similar themes this week as I speak at Seatrade Asia in Manila, and also at the Global Sustainable Tourism Conference in Singapore.

Through collaboration among cruise lines, ports and destinations, governments, and stakeholders, CLIA is working to ensure our industry can be a positive contributor in Asia.







ROYAL CARIBBEAN

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