



ROYAL CARIBBEAN



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Do your client's need time to finalise their plans but don't want to miss out on an upcoming cruise? Cruise Covered is the new optional add-on that gives your clients the flexibility to cancel for any reason.

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Offer your clients a cancellation penalty protection when booking their next Royal Caribbean holiday.

*Cruise Covered is a non-insurance product administered by Royal Caribbean. FCCs are valid for three years, except where prohibited by applicable law. Other restrictions apply. For full terms and conditions visit royalcaribbean.com.au



CRUISE

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Tuesday 19th Nov 2024

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a cover page for **Royal Caribbean**.

New HAL giveaway

HOLLAND America Line is set to award more than 150 prizes over 12 days, including a 'Grand World Voyage', as part of its new giveaway, 'The Great HALiday Giveaway'.

The event runs from 06-17 Dec, with participants able to enter their details through a dedicated website, from now through to 05 Dec.

Prizes include a range of cruises in Alaska, Northern Europe, and the Mediterranean, and giveaways from partners such as Audible.

Those entering will a special gift for their next cruise - **CLICK HERE** for more.

You are Royally Covered

ROYAL Caribbean has launched a new program, Cruise Covered, a commissionable, optional, add-on to a booking.

Cruise Covered is a cancellation penalty waiver (a non-insurance feature offered by Royal Caribbean), if plans go awry and a passengers needs to cancel their cruise holiday.

The cruise line will waive the non-refundable cancellation provision of their cruise ticket, and the guest will receive a 90% future cruise credit.

Cruise Covered can be purchased up to 75 days before the cruise departure date, at either the time of booking or later on, and is claimable up to five days before the cruise departure date.

Travel advisors will receive 10% commission from each Cruise Covered policy added on.

Royal Caribbean will host a



trade webinar this Thu detailing Cruise Covered, which advisors are invited to attend.

Head to the **cover page**, or to ClubRoyal.com.au for more information and FAQs.

Other recent changes have seen Royal Caribbean change the FIT courtesy hold option lengths to create parity across all of its markets globally.

Royal Caribbean also recently opened bookings for its 2026 Trans-Pacific sailings from Sydney and Brisbane, on board *Anthem of the Seas* and *Voyager of the Seas* (**CW** 29 Oct).

Cruisers can enjoy a 16-night sailing from Sydney to Honolulu aboard *Anthem. MS*

Greenland limits

GREENLAND is reportedly considering a new law which could potentially cut off access to the Arctic country for expedition cruise operators.

The country's Minister for Business & Trade Naaja Nathanielsen is leading a bill which would require tourism operators to obtain a licence to operate in Greenland.

Licenses would only be on offer to businesses registered and paying tax in Greenland, and could include exclusion zones for areas deemed environmentally-fragile, prohibiting Zodiac landings and off-ship exploration.

The Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators is set to meet with Nathanielsen to discuss the proposal, which it says could significantly impede the development of Arctic expedition cruising.

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Game on for Crystal

CRYSTAL has unveiled the first Casino de Monte-Carlo at sea aboard *Crystal Symphony*.

A special ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on the first night of the Chairman's Cruise in Venice, following the announcement of the exclusive collaboration earlier this year (**CW** 27 Jun).

The casino will soon also be unveiled on *Crystal Serenity*, when she departs from Fort Lauderdale on 18 Dec.

Crystal's elevated gaming offerings will be available on all future oceangoing vessels, excluding expedition ships.

Casino de Monte-Carlo offers guests gaming options at sea, including slot machines, blackjack, roulette, and ultimate Texas hold'em.

Measuring around 100m², *Symphony's* casino features 29 slot machines and three live tables, while *Serenity* will have 32 slots and three tables.

The new casino is positioned where the Bridge Lounges were once located.

"We could not be prouder to unveil the first-ever Casino de Monte-Carlo at sea aboard *Crystal Symphony* this week," Executive Chairman Manfredi Lefebvre said.

"There was no better choice for a gaming partner than Monte-Carlo Societe des Bains de Mer, founded more than 160 years ago and remains a global leader in the casino industry," he added.

"I've known the team for many years and, like Crystal, they are fully committed to delivering upscale experiences that cater to the discerning tastes of travellers from around the world."

A&K Travel Group Chief Executive Cristina Levis said the casino has returned due to popular demand, after learning how much our guests missed on board gaming.

Riverside hosts first fam



AUSTRALIAN travel advisors have been welcomed on the first exclusive Down Under famil trip with Riverside Luxury Cruises.

The trip aboard *Riverside Debussy* travelled from 08 to 15 Nov, on a seven-day river cruise from Basel to Amsterdam.

Director of Sales & Marketing Andrea Kunze hosted a number of representatives from prominent travel consortia in Australia, who she met on a recent trip Down Under (**CW** 13 Aug).

The journey began in Basel, where partners boarded the ship, and were received with a welcome cocktail.

The group travelled north along the Rhine, immersing themselves in the rich culture and history of the river's scenic landscapes and historic cities.

Guests embarked on a number of guided excursions throughout the cruise, including a walking tour through Strasbourg, a 'City & Palace Tour' in Mannheim, a Kolsch beer discovery tour in Cologne, and a visit to Nijmegen's Airbornemuseum Hartenstein.

One of the highlights of the journey was the exclusive private dinner in the Vintage Room, which included a seven-course menu paired with wines chosen by *Debussy's* sommelier.

Partners are staying in *Debussy's* Seahorse Suites, which offer views of the passing riverbanks.

The inaugural famil marked a significant milestone for Riverside, the cruise line said.

"We are delighted that our Australian partners have experienced the journey in full and gained a deep appreciation for the breadth of the Riverside Luxury Cruises offerings.

"It has been an incredibly successful and rewarding trip, and we are excited about the future prospects in these key markets," the cruise line said.

Travel advisors are invited to experience Riverside first-hand at a special rate of \$375 per night.

Earlybird bookers for 2025 can also enjoy a 25% discount until Feb, and at least 15% before Mar (**CW** 20 Aug).

The Riverside brand is an offshoot of Europe's Seaside Hotels chain, which comprises 10 properties in Germany, Spain, the Canary Islands, and the Maldives.

Riverside currently sails with three ships: *Debussy*, as well as *Riverside Ravel* and *Riverside Mozart*, each of which feature suite-only accommodations, along with a 2:1 guest-to-crew ratio and a personal butler for each stateroom. *MS*

MSC going bigger?

MSC Cruises Executive Chair Pierfrancesco Vago has confirmed talks are underway with shipyards for its next class of vessels.

Vago, speaking at Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, told media designs for the ships are being drawn up, and a prototype is being developed.

The MSC boss said he has been in discussions with a number of European shipyards, as the line prepares to launch *MSC World America*.

Media reports have suggested the cruise line's next class of ships could be bigger than Royal Caribbean's groundbreaking Icon-class.

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SUPERSTITIOUS Californians may be getting worried after a three-metre oarfish, known also as a “Doomsday Fish”, was found washed ashore near the town of Encinitas this week.

Legend has it that if you see an oarfish, a disaster could be about to occur.

The serpent-like creatures carry a historical stigma as a predictor of doom.

For example, 20 oarfish were found scattered along beaches in Japan in 2011 just before the devastating 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that killed nearly 20,000 people.

The fish normally live in the deepest parts of the ocean beyond the reach of sunlight.

Scientists believe changing weather patterns may be the cause of more regular sightings of the oarfish.

Let’s hope there’s not too much ruin on the way for the people of California.

JNTO cruising to success



A TRADE famil has just returned from Japan, showcasing the country’s unique opportunities for the cruise market.

The group was hosted by Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO), spotlighting Kyushu and rural Japan, and providing a first-hand experience of the country’s diverse travel offerings.

The journey explored destinations like Fukuoka, Beppu, Kumamoto, and Takachiho Gorge, where the group is **pictured**.

The four-night tour showcased Kyushu’s coastal and scenic cruise opportunities, and was structured to align with specific travel

themes and regions, ensuring the group experienced Japan’s attractions and local experiences.

“We showcased the beauty, easy accessibility and uniqueness of areas in Kyushu still relatively unknown by the Australian market,” JNTO Business Development & Senior Assistant Marketing Manager Harriett Bougher said.

“Our goal of this famil is that, with first-hand insight and experience, our carefully selected participants will be able to craft tour products that will encourage more Australians to travel to Kyushu pre- and post-cruise.” *MS*

Viking weekly deal

VIKING’S deals of the week include a ‘Quiet Season Mediterranean’ sailing.

The cruise line’s eight-day Ancient Mediterranean Treasures voyage from Istanbul to Athens, or vice versa, is priced from \$5,495 per person in a Veranda Stateroom, with savings up to \$1,000 per person, and a complimentary Silver Spirits Beverage Package, when booked before 18 Dec.

Cruisers will witness the origin of civilisation, cruising the Aegean Sea, and spend two days in Istanbul.

The 13-day ‘Mediterranean Odyssey’ voyage from Barcelona to Venice (or vv) is also priced specially from \$8,195 per person in a Veranda, with savings of up to \$1,000 per person, and a complimentary Silver Spirits Beverage Package, when booked before 18 Dec.

Passengers will set course for an exploration of some of the Mediterranean’s most historic ports, as well as Venice, and the town of Tuscany.

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