



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

Cruise in NSW's crosshairs



EXCLUSIVE

CRUISE has not been forgotten from the forthcoming NSW Visitor Economy Strategy (CW 09 Oct), the state government has confirmed, following alert from around the industry as to why it was missing from the review released earlier this week.

The preliminary strategy, published on Tue, raved of millions of extra airline seats, tens of thousands of hotel rooms, and a focus on "experience-led" tourism, but failed to make any mention of the future of the cruise industry in NSW.

However, a government spokesperson, responding to questions from CW, has reinforced the important role cruise plays in NSW's visitor economy - which will be made clear in the finalised strategy.

"The review released on Tue will inform the forthcoming NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2035

which, led by DNSW, proposes to include the significant opportunity presented by cruise," the spokesperson told CW.

"The long-term future of cruise in NSW is very bright and our existing cruising facilities still have capacity to accommodate growth for years to come."

The government also confirmed the proposal for a third cruise terminal in Sydney is still alive, despite silence on the matter since the Yarra Bay tender was killed off (CW 05 Jun 2023).

"Port Authority is exploring alternate locations for a third terminal to cater for the expected long-term growth of cruise in NSW and has been engaging closely with the cruise industry.

"[They are] well underway with this work and once completed will report back to the NSW Government on viable options," the spokesperson said. MS

Pictured: Resilient Lady.

Encore new cruises

SEABOURN Cruise Line has revised its autumn itineraries next year for *Seabourn Encore*, which will now feature voyages through the Mediterranean, the Adriatic, the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, Hawaii, and Japan.

Encore will journey westbound from the Mediterranean to Japan to avoid the Red Sea, which is still in the midst of an ongoing crisis linked to the Israel-Hamas war.

The new schedule offers seven itineraries, ranging from eight to 17 days, covering 33 destinations across 17 countries, with three maiden calls for Seabourn: Ceuta, Tokyo, and Osaka.

Other itinerary highlights include crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Lisbon to Miami and the southern Caribbean; transiting the historic Panama Canal along with a full turnaround in Fuerte Amador; and special holiday sailings to Hawaii, with combination voyages to take Seabourn guests to Japan, Taiwan, and Southeast Asia.

Encore will also visit a number of ports she has never called before, such as Alghero, Motril, Hamilton, Kralendijk, and Willemstad.

Seabourn has been adjusting a number of its itineraries over the past 12 months.

Some crepe news

OCEANIA Cruises has unveiled details of the Creperie, a new culinary venue debuting aboard the line's new ship *Allura* next year.

The Creperie will offer a selection of tempting French crepes, Bruxelles waffles and bubble waffles, alongside Italian ice cream sundaes.

The venue will be open from mid-morning and throughout the afternoon, allowing guests to choose from 20 recipes, or customise their choice.

Oceania Executive Culinary Directors Alex Quaretti and Eric Barale have developed the recipes for The Creperie.

"We cannot wait for *Allura* to join the fleet, and the new Creperie concept is a great addition to our onboard culinary venues," Quaretti said.

"Located next to Baristas, and just around the corner from the very popular Bakery, the new Creperie completes this sociable and temptingly delicious corner of the ship."

The chefs are working to finalise other menu developments specifically for *Allura*, plus other new culinary initiatives to be rolled out across the eight-ship fleet.



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MSC's new record

MSC Cruises is rolling out its Guinness World Record entertainment across its fleet, with the program now available on 12 ships.

The Guinness World Record program is expected to be on board all MSC ships in the next year, giving guests the opportunity to write their name in the history books through a variety of activities.

The program was first introduced on two MSC ships, *MSC Seascope* and *MSC World Europa*, in Mar last year.

It will also be available on MSC's newest World Class ship, *MSC World America*, when she sets sail from Miami in Apr.

New Viking ship

VIKING has taken delivery of its newest Egypt ship, *Viking Sobek*, which will join her sister vessels on the Nile.

The delivery ceremony took place when *Sobek* was presented at Massara shipyard in Cairo.

Sobek will sail Viking's popular 12-day Pharaohs & Pyramids itinerary.

"With the arrival of the *Viking Sobek*, we look forward to introducing even more curious travellers to the country's rich history and fascinating cultural treasures," Chair & Chief Executive Officer Torstein Hagen said.

Another Perfect destination



ROYAL Caribbean has introduced its new private destination, Perfect Day Mexico, set to open in 2027 on Mexico's Caribbean coast in Mahahual.

The next addition in the cruise line's Perfect Day Collection will offer new adventures in the western Caribbean, including an all-new water park; pools and beaches; a variety of restaurants and bars; music; and more.

"Perfect Day at CocoCay has been a game changer for both our guests and our business," Royal Caribbean Group President & Chief Exec Jason Liberty said.

"With travellers prioritising unique experiences and destinations driving their booking decisions, we're excited to expand our Perfect Day Collection by creating Perfect Day Mexico to super serve guests who want to explore the western Caribbean.

"Our momentum for reimagining the ultimate vacation experience

for guests of all ages continues as we help guests turn the vacation of a lifetime into a lifetime of vacations across our brands."

Perfect Day Mexico will also be a sustainable destination, with Royal Caribbean working closely with the local government and community to deliver experiences in a responsible way.

The announcement came after the cruise line earlier this year revealed plans for Royal Beach Club Cozumel, another new beach experience in Mexico slated to open in 2026 (CW 25 Mar).

Both destinations will join a growing line-up of Royal Caribbean's offerings on the island, which includes the adults-only Hideaway Beach that opened in Jan, along with the Royal Beach Club Collection, which will debut in 2025 with Royal Beach Club Paradise Island in The Bahamas.

More details about Perfect Day Mexico will be revealed soon. JM

New Atlas tool

ATLAS Ocean Voyages has unveiled a new travel advisor booking tool, the Atlas Advisor Central portal.

The tool is designed to make it easier for advisors to book, manage, and track their client's voyages, simplifying the booking process.

It offers an intuitive experience, with features such as searching expeditions by destination, booking staterooms, accessing promotional rates, and tracking all bookings.

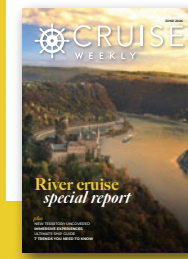
Advisors can now access the new tool at [Agents. AtlasOceanVoyages.com](https://agents.atlasoceanvoyages.com).

"We are committed to supporting our travel partners, and this enhancement simplifies the process, making it easier for advisors to do business with us," outgoing President & Chief Executive Officer James Rodriguez said.

Atlas also recently announced its 2026 Arctic season, which will see shorter itineraries aimed at travellers eager to see the Arctic without committing to a more in-depth exploration (CW 05 Aug).

The season features first-time ports like Skjoldungen Island, Greenland; Stykkisholmur, Iceland; and Senja in Norway for its two ships, *World Voyager* and *World Navigator*, which will sail six- and seven-night itineraries.

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FIVE lucky people in the UK can now brag that they have “the coolest job on Earth” after being recruited by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, a conservation charity that cares for historic British bases on the icy continent.

George Clarke, a 34-year-old from Bristol, will be among a small team managing the world’s most southerly museum and post office in Antarctica, where they will live for five months alongside the resident gentoo penguins.

The crew will carry out a variety of tasks, including conservation repairs, monitoring wildlife and greeting cruise ship visitors.

As postmaster, Clarke will be responsible for processing the many letters and postcards left by those who stop at the tiny wooden museum from up to two cruise ships a day.

Other team members will manage the museum and run the small shop.

“I thought it’d be something new, something exciting - and that I had nothing to lose from applying,” Clarke revealed to *The Guardian*.

“So I just thought, why not give it a go?”

“I’m looking forward to waking up and having my morning coffee looking out over Antarctica, hopefully seeing a whale too,” he added.

APT partners with Coral



APT has announced its return to Queensland expedition cruising for next year, with brand-new itineraries in partnership with Coral Expeditions.

These journeys will explore the Great Barrier Reef, with an eight-day itinerary, departing on 20 Nov 2025, which includes a seven-night expedition aboard Coral’s *Coral Discoverer*.

Highlights of the cruise include snorkelling, diving, and swimming with the Great Barrier Reef’s marine life.

Guests will also learn about ancient indigenous culture and Australian heritage at Cooktown, visit the turtle rehabilitation centre on Fitzroy Island, and enjoy sunset drinks on the coral sand cay of Sunbury Cay.

Experiences include exploring the reef by kayak, glass-bottom boat, or aboard the Xplorer tender vessel, which ensures seamless beach landings.

The voyage features a dedicated APT Cruise Director and an expert expedition team.

Guests will enjoy chef-prepared meals using local seasonal produce, along with all-inclusive drinks, with prices starting from \$6,495 per person.

APT is also offering a 13-day ‘Great Barrier Reef with Tropical Queensland Highlights’, combining the reef cruise with a five-night APT 4WD journey, departing on 15 Nov 2025.

Guests will travel through Queensland’s tropical highlights in a custom-designed 4WD vehicle, exploring the Port Douglas Markets, the Ngadiku Dreamtime Gorge Walk in the Daintree Rainforest, Paronella Park, and the Kuranda Skyrail Rainforest Cableway.

Prices start from \$10,995 per person, and the itinerary departs with a maximum of 20 guests.

APT also recently announced Peter Cosgrove, former Australian Governor-General, as a special guest and host on select Kimberley and Northern Europe & Arctic expedition cruises next year (*CW* 08 Oct). *MS*

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in
Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	12 Oct
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	13 Oct
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	14 Oct
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	16 Oct

MELBOURNE	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	16 Oct

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	12 Oct
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	16 Oct

PERTH	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	16 Oct

CAIRNS	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	17 Oct
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	17 Oct

ALBANY	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	11 Oct

BUSSELTON	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	13 Oct
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	17 Oct

AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	14 Oct

AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	11 Oct
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	15 Oct
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	15 Oct
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	17 Oct

WELLINGTON	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	13 Oct

CHRISTCHURCH	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	14 Oct

BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	26 Oct
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	27 Oct

DUNEDIN	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	15 Oct

FIORDLAND	
<i>The World</i>	14 Oct
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	16 Oct