



Cruise Weekly today

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

Star new features

PRINCESS Cruises' new *Star Princess* will feature expanded dining venues and leisure experiences, as well as new non-smoking casino areas, when she debuts next year.

The second Sphere-class ship to launch will feature an expanded O'Malley's Irish Pub and Love by Britto, a new SkyDeck Sports Court & Track, and a larger non-smoking area in the casino.

The 4,300-guest ship will also be powered by liquefied natural gas, as well as cutting-edge Sphere-class features such as its namesake glass-enclosed piazza, and the geodesic new 'Dome'.

Royal commits four ships to Alaska in '26

ROYAL Caribbean has rolled out new Alaska adventures for 2026, with *Voyager of the Seas* (pictured) set to make her debut in the state.

The ship will visit Dawes Glacier, Endicott Arm, Juneau, Sitka and Skagway, as well as Icy Strait Point, on seven-night cruises departing Seattle.

The news comes in the wake of a significant victory for the industry in Alaska, as Juneau voters declined to adopt the proposed 'Ship Free Saturdays', which would have seen large cruise vessels banned from the city on a day typically reserved for local recreation (CW 21 Oct).

Meanwhile, *Voyager* will join *Anthem of the Seas*, *Serenade of the Seas*, and *Ovation of the Seas* as they offer seven-night cruises from Seattle, or 7- to 13-nights from Vancouver or Seward.

Ovation returns as the first in



the action-packed Quantum Class lineup, with overland cruisetours.

Anthem will cruise seven-night vacations from Seattle to explore Skagway, Sitka, Endicott Arm, Dawes Glacier, and Juneau.

Meanwhile, *Serenade* takes in the sights in between destinations and passages like Icy Strait Point, the majestic Inside

Passage, Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, and Tracy Arm fjord.

The new 2026 Alaska vacations are now open for bookings.

Royal Caribbean Group also announced it will construct a new port in Juneau earlier this week - which it later apologised to the city for blindsiding it with the announcement (CW 24 Oct). MS

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Kimberley opened

PREVIOUSLY unexplored locations in WA's ultra-remote Kimberley are featured in the new 2026 sailing schedule released by True North.

New for the season is a 13-night 'Kimberley Untold' itinerary, with the line saying guests can gain access to previously unexplored regions and access to "hidden gems".

Also new is a 10-night 'Navigate New Britain' sailing, which takes travellers deep into Papua New Guinea to see village traditions, explore coral reefs and enjoy sport-fishing.

Ahead of 2026, the line said both *True North* and *True North II* will be completely refreshed with improvements to the daytime areas onboard.

Cruise law victory

THE cruise industry has scored a victory in an American court, which ruled against an earlier decision finding a number of major cruise companies guilty in engaging in illegal tourism to Cuba between 2015 and 2019.

The earlier decision found Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Group, MSC Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings liable for US\$439 million in damages to Havana Docks Corp, which had their shoreside assets confiscated by Castro (**CW** 05 Jan 2023).

G, that's great news



G ADVENTURES has announced the launch of a fleet of five yachts for next year, purpose-built to sail in Greece.

The five vessels are spacious and stylish, with each carrying 10 travellers in five cabins, which can be configured as either a twin or a double, all of which are equipped with bedside reading lights and USB ports.

Each vessel also features a fully-equipped galley, a comfortable communal area, and a sun-drenched deck perfect for lazy sea days, which is also fitted with an outdoor shower to hose off after swimming.

Each sailing is led by a qualified 'Skipper CEO' (chief experience officer), knowledgeable about the islands, and hidden spots far away from the well-known tourist destinations.

The shoreside experiences ensure travellers interact with locals and support communities that may not usually see a lot of

tourists.

The five vessels will be deployed in Greece between now and Jun, ahead of the 2025 season, which will run from Apr to Oct.

Director of Global Sailing, Vince Donnelly, said the new vessels also embody G Adventures'

commitment to sustainability and community tourism.

"All five boats have been fitted with solar panels and state-of-the-art engines and generators that minimise environmental impact without sacrificing performance," he said.

"Recycled and natural materials have been prioritised in the boats' construction, ensuring all materials used are free from harmful substances.

"This commitment to the environment and spreading tourism dollars to lesser-visited communities on smaller Greek Islands really sets the bar high for operators in the region, and ensures we'll deliver an incredible experience for our travellers that is simultaneously kind to our planet and its people."

The new additions join G's sailings also available in the Canary Islands, Croatia, Italy, The Maldives, Montenegro, and Thailand - **CLICK HERE**. *MS*

Murray River rated

NATIONAL Geographic has released its latest 'Best of the World' destinations and travel experiences for 2025, with Australia's Murray River the only local inclusion on the list.

The prestigious ranking also cites the new *Australian Star* overnight paddlesteamer as a featured product, with Murray River Paddlesteamers saying the recognition will put the product on the world map.

"The Murray is an Australian icon rich in culture, nature and history, and we're delighted the river and our overnight paddlesteamers have been voted as world-class experiences for 2025," said Murray River Paddlesteamers Director, Craig Burgess.

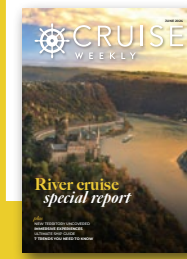
"Our new, five-star vessel, *Australian Star*, will revolutionise overnight river cruising in Australia when she begins cruises next year, drawing new high-yield domestic and international visitors and lucrative tour group business to the Murray region," Burgess added.

Viking Pharaohs '27

BOOKINGS are now open for Viking's 12-day 'Pharaohs & Pyramids' cruisetour in 2027, with airfares included for those who book by 15 Nov '24.

There are 221 departures available across 10 ships.

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CARNIVAL Cruise Line President Christine Duffy has quite literally jumped at the chance to help Floridians impacted by hurricanes Helene and Milton.

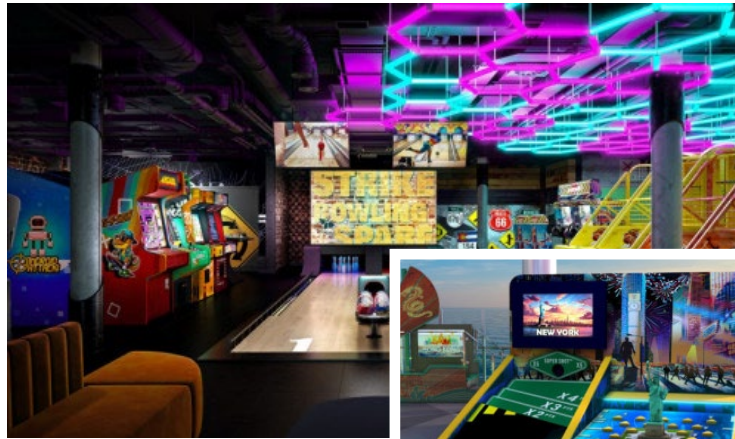
The cruise leader swapped the seas for the sky, recently completing a tandem skydive over Tampa Bay as part of a fundraiser she led, which raised more than US\$85,000 for the Gary Sinise Foundation.

The charity provides assistance for first responders who are engaging in cleanup and recovery efforts following the recent hurricanes.

Duffy timed her skydive to take place as *Carnival Paradise* departed from the Port of Tampa Bay.

"Jumping from a plane was a rush, but the real thrill is supporting a meaningful cause in one of our important homeport communities," she said - watch **HERE**.

NCL getting its games on



RETRO arcade games such as *Pac-Man*, *Donkey Kong* and *Down The Clown* will feature in a new sport and game zone on Norwegian Cruise Line's new Prima-Plus ships *Norwegian Aqua* and *Norwegian Luna*.

Both ships will introduce the 'Bull's Eye Bar', featuring ten-pin bowling lanes (pictured) and a virtual reality zone allowing guests to challenge each other to games such as *Space Racing* and *Beat Hero*.

The bar will also feature a digital interactive darts game with video game graphics and automated scoring projected to a big screen.



Cruisers on *Aqua* and *Luna* will also be able to enjoy upgraded versions of NCL's popular 'Tee Time' mini golf game, which will be more than twice the size of those on other NCL ships.

The course will feature 12 interactive holes over two decks, with each themed on the different 'Wonders of the World'.

By popular demand, NCL will also move its pickleball court outside The Stadium zone into a dedicated space. *ML*

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Crown Princess</i>	26 Oct
<i>Royal Princess</i>	28 Oct
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	30 Oct
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	30 Oct
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	31 Oct
MELBOURNE	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	26 Oct
<i>Crown Princess</i>	30 Oct
ADELAIDE	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	30 Oct
DARWIN	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	26 Oct
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	27 Oct
<i>Silver Muse</i>	29 Oct
HOBART	
<i>Crown Princess</i>	28 Oct
CAIRNS	
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	26 Oct
BROOME	
<i>True North II</i>	26 Oct
EDEN	
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	30 Oct
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	26 Oct
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	31 Oct



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