



Cruise Weekly today

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



On location in Adelaide

Today's issue of CW is coming to you from Adelaide at the Australian Cruise Association conference at EOS by SkyCity.

UNDER the theme of 'Steering Ideas to Success', the Australian Cruise Association is gathering in South Australia for its annual melting pot of ideas, strategy and insightful discussion.

Tonight, delegates will meet at Sol Rooftop Bar for the official Welcome Event.

Cruise Weekly will have all the major stories as they break.

Riviera to replicate UK success in Aus

RIVIERA Travel River Cruises sees Australia as a "huge opportunity", International Sales Manager Steven Taylor said during his first trip to the country in his new role (CW 06 Jun).

Taylor told *Cruise Weekly* he is astounded by the quality and knowledge of the Australian travel advisors he met at Cruise360 last Fri, and at Riviera Travel events around the country.

"We see Australia as a huge opportunity [and a] fantastic market, I've been bowled over by the calibre of travel advisors over here," Taylor said.

"The energy, passion and the curiosity is just outstanding, they're so willing to engage, they want to know more...there's huge opportunity in Australia, huge potential," he added.

Taylor said his job would now be to tap in to the possibilities in the Australian market, and replicate



Riviera's United Kingdom success Down Under.

"How do we start to translate who we are in the UK - which is the number one river cruise operator, a household name - how do we start to kind of repeat some of that success," the Riviera executive pondered.

"Let's make that happen now,

and my appointment is very much about driving that to happen by investment, education, fam trips, working with our trade partners, getting in front of consumers," Taylor added. MS

Taylor is pictured above with Toni Wythes and Dana Craven from Riviera's Australian GSA, Travel The World.



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Loyalty to Aranui

FRENCH Polynesian cruise line Aranui Cruises has launched Tiki Club, a loyalty program loaded with benefits to reward repeat guests.

Featuring four tiers - Bronze, Silver, Gold and Pearl - Tiki Club welcomes members after their first sailing with steadily climbing discounts, savings of up to 50% on onboard expenses, and cabin upgrades.

HAL giving plenty of reasons



BOOKINGS have opened for Holland America Line's (HAL) 2026 cruise season in Alaska, with six ships set to tour the region from Apr to Sep 2026.

New for the season will be the expansion of HAL's popular 14-day flagship 'Great Alaska Explorer' itinerary, which will now sail from Seattle in addition to regular Vancouver departures.

Eleven ports will be visited by *Eurodam*, *Koningsdam*, *Nieuw Amsterdam*, *Noordam*, *Westerdam* and *Zaandam*, plus Prince Rupert Island and Vancouver, with select sailings also including an overnight stay in Anchorage and late departures from Juneau and Valdez.

Also back for travellers with more time at their disposal is the 28-day 'Alaska Arctic Circle Solstice' voyage, which sets sail on 07 Jun ahead of the Summer Solstice and ventures into the Bering Sea and the Arctic Circle.

HAL Vice President of Revenue Management, Dan Rough, said the line continues to build Alaska seasons that are deeply immersive and spotlight all the

great reasons that bring travellers to the region.

"Whether it's talking to a park ranger while observing a glacier calve in Glacier Bay, joining a whale-watching tour or enjoying the freshest local fish that was just brought on board, we want our guests to return home from vacation feeling inspired," he said.

In addition to ships based in Vancouver and Seattle, rotating seven-day one-way northbound and southbound 'Glacier Discovery' itineraries will set sail from Whittier, visiting Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway. *ML*

Ambassador joins

BRITISH brand Ambassador Cruise Line has been admitted as the newest UK member of Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

Membership now grants the line access to CLIA's network of agents, training programs and events in the UK.

The line can also participate in CLIA's annual Cruise Week UK promotions bonanza.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Cruise passion on show

THIS year's Cruise360 Australasia conference was one of our best yet, thanks largely to the incredible enthusiasm shown by our community of CLIA agents.

Not only did we host hundreds more delegates than ever before (close to 850 in all), we also enjoyed an incredibly engaged and enthusiastic audience whose passion for cruising was clear.

Clear trends among our CLIA travel agents include a real hunger for information and product updates from our cruise lines, and we'll be creating more opportunities like this in future.

We also found a strong interest in techniques for increasing the value of cruise bookings, whether through the high-value opportunities of luxury and expedition cruising, or the revenue potential within pre- and post-cruise touring.

And a personal favourite was our innovation specialist Nils Vesk, who not only explained the evolution underway in AI but also gave us a relatable and practical ways to get on board.

With such enthusiasm among our members, next year's Cruise360 Australasia conference will be a two-day event held in Brisbane, and we're already discussing how to make it better than ever.

Thank you to everybody who made Cruise360 a success.



MICHIGAN based shipwreck hunter Steve Libert believes he stumbled across, as you do, the wreck of *Le Griffin*, the first full-size European ship to sail in the Great Lakes.

Le Griffin reportedly sank way back in 1679, and Libert says he has been looking for it for more than 40 years.

The ship is supposedly known as the 'Holy Grail' among shipwreck hunters.

Libert says he recently swam past an underwater beam, claiming the structure has wrought iron fasteners and wooden pegs that bear all the hallmarks of the missing ship.

He is now locked in legal battles seeking authority to excavate the wreck.

Local historians and fellow shipwreck enthusiasts though don't believe the tale, unconvinced that Libert has found the missing vessel.