



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Disney Cruise Line**.

Weekend savings

TRAVELLERS can save 40% on a weekend cruise with Royal Caribbean when they book through Cruise Guru, which has launched new deals for select sailings out of Brisbane and Sydney.

The 'Weekend like a Guru' offer includes a two-night getaway departing Sydney on 22 Mar on *Ovation of the Seas* starting from \$1,078 for a twin share balcony (down from \$1,128) - info **HERE**.

Cruisers can also take advantage of the online-only coupon code 'WEEKEND' to enjoy up to \$50 off per cabin.

Ritz adds more

THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection has announced the addition of voyages featuring Cape Town, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Seychelles, the Maldives and the Andaman Islands, as well as Sri Lanka.

The three sailings take place in Nov-Dec 2025 as the line's third super yacht, *Luminara*, positions from the Mediterranean for her inaugural season in Asia.

Chimu's "perfect partner"

EXCLUSIVE

CHIMU Adventures will lean on its new investment partner Nordic Hamburg (**CW** yesterday) for its expertise in shipping decarbonisation, the Antarctica specialist's co-founder & Managing Director Chad Carey (pictured) told **Cruise Weekly**.

Nordic Hamburg's experience in project development, ship management, and maritime decarbonisation makes it the "perfect partner", Carey said.

The first stepping stone in Chimu's decarbonisation pathway will see it add new vessel *Ocean Nova* to its fleet through a new charter arrangement.

The ship will be one of the lowest-emission vessels in the market, Carey claimed.

Chimu is expecting *Nova* to deliver roughly half the fuel burn per person compared to its current ship *Ocean Endeavour*.

This is significant, Carey said, as Chimu's oceangoing product presently emits roughly double what its land product does.

"There's no doubt cruise tourism is a high emitter...our customers are increasingly asking, as they travel, 'what are you doing about this?'" he said.

The long-term goal is for the brand is to operate its own clean energy fleet.

"Ideally we would love to build some clean fuel ships, but the timing just isn't quite right yet," he revealed.



"The ship takes time to build, so that's the plan in the coming five years, but right now, we need a stepping stone.

"It's at that point right now where it's technically possible, but would you go and put down a deposit on building a hydrogen ship right now when you know these projects haven't got the funding to start [or] regulatory approvals from government?" Carey pondered.

The new investment will also see Chimu target the North America and Europe markets, which are hotbeds for travel to Antarctica and South America.

"I think there's more opportunity for repeat business," Carey observed.

"Australians only tend to do [Antarctica] once, but actually, Europeans and North Americans, to South America in particular, will travel multiple times." *MS*

Mickey has prizes

AGENTS can win one of 10 staterooms on *Disney Wonder* by completing the line's new Magic Ahoy training program.

Boost your knowledge of the line through a range of short, digestible modules to be in the running to win - more details on **page four** of today's **CW**.

Four Seasons 26/27

NINE new voyages in the Bahamas and Caribbean have been introduced by Four Seasons Yachts for the 2026/27 winter to complete the brand's first year at sea.

Seventeen new ports will welcome *Four Seasons I* for the first time over the season, including the Bahamas, Anguilla, Miami, Grenada, Tobago, and more.

The season will begin with a Thanksgiving-themed voyage sailing round-trip from Antigua and include a sumptuous turkey feast prepared by Four Seasons's chefs.

Seven-night Christmas and New Year voyages will sail from Miami, with Christmas Day itself spent in remote Palmetto Point in Barbuda, while ringing in 2027 at sea.

Travellers can also embark on a range of five-night sailings to Exuma Sound, which features 365 separate cays and a range of remote shores where pax have the beach to themselves.




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Five-day shore ex

CUNARD Line has unveiled an extensive selection of shore excursions in South America - some as long as five days - to mark the return of the brand to the continent in 2025.

Among the longer tours guests can enjoy are four-day overlands to Machu Picchu or Iguazu Falls and a five-day adventure to the Galapagos.

More traditional single-day shore activities include a sunset cruise on Copacabana Beach, a dinner and tango show in Buenos Aires, or a full-day tour of Lima in Peru.

Queen Victoria will embark on a 78-night 'South America Discovery' voyage on 09 Jan, sailing round-trip from Southampton and visiting Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Patagonia, Callao, Salvador and the Chilean fjords.

Disney pay policy

DISNEY Cruise Line has shortened its final payment deadline for guests booking Concierge-level suites, with the new policy applying to all existing bookings fleetwide.

The new terms require full payment 90 days prior to departure for sailings one-five nights in length or 120 days for cruises of six or more nights.

Concierge suites on *Disney Wonder* include one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites, a royal suite and family suites.

Oceania Specialty Cruises

OCEANIA Cruises has unveiled its Specialty Cruises for next year, which will feature a number of exclusive hosted voyages.

Among the esteemed guests for next year's Specialty Cruises are chefs Claudine Pepin, Sara Moulton, and Aisha Ibrahim.

Oceania's own Executive Culinary Directors Eric Barale and Alex Quaretti (**pictured**) will also host voyages next year.

Each cruise will feature expert-led onboard programming including enrichment lectures, live cooking demonstrations, cooking classes, themed Chef's Market Dinners in the Terrace Cafe, fireside chats, and exclusive hosted shore excursions.

One of the highlights of the Specialty Cruises program will be the 'Sirena Godmother Cruise' with Claudine Pepin, a 14-day sailing from Barcelona to Dublin.

The cookbook author and official godmother of *Sirena* has filmed three popular James Beard Award-winning PBS television shows with her father, Oceania Culinary Advisor Jacques Pepin.

She has also spent time in the wine industry, working with Moët & Chandon, Dom Perignon, and Kendall-Jackson Wineries.

The sailing will include exclusive onboard events hosted by Pepin, including a Q&A and cooking class, and Chef's Market Dinner.

She will also join a number of select shore excursions.

Joining Pepin on board will be



special guests such as food writer Kristen Hartke, whose pieces on food culture and history have appeared in *The Washington Post*, NPR, and *Food & Wine*.

Hartke is a culinary producer and recipe developer for celebrity chefs and cookbook authors, and she also teaches food journalism at American University.

Another highlight will be the 'Sara Moulton Cruise', a nine-day sailing from Barcelona to Athens aboard *Marina*.

The cookbook author and television personality, who was recently named as one of the first two members to be welcomed to the Oceania Culinary Advisory Board (*CW* 20 Sep), will offer live cooking demonstrations.

Guests will also be able to savour her signature dishes on the menu in the grand dining room and join her on select shore excursions. *MS*

A Star floats out

THE traditional floating-out ceremony has taken place at the Fincantieri Shipyard in Italy to mark the next stage in construction for *Star Princess*.

Princess Cruises' second Sphere-class ship, following *Sun Princess*, was pushed out of the hull construction yard and moved to an outfitting quay for its next phase.

Star will make her debut in Q3 of 2025, slightly delayed from the original plan which would have seen her sail a Mediterranean season before crossing the Atlantic to the US.

Instead, *Star* will head stateside immediately, debuting in the 2025/26 Caribbean winter before repositioning to Alaska as one of eight Princess ships in the region for 2026 (*CW* 29 Jul).

"Today is a celebration of teamwork, craftsmanship, and innovation," Princess President John Padgett said.

"*Star Princess* is the second ship in our new Sphere class, and now as she prepares to take to the water for the first time, it is a testament to the incredible dedication and skill of the entire shipyard team."



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PORThOLE

EMERALD Cruises is set to star on *Getaway* this weekend, with Shayna Blaze to offer viewers a glimpse of the 15-day 'Splendours of Europe'.

The cruise aboard *Emerald Destiny* will travel from Amsterdam to Budapest, showcasing Austria, Slovakia, and Hungary.

The episodes will air this Sat and Sun, 28 and 29 Sep.

"Our luxury Amsterdam to Budapest journey offers not only iconic sights and experiences, but the perfect opportunity to see Europe differently by bicycle and with guided hikes on our EmeraldACTIVE program," Director Sales, Marketing & Product Angus Crichton said.

Blaze, who was on her first-ever river cruise, is now hopefully a convert!

Three decades of Carnivals



CARNIVAL Cruise Line recently celebrated 30 years of business and community partnership with Port Tampa Bay, donning extravagant costumes to mark the special occasion.

The line's Chief Communications Officer Chris Chiamas said the strong and enduring partnership has delivered jobs, tourism demand, economic activity and millions of happy cruise travellers since Carnival first began year-round Tampa itineraries in 1994.

"We appreciate the tremendous partnerships we've built together over the years and as we celebrate this milestone, we're not just looking back on three decades of great memories," Chiamas said.

"We're looking forward to building on our contributions to the Tampa Bay economic story and more fun for many years to come for our many loyal guests who love sailing from Tampa."

Putting their own spin on the party, crew members from *Carnival Paradise*, which sails from the Florida port year-round, marked International Coastal Clean-up Day by pitching in to help

the city with a beach clean-up.

Paradise will be joined in Tampa for the 2024/25 season by *Carnival Legend*, which arrives from Rome on 26 Oct to begin a series of 4-8 day cruises to the Caribbean, Bahamas and Mexico.

Carnival also made a donation of a hybrid pickup truck to help the ongoing efforts by Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful to protect the city's beaches and harbour. *ML*

Chiamas is **pictured** above cutting a celebratory cake alongside Port Tampa Bay Executive Vice President Raul Alfonso and local participants from Gasparilla Pirate Festival, one of Tampa's annual events.

Riviera adds again

A NEW 70-passenger ship will be introduced by Riviera Travel on the Mekong River in Vietnam and Cambodia.

The *Victoria Mekong* features 33 staterooms and two suites and will operate new 14- and 15-night itineraries along the Mekong, with six departures scheduled and on sale in 2025.

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| SYDNEY | |
| <i>Carnival Splendor</i> | 27 Sep |
| <i>Pacific Adventure</i> | 23 Sep |
| <i>Pacific Adventure</i> | 30 Sep |
| MELBOURNE | |
| <i>Diamond Princess</i> | 28 Sep |
| DARWIN | |
| <i>Le Laperouse</i> | 01 Oct |
| CAIRNS | |
| <i>The World</i> | 27 Sep |
| <i>Carnival Splendor</i> | 01 Oct |
| <i>Scenic Eclipse II</i> | 01 Oct |
| BROOME | |
| <i>Coral Discoverer</i> | 28 Sep |
| <i>Le Jacques Cartier</i> | 29 Sep |
| AIRLIE BEACH | |
| <i>Carnival Splendor</i> | 30 Sep |
| <i>Pacific Encounter</i> | 03 Oct |
| EDEN | |
| <i>Disney Wonder</i> | 30 Oct |
| AUCKLAND | |
| <i>Pacific Explorer</i> | 01 Oct |

Oslo connects up

NORWAY has switched on its fifth shore power connection, with the Port of Oslo now allowing ships to switch off their engines at berth.

The first ship to plug in was AIDA Cruises' *AIDAluna*, which also took part in a testing phase for the new hook-up.

Oslo's new shore power point was officially opened and celebrated with a ceremony attended by the city's Vice Mayor Anita Leirvik North.

New Lindblad logo

LINDBLAD Expeditions-National Geographic will now be known by the antonymous name 'National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions'.

A new corporate logo and website will now be gradually introduced worldwide as part of a new 17-year partnership agreement signed last year.

The rebrand was foreshadowed earlier this year by Lindblad Expeditions CEO, Sven Lindblad during an investor call (**CW** 15 Aug).

MAGIC AH-OY!

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