



Cruise Weekly today

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

Crystal rings up 35

CRYSTAL has announced its first selection of themed cruises for the year.

Sailing aboard *Crystal Symphony* and *Crystal Serenity*, the exclusive voyages will commemorate the cruise line's 35th anniversary.

Guests will sail alongside luminaries like Michelin-starred chef Nobuyuki Matsuhisa and Abercrombie & Kent Founder Geoffrey Kent, while mingling with esteemed Crystal veteran Captains John Oekland & Egil Giske, and Cruise Directors Paul McFarland & Gary Hunter.

Both ships will host a Crystal anniversary gala, special events, and Crystal Society reunions, as well as world-class dining experiences and showstopping performances.

"Our guests deeply appreciate our themed voyages, as they offer a truly immersive experience," Vice President of Entertainment & Enrichment Keith Cox said.

"Whether it's indulging in their passion for music, culinary delights or cultural enrichment, our carefully curated itineraries and exclusive events bring their interests to life," he added.

Disney to add new class

DISNEY Cruise Line announced it will introduce a new ship class, to be constructed at the Meyer Werft shipyard.

The three new vessels, first announced last Aug (**CW** 12 Aug 2024) and planned for delivery in 2029, 2030 and 2021, will kick off the new class, with Disney claiming it will feature industry-leading tech and design.

The new category will be able to carry 3,000 guests, and will weigh 100,000GT, making it slightly smaller than Disney's two current newest Wish- and Dream-classes.

"As we expand our fleet, it is important that we continue to provide a variety of experiences for our guests," The Walt Disney Company President New & Signature Experiences Thomas Malzoum said.

"Families enjoy the diversity of vacations we offer, from our classic vessels to our Wish-class ships," he added.

"They also expect to explore a broad range of destinations, including those that prefer to host smaller ships.

"At the same time, we are focused on implementing new technology and designs that align with our long-standing commitment to the environment," Malzoum added.

The class is designed to save fuel with a streamlined hull, next-generation power and propulsion systems, and other operations optimised for energy efficiency.



The new vessels will feature shore power technology, and will have the capability and flexibility to operate on a variety of fuels, including hydrotreated vegetable oil and renewable methanol fuels, while remaining adaptable to additional options which become available to the cruise industry.

"We're very proud to continue to support Disney's broader environmental goals, now and into the future," Walt Disney Imagineering Portfolio Project Management Executive Philip Genotte added.

"Our team of Disney Imagineers is dreaming up this new class of ships to be as fuel and energy efficient as possible, and our guests will see the difference - from a more hydrodynamic design to lighter materials and energy-efficient technology throughout the ships."

Disney also announced it will introduce an additional Wish-class vessel, which will be delivered in 2027.

This ship brings Disney's total order book to seven, including the four announced this weekend: two additional Wish-class ships, *Disney Destiny* (**CW** 21 Mar 2024) and a yet-to-be-named ship; and the Global-class *Disney Adventure* (**CW** 11 Sep 2023). *MS*

Spotlight on RSSC

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has unveiled a new collection of Spotlight Voyages for 2025 and 2026.

Twelve new sailings have been created, crafted around the ultra-luxury travel trend of exclusive experiences with renowned personalities, such as award-winning Chef Tommaso Barletta, recognised for his Italian restaurants in LA, and his friend, actor and comedian John O'Hurley.

The latest collection offers a range of curated experiences immersing guests in the worlds of gourmet cuisine, fine wines & whiskies, cultural heritage, media storytelling, sport, and jewellery-making, with exclusive opportunities to interact with notable experts and visionaries in these fields.

Highlights of the collection include an 'Epicurean Spotlight on Wine with ZAP', a 14-night cruise departing 31 Mar 2025 on board *Seven Seas Explorer*, with guests to be joined by top winemaking personalities from Robert Biale Vineyards, Ridge Vineyards, and Cast Wines.

There is also an 'Epicurean Spotlight on Cuisine with Chef Alain Roux', a 12-night cruise departing 11 Aug 2025 aboard *Seven Seas Splendor*; and 'Spotlight on Faberge', a 10-night cruise setting sail on 24 May 2026 on *Seven Seas Grandeur* - learn more **HERE**.

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Queen Anne begins first World Cruise

CUNARD Line's *Queen Anne* has departed Southampton for her maiden world voyage.

Spectators gathered across Southampton on Thu night to witness *Queen Anne's* 9 PM departure, which was celebrated with a dazzling fireworks display.

Queen Anne will make her first American landfall in New York City on 17 Jan.

She is the 14th ship in Cunard's history, and its largest, to undertake a full world voyage.

Queen Anne will call at 30 different ports across 18 countries over 107 nights.

Highlights of the voyage include calls to Miami, San Francisco, the Panama Canal, Auckland, and more.

There will also be overnight calls in Honolulu, Sydney, and Singapore, as well as NYC.

Guests will also cross the international date line on 12 Feb, allowing them to "jump through time".

Highlights of the cruise will include a special World Voyage cocktail party and a shoreside gala event, a spectacular sailaway party, as well as talks from notable speakers, such as Olympic gold medallist Rebecca Adlington, hypnotist Paul McKenna, actor Charley Boorman, and former tennis pro Pat Cash.

APT's luxurious rebrand

APT has revealed a luxurious rebrand, introducing a fresh, contemporary look.

The heart of the rebrand is a newly designed luxury monogram (pictured), which will replace APT's former logo.

This new symbol has been designed to represent the "legacy of APT's long history while symbolising its refined sense of prestige and exclusivity".

Complementing the new monogram is the introduction of a new marketing campaign, with the tagline, 'Everything to a T'.

This new push offers "an assurance of APT's commitment to providing exceptional service and attention to every detail, ensuring that every experience is tailored to perfection for their guests," the company said.

CMO Jason Shugg said the rebrand is a celebration of both legacy and progression.

"We're incredibly excited to share this transformation with our valued industry partners," Shugg said.

"With the new monogram, enhanced digital presence, and refined new look, we're reinforcing our position as a leader in the luxury travel market.

"Although APT may look a little different, this is not just a fresh look; it's a celebration of APT's rich heritage and a reflection of our unwavering commitment to delivering unparalleled travel experiences," he added.



Shugg emphasised the essence of APT remains unchanged.

"The new design will help us better communicate the elegance, quality, and service that APT is known for while also reflecting our rich heritage in creating extraordinary travel experiences for travellers for decades to come," he said.

The rebrand coincides with a period of innovation and investment from the company, including the debut of its first-ever owned-and-operated river ships, *APT Ostara* and *APT Solara*.

APT has also struck exclusive deals with Murray River Paddlesteamers for almost 40 sailings aboard its upcoming ship *Australian Star* (CW 27 Aug 2024), as well as a global partnership with Seabourn Cruise Line for Canada & Alaska holidays (CW 07 Jun 2024).

The company also recently made significant enhancements across 10 of its websites, elevating the digital experience for APT and its sister brands (CW 10 Dec 2024). MS

Tauck's biggest-ever incentive

TAUCK is celebrating 100 years with its largest-ever travel advisor incentive, with agents able to earn a maximum of \$2,000.

The '100 Years for 100 Days' incentive gives advisors the chance to earn bonuses through a tiered reward system for first-time bookings made before 20 Apr on any of Tauck's 2025 or 2026 journeys.

Bonus payments start at \$100 for an advisor's first booking, and increase by \$100 through to the fifth booking.

Agents will also receive an extra \$100 for every booking that includes any new-to-brand travellers.

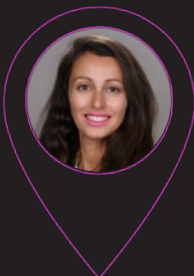
"This is more than just an incentive; it's our way of showing deep appreciation for the dedication and partnership of our travel advisors over the years," Managing Director David Clark said.

"This incentive reflects Tauck's commitment to recognising the vital role travel advisors play in creating unforgettable experiences," Clark added.

The news follows Tauck releasing its 2026 season last week, with prices for next year locked in at 2025 prices.

The 2026 collection includes a wide range of small ship river cruises in Europe, land journeys, and premium safaris.

SPEAKERS



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Founder,
Wendy Wu Tours

HOME EX

HOME AGENT
VIRTUAL
EXPERIENCE

REGISTER FREE




PORTRHOLE

THE private island arms race in the cruise industry has really heated up over the past 12 months, but one Pacific Island is now literally selling itself - though not in the way you might think.

The island nation of Niue has raised A\$6.3 million by selling sponsorship of its marine protected area at just over A\$226 per km².

The idea is that this sponsorship will help to fund management of the ocean, including dealing with maritime security, bolstering climate resilience and conserving marine life in the island's marine protected area, in response to rising sea levels.

Some of the money will be used to help support local people, for example fishers and their families, where the restrictions needed for ocean conservation may impact on their income.

Adding a Diamond to the Crown



TWO Princess Cruises ships, *Crown Princess* and *Diamond Princess*, met in Sydney Harbour yesterday (pictured).

The two ships are set to bring more than 9,500 guests into Sydney, generating more than \$2 million for the local economy.

Crown, fresh from a South Pacific New Year's cruise, will welcome 3,300 guests embarking on a journey to New Zealand.

Diamond arrives from an eastern states itinerary, featuring stops in Eden, Port Arthur, and an overnight stay in Hobart.

Crown's Captain Mario Consentino said: "we're delighted to be in Sydney today with our

sister ship *Diamond Princess* in this beautiful city.

"It's the first time our ships are together in Sydney and it's also the first time I'll see my colleague *Diamond Princess'* Captain Bartolomei in almost 10 years.

"We'll celebrate this special occasion in style with an espresso looking over the Harbour."

Chief Commercial Officer Terry Thornton added: "our guests love Sydney and it remains an important home port for Princess in the region.

"Today our guests from *Diamond Princess* and *Crown Princess* will enjoy the city's world-class shore excursions." MS

Very cool savings

PONANT is offering additional savings on select polar voyages from its Antarctic and Arctic program.

Travellers can enjoy an extra 10% discount on select polar voyages from the cruise line's 2025 Antarctic and Arctic program, alongside its earlybird savings of up to 30% with the Ponant bonus.

The offer is valid until 14 Feb, with a total discount of up to \$6,599 per person.

Ponant is also offering an additional 10% savings on six Antarctic departures, ranging from 10 to 18 nights, scheduled for Nov and Dec.

Highlights of Ponant's polar program include exploring Greenland's Disko Bay and Baffin Bay, and venturing into the fjords of Spitsbergen.

Guests will have opportunities for encounters with Inuit culture by visiting traditional villages such as Pond Inlet in Baffin Bay, and the world's northernmost year-round research station Ny-Alesund in Spitsbergen - **CLICK HERE** for more info.



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