



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

Holland America plans its 150th

HOLLAND America Line's 150th anniversary celebrations next week will be filled with historic events in the cruise line's founding city of Rotterdam.

The celebrations begin upon Holland America's flagship *Rotterdam's* arrival at her namesake city on Tue, at the end of her 150th Anniversary Transatlantic Crossing, which departed New York City on Fri.

President Gus Antorcha will lead the celebrations, which will be attended by Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, who is the godmother of *Rotterdam*.

Also present will be the city's Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb, and descendants from two families of Holland America's original founders.

A highlight will see Holland America present a commemorative 150th anniversary bell, in the style of

that traditionally found on a ship, to be permanently displayed at Hotel New York in Rotterdam, home to the cruise line's original headquarters.

Princess Margriet will follow Holland America's ritual of blessing the bell before it is donated.

An original share of the first Holland America stocks will be presented to be kept as part of a special collection in the city of Rotterdam's archives.

At the ceremony, mail corporation PostNL will also unveil a 24-carat collectable 150th anniversary gold-foil stamp to commemorate the special milestone.

Available for purchase throughout the Netherlands, only 1,000 stamps will be produced.

Meanwhile, *Zuiderdam* will be in Amsterdam, where she will host an evening gala party on

board for Grand World Voyage guests.

A gala dinner will be hosted on board both *Rotterdam* and *Zuiderdam*, before the celebrations move to the ships' Lido pool area, with live music to end the special day.

However it is not just *Rotterdam* and *Zuiderdam* which will enjoy the celebrations, with events across the cruise line's entire fleet to mark the day.

"Holland America Line is a company that takes deep pride in our heritage and respects the role we played in history, so our 150th anniversary events honour our tradition while recognising the brand we are today," Antorcha said.

"All of the festivities we have planned carry special meaning, and we're excited to celebrate with so many individuals who have been a part of our story".

Venetian cruise

SILVERSEA Cruises has announced its Venetian Society Reunion Voyage for next year aboard new ship *Silver Nova*.

President & Chief Executive Officer Barbara Muckermann will welcome guests aboard *Nova* for the special sailing, along with new delegate to the Venetian Society Norman Rafelson.

Departing Tokyo on 15 Oct 2024, guests will journey through Asia over 16 days, arriving in Singapore on 31 Oct.

Open to all travellers, the Reunion Voyages foster the opportunity to reconvene with friends from past cruises.



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New Aqua 2023 chef-hosted sailings

AQUA Expeditions has announced chef-hosted departures later this year on *Aqua Blu* and *Aqua Nera* with culinary superstars, Australian Benjamin Cross (**pictured**) and Pedro Miguel Schiaffino.

The series of exclusive departures will cruise around the Indonesian archipelago and on the Amazon, providing unique opportunities to discover firsthand the creative vision of the chefs.

Guests are invited to further engage with local culinary cultures through market visits, tastings, and master cooking classes.

Throughout Cross' seven-night journey on board *Blu* from 09-16 Sep, guests will embark upon a once-in-a-lifetime voyage from Flores to Bali.

The expedition will include discovering Moyo Island's secret



waterfall, diving among manta rays in the world-famous Gili Lawah, hiking Padar Island's rugged landscape for iconic views over Flores, and observing the legendary Komodo dragon in its natural habitat at Horseshoe Bay.

On the sailing, Cross will present his 48-hour beef short rib rendang, Balinese suckling pig with bumbu Bali, organic Javanese prawns marinated in fragrant oil & lime, and freshly handline-caught fish grilled with

Balinese sambal.

Meanwhile, Schiaffino will host two departures on *Nera*: one sailing from 23-27 May, and a second from 10-14 Oct.

Navigating the depths of the world's most biodiverse rainforest in comfort, *Nera's* expert naturalist guides will conduct small group excursions rewarding guests with up-close wildlife encounters.

Schiaffino will create Peruvian Japanese cuisine combining native Amazonian ingredients with traditional cooking techniques.

Highlights include Galapaguena lobster lettuce wraps with Acevichado dressing, delicate potato Llapingachos, tuna crudo, barbecued plantains, and shrimp ceviche.

These voyages are now open for booking via www.aquaexpeditions.com.

HAL heads west

TRAVELLERS will be able to explore four different regions of the Americas with Holland America Line's (HAL) 2024-2025 West Coast Cruises.

The season will see Holland America's ships set sail for Hawai'i, Mexico, the Pacific coasts of the United States and Canada, and the Panama Canal.

Bookings are open on the round trip departures from San Diego and Vancouver on five HAL ships.

From Sep 2024 through May 2025, guests can embark on cruises ranging from a four-day voyage to a 21-day transit of the Panama Canal, with the waterway to feature heavily in the season's program.

A total of 42 cruises are available, with HAL hoping to encourage sailors to book back-to-back.

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SCIENTISTS are planning to submerge pendulums in the ocean to reduce coastal erosion by absorbing waves. Called the MetaReef project, it is led by a team of scientists from the Italian National Research Council's Institute of Marine Science. The project involves installing a grid of pendulums tethered to the seafloor. When ocean waves pass over the pendulums, each resonator begins to oscillate, absorbing wave energy and dampening turbulence, and hopefully reducing erosion.

Don't Miss this
SAVINGS are available for solos on Two's A Crowd's Mississippi River cruise. The solo travel expert has taken over all single staterooms on American Cruise Line's *American Heritage* riverboat for its 10-day Mississippi cruise departing Memphis on 02 Nov. Solo travellers can save \$900 off the regular cruise price on the sailing which explores the lower Mississippi, visiting amazing destinations on a journey filled with historical tales, vibrant music, culinary delights, and unique culture. For further information and for bookings visit twosacrowd.com.au.

CCL readies for Alaska

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) is getting ready for a busy Alaska season, which will see *Carnival Luminosa* sail from the United States for the first time.



Luminosa will join CCL's three-ship deployment to Alaska, as the cruise line builds on the success of its prior season in the state with almost 50 sailings this season. Ahead of her arrival in Seattle, *Luminosa* is taking guests on an extended Carnival Journeys cruise from Brisbane (**CW** 10 Feb), where she has been homeporting since joining the fleet in Nov (**CW** 08 Nov 2022).

Luminosa will arrive in Seattle for the start of her Alaska season on 04 May. Six-, seven- and eight-day sailings will be offered from Seattle to destinations including Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan, as well as Victoria and Tracy Arm.

Ahead of this, it will be *Carnival Miracle* (**pictured**) which will officially kick off CCL's Alaska season on 23 Apr, from the arid shores of Long Beach, for a 14-day journey to her home port of San Francisco.

Miracle will sail 10-day cruises featuring visits to Prince Rupert, a new destination for this season.

Meanwhile, *Carnival Spirit's* first departure from Seattle is set for 02 May, rounding out the three-

ship deployment. CCL will also introduce new experiences to its popular array of shore excursions.

Guests can board a 20-metre catamaran designed for wildlife viewing for a full-day adventure through towering cliffs, dense forests, and a thriving estuary.

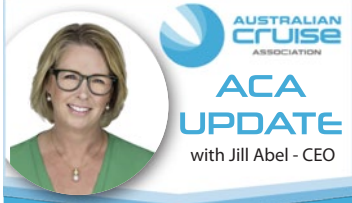
They will glide through Canada's only brown bear sanctuary, which is home to more than 50 grizzlies.

Guests can also experience the beauty of British Columbia's temperate rainforest and bountiful rivers by jet boat and on foot, and enjoy a meal of fresh wild local salmon cooked over a campfire and served beneath 1,200-metre cliffs.

"I can't wait to welcome our guests on board our stunning *Carnival Luminosa*, as she joins her beautiful sisters, *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Miracle*, for this year's Alaska season," President Christine Duffy said.

"There's no better way to see the awe-inspiring natural wonder of Alaska than by cruise ship, and we anticipate making that happen for more than 100,000 guests this year.

"This season's start is a good reminder that it's not too early to plan for next year."



Cruise brox guide the way

HAVING a moment to reflect on our attendance at Seatrade Cruise Global, I am delighted to report it was easily our most rewarding trip yet.

Given we are now one year back into cruising, our conversations were incredibly valuable around what we are seeing and gave us a good basis for building our future plans as the cruise lines are making important destination decisions.

Our delegates were kept busy, as was I, with a full dance card of appointments giving us the opportunity to promote our region and all that is happening with both our urban gateways and our extensive network of regional ports.

As such, it was an excellent backdrop for the Port Authority of NSW and TEQ to launch their new cruise brochures as part of their ongoing state strategies.

Both guides are packed with terrific in-depth destination information as well as practical port information.

In addition to being used as background for meetings with key global decision makers they were widely distributed to attendees and well received.

Our industry panel discussion was also very well attended, putting the Pacific region into the spotlight.