



Cruise Weekly today

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

Ama + TravelPay

AMAWATERWAYS has announced a new partnership with TravelPay B2B, offering Australian travel advisors an easier way to do business.

TravelPay B2B, in partnership with the Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO), enables advisors to make secure bank account payments to suppliers.

"We're proud to be partnering with TravelPay B2B to allow our customers to process efficient payments with AmaWaterways," MD Steve Richards said.

"As a new entrant into this market, two of our key goals are to build trusted relationships and to be easy to do business with."

AmaWaterways recently opened reservations on all 2026 river cruises, with sailings in Europe, Egypt, Asia, Colombia, and Africa Safaris & Wildlife cruises all available to book (**CW** 03 Jul).

The cruise line's land packages are also on sale, with Amawaterways releasing the 2026 sailings early due to strong demand across the next two years.

Head to amawaterways.au for more information.

SA riding cruise wave

SOUTH Australia is still riding its record cruise wave, with demand for the sector skyrocketing almost 200% in the state.

Cruise sales were up 79% in the 2023-24 fiscal year, RAA reports, which is 198% above pre-pandemic levels.

"Cruising is one of, if not the fastest growing category of travel right now," RAA Travel General Manager Gina Norman said.

"Travellers love it because it's incredible value and all the organising is done for you, making it a brilliant way to relax.

"It's not just the traditional demographic either - we're increasingly seeing young groups and couples book a cruise to celebrate a milestone like a 21st or anniversary, or just to get away together and hang out."

RAA noted no hit from an increase in port fees on the eastern seaboard (**CW** 30 Nov), which it was feared would make Adelaide a less attractive proposition for cruise lines.

South Australia has also thus far withstood the announcement of the sunsetting of the P&O Cruises brand, with its *Pacific Explorer* - which had eight sailings to Adelaide last year - to be retired (**CW** 04 Jun).

The SA capital is also set to play host to this year's Australian Cruise Association (ACA) Conference, which will be opened by the country's Minister for Trade and Tourism, Hon. Don



Farrell (pictured).

The former South Australian Senator will speak at the conference's Welcome Event, which will be held at local landmark, Skycity Adelaide.

South Australia's Minister for Tourism Zoe Bettison will also attend the gathering, along with cruise sector dignitaries, including ACA Board members, Cruise Lines International Association Chair Peter Little, and others.

"We are delighted that Minister Farrell will open our conference... his attendance reflects the importance of the cruise sector's contribution to the Australian visitor economy," ACA Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel said.

"As we look to the future of the industry, we will continue to work closely with government as well as other key stakeholders to ensure we are well positioned for growth," she added.

Farrell also opened today's Travel24 conference, held by **Cruise Weekly's** sister masthead *Travel Daily* - more in **TD. MS**

Accessibility cruise

UNITED States-based travel agency Travelmation has announced its inaugural accessibility cruise.

The agency is teaming up with Royal Caribbean International for the sailing.



— INTRODUCING — CRUISE & TOUR HOLIDAYS

When ocean cruising
and touring meet.



SAVE
\$1,200 PER
COUPLE
ON ALL DEPARTURES

DISCOVER MORE



VIKING

Fly Free SALE

We've taken care of everything

From now until 15 November 2024, your clients can enjoy **free return flights on 2025-2027 river voyages, and their companion can fly free on 2025-2027 ocean and expedition voyages.**

☎ 138 747 🌐 VIKING.COM BOOK ONLINE AT VIKING.COM/TRAVEL-ADVISOR

CLICK HERE

See website for T&Cs



cruiseCO
The Cruise Specialists

IS THRILLED TO BE NOMINATED FOR
**MOST OUTSTANDING WHOLESALER
PRODUCT / SERVICE (CATEGORY 23)**
WE VALUE AND APPRECIATE YOUR VOTES!

**NATIONAL TRAVEL
INDUSTRY AWARDS
2024
NOMINEE**

VOTE HERE

Ponant to Vietnam

PONANT has launched sales for a 10-day voyage along the Vietnamese coast from Ho Chi Minh City to Ha Long Bay.

The cruise departs on 29 Nov aboard *Le Laperouse*, exploring the iconic sites of Vietnam, including Saigon, the Mekong Delta, Ha Long Bay, Hue, and Hoi An.

Passengers will also discover hidden-away places off the beaten track such as My Son Sanctuary, Cham Towers, Marble Mountain, and Ghenh Da Dia.

An excursion is included for guests at each stopover, which can be chosen from a selection proposed by the destination experts from Ponant.

Pre-booking of the excursions will be required two months before departure.

CLICK HERE to find out more about the 'Vietnamese Coastlines' cruise.

Ponant recently concluded a national roadshow series, with approximately 1,000 trade partners and clients attending across six sessions.

The roadshow, which visited Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, and Victoria, has seen attendees devour macaroon towers, enjoy flowing champagne, and tune in to live music, as Ponant takes its French-style luxury around the country (**CW** 06 Aug).

Windstar 2026 voyages



WINDSTAR Cruises' 2026 European voyages boast 15 fresh itineraries, including a range of first-time ports and new Iceland solar eclipse sailings.

The 12 Aug 2026 'Around Iceland: A Total Solar Eclipse' will place Windstar guests in the path of totality.

Meanwhile, a new 81-day 'Star Collector, 2026 Grand Europe Adventure' begins in Helsinki on 14 Jul 2026, and visits 20 countries and 67 ports of call before ending in Athens.

Overnight stays of up to four days in a single destination and late-night departures also allow guests to travel further inland.

Windstar will also debut new cruise tours from Madrid, allowing guests to explore further inland in Spain; a brand-new circumnavigation of Ireland;

a deep dive into the Aeolian Islands; and an exploration of Northern Greece with highlights like the chance to visit the Meteora monasteries from the port of Volos.

There is also a host of new shore excursions, such as creating molded chocolates in Bruges, Belgium; or learning the lyra in Thessaloniki, Greece.

"Our year-round cruises in the Mediterranean and Europe have more small-ship-only destinations than ever before," Itinerary Planner Jess Peterson said.

"We've designed these voyages with a focus on regional exploration, so that means more overnight stays and off-the-beaten-path experiences to help give you a deeper, more genuine look at some of Europe's best spots," she added. *MS*

Sainthood for P&O

SOUTHAMPTON FC has unveiled P&O Cruises UK as its official sleeve sponsor for its upcoming return to the English Premier League.

The signing marks the first sports sponsorship deal for P&O UK and will see fans and cruise guests able to access special deals, game tickets, player meet & greets and onboard soccer coaching.

P&O's logo will sit on the sleeve of jerseys worn by Southampton's men's, women's, and academy teams.

"Southampton Football Club is one of the oldest and [most] forward-thinking clubs in English football, with a passionate and dedicated following of supporters in the city and beyond," said P&O Cruises and Carnival UK President Paul Ludlow.

"It is a natural partnership for both of us and we are excited to see what this collaboration will bring to our guests.

P&O Cruises UK will also become the title partner of Saints Foundation, the club's official charity, which supports over 5,500 locals each year.



Arctic Adventures

Embark on journeys through Iceland, Alaska, Greenland, Norway, Svalbard, Northwest Passage and more!

Since 1896 we've been taking curious travellers to the most awe-inspiring places on the planet.



Explore Iceland with HX Hurtigruten Expeditions, for less.

ELEMENTAL ICELAND

Circular Saga from Reykjavik

Save \$2,000
Now from \$4,929pp*

Save \$3,145
Suites from \$7,000pp*

No NCFS. Earn in full.

Secure your clients' savings today!
agentportal.travelhx.com
or call 1300 159 127



Change the way you see the world.

*T&Cs apply. HX operates a dynamic pricing system. Saving per cabin saving is based on Elemental Iceland. 30/10/25 departure, as of 24/05/24. From price is person twin share and is subject to change. Discounts apply to bookings made from 01 July to 31 August 2024 for selected HX departures from 01 April 2025 to 31 October 2026. Visit website for more details.



Supported. The way you should be

At TravelManagers, we support you and your business.

[Find out more](#)



TravelManagers
As individual as you are
join.travelmanagers.com.au



PORTHOLE

ROYAL Caribbean

International's *Odyssey of the Seas* recently rescued 77 migrants off the coast of Greece, during a seven-day cruise around the country.

Odyssey initially sent one of her tenders and later also deployed a smaller launch.

A video posted by passengers shows the tender towing the sailboat toward *Odyssey*.

The ship was forced to cancel her scheduled port call at Santorini, and is now proceeding to Kusadasi to resume her schedule.



Vikings invade Europe



VIKING is hosting some of its key travel advisors from Australia on its eight-day Romantic Danube river voyage.

The advisors and their travelling companions sailed out of Passau at sunset, on their way to Vienna.

Passengers on the cruise will visit Budapest's castle district and cross the city's Szechenyi Chain Bridge; explore Gottweig Abbey; make apricot dumplings; and celebrate Vienna's musical heritage at a concert.

Pictured with their travelling companions are Tanya Chaffey, Streeter & Turner Travel Associates, Renee Hayward, Travelling Places; Lee Siefken, Viking; Mark Linn, Phil Hoffman Travel; Dawn McKiernan, FBI Travel; Verity Jones, Travel Associates Blues Point; Vivienne Teague, Travel Associates Burleigh; Katrina Harding, NZ Travel Brokers; Kieran Roberts, Travel Associates Belconnen; and Colinne Bergado, Viking. *MS*



CRUISE WEEKLY

On location at
Travel24

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of *Cruise Weekly's* sister masthead *Travel Daily*, which is today hosting its inaugural **Travel24** conference in Sydney.

TODAY is the inaugural **Travel24** conference, hosted by *Travel Daily*, at Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour.

Travel24 will explore the next 24 months in the travel and cruise industry, with our sector to play a large role at the event.

CW Editor Myles Stedman is moderating a panel on the day, 'Riding the wave of ocean cruising', which will feature some of the biggest names in the Australian cruise industry.

Other speakers on the day include Minister for Tourism Don Farrell; CVFR Chief Executive Officer Ram Chhabra; Hardhat Chief Executive Officer Dan Monheit; poet, activist, and TEDX speaker Azure Antoinette; and more.

Discover the all new *River Cruise Special Report*




CRUISE
WEEKLY

*Click here to
view the issue*



CRUISE
WEEKLY

cruiseweekly.com.au
cruiseweekly.co.nz

Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman
Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon
Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Publisher - Damian Francis
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller
info@cruiseweekly.com.au

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
Advertising - Laura Aghajanian & Dante Muranty
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

HEAD OF OPERATIONS & CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Anna Piper

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

Travel Daily
travelBulletin
business events news
Pharmacy Daily

Cruise Weekly is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.