



### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news and a full page from Disney Cruise Line.

### Disney Magic Ahoy!

DISNEY Cruise Line's Magic Ahoy virtual cruise is now sailing, and holds a chance to win a stateroom aboard a Disney Wonder voyage next year (CW 26 Aug).

Magic Ahoy offers travel advisors the ability to learn about Disney's famous rotational dining, the cruise line's onboard entertainment, Disney's Private Island, and much more.

The training covers all five ships in Disney's fleet, including Wonder.

There are three levels to complete, and those who reach Level 3 will go in the running to win - see page 4.

## Hurtigruten Sea Zero Project on track for 2030

**HURTIGRUTEN** Group Managing Director APAC Damian Perry has endorsed the feasibility of the company's Sea Zero Project (CW 08 Jun 2023) - its first zero-emissions ship.

The ambitious project was countersigned by Perry at a lunch hosted by Hurtigruten in Sydney yesterday, with the local head revealing the company is approaching a build commitment.

This follows Hurtigruten Chief Executive Officer Hedda Felin telling *Cruise Weekly* the project is "progressing as it should" during her trip to Australia earlier this year (CW 13 Mar).

"This project is motoring along right now, it's flying, and there [are] all different elements coming together on this...we're still targeting 2030 to build our first zero-emissions ship...it is feasible," Perry said.

"There's been more and more



development lately about the fins, the sails, the solar power, the battery solutions.

"We have so many ports where we can also charge as we go along the coast with battery shore power...we're getting very, very close to getting to that stage where we commit to build, which is very exciting."

Perry also celebrated

Hurtigruten recently becoming one of 22 businesses, and the only travel brand, bestowed with a 'Made in Norway' icon, as part of a new nationalist project introduced by the country's government (CW 23 Aug). MS

**Pictured** is the Australian Hurtigruten team: Sales Director Amber Wilson, Perry, and Marketing Director Joel Victoria.



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## FCTG lauds cruise

**FLIGHT** Centre Travel Group (FCTG) credited cruise sales for helping rebuild its revenue margin in its FY24 results, announced today.

Higher-margin cruise sales across FCTG's Cruiseabout and MyCruise brands were called out by FCTG as helping drive its successful result, with the latter collection accounting for \$90 million of TTV in its second full year.

Cruise & tour sales, which FCTG indexes together, increased by 25% year-on-year to \$1 billion.

The cruise numbers were part of a broadly successful year for FCTG, which saw the company record TTV of \$23.74 billion - around a \$1.8 billion year-on-year increase.

FCTG's underlying profit before tax increased to \$320 million, up 131%.

## Royal Caribbean orders its fourth Icon

**ROYAL** Caribbean International will grow its Icon class to at least four ships, overnight agreeing to terms with Finland's Meyer Turku shipyard for a fourth mega-ship to be delivered in 2027.

The unnamed vessel will join *Icon of the Seas*, which entered service in Jan with *Star of the Seas*, due to debut in Port Canaveral in Aug 2025, and a third Icon ship, also yet to be named and set to debut in 2026.

The new agreement includes options for two more Icon-class ships, potentially taking the fleet of LNG-powered behemoths as high as six.

Excluding *Star of the Seas*, this new firm order also takes Royal Caribbean's pipeline of confirmed future ships to three, with another Oasis-class ship also in the works for delivery in 2028.

Royal Caribbean Group President and CEO, Jason Liberty,



said the fourth Icon builds on the "incredible momentum and market response" that has come from *Icon* and *Star*.

"Since its debut, *Icon* has changed the game in vacation experiences and exceeded our expectations in both guest

satisfaction and financial performance," Liberty said.

Including this latest order, Meyer Turku has built 21 ships for Royal Caribbean over nearly three decades, with the latest deal still subject to customary conditions including financing. *ML*

## NCL'S 2026 EUROPE SEASON IS HERE

NCL's newly released 2026 Europe season is now open for sale! Your clients can choose from 8 spectacular ships sailing across Europe, including the all-new Norwegian Viva cruising the Greek Isles, Baltic cruises from Helsinki for the very first time, plus incredible repositioning voyages allowing your clients to sail from one continent to another on a journey of a lifetime.



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## Discover our River Cruise Special Report

[Click here](#)



**IF YOU'RE** planning a holiday rather than planning to save your money or spend it on something more pragmatic, it turns out you're doing good for both your mental health - and your financial wellness!

New research commissioned by Carnival Cruise Line has revealed Australians feel happier (87%), more confident (69%), and more productive in their personal life (59%) and at work (43%) when they have a holiday to anticipate.

Three-quarters of Australians (74%) agree that having a holiday booked reduces stress.

Meanwhile, just over half (51%) of parents say booking their holiday several months in advance makes them feel like a better parent.

Almost two-thirds (64%) of Australians find booking holidays in advance benefits them financially.

## Steel cut on Emerald Kaia

**EMERALD** Cruises' *Emerald Kaia* is one step closer to hitting the water, as construction commences on the line's next-generation 'super yacht'.

The first sheets of steel for the hull of *Kaia* were officially cut last Thu in Vietnam, following an intimate ceremony at Halong Shipbuilding Company with key notable figures.

A keel-laying ceremony is expected to take place in three months, before *Kaia* (render **pictured**) begins sailing in 2026.

*Kaia* will offer cruises from the Mediterranean, the Adriatic, the Aegean, and the Seychelles.

"We are thrilled to announce construction has begun on *Emerald Kaia*, following the cutting of the first steel in Vietnam," Scenic Group fonder Glen Moroney said.

"Building on the spectacular success of the first two yachts in



Emerald Cruises fleet, this pivotal expansion not only reflects the soaring interest and desire for luxury ocean yachts, however, also reinforces our commitment to setting new standards in maritime excellence."

*Kaia* will accommodate 128 guests, a reimagined Sky Deck offering private cabanas, and a new internal Sky Lounge, providing an open-air experience for guests to take in expansive scenic views.

Emerald's popular Marina will be complemented by a new Marina Lounge, which now offers a wider range of water sports.

Meanwhile, the front-of-ship Observation Sun Deck features a spa pool and sun lounges for guests to relax. *MS*

### Traveltek partner

**TRAVELTEK** has boosted its luxury cruise offerings, signing a new partnership with Crystal Cruises which will see the line's two ocean ships available to travel agents to book.

Under the agreement, agents will be able to access detailed itineraries for *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony*, comprehensive ship content and a secure booking platform.

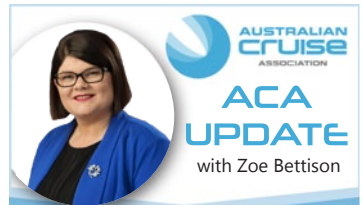
Crystal Cruises VP Sales, Tony Archbold, said the collaboration achieves both strong distribution and ease of use as the line expands its profile in the Australia market.

### Bon Voyage returns

**BON** Voyage, the end-of-year event held by *Cruise Weekly* sister *Travel Daily*, is confirmed to return this year, with Tim Ross as MC.

The event will be held on 28 Nov at 12-Micron in Barangaroo, and will welcome both Ross and DJ Sudeep Gohill on the decks.

Earlybird tickets are available now **HERE**.



Hon Zoe Bettison MP,  
SA Tourism Minister

**SOUTH** Australia is a welcoming destination, both for cruise ship passengers and the cruise industry.

Cruise is an important part of the visitor economy, both in South Australia and nationally.

The sector injects valuable dollars into local economies, helping to support a wide range of businesses from tour operators to retail and hospitality.

The benefits of this sector are set to continue from Oct, with 119 cruise and expedition ships currently scheduled in South Australia in 2024-25.

The state government, through the South Australian Tourism Commission, is focused on growing cruise in our state and expanding the range of cruise lines and ships visiting South Australia.

This includes a focus on bringing international cruise lines to our shores and high yield visitors on luxury cruises.

While I acknowledge there are some challenges ahead for cruise as a sector nationally, we are working hard here in South Australia to ensure our state remains an appealing and competitive cruise destination which provides a high level of service to visiting lines and pax.

We are thrilled to be hosting this year's Australian Cruise Association (ACA) Annual Conference in Adelaide, welcoming key decision makers of the cruise industry to Adelaide, where we will demonstrate firsthand why South Australia is a must-visit destination for cruise pax and the industry.

## Pandaw launches third Mekong ship

**PANDAW** has launched its third ship on the Mekong, due to increased demand.

*Indochina Pandaw* will sail along the lower Mekong between central Saigon and Siem Reap.

She will depart weekly from Feb, joining *Bassac Pandaw* and *Mekong Pandaw* to visit lesser-explored areas of Vietnam and Cambodia.

# THE *MAGIC AHOY!* VIRTUAL CRUISE IS NOW SAILING AND IT HOLDS YOUR CHANCE TO **WIN** A STATEROOM ONBOARD A DISNEY WONDER VOYAGE IN 2025!



**What is *Magic Ahoy!* all about?** This virtual cruise gives you the opportunity to explore Disney Cruise Line at your leisure. You can dip in, have a break, come back later, or complete all the training in one go – it is completely up to you. You'll learn all about our infamous Rotational Dining, onboard entertainment, Disney's Private Island, and more! This training covers all five ships in our fleet, including *Disney Wonder*, the ship sailing from Australia and New Zealand.

There are 3 Levels to complete – once you have reached Level 3, you'll be entered into the draw to win a Stateroom for you and a Guest onboard a Disney Cruise Line sailing from Sydney!

The competition runs between 26 August and 18 November 2024, with spot prizes to be won throughout the incentive, and an **exclusive *Magic Ahoy!* pin\*** once you collect all the Mickey Stamps.

Don't delay and **download *Magic Ahoy!* from the app store today!** *Magic Ahoy!* has launched, and with this mega prize up for grabs, you won't want to miss out!

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