



Cruise Weekly today

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

Darr new CLIA CEO

BUD Darr has been appointed Global President & Chief Executive of Cruise Lines International Association (**CW** breaking news).

The accomplished global maritime leader returns to CLIA, having most recently served as MSC Group Executive Vice President, Maritime Policy and Government Affairs.

Darr previously led CLIA's maritime technical and regulatory affairs, and will now succeed Kelly Craighead in the top job (**CW** 19 Sep).

His leadership and dedication to the cruise industry was hailed by Chair Jason Liberty.

Here comes the (Norwegian) Sun

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is celebrating *Norwegian Sun's* (pictured) arrival to Australia for the first time.

Key highlights during her inaugural Down Under season include maiden calls in Sydney, Brisbane, and Townsville, immersive South Pacific sailings, and brand-first cruises like Bali to Brisbane and Lautoka to Sydney.

The season will also see *Sun* cruise an intensive Asia program, a series of island-hopping South Pacific sailings departing from Papeete, and visits to the Great Barrier Reef and New Zealand.

Sun will also sail three extended 'Fire and Ice' itineraries of 15 or 16 days, which include both Hawaii and Alaska, inviting guests to experience a blend of icy landscapes and tropical isles.

"We are excited to welcome *Norwegian Sun* to local waters for the first time so guests



can experience first-hand how cruising with NCL offers more to see, more to do, more to enjoy and provides more value," Vice President & Managing Director Ben Angell said.

"This collection of close-to-home voyages combines convenient Brisbane and Sydney turnarounds with even more

ways to explore the South Pacific, New Zealand, Far North Queensland, and Asia.

"Plus, guests can follow the *Sun* to a bucket list collection of destinations including 'Fire and Ice' sailings between Hawaii and Alaska, providing guests with even more options to discover the world by sea." *MS*

Holland America

Explore Europe with Holland America Line.

Make a booking during our **Start your Journey sale and WIN 10 days Athens & Adriatic Allure** August departure cruise for you and one guest*.

*T&Cs apply. Visit GoHAL for full competition details.





Bluey on board

BLUEY is set to join Disney Cruise Line from next year, on ships sailing from Australia.

Passengers can interact with Bluey and her sister Bingo through special meet-and-greets, as well as an interactive and clue-filled game, which ends in a dance party featuring the popular blue heeler's signature moves.

"Bluey has become a household name for families around the world and we are thrilled to bring her story to life in new ways," Disney Experiences Chair Josh D'Amaro said.

Ten new Viking itineraries



VIKING has opened bookings for 10 new ocean itineraries in 2026 and 2027, which will introduce 12 new ocean ports.

The new itineraries, which will sail in the Mediterranean, United Kingdom, Ireland, and Northern Europe, will range from eight to 22 days.

New ports include Fowey, Bordeaux, Limerick, Riga, Klaipeda, Londonderry, Haugesund, Palma de Mallorca, Bilbao, Fort William, Tobermory, and Karlskrona.

"As our award-winning fleet of small ocean ships continues to grow, we are pleased to introduce new voyages that have been thoughtfully planned for curious travellers," Chair & Chief Executive Torstein Hagen said.

New for 2026 and 2027 is the eight-day Amalfi Coast, Africa

& Iberia cruise, from Rome to Barcelona through Southern Europe, exploring Italy, Spain, as well as Tunisia.

There is also a new eight-day 'Spain & Portugal Discovery' in 2026 and 2027, cruising between Barcelona and Lisbon, discovering the latter city and its colourful streets and neighbourhoods, and the history of Andalusia.

Also new for 2026 and 2027 is the 12-day 'Iberia, France & England Explorer', sailing between Lisbon and London, visiting a number of Europe's historic cities, such as Bordeaux, Bilbao, and more.

"Every Viking itinerary is focused on the destination, and our state-of-the-art ships, with no children and no casinos, allow guests to explore the world in elegant Viking comfort." *MS*

HX gives grants

THE HX Foundation has awarded €118,000 (A\$197,000) in grants to 13 global projects in 11 countries, across sectors including conservation, education, and sustainable development.

The grant allocation is the first round of support from the HX Foundation since its separation from the wider Hurtigruten Foundation earlier this year.

It marks the foundation's continued dedication to creating lasting, meaningful change across the globe, with particular focus on communities and destinations where HX sails.

"We are delighted to support these incredible projects that not only champion environmental conservation but also foster community development, education, and responsible tourism," said HX Foundation Managing Director Henrik Lund.

One of this year's winners is Arbol co(n)razon - a fire brigade for wildlife conservation in Ecuador.

Also awarded was Audubon, which works to expand ecotourism as an economic driver in Alaska, with a focus on birding.

Audubon will use its grant to enhance ecotourism opportunities, creating local birding trails.

Carnival donation

CARNIVAL Corporation is supporting emergency efforts in Vanuatu, in the wake of the devastating earthquakes which hit the country earlier this week (*CW* 19 Dec).

The company is donating \$60,000 to first responder, ProMedical Vanuatu, which worked around the clock for the first 48 hours after tragedy struck in Port Vila, searching for survivors in the rubble and helping provide critical medical care to the injured.

Carnival Corp has been a supporter of the non-government emergency response organisation for several years, through P&O Australia's Pacific Partnerships.

Travel Daily

YEAR IN REVIEW

TAKE A LOOK BACK AT THE BIGGEST STORIES
FOR THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY IN 2024.

READ NOW



FOR many, Elf on the Shelf has become an indispensable part of some families' annual festive rituals and traditions.

But Carnival Cruise Line has had to draw the line at one guest's request for stateroom attendants to take charge of their elf during an upcoming Western Caribbean voyage.

Writing to the line ahead of embarkation, the guest asked: "Can you arrange for the cabin attendant to put Snickerdoodle in funny places in the room and do crazy stuff each night?"

"We have early dinner so this will need to be done by 10pm at the latest."

Then the envelope finally reached pushed-too-far status.

"Can the captain get involved as well?" the guest requested.

"The boys would find it unbelievable if Snickerdoodle could be filmed driving the ship" - why not, you ask?

Carnival said it was unable to allow crew members to create unique scenes or take the Elf to secure locations on board.

CW back on 06 Jan

CRUISE Weekly is taking a break over the holidays, with today our last issue of 2024.

The first issue of 2025 will be sent on Mon 06 Jan.

The **CW** team wishes you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ponant unveils 2026/27



PONANT has unveiled its 2026/27 Antarctic season, with 36 departures available to book across six itineraries.

Sailing between Jan 2026 and Mar 2027 on board *Le Boreal*, *Le Lyrial*, *Le Solaal* and *L'Austral*, guests can immerse themselves in landscapes of snow-capped peaks, glaciers, and icebergs, while encountering wildlife including whales, seals, penguins, and seabirds.

One of the itineraries on offer is the 10-night 'Emblematic Antarctica', which offers 27 departures between Jan 2026 and Feb 2026.

Priced from \$18,640 per person, the round trip Ushuaia voyage crosses the Drake Passage and features a sea kayak adventure, Zodiac outings, and shore visits, during which guests will have the chance to spot penguins, leopards and seals.

The cruise package also includes

an overnight in Buenos Aires the day before embarkation, and flights to and from Ushuaia.

"Antarctica is one of the most remarkable places on Earth, and our 2026-2027 season has been crafted to provide guests with an experience that is both transformative and deeply respectful of the environment," said Deb Corbett, Ponant Explorations Group Chief Executive Officer Asia Pacific.

"We are committed to delivering industry-leading adventures without foregoing luxury's comforts on our small-ship expeditions, while maintaining an equal focus on fostering an understanding of the importance of protecting these extraordinary regions for generations to come."

Guests can now book the 2026 and 2027 departures to take advantage of Ponant's early bird savings of 30% - discover the itineraries **HERE**. JM

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	20 Dec
<i>Silver Muse</i>	20 Dec
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	21 Dec
<i>Royal Princess</i>	21 Dec
<i>Silver Muse</i>	21 Dec
<i>Regatta</i>	22 Dec
<i>Westerdam</i>	22 Dec
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	22 Dec
<i>Viking Venus</i>	22 Dec
<i>Viking Venus</i>	23 Dec
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	23 Dec
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	24 Dec
<i>Crown Princess</i>	26 Dec

MELBOURNE	
<i>Norwegian Sun</i>	21 Dec
<i>Seven Seas Explorer</i>	22 Dec
<i>Silver Muse</i>	23 Dec
<i>Viking Orion</i>	24 Dec
<i>Viking Venus</i>	26 Dec
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	27 Dec

BRISBANE	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	20 Dec
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	21 Dec
<i>Regatta</i>	24 Dec
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	26 Dec
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	27 Dec

PERTH	
<i>Azamara Pursuit</i>	20 Dec

ADELAIDE	
<i>Crown Princess</i>	20 Dec
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	21 Dec
<i>Norwegian Sun</i>	23 Dec
<i>Norwegian Sun</i>	24 Dec
<i>Azamara Pursuit</i>	27 Dec

HOBART	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	20 Dec
<i>Viking Orion</i>	22 Dec
<i>Crown Princess</i>	23 Dec
<i>Le Jacques Cartier</i>	23 Dec
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	23 Dec
<i>Seven Seas Explorer</i>	24 Dec
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	24 Dec
<i>Norwegian Sun</i>	26 Dec