



Cruise Weekly today

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

Viking reportedly considers IPO

VIKING is said by *Bloomberg* to be weighing up an initial public offering (IPO), which could raise around US\$500 million or more.

The cruise line is said to be working with Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, UBS, and Wells Fargo on the potential listing, *Bloomberg* claimed, citing anonymous sources.

An IPO may come as soon as the second quarter, however deliberations are ongoing, and the timing could change, *Bloomberg* said.

Viking was unable to respond to **Cruise Weekly's** questions by deadline.

More Red Sea cancellations

CRYSTAL Cruises has become the latest line to cancel a Red Sea-bound voyage, calling off a sailing aboard *Crystal Symphony* (pictured) next month.

The cruise was set to travel from Mumbai to Piraeus from 27 Mar to 13 Apr.

"In light of the current situation in the Red Sea, Crystal remains committed to prioritising the safety and well-being of our guests and crew," a statement from the cruise line said.

"Due to the ongoing situation, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2024 Cruise from Mumbai to Piraeus (Athens) on *Crystal Symphony* 27 Mar to 13 Apr."

The cruise line is also rerouting several segments of this year's World Cruise on *Crystal Serenity* to avoid the Red Sea.

The changes will not affect the overall voyage length, Crystal



said, and the ship will arrive in Miami as originally scheduled on 08 Jun.

Crystal is the latest of a number of cruise companies which are now avoiding the Red Sea due to the crisis in the inlet.

Carnival Corporation recently rerouted Red Sea transits for 12 of its cruise ships across seven of its brands (**CW** 01 Feb).

MSC Cruises also cancelled three Grand Voyages in Apr to avoid transit through the Red Sea, while Silversea Cruises cancelled two *Silver Moon* voyages between Muscat and Dubai which would have sailed through the inlet (**CW** 17 Jan). *MS*

APT on the Murray

APT has unveiled exclusive 2025 itineraries on Murray River Paddlesteamers' under-construction *Australian Star*, set to depart in Jun 2025.

Three new itineraries are on sale now, headlined by the eight-day Retreat to the Murray, which visits Echuca, Rochester, Colbinabbin, Perricoota Station, and more, from \$7,795 per person.

Shorter itineraries include the four-day Murray River Gateway starting at \$3,295 per person, and the five-day Murray River Escape, starting at \$4,495 per person.

The new APT Murray River trips are currently available with savings of up to \$1,000 per couple.

"We're excited to bring a whole new level of luxury to cruising the Murray," APT's Mladen Vukic said.



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THE Holland America Line (HAL) team has completed the tough gig of handpicking an exclusive single-barrel select bourbon for its fleet at the Buffalo Trace Distillery, the oldest operating distillery in the United States

The special bourbon was curated by Sazerac Master Blender Drew Mayville and Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame inductee Freddie Johnson, both icons within the "spirit world".

"We strive to share experiences with our guests that they won't find anywhere else," HAL Vice President Food Beverage & Rooms Michael Stendebach said.

"Collaborating with Buffalo Trace to craft a signature bourbon has been an incredible journey.

"Drew and Freddie guided us to select a barrel that will resonate with our guests," Stendebach added.

New Antarctica21 ship



CHILEAN fly-cruise specialist Antarctica21 has unveiled plans for a new cutting-edge ship (**pictured**), designed exclusively for the southernmost continent.

Magellan Discoverer is set to join the Antarctica21 fleet for the 2026-27 Antarctic season, marking a significant step in the company's efforts to serve the high-end segment of the Antarctic travel market.

The ship will be a sister to Antarctica21's *Magellan Explorer*, welcoming up to 76 guests in 40 staterooms across three decks.

Magellan Discoverer will feature a spacious dining area, versatile meeting rooms, a stylish observation lounge and bar, a well-equipped gym, a science lab, a sauna, and a gift shop.

The ship features a wrap-around

deck, providing 360-degree views of the Antarctic landscapes.

Antarctica21's decision to build a sister ship to *Magellan Explorer* comes as a response to the increasing demand for Antarctic fly-cruise expeditions.

"This ship is born out of our unwavering commitment to meeting the rising expectations of our guests," President Jaime Vazquez said.

"Equipped with the latest technology, *Magellan Discoverer* strengthens our dedication to sustainability while offering seamless comfort.

"With its modern elegance and advanced technical features, it supports our ongoing effort to provide unparalleled experiences in the spectacular Antarctic region," Vazquez said. *MS*

BKB cruise hiring

BKB Holidays has announced the appointment of Nicole Chapman as its new Product & Partnerships manager for its cruise and domestic product.

Chapman brings a wealth of knowledge, with more than two decades in the travel industry in a variety of roles.

She will lead the expansion of BKB's cruise offerings from the Kimberley coast to Asia.

She previously served as the National Account Manager with Viva and Qantas Holidays.

Viking weekly deal

VIKING'S deal of the week is its 11-day Rhine & Main Explorer cruise.

The voyage is priced from \$6,995 per person, and offers included economy flights on 2025 and 2026 river journeys to Europe, if booked before 28 Mar.

The cruise sails through southern Germany, and explores neighbouring regions in Switzerland and France.

CLICK HERE for more information on the deal.

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