



Cruise Weekly today

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

Disney agent rate

DISNEY Cruise Line is offering last-minute, exclusive travel advisor rates for a sailing from Sydney next week.

The three-night cruise voyages from Sydney to Melbourne on board *Disney Wonder* from 23-26 Jan.

An inside stateroom is available from USD\$405 per person, based on double occupancy, and not inclusive of taxes or gratuities.

Rates, availability, and restrictions are accurate at time of release and are subject to change without notice.

Those interested in booking should call 1800 718 515, or **CLICK HERE** for more info.

Hurtigruten supports Norway regulations

HURTIGRUTEN has told **CW** it supports stricter regulations on the cruise industry, as the federal government in the line's native Norway plans to phase out traditional marine fuel from 2026 (**CW** yesterday).

The cruise line confirmed it will still be able to enter Norway's fjords after 2026, as it plans to use certified and sustainable biodeisel on its ships.

However Hurtigruten did not comment on its plans from 2035, when Norway's transitional arrangement comes to an end, and the country commences a zero emission requirement.

"Hurtigruten supports stricter regulations on the cruise industry, both in the World Heritage fjords and along the entire coast," the cruise line said.

The company noted the zero emission requirement only applies to passenger ships in



the UNESCO World Heritage Convention-listed West Norwegian Fjords - Geirangerfjord (**pictured**) and Naeroyfjord, not all of the country's fjords.

The former destination is particularly popular with cruise ships, including Hurtigruten.

The Norwegian line is, in addition to pursuing sustainable fuels, striving to launch a zero-

emission ship, which it has described as "the world's most energy-efficient cruise vessel" (**CW** 08 Jun).

The ship, which is hoped to be launched by 2030, would be the first of a fleet of smaller, custom-built vessels "which will leave zero emissions on both sea and land," Hurtigruten said.

The ships will be electric, and equipped with batteries which charge in port, and can be combined with wind technology.

They are expected to feature numerous firsts and improved solutions which do not exist on cruise ships today, including retractable sails with solar panels, artificial intelligence maneuvering, contra-rotating propellers, and multiple retractable thrusters.

Additional technologies include air lubrication, advanced hull coating, and more. *MS*



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Captain Cook offer

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises Fiji has launched a special “sail for seven, pay for four” offer to celebrate the new year.

Cruisers are offered three nights free on all seven-night itineraries for this year on board *Caledonian Sky*.

The offer includes a saving of up to \$3,297 per person, with cruisers paying just \$4,396 per person twin share.

Guests can choose from five seven-night itineraries, including a cruise through the beautiful Yasawa Group, the Mamanuca Islands, the Lau Islands, and Kadavu Island.

For further information and bookings, contact Captain Cook Fiji on 1300 TO FIJI.

Skip the Drake with Lindblad



LINDBLAD Expeditions-National Geographic has launched two new ways to explore Antarctica, allowing passengers to fly across the Drake Passage.

The new itinerary options offer guests more flexibility, with new eight- and 10-day cruises which are shorter than the average 14-day voyage.

The cruises will begin next year on board *National Geographic Explorer*, with the eight-day voyage to travel from Puerto Natales, flying return over the Drake Passage, and the 10-day itinerary to include a flight from ‘Isla 25 de Mayo’ to Ushuaia.

The eight-day cruise will see guests board *Explorer* after a two-hour flight from Puerto Natales.

On day seven of the eight-day cruise, *Explorer* will return to King George Island, where guests will disembark the ship and fly back to Puerto Natales, and stay overnight before beginning their journey home the next day.

The new 10-day ‘Antarctica Direct: Sail and Fly the Drake Passage’ expedition will see guests embark *Explorer* in Ushuaia, and spend two days crossing the Drake Passage.

They will spend five days exploring Antarctica before arriving on King George Island,

where they will board their chartered flight for their return journey home.

“The options to take an expedition cruise or fly to Antarctica bring the amazing seventh continent closer as travellers seek to understand this dynamic ecosystem,” National Geographic Expeditions Senior Vice President and General Manager Nancy Schumacher said.

“On our Antarctica expeditions, travellers can learn from the in-depth knowledge of experts and naturalists, as they illuminate and protect the wonder of the world.”

The new expeditions launch with limited-time inaugural pricing, including private air, while those who book this month will receive a special \$500 expedition credit per guest on the eight-day cruise, and \$1,000 on the 10-day voyage.

Cruisers can also currently save up to 40% off Lindblad voyages in 2024 and 2025 with the cruise line’s wave offer (**CW** yesterday).

Lindblad passengers can score a travel credit of up to \$2,500 per person, and can save up to 40% on solo staterooms, while also enjoying an additional 10% off when paying in full.

For more information on the sale, **CLICK HERE**. *MS*

I’m a Wind-fluencer

WINDSTAR Cruises has launched an innovative partnership with influencer network Jerne to expand its social marketing reach.

The creator economy represents an untapped market for Windstar, CCO Janet Bava believes.

“When we look at driving new-to-cruise and new-to-Windstar, there is no marketing channel that has the same organic, authentic reach,” she added.

The launch of the partnership was celebrated with a co-hosted voyage aboard *Star Legend* on Windstar’s newly launched ‘Legendary Winter in the Mediterranean’ itinerary.

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Aurora events

AURORA Expeditions is hosting a 2024 Bucket List event series, which will see the cruise line delve into the unique itineraries designed as part of its latest 'Best Small-Ship Experiences' push.

Attendees will dive into Aurora's Antarctic and Arctic itineraries, and more, and explore the cruise line's comprehensive range of activities in the remote destinations it travels to.

They will also hear stories of adventure and discovery from guest speakers, including some of the Aurora's expedition leaders such as Howard Whelan, John Kirkwood, and Roger Kirkwood.

Guests will also be offered an exclusive saving when they attend at an event, in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Adelaide, and Perth - more info [HERE](#).

Cunard paints the town



CUNARD Line has partnered with one of Australia's most successful and innovative painters, six-time Archibald Prize finalist David Bromley, for its latest PR activation, CunART.

The Australian artist recently spent a three-night sailing from Melbourne to Sydney on board

Queen Elizabeth creating multiple canvases in the ship's art studios, including her iconic Queen Room.

The canvases were then assembled upon *Queen Elizabeth's* arrival to Sydney, revealing the masterpieces within the ship's three-storey grand lobby (**pictured**). *MS*

NZ is back cruising

NEW Zealand's cruise industry is booming once again, after years of significant financial losses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This cruise season is shaping up to be the biggest ever, *1News* has reported, with 360,000 passengers expected to spend NZD\$600 million (AUD\$559 million) locally.

Fifty-five ships are set to visit the country this year, with New Zealand Cruise Association Chief Executive Officer Jacqui Lloyd telling the network it has been "really positive" to see the sector's return to growth.

"[The cruise industry] has been New Zealand's star performer in the economic recovery for tourism and it's still stronger than the airlines that are still trying to reach that pre-pandemic capacity," she said.

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NOTES:

- History
- Bouillabaisse



TELEVISION presenter Melissa Doyle (pictured) has joined a growing list of Australian cruise converts. Doyle, who has been appointed Avalon Waterways' Aussie ambassador, admitted her first river cruise "ticked more boxes than expected". She set sail solo for the first time in 2022, on one of Avalon's Active & Discovery itineraries along the Danube. Doyle has since been back many times since, even bringing along her husband. She hails cruising as "heaven", during which she spends her days "meandering through countries, filling my camera roll in the prettiest villages and my stomach with the tastiest food" - welcome aboard, Melissa!



RSSC's 48 hour of luxury



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) this week hosted 10 top-performing travel advisors for 48 hours of luxury.

RSSC's "Top Travel Advisor Retreat" saw attendees enjoy an exclusive dinner at Lillian Brasserie at 80 Collins in Melbourne, and tour *Seven Seas Explorer*, before enjoying a gourmet lunch on board.

Travel advisors also attended the Australian Open in a 'Bar Superbox' at Rod Laver Arena - an experience catered by Nick & Nora's Melbourne, with beverages crated by RSSC's very own mixologist (pictured).

Pictured are Garry McLaughlin (First Class Escapes), Mike Dwyer (Main Beach Travel), Elsa McLean and Lisa Pile (RSSC), Mandy



Dwyer (Main Beach Travel), Tara Kocass (My Cruises), Justine Sealey (Ramsgate Travel Service), Carolyn Allen (Warrandyte Travel), Tammy Houston (Houston & Turner Travel Associates), Faye Cohen (Wentworth Travel), Vicki Williamson (MTA Travel), Scott Graham (RSSC), Ian Mallinson (Balwyn Travel), and Matthew Vince (RSSC). MS

MAST flying high

MAST Travel Network has partnered with Traveltek to elevate its cruise booking experience using the technology company's AgentConnect platform.

The partnership is poised to revolutionise cruise bookings for travel advisors, providing seamless access to the AgentConnect booking tool, which boasts integration with some of the world's largest cruise lines.

"We are thrilled to kickstart our partnership with MAST," Traveltek Senior Vice President North America Rebecca Esterhuizen said.

"This collaboration represents a significant stride in our commitment to delivering top-notch travel technology solutions."

MAST VP Margaret Campbell said the travel agency consortium is thrilled to be partnering with Traveltek.

"We are providing our members a booking tool that will create efficiencies in their ever-expanding cruise segment," she added.



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