



Cruise Weekly today

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

HAL grand sale

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is offering a new rate for travellers booking 2025 Grand World Voyage cruises sailing aboard *Zuiderdam*.

This season's Grand World Voyages travel through iconic destinations such as the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Easter Island, and more.

HAL's 37-day Grand World Voyage, departing Fort Lauderdale to Sydney, starts at \$12,450 per person twin share for an interior stateroom.

Meanwhile, the 42-day Grand World Voyage departing Sydney to Cape Town starts at \$14,750 per person twin share - call HAL on 1300-987-322 for more information.

Lines avoid Beryl

NINE major cruise ships sailing in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico have adjusted their itineraries to avoid the path of Hurricane Beryl.

Five were from Royal Caribbean Group alone, with *Icon of the Seas*, *Grandeur of the Seas*, *Wonder of the Seas*, *Harmony of the Seas* and *Celebrity Beyond* all changing planned port days or cancelling stops altogether.

Carnival Cruise Line made changes to the planned stops for *Carnival Horizon*, amending a call in Grand Cayman to instead visit Nassau, while *Carnival Liberty* pushed its visit to Cozumel back one day.

Norwegian Cruise Line was forced to cancel visits to Grand Cayman, Belize and Costa Maya with *Norwegian Breakaway* and *Norwegian Jade* with both itineraries also affected by the storm.

Agents key for Ritz-Carlton



TRAVEL advisors will be key for The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection (RCYC) in Australia, new Vice President and General Manager Seb Seward told **Cruise Weekly**.

The former British Airways executive, who was appointed to his new role last month, said the travel industry will be key to Ritz-Carlton's distribution in Australia.

"It's true we have a higher direct penetration than most of the industry, due largely to the power of the Marriott Bonvoy program; however agents are key for us, especially in Australia and the broader APAC region," Seward told **CW**.

"I've just spent the week at ILTM in Singapore meeting with many luxury travel agents and discussing how we can work together," he added.

"We'll be working closely with agents to ensure that they have the necessary understanding of our unique product in order to effectively sell it."

Seward is relocating to Australia for the role, and said although nothing is set in stone, RCYC is expected to be based in Sydney.

The local team will feature a number of reservation agents to offer support to its trade partners and direct customers, as well as one or two sales roles, based between Australia and Asia.

However, Seward distanced RCYC from offering a "cruise"

experience, with the new VP saying passengers can expect the brand to differentiate itself from other luxury lines in Australia.

"We offer a yacht rather than a cruise experience - smaller vessels that can anchor in more places, yet offer some of the highest space per guest in the industry," he said.

"You can even swim or paddleboard straight from the marina platform at the aft."

Seward said early excitement about RCYC in Asia-Pacific has been "extremely positive", as the cruise line prepares to welcome *Luminara*, its upcoming third luxury superyacht, to the region next year (**CW** 27 Jun).

Luminara's 10 new journeys between Dec 2025 and May 2026 will be the cruise line's first season in Asia-Pacific. **MS**

Hurtigruten hires

HURTIGRUTEN Group has boosted its presence in the Asia-Pacific region with new appointments across its sales, marketing, PR and customer service teams.

Kirsty Fruin is joining the APAC commercial team as Regional Sales Manager for Queensland, Western Australia, and South Australia.

Fruin will be based in Brisbane, and has a wealth of industry knowledge through her previous roles, including in the United Kingdom with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines.

Christina Koullas has also joined Hurtigruten's Melbourne office in the new position of PR & Communications Manager.

Her 20+ years of travel PR experience includes working with Spirit of Tasmania, DMCs in Europe, and running her own PR agency, where she consulted for Hurtigruten.

Meanwhile, Jemma Gormack and Emily Coltman will also join the head office team in Melbourne in the marketing department, while the Customer Service Centre has expanded with Briohny Black and Laura Lund joining as CSC Consultants to manage agent and consumer enquiries.

Managing Director Damian Perry said the expanded team will support growing demand.



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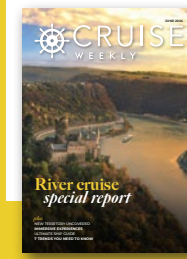
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Caledonian Sky to head to Europe

TRAVELMARVEL has unveiled its Europe Coastal Cruising program for next year, with 13 brand-new itineraries.

The APT Group's *Caledonian Sky* will make her return to the company, and will sail with Travelmarvel for the first time in the Mediterranean, after her departure from Captain Cook Cruises Fiji's fleet was announced last month (**CW** 26 Jun).

The new season introduces 13 new itineraries from Apr to Oct 2025, including two extended combination journeys.

Key highlights include the eight-day 'Greek Island Explorer', cruising from Athens return from \$4,995 per person.

There are two 15-day itineraries: the 'Mediterranean Treasures' from Venice to Istanbul that takes guests along the coastlines of Croatia, Montenegro, Italy, Greece, and Turkey, with



highlights including a visit to Krka National Park.

Meanwhile, the 15-day 'Adriatic & Aegean Delights' from Venice to Athens stops at destinations including Dubrovnik (pictured), Kotor, Greece, and more.

Prices for both these brand-new tours start from \$9,995 per person, twin share with earlybird savings of up to \$5,500.

The 11-day 'Highlights of Canary Islands and Madeira' travels from Tenerife to Porto, during which guests may discover Funchal's terracotta-topped buildings, and

Porto's wine-making traditions at a local port cellar.

Prices start from \$7,495 per person, twin share with earlybird savings of up to \$3,000.

Travelmarvel CEO David Cox expressed excitement for the new itineraries, and bringing *Caledonian Sky* to the shores of the Mediterranean.

"Thanks to its boutique size, the *Caledonian Sky* allows you to access smaller ports and dock right in the heart of a city or town," he said.

"With the ship's shallow draft, we are able to slip away from the pack, into remote coastal towns or shallow waters.

"Guests will get a greater insight into authentic Mediterranean local life and on many days, we also stay docked later into the evening so that guests can explore after other tourists have left for the day." *MS*



On location in the
Kimberley

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you courtesy of **Scenic**, aboard **Scenic Eclipse II**.

THE last day of our Kimberley cruise will be a highlight, with guests enjoying a Zodiac cruise to the spectacular King George Falls where the adventurous among us plan to get very wet.

We've spent the weekend exploring a World War II plane crash and rock art as well as fabulous wildlife out at Ashmore Reef, where we bumped into *Seabourn Pursuit*.

Our onboard experience has included lots of conviviality too, with daily trivia, culinary delights and so much more.

Check it all out on Instagram via [@cruiseweekly](https://www.instagram.com/cruiseweekly).

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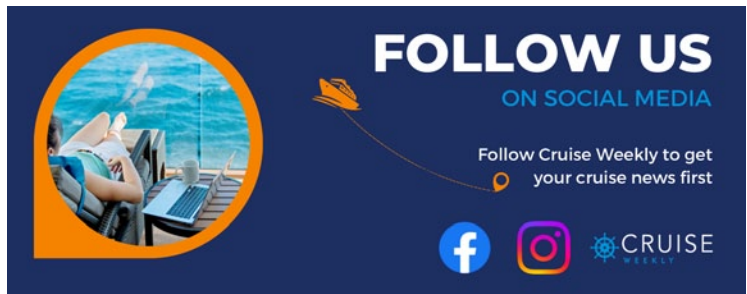


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CRUISING is all about enjoying the simple pleasures and Carnival Cruise Line brand ambassador John Heald is pushing for one to return.

The influencer, who has amassed a social media crowd of nearly 600k followers, is urging cruise ships to restore an old practice of playing cartoons on its big screens.

Many ships have big screens on the top deck, broadcasting everything from morning Cruise Director reports to live sports and evening movies, but outside of this, nothing.

Heald is campaigning for this extra time to be filled with classic and modern cartoons, saying he will take a petition to "the beards" if enough people respond to his Facebook poll.

The Beards is Heald's playful name for Carnival's management, even though some men don't have beards and many are female.

Vesta floats out

FINCANTIERI has marked the next stage in construction for Viking's newest ocean ship with the official floating out ceremony for *Viking Vesta* at its shipyard in Ancona.

The milestone moment was attended by Viking Chair & CEO Torstein Hagen among other executives from the shipyard and cruise line.

With her external hull now complete, *Vesta* will move into the outfitting dock for interior construction ahead of her planned debut in mid-2025.

Viking continues to grow its ocean-going fleet, signing a new contract with Fincantieri (**CW** 25 Jun) for two more ships, to be delivered in 2028 and 2029.

Savings on Greece

TRAVELLERS can enjoy four free nights in Athens and enjoy savings of up to \$1,860pp on Cruise Traveller's new 'Stars of Greece and Turkey' itinerary.

The 18-night deal includes a sailing on the 166-passenger *Star Clipper* - book by 30 Sep.

Dear future RCI cruiser



GRAMMY Award-winning musician Meghan Trainor will add cruise ship godmother to her illustrious CV, chosen by Royal Caribbean to name its new Oasis-class ship, *Utopia of the Seas*.

Trainor (**pictured**) will carry out the traditional maritime festivities of bestowing safe passage on the ship and all its passengers in a massive three-day christening celebration voyage.

This will be capped off with live performances by Trainor onboard the ship at Royal Caribbean's private Bahamian island, Perfect Day by CocoCay.

"It's an incredible honour to

join the Royal Caribbean family as godmother of *Utopia of the Seas* and set the tone for the parties to come," said Trainor.

"The best part is that we get to bring that weekend energy to the stage with my family and fans."

From 19 Jul, *Utopia* will then begin her weekly rotation of three-night weekend voyages and four-night weekday breaks to Perfect Day and Nassau, Bahamas.

Trainor will join a star-studded line-up of Royal Caribbean Godmothers including Lauren Bacall, Whoopi Goldberg, Gloria Estefan, Kristen Chenoweth and even *Shrek's* Princess Fiona. *ML*




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