



Cruise Weekly today

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

Crystal wellness

CRYSTAL Cruises has announced new wellness retreats at sea, with special sailings set to voyage aboard *Crystal Symphony* from 01-14 Dec and 14-23 Dec.

The sailings offer guests holistic wellness programs designed in collaboration with health, spa, and fitness experts, bringing together a group of industry experts who have curated specialised programming in the categories of healthy aging, functional nutrition, fitness, and more.

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NEW ITINERARIES FOR 2025

- 100 passengers on average
- 70 crew members
- Boutique sized small ship
- Dock in the heart of towns
- Large Suites
- Superb dining

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Wendy Wu launches cruises

EXCLUSIVE

WENDY Wu Tours has launched its first fully inclusive Cruise & Tour holidays collection, **CW** can exclusively reveal, with a selection of nine itineraries now available to book.

The collection, which officially launches in Australia tomorrow, combines cruises with Wendy Wu's land tours, in a strategic move to leverage the company's expertise in land travel, and address the increasing desire for seamless, multifaceted holidays.

Wendy Wu noted growing demand for comprehensive travel experiences offering both relaxation and cultural immersion, and will partner with Celebrity Cruises, Royal Caribbean International, and Azamara to deliver the inaugural collection.

The Cruise & Tour Holidays, which were first launched in the UK, feature return flights from Australia and all connecting transfers, with cruises including a balcony stateroom, dining, drinks and onboard entertainment.

Land touring includes four-star hotels, all meals, touring with expert guides, sightseeing activities, entrance fees and visas for Australian passports.

Managing Director Simon Bell described the collection as "the biggest element of the biggest product expansion in our company's history".

"This is the biggest element of our roadmap...it has already launched in the UK and has been selling like absolute hotcakes," he told **CW**.

"I'm really excited to see how it continues to develop in this market as well."

Bell said the collection was born out of a desire to broaden what its itineraries offer travellers.

"This is really about giving our customers a really new and exciting way to travel," he added.

"They love the relaxation part of the journey that you get from

cruising, and they also love going deeper into a destination with touring, so it's kind of meshing the two of them together and giving people the best of both worlds," Bell said.

He noted the pairing of a cruise with a land tour is a popular travel style in the United Kingdom, with Wendy Wu believing appetite for the product will grow in Australia.

Wendy Wu's business development team will be out on the road from tomorrow to help educate the travel trade about the collection.

The company is also supporting the launch with a limited-time offer of \$1,200 off per couple across every departure.

"There's posters, a social media kit, there's an amazing offer that's available, we have a team of five BDMS now that will be out in all states visiting agents to train them on the product," Bell said.

Wendy Wu's 'Japan by Land & Sea' itinerary is one of the highlights of the new collection.

The voyage travels for 24 days from \$20,290ppts.

Travellers will begin by discovering Tokyo, Mount Fuji and Kyoto, before boarding Azamara's *Azamara Pursuit* to circumnavigate Japan's largest island, Honshu.

There is also a 'India by Land, Southeast Asia by Sea' itinerary which travels for 26 days from \$14,380 per person twin share.

Travellers will venture from the west of Asia to the east, passing through some of the continent's booming cities and exploring history, culture and tradition.

Passengers will cruise on board Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Solstice* and explore India's Golden Triangle by land before hopping over to Singapore to cruise across Southeast Asia, and finishing in Hong Kong.

CLICK HERE to explore the Cruise & Tour collection. *MS*



On location on board *Utopia of the Seas*

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Royal Caribbean International, aboard *Utopia of the Seas*.

THIS morning, *Cruise Weekly* is catching up with the captain, who will chat with us about Royal Caribbean International's sustainability programs and community work.

We'll also get to meet with some of the ship's food and beverage experts, who will share the artistry that has gone into creating the ship's menus.

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SATELLITES have been put to work providing cruisers with better internet on their voyage, and they could now be designed to detect floating trash in the ocean.

A study published in *Nature Communications* and reported on by *The Washington Post*, details a tracking effort which took place between 2015 and 2021, and captured images of more than 14,000 litter windows, covering almost 100km² of sea.

The researchers used the imagery to calculate the density of the litter in windrow areas, identifying hot spots near Algeria, Libya, Italy and the Adriatic Sea.

Areas with denser populations had higher nearby litter densities, they found.

The analysis suggests much of the litter remains near its land-based source, though ocean currents can push it farther.

WA Cruise Exchange docks

THE industry's top companies have sailed into Western Australia for the state's Cruise Exchange.

The eighth annual event, held at Crown Towers Perth, is a crucial driver of Western Australia's cruise industry.

Twenty-five industry experts have docked in Perth to discuss Western Australia's cruise sector, which injected more than \$300 million into the state's economy last year.

The event is being supported by the Government of Western Australia, and will be joined by leading cruise brands such as Holland America Line, Seabourn Cruise Line, Princess Cruises, P&O Cruises Australia, MSC Cruises, Royal Caribbean International, Coral Expeditions, and Ponant.

"Western Australia is a premier destination for cruise and expedition ships, so it's really exciting to welcome key industry representatives to our state and discuss the amazing experiences our local tourism operators can offer their guests," Minister for Tourism Rita Saffioti said.

"Each year the WA Cruise Exchange brings together the



ports, tourism and global cruise sector to discuss upcoming itineraries and showcase how Western Australia and its spectacular coastlines would be a dream inclusion for their guests.

"Our government has been really proud to support our local cruise sector with \$333 million injected in the economy last year and more than 1,000 jobs supported, and events like the WA Cruise Exchange are so valuable in helping to facilitate more ships to our shores."

The Govt of WA recently committed an additional \$1 million over four years (**CW 14 May**) in the state's 2024-25 budget to grow the cruise industry and put wind in the sails of the WA Cruise Tourism Strategic Plan 2023-2033. *MS*

Abel joins Travel24

CRUISE industry leader and Australian Cruise Association Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel is the latest industry expert to join the Travel24 program.

Abel will participate in a panel discussion on the future of ocean cruising, alongside MSC Cruises Managing Director Lisa Teiotu and Silversea Managing Director Adam Radwanski.

Royal Caribbean International Director of Sales Dave Humphreys will also join the panel, with one final panellist to be announced soon.

The one-day event will take place in less than a month at the Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour, with tickets (**CLICK HERE**) selling fast.

Hosted by **Cruise Weekly** sister publication **Travel Daily**, Travel24 is a one-day event focusing on the future of travel, jam-packed with fascinating discussions and keynotes from experts.

Other speakers will include Minister for Trade and Tourism, Don Farrell and ATIA Chief Executive Dean Long.

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EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman

Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon

Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai

Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper

Publisher - Damian Francis

Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

info@cruiseweekly.com.au

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ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan

Advertising - Laura Aghajanian &

Dante Muranty

advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

HEAD OF OPERATIONS & CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Anna Piper

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd

Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia

PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia

Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220

Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

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