



Cruise Weekly today

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

Cruise360 program

CRUISE Lines International Association has released the full Cruise360 program of speakers, who will be brought together under the theme 'embrace the future'.

Almost 30 industry experts will take the stage in Sydney next month, including five international cruise leaders.

Highlights include 'Leveraging the Experiential Travel Trend', 'Beyond the Cruise: Harnessing the Potential of Immersive Pre- and Post-Cruise Experiences', and 'Unlocking the Luxury Market: Strategies for Upselling and Maximising Opportunities' - **CLICK HERE.**

Allison back to the UK in Carnival shake-up

CARNIVAL Corporation has appointed veteran Princess Cruises executive Stuart Allison to a newly created role as Chief Commercial Officer for P&O Cruises in the United Kingdom (CW breaking news).

Allison, who is well-known to the Australian market, will begin his new role in Oct, which will see him report directly to Carnival United Kingdom and P&O Cruises UK President Paul Ludlow.

The move is among a number of structural changes at the company overnight, which will also see Holland America Line and Seabourn Cruise Line combine their sales teams under a new leader for the two brands in Australia.

Rob Coleman has been promoted to the new leadership role, with an eye to enhance trade partner support as Senior

Vice President North America & Australia Sales.

Coleman continues to report to Holland America Chief Commercial Officer Beth Bodensteiner, while reporting into him from Australia will be Alex Pikardt, local Director of Sales for both cruise lines.

The new structure will also see Tara Schreiner promoted to Vice President National & Strategic Partnerships for both cruise lines, while Seabourn Vice President Sales & Trade Relations Steve Smotrys will leave the company in Sep.

Carnival Corp said it is yet to determine who will take Allison's place atop Princess in Australia.

The cruise veteran has been based at the company's Sydney office for many years, in various capacities, leading Princess both locally and in wider regions.

He currently holds the role of Senior Vice President Asia Pacific UK & Europe, and leads all commercial operations for Princess outside the US.

Commenting on the appointment, Ludlow said he is delighted to be welcoming Allison back to the UK, where he began his career with Carnival Corp more than 25 years ago.

"Stuart's knowledge of and passion for our brands is going to be a huge asset to Carnival UK and he will be instrumental in our progress towards achieving our goals," he said.

Allison said he is excited to be joining the P&O UK team at a time of such potential for the British cruise market.

"Whilst a record number of Brits cruised last year, there were tens of millions who chose other holidays," Allison said. MS

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AUSTRALIAN travellers cruising on the Seine on Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours' D-Day River Cruise have discovered a World War I Aussie soldier by chance while touring a cemetery.

The soldier was buried in the same Normandy cemetery as Vincent van Gogh, which the group was visiting.

The historian travelling on the departure, Pete Smith, wandered over to a row of French soldiers, and was amazed to discover that one of them was in fact Australian: #5363, Private Harry Cossen, 59th Battalion.

The special, sold-out cruise also attended a special commemorative service at Ranville Military Cemetery.

Hear from the Chef

HOLLAND America Line's 'Fresh Fish Ambassador', Chef Masaharu Morimoto, will host an onboard culinary demo and a 'Coffee Chat' during part of an upcoming voyage.

Chef Morimoto will join part of the line's 53-day 'Majestic Japan' Legendary Voyage during its visit to Hiroshima.

Guests will also be able to sample the chef's expertise with three 'Morimoto By Sea' pop-up dinners in Pinnacle Grill under the line's Fresh Fish Program (**CW** 21 Sep 2023).

Total eclipse of the HAL



THREE solar eclipse sailings are the shining light of Holland America Line's (HAL) new celestial cruises in 2026.

A trio of HAL ships will be positioned under the path of totality for the solar eclipse of 12 Aug 2026, building from this year's two sailings.

Oosterdam will take guests to the Mediterranean to witness the eclipse off the eastern coast of Spain, while both *Nieuw Statendam* and *Zuiderdam* will explore Northern Europe, sailing the western coast of Iceland for the eclipse.

The 2026 celestial cruises will also take guests to prime locations to experience natural phenomena such as the northern lights and the summer solstice.

Those cruising to see the northern lights can sign up for a wake-up call from the ship any time an aurora is spotted, with staterooms on all sailings available from tomorrow.

Guests can expect themed

activities, as well as lectures from, and the opportunity to connect with, scientific experts.

"After the excitement and success around our 2024 eclipse cruises, we knew our guests were looking for additional opportunities to get a front-row seat for some of the world's most special natural spectacles," Chief Commercial Officer Beth Bodensteiner said.

"Our team has put together a lineup of cruises that not only deliver on that front, but also give guests in-depth exploration of exciting destinations and the premium onboard experience for which we're known."

HAL also recently announced 15 new stage shows will make their debut on the cruise line's upcoming 2025 Grand World and Pole to Pole voyages (**CW** 22 Jul).

The slate of new shows will be produced by Blackburn International, and will be presented by a team of eight singers and dancers. *MS*



Northern (high)lights

THE tropical North Queensland cruise sector is growing rapidly since the completion of the Cairns Shipping Development project in 2020 allowed vessels of up to 300m to be accommodated in the city.

There are 86 scheduled ship visits to Cairns alone in 2024-25.

Passenger and crew visitation numbers have increased by 75% to 153,533 in 2023 from pre-pandemic numbers of 86,000.

Tropical North Queensland welcomed 141 cruise ship visits into the region's ports in Cairns, Yorkeys Knob, Port Douglas, Cooktown and Thursday Island in the prior season.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) enjoys a strong partnership with Ports North, working together to ensure the sustainable future of the trade through greater engagement with local tourism operators, expanding cruise guest options in land-based experiences and positioning the region as a top priority for cruise line planning and scheduling into the future.

We also connect regularly with our industry.

Last week we were excited to host the Australian Cruise Association for their board meeting, as well as an industry networking event.

We were also pleased that they were able to take the opportunity to experience the region with tours to Skyrail and neighbouring areas.

We also held the TTNQ Cruise Conference in May with eight industry specialists attending to speak with more than 80 guests.