



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Cruise growing

**MTA** Chief Executive Officer Don Beattie lauded cruise as an industry that is “exponentially” growing, during the network’s National Conference in Fiji on Fri.

Speaking to **Cruise Weekly**, Beattie said the interest in cruise is only growing stronger having become a “centrepiece” for MTA agents.

“Cruise is a mainstream of what we do,” he said.

“We have wonderfully skilled people selling cruise.

“It’s something that we embrace because our cruise line partners...are fantastic.”

The Conference was held outside of Australia for the first time last week.

## Two new AmaWaterways ships in 2026

**AMAWATERWAYS** has announced two new river ships for 2026 in Asia and Europe.

The new *AmaKaia* will join *AmaDara* on the Mekong, while *AmaSofia* will sail Europe’s Rhine and Danube (**pictured**).

With an expected launch date of 24 May 2026, *AmaSofia* will be the cruise line’s 24th ship to sail on Europe’s most popular rivers.

*AmaSofia*’s inaugural 14-night itinerary, ‘Magnificent Europe’, journeys between Amsterdam and Budapest, with guests to sail on three rivers through four countries on an immersive exploration of local culture, history, foods and traditions.

Highlights include guided bike rides through scenic vineyards and small towns, visits to a pretzel bakery, tours of castles and palaces, culinary tours, and deep dives into the region’s most historic cities.



The custom-designed luxury *AmaSofia* will depart on 31 cruises in 2026, featuring multiple itineraries, such as ‘Melodies of the Danube’, ‘Romantic Danube’, and the popular ‘Christmas Markets on the Danube’.

Meanwhile, *AmaKaia* is expected to embark on her first

seven-night itinerary on 03 Aug 2026, with guests to explore the ancient cultures of Vietnam and Cambodia while enjoying regional delicacies, a wide range of included daily excursions, local onboard entertainment, and luxury amenities.

Exploration opportunities include traditional “xe-loi” trishaw rides, visits to local workshops and monasteries, and a Buddhist blessing ceremony.

The two seven-night itineraries, ‘Charms of the Mekong’ and ‘Riches of the Mekong’, both offer guests a unique blend of well-known sites and off-the-beaten-path experiences, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

*AmaKaia* will sail on 22 cruises in 2026, with land extensions available in several cities including Siem Reap, home of the world’s largest religious structure, Angkor Wat. *MS*



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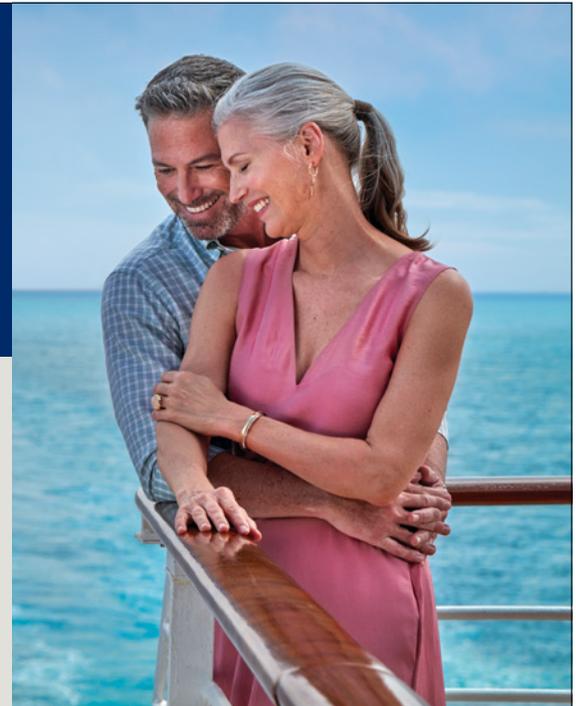
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## Euribia powers up

MSC Cruises' *MSC Euribia* has connected to shorepower in Kiel for the first time at the Ostuferhafen terminal.

The city's local power grid supplied electricity for all of *Euribia's* operations while at berth to eliminate the ship's direct emissions at the port as the ship's engines were off.

*Euribia* is scheduled to use shore power up to 20 times in Kiel during the sailing season.

Bunkering of liquefied natural gas was also undertaken at Kiel, before *Euribia* set sail on her seven-night voyage to visiting Denmark and Norway.

This was the first time these two processes have taken place simultaneously.

"We are pleased with this new milestone we achieved in Kiel at the weekend," Chief Energy Transition Officer Michele Francioni said.

## Uniworld strikes a pose with Camilla

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises and Australian fashion brand Camilla have announced a partnership which promises to "fuse luxury travel with fashion".

The brand's founder Camilla Franks recently cruised the Nile with Uniworld, and used the experience to inspire her upcoming 'House of the Sun' Egypt collection, which will launch next month.

Uniworld and Camilla will host an exclusive VIP event in Sydney on 24 Jul to launch the partnership, which will see the cruise line's top-producing agents and other travel VIPs attending.

There will also be spaces reserved at the event for the winners of Uniworld's Fashion Afloat travel advisor incentive, which launched on Fri.

Every new booking made between now and 11 Jul will see advisors have the chance to win a



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spot at the premiere, with some extra spoils thrown in, including their very own Camilla pieces to wear to the event.

Advisors must complete the online form [HERE](#) to register their entry, with flights and accommodation, as well as a Camilla shopping experience going to winners.

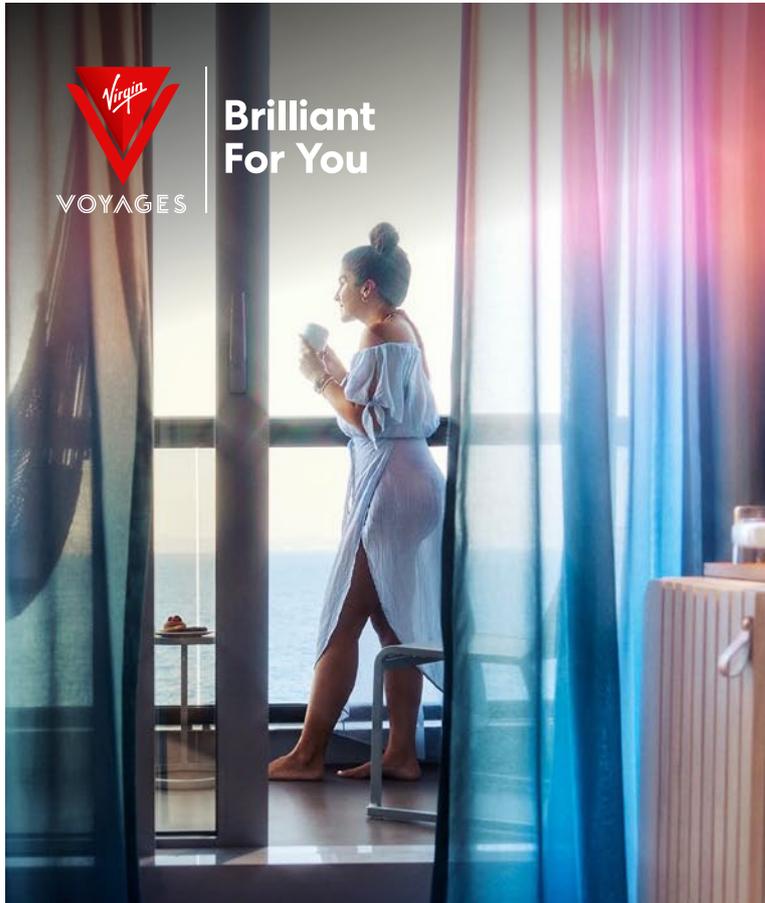
"We were honoured to be Camilla's river cruise line of choice for her first trip down the Nile and we were thrilled to showcase the magnificence of

Egypt to her and her family on our 'Splendours of Egypt and the Nile' itinerary," Uniworld MD Alice Ager said.

"This collaboration has been years in the making and we have worked closely with Camilla and her team to showcase the very best of this incredible country.

"Egypt has so much to offer and we think it should be on the top of everyone's travel list.

"Camilla is truly a creative genius and we adore the 'House of the Sun' collection." *MS*



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## A&K expands Luxury Expedition portfolio

**ABERCROMBIE & Kent** (A&K) has expanded its Luxury Expedition Cruise portfolio for next year, with new voyages to the Galapagos Islands, Iceland, and the Faro Islands.

Headlining the lineup is the new Ultimate Galapagos Expedition aboard adventure yacht *Theory* from tour operator Ecoventura, which is now part of Abercrombie & Kent Travel Group.

Passengers will encounter the Galapagos' iconic wildlife alongside A&K's expedition team, and enjoy exciting snorkeling, kayaking, Zodiac, and shore excursions, complemented by Relais & Chateaux hospitality on board.

There is also a new island-hopping adventure to explore the wilds of Iceland, the Faroes, Scotland's Shetland Islands, and Isle of Skye.

Guests will venture off the beaten path with A&K's



acclaimed team on an expedition revealing subarctic islands, volcanic landscapes, rugged coastlines and diverse birdlife.

The cruise will begin in Reykjavik, taking in the mainland's natural and cultural wonders before embarking on an exploration of the volcanic Vestmannaeyjar, the Faro Islands, the Shetland Island's historic port of Lerwick, and the castle-crowned Isle of Skye.

"Revealing the world's most

remote destinations has always been the driving force behind our expedition cruises," Senior Vice President of Global Product Strategy Stefanie Schmutte said.

The tour operator now offers 24 cruises across seven continents and 33 countries.

Other highlights of the season include polar expeditions in Antarctica and the Arctic, explorations of Europe and Asia, warm-water adventures in Africa & Southeast Asia, and more. *MS*

## Bar Harbor fight

**ATTEMPTS** by Maine businesses to overturn a rule limiting daily cruise ship visitors to 1,000 has been denied by a US federal court.

Residents in the town of Bar Harbor imposed the limit in 2022, including a provision to fine cruise lines in violation.

Local businesses opposing the rule said the low number was draconian and would send ships elsewhere.

Bar Harbor, which has a permanent population of around 5,000, is a popular stop along the Eastern United States on many cruise itineraries into Canada and New England.

Holland America Line, Royal Caribbean International, and Norwegian Cruise Line have a combined 60 calls booked for Bar Harbor this year, which were booked prior to changes.



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## PORTHOLE

**ROYAL** Caribbean International has starred in a recent episode of the Nine Network's hit show *Travel Guides*, with the cast cruising aboard *Allure of the Seas*.

The stars of the show travelled to Florida to board the ship from Port Canaveral, as *Allure* embarked on a three-night cruise to Nassau and Royal Caribbean's private island Perfect Day at CoCoCay.

The cast (pictured) threw themselves into a variety of activities, from swimming with pigs to catching waves on the FlowRider surf simulator.

The episode aired last night, and is available to be streamed on 9Now.



## AIDA fleet modernisation

**AIDA** Cruises has launched 'AIDA Evolution', the largest fleet modernisation in the line's history, with *AIDAdiva* (pictured) being the first Sphinx-class ship to be contemporised early next year.



*AIDAdiva* will head to the Chantier Naval shipyard in Marseille from 03 Feb to 22 Mar, where extensive modernisation work will be carried out in guest areas, incorporating popular concepts from AIDA's current generation of ships.

All staterooms will be redecorated, with *AIDAdiva's* number of suites to increase, and exclusive areas and services created for the first time in the Sphinx-class of ships.

Guests can also look forward to an even greater variety of restaurants and more service offers with popular signature bars to be added, and AIDA's distinctive Theatrium refurbished with "inviting" seating and a "harmonious" colour concept.

New family areas will also be

added, in addition to technical equipment and system updates.

Following *AIDAdiva* will be *AIDA luna* and *AIDA bella*, which will be modernised in fall 2025 and spring 2026 respectively.

"The desires of our guests constantly inspire us to rethink cruising and take existing concepts to the next level," President Felix Eichhorn said.

"The ships of the Sphinx series made cruise history with their innovative space concept and design - we want to build on that with our AIDA Evolution program," he added.

"Our guests can look forward to an even greater variety of experiences, service and comfort on board."

*AIDAdiva* will sail three itineraries following her dry dock period from Rome, visiting Italy and Malta, from 13 Mar. *MS*

## Viking solo offer

**VIKING** is currently offering a limited-time single supplement deal on select 2024-2026 ocean and world voyages.

The highlights of the offer include a 25% reduction on double occupancy fares on eligible voyages, with cruisers able to select from Veranda or Deluxe Veranda staterooms.

The offer is available until sold out - terms and conditions apply, and for additional information, call 138 747.

## Win an Ama famil

**WIN** a place on an AmaWaterways famil at an upcoming webinar next week.

Travel advisors are invited to attend one of three training webinars with AmaWaterways on 12 Jun, during which four European river cruise famil spots later this year will be given away.

The webinars are an extension of the recent travel advisor sessions held in Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne - register **HERE** for one of three times on the day.



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