



Cruise Weekly today

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

Princess Olympics

THOSE holidaying with Princess Cruises this winter can catch some of the most anticipated events from the upcoming Olympic Games.

A highlight will see two former Olympians present to guests aboard *Sky Princess*, including Michael Edwards, also known as Eddie the Eagle.

The English ski jumper became the first competitor to represent Great Britain in Olympic ski jumping in 1988, portrayed in the 2016 film *Eddie the Eagle*.

Retired British sprinter Derek Redmond will also speak to guests, the former British record holder for the 400m.

Redmond is known globally for tearing his hamstring at the start of the 400 metres semi-final at the 1992 Olympics, before bravely finishing the race limping, with his father running onto the track to help him cross the line.

Princess will host live viewing parties on the Lido Deck throughout the Olympics, with special food and beverage offerings, and sports-themed activities, where guests can watch the action on the line's 28m² poolside screen.

There will also be the 'Cruise Olympics', where guests can win medals for their country with different daily events, including basketball, table tennis, golf, swimming, soccer and more.

Other activities will include a game show; Olympic-themed trivia; a family sports day showcasing shot put, javelin, long jump, and archery; and even breakdancing classes, showcasing the newest sport in the Olympics.

Biggest Cruise360 ever



AUSTRALIA'S cruise community is gearing up for the biggest-ever Cruise360, with record numbers of travel advisors and cruise leaders expected to converge on Sydney for the industry's most important gathering of the year.

The 30 Aug conference will be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney (**pictured**), to accommodate the larger numbers, with discounted earlybird tickets ending on 30 Jun - **CLICK HERE** to purchase.

A packed program of international and regional speakers will provide essential insights for cruise specialists, while the event will also include the biggest-ever Cruise360 trade show, allowing delegates to connect with cruise lines, destinations, and other exhibitors from around the world.

Tickets are available exclusively to Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) members, and provide a full-day conference program and trade show, as well as a welcome event on 29 Aug.

CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz said this year's Cruise360 will combine a global perspective with practical knowledge to help agents boost their business.

"We will hear from international cruise leaders on the opportunities in an expanding global cruise sector, as well as local experts who can share hands-on experience and advice," Katz said.

"Cruise360 is a fantastic opportunity to hear from cruising thought leaders and to connect with colleagues from across the cruise sector.

"It's a must-attend event for any travel agent looking to thrive in cruising," he added.

Full program details and speakers will be announced in coming weeks.

Those attending this year's Cruise360 will also have the option to book limited tickets to CLIA's first River Cruise Showcase on 29 Aug (**CW 02 Apr**), a half-day of product training on sailing the world's inland waterways.

The Showcase is designed to help advisors understand the different experiences each river offers, the unique points of difference for each brand, and help them to identify new potential river cruise clients.

All agent delegates will have the opportunity to attend the optional River Showcase. **MS**

Silversea WC 2027

SILVERSEA has opened an exclusive pre-sale on its 2027 World Cruise, 'The Three Oceans', aboard *Silver Dawn*.

The ship will depart Los Angeles on 08 Jan 2027 and arrive in Copenhagen on 07 Jun 2027, calling in 80 destinations - more than any voyage in Silversea's history.

The cruise will visit 35 countries on five continents, including 20 new calls for a Silversea World Cruise.

The 149-day voyage will also feature 11 overnights, and unlock the unique cultures and histories of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic oceans, offering longer stays in port than any other World Cruise.



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Women to lead Cunard speaker program

CUNARD Line has signed up three iconic Australian women - former politician Julie Bishop, singer & actress Kate Ceberano, and jockey Michelle Payne - to inspire the 2024-2025 local summer program.

The season will see Former Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop (**pictured** second from left) take to the stage of *Queen Elizabeth's* Royal Court Theatre during the ship's 12-night sailing from Fremantle to Sydney, departing 05 Nov.

She will share stories about her political career spanning more than 20 years, and her academic and charitable achievements.

"I am eagerly awaiting the return of Cunard's luxurious liner *Queen Elizabeth* and to join the final leg of the voyage from Fremantle to Sydney in Nov," Bishop said.

"As this will be my second trip on board this magnificent ship, I



again hope to meet many guests during my early morning jogs around the deck."

Meanwhile, Ceberano (**pictured** left) and Payne (**pictured** right) will stimulate guests aboard *Queen Elizabeth's* Queensland sailing from 17 to 27 Nov.

Ceberano is a legend in soul, jazz, and pop, and has also starred in films and musicals, such as *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Payne became the first and only female jockey to win the Melbourne Cup in 2015, riding Prince of Penzance.

Other talent on board this summer is Australian basketball player Luc Longley (**pictured** second from right), who will join

Queen Elizabeth's San Francisco to Sydney sailing from 22 Sep to 18 Oct.

Longley became the first Australian to play in the NBA in 1991, going on to play for four teams over 10 seasons.

President Katie McAllister said the guest speaker program is a vital aspect of Cunard's sought-after onboard experience.

"Recognising our guests' enthusiasm for learning and broadening their perspectives, we've meticulously selected speakers for the upcoming Australia season who can both captivate and enlighten our guests during their voyage with us," she said. *MS*

Disney's big profit

DISNEY Cruise Line has sailed away with more than US\$200 million in dividends from its private Bahamian island Castaway Cay.

The line acquired a 99-year lease on the island from the govt in 1997, and according to *Forbes*, Disney has paid itself US\$220m in dividends from it over the past decade.

Disney's 'Magical Cruise Company' subsidiary, which operates the cruise line, has been paid the six-figure sum by Bahamas-based DCL Island Development, which runs Castaway Cay.

There is no compulsory requirement for companies to file financial statements in the Bahamas, masking the actual profit Castaway Cay generates.

The first guests set foot on the island in Jul 1998, after the cruise line launched its first ship, *Disney Magic*.

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PORTRHOLE

LUGGAGE misadventures can happen to anybody when travelling, but some companies will go above and beyond to help, especially for VIPs.

Two travellers booked on Seabourn Cruise Line's *Seabourn Pursuit's* inaugural voyage in the Kimberley had lost their bags, which failed to reach the ship before departure, due to an oversight during transit.

Cue the customer service team, who sprang into action and chartered a helicopter to fly to Broome, then to the remote Australian outback to reunite the travellers with their wayward personal belongings.

Seabourn President Natalya Leahy, who is on board for the maiden sailing, was particularly proud of her team.

Leahy even took to the stage on board one evening to share the tale with fellow guests and praise her team.

It's snow party without Viking



SYDNEY'S glitterati were out in force on Sat evening for the annual Tour de Cure Snow Ball, a huge charity function for an organisation which has raised more than \$130 million for cancer research over the last decade.

Viking was one of the many sponsors on the night, with team members including Keira Smith and Shaun Kavanagh hosting industry partners at several tables, as well as donating a New York City to Montreal ocean cruise in Sep 2025, which was

snapped up in a live auction for more than \$20,000.

The event was supported by the Seven Network, seeing attendees rub shoulders with popular television personalities such as travel sector favourite Larry Emdur and *Sunrise* co-host Mark Beretta, who was MC.

The pair are **pictured** during the gala evening with Flight Centre Travel Group Global Managing Director Luxury & Independent Danielle Galloway, and Viking MD Michelle Black. *BP*

Insignia rescue

OCEANIA Cruises' *Insignia* rescued 68 migrants heading for Spain last week.

Six migrants also unfortunately died during the incident, *Reuters* reported.

The people were trying to reach the Canary Islands but were trapped in a fishing boat which had stalled in rough seas, Spanish authorities and Oceania said on Fri.

Bulk carrier *Philipp Oldendorff* sighted the boat adrift 440 nautical miles south of Tenerife, and provided first assistance to the migrants, while *Insignia* was diverted to the area to pick up the survivors, the Spanish Coast Guard said in a statement.

Insignia is currently undertaking a 180-day world cruise, which began in Jan.

"Safety of life at sea is of paramount importance for all seafarers," an Oceania spokesperson said.

"*Insignia* rescued 68 people from a vessel in distress between Cape Verde and Tenerife, [and] brought them on board," they said.



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