



Cruise Weekly today

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

Crystal adds ships

CRYSTAL is set to welcome two new ocean ships to its fleet in the coming years, after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri.

The 690-passenger vessels will feature all-suite accommodation with private verandas, a promenade extending through the whole ships' perimeter, several dining options, spa and fitness centre.

The first ship is slated for delivery in the second quarter of 2028, with the due date of the second ship to be announced at a later date.

Crystal has also secured the option to build a third sister ship with delivery in 2032.

Celebrity guests seeking shorter cruises

EXCLUSIVE

CELEBRITY Cruises Chief Executive Officer Laura Hodges Bethge said increased interest in shorter sailings prompted the line to introduce its "getaway" itineraries year-round.

Hodges Bethge, speaking to **CW** from Celebrity's Presidents cruise, said guest preferences have and will continue to guide the cruise line's deployment.

"We've seen increased interest for shorter sailings, with the Caribbean particularly capturing our guests' attention," she said.

"These three-to-five-night cruises are perfect for a quick getaway...we always offered shorter sailings, yet now we offer them year-round."

Hodges Bethge emphasised Celebrity has positioned its Edge-series ships in its most popular destinations, including Australia, with guest preferences in mind.



This includes Perfect Day at CocoCay (pictured), the private island belonging to Celebrity Cruises' parent company, Royal Caribbean International.

"Our Edge-series ships are positioned in our four most popular regions - Alaska, Europe, the Caribbean, and Australia - set to be deployed in these areas through to 2026," she added.

"We put our guests first in everything we do, and we will

continue to place our newest hardware in the regions our guests tell us they want to experience," Hodges Bethge said.

"When I first became president, I repeatedly heard from guests and travel advisors how much they would love to experience Perfect Day at CocoCay...this Apr, we began sailings to the private destination and the response has been overwhelmingly positive," she added. *MS*



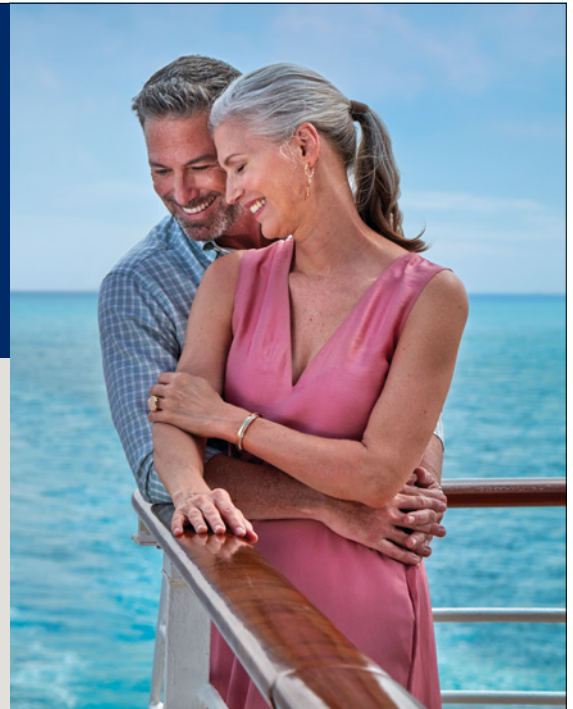
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Demand for MSC has never been higher

THE demand for MSC Cruises, particularly from Australia, is higher than ever before, the line has revealed, with the Geneva-based brand benefiting in particular from Aussies returning to Europe.

At MSC's La Dolce Vita event in Sydney last night, Public Relations and Communications Manager, Leisa Chell, said the cruise line has witnessed unprecedented growth in its year-on-year passenger numbers in the region.

"We are up 60% year-on-year in the Mediterranean, and that's Australians," Chell enthused.

She cited MSC's most popular European itineraries as the seven-night Eastern Mediterranean cruise visiting Croatia, Greece, and Italy; as well as the seven-night Western Mediterranean journey sailing to Malta, Spain, France, and Italy.

However, MSC is also growing



outside of its traditional heartland, Senior Sales Manager Brigita Devries added.

Passenger numbers in the Caribbean have grown by 76% year-on-year, while Northern Europe has increased by 27%.

Many of MSC's new passengers are Millennials, Managing Director Lisa Teiotu shared, showcasing the cruise line's broad spectrum of growth over

the past year.

"The demand for cruise is higher than ever before," she said.

"It is MSC Cruises' rich European persona and style, [and] its best-in-class experiences, which have contributed to a rise in younger people enjoying a cruise for the first time." *MS*

Pictured are Devries, Marketing Manager Michelle Warren, Teiotu, and Chell.

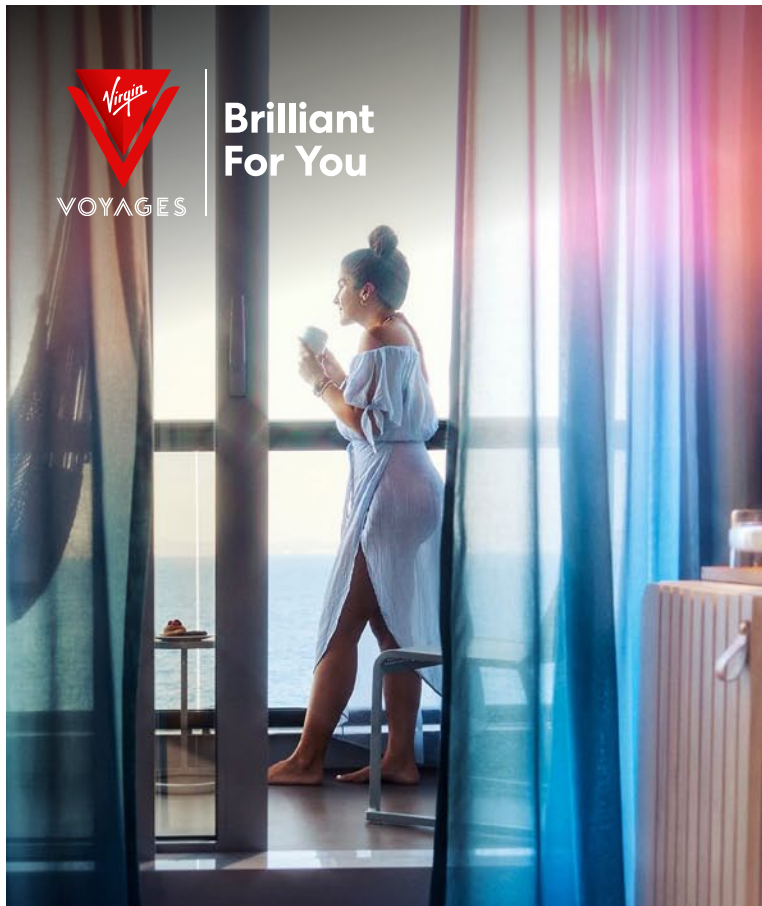
Amsterdam win

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) is hailing a confirmed move this week by Amsterdam officials to relocate its cruise terminal as a win for a collaborative approach to overtourism.

Amsterdam City Council's decision to move the terminal outside of the city centre by 2035 is "a great example of the cruise industry's long-standing partnership with the Port of Amsterdam", CLIA said in a statement released today.

"Amsterdam is, and will remain, a popular cruise destination, and cruise tourism will continue delivering important economic benefits to the city."

The possibility of moving the passenger terminal from its current location on the Veemkade to the Coenhaven is currently being explored.



Virgin
VOYAGES

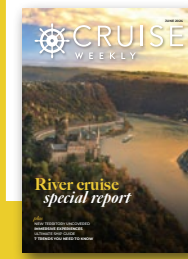
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THE old cruise ship that inspired 1970s hit TV show *The Love Boat* has been rescued from a sad fate after it began sinking into the Delta River in California last month.

Aurora (pictured) was successfully refloated last week after crews installed dewatering pumps, and continue to stabilise the historic liner.

Featuring 85 boutique cabins, grand reception galleries, sun decks, and a marquee Art Deco lounge, the five-storey ship has been out of commission for decades, and is in a state of serious disrepair.

It's anyone's guess as to what will now become of the once-glorious vessel, with the Californian State Government unable to get in touch with *Aurora's* current owner.



Thursday delay

BUSINESS Publishing Group is aware of an issue with one of our platforms yesterday which caused some delays for a small number of our readers in receiving the newsletter.

The issue has now been resolved, and we apologise for any inconvenience.

SeaLink accessible for all



SEALINK Marine & Tourism have announced significant accessibility enhancements across its Red Cat Adventures and Whitsunday Jetski Tours operations.

In a demonstration of SeaLink's commitment to inclusivity, Red Cat Adventures and Whitsunday Jetski Tours recently hosted five carers and 14 clients from the Endeavour Foundation (pictured) on board *Wildcat* for a sightseeing trip around Airlie Beach.

The *Wildcat* vessel is specifically designed to accommodate guests with mobility challenges, featuring secure tie-down points and spacious areas.

The group also explored the local waterways aboard Whitsunday Jetski Tours, with support carer Ricki Conn sharing she "felt the staff went above and beyond any expectations I had".

"Everybody felt included and were given many opportunities to try new things.

"We had an incredible time with our clients on the fast boat trip, but the real highlight was when they got to jump on the back of a

jet ski with one of the guides,"

SeaLink recently added a dedicated accessibility page to its website, offering a comprehensive resource for all accessibility-related information, including the specific accommodations it offers and guidance on how to make the most of these services.

Additionally, the operator has made it easier for guests to select tours that meet their requirements, with accessible tours now clearly marked.

"We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef," Red Cat Adventures' Julie Telford said.

"Our commitment to accessibility is reflected in the enhancements we've made to our vessel and the information we provide our guests.

"We are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where all guests can enjoy a holiday to beautiful Whitsundays, including snorkelling and jet ski adventures," she added. *JM*

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	01 Jul
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	04 Jul
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	04 Jul
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	05 Jul
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	29 Jun
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	02 Jul
CAIRNS	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	29 Jun
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	02 Jul
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	30 Jun
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	01 Jul
BROOME	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	28 Jun
<i>Coral Geographer</i>	29 Jun
<i>Scenic Eclipse II</i>	29 Jun
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	03 Jul
<i>True North</i>	05 Jul
DARWIN	
<i>Silver Cloud</i>	28 Jun
<i>Le Jacques Cartier</i>	30 Jun
<i>Seabourn Pursuit</i>	01 Jul
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	04 Jul
<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	04 Jul

HX first to connect

HURTIGRUTEN has marked a sustainability milestone, with *MS Fridtjof Nansen* the first ship to use shore power from the new connection at Midtbakki Terminal in Iceland's Reykjavik Harbour.

The vessel will draw renewable electricity during port calls in Iceland, where 85% of primary energy comes from domestic renewable sources.