



Cruise Weekly today

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

Ponant Antarctica

PONANT has announced the sales opening of its 2025-2026 Antarctic summer season, with more than 30 departures on eight itineraries.

The season runs from Oct 2025 to Mar 2026 aboard *Le Boreal*, *Le Soleal*, *L'Austral*, and *Le Lyrial*, with six departures on *Le Commandant Charcot*.

Ponant will visit the Antarctic Peninsula, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, the Ross Sea, the Chilean fjords, and the Valdes Peninsula.

GM Sales & Marketing Deb Corbett said Ponant is thrilled to announce the opening of the season, particular with *Le Commandant Charcot*, which is returning from the Arctic.

Hurtigruten backs more cruise restrictions

EXCLUSIVE

HURTIGRUTEN Norway Chief Executive Hedda Felin (pictured) has backed her company's position of more regulations on the cruise industry in its home country (**CW** 18 Jan).

Felin, who was in Australia to speak at the A Force For Good International Women's Day event, said she would personally like to see stricter regulations along the entire coastline of Norway, rather than just the World Heritage Listed fjords (**CW** 17 Jan).

The Hurtigruten Chief Executive would also ban heavy oil on cruise ships throughout Norway, as her line aims to lead the way in sustainability with its hybrid retrofitting plan (**CW** 23 Sep 2022) and its Sea Zero project.

"We want stricter regulations, so we welcome this initiative, but we know that by 2036... technology is not ready for net



zero," she told **Cruise Weekly**.

However Felin said the line will be "fine" once Norway's stricter regulations are introduced in 2026, adding it will be "prepared" for sterner regulations.

"We will be fine, I do know we have reduced CO2 emissions by 25%, NOx emissions by 80%.

"In the energy sector you have to be at the forefront, you can't [just] take the regulations... the fleet is good for the next 10-20 years, and after that, [we will] have to discuss with the government...but we will be in dialogue with them.

"I think we have to be prepared

for stricter regulations, and more scrutiny of our business."

Felin rejects the suggestion from other cruise lines that restrictions on sailing in the fjords will see demand for Norway drop.

She described the cruise industry as "so far behind" in its preparation for sustainable sailing, having instead turned to lobbying in an effort to convince the government to strike down its proposed regulations.

"The cruise companies lobby quite hard that if there are environmental regulations, the tourists will not come, which is not true.

"We have the most beautiful coast in the world, there's increasing amounts of tourists, it's okay if it slows down, there will still be plenty of people.

"People will not stop being interested in the Northern Lights and Midnight Sun." *MS*

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Anchors aweigh in SA for *Pacific Explorer*

P&O Cruises Australia has anchored in Adelaide, in a major economic boost for SA.

The cruise line will inject more than \$33 million into the South Australian economy while *Pacific Explorer* is based in Adelaide, offering locals a chance to holiday without taking a flight.

Explorer is expected to welcome more than 26,000 guests across multiple cruises in Feb and Mar, and again in Dec.

Itineraries coming up include seven-night cruises visiting Kangaroo Island, Hobart, and Melbourne; four-night Southern getaway cruises visiting Kangaroo Island and Port Lincoln; four-night '90s themed cruises; and three-night '80s themed cruises.

"We are thrilled to have *Pacific Explorer* back in Adelaide, providing locals with the opportunity to embark on a memorable holiday," Senior Vice



President Peter Little said.

"It's an exciting way to visit New Zealand and Tasmania or explore your own backyard by visiting Kangaroo Island or Port Lincoln - it's an easy way to holiday."

The cruise line's presence in South Australia is set to benefit tourism operators, as well as food & beverage suppliers, and communities across the state.

"P&O remains steadfast in its commitment to sourcing 100% of our food and beverages from Australia, with South Australia playing a crucial role," Little said.

"We invest nearly \$4 million annually in local produce from the region.

"This includes pork, onions, potatoes and stone fruit."

South Australia's Minister for Tourism Zoe Bettison said it is great to welcome *Explorer* back for another cruise season.

"The cruise industry contributes \$215 million a year to the South Australia economy, supporting over 700 local jobs and enhancing our tourism sector so there are many benefits every time a ship sails in our region," she said. *MS*

Darwin's big week

DARWIN'S cruise industry made waves last week, welcoming 10,000 cruisers in just seven days.

Eight ships called Darwin last week, injecting \$4.1m into the economy, part of the \$65m expected across the season.

Mon was the busiest day, with Darwin welcoming two Seabourn Cruise Line ships, *Seabourn Odyssey* and *Seabourn Sojourn*, as well as Oceania Cruises' *Insignia*.

Other cruise ships to call during the week included Cunard Line's *Queen Mary 2*, Princess Cruises' *Coral Princess*, and Silversea's *Silver Shadow*, among others.

Cruise passengers enjoyed trips to Litchfield National Park, Darwin city tours, military history tours, jumping crocs tours, and tours of Darwin Harbour.

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A CRUISE ship worker has revealed one major faux pas passengers often make which earns them the scorn of the crew - walking around with their shoes off.

"Crew members generally make fun of passengers who deem it acceptable to walk around the cruise ship with no shoes on," one crew member told *The Daily Star*.

"Surprisingly there is always one passenger per cruise that is comfortable walking around the entire cruise ship with no shoes on.

"They will weave in and out of shops with no shoes on they will even think it appropriate to go to the theatre with no shoes on," they added.

They went on to advise all cruisers they should be wearing shoes in any space outside of their stateroom, and if you're not, you're probably being laughed at.

NZ cruise growth capped?



EXCLUSIVE

THE biggest challenge facing the New Zealand cruise industry is the country's deficit of infrastructure, newly inducted Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Hall of Famer Craig Harris (**pictured**) believes.

The ISS-McKay Managing Director, who was honoured at CLIA's Cruise Industry Awards on Sat night, told **CW** the lack of new cruise infrastructure in NZ is going to cap the sector's growth.

Harris also believes price hikes around the cruise industry could

threaten the growth of the sector.

"Basic economics is that you should extract, that's what they're doing, and I'm quite concerned that could actually cap growth as well," he said in the wake of his win.

"Just charging high prices, there has to be ceilings," he added.

Harris, who was surprised on the night by CLIA Chair Ben Angell with the Hall of Fame honour, said he believes the problems afflicting NZ are also in danger of making their way across the Tasman to Australia. *MS*

Carnival solar park

CARNIVAL Corporation has switched on a new solar park at Amber Cove Cruise Centre in the Dominican Republic.

Featuring more than 1,800 solar panels, the park will generate more than 80% of the cruise port's energy needs.

The shift to solar energy is expected to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by up to 1,000 tonnes per year.

Carnival Cruise Line President Christine Duffy was in attendance at the ribbon-cutting, as was local Minister Joel Santos.

New Pandaw cruise

A NEW port-to-port Mekong cruise is available with Pandaw, sailing between Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap.

The updated 10-night Mekong expedition sails across Tonle Sap lake in the northwest of Cambodia, removing the need for a length transfer to each city.

The new itinerary explores the upper reaches of the Mekong to Kratie province.

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