



Cruise Weekly today

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

Cruiseabout hires

CRUISING specialist Brooke Rand has returned to FCTG, named as the new Head of Product for Cruiseabout.

The appointment of Rand follows the opening last week of Cruiseabout's first retail store in five years at Westfield Whitfords City (**CW 02 May**).

Rand (**pictured** below) rejoins Cruiseabout after spending the past four years shaping the cruise strategy for RAA Travel.

Previously, she enjoyed eight years with FCTG as a travel consultant on the Gold Coast, moving into roles as Product Manager and Cruise Strategist.

"Cruise is in Brooke's blood and we are in excellent hands with her helping us drive Cruiseabout's growth plans," said Cruiseabout General Manager, Brad Kennedy.

"Together we will deliver amazing results to our key partners and selling agents."



APT river ships revealed



APT will feature what it says will be the "world's first" levitating restaurant on a river cruise ship when its new European vessels debut next year.

The luxury river cruise brand pulled back the curtains yesterday for a sneak peek inside **APT Solara** and **APT Ostara** (**CW 22 Aug 2023**) which will make their debut on the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers next year.

Onboard, the Gruner Bar and Dining will be one of seven dining options for guests but will employ a state-of-the-art hydraulics system to raise the entire venue from Deck 3 to the Sun Deck for guests to enjoy wraparound views with their meals.

Outside of meal service, the venue can remain in its elevated position for guests onboard to enjoy a unique vantage point over a variety of European towns.

Separately, travellers can also opt to take their meals in The Owner's Cellar or the main dining room, known as Bistro Saison.

Designed by Melbourne's Hecker Guthrie, the ships will also have an emphasis on fuel saving and energy optimisation.

APT will begin its next chapter of European river cruising in Aug this year when the **MS Estrela** (**CW 04 Jul 2023**) begins service on Portugal's Douro River. **ML**

Aqua agent portal

AQUA Expeditions has gone live with its new website following a redesign based on user experience studies.

Optimised for desktop, mobile and tablet, the line says its new site is visually engaging and easy to navigate.

Highlights for agents include a comprehensive information library with sales materials detailing rates, itineraries, departure dates and a library of recorded webinars along with a live booking engine.

For a limited time, agents can earn a US\$50 Amazon gift card for each new booking made through the new portal.

Travellers can also access interactive deck plans, with clickable pop-ups offering more details on cabins and social spaces.

RSSC Overnights

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has introduced a new itinerary in its 'Immersive Overnights' collection, where every port visited sees the ship docked for the whole night.

The new 12-night 'Sunset over Tuscany' voyage from Trieste to Barcelona onboard **Seven Seas Mariner** calls in Valletta, Naples, Tuscany and Marseille, plus two sea days.

RSSC's overnight range has also added 12 new mid-cruise land programs and 24 new shore excursions, bolstering the latter range's tally to 50.

These include a leisurely drive along Italy's Amalfi Coast, wine tasting in Croatia or a beef dinner in Kobe.



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Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	10 May
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	13 May
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	16 May
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	10 May
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	13 May
CAIRNS	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	10 May
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	15 May
BROOME	
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	13 May
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	17 May
DARWIN	
<i>Scenic Eclipse II</i>	10 May
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	11 May
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	14 May

Kimberley 10k save

SAVINGS of \$9,520 per couple and \$11,290 for solo travellers can be enjoyed on a new 12-night 'West Australian Wonders' package now in market from Cruise Traveller. Two sailings in Aug 2025 are available, featuring a 10-night Ponant Kimberley expedition.

Sun Princess stay

CRUISECO has launched a 24-night 'Cruise and Stay' Istanbul to Barcelona voyage on the new *Sun Princess*, departing 17 Jul 2025. The deal includes pre- and post-cruise accommodation plus and onboard credit, priced from \$6,895ppts.

P&O's Games donation



VANUATU'S hopes of a medal at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris have been boosted by a special delivery of vital sporting equipment from Paralympics Australia and P&O Cruises.

During a call in Port Vila earlier this week, *Pacific Encounter* offloaded three pallets packed with more than 400 bags of equipment, training gear and shoes, some being unused stock from Australia's previous efforts.

P&O Cruises Australia Senior Vice President, Peter Little, said the line loves to give back to the destinations it visits, with Vanuatu being a favourite for its guests.

"We are proud to support the Vanuatu Paralympic Committee by ensuring these donated goods can reach people who would not otherwise be able to train, and dream of competing at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games," he said.

In addition to athletes dreaming of competing at the Paralympics, the equipment will also support grassroots sport participation for Vanuatu citizens in remote villages.

Through its guest-funded Pacific Partnerships Program, P&O Cruises Australia also supports

Vanuatu's beach volleyball team and will be cheering them on as they compete with the world's best in Paris later this year. **ML**

Pictured above is P&O Cruises' Duncan Venter, Alex MacDonald and Nivkesh Mullick with Vanuatu Paralympic Committee Secretary, Pam Ryan and aspiring ambulant Javelin competitor, Ken Kahu.

Costa lost luggage

COSTA Cruises has partnered with luggage tracing company SOS Travel to introduce the 'Lost Luggage Concierge'.

The service will be available to Costa 'Fly&Cruise' guests departing from Europe from May to Nov 2024 who book their cruise directly with Costa Cruises or via partner agents.

In the event the passenger's bags are lost by the airline enroute to their embarkation point, SOS Travel will locate the bags and deliver them to the ship within 48 hours.

Travellers simply need to report their missing bags via normal channels after arrival to activate the service.



EMBARKING a cruise from the middle of the Pacific Ocean is not recommended, but P&O Cruises Australia made room for three more travellers earlier this week after conducting a rescue enroute to Noumea.

After receiving a mayday call, *Pacific Encounter* diverted its original course and located two men and a woman onboard their craft, which had a broken mast and had lost all power.

The trio were returning from Queensland to their home in New Caledonia when rough ocean conditions damaged their twin-hulled boat.

Pacific Encounter brought the trio onboard, where they were assessed by the ship's medical team and found to be in good health after being stranded at sea for three days.

The ship then continued its course to Noumea.

Aurora air credit

ADVENTURE-MINDED travellers can enjoy airfare credit of \$3,750pp on Aurora Expeditions brand-new Adventure Deals on selected Arctic Circle itineraries.

Sweetening the deal further is a 15% discount on selected 2024 departures to Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard and the Northwest Passage.

To avail the deal, quote booking code 'ADVDEAL24'.