





cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Tuesday 29th Oct 2024

Cruise Weekly today

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

French reunion

TRAVELMARVEL will be returning to French river cruising for the first time since 2016 next year, with an exclusive one-time charter of the boutique Van Gogh.

Guests will embark on guided tours through Lyon, Arles, and Avignon, with the freedom to explore charming French towns along the way.

New itineraries range from seven to 21 days, with exclusive deals available until the end of next month.

The journey along the Rhone will be exclusive to just 104 guests, who will enjoy classic French cuisine, with regional wines, beer, and soft drinks included at meals.

Princess skis into Aussie season

PRINCESS Cruises' Crown Princess has made her maiden arrival into Hobart, after kicking off her debut Australian season last week.

Crown is on her inaugural 'Round Australia' voyage, and yesterday morning arrived into Hobart, having cruised into Sydney last week, from where she will now be based year-long.

The ship's arrival into Australia following her repositioning cruise from North America was marked by a group of Love Boat-themed water skiers (pictured).

Crown is expected to contribute more than \$120 million to Australia's economy over the next 12 months, as she makes almost 80 visits to more than 20 different ports around the country - a record for any Princess ship.

The cruise line also claims Crown's offering of almost 900 balcony staterooms as a record

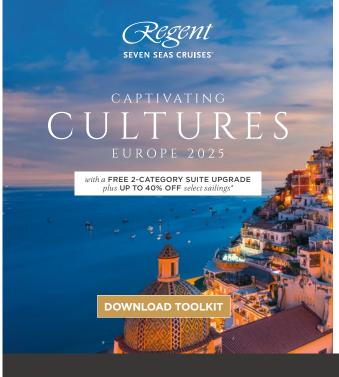


for any ship based in Australia.

"In addition to taking Princess guests to some of the most desired locales throughout Australia, Crown Princess also will set sail on the biggest world cruise ever undertaken by any cruise line in either the Southern or Northern Hemisphere, with guests set to embark on an epic

113-night circumnavigation of the globe departing local shores in May 2025," Chief Commercial Officer Terry Thornton said.

"Her deployment is a major milestone which reflects Australians' enduring love of cruising and loyalty to Princess in Australia," Princess' commercial chief added. MS





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MSC to launch cruises in Alaska

MSC Cruises has launched voyages to Alaska for the first time, which will depart Seattle in time for the 2026 season.

Seven-night sailings will depart between May and Sep 2026, with MSC Poesia to call destinations throughout Alaska and Canada, including Ketchikan, Icy Strait Hoonah, Tracy Arm, and Victoria.

The season will also feature two itineraries transitting the Panama Canal, between Seattle and Miami.

There will also be a range of shore excursions on offer, from exploring Alaska's remote wilderness on an ATV expedition, riding the world's largest zipline, or whale-watching.

"These new itineraries also see the introduction of a new homeport in the US, our fifth to date," Chief Executive Officer Gianni Onorato said.

"Seattle is the perfect location



to depart for Alaska, with excellent international flight connections making it easily accessible to guests from around the world; in particular we know our European guests have been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to sail to Alaska with MSC.

"Poesia will be dedicated to sailing itineraries from the US, spending summer '26 cruising to Alaska and then moving to Miami for the winter, meaning we'll also be offering travellers the chance to experience two transiting cruises through the Panama Canal when the ship moves between the east and west coast."

MSC has been increasing its commitment to the United States the past 18 months, with its dedicated ship for the country, MSC World America, currently under construction in France. MS

New RCI cruises

ROYAL Caribbean (RCI) has opened bookings for its 2026 Transpacific sailings from Sydney and Brisbane, on board Anthem of the Seas and Voyager of the Seas.

Cruisers can enjoy a 16-night sailing from Sydney to Honolulu aboard Anthem, visiting the Bay of Islands; or a 25-night sailing from Brisbane aboard Voyager to Papeete.

Meanwhile, Royal Caribbean has changed the FIT courtesy hold option lengths to create parity across all of its markets globally, with the move effective immediately.

Travel advisors are asked to refer to ClubRoyal.com.au/ news for updated option hold lengths and FAQs.

There will be a webinar hosted on 04 Nov, with those interested in joining able to do so HERE.





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AN ASPIRING skipper has paddled more than 70 kilometres in a giant pumpkin grown in his backyard, setting a world record in the process.

The American man set the record on the Columbia River, captaining his pumpkin, The Punky Loafster.

He has been growing pumpkins since 2011, he said, and his been paddling in them since 2013.

The prior world record was just over 60 kilometres, set on the Missouri River last year.

The new record-holder is likely to have admirers in Australia too, with a New South Wales man earlier this year paddling his own pumpkin - the biggest grown Down Under in 2024 - on the Tumut River (*CW* 16 Apr).

Nova on her way

SILVERSEA'S Silver Nova. the first ship of her namesake class, arrived in Hong Kong last week, ahead of her maiden Australian season.

Nova is currently hosting Silversea's 2024 Venetian Society Reunion voyage, which commenced in Tokyo on 15 Oct, and will conclude in Singapore on Thu.

One of the highlights of the voyage was an exclusive VIP event at Hong Kong's Wine & Dine Festival.

Encore deals more entertainment



SEABOURN Cruise Line has announced the star-studded lineup for Seabourn Encore's 2025 entertainment program, with three exclusive sailings.

Themed entertainment and Seabourn Conversations programs will take place in Mar and Apr, including 'Writers & Writers', which will feature bestselling authors and celebrated singer-songwriters; 'Stars & Stars', a blend of space and astronomy discussions and West End theatrical performances: and 'Magic Moments', a sailing showcasing world-class magicians performing mesmerising illusions.

Writers & Writers, a 14-day Southeast Asia & Japan cruise, will celebrate the written word with Canadian mystery author Louise Penny; Canadian news journalist Mellissa Fung; and American songwriter, composer, and singer Jimmy Webb.

Stars & Stars, a 25-day Japan & Hawaiian Islands Pacific Crossing, will offer stargazing opportunities and presentations from former

Kennedy Space Center Director Jim Kennedy; physicist & professor Svetlana Barkanova; and stage performances from West End Stars Elesha Moses, Lauren Drew, and Daniel Boys.

The entertainment program will be rounded out by Magic Moments, a 19-Day Panama Canal Passage, which will see magicians Josephine Lee, Jack Rhodes, Blake Vogt (pictured), and Mark Haslam transform every evening with their illusions.

"The new themed entertainment programs on Seabourn Encore will bring together celebrated performers and thought leaders, creating exclusive moments for our guests to enjoy world-class entertainment amidst Seabourn's ultra-luxury, yacht-like atmosphere," President Natalya Leahy said.

"We are committed to delivering unparalleled experiences for our extraordinary guests, and these offerings are designed to inspire and delight them as they sail with us," she added. MS

Game on, Princess

CRUISE

PRINCESS Cruises has partnered with Aristocrat Gaming to elevate the line's gaming experiences.

Aristocrat will design innovative gaming experiences, including themed slot gaming zones, for guests on board Princess ships, as well as create promotions with land-based casinos that offer cruises as rewards.



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VIEW DETAILS

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