



Cruise Weekly today

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

Ponant roadshow

PONANT has announced new roadshow dates in Australia, which will take place from 22 Oct to 19 Nov.

The events, which will span New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, will feature special guest, Expedition Operations Manager Asia Pacific Jorge Villamarin.

Registration is open now, with a number of sessions across four dates in Melbourne, Mornington, Sydney, and Brisbane.

Trade partners are invited to join and are encouraged to bring their clients to explore a broad range of new and upcoming experiences - [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Darwin enjoying benefits of cruise boom

EXCLUSIVE

DARWIN is riding the crest of a wave spearheaded by luxury cruise lines deploying larger and newer ships to the Kimberley region, Tourism NT has told **CW**.

Speaking at last week's NT Muster roadshow in Sydney, Tourism NT Executive Director Tony Quarmby said the Territory is enjoying a boom in travellers enjoying a pre- or post-cruise stay in the Top End.

"[These travellers] are the ones getting off, getting out and doing more tours and more experiences in the Top End," Quarmby said.

"They're also doing a lot of the shopping, the restaurants, getting out and doing the tourism around Darwin, so it's benefiting everybody from the Territory in terms of hospitality and tourism."

Quarmby said Darwin has benefited from some great international media coverage



stemming from major events, such as Seabourn Cruise Line home porting its newest ship *Seabourn Pursuit* in the NT capital (**CW** 04 Jul).

"We've already seen some of the big ships arriving in our peak months, which usually are the summer months for cruising.

"We've seen them throughout the peak months, which has been

terrific," Quarmby said.

He added the organisation is aiming for Darwin to become more of a longer-term viable option for cruise ships as port prices increase in larger ports.

Both Princess Cruises and Cunard Line pulled out of Melbourne last year (**CW** 29 Nov) due to the soaring costs associated with berthing. *ML*

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HX to celebrate 130 years in 2026-27

HX HAS launched its 2026-2027 season, during which the line will celebrate 130 years, as it unveils new itineraries in for Antarctica, Alaska, Greenland, Norway, and the Galapagos Islands.

One of the highlights of the season will be HX's 'Solar Eclipse Expedition', which will see travellers witness a total solar eclipse over East Greenland on 12 Aug 2026.

A new seven-night 'Ultimate Norway' expedition will also launch in Jan 2026, embracing the national concept of "friluftsliv" or "free as life" - in line with the company's new campaign platform of adopting its "Norwegian-ness" (**CW** 14 Aug).

Guests will travel to the Lyngen Alps, Lofoten, Vesteralen, and Senja while experiencing polar nights and the Northern Lights.

A special 'Ultimate Norway at Christmas' voyage will also be



available in late 2026, marking a truly festive journey.

Two distinct voyages will offer unparalleled access to Alaska: the nine-night 'Fjords of the Great Land', providing a condensed exploration ideal for travellers seeking a shorter adventure from Vancouver to Seward.

Meanwhile, the 12-night 'Where the Mountains Meet the Sea' voyage begins in Seward, visiting Prince William Sound, and crossing the Gulf of Alaska to

follow the Inside Passage through Southeast Alaska and British Columbia, ending in Vancouver.

The new 'Explorer's Route' voyage offers an unparalleled journey across the Antarctic Peninsula over nine days.

Guests will visit the South Shetland Islands, Antarctic Sound, Weddell Sea, Gerlache Strait, and Penola Strait, beginning and ending in Buenos Aires.

Travellers in the United Kingdom and Germany will enjoy new expeditions departing from Dover and Hamburg, exploring Europe's west coast.

Stops include the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly, Harlingen, and Heligoland.

New expeditions will also depart from Dover and Hamburg, taking travellers through Norway's deep fjords before heading to the Arctic and the west coast of Svalbard. **MS**

No longer a Virgin

VIRGIN Voyages has confirmed Vice President of International Sales Shane Lewis-Riley departed the cruise line yesterday.

During his time at Virgin, Lewis-Riley made significant contributions to establishing the cruise line's presence in international markets, including building the international sales team.

John Delaney will continue as a Senior Advisor for Virgin in the United Kingdom and international markets, alongside the team established by Lewis-Riley, who will be moving on to "pursue new opportunities", Virgin said.

"Shane has been instrumental in establishing our roots in the UK market and beyond," Chief Executive Officer Nirmal Saverimuttu said in a statement.



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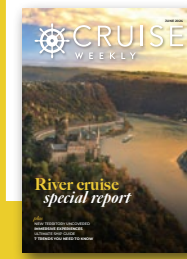
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CARNIVAL Cruise Line puts a lot of work into increasing its onboard sustainability, but there is one feature of their product they are not willing to compromise on.

Brand Ambassador John Heald recently defended Carnival's towel animals, which can be seen fashioned by members of the onboard housekeeping team, but also often attract criticism for the extra laundry required.

Heald, responding to a recent complainant, said the practice still brings a smile to many faces, making it worthwhile.

Celestyal's new shorex



CELESTYAL Cruises has unveiled its new Arabian Gulf shore excursion program, during *Celestyal Journey's* home port season in Doha beginning Nov.

The ship, which will be joined by her fleetmate *Celestyal Discovery* in the region next year, will offer a total of 80 tours across the Gulf.

The range includes half-day, full-day, and two-day options, including small group 'Authentic Encounters' (limited to 12 guests), which provide hands-on "insider" experiences with local people and attractions.

Among the excursions on offer is the world's longest zip line over water - a 1.8 kilometre journey from Jebel Fitt to the Musandam coastline in Khasab; and an off-road adventure across the desert to Doha's unique inland sea.

The cruise line will also offer an 'Authentic Encounters' tour of Fujairah including The House of Sheikh Saeed bin Hamad Al Qasimi, the Sheikh Zayed Mosque, the Fujairah Museum, and more.

"Celestyal tends to index highly with a more culturally curious traveller," Chief Commercial Officer Lee Haslett said.

"We are renowned for our immersive, authentic travel experiences, and we couldn't be more excited to replicate this ethos in our new winter home of the Arabian Gulf.

"Our specially crafted excursions are the heart and soul of the Celestyal experience." *MS*

New Chinese line

A **NEW** polar cruise line has launched in China, operated by local firms Guangdong Travel Holding Group and Guangdong Port & Shipping Group.

'66 Degrees Expeditions' is scheduled to begin offering polar expedition cruises in May, as first reported by *Baird Maritime*, with initial voyages sailing to the Arctic.

The line will operate *Seaventure*, formerly utilised by Hapag-Lloyd Cruises.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Sailing toward 2050

CRUISE lines are putting a huge focus on their quest to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, and the latest data from CLIA shows they are making very real progress.

Our annual *Global Cruise Industry Environmental Technologies & Practices Report* shows some of the many ways cruise lines are investing in sustainability and the advances they are making.

We are seeing more ships able to operate on alternative fuels once they become available, more ships that can plug in to onshore power supplies, and more ships using advanced wastewater treatment systems.

The ships of today are among the cleanest to have ever sailed, and each new ship brings greater efficiencies, new technologies and new environmental advances.

However, to reach our 2050 goals, cruise lines are looking for even greater breakthroughs.

Working with fuel providers and engine manufacturers, they are working to perfect sustainable energy sources like biofuels, methanol, hydrogen, fuel cells, electric batteries and hybrid.

Cruise ships represent less than 1% of ships on the ocean, but they are at the forefront in implementing the measures that will take the maritime sector to net zero - see CLIA's *Environmental Technologies & Practices Report*.



Europe webinar

AGENTS are invited to register for a Princess Cruises webinar taking place 24 Sep at 12pm AEST, which will explore the line's European fleet, destinations and more.

Hosted by Key Account Manager David Craven, the session will cover the best selling tips for clients mulling a European cruise.

Craven will cover Princess' operations in Northern Europe, the Mediterranean and the UK, with nine ships slated to sail these regions this year.

Agents can also learn more about the newest members of the fleet - *Sun Princess* and *Star Princess*, joining in 2025.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.

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