



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Crystal 2027 cruises

**CRYSTAL** has launched new sailings for the second half of 2027, which will include Iceland, the fjords of Chile, and the Mediterranean.

Guests can explore more than 90 destinations across four continents aboard *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony*, with selected shore excursions from sister brand Abercrombie & Kent.

"From the breathtaking landscapes of Patagonia to the natural beauty of Iceland, these journeys promise unforgettable, bucket-list adventures," said Vice President of Itinerary Planning and Port & Fuel Operations Mario Parodi.

## Norwegian building new booking tool

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line is building a proprietary in-house booking engine to help passengers add supplementary elements to their cruise.

The tool will be available to both the trade and consumers, and allow users to book pre- and post-tours and arrangements, as well as flights, alongside a Norwegian cruise.

Chief Sales & Marketing Officer International Jason Krimmel told **CW** the engine will help Norwegian better target cruisers outside of North America.

All of the line's international markets outside of the United States are dominated by the tour operator model, Krimmel explained, which sees passengers often extend their vacation before and after their cruise, often through a package tour.

"How can I get more people on [*Norwegian Prima*] and

[*Norwegian Viva*] in Europe, what's the secret sauce? The secret sauce is managing the land vacation to supplement our seven- and 10-day products.

"I still think we're probably a good two years away from being able to do a really good job in offering those pre- and post-[tours], combined with the flights and the cruise."

The platform will allow agents to better serve their customers' full journey.

"The travel advisor community can customise it - they know the profile of their client, they know the lifestyle of their client, and what's going to appeal to them," Krimmel said.

Norwegian has gotten better at offering pre- and post- options, which is key to encouraging more Australians to book a cruise.

"If you look at some of the Europe cruise tour packages

that we're offering now, they're upwards of five getting into seven [days], and we know that that's important for the Australian consumer...they're not taking a week off, 21 days is your norm."

Norwegian will also focus on sharpening its future deployment to allow more combo cruising.

"In 2026 in Europe, we are dominant with a seven-day product," Krimmel explained.

"For future years, how can we allow some more back-to-back opportunities?" he pondered.

"Maybe it's the same ship, but the second leg is different than the first leg...we're probably looking more at the shoulder seasons, but typically that's where the Australian guest is travelling," Krimmel explained.

Other keys to encouraging pre- and post-cruise bookings include hotel and air connections, Krimmel added. *MS*



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## AZ back to Alaska

A **NEW** package of immersive cruisetours has been released by Azamara Cruises ahead of its return to Alaska for the 2026 summer season.

*Azamara Pursuit* has been scheduled to explore the 49th US state with a program of 10 voyages, which can be paired with pre- and post-cruise overland adventures.

Next year's nine cruisetours range from two to six nights and depart from Whittier or Vancouver, with each including an invitation to a wine and cheese-paired 'Welcome to Denali' presentation at the Denali Discovery Centre.

Highlighted itineraries include a four-night journey from Talkeetna to Denali, which features a dome-roofed train ride and local farm visits.

From Vancouver, guests can travel to Whistler via the Sea to Sky Highway for a 4WD bear viewing experience.

The range also includes a number of Rocky Mountaineer rail trips from Vancouver to Banff, Lake Louise and Calgary.

Each cruisetour features premium hotels, transfers, luggage handling, tour guides, admission fees & some meals.

Every Alaska sailing will also include an exclusive AzAmazing Evening which will take guests to a local lumberjack show for a celebration of state heritage.

## Seabourn 2026-27 blooms



**SEABOURN** has unveiled its 2026-27 fall, winter, and spring seasons, with new itineraries across Japan, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia.

Between Nov 2026 and Apr 2027, *Seabourn Ovation*, *Seabourn Encore* and *Seabourn Quest* will offer 31 departures to 73 destinations in 30 countries.

Seabourn will offer two new Japan voyages in early spring, giving guests the opportunity to see the country's plum blossoms in full bloom.

These include the new 12-day 'Jewels of Taiwan & Japan' voyage from Hong Kong to Tokyo and the 14-day 'Sea of Japan & Plum Blossoms' cruise, sailing round trip from Tokyo on *Encore*.

Select voyages include extended stays in either Osaka or Kanazawa, Shopping with the Chef experiences in Nagasaki, Kushiro, or Kagoshima, and visits to hidden gems like Toba, Miyako, Sendai, and Hitachinaka.

*Encore* will also offer 14-day sailings from Singapore to Hong Kong and two new round trip Singapore itineraries - an eight-day voyage departing Dec 2026 and a 14-day voyage departing Jan 2027, with highlights including a beach barbecue party on tropical island Ko Kut.

Meanwhile, *Seabourn Ovation* and *Seabourn Quest* will explore boutique ports and hidden harbours in the southern Caribbean on seven- to 14-day journeys, with departures from Sint Maarten, Barbados, San Juan and Miami.

"These new itineraries are designed to immerse our guests in the beauty, culture, and flavours of worldwide destinations, and we can't wait to welcome them on board to experience it first-hand," Seabourn President Mark Tamis said.

Itineraries, fares, and full details of Seabourn's schedule can be found **HERE**. JM

## UK top to bottom

**SAVINGS** of 15% are now available on selected sailings with Hebridean Island Cruises through the lochs and canals of Scotland, if booked by the end of the month.

Available through Cruise Traveller, a special itinerary pairing the cruise with a land tour through England allows travellers to journey the length of the United Kingdom to create a 20-night package.

Phone 1800 507 777 for more information..

## Oosterdam works

**HOLLAND** America Line's (HAL) *Oosterdam* has emerged from her dry dock with a number of enhancements.

Staterooms and public spaces throughout have been upgraded, following her two-week dry dock in the Bahamas.

Enhancements include technical and interior design upgrades to several public areas, a new Effy jewellery retail space, and a new casino.

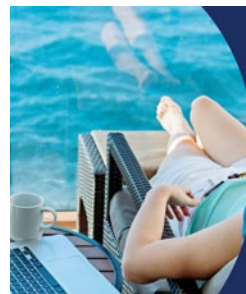
Various public areas also received new furniture, and additional significant upgrades have been made to the Crow's Nest, Greenhouse Spa & Salon, Photo Gallery and Photo Studio, and the suite-exclusive Neptune Lounge.

*Oosterdam* is now crossing the Atlantic Ocean to reposition for her Mediterranean season.

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## Stay Updated

on the latest cruise news

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**TRAVELLERS** are being invited to relive the golden era of cruise by hopping aboard one of *Queen Elizabeth 2's* Heritage Tours.

Appealing to history buffs and cruise enthusiasts, the tours allow guests to immerse themselves in over half a century of maritime legacy, royal connections, and star-studded voyages.

The ship, now permanently anchored in Dubai, has accommodated some of the most famous names in the history, from Elizabeth Taylor (**pictured**) and Nelson Mandela to Buzz Aldrin, David Bowie, and the ship's namesake, Queen Elizabeth II.

"The QE2 is not just a ship; she is a cultural milestone - a marvel of engineering launched in the same era as the Concorde and the Moon landing," General Manager Ferghal Purcell said.



### CW back next week

**CRUISE Weekly** will not be published tomorrow in observance of ANZAC Day.

We will return with all the latest cruise news next week.

## Grand Voyage exclusives

**BUCKET** list destinations and rarely visited ports-of-call will feature in two new Grand Voyages unveiled yesterday by Holland America Line (HAL).

Scheduled to depart in 2027, the new Grand Voyages include a 129-day circumnavigation of the globe on board *Volendam*, which will sail round-trip from Fort Lauderdale on 05 Jan 2027.

New for 2027 is the Mariners Collection, a series of hard-to-reach ports that will only feature on Grand Voyages.

*Volendam's* Grand Voyage will see her transit the Panama Canal and head in a general westbound direction, visiting 53 ports in 28 countries, with access to 81 UNESCO World Heritage-listed attractions and sites.

Seven overnight stays have been set for the voyage in Copenhagen, Bordeaux, Cape Town, Bali, Sydney, Papeete, and Lima.

"When you sail on one of our Grand Voyages, we know you're looking for experiences you can't have anywhere else, and part of that is the carefully crafted itineraries featuring unique ports of call," President Beth Bodensteiner said.

Also featuring in the line's 2027 Grand Voyages is a 70-day in-depth exploration of South America and Antarctica, which sees *Zaandam* leave Fort Lauderdale on 03 Jan 2027.

This voyage will visit 31 ports in 13 countries and include five overnight stays in Panama City, Lima, Montevideo, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro, with 28 UNESCO attractions available.

The journey will include several



days of scenic cruising, providing access to Chile's fjords and glaciers, with 11 ports visited along South America's west coast.

Bookings for both voyages can be secured now via a deposited Future Cruise Request, which will unlock priority access prior to both voyages going on general sale.

As an early booking perk, guests who book either voyage will receive US\$2,000 in onboard credit per person. *ML*

### Barge excursions

**EUROPEAN** Waterways has introduced a new range of shore excursions for travellers embarking on its range of canal boat itineraries in 2025.

The brand has reintroduced its popular Dalwhinnie Whisky Distillery experience on its Scottish Highlands itinerary, which is open to those on its 12-day 'Spirit of Scotland' and eight-day 'Scottish Highlander'.

New for the season is a visit to the Jean Baptiste Jessiaume vineyard in Santenay for guests travelling on the *Finesse* eight-pax barge in Burgundy.

Guests will enjoy a cellar tour of the six-generation family-run estate, learning about its extensive winemaking heritage and a curated tasting in the Cote de Beaune village.

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