

Cruise Weekly today

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

Pole-to-pole cruise

SEABOURN Cruise Line has announced its first-ever 'Pole to Pole: Grand Expedition' voyage, to set sail in 2027.

The new 94-day cruise will cover more than 20,500 nautical miles aboard *Seabourn Venture*, featuring remote destinations, rare wildlife, and immersive expeditions from the High Arctic Tundra to Antarctica.

Beginning with an overnight stay in Iceland, the itinerary departs Reykjavik on 17 Aug 2027 and arrives in Ushuaia on 19 Nov 2027.

Guests will board a charter flight to Greenland in order to embark the ship.

NCLH reports strong second quarter

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has reported record financial results for Q2 2025, which it says "meets or exceeds all guidance metrics".

The impressive results come off the back of strong customer demand, which saw bookings ahead of historical levels.

Total revenue for the quarter closed at US\$2.5 billion, up 6% on the same period last year, with EBITDA for the period sitting at US\$694 million.

NCLH said it has seen a rebound in extended European itineraries following "softness" in Apr, with occupancy across the Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises, and Regent Seven Seas Cruises brands at 103.9% for the quarter, in line with guidance.

Advance cruise fare sales including long lead time bookings also ended the quarter in record territory at US\$4 billion.



Operational highlights for the year included the reveal of significant expansion plans for its private Caribbean island, Great Stirrup Cay, with a new water park to be developed and ready to open by the middle of next year (**CW** 30 Jul).

Another highlight saw Oceania take delivery of *Allura*, and cement an order for a further two Sonata-class ships (**CW** 11 Jul).

"We delivered another record

quarter, demonstrating once again the strong customer demand environment, the power of our brands, our outstanding onboard product, and the dedication of our team," said NCLH President & Chief Executive Harry Sommer (**pictured**). "Demand has rebounded across all three of our brands, with bookings now ahead of historical levels in recent months and continued strength in onboard spend," Sommer added.

"This performance reflects the strength of our offerings across the fleet, along with our disciplined focus on driving both return on investment and return on experience."

The company said it remains on track to deliver on its full-year guidance, with an adjusted EBITDA of \$2.72 billion - an 11% year-on-year increase, despite growth in net cruise costs. *ML*



VIKING



See website for T&Cs

Start early, stay longer.
JOURNEY FURTHER

*Add an extension to any new
2026-2028 booking before
1 September 2025 and save your
client up to \$4,800 per couple on river
voyages, or up to \$3,000 per couple on
ocean and expedition voyages.*

CLICK HERE

To book call 138 747 or book online at viking.com/travel-advisor



Discover our River Cruise Special Report

Click here

We're over the moon

BRITISH former astronaut Tim Peake (**pictured**) is set to join Cunard Line's *Queen Elizabeth* in Alaska next year.

Peake will be a special guest as part of Cunard's Insights Programme on a 10-night Alaska voyage, departing Seattle on 20 Jul.

Guests will be invited to *Queen Elizabeth's* Royal Court Theatre to hear Peake share remarkable stories from his more than six months aboard the International Space Station from Dec 2015 to Jun 2016.

The cruise will include calls at Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Wrangell, and Victoria.

"Alaska and space might seem worlds apart – but both are places of stunning natural beauty, perspective, and discovery," Peake observed.

"I'm incredibly excited to share with Cunard guests what it's really like to live and work in space – and to meet curious minds from around the world in one of the most breathtaking destinations on Earth," he added.



Viking Mira on the wall



VIKING marked the float-out of its newest ocean ship *Viking Mira* (**pictured**) overnight, which is set to debut in the northern spring of 2026.

The traditional float-out ceremony took place at the Fincantieri shipyard in Ancona, with *Mira* now moving into her final stage of construction.

Formalities saw a ceremonial cord cut, which signalled water to flow into the ship's building dock, setting in motion a two-day process that will see *Mira* float for the first time.

She will then be moved to a nearby outfitting dock for final construction and the build-out of her interiors.

The new ship can host 998 guests, like the other Viking sister ships in her class, and will spend her inaugural season sailing

itineraries in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe.

"In our view, together with Fincantieri, we have created the world's most elegant fleet of small ocean ships – and the float out of the *Viking Mira* marks yet another important milestone as we continue to grow our fleet," the cruise line's Chief Executive Officer Torstein Hagen said.

"As we prepare to welcome her in 2026, we are proud to offer even more opportunities for curious travellers to explore the world in Viking comfort."

The development follows Viking's nomination for 'Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator' and 'Most Popular River Cruise Operator' at the National Travel Industry Awards (**CW** 17 Jul).

Viking has won the ocean category two years in a row. *MS*

Lindblad sells out

THE launch of National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions 2027/28 program this week (**CW** 31 Jul) has come amid the strongest seven-day booking period in the cruise line's history.

Lindblad said the week of 23-29 Jul "underscores continued strong demand for meaningful, immersive travel experiences".

Chief Commercial Officer Noah Brodsky said the company "works tirelessly to design truly distinctive itineraries and deliver authentic, enriching experiences in the world's most extraordinary places".

"It's incredibly rewarding to see that resonate with travellers and we're especially grateful to our travel advisor partners whose support continues to drive record-breaking momentum," he said.

A Royal milestone

ROYAL Caribbean has marked a milestone, welcoming its 100 millionth guest on board this week.

The line celebrated with the unsuspecting guests who set the mark, awarding the Duquette family of Parkland in Florida with a future holiday on board *Utopia of the Seas*.

Royal Caribbean said it is proud to have helped create timeless memories on its ships for more than 50 years.



UP TO **60% OFF** SECOND GUEST*
.....+.....
KIDS SAIL FROM \$59 PER DAY*



T&C's Apply



THE humble celebration of National Watermelon Day may have gone unnoticed by many, but not the folks from Carnival Cruise Line.

This Sun, lovers of watermelon will celebrate their favourite large, edible fruit, and Carnival is joining in on the fun.

Staff on board the cruise line's ships are spotlighting the day with incredible watermelon carvings (**pictured**), featuring designs including seahorses, tropical fish, and blooming floral designs.

Sous Chef Regie is one of Carnival's masters behind the art - and it is also a personal passion project.

"Since I started carving watermelons, my first choice has always been sea creatures, especially seahorses, fish, and flowers," he said.

"My personal favourite design to make is portraits, which I carve freehand."

According to legend, watermelons are a ship-friendly fruit, while bananas are widely noted to be a bad omen while at sea.



MSC cutting emissions



MSC Group has marked a year of measurable progress toward its goal to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as detailed in its *2024 Sustainability Report*.

The company avoided 50,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions last year, through fleetwide optimisation tools such as OptiCruise and Oceanly Performance, which support real-time operational efficiency and itinerary planning.

Another highlight saw MSC increase its shore power connections by more than 200% across 13 ports, from 44 in 2023 to 142 last year.

All ships built since 2017 are shore power-ready, with retrofitting continuing across the company's fleet.

"As a family business, we do not operate ships just for tomorrow - we sail them for future generations, designed for fuel flexibility, guided by innovation, and powered by people who share our long-term vision," MSC Chair Pierfrancesco Vago said.

"The Cruise Division in 2024 reaffirmed its commitment to advancing a bold and transparent sustainability strategy that balances environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic resilience." *MS*

Croatia nearly full

SMALL-SHIP operator

Unforgettable Croatia says its 2025 season is 98% sold, with next year's availability also disappearing fast.

The line's season began in May this year and comprises 135 week-long departures sailing between Dubrovnik and Split, calling in Trogir, Hvar, Korcula, Vis, and more.

Sales for 2026 are trending 15% ahead of where 2025 was at the same point.

The figure accounts for a 12% increase in capacity, with the line to operate more than 150 departures next year.

Unforgettable Croatia co-founder Graham Carter said travel advisors have been instrumental in spreading word of the line and encouraging more of their clients to discover Croatia.

WE'RE HIRING Business Development Manager

Are you a driven sales professional looking for a new challenge? Join the Business Publishing Group, home to market-leading B2B titles including Travel Daily, Cruise Weekly and Pharmacy Daily.

We're on the lookout for a Business Development Manager who is confident, proactive, and motivated to deliver commercial success.

For more information and to apply [CLICK HERE](#).



EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman
Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon
Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Editorial Director - Damian Francis
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller
info@cruiseweekly.com.au

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER

Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220