

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **HX**.

HX's 130th birthday

HX'S 130th anniversary offers include free suite upgrades and exclusive prices to Antarctica, as well as to a number of other destinations.

Guests can score up to 25% off if they book by the end of the month on departures before 31 Mar 2027.

Meanwhile, travel advisors who sell three HX voyages between 01 Jul and 31 Oct can sail for free on an expedition with the cruise line next year.

Visit agentportal.travelhx.com for more about HX's anniversary offers, or visit **page 4** of today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Oceania hops onto the Kangaroo Route

OCEANIA Cruises has unveiled 'The Kangaroo Route', a sailing from Sydney to London calling on 80 ports aboard *Vista*.

The 129-day voyage, named for the air route between Australia and the UK via the Orient, will visit more than 30 countries across four continents.

Vista, which carries 1,200 pax, will depart 26 Feb 2027, and make overnight calls in Cairns, Shanghai, Tokyo, Singapore, Mumbai, Luxor, and Bordeaux.

The four-and-a-half month adventure will begin journeying along the coastline of Australia, before spending more than two months exploring the cultural wonders of Asia, such as Indonesia, Japan, and India.

Vista will then visit the desert metropolises of Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Doha, followed by Egypt and the Mediterranean.

The ship will also visit Greece,



Italy, Croatia, Sicily, the Italian and French rivieras, the Costa del Sol, and France's wine country.

"Our new Kangaroo Route, crafted from the epic 2027 Around the World cruise, is much more than a voyage - it's a rare invitation to experience a vast part of the world with the comfort, warmth, sophistication and exceptional cuisine that Oceania Cruises is renowned for," Chief Luxury Officer Jason

Montague said.

"We're thrilled to offer this immersive new journey of exploration in 2027, aboard *Oceania Vista*, spanning four and a half remarkable months.

"Our guests crave enriching journeys, and this itinerary has been thoughtfully designed to effortlessly blend diverse continents, vibrant cultures and authentic cuisines into one utterly unforgettable experience." *MS*



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Murray joins HX

CRUISE industry veteran Kelvin Murray has joined HX as Director of Expedition Operations, reporting directly to COO Iain McNeill.

Murray will work closely across both operations and commercial teams to elevate and ensure a consistently outstanding guest experience.

He most recently served in the same role with EYOS Expeditions, and has also worked with other expedition lines including Oceanwide Expeditions and Nat Geo-Lindblad Expeditions.

"I'm thrilled to join HX and help build upon their successful and extensive expedition heritage," Murray said of his new role.

"These trips are as much about people as they are places, and I'm looking forward to working with the team to continue HX being a safe, sustainable, mindful and cool way to explore the world."

McNeill described Murray as a "world-class expedition leader and operational strategist with an instinct for people, place, and purpose".

"At this moment, 130 years into our history, Kelvin's vision and experience will be instrumental in raising the bar for our guests and our expedition teams," he said.

"He joins us with an impeccable record and a passion for excellence".

MSC goes big for winter

SEVEN ships cruising from three American home ports, including four based in Miami, will make up MSC Cruises' deployment in the United States for the 2026/27 winter season.

Headlining MSC's Miami program will be the cruise line's newest ship, *MSC World America*, (pictured) which will run alternating seven-night tours of the Caribbean.

Miami will also feature *MSC Meraviglia* sailing rotating six- and eight-night Caribbean cruises to a variety of destinations, including San Juan, St Maarten, the Virgin Islands, and St Kitts & Nevis.

Meraviglia is being deployed to Miami after MSC cancelled five months of existing cruises from the ship's former home port in New York City.

For travellers with less time, *MSC Seaside* will offer a collection of three- and four-night getaways to Nassau and Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, the line's private Caribbean island.

Conversely, longer sailings on *MSC Poesia* will complete the cruise line's program from Miami.

The ship will transit through the Panama Canal to Miami from Seattle, following the completion of her maiden season in Alaska.

Poesia will offer sailings ranging from 10-21 nights venturing deeper into the Caribbean, reaching as far south as Panama and Costa Rica.

Elsewhere in Florida, the line



will base *MSC Grandiosa* and *MSC Seashore* in Port Canaveral, where they will offer sailings ranging from three to 14 nights to the Caribbean.

Completing the deployment will be *MSC Seascape*, which will be based in Galveston, offering seven-night loops of the western Caribbean, visiting Costa Maya, Roatan, and Cozumel.

The line's North America President Lynn Torrent said more people are choosing to sail with MSC in the United States, whether they are first-timers or experienced cruisers.

"Our commitment to the US market and Miami is creating new options for our guests and generating exciting opportunities for our valued travel advisor partners," she said.

"Deploying some of our newest and largest ships to an even wider variety of destinations gives vacationers more ways to enjoy our unique mix of European style and American comfort on everything from a quick weekend getaway to a once-in-a-lifetime

A Hugh-ge coup

CUNARD Line has unveiled English actor Hugh Bonneville as its newest 'Insight Speaker' for its upcoming maiden Caribbean season (*CW* 22 Jul).

The *Paddington* and *Downton Abbey* star will join *Queen Elizabeth* from 27 Nov to 03 Dec, offering passengers an exclusive glimpse behind the curtain of his distinguished career in film, TV, and theatre.

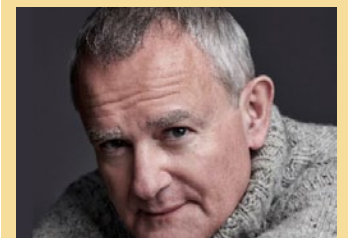
Bonneville will be on board *Queen Elizabeth's* 12-night round trip Eastern Caribbean voyage departing from Miami.

The cruise will call in Antigua, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Maarten, and Tortola.

"I look forward to sharing a few stories, hopefully a laugh or two, and exploring the Caribbean with my fellow guests," Bonneville said.

President Katie McAlister added: "We're delighted to welcome Hugh on board *Queen Elizabeth* this year.

"He's one of the most respected actors in British film and television, and his talent, warmth, and wit make him a wonderful addition to our award-winning Insights Speaker program."



WE'D LOVE YOUR VOTE!

MSC Cruises is honoured to be nominated for Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator in the NTIA Awards 2025!

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Thank you for your continued support!





MARELLA Cruises has taken the unique step of recruiting for the role of the line's first Chief Chillout Officer.

Stepping into the unique position is Denise Van Outen, who is tasked with showing people how to adopt 'lazy hacks' for their home lifestyle to ensure they can quickly adapt once they get on board.

The appointment comes on the back of a survey showing it takes some British travellers as long as four days to unwind and settle into their holiday.

Participants were studied for how they are craving a holiday by doing things like getting their suitcase out weeks in advance and checking a passport is in date.

Other top signs mentioned by respondents included watching Rick Stein or *A Place in the Sun* on repeat, smelling sunscreen, walking around the house in a swimsuit, and pre-writing their out-of-office weeks in advance.

Van Outen said she will help travellers to properly relax by showing them how to make a champagne breakfast in bed

Syd Dance Company on HLC



HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises' (HLC) *Europa 2* will be home to the world premiere at sea of the Sydney Dance Company in 2026.

Star choreographer Rafael Bonachela will lead two exclusive works aboard *Europa 2*, including a new production, featuring South American and Spanish musical influences.

The piece will debut on *Europa 2*'s spring cruise through the Canary Islands, sailing from 11-21 Apr from Tenerife to La Gomera.

Bonachela and Sydney Dance Company will be welcomed aboard under HLC's 'Dance Visions 2026' program, which invites world-renowned choreographers to present

specialty commissioned works in its ships' intimate theatres.

Another highlight of the program will be *Poetic Body & Ritual* from Italian choreographer Diego Tortelli and Compagnia Aterballetto.

The renowned company will perform for the first time aboard *Europa 2*, presenting a piece reflecting on human connection in a digital age.

Compagnia Aterballetto will be on board for a voyage from 16-25 Aug travelling between Rome and Dubrovnik, and the 10-18 Oct Palma to Lisbon cruise.

HLC recently partnered with CLIA in Australia as a Regional Member (**CW** 30 Apr). **MS**

NCL's new Vibes

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is adding its adults-only area to two more ships.

Vibe Beach Club will be added to *Norwegian Jewel* and *Norwegian Pearl*, which are both scheduled for a dry dock this spring.

The child-free sun deck features a bar and hot tub, with paid admission required for entry.

Vibe will also offer a sun lounge space for more than 50 people, water misters, fruit skewers, chilled towels, and seven cabanas that are bookable for an additional fee.

The space will replace the sun deck on deck 14 on both of the ships.

Hamburg powers up

THE Port of Hamburg expects its shore power connection will be utilised by all able cruise ships calling the destination by 2027.

All of Hamburg's cruise terminals will be equipped with shore power by next year, four years ahead of the European Union-wide obligation from 2030.

Hamburg already has agreements with a number of lines to utilise shore power.

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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

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130TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERS

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*Source: Cruise Industry News Expedition Report 2025

UP TO 25% OFF – BOOK BY 31 AUGUST 2025

We're celebrating our 130th anniversary by offering your clients exclusive prices on selected HX departures before 31 March 2027. Highlights include:

Destination	Itinerary	Ship	Start Date	Duration	Cabins From*
Alaska	Alaska's Inside Passage – Fjords of The Great Land	MS Roald Amundsen	01.05.2026	10 Days	\$7,845pp
Antarctica	Highlights of Antarctica	MS Fridtjof Nansen	30.10.2026	12 Days	\$13,356pp
Galápagos Islands	Galápagos Islands – In Darwin's Footsteps	MS Santa Cruz II	08.04.2026	9 Days	\$11,552pp
Greenland	Serene Greenland – Exploring the Largest Fjord System on Earth	MS Spitsbergen	31.08.2026	10 Days	\$9,207pp
Northwest Passage	Northwest Passage – Across the Top of the World	MS Roald Amundsen	10.08.2026	26 Days	\$34,692pp
Norway	Ultimate Norway – Arctic Expedition under the Northern Lights	MS Spitsbergen	28.11.2026	8 Days	\$7,274pp
South America	Chilean Fjords – Discovering the Heart of Patagonia	MS Fridtjof Nansen	17.10.2026	15 Days	\$10,384pp
Svalbard	Svalbard in Spring – The Return of the Sun	MS Spitsbergen	18.05.2026	9 Days	\$10,164pp

* subject to availability



Plus Sell 3, Sail Free

To celebrate our 130th Anniversary, we're giving away 130 unforgettable adventures!* Make 3 bookings on HX voyages between 1 July and 31 October 2025, and you and a guest could sail for free on one of our expeditions in 2026. Scan the QR code to log your bookings.

How to book

To learn more about our Anniversary offers and to make a booking visit agentportal.travelhx.com, call 1300 159 127 or email apac@travelhx.com

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*Applies to bookings made from 1 April 2025 to 31 August 2025 (inclusive) for selected HX departures from 1 May 2025 to 31 March 2027 (inclusive). Offers with a saving, discount or amount off stated in AUD represents a discount applied to the "From" price quoted in AUD per person based on full occupancy of cabin on the specified sailing or Tour Code. Bookings outside of these periods do not qualify. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Single supplements may apply and applies to all offer occupancies. *Sell 3, Sail Free to be eligible, bookings must be new FIT HX voyages departing in 2025, 2026, or 2027. A total of three deposited bookings must be made during the incentive period, which runs from 1 July to 31 October 2025 (12:00am GMT). Once your entries are validated, you'll be invited to select your preferred prize voyage from the available list. Voyage selection is on a first come, first served basis and subject to availability.