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Friday 8th August 2025

Cruise Weekly today

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

Cruiseco bonus

CRUISECO'S new exclusive agent incentive offers a \$100 booking bonus for those selling a Royal Caribbean departure out of Singapore.

The offer is available on sailings departing the island country between Oct 2025 and Mar 2026, for bookings deposited between 23 May and 31 Aug - head to page 4 for more information.

A fresh Symphony

CRYSTAL has announced Crystal Symphony will undergo a scheduled refurbishment in Nov 2025.

Symphony will enter a three-week dry dock while she receives aesthetic and functional updates to two suite categories and several key public spaces.

While preserving their existing layout and spacious bathrooms, aquamarine and sapphire classic suites on deck 10 will be outfitted with new furnishings, carpets, wall coverings, and more.

Additionally, the Atrium and Crystal Cove will undergo a refresh, along with Starlite Club, the Bistro, and more.

Aqua welcomes Africa ship

AQUA Expeditions is set to welcome its sixth ship, Aqua Lares, for its expansion into East Africa next year.

Lares will accommodate 30 passengers at maximum capacity, and with 33 crew members, including three nature guides, she will have a greater

than 1:1 passenger-to-crew ratio.

The ship features 12 suites, including three owner's suites, and three twin staterooms.

Onboard amenities will consist of a panoramic sun deck with a bar and lounge, a movie theatre, a fitness centre, a spa with one massage room, a shop, both indoor and outdoor dining areas, and more.

Passengers will also have access to mountain bikes, snorkelling and diving gear, kayaks, and paddleboards, while Lares will be able to deploy five private tenders, including three Zodiacstyle inflatable boats.

Lares will officially join the fleet early next year, sailing three different itineraries ranging from five to 11 nights, billed as "floating safaris".

Two of the itineraries will visit the Seychelles, with the first including visits to La Digue, Cousin Island, Aride Island, Praslin, Grande Soeur, and Curieuse Island.

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Passengers can enjoy activities such as snorkelling, diving, birdwatching, and more.

Aldabra and the Farguhar Group will be visited on the second Seychelles cruise, with highlights including giant tortoises, the Astove Atoll, and hikes along mangrove forests.

The third itinerary includes the Seychelles and Zanzibar, where travellers can search for redfooted boobys and learn about the spice trade history. MS

Win a Canada trip

DESTINATION Vancouver and Air Canada have teamed up to launch a training incentive for Australian CLIAaccredited cruise specialists.

The partnership celebrates the destination's first-ever participation at CLIA's Cruise360, which takes place in Brisbane on 27-28 Aug.

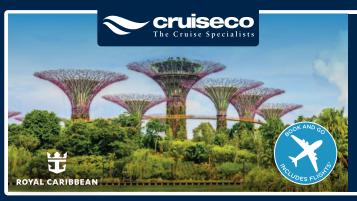
One agent will win a trip for two to Vancouver, including round trip flights with Air Canada and a luxury waterfront hotel stay near Canada Place Cruise Ship Terminal.

To enter, agents must complete two Vancouver training programs by 30 Sep enrol HERE using the promo code CRUISE360.

Those who are already certified can email their completion certificate **HERE**.

Agents must also go though the Air Canada Global Sales University - register **HERE**.





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HAL's 80 in Alaska

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has unveiled its 2027 Alaska season, with the company celebrating 80 years of travel in the state.

HAL will deploy six ships to Alaska from Apr through Sep 2027, which will sail round trips from Seattle, round trips from Vancouver, one-way trips between Vancouver and Whittier, and more.

Voyages range from seven to 28 days, including the popular 28-day 'Legendary Alaska Arctic Circle Solstice' cruise.

The month-long voyage will return to the program for a third year, sailing round trip from Seattle aboard *Noordam*.

New in 2027 will be an eightday 'Alaska Inside Passage' sailing, taking guests round trip from Vancouver through the Inside Passage.

The cruise will visit Glacier Bay, and call in Skagway, Ketchikan, and Prince Rupert, with a late-night departure from Juneau.

There is also a new eight-day Alaska round trip, which will sail from Vancouver.

"As we approach our 80th year exploring the Great Land, we're proud to offer cruises and cruisetours that deepen our legacy of expertise and enrich every guest's experience," Vice President Revenue Management Dan Rough said.

Cruise Weekly

Princess' sun rising in Japan



TWO Japanese-built ships will ply their home waters for Princess Cruises between Mar-Dec 2027, as part of the line's biggest-ever season in the region.

Princess' 2027 Japan season will see *Diamond Princess* and *Sapphire Princess* offer 78 departures of 50 itineraries ranging from seven to 28 days.

Over their nine-month residency in Japan, the two ships will visit 45 destinations across six countries, with a heavy program emphasis on seasonal festivals.

Diamond and Sapphire will sail a variety of northbound itineraries during the flowering of Japan's cherry blossoms, with the itineraries designed to maximise viewing of the displays.

Other Japanese sailings will be timed with summer festivals such as Aomori Nebuta, Tokushima Awa Odori, Kochi Yosakoi, and the Kumano Fireworks Festival - with late-night port stays scheduled for passengers to maximise their time ashore.

Further highlights of the season will include circumnavigations of Japan, calls in Taipei and Hualien, and visits to 21 UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Mt Fuji, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial and Itsukushima Shrine.

On board, travellers will be able to immerse themselves in the Japanese experience, with freshly prepared sushi, fine whiskeys and sake available, alongside traditional rakugo storytelling activities, and dancers showcasing the country's culture.

"Our story in Japan has deepened over time and experience and in 2027, we return promising unforgettable experiences, including the renowned cherry blossoms, seven spectacular festivals and journeys that immerse you in the awe and wonder of this destination," President Gus Antorcha said. ML

Coral epic voyages

CORAL Expeditions has released two new extended and first-time itineraries offering access to two hard-to-reach coastlines along the top and bottom of Australia.

The two itineraries are now being sold as individual halves of an existing Australian circumnavigation announced in 2023 (*CW* 07 Dec 2023)

Scheduled to depart on 17 Oct is the 'Across the top of Australia' voyage, which will see *Coral Adventurer* sail from Cairns to Fremantle over almost four weeks.

Guests will explore the Great Barrier Reef, Cape York, Arnhem Land, the Kimberley and the west coast, arriving in Fremantle on 12 Nov.

One day later, the ship will embark on a 20-night 'Great Southern Shores' adventure from Fremantle to Sydney.

Highlights include visits to the Great Australian Bight, Coffin Bay, Launceston, Flinders Island, and the Twelve Apostles in Victoria.

Both voyages will feature a number of esteemed guest lecturers and local experts.

Chief Executive Officer Mark Fifield said the two itineraries are "a great way for guests to share the rich exploring spirit of the circumnavigation with all the wonderful experiences on board and onshore on a smaller scale".

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Stay Updated

Follow Cruise Weekly on social media to get your cruise news first









IF YOU saw the viral video of a Royal Caribbean ship being tossed around in a storm of biblical proportions, you can now relax - it has been debunked as AI.

The clip is just the latest in a raft of similar videos depicting doomsday scenarios and terrifying natural disasters that look like they are straight out of The Day After Tomorrow, and unfortunately, cruise seems to be a target for the AI fakery.

Many of the frightening scenes in the video are computer-generated, and have been stitched together with footage and pictures of unrelated events, with a red banner at the top reading: 'Breaking news: Video shows chaos aboard Royal Caribbean cruise caught in storm'.

The clip, which is overlayed with narration supposedly from a news reporter describing the incident, shows 10-15 metre waves engulfing the vessel, with passengers jumping into the ocean, furniture being tossed around a deck, and even several waterspouts.

While there are comments warning people that it is Algenerated, a lot of users still assume the footage is real.

The video has racked up more than 3m views since being posted to Facebook by a user whose posts have previously been debunked as Al.

Aretis' Unforgettable debut



LUXURY small ship cruise line Unforgettable Croatia has shared a first look at its brand-new vessel Aretis (pictured), which has embarked on her maiden season in recent weeks.

Aretis was constructed at a local shipyard in Split, as the first ship of her kind to be built in Croatia in four years.

The 36-guest vessel will operate 19 seven-night sailings between Dubrovnik and Split through to Oct during her inaugural season.

Aretis's upper deck includes a restaurant and bar, while guests can relax outdoors on a large sun deck, or in the covered lounge area complete with sofas, loungers, and a jacuzzi.

The ship will also be equipped for active exploration, with daily swim stops scheduled on every sailing, and complimentary use of snorkelling equipment, stand-up paddleboards, a sea kayak, and floatation gear.

Wi-fi, tea, coffee, and filtered water are included on every trip.

A full summer season of 24 departures is already confirmed for next year, and on sale now.

"We're incredibly proud to introduce MV Aretis to our growing fleet," founder Graham Carter said.

"The demand for luxury small ship cruising continues to rise as travellers look for more immersive and intimate ways to experience destinations.

"Aretis is one of the most stylish and elegant vessels ever built in Croatia, and we believe she offers a truly amazing way to discover the Dalmatian Coast...we can't wait to welcome more guests on board this season." MS

Ponant's passion

PONANT Explorations Chief **Executive Officer Deb Corbett** has shared her passion for supporting First Nations people through the cruise line's community-led travel.

The company has worked with the Kimberley's traditional owners for more than a decade to deliver Indigenous-guided experiences for its guests.

"It's a privilege to support Indigenous communities in sharing their living cultures on their terms," Corbett said, marking the United Nations' International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

"These partnerships create not only authentic and rare guest experiences, but real outcomes for employment."































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BOOK ROYAL CARIBBEAN EX SINGAPORE TO EARN A \$100 GIFT CARD

To celebrate the launch of our new Book & Go packages, we're offering a **\$100 booking bonus** to the first 100 agents on all **Royal Caribbean** sailings departing Singapore between October 2025 and March 2026.

Simply make a deposited booking via Cruiseco within the offer period to be eligible.

*Conditions apply. Terms and Conditions: This promotion is exclusive to the first 100 Australian agents booking via Cruiseco and Creative Cruising Australia for all eligible sailings. Bookings made within the offer period for any Royal Caribbean sailing ex Singapore between October 2025 and March 2026 are eligible. Agents will receive a \$100 Prezzee eGift card per eligible booking at the conclusion of the incentive offer period. Payment will be made on the first 100 deposited bookings created between 23 May and 31 August 2025. Gift cards are non-transferable and not redeemable for cash. Gift card will be sent by email to the registered email address used when the booking is made. To ensure timely delivery of gift cards, agents are requested to provide full and accurate information to Cruiseco at the time of booking. The total incentive final amount will be advised no later than 30 September 2025. Failure to accurately record agent data including name and email address when booking may result in delays or ineligibility for payment. Changes to booking may result in removal of offer. Offers and prices are subject to availability, cancellation, and change without prior notice at any time. Fringe benefits tax (if any) is the liability of the legal employer of the employee. We recommend that you seek your own independent taxation advice to assess any impact of these prizes on your circumstances. Prezzee eGift Card, Royal Caribbean, Helloworld Travel and Cruiseco website terms and conditions apply. Contact Cruiseco for full details.

