

Cruise Weekly today

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

Explora Sky & Sea

EXPLORA Journeys has introduced a Sky & Sea fare, designed to provide a seamless travel experience from the moment guests fly out to when they board.

The new deal packages into one fare a cruise with key routes from major airports in each country to the journey's embarkation and disembarkation ports, alongside international flights, hotel stays when required, private transfers from airport to hotel and port, and 24/7 dedicated guest support.

The fare can be customised, including upgrades from economy, and alternative domestic departure airports.

Flight bookings via the Sky & Sea fare are available for select journeys, and can be combined with existing offers such as Explora's early booking benefit, extended journeys benefits, and exclusive Explora club member privileges.

Explora also recently announced the world's number 1 male tennis player, Jannik Sinner, as its global brand ambassador, which will see him appear in select campaigns for the cruise line (**CW** yesterday).

"Incredible" two-day C360



FEEDBACK from Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) move to a two-day Cruise360 has been "incredible", Managing Director Joel Katz told **CW**.

The local CLIA head said the expanded format allowed the industry to discuss the trends shaping international cruising in more detail.

"We moved to two days based on feedback from both the cruise lines and the travel agents who said that they wanted more time to be able to engage, to network, to learn more about the products, and the feedback has been incredible," Katz said.

"They've been able to pace themselves over the different sessions and are really engaging more closely with the cruise lines," he added.

CLIA will maintain a two-day format in Sydney next year, taking place on 17 and 18 Sep at the ICC.

Katz, reflecting on the key learnings from the Brisbane conference, said travel advisors would depart the event with an increased confidence in targeting new cruisers.

"We've heard 'matching the right guests to the right ship' about 100 times over the last few days," he joked.

"The growth of luxury and of course the growth of multi-generational travel, which we've been talking about for years, really seems to be, to some extent, what's driving particularly that new-to-cruise market."

Pictured: Richard Styles, local head of Cruise360's major sponsor Visit Qatar, with Katz.

Cruise360 special

WATCH out for a special Cruise360 issue of **CW**, which will be populating your inbox later this afternoon.

The special will cover all the key panels, speeches, and takeaways from the event.

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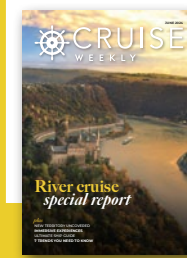
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Emission-free run

HAVILA Voyages will sail on what it says will be the world's longest climate-neutral cruise as it travels almost the entire length of Norway from Bergen to Kirkenes and back.

The 12-day itinerary has been scheduled for later this year and will cover a total of 9,260 kilometres.

Operated in partnership with marine technology brand HAV Group, the sailing is taking place as a major test of the line's biogas capabilities along with battery storage capability.

Speaking at the Arendalsuka political conference in Arendal last week, Havila Voyages CEO Bent Martini said the company is currently in the planning phase for the historic journey.

"We are in dialogue with suppliers to secure sufficient volumes to be able to fill the tanks 100% with biogas, and we believe we will succeed," Martini said.

Currently, Havila Voyages can sail for up to four hours using its emission-free batteries, with organic waste-derived biogas being trialled to lengthen the time its ships can sail climate-neutral.

The brand is aiming to make all of its 12-day milk-run voyages along the Norway coast emission free by 2030.

Havila Voyages' sailings are available in Australia through Beyond Travel, among others.

Ilma Caribbean sailings



THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection has revealed its winter 2026-27 Caribbean sailings aboard the cruise line's second ship *Ilma*.

The yacht will sail more than 20 itineraries between three to seven nights from Nov 2026 through Apr 2027, with Miami to also join San Juan as a turnaround port for the first time this season.

The program also introduces an expanded selection of shorter three- and four-night escapes.

Guests can snorkel colourful reefs in the Virgin Islands, sail into secluded bays in the Grenadines, stroll Antigua's historic English Harbour, or shop for spices in the markets of Martinique.

Highlights of the season will include a seven-night Thanksgiving departure from Miami to San Juan, offering pax the chance to cruise against the

backdrop of the Caribbean Sea.

Guests can also welcome 2027 during a spectacular New Year's Eve celebration at the Sandy Lane Yacht Club & Residences in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

Shore excursions will see travellers snorkel alongside sea turtles in St. John, helicopter over St. Lucia's Pitons, and scuba dive in St. Barths.

"The winter season is a meaningful time for travel, when many of our guests are looking to celebrate the holidays or escape to warmer shores," President Ernesto Fara said.

"Our 2026-27 Caribbean voyages aboard *Ilma* offer the freedom to design a journey perfectly suited to the occasion, with departures from Miami and San Juan creating a flexible, immersive way to experience this extraordinary region," he said. *MS*

CCL South America

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's "fun Italian style" ship *Carnival Firenze* is set to relocate from the US west coast to the east, where the ship will embark on a trip to South America.

As part of the ship's 2027 line-up and repositioning, Carnival will run three longer itineraries under its Carnival Journeys banner, which will see the ship loop around Cape Horn at the bottom of South America and back to the US.

These will comprise a 15-day voyage from Long Beach to San Antonio in Chile - the main port linked to Santiago - along with a 14-day adventure onward to Buenos Aires, capped by a 16-day cruise back up the coast to Miami.

The itineraries will depart on 04 Jan 2027, 19 Jan 2027 and 02 Feb 2027 respectively, visiting Callao, the Chilean fjords, and Ushuaia.

Firenze will also complete a celebratory crossing of the equator and call in Rio de Janeiro in time for Brazil's annual Carnival parade.

Upon its arrival in Miami, *Firenze* will then embark on a season of 10 Caribbean sailings ranging from 4-13 days exploring the Bahamas along with the southern, eastern and western corners of the region.

Firenze will then spend the northern summer sailing from New York City.



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CRUISE CLIA celebrates biggest-ever Cruise360

WEEKLY

Friday 29th August 2025

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) this week celebrated its 10th Cruise360 conference, and this year's was its biggest ever. The season's major cruise conference extended across two days for the first time, offering more sessions, more speakers, and more time to explore the showroom floor than in prior years.

Managing Director Joel Katz said Cruise360 has never before offered a greater concentration of expertise and leadership.

"This 2025 conference has been designed to give invaluable insight into the dynamics of our global industry, addressing the latest developments in our thriving cruise sector," he said.

Next year Sydney will also get the two-day treatment, with Cruise360 returning to ICC Sydney on 17 and 18 Sep.



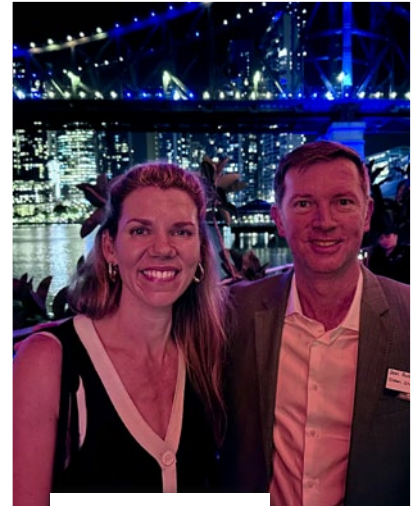
FLIGHT Centre Travel Group boasted by far the biggest contingent at this year's Cruise360.



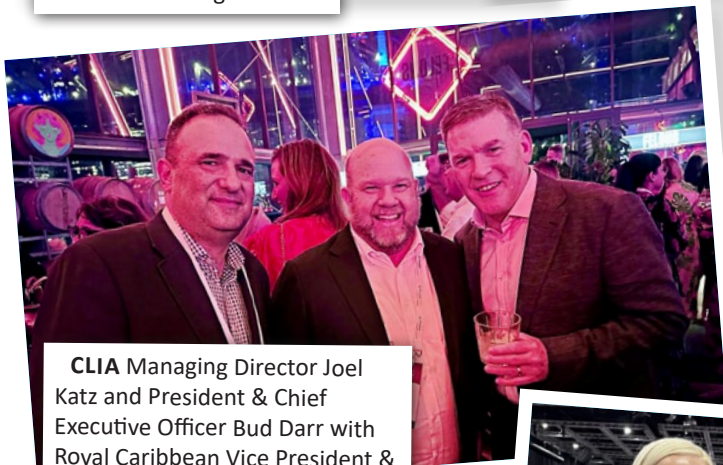
THE Helloworld team with their selfie-taking robot.



THE Royal Caribbean team in front of its graffiti art piece, which constantly evolved over the course of the two days.



CLEAN Cruising's Jennifer Findlay and Dan Russell.



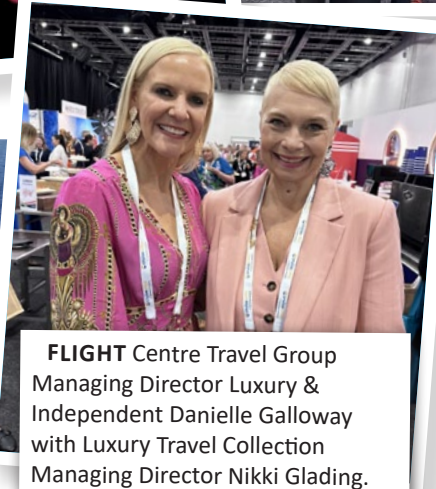
CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz and President & Chief Executive Officer Bud Darr with Royal Caribbean Vice President & Managing Director Gavin Smith.



THE Celebrity Cruises team was very popular with its bottles of champagne in tow.



REPRESENTING Crystal Cruises in their "day one" outfits: Katrina Thirkell, Jacqui Tufala, Susan Haberle, and Anoushka Kudav.



FLIGHT Centre Travel Group Managing Director Luxury & Independent Danielle Galloway with Luxury Travel Collection Managing Director Nikki Glading.



THE Princess Cruises "dynasty".



ONE traveller has taken the cruise duck craze to a whole other level.

The popular pastime of hunting for rubber ducks on ships usually centres on standard, hand-sized ducks - not ones that are more than a metre tall.

One of the largest ducks ever to set sail was spotted on Royal Caribbean's *Quantum of the Seas* recently.

The huge inflatable fella was pretty hard to miss, given he took up half of his guest's balcony space.

Photos of the super-sized bird were shared around on social media (**pictured**) - at least everyone on this cruise found a duck.



RCI responds to Mexico protests



ROYAL Caribbean has responded to the more than 200,000 locals who have petitioned against the development of its cruise port and private island Perfect Day Mexico in Costa Maya, set to open in 2027 (**CW** 11 Oct).

The cruise line purchased the cruise port and surrounding land in Mahahual and took over administrative control of it in Jul to begin construction.

However, locals have called for the project's cancellation due to its impact on the environment and the community, with RCI addressing concerns this week.

"Perfect Day Mexico is designed to generate positive, long-term impact across the economy, local community and environment," Chief Product Innovation Officer Jay Schneider said, adding that the line has already met with the locals, employees, and suppliers.

Royal Caribbean will also submit its Environmental Impact Assessment in the coming weeks.

"[Then] we will host a community meeting to walk through the details of the project, and gather feedback, ensuring the project reflects our commitment to a shared vision for prosperity." JHM

Windstar 2026/27

WINDSTAR Cruises has announced 35 sailings on 10 different itineraries for its winter 2026/27 season, which focuses on the Caribbean and Latin America.

The collection includes daytime Panama Canal transits, first-time shore excursions and new cruisetours to Machu Picchu.

From Dec through Mar, *Wind Surf* will alternate between the seven-night 'Beach Fun & Sun: A Remote Caribbean Getaway' and 'Classic Caribbean' itineraries, while *Star Pride* will offer weekly sailings departing San Juan from Oct to Jan.

Additionally, before transitioning to Latin America, *Star Legend* will offer two sailings from Barbados in Nov and Dec 2026.

Windstar will also host a cruisetour that combines Machu Picchu with its seven-night 'Costa Rica & Panama Canal' itinerary.

The five-night pre- or post-cruise package features a Vistadome train ride and visit to the UNESCO site of Cusco.

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