



CRUISE

WEEKLY

delivered daily!



cruiseweekly.com.au
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Cruise Weekly today

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



On location in Beagle Channel

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of **Viking**, which is hosting key industry partners aboard *Viking Polaris*.

ON OUR last day aboard *Viking Polaris*, we are crossing through the end of the Drake Passage and into the Beagle Channel to the final port of Ushuaia.

Tonight the trade contingent and our Viking hosts will gather in The Hide for a final cocktail party, celebrating the great adventures we have shared.

Explora unveils new Spring sailings

LUXURY ocean travel brand Explora Journeys has launched a collection of Mediterranean itineraries for 2025.

Guests can celebrate Easter as part of Explora's Rituals & Traditions series on board *Explora I*, departing from Barcelona in Apr, exploring destinations including Tunisia, Sicily, Casablanca, Naples, Crete, Athens, Malta and beyond.

Each of the sailings will feature ship-wide Easter egg hunts, cultural events, themed festivities and an enriching Seder Passover feast, where a historian will discuss the historical significance of the dishes.

Explora Journeys has also released its Spring Mediterranean itineraries on board *Explora II*, taking guests to Spain, Morocco, Greece, Italy, Croatia and beyond.

The Spring Mediterranean sailings depart from Barcelona in



Apr and May.

From navigating the Strait of Gibraltar to enjoying Flamenco rhythms in Malaga and indulging in Turkish baths, the three itineraries offer guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in the diverse heritage of the Eastern and the Western Mediterranean.

Every sailing on Explora Journeys includes nine inclusive culinary experiences; unlimited alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks; access to the thermal area of the spa; wellbeing and fitness programs; shuttle services from port to city centre; and a welcome bottle of champagne in-suite on arrival. *JHM*



In Celebration of Australia Day, invite your clients to enjoy a limited time offer of **US\$500 Shipboard Credit*** when you book before 7 February.

In addition they will also receive a **FREE 2-Category Suite Upgrade*** plus up to **40% off** select 2025 and 2026 sailings when they book before 28 February.



SOJOURN TO OZ
BALI (BENOA) TO AUCKLAND
*Seven Seas Explorer**

DURATION	DEPARTS	UP TO
16 NIGHTS	12 DEC 2025	32 EXCURSIONS
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ZORB ball operators around the world could be heard collectively deflating their transparent novelty balls after video footage was released of a young child in China being swept down the Oujiang River.

A zorb ball, for the uninitiated, is a large ball that can fit a human inside and can often be seen on placid lakes with excitable tourists inside running their hearts out and going nowhere.

Thankfully, this story ends well with nearby man, Wu Kewen, swimming after the runaway ball and pushing it back to shore, saving the child in the process.

Rumours that the child was keen on a river cruise after the harrowing event are said to be wide off the mark. Too soon? We agree and retract that joke.



Uniworld teams grows

THE Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection team is growing, led by Jen Pagett's appointment into a senior role.

The much-loved Uniworld staffer will take on the role of Senior Manager of Key Accounts, leading partnerships and sales for the cruise line nationally.

Pagett has worked her way up the ladder at Uniworld from the reservations team in 2017 to a national senior sales position on the cruise line's leadership team.

Uniworld also recently welcomed new Business Development Manager Tiffany Mestrinho for Vic and Tas.

She will be based in Melbourne, bringing professional sales experience from the wine industry, after a brief stint as a travel agent in 2019-2020.

Uniworld is also inviting applications to join the sales team as Business Development Manager for Queensland/WA, replacing Shelley Martin, who is leaving at the end of the month.

The cruise line is accepting applications for the role **HERE**.

MEANWHILE, Uniworld is rewarding travel advisors gift cards as part of its Rivers of Rewards trade incentive.

Advisors who make a new Uniworld booking on the 50-night 'Rivers of the World' (16 Apr-05 Jun 2026) cruise from Brussels to Amman will receive a \$500 gift card (**CW** 29 Jan).

This year's cruises will also

attract bonuses of \$200 for a booking made in a suite category, and \$100 on all other categories.

The incentive is uncapped, meaning the more you book, the more you can earn. *MS*

Shipbuilder stable

GERMAN shipbuilder

Meyer Werft has appointed a Supervisory Board this week as part of plans to stabilise its operations amid major financial challenges.

The supervisory board will consist of representatives of the shareholders, employees and external experts, including Meyer Werft's Jan Meyer.

Meyer Werft encountered significant financial troubles during the pandemic, with the German Government taking emergency equity in the business to keep it afloat.

The new board will be responsible for monitoring activities and participating in its decisions, as well as examining annual financial statements, management reports, and any proposals for the appropriation of the company's profits.

Carnival has two Excel-class ships on order at the shipyard, due in 2027 and 2028, while Disney Cruise Line also has several vessels on order.

These include *Disney Destiny*, which is due this year.

Atlas restructure

ATLAS Ocean Voyages has announced a restructure of its sales team, led by Isabel Galvan in the newly created role of Vice President of Global Business Development and Sales Strategy.

The revamped sales team will focus on high-performing agencies specialising in luxury expedition travel, with Galvan steering all sales efforts as well as optimising trade engagement, strengthening key travel partnerships, and driving business growth.

With the aim of enhancing trade partners support and nurturing emerging key accounts, Atlas Ocean Voyages has also launched a dedicated internal business development team, reinforcing the company's commitment to deepening relationships within the travel advisor community.

Agents can expect targeted engagement and extra communication from the brand in the coming months, as Atlas continues to elevate its partner support strategies.

"This refined structure positions us for long-term success," said James A. Rodriguez, President and CEO of Atlas Ocean Voyages.

The restructure also sees the departure of Cathy Kusuma, who was the brand's Vice President of Sales for almost two years.

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MSC adds to Aurea

MSC Cruises has introduced additional benefits to guests booking its suites with an Aurea Experience.

The category is the next step down from MSC's Yacht Club, with those booking in Aurea now able to enjoy elevated in-suite amenities and other premium comforts, along with priority disembarkation and tender boat access, and more.

Aurea Experience will now include one free-of-charge minibar refresh; an in-suite Nespresso coffee machine, with coffee pods replenished daily; Venchi daily turndown of chocolates; elevated in-suite amenities, including 100% cotton bathrobes, plush slippers, premium bed linens, enhanced Dorelean mattress, & bespoke bath products from MED by MSC; and two free ironing services per stay.

The additional benefits apply to all suites with an Aurea Experience booked for sailings commencing from 01 Jul.

MEANWHILE, the new *Dirty Dancing in Concert* will debut aboard MSC's flagship *MSC World America* when the new vessel sets sail in Apr (*CW* 25 Nov 2024).

Each of *World America's* seven-night Miami cruises to the Caribbean will feature multiple chances to enjoy the 90-minute show, including a matinee on sea days.

The production will culminate in a *Dirty Dancing*-themed after-party, where guests can sing and dance well into the night.

NCL offers more in Asia



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is set to expand its presence in Asia, with four ships offering diverse itineraries across the continent from Feb 2025 through Apr 2027.

The program will include *Norwegian Jade's* debut Asia season from Oct 2026 to Apr 2027, which will include 16 open-jaw voyages and two round-trip Tokyo cruises, departing 29 Oct 2026, and 10 Apr 2027.

Itineraries span nine to 14 days, and guests can embark from four home ports: Tokyo, Incheon, Hong Kong, and Singapore, enjoying highlights such as cherry blossom season in Japan, late-night departures in Osaka and Kanazawa, and overnight stays in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, *Norwegian Spirit* will embark upon a year-long collection of Asia Pacific sailings throughout 2025.

Highlights include the 15-day sailing from Taipei to Singapore, departing 17 Nov, which visits Kaohsiung, Hong Kong, Hanoi, Nha Trang, Ho Chi Minh City,

Sihanoukville, Ko Samui, and an overnight stay in Bangkok.

Norwegian Sun will also return for a six-month season in Asia between Oct 2025 and Mar 2026, following her upcoming debut in the continent next month.

The Sun-class cruise ship will offer a choice of six departure ports and many opportunities to explore the region's landscapes and cultures, including an 11-day sailing from Tokyo to Taipei, departing 14 Nov 2025.

"When it comes to creating memorable holidays, NCL is providing Australian travellers with even more to see, more to do and more to enjoy, with the convenience of exploring multiple destinations in one journey," said Ben Angell, VP and MD APAC.

"Guests can experience Asia's culture, history, and natural landscapes while enjoying a selection of dining and beverage options, health and wellness facilities, diverse accommodation options, and entertainment aboard their cruise ship, all at an unmatched value." *MS*



We're off and racing

WE'RE only a month into 2025, and there's already plenty to celebrate with many exciting announcements and milestones across our membership and industry.

Carnival's recent announcement that one of its newest ships, *Carnival Adventure* (formerly a P&O vessel), will homeport in Melbourne for a month in 2027 is great news for our members and Aussie adventurers alike.

Guests will have the chance to visit some incredible Australian destinations as part of four exciting new itineraries, including Sydney, the coastal gems of Fremantle and Albany in WA, and SA icons Adelaide and Kangaroo Island.

ACA is delighted to see these itineraries include regional destinations as well as capital cities, ensuring a broad economic and tourism boost across states.

Jan also marked a major milestone for Port of Townsville, with Cunard's *Queen Elizabeth* maiden arrival making history as the first large cruise ship to dock at the newly upgraded port.

This follows the completion of the \$251 million Channel Upgrade Project, which has doubled the channel's width to 180m, allowing access for vessels up to 300m.

The project also introduced enhanced facilities for cruise guests and expanded transport access, further strengthening the North Qld tourism landscape.

Marking another fantastic achievement for our ports, Brisbane Int'l Cruise Terminal has officially welcomed over two million pax since opening in 2022, following further infrastructure investments in 2024.

And finally, we're thrilled to see so many of our members receiving global recognition, with Sydney and WA named in *The New York Times's* '52 places worth travelling to in 2025', while SA was named 'Most Welcoming Region on Earth' in the Booking.com Traveller Review Awards.

With such a strong start to 2025, we're excited to see the rest of the year unfold!