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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a cover wrap from **Regent Seven Seas Cruises**.

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UPGRADE Your Horizons with Regent Seven Seas Cruises' (RSSC) latest sale.

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The sale is available on the seven-night 'Alaska Rails & Trails' Vancouver to Anchorage cruise; as well as the 10-night 'Majestic Coasts' Barcelona to Lisbon voyage - head to the **cover page** for more details.

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Quark Expeditions

CLIA hails Broome Port promise



A **NEW** passenger terminal at WA's Broome Port (pictured) would "help unlock enormous tourism opportunities" for the state if it goes ahead, according to the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

The WA Labor Government, which is on track to retain power at the state election in Mar, announced it would commit \$500,000 to planning the new purpose-built facility if reelected.

"CLIA and our cruise lines have been championing Broome as an international gateway for some time, working closely with State and Commonwealth governments to unlock the destination's full potential," CLIA MD in Australasia Joel Katz told **CW**.

"The Western Australian Government's commitment to a business case for a new Broome terminal is an important step towards making the port a world-class cruise destination."

Katz believes dedicated terminal facilities will also allow Commonwealth agencies to process international visitors on their first arrival into Australia.

"This means Broome can become a first port of call for international ships, opening up a world of new possibilities for international cruising in Western Australia," he explained.

Tourism Council WA CEO Evan Hall also welcomed the proposal for a purpose-built passenger terminal, saying it "will enhance

the overall visitor experience from arrival in Broome, but also increase capacity and bring additional visitors who can have a better experience".

He added, "Western Australia has the longest and greatest coastline in Australia, and an upgraded facility would see marine and nature-based tourism boom in [the state]".

Cruise ship pax disembarking in Broome would be able to travel down the WA coast, from Exmouth to Geraldton south to Fremantle and Margaret River.

According to CLIA, the value of cruise tourism to WA grew by more than 15% in 2023-24 to reach a record \$384.9 million. **JM**

GTI to rep Oceania

SYDNEY-BASED marketing agency GTI Tourism has been appointed as the new local rep for Oceania Cruises.

The agency takes over the account from Barking Owl Communications, which handled the luxury cruise line's communications for around three years.

GTI Tourism said it will work with Oceania Cruises on several big launches, initiatives and updates throughout 2025.

The PR appointment comes ahead of the launch of Oceania's newest ship, *Allura*, in Jul 2025 (**CW** 22 Jan).

NCL firms up order

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has confirmed its order with Fincantieri for four new cruise ships, destined for the Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) brand.

The confirmation follows the signing of a Letter of Intent between the cruise line and the shipbuilder in Apr last year (**CW** 08 Apr 2024).

The new vessels will be the largest ever built for NCL, with the first to be delivered in 2030 and the others to follow in 2032, 2034, and 2036.

With a collective capacity of around 20,000 passengers, the four new ships will be constructed at the Fincantieri Monfalcone shipyard.



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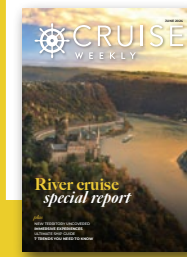
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Crystal unveils 1H 2027

FOLLOWING the launch of the 2027 World Cruise, Crystal has now revealed the complete first half of its 2027 itineraries aboard *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony* (CW 15 Jan).

The sailings span six continents and more than 170 destinations, with travellers to experience the best of French Polynesia, Amazon Rivers and the Mediterranean, to name just a few.

Through its partnership with sister brand Abercrombie & Kent, Crystal will offer select shore excursions with exclusive experiences such as an intimate gastronomic experience in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; uncovering wildlife in Alaska; exploring Japan's storied temples; and wine tastings in Chile.

"Our 2027 itineraries reflect Crystal's commitment to deliver meaningful travel experiences across the globe," said Mario



Parodi, Vice President of Itinerary Planning and Port & Fuel Operations for Crystal.

"Every voyage has been designed to allow our guests to connect deeply with history, culture and nature."

Between Jan-Jun 2027, *Crystal Symphony* (pictured) will sail a range of itineraries visiting Mexico and Central America; the Caribbean; the Lesser Antilles; the Canary Islands; Portugal; France; Italy; and many more.

Meanwhile, *Crystal Serenity* will offer shorter World Cruise segments from Jan-May 2027, calling into destinations like Costa Rica, Samoa, and Fiji. *JM*

American kicks off

AMERICAN Cruise Lines is kicking off its Mississippi season this week with a celebration of the Super Bowl in New Orleans.

The season, which is kicking off early in celebration of the Super Bowl, has seen Big Game Travel charter two of American's Mississippi riverboats to host guests on an exclusive three- and four-night package for Mon's championship game.

American's riverboats will then sail over 12 itineraries on the Mississippi through Dec, on cruises ranging from eight to 51 days, and including an array of authentic local experiences in 10 states, from Louisiana to Minnesota.

This year's Mississippi season will be American's biggest ever (CW 03 Feb), with five ships on more than a dozen itineraries.

Kids love A-Rosa

A-ROSA has set a new kids and teens record, having welcomed 3,000 children on board its ships in 2024.

The figure marks an increase of around 7% in the cruise line's number of guests under the age of 15, while the overall guest count (95,000) for the year represented a similar increase compared to 2023.

Around 30 of the children completed swimming lessons on *A-ROSA SENA* on three different departure dates during the summer holidays.

"We are looking at strong pre-bookings for the 2025 season and already have more than half the number of children from last year booked," said Stefan Sprunk, Director Sales and Product.

A-ROSA allows children up to the age of 15 to travel free of charge all year round.

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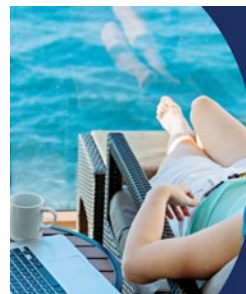
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Stay Updated

on the latest cruise news

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A BRAVE group of travellers are currently shedding their inhibitions on the annual “clothing-optional cruise”, hosted by nudist travel company, Bare Necessities.

Taking place aboard Norwegian Cruise Line’s *Norwegian Pearl*, this year’s bare-naked sailing takes guests on a Caribbean adventure, visiting Martinique, San Juan, St Maarten, St Lucia, and Dominica, before wrapping up on Valentine’s Day (14 Feb).

The voyage offers ‘Bare-fest’ events, a nude buffet, and clothing-optional tours that require advanced booking.

Although guests aboard the ‘Big Nude Boat’ are encouraged to ‘travel lite’, the cruise does have some rules, such as requiring pax to remain fully clothed while docked at port, and while in the ship’s dining rooms (thank goodness).

The unique sailing has proven to be a hit among travellers, with one Reddit user writing this about their experience: “There is nothing better than two weeks naked with 1,800 other naked people”.

Another shared, “Everyone was nude around the pools but many wore some clothes indoors particularly after dinner since they had to get dressed to go to the dining room...they had two waterslides, pickleball, disco - all nude as well.”

Xcel to bring the shore to the ship

CELEBRITY Cruises’ upcoming ship *Celebrity Xcel* will debut an “industry-first transformational space”, The Bazaar, which will aim to “erase the line between ship and shore”.

The three-storey space will transform as *Xcel* sails from port to port, bringing the sights, sounds, flavours, and traditions of each destination to life on board.

Guests will be able to peruse local artisan products in the market, attend destination-inspired festivals, enjoy local tastings, and try their hand at traditional crafts.

They will also be able to dine out at The Bazaar’s new open kitchen concept, Mosaic, which will include a Chef’s Table and cookery school, Chef’s Studio.

There will also be a new casual dining concept, Spice, which will offer a daytime selection of rotating bites with special items inspired by the ports visited on each itinerary.

The Bazaar will debut later this year with four unique Caribbean destination-inspired festivals - each linked to a destination where *Xcel* is sailing on her inaugural season.

This will include local food and beverage offerings, crafting experiences, retail activations, destination-inspired cooking & dance classes, pop-up entertainment, performances from local musicians, and other Caribbean-inspired activities.

Xcel’s debut season will also introduce Market at The Bazaar, which will be available on sea days, inviting guests to take the cities they visit with them, with



displays from local artisans who will come on board to showcase their crafts, skills and traditions.

Market at The Bazaar will change throughout sailings to reflect each of the four festival themes, including activities featuring rum and chocolate pairings and local hot sauce tastings; deep dives into the destination’s culture with

experiences like live basket weaving demos, and one-of-a-kind keepsakes from local vendors such as an authentic Caribbean mask shop, traditional Mexican leather hats, and more.

As *Xcel* heads to Europe next year, The Bazaar will transform to feature festivals, markets and culinary experiences inspired by Mediterranean destinations. *MS*

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