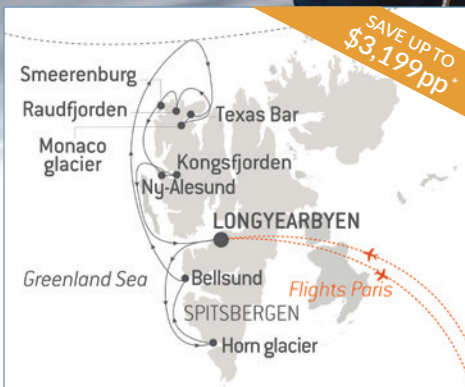


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# CRUISE

## WEEKLY

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Monday 10th Feb 2025

### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features a cover wrap from **Ponant** plus three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

### Riverside local rep

**RIVERSIDE** Luxury Cruises has increased its commitment to the Australian market, with the appointment of a local Commercial Sales & Marketing representative, Susie Coughlin. Coughlin has a wealth of river cruising experience, having worked at APT during the introduction of its product in the market.

### Ponant pole deals

**PONANT** is providing your clients' front row seat the poles, with savings of \$5,399 per person on an Antarctica expedition - see **cover page**.

## Palau to redevelop port with cruise focus

### EXCLUSIVE

**THE** island country of Palau is redeveloping its main port in an effort to attract more cruise calls, the destination's tourism head has revealed.

The port on Malakal Island, the site of much of urban Palau's tourism activity, is set to begin renovations next year.

Palau Visitors Authority Managing Director Kadoi Ruloked told **CW** the renovations will address the small- to medium-sized cruise sector, as well as private yachts, attending to the destination's long-term infrastructure problem.

Malakal Island is linked to Koror, Palau's largest city, by a causeway, which would allow passengers easy access to the destination's range of tourism offerings, including diving and snorkelling, boat tours, and hiking.

"There's long-term planning for



[the cruise sector]; it's going to be a really big port that's going to address the commercial and private yachts, and the cruise lines," Ruloked said.

"We've been advertising Palau as another cruise destination, it's just that...we do not have really good infrastructure for the cruise

ships," he added.

Palau receives very few calls per year, mostly from Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, with ships anchoring off the island of Ngerdis.

*Hanseatic Inspiration* and *Hanseatic Spirit* are the only two cruise ships scheduled to call Palau this year. *MS*

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\*Fares and itineraries are accurate as of 31 January 2025 and are subject to change or withdrawal. Your World By Choice offer expires 1 April 2025, applies to select categories on select voyages, subject to availability and is capacity controlled. The quoted fares are valid for sale until 1 April, unless sold out prior and include any/all savings/upgrades. Airfares are additional. Cruise fares are per person, twin share (except fares for Solo category, which are for single travellers), in AUD and include all taxes, port fees and onboard gratuities. \*50% Reduced Deposits applies for new bookings only and if departure is outside of final payment; valid until 1 April 2025; this offer is not valid on Around the World Cruises and segments. For full terms & conditions that apply, please visit OceaniaCruises.com/terms. All rights reserved. Oceania Cruises is not responsible for typographical errors or omissions. Ships' Registry: Marshall Islands. NCL Australia Pty Ltd ABN 8066 7578 781.



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## New APT/SCL trip

APT has unveiled a brand-new tour alongside its partner Seabourn Cruise Line (SCL) aboard *Seabourn Venture*.

The new exclusive 13-day Britain & Ireland Explorer will depart next year, offering a journey to natural wonders, castles, and World Heritage-listed sites.

Guests will explore Edinburgh, Orkney, the Isle of Man, and Dublin, with unique experiences including meeting the residents of Fair Isle, Britain's most remote inhabited island, and morning tea in the community hall.

Guests will also explore Fingal's Cave, a sea cave on the uninhabited island of Staffa, offering an up-close view of its hexagonal basalt columns, which were formed by volcanic activity more than 60 million years ago.

## Disney doubles Alaska presence in '26

DISNEY Cruise Line is inviting passengers on its northern summer 2026 voyages to Alaska, Europe, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, and Singapore.

Highlights of the season include more Alaskan sailings than ever before, with the introduction of a second ship to the northwest.

Both *Disney Magic* and *Disney Wonder* will embark on seven-night voyages from Vancouver, including ports such as Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Dawes Glacier, and Icy Strait Point.

There will also be a new destination in Europe, with *Disney Dream* to be the first ship in the line's fleet to call at Cagliari.

Other European destinations will include Greece, Croatia, Malta, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and the United Kingdom.

The new collection of *Disney Adventure* itineraries from



Singapore (**CW 15 Nov**), which will set sail in Dec 2025, will offer a line-up of three- and four-night nonstop itineraries from the Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore from Apr through summer 2026.

Guests will unlock epic onboard experiences that celebrate stories

from Disney, Pixar and Marvel.

There will also be four ships embarking from Florida for the season, with the new *Disney Destiny* (**CW 20 Jan**) to cruise from Fort Lauderdale, and three ships (*Disney Fantasy*, *Disney Wish*, and *Disney Treasure*) to sail from Port Canaveral. *MS*

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Applies to bookings made from 19 December, 2024 to 31 March, 2025 (inclusive) for selected HX departures from 1 March 2025 and 31 March 2027 (inclusive). Bookings outside of these periods do not qualify. Bookings are subject to availability. HX operates on a dynamic pricing system. Represents a saving on the "From" price quoted in AUD, based per person and on full occupancy of cabin. Other restrictions may apply. Visit [travelhx.com](http://travelhx.com) for full T&Cs. Price Promise valid for sailings between 1st of April 2025 through to 31st March 2027, before other restrictions apply.





## P O R T H O L E

**HUNDREDS** of ships called Hobart this weekend - but only one of them was a cruise ship. Cunard Line's *Queen Elizabeth* was joined by more than 250 of her wooden cousins, which were in town as part of the biannual Australian Wooden Boats Festival.

The celebration is one of the largest of its kind, bringing together wooden boats from around the world.



## One last explore

**MORE** than 2,200 guests are sailing on P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Explorer*, as the ship departs Fremantle on her final voyage with the line (**CW** 04 Jun 2024).

Guests will be invited to an onboard farewell cocktail party on Wed, hosted by *Explorer's* Captain, to celebrate her contribution to cruising in the country since she became part of the P&O Australia fleet in 2017 (**CW** 04 Jul 2017).

"Today is the next step in the transition as we look forward to a new era of cruising, when Carnival Cruise Line expands to four ships sailing in Australia," a P&O spokesperson said.

## P&O treats Aussie agents



**A NUMBER** of top P&O Cruises Australia agents have been rewarded with a cruise as part of the Flagship Achievers program.

The top 10 consultants across the country were rewarded, with the voyage hosted by members of the Carnival Cruise Line team, as Carnival prepares to envelop its sister marque P&O Australia (**CW** 18 Dec 2024).

Senior Director Sales & Marketing Anton Loeb, National Sales Manager Mark Richards, Trade Engagement Manager Elizabeth Simbaqueba, and Julie Boustani from Sales Support all hosted the winners on a four-day cruise on *Pacific Adventure* from Sydney to Moreton Island.

Guests stayed in a mini suite with Byron Beach Club access, while also enjoying signature dining at Luke's Bar & Grill, entertainment at Blanc de Blanc Uncorked in Black Circus, and a day at Tangalooma Island Resort, which included a Marine Discovery boat excursion.

Agents also enjoyed a night's accommodation in Sydney, and a hosted dinner with the sales team the night before the cruise.

"We had an incredible time

hosting our top-achieving travel agents and recognising their dedication and support of the P&O brand in 2024," Loeb said.

"Their passion and expertise are second to none and we're excited for the new opportunities as we head into the next chapter of home ported cruising with Carnival," he added. *MS*

## One year of Ama

**THE** Australian travel trade is being invited to 'An Evening with AmaWaterways', following its first year in the local market (**CW** 16 May).

Dedicated travel advisor events will be held in six cities, and will be hosted by AmaWaterways' Regional Sales Managers, plus feature a presentation from co-owner Gary Murphy.

Advisors will receive a product update, hear exciting plans for the future of AmaWaterways, and learn how best to engage with the company to increase their commissions and access to resources - register **HERE**.

## HAL gets historical

**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) and The History Channel have introduced a multi-year partnership which will feature historically focused cruises and immersive shore excursions.

The three-year partnership will see several cruises curated in partnership with The History Channel, visiting destinations which have played a part in historical moments or have a deep-rooted history.

These will include the 14-Day 'Arctic Journey & Northern Lights', the seven-day 'Mediterranean Marvels of Pompeii', and the seven-day 'Norwegian Fjords with Hardangerfjord' cruises.

Additional themed departures will include the eastern Mediterranean with a focus on ancient empires; Northern Europe and its Viking heritage; Arctic encounters and the region's history of polar exploration; and more.

Shore excursions will include Gold Panning & Underground Mine Exploration; Giza Pyramids, Sphinx & the Pyramid of Sakkara; or Stavanger Old & New.

Guests on these tours will take a deep dive into the location's historical significance, visiting important sites that played a role in the background of the locale.

Additional itineraries and shore excursions for the next three years will continue to be released, with other details about The History Channel partnership to be released in the coming months.