



Cruise Weekly today

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

A suite race view

EXPLORA Journeys' *Explora II* is now open for suite-only bookings during the 2025 Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix.

The ship will be docked in Port Hercule during the race, with two distinct suite categories available.

Passengers can book the Monaco City View suite, overlooking the vibrant cityscape of the destination providing a front-row seat to the event; or a Monaco Ocean View suite, offering uninterrupted sea views, and serving as a retreat from the race weekend.

Bookings now through the Experience Centre.

RSSC unveils new epicurean tours

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has unveiled 12 new Epicurean Explorer Tours - a collection of chef-led destination itineraries rolling out this year.

The new tours in Asia, Europe, and Canada & New England will see guests forage at Invergordon in Scotland for ingredients to make the perfect Cullen Skink, and savour premium Kobe beef prepared by a teppanyaki master chef in a restaurant overlooking Osaka Castle in Japan.

The intimate Epicurean Explorer Tours are limited to 18 guests, priced from \$207 to \$780pp.

The tours range from three to seven hours in duration, with some of the experiences including a cooking class at the ship's Culinary Arts Kitchen.

Available to book for voyages on board *Seven Seas Grandeur*, *Seven Seas Splendor*, and *Seven*



Seas Explorer, the addition of these new tours brings RSSC's shoreside collection to 46.

"Our Epicurean Explorer Tours represent the pinnacle of culinary exploration and are designed following painstaking in-destination research by our team of esteemed and accomplished

chefs," RSSC Executive Chef & Director of Culinary Enrichment Kathryn Kelly said.

"We are a team of passionate professionals who love nothing more than sharing in-depth culinary and destination knowledge with our valued Regent foodie guests." *MS*



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A&K takes to water

TRAVELLERS booking select private jet journeys with Abercrombie & Kent will receive a free nine-night sailing with Crystal Cruises.

The offer applies to bookings of A&Ks 25-day 'Ancient Kingdoms & Dynasties' private jet itinerary, which is priced from \$226,465 per person and is limited to 48 guests.

Guests set sail first from Barcelona onboard *Crystal Symphony*, settling into a Sapphire Veranda Suite and visiting Spain, Morocco and Portugal en route to Lisbon.

From there, travellers board A&K's chartered luxury jet, visiting nine countries over three continents and concluding in Malta.

"As sister companies under A&K Travel Group (AKTG), this unprecedented collaboration between A&K and Crystal offers travellers a unique opportunity to experience the pinnacle of both air and sea adventures in one extraordinary experience", said A&K SVP Private Jet & Special Interest Travel, Ann Epting.

A&K has also added a special guest to the itinerary in former foreign correspondent and editor, Martin Regg Cohn, who will host onboard lectures and share stories from a career reporting in 40 countries and interviews with identities including the Dalai Lama.

Regions flock to Viking



VIKING'S regional Explorer Information Sessions have kicked off, with high attendance numbers since commencing in Victoria and Queensland earlier this month.

Six sessions have taken place so far, including events in Brighton and Ipswich which were hosted on 04 Feb.

Viking said its Brighton session in particular was "hugely successful", with "overwhelming" attendance numbers.

The sessions provide an opportunity for travel advisors and their clients to connect with Viking Commercial Managers about the cruise line's river, ocean, and expedition journeys.

Attendees will also discover Viking's new Scandinavian, Northern European, and Mediterranean itineraries, as well as new Viking destinations, and cultural onshore experiences and onboard enrichment.

The sessions are scheduled twice daily at 10am and 6:30pm, each running for 75 minutes, with complimentary light refreshments served in the 30 minutes prior to each session and open to both agents and clients to attend.

Viking added attendees at each event will gain knowledge and inspiration to book and will also gain access to an exclusive offer which can be redeemed from their agent within 14 days.

Registration is essential as availability at each venue is limited, and places are filling fast, however it is not too late to book any of the 38 remaining sessions - **CLICK HERE** to register. *MS*

Pictured are Ian Long, TravelManagers; Tracey Blackshaw, Travel Associates; Viking Commercial Manager Helen Mezzen; Melissa Madigan, Travel Associates; and Tara Dickson, Helloworld.



CRUISE WEEKLY

On location in Brisbane

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Princess Cruises, which is this week hosting us on a trip to Sydney aboard *Diamond Princess*.

WE'RE in sunny Brisbane and packing our bags for a delightful cruise down to Sydney this afternoon with the team from Princess.

It is a trade marketing famill that will run for five days, with a port day in Newcastle in between, where we will have the opportunity to explore the city's beautiful beaches, vibrant cafes and rich history.

But for today, when we get on board, the guests will catch up and relax over drinks at the Skywalkers Bar as we set sail.

Awards from News

NEWS Corp Australia's travel brand Escape has launched its inaugural Readers' Choice Cruises Awards in partnership with My Cruises, part of the Ignite Travel Group.

Across 18 categories, readers will be asked to vote for the cruise lines and ships they love, including which brands are best for families and which offer the best restaurants.

Nominations close on 02 Mar.



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PORTHOLE

ASK anybody who has encountered problems while travelling and they'll probably tell you their travel agent is a real-life superhero.

It's a plaudit likely concurred by most agents, whose efforts could be considered on par with saving the world.

And if Superman could leap tall buildings in a single bound, travel agents can presumably control the weather, pack bags at record speed, speak in any language and know everything about everywhere.

Now, 'Travel Agent Man or Woman' might not sell comic books, but digital marketing agency The Social Spider can make agents look like heroes.

The website has launched a free promotional initiative allowing agents to portray themselves as super heroes and highlight that it's always easier to book through them.

The campaign allows agents to generate eye-catching image tiles portraying themselves as time-saving, stress-easing heroes who come to the rescue when travel plans go awry.

CLICK HERE for more details.



Carnival cruisers say 'I do'



CARNIVAL Cruise Line made Valentine's Day extra special this year by hosting the largest fleetwide vow renewal at sea, offering couples an unforgettable way to celebrate their love.

The ceremonies were virtually officiated by Chief Fun Officer and American basketball star, Shaquille O'Neal, and included a 'kiss cam' to spotlight couples on the big screen.

The ceremony was followed by an onboard reception complete with a champagne toast, cake-cutting, and a DJ who played wedding classics.

Guests onboard *Carnival Luminosa* and *Carnival Splendor* were the first in the global fleet to take part in the romantic tradition, celebrated across all 27 Carnival ships.

Carnival Splendor guests enjoyed the ceremony during their four-night Moreton Island cruise from Sydney, while couples on *Carnival Luminosa* took part during a seven-night South Pacific cruise from Brisbane.

"You can absolutely feel the love onboard Carnival ships, especially on Valentine's Day," said Kara Glamore, Vice President of Carnival Cruise Line.

"So many of our guests meet, get engaged, and even get married onboard our ships, and our vow renewal ceremony is a wonderful occasion to help couples celebrate their love when they sail with Carnival."

The cruise lines offers a variety of ceremonies at sea or in beautiful destinations through the Weddings by Carnival program, which offers personalised packages for engagements, weddings, honeymoons and vow renewals.

The Signature Ceremony package, which includes 10 guests, starts from \$3,238 per couple and includes a pre-cruise wedding planner, private shipboard venue, and more.

Last year, Carnival hosted more than 1,220 weddings and vow renewals - for more information, **CLICK HERE**. JM

100 days of Tauck

TAUCK has taken its centenary celebrations (CW 13 Feb) to another level, announcing a new 100-day itinerary which combines seven of its most popular tours into one itinerary.

Available as a one-time only departure on 29 Jul, running to 05 Nov, the itinerary covers more than 67,000km and 15 countries over six continents.

The trip begins in the Canadian Rocky Mountains and wraps up in Buenos Aires, taking in six land tours and one Danube river cruise.

Highlights of 'The Blue Danube' component include an Imperial Evening at a palace in Vienna and a private tour of baroque libraries in Prague.

The comprehensive itinerary is priced from US\$100,000 per person, twin share, with bookings open until 31 Mar.

Blue Lagoon brox

BLUE Lagoon Cruises has launched its 2025/26 brochure packed with details on a range of itineraries around the Fijian islands aboard *MV Fiji Princess*.

The new guide is now available either as a printed brochure priced in either AUD or NZD or as a download.

The new season continues the popular rotation of three-, four- and seven-night cruises around the Fijian islands, including all meals, guided shore excursions, entrance fees and entertainment.

New pricing in the guide takes effect from 01 Apr 2025.