



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Cruise Weekly today

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

MSC's Grand news

MSC Cruises has announced it will be the title sponsor of three Formula One Grands Prix this year, as part of its partnership with the racing championship series (CW 22 Mar 2022).

The cruise line will be the title sponsor of the Grands Prix in Austria, the United States, and Brazil.

This year will be the first time the MSC brand will be included in the name of these three iconic Grands Prix, coming in addition to the distinct track branding as part of the cruise line's Global Partner status, which has been in place for almost two years.

MSC's sister brand, Explora Journeys, will also bring its new ship *Explora II* to the Monaco Grand Prix, docking at Port Hercules to offer a prime position for race fans.

Explora II will also play host to a series of events during race week.

Vice President International Sales Antonio Paradiso described MSC's sponsorship of Formula One, hatched almost two years ago, as a masterstroke, saying it is "one of the best things we ever did" (CW 08 May 2024).

Micro-Cruising joins Virtuoso



SMALL ship wholesaler Micro-Cruising has joined Virtuoso's exclusive network as a regional partner in Australia.

The inclusion of Micro-Cruising in the network will present new sales and marketing opportunities to Virtuoso's 1,800 regional members, the wholesaler's MD Nicola Caygill believes.

"Virtuoso's dedication to curating one-of-a-kind travel aligns perfectly with our passion for small ship cruising, where every voyage is a boutique and personalised," she said.

"Luxury is about choice, and with Micro-Cruising, Virtuoso members can select from the largest selection of the world's most unique small ship cruises and charters," Caygill added.

Micro-Cruising offers a portfolio of small ships, all accommodation

100 passengers or fewer.

The business specialises in offering cruise passengers a very high degree of personalisation, as well as access to hidden treasures that larger ships can't access.

Micro-Cruising has also recently been tapping into the growing demand for "slow cruises", which visit smaller ports and feature a lower destination impact.

Virtuoso agencies worldwide retail an average of US\$35 billion annually, making the network one of the world's the most significant luxury sellers.

The network has been bullish on the cruise industry of late, with a Jun study finding almost 60% of its members believe the sector will emerge as the strongest tourism vertical in 2024-2025, surpassing land experiences (CW 18 Jun 2024). MS

NCL offering more

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is offering more value and more ways to explore with its New Year's Sale.

Bookings made before 21 Jan will see guests enjoy 50% off all cruises, access to Norwegian's more at sea package, plus a bonus discount of US\$500.

This limited-time sale allows guests to choose from a variety of accommodation options, all the way through to The Haven by Norwegian, NCL's exclusive ship-within-a-ship experience.

The sale is applicable on voyages departing from Korea, Italy, the US, and more - **HERE**.

New Explora offer

EXPLORA Journeys' new Unique Oceans Offer provides generous value savings of up to 40% and the opportunity to reserve a stateroom with just a 10% deposit.

Travellers who reserve with Explora by the end of next month will enjoy exceptional savings on select journeys, a reduced 10% deposit, and up to €1,000 in prepaid Destination Experiences Credits per suite per booking.

This offer is combinable with the Explora Early Booking Benefit, Journey Together, Journey Together Gatherings, Extended Journeys, and more.

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Big year for the flu

THE cruise industry recorded its worst year for gastroenteritis in more than a decade in 2024, according to the US's Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

The public health agency suggests the majority of last year's stomach flu outbreaks were associated with the highly contagious norovirus.

However, the CDC also notes that "outbreaks are found and reported more quickly on a cruise ship than on land".

There were 13 norovirus outbreaks on US-based ships last year, and only two confirmed flare-ups of another virus; one outbreak's cause was not discovered.

Five of these came last month alone, aboard vessels from Cunard Line, Holland America Line, and Princess.

Infectious disease expert William Schaffner told CNN experts can't predict if the recent wave of norovirus will continue into this year, whether at sea or on land.

"Whether this surge that we're seeing now will extend into the next season, or the next season will be a low season, I would be loath to predict," he said.

"Incidents of illness onboard cruise ships are extremely rare," Cruise Lines International Association told CNN in a statement.

Doubling down on Alaska



AMERICAN Cruise Line is doubling its capacity in Alaska for this year, which will make 2025 the company's biggest season ever in the state.

The cruise line will base two small ships in Alaska, sailing five itineraries from May through Sep.

American has repositioned *American Constitution* to the West Coast of the US for summer Alaska cruises and spring and fall Puget Sound voyages.

The 170-passenger ship will join her sister *American Constellation* for the season.

The two ships will also sail two new cruises based around Alaska's national parks.

These exclusive adventures feature seven days of land exploration in Denali National Park and Preserve and Kenai Fjords National Parks, and a nine- or 12-day cruise between

Fairbanks and Juneau.

The cruises will also feature special small-ship access to Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve, with some itineraries also including an overnight stay in the monument.

Constellation and *Constitution* are both fully stabilised, and offer private balcony accommodations, plus onboard amenities from spacious top-deck lounges to alternate casual dining venues.

All Itineraries also offer included pre-cruise stays.

American's 2025 season will see more than 20 of its small ships visit 125 ports around the United States, with eight new river itineraries on the Mississippi, Snake, Potomac, and Hudson (**CW** 03 Dec).

New ports of call for the season will include Port Canaveral, West Palm Beach, and more. *MS*

NCLH notes sale

NOREWGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has announced a proposed offering of senior notes worth US\$1.8 billion, due 2032.

NCLH said it will use the proceeds from the notes, together with cash on hand, to pay back almost US\$2 billion of notes, which was set to mature in 2026 and 2028.

The company yesterday appointed Jason Montague as Chief Luxury Officer, to lead the company's multi-billion-dollar strategic upscale fleet expansion for Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Oceania Cruises (**CW** yesterday).

Sail with the Prez

ATLAS Ocean Voyages has announced an exclusive President's Cruise, a 'Vintage Coves & Isles' Barcelona-Athens itinerary with the line's head James Rodriguez.

The 12-night cruise aboard *World Navigator* departs 28 Jul, visiting Spain, France, Italy, and Greece.

Highlights include a late night in Porto Venere, exploring the Cinque Terre UNESCO World Heritage Site; a Tuscan truffle hunting adventure from Livorno; and an exploration of Cadaques, a bayside town in Spain's Alt Emporda.

CLICK HERE for more information on the cruise.

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HAVE you ever described a ship you've been aboard as "trash" - because one Tasmanian man can quite literally refer to his vessel in this way.

The man has been voyaging up the east coast of Tasmania the past few months, in a boat made of garbage collected from the state's shoreline.

He is now waiting for the ideal time to cross the Bass Strait - one of the most notorious bodies of water in Australia - and sail his boat up to Sydney.

The man has been waiting on Flinders Island in the Furneaux Group for the right time to cross - knowing how deadly the strait can be.

The journey is all about raising awareness about trash in marine environments.

Some of the refuse found on the shore has even been sent to art exhibitions.

Viking European cruise deals



VIKING'S deals of the week include the eight-day 'Amalfi Coast, Africa & Iberia' voyage from Rome to Barcelona.

Prices start from \$5,995 per person in a veranda stateroom, with a companion flying for free for up to \$2,400.

Those booking by the end of Mar will also receive \$500 shipboard credit.

The cruise through the southern Mediterranean explores the lively ports of Italy, Tunisia, and Spain, visiting destinations such as the Amalfi Coast, Carthage, Valencia,

and Cagliari (pictured).

Also on sale is the 15-day 'Scandinavia & Baltic Capitals' voyage from Oslo to Copenhagen, or vice versa.

Prices start from \$13,595 per person in a veranda stateroom, with a companion flying for free for up to \$2,400.

Those booking by the end of Mar will receive \$500 shipboard credit for this cruise also.

Passengers will cruise the shores of the Baltic Sea, discovering the Estonian capital of Tallinn, and Latvia's capital Riga. *MS*

Murray solos deal

MURRAY River

Paddlesteamers is offering no solo surcharge on overnight cruises on the Murray River, with a saving of up to \$2,520.

The typical 60% solo surcharge has been scrapped on three-, four-, and seven-night cruises aboard *Emmylou* for Jan, Feb, and Jun.

Solo fares are available from \$1,800 for a three-night sailing - a saving of \$1,080; \$2,400 for a four-night cruise - a saving of \$1,440; and \$4,200 for a seven-night journey.

Cruise fares include all onboard meals, daily shore excursions, selected beers & wines with dinner, and more.

The offer is available until the end of the month, or until sold out.

Emmylou sails from Echuca, with each stateroom offering a private ensuite, air conditioning, and wi-fi.

Guests will enjoy gourmet meals on deck or in *Emmylou's* saloon, as well as riverside picnics, and a memorable campfire dinner on the riverbank under the stars.



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