



Cruise Weekly today

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

Crystal 2027 WC

CRYSTAL has announced its 2027 World Cruise, 'Stories of the South Seas', which will embark on a 140-night Pacific Rim journey across 29 countries, including Australia.

The cruise will visit four continents aboard *Crystal Serenity*, spanning more than 80 destinations in the Americas, the Pacific, Australia, and Asia.

The voyage, which departs from San Diego, opens for bookings on 27 Jan, with a wait list now available.

Passengers will cross the international date line twice, and visit destinations such as Tasmania, American Samoa, and Indonesia.

O captain! My captain! says Selar

CONSTRUCTION is underway on Selar's new luxury, low-emission polar cruise ship, *Captain Arctic* (render pictured), which is advertised to cut emissions by 90%.

The vessel's keel-laying ceremony took place in late Nov in the United Arab Emirates, marking the start of construction of the 70-metre hull, ahead of a projected Nov 2026 debut from Tromso, which are on sale now.

Selar is also advertising *Captain Arctic* cruises to Svalbard and Greenland, with voyages leading in from €6,780 per person.

The concept for the ship was developed by Selar Chief Executive Sophie Galvagnon, who has worked for decades in the shipping industry, including a period working for Ponant.

Galvagnon told the media she and her team spent the past two years designing *Captain Arctic*,



which will accommodate 36 passengers and 24 crew.

Captain Arctic will be powered by five, 35-metre-high retractable solar sails.

The design has been rendered by a number of other expedition cruise lines of late, such as HX (CW 14 Oct 2024) and Ponant (CW 30 Oct 2024), however Selar is believed to be the first to get such a project to build.

The sails will be made of

aluminum and fitted with 2,000m² of solar panels, along with shaft generators and batteries to store power.

Captain Arctic's onboard amenities will include a lounge, a restaurant, a gym, a sauna, as well as Zodiacs, kayaks, paddles, skis, snowshoes, snorkeling gear, and a science lab.

The project is a partnership between Goltens and Chantier Naval de l'Ocean Indien. MS

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Silversea WC 2025

SILVERSEA set sail from Tokyo on its 'Contempo' World Cruise earlier this week, which will immerse guests in almost 60 destinations over 136 days.

Guests arriving in Tokyo were treated to a taste of what's to come, with an airside meet and greet, and a Bon Voyage lunch celebration.

The cruise aboard *Silver Dawn* is split across nine segments, with guests set to visit 30 countries.

The voyage is also the first Silversea World Cruise to sail on a Muse-class ship.

"Our World Cruise guests will enjoy an enhanced onboard experience, including the best of our innovative S.A.L.T. culinary and Otium wellness programs," President Bert Hernandez said.

The cruise will feature a series of exclusive events offered only to World Cruise guests, such as 'Hoi An for Foodies' in Vietnam, which will include a sunset cruise along the river, followed by dinner; and 'Singapore: A Bird's Eye View', which will privatise the SkyPark Observation Deck exclusively for *Dawn* guests.

"Together with our exclusive signature events, which we have specially curated to give our guests an experience they can't get anywhere else, guests will explore the world in a new light," Hernandez said.

Some Unforgettable news



UNFORGETTABLE Croatia has unveiled an innovative new 'Yacht Cruise Collection', available on six sailings from Jun to Sep.

The voyages will depart from Split-Dubrovnik and vice versa, while there will also be a Zadar-Dubrovnik cruise.

The voyages will sail on board the 52-metre *Alfa Mario* mega-yacht (render **pictured**), which has capacity for just 28 guests.

Alfa Mario was built in 2021 and refitted in 2024, and features sleek interiors, complemented by extensive outdoor living space.

The sun deck offers a jacuzzi for relaxation, as well as loungers for all passengers; a fitness area with a mini gym; and a sauna.

Guests can also join morning yoga sessions led by the onboard yoga instructor.

Other features include a cinema room, and an onboard Beach Club with complimentary water sports, such as jet skis, foilboards, DPVs, kayaks, and paddleboards.

Itineraries for each departure will call at some of Croatia's most-loved destinations, such as Korcula, Hvar, and Vis, benefitting from access to smaller-ports not accessible onboard a larger ship.

Other calls include Trogir, Slano, and Sibenik, with passengers to explore the waterfalls of Krka National Park, visit former military sites, and enjoy local wines, oysters, and mussels.

Prices start from A\$6,450 per person based on double occupancy, which includes a seven-night cruise; breakfast, lunch, and two onboard dinners; live music and a yacht party; complimentary tea, coffee and water; a drink with onboard lunches and dinners; daily swim stops with use of premium water sport equipment; daily morning yoga classes; excursions including expert-guided tours, wine tasting and park entrance; private luxury arrival and departure transfers; and more - **CLICK HERE**. *MS*

Cunard wellness

CUNARD Line has introduced new *Harper's Bazaar* Wellness at Sea packages across three of its ships.

Each exclusive three-day program, 'Relax', 'Recover', and 'Energise', is priced at US\$629 per guest, and includes: a tailored selection of spa treatments, a premium range of ELEMIS products, and unique, nutritionally balanced dining options.

The packages, available on board *Queen Mary 2*, *Queen Elizabeth*, and *Queen Victoria*, are available to book on board with the ship's Spa Concierge.

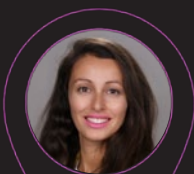
Meanwhile, the cruise line has also unveiled a new wellness-themed event voyage for next year.

The seven-night 'Norwegian Fjords' voyage is scheduled for 05 Jan on board *Queen Anne*, and will include a variety of wellness-themed experiences, such as classes, tailored spa treatments, and talks from expert speakers.

Furthermore, Cunard is also introducing a range of new plant-based menus across its fleet, developed in collaboration with noted vegetarian chef Paul Gayler.

The menus will aim to showcase the best plant-based cuisine at sea, drawing inspirations from destinations where vegetarianism is a way of life, such as the Middle East.

SPEAKERS



Nicola Veltman
CEO,
1000 Mile Travel



Steve Labroski
CEO,
itravel



Wendy Wu
Founder,
Wendy Wu Tours

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ONE avid cruiser has just celebrated his 1,000th sailing with Royal Caribbean (RCI), hitting the jaw-dropping milestone this week on board *Explorer of the Seas*.

Mario Salcedo (**pictured**), who goes by the nickname 'Super Mario', first began sailing with the cruise line in 1994 - and loved it so much he has never stopped.

A special event was held on *Explorer's* Royal Promenade to celebrate the occasion with Super Mario himself, along with the ship's senior staff.

"He has become a beloved member of our cruising family and Pinnacle Club member in our Crown & Anchor Society loyalty program," read the RCI daily onboard newsletter, *The Cruise Compass*.

"He has completed the most cruises on *Liberty of the Seas*, *Majesty of the Seas*, *Navigator of the Seas*, and this sailing marks his 54th cruise on *Explorer of the Seas*."

According to RCI, Salcedo spends around 50 weeks each year on its ships - talk about brand loyalty!



Papas joins Home Ex

TRAVEL industry business owner and educator Marissa Papas (**pictured**) is joining the speaker line-up for Home Ex, the new virtual event aimed at home-based travel advisors run by **CW's** sister title, *Travel Daily*.

The Connected Travel Managing Director will share how advisors can empower the next generation of home-based agents and discuss the new skills and knowledge required to succeed in the current environment.

Another new Home Ex speaker is people and cultural expert Gabrielle Roux from the Human Strategist, who will reveal how business leaders can cultivate a thriving remote workplace culture and engage their teams from anywhere in the world.

Business coach Cameron McDonald will also share how advisors can develop their leadership skills and offer actionable insights into how they can scale their leadership to drive business growth while maintaining balance.

Home Ex, taking place on 10 Mar, is a new on-demand virtual experience, aimed at home-based advisors and accessible to the entire travel industry.

Other speakers at Home Ex include Helloworld Chief Operating Officer Cinzia Burnes; industry legend Wendy Wu; itravel Chief Executive Officer Stevel Labroski; 1000 Mile Travel Group Chief Executive Officer Nicola Vletman; Home Travel Company's Robyn Sinfield; and Mike and Mandy Dwyer from Main Beach Travel.

More speakers will be



announced shortly.

Thanks to platinum sponsors CVFR, Expedia and Royal Caribbean, the event will be jam-packed with inspiring and practical learning videos from experts to help power up advisors' businesses.

Home Ex will also feature a virtual expo to facilitate conversations between suppliers and home-based agents.

All content will be available for six months for the industry to access at their leisure.

Home Ex is free to register for the whole industry - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

Partnership opportunities are also still available - **CLICK HERE** to learn more. *JHM*

Upshaw departing

OCEANIA Cruises Senior Vice President Global Sales Nikki Upshaw is departing, the line has announced.

The news was delivered in an email to advisors this week by President Frank Del Rio.



A big year for cruising

ALREADY, 2025 is shaping up to be a milestone year for cruising, with a record 37 million passengers forecast to sail globally over the next 12 months.

In response, cruise lines are ready with new ships, new itineraries, and new onboard experiences, all presenting fantastic opportunities for our travel agent community.

It's going to be a year of change and a year of innovation, and there are several clear trends we expect to continue.

One is the huge investment in new ships - there are more than a dozen spectacular new vessels scheduled for launch this year.

Another is the increasing demand for expedition cruising, opening up incredible destinations to explore.

Luxury cruising is a similar growth area, where we see strong demand for high-end vessels as well as premium ships with luxury "ship-within-a-ship" concepts.

Experiential travel, multi-generational travel, accessible travel, and new generations entering the market - all these trends present fantastic opportunities within cruising.

CLIA is ready to help agents understand and capitalise on these developments, starting with next month's Ocean Debut Virtual Showcase, outlining the new ships - get involved **HERE**.

