



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a full page from **Aurora Expeditions**.

A big polar prize

WIN an Antarctic expedition for two, as part of Aurora Expeditions' latest giveaway.

Those making a new booking with Aurora, including LATAM Airlines flights, can join the big polar giveaway.

The competition is open to those who deposit and book their client's next voyage between 01 Jun-30 Sep.

The top-selling trade partners with the highest number of bookings and revenue will have the chance to win the prize, which includes itineraries such as the 12-day 'Antarctic Explorer'.

Visit **page 4** of today's **Cruise Weekly** for more information.

Ponant heads to French Polynesia

PONANT Explorations has announced two new cruises in French Polynesia aboard *Le Jacques Cartier* next year.

The 15-day journeys will be available between Oct 2026 and Jan 2027, across 13 departures.

Le Jacques Cartier will set sail for some of the most remote and untouched archipelagos of Polynesia, such as the Pitcairn Islands, Gambier Islands and the Austral Islands, some with as few as 50 inhabitants.

One of the new itineraries will be 'Secret Polynesia from the Society to the Austral Islands', which will visit the Tuamotu Archipelago, the Gambiers, and the Australs.

The other sailing, 'From French Polynesia to Pitcairn Island', will visit the Tuamotus, the Gambiers, and Pitcairn Island, as well as tiny atolls and destinations such as Mataiva, Anaa, Hikueru, Rikitea,



and Aukena.

Both itineraries will round trip from Papeete, and are designed to be combined, allowing for back-to-backs.

Scuba diving is available on all itineraries, with a certified Ponant instructor on board.

Guests can also embark on the 'Polynesian Bliss: Marquesas, Tuamotu and Society Islands' sailing, while another itinerary, the 'Marquesas, Tuamotu and

Society Islands' voyage, is one of the landmark journeys of Ponant sister brand Paul Gauguin Cruises.

Ponant explained its new *Le Jacques Cartier* (pictured) cruises are designed to be complimentary to those offered by Paul Gauguin.

The cruise line, which is named after the 19th-century painter and sculptor, has exclusively cruised in French Polynesia since its inception in 2010. *MS*



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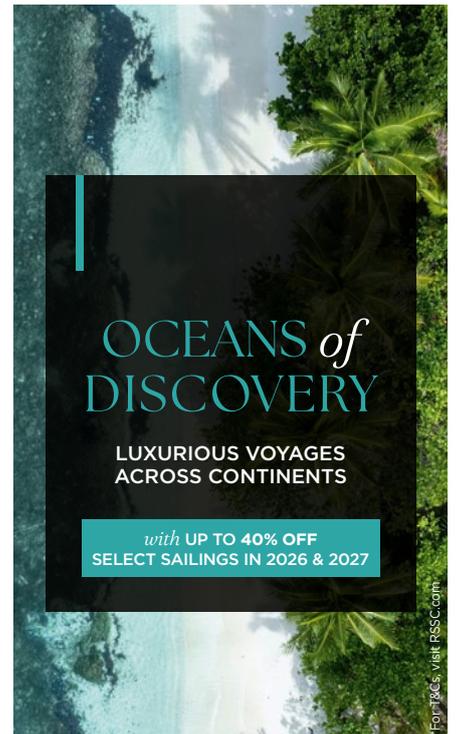
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UNRIVALLED *at sea*



Gildon to Azamara

FRAN Gildon (pictured) will today start a new position as Business Development Manager at Azamara Cruises.

Gildon will join the ocean line from Uniworld Boutique River Cruises, where she was National BDM.

She also brings experience from the broader tourism sector, having served as a Business Development Manager for Collette.



Royal bringing the Heat



ROYAL Caribbean is the newest partner of Queensland Cricket for the 2025-26 season, with the cruise line to feature prominently at Brisbane Heat games this upcoming campaign.

The squad's season ticketholders will make the most of the partnership with exclusive deals, sneak peek product updates, and weekend getaway giveaways, with Royal Caribbean signing up as the team's 'Official Holiday Partner'.

The cruise line will serve as the presenting partner of the Gabba Park 'Fan Zone', and will host the Royal Caribbean Countdown.

"We're excited to announce the coming together of two iconic brands, as we partner with the Brisbane Heat to create engaging and unforgettable fan experiences both on and off the field," Vice President & Managing Director Gavin Smith said.

"As Royal Caribbean prepares for the upcoming Australian

summer season of memory-making holidays, our goal is to provide unmatched experiences and entertainment to Queensland families," he said.

"We look forward to partnering with the Heat to create unforgettable moments this summer," Smith added.

Heat General Manager Commercial Marketing & Corporate Affairs Pete Lock noted the synergies between the cricket team and Royal Caribbean.

"The Heat brings families together every summer...it is a natural fit with Royal Caribbean, as it is also the peak time for travel," Lock said.

"We are very pleased to be on board with Royal Caribbean and look forward to working alongside them to make summer even more special for our Heat members and fans." *MS*

Pictured: *Voyager of the Seas*, which is set to return to Brisbane for the 2025-26 season.

G's Canada cruise

G ADVENTURES is inviting travellers to embark on its new 16-day, 'Iceland, Greenland, & Labrador Expedition - Europe to Canada' cruise.

The voyage, which departs in Jun, traces Iceland's southwestern coast, around the shoreline of Greenland, and to the stunning landscapes of Canada's Newfoundland and Labrador.

Cruisers will learn about the landscapes and wildlife through on-site lectures and briefings, while exploring the edges of an ice floe by Zodiac, whale watching, and walking the Arctic tundra.

The cruise is priced from \$12,699 - [CLICK HERE](#).

Cash is in the bag

ROYAL Caribbean Group has reportedly secured financing for Celebrity Cruises' sixth Edge-class ship, set to debut in 2028 (*CW* 23 Jan).

The vessel, currently with the working title 'Xcel 2', is being built at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard, now with the backing of Bpifrance Assurance Export.

The ship will include innovations seen throughout Celebrity's Edge class, such as the flagship Magic Carpet.

Book your beach

ROYAL Caribbean's first Beach Club, Paradise Island in the Bahamas, is available to book now.

Cruisers booked on a sailing visiting Nassau can purchase a day pass on the Royal Caribbean website.

The Beach Club will deliver an all-inclusive day of fun, with the location set to open in Dec.

Guests can soak up the sun at two pristine beaches and three pools, from laid-back vibes at The Deep End pool, to DJ-spun tunes at The Floating Flamingo, and more.

EOFY SAVINGS



ROYAL CARIBBEAN

HALF PRICE DEPOSITS*





PORTHOLE

A HERO father has jumped off a cruise ship into the water to save his daughter, who had fallen overboard.

The girl tumbled from the 14th deck of the ship on the weekend, with the father following her in afterward to rescue her.

Cheers could be heard from passengers as the two were safely recovered by one of the ship's rescue boats, with the pair only spending 10 minutes in the water.

Witnesses said the girl appeared to fall when her father took her picture against one of the ship's railings, as reported by the BBC.

A man overboard alert was broadcast on the ship, and crew rushed to recover them.

The ship was returning to Fort Lauderdale after sailing for four days around the Bahamas.

A new Approach

NATIONAL Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions and Approach Guides have expanded their partnership to offer travel advisors their own branded website.

The integration allows agents to share any Lindblad Expeditions site with real-time pricing and availability.

The cruise line was Approach Guides' first supplier partner in 2023.

Five of the best for NCL



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) was recently honoured with five National Travel Industry Award nominations, its most ever.

The quintet of gongs came across three categories, including the new category, Most Popular Reservations/Groups Team.

This award recognises the outstanding service, knowledge, and responsiveness of NCL's reservations unit (**pictured**) under the leadership of Director of Guest Services Camilla Inwood.

NCL has also been recognised in the Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator category, for the fourth consecutive year.

Meanwhile, three of NCL's highest-performing business development managers were recognised with a nomination: Brad Hanna (SA, WA, & Tasmania); Samantha Morgan (NSW South/ACT & Victoria North); and Craig McLaurin (Queensland South).

"These nominations are a

testament to the strength of our entire team - from our Sydney-based reservations centre and groups team to our recently expanded field sales and partnership relations teams, and reflect our commitment to being the easiest cruise line to do business with," Vice President & MD Ben Angell said.

"It's incredibly rewarding to be recognised among so many deserving peers in such a competitive industry and I couldn't be prouder."

The recognition comes on the heels of a strong start to the year for NCL, with first-quarter bookings surpassing the same period last year.

Demand remains robust across NCL's global destinations, including close-to-home favourites in Australia, the South Pacific, Asia, and New Zealand, as well as further afield in Europe, Alaska, and Hawaii. *MS*



Setting course for net-zero

THE cruise industry's path to net-zero by 2050 is our most important mission right now, and cruise lines are investing heavily in the technologies that will take us there.

Cruise ships are already sailing today with the ability to use fuels like methanol or biofuel, while others are exploring areas like hydrogen, fuel cell technology and hybrid solutions.

But we also need a similar focus on land to match the investment that operators are making at sea.

CLIA has united with other maritime industry partners internationally to call for the investment and policy settings needed to facilitate the global transition to alternative fuels - making them readily available, at scale, in a viable way.

Last week I joined my counterparts from other areas of shipping in Melbourne, where Maritime Industry Australia Ltd (MIAL) held its 5th Maritime Decarbonisation Summit.

I gave an update on cruising's global strength, and supported MIAL's call for the Australian Government to plan a supply path for net-zero fuels.

CLIA's advocacy efforts are focused on creating a positive future for our industry, so we can continue to thrive, sustainably.

It's a mission shared by other areas of the maritime sector, and together we are taking a united approach to net-zero.





The BIG Polar Giveaway

WIN AN ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION FOR TWO*

Make a new booking with Aurora Expeditions and LATAM flights for the chance to embrace the spirit of adventure on an Antarctica expedition*.

HOW TO ENTER:

Simply book and deposit your client's next voyage in conjunction with Latam flights between 01 June - 30 Sep 2025.

The top-selling trade partner with the highest number of bookings and revenue will have the chance to WIN one of two Antarctica expedition for two*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK, CONTACT AURORA EXPEDITIONS:

T: AU: 1800 637 688 | NZ: 0800 447 042

W: aurora-expeditions.com/au

*Terms and conditions apply: The exclusive incentive is open to active travel advisors in Australia and New Zealand, and we reserve the right to alter the prize should this not be available to purchase in your country of residence. The promotion is only available to active travel advisors, who book and deposit an Aurora expedition in conjunction with LATAM flights. LATAM flights can be booked separately with PNR details to be provided to Aurora Expeditions to be eligible. Promotion is subject to voyage availability at time of booking and is not combinable with any other incentive programs or offer. The prize will be awarded to the travel advisor who makes the highest number of bookings and revenue. The prize consists of an Antarctic expedition on the Antarctic Explorer 12-day voyage departing 17-28 March 2026 for 2 people accommodated in a twin stateroom on board the *Sylvia Earle*. The cruise prize is non-transferrable or redeemable for cash. Inclusions & exclusions are as outlined on the Aurora Expeditions website per chosen voyage. Optional activities will be at an additional cost and are subject to availability on request. Airfares and taxes are included and only available for departures from Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland to Punta Arenas and returning from Buenos Aires and on a LATAM operated aircraft. Flights to/from other cities (domestic or international) are at additional cost. Guest must travel together and be booked in the same stateroom and are limited to one guest per travel advisor. All bookings are subject to our full terms and conditions and must agree and sign our Code of Conduct policy. Offer is valid for new bookings made from 01 June to 30 September 2025. The winner will be notified via email on 8 October 2025. The winner will have 7 days to accept the prize and 30 days to confirm their booking. For more information contact your Aurora Expeditions Sales Director or Sales Support salesupport@auroraexpeditions.com.au



World's Leading Polar Expedition Operator in 2024 - World Travel Awards