

Cruise Weekly today

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

Not a Nice Mayor

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has spoken out against the recent actions of Mayor of Nice Christian Estrosi, who recently attempted to board a cruise ship docked in the French city without authorisation.

Estrosi tried to force Royal Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas* to leave Villefranche sur Mer on 03 Jul, despite the stopover having been approved by the Nice Metropolitan Authority.

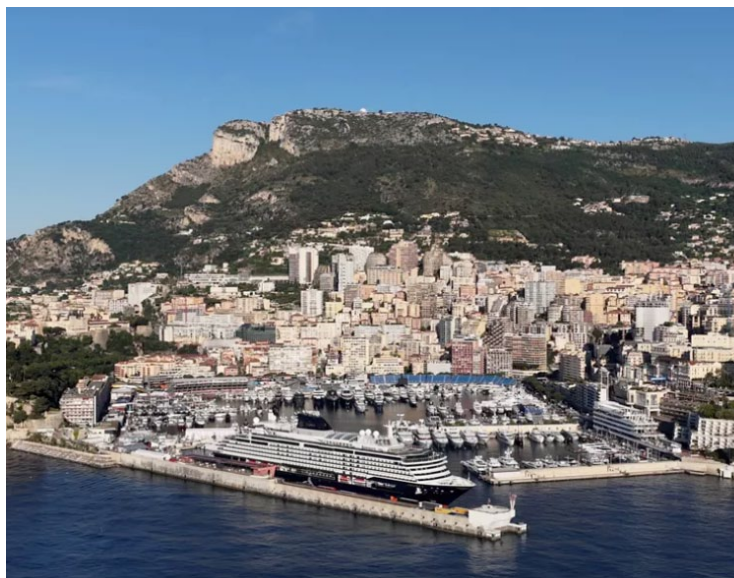
He was refused access by the 3,115-passenger vessel's captain, after approaching via a port police boat.

CLIA has since released a statement denouncing the Mayor's actions as "unlawful".

"While constructive dialogue with local authorities is central to CLIA's mission, access to ships in operation is strictly limited to registered passengers and crew members for safety and security reasons."

The industry body said that "deeply regrettable" conduct such as Estrosi's inhibits the cruise sector's efforts to foster collaborative relationships with municipalities that are "rooted in mutual respect, not threats".

Explora's social media move



EXPLORA Journeys has partnered with social media management platform Rallio to enhance the success of its travel advisors with the launch of a range of new digital tools.

The partnership will offer advisors complimentary access to a robust suite of digital marketing tools, enhancing their ability to promote and sell Explora.

Travel advisors will have access to Rallio's brand-approved content that can be scheduled and shared across their social media channels.

Rallio enables advance post planning, performance tracking, and ensures consistency in voice and visual identity.

Travel advisors in Australia, the

United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Germany will be the first to benefit from this exclusive offering, with additional markets to follow in the coming months.

The introduction of the partnership also builds upon Explora's association with Approach Guides, which enables advisors to share co-branded landing pages, ensuring that all client enquiries and bookings are directed to their business.

Explora also recently introduced its Travel Advisor Centre, a fully integrated ecosystem housing advisor-centric resources, which offer education, support, and marketing excellence tailored for the luxury travel segment.

"Our travel partners are at the heart of our growth strategy," Explora Journeys President Anna Nash explained.

"By investing in easy-to-use tools that reflect the same care and precision as our ocean journeys, we are enabling our partners to thrive in today's luxury travel landscape and capitalise on the potential it presents," she added.

"Together, we are shaping the future of luxury ocean travel - beautifully, seamlessly, and successfully," Nash said. *MS*

Explore Galapagos

AUSTRALIAN travel advisors are being given the chance to win a Galapagos adventure with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions.

As part of the brand's Expedition Masters initiative, five spots are up for grabs on the 10-day 'Exploring Galapagos' sailing aboard *National Geographic Gemini*, departing 20 Mar 2026.

There are several ways to earn a stateroom, including tuning into the Destination Webinar series on 10, 17, 24 and 31 Aug, with 50 points available per webinar.

Advisors can also earn 30 points per module when they complete Expedition 360 online training modules, and 50 points when they join the Trade Facebook Group National Geographic Lindblad Expeditions AU Advisor Updates, **HERE**.

Each new booking made for 2026 or beyond will earn 200 points, while bookings for new 2025 departures will secure 300 points, with the more points accrued by 07 Oct, the better the chance of winning - find out more **HERE**.

New Azamara BDM

AZAMARA has made another appointment to its sales team, with Justin Southern joining the cruise line as a national BDM.

The long-serving travel industry professional brings more than 30 years of experience in the sector to Azamara, including roles with BIG4 Holiday Parks, Virgin Voyages, and Nat Geo-Lindblad Expeditions.

Southern joins another newly appointed BDM, Fran Gildon, who will specifically oversee New South Wales, as well as New Zealand (*CW* 02 Jul).

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THE classic transatlantic voyage is on the bucket list of many lovers of the sea, but usually it's not like this.

A 21-year-old woman, Zara Lachlan, recently became the youngest person to ever row across the Atlantic Ocean, earning a number of world records in the process.

Lachlan rowed more than 7,000 kilometres across the Atlantic, setting out from Lagos, Portugal, in her 7.3-metre boat.

Her trip concluded in French Guinea and took her 97 days, 10 hours, and 20 minutes - a trip which also saw her become the youngest woman to row solo across any ocean.

Dover building bridges for cruising

THE port of Dover in England's east will continue its transformation into a major cruise hub, with a new boarding system (**pictured**) to be installed at Cruise Terminal 1.

A new accessible boarding bridge is expected to be in operation by the 2027 season, allowing for a more seamless boarding process.

The latest upgrade comes two months after Dover announced plans to cater to cruise ships up to 350 metres long on the back of new mooring infrastructure.

Port of Dover Head of Cruise Peter Wright said he is excited to see such a major change coming to the port only a year after the facility unveiled its long-term Master Plan through to 2050.

"Expanding our cruise capacity is central to that vision, and this latest step on the journey will deliver a much-improved



experience for guests," he said.

The cruise line is already taking note of Dover's intentions, with Holland America recently returning to the UK with *Nieuw Statendam* currently sailing itineraries to the British Isles, Scandinavia and Northern Europe

from the port (**CW** 05 May).

Once operational, the new bridge will see Dover able to cater to larger ships, putting it on par with Southampton.

Mobility firm TK Elevator has been tasked with designing and installing the new bridge. **ML**

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MSC's wheely big partnership



MSC Cruises has become an official partner of Tudor Pro Cycling through to the end of the 2027 season.

The partnership will see MSC arrive at this year's Tour de France, which began on Sat.

It was officially unveiled ahead of the cycling race's team presentation in Lille before the 'grand depart', when competitors take off on the first stage.

MSC will have strong visibility across the Tudor Pro Cycling Team's kit during its first campaign at the Tour de France.

The line's branding featured prominently on rider jerseys as well as on team equipment, including support vehicles.

The move is MSC's first involvement in the world of professional cycling, and the latest sports partnership for the cruise line, which also includes

Formula 1, and some of the world's leading soccer clubs.

"We are proud to partner with the Tudor Pro Cycling Team as the official main partner at the start of this exciting new chapter for the team as they are participating for the first time in the world's biggest cycling event," Executive Chair Pierfrancesco Vago said.

"We look forward to supporting the team as they race across the world - introducing our brand to a new global audience that follows this exciting international sport.

"Team sports, such as this, reflect our commitment to delivering outstanding experiences driven by teamwork, excellence, and passion."

Tudor Pro Cycling Chief Executive Officer Raphael Meyer said the team is honoured to have MSC's support during its first Tour de France. MS

New Qld port chief

GLADSTONE Ports Corporation has announced Andrew Johnson as its new Chief Executive, effective Sep. Currently the CEO of the Bureau of Meteorology, Johnson has delivered major technology, infrastructure and construction programs in Australia and overseas.

"This appointment is fundamental to the Board's focus on strengthening GPC's core business, ensuring long-term stability and delivering results," commented GPC Chair Maree Adshead.

Have it All with HAL

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has launched its 'Have It All' early booking bonus campaign for 2026 and beyond, targeting the nine-to-12 month booking curve prevalent Down Under.

Australians can now save up to 60% on premium inclusions when they book select 2026 and 2027 cruises until the end of Oct.

Top add-ons as part of the savings include up to US\$300 shore excursion credit, up to three nights of specialty dining and prepaid 'crew appreciation' gratuities, as well as an upgrade to the elite beverage package and premium wi-fi on board.



FOR SALE: two well-established Australian travel publications.

Signature Media is exploring the sale of two of its popular consumer travel titles in order to re-focus on our core publications. This offers a unique opportunity to acquire and further develop these highly respected publications, and we'd love to find them an excellent home.

Vacations & Travel

Established over 41 years: Australia's longest-running consumer travel magazine and a trusted source of travel inspiration and information for Australian travellers. Full suite of established digital platforms.



Ski & Snowboard

Operating for over 19 years: originally launched as Ski & Snowboard with Kids, expanded in 2025 to serve the wider snow travel market. Editorial focus: Global ski destinations, gear reviews and expert advice.



For confidential discussions and further information, please contact Tom Green.
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