

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **HX**.

Sail free with HX

SELL three and sail free as part of HX's biggest giveaway ever, celebrating the cruise line's 130th anniversary.

HX is giving away 130 adventures to lucky travel advisors, in destinations such as Antarctica, the Galapagos, Greenland, Alaska, and more.

Those who make three bookings between 01 Jul and 31 Oct can sail for free on a HX expedition with a guest.

The offer is valid for new FIT bookings departing from 2025-2027.

Prizes are limited, and are non-transferrable - see more details on **page 5**.

Deck the hulls with bows of holly

CARNIVAL Cruise Line and The Grinch spread Christmas in Jul cheer for Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF) patients this week.

A display of fun, games, activities, and a visit from the Grinch himself took place yesterday in Sydney Harbour, showcasing Carnival's Grinchmas in July experience aboard the cruise line's *Carnival Splendor*.

Guests gathered for the magical lighting of the towering Christmas tree on board *Splendor*, complete with a flurry of festive 'snow'.

Families took part in Grinchmas carols, games, and crafts, enjoyed a special storytime reading of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and met beloved Dr. Seuss characters, including The Grinch, Thing 1 & Thing 2, and The Cat in the Hat.

The celebration was topped off with a delicious spread of



Grinchmas-inspired food and drinks, leaving attendees' spirits merry and bright.

The cruise line also announced the return of Grinchmas in July for next year, with four sailings per ship aboard *Splendor*, as well as *Carnival Adventure* and *Carnival Encounter*.

The Grinchmas sailings will depart from Sydney and Brisbane starting from 02 Jul 2026, and are available to book now.

The brand's guests have raised

nearly \$500k to help provide world-class healthcare to almost 170k kids each year across the SCHF, as well as more than \$100k over the past 12 months. **MS**

Pictured handing over this year's good work are: The Grinch; Senior VP & Country Manager Peter Little; *Splendor* Cruise Director Michelle O'Callaghan; Senior Director Sales & Marketing Anton Loeb; and SCHF Director of Corporate Giving & Signature Events Rhiahne Ralph.



VIKING



See website for T&Cs

Start early, stay longer.
JOURNEY FURTHER

*Add an extension to any new
2026-2028 booking before
1 September 2025 and save your
client up to \$4,800 per couple on river
voyages, or up to \$3,000 per couple on
ocean and expedition voyages.*

CLICK HERE

To book call 138 747 or book online at viking.com/travel-advisor



Cunard witnessing luxury booking boom

LUXURY bookings are driving strong trading for Cunard Line, following the brand's 2027 program launch (**CW** 12 Jun).

Cunard has reported a significant uplift in demand, with a 55% increase in nights booked over the program's first week of availability, compared to the equivalent period for the launch of next year's season.

There has been a notable surge in demand for Cunard's most exclusive luxury staterooms, with bookings for queens grill and princess grill suites rising by more than 100% compared to the same launch period last year.

Queen Mary 2's transatlantic crossings also continue to perform strongly, remaining one of Cunard's most popular routes around the world.

President Katie McAlister said Cunard is delighted with the response to its 2027 launch.



"It's wonderful to see so many guests choosing to sail with us, and the rise in bookings shows just how much people continue to value the Cunard experience.

"Demand for our queens grill and princess grill suites has been especially strong globally, which tells us that more guests are

seeking the space, service, and thoughtful details that make our luxury grill suites so special."

Cunard's latest program of voyages boasts 195 new itineraries across its fleet, visiting 115 destinations in more than 30 countries between Apr 2027 and Jan 2028. *MS*

CCL revenue head

RENEE Branton-Brown will be returning to Carnival Corporation as Director of Onboard Revenue.

Branton-Brown previously worked for Carnival for almost three years, based out of Florida, where she served as the company's Entertainment Operations Manager and Manager of Entertainment Revenue & Marketing.

She has since spent almost a decade with Journey Beyond, most recently as Cruise Whitsundays GM.

"A heartfelt thank you to everyone at Journey Beyond for the memories, the unforgettable experiences, and the lifelong friendships," Branton-Brown told her LinkedIn followers.

"Saying goodbye wasn't easy, but I leave feeling proud of everything we achieved."

FULL CIRCLE ICELAND ARCTIC 2026



BOOK YOUR CLIENTS NOW

Townsville set to make waves this season

TOWNSVILLE is set to make waves this cruise season, with a record 26 ships scheduled to call in the north-eastern city.

The season will include seven large vessels, as well as two overnight stays, allowing two days of exploration of the region.

The season officially kicked off on Thu with the arrival of Oceania Cruises' *Regatta* (pictured), carrying more than 600 pax.

Another highlight will be the arrival of luxury residential ship *The World* in Dec.

More than 31,000 passengers will visit Townsville throughout the 2025/2026 season, injecting more than \$9.5 million into the local economy.

Ships will arrive in Townsville from Jul through to Apr 2026, with the port's CEO Ranees Crosby saying the facility is ready to welcome more visitors and bigger cruise ships than ever before.



"With the practical completion of our \$251 million 'Channel Upgrade' project earlier this year, cruise ships longer than 238 metres can now safely access our port," she said.

"Some of these large-class

cruise ships can carry up to 3,000 guests, which is triple the number of guests we've previously welcomed from a single ship.

"It's a significant boost not just for the port, but the entire region as well." MS

NCL cancellations

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is reportedly cancelling more than 40 sailings that were scheduled to depart on *Norwegian Breakaway* and *Norwegian Prima* between Nov 2026 and Mar 2027.

The decision was made to due to "a fleet redeployment initiative", Norwegian said.

Impacted passengers will receive a full refund of the paid cruise fare, as well as a 10 percent discount for future bookings.

Norwegian is expected to announce replacement deployments at a later date.

Breakaway was scheduled to operate seven-night cruises to the Southern Caribbean, sailing to San Juan and calling into Aruba, Curacao, Barbados, St. Thomas and Tortola.

Prima was set for weeklong cruises from New Orleans.



ROYAL
CARIBBEAN

EOFY SAVINGS

HALF PRICE DEPOSITS*



T&C'S APPLY



A WOMAN called Courtney Murley has been banned for life by Carnival for posting a video on TikTok boasting about the booze she had smuggled on board in her toiletries bag.

"[Definitely] waited until after I got home to post this...but it worked," she said.

"Forget a drink package... okay, we ended up drinking probably what we would [have] paid for a drink package anyway, but [it] still was fun to try and see if the rum runners would work."

The video attracted 400,000 views - and a lifetime ban from the cruise line.

Obviously, she posted a video showing viewers the letter.

Murley now claims that the video was "satire", that the liquids in the video were actually apple juice and that she had legally brought two bottles of wine on board.

Shoot for the Star

SHOOT for the *Star* - Princess Cruises' *Star Princess*, that is - with an incentive the line is holding with Singapore Airlines across the next two months.

Those booking a Princess cruise with a Singapore flight in Jun, Jul, and Aug will have the chance to win a one-week Mediterranean getaway on the cruise line's upcoming ship *Star* later this year.

ABB the king of Royal's fleet



ABB has signed a 15-year fleet service agreement with Royal Caribbean Group to enhance the fleet's efficiency and strengthen its decarbonisation.

The agreement includes preventive maintenance and digital solutions, as well as optimising propulsion operations for Royal Caribbean's 33 ships equipped with Azipods.

ABB has also committed to help Royal Caribbean improve vessel safety, maximise fleet availability, and ensure fast turnaround times for servicing.

"Our collaboration with Royal Caribbean Group spans nearly three decades, beginning with the installation of Azipod propulsion on one of the world's largest cruise ships at the time," ABB President Marine & Ports Juha Koskela said.

"Since then, we've partnered on numerous pioneering projects.

"This service agreement marks an important milestone in our journey together and highlights

the critical role of ABB's solutions in modernising and maintaining the performance of one of the world's most innovative cruise fleets," he added.

Royal Caribbean Group Executive VP & Head of Marine Pallo Laursen believes the agreement "exemplifies how a shared commitment to innovation can unlock new opportunities to improve progress toward ship performance goals". *MS*

Crystal financing

CRYSTAL has secured financing for its two high-end cruise ships, as part of its fleet expansion program.

The two vessels will each accommodate 650 passengers, featuring all-suite accommodations with private verandahs as well as single occupancy categories for solo travellers, plus what is claimed to be one of the highest crew-to-passenger ratios in luxury.

Viking weekly deal

SAVE up to \$3,000 per couple on Viking's 'Mediterranean Iconic Shores' voyage from Barcelona to Istanbul, or vice versa.

The cruise is priced from \$24,095 per person in a deluxe veranda stateroom, with couples who purchase one or more pre- or post-cruise extension able to save \$3,000 - call 138 747.




CruiseHQ

EOFY SALE

Earn your EOFY bonus with select cruise line partners. Enjoy **bonus commission** and **\$50 rewards** exclusively through CruiseHQ.

Book and deposit before 31 July, 2025*



*T&Cs apply

Sell 3, **Sail Free**

OUR **BIGGEST GIVEAWAY** EVER!

To celebrate our 130th Anniversary, we're giving away 130 adventures*



ANTARCTICA

Make 3 bookings between 1 July and 31 October,
and you and a guest can sail for free on one of our expeditions.

GÁLAPAGOS



GREENLAND



ALASKA



AND MORE!



EXPEDITIONS

Change the way you see the world

ALASKA | ANTARCTICA | GALÁPAGOS | GREENLAND | NORTHWEST PASSAGE | NORWAY | SVALBARD

*Offer valid for new FIT HX bookings departing in 2025, 2026, or 2027. Three deposited bookings must be made between 1 July and 31 October 2025 to qualify. Prizes are limited, non-transferable, and awarded on a first come, first served basis following validation. Full terms available at agentportal.travelhx.com. By submitting an entry, you agree to these Terms and Conditions.

Scan the QR Code
to log your 3 bookings

Visit agentportal.travelhx.com or
contact us via (AU) 1300 159 127
(NZ) 03 288 2085 to learn more.

