

Cruise Weekly today

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

A Star is set to rise

STAR of the Seas has officially joined Royal Caribbean's fleet, with construction on the ship complete and the keys officially handed over to the cruise line.

The ship is now one step closer to her debut next month from Port Canaveral, following nearly two years of construction at the Meyer Turku shipyard in Finland.

More than 1,000 crew members and partners gathered to mark the milestone in *Star's* next-level AquaTheater, including Royal Caribbean Group President Jason Liberty and Royal Caribbean CEO Michael Bayley.

Allura delivered as Oceania adds two more ships

OCEANIA Cruises has taken delivery of its eighth ship, the 1,200-guest *Allura* (pictured), built at Fincantieri in Genoa.

The new ship is the second in Oceania's *Allura*-class, following her sister ship *Vista*, which was launched in May 2023 (CW 09 May 2023).

"*Allura* is our most innovative and luxurious ship to date," Oceania Chief Luxury Officer Jason Montague declared.

"She represents our bold vision for an entirely new generation of luxury travel experiences."

Allura aims to continue Oceania's legacy as the world's leading culinary-focused luxury cruise line with new dining venues, menus, and more.

Among the new offerings on board is the Creperie, serving delicate desserts; while *Allura* will also return Oceania's signature French restaurant Jacques,



named for Jacques Pepin, the cruise line's first-ever executive culinary director.

Many of the new culinary developments debuting on *Allura* will be rolled out across the fleet during the remainder of this year and into 2026.

Meanwhile, Montague also announced at *Allura's* delivery ceremony that two further ships from Oceania's upcoming Sonata-class will join the fleet in 2032 and 2035.

The vessels, previously ordered as options, have now been confirmed, and will also be built

at Fincantieri.

The class will debut with the arrival of the namesake *Sonata* in 2027 (CW 06 Jun), followed by her sister ship *Arietta* in 2029.

Each vessel will carry approximately 1,390 guests.

"We are proud to continue our legacy of innovation alongside Fincantieri, our shipbuilding partner for close to 20 years," Montague added.

"These four Sonata-class ships will herald the next stage in the evolution of the Oceania Cruises brand of exceptional small-ship luxury experiences." MS

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Anderson to Atlas

FORMER Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection sales head Kristian Anderson (**pictured**) has joined Atlas Ocean Voyages as Executive Vice President of Global Sales.

Anderson brings a wealth of experience to Atlas from brands such as Ritz-Carlton, as well as Silversea and Uniworld Boutique River Cruises.

"It is an exciting time at Atlas Ocean Voyages and our travel advisor partners as we continue to raise the bar on the guest experience and elevate our brand, now adding Kristian Anderson to the executive team," President & Chief Executive Officer James Rodriguez said.

"His leadership position in the trade community is a welcome addition to our team of cruise veterans."



TIME to apply

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has provided a Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) scholarship for a passionate travel professional to kick start their career later this year.

The scholarship offers an opportunity to gain invaluable mentorship through the TIME program, with guidance from a seasoned adviser.

The recipient will receive support, wisdom, and guidance to elevate their career to the next level.

All Australian members of the travel industry are eligible, with the program beginning 29 Oct - [CLICK HERE](#)

Two RSSC ships Down Under



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has launched more than 200 new sailings as part of its 2027-28 Voyage Collection.

The season includes almost 20 maiden ports of call, three 'Immersive Overnights' itineraries, five 'Grand Voyages', and a 133-night world cruise.

Spanning Australia, the season will also visit Africa & Arabia, Alaska, Asia, Canada & New England, the Caribbean & Panama Canal, the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, South America, the South Pacific, and more.

The highlight of RSSC's Australia program will be a 32-night circumnavigation of the country, round tripping from Sydney aboard *Seven Seas Mariner*.

Six voyages Down Under will also see guests visit Darwin, Perth, and Penneshaw, as well as Wellington, Christchurch, Rotorua, Dusky Sound, and Doubtful Sound in New Zealand, with *Mariner* to be joined by *Seven Seas Splendor* (**pictured**).

The collection also features three journeys through Africa and Arabia, 10 transoceanic crossings, and 60 overnight stays in destinations such as Lima, Reykjavik, and Rio de Janeiro.

Guests can explore new destinations for RSSC, including Nanaimo, Yeosu, Scrabster, and San Andres in Colombia.

The season will also see highly anticipated new ship *Seven Seas Prestige* set sail on her first full

season, which is already heavily booked (**CW** yesterday).

Travellers can enjoy more than 40 journeys through Northern Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Caribbean.

Prestige will sail from iconic ports including Barcelona, London, Rome, Athens, Miami, New York City, Los Angeles, and Panama City.

Aussie pax who book by the end of next month can take advantage of a low 7.5% deposit.

Guests can pre-register for the new season **HERE**, with reservations officially opening on 24 Jul. *MS*

Viking India bound

A NEW 15-day itinerary along the Brahmaputra River in India will be introduced by Viking in late 2027.

Combining land and sea, the itinerary incorporates an eight-day river cruise onboard the new *Viking Brahmaputra*, currently under construction.

The ship will cater to 80 passengers across 40 outside staterooms and is being designed with a shallow draft especially for the Northeast Indian river.

Each room will feature floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors opening to a verandah, with the vessel also offering an open-air sky bar on the top deck and a fitness centre.

Operating round-trip from Delhi, cruisers will sail between Guwahati and Nimati Ghat, with a further seven-day land portion of the itinerary also taking in the country's major sights in Agra and Jaipur.

Thirteen tours are included, taking guests to 10 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, while a range of pre- and post-extensions are also available.

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A MAN who quit his job to set sail with his cat to Hawaii has arrived in the island state to cheering fans.

Oliver Widger, quit his job and liquidated his retirement savings to set sail on a weekslong journey to Hawaii, according to the AP.

Widger set sail with his cat Phoenix, documenting his journey on social media.

Upon arriving in Hawaii, he was greeted by the state's Governor Josh Green, as well as a crowd of fans.

The former tyre company employee was diagnosed four years ago with a syndrome that carried a risk of paralysis, making him realise he disliked his job.

He resigned with little more than a goal of buying a sailboat and sailing around the world - step one accomplished.

Widger said after he carries out repairs to his boat, he next plans to sail the Pacific.

Lindblad's double date



NATIONAL Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions has celebrated a double ship naming ceremony in the Galapagos Islands, welcoming *National Geographic Delfina* and *National Geographic Gemini* into its fleet (**pictured**).

The dual naming ceremony took place in Academy Bay in the heart of the Galapagos, where the Lindblad team met with guests, local dignitaries, and community members to witness the ceremonial christening.

Members of the shipboard teams and their children were honoured during the bottle-breaking ceremony, underscoring Lindblad's long-standing commitment to the local community and dedication to preserving the region for generations to come.

Gemini is a "mission-built", 48-guest expedition ship, featuring 28 ocean-facing staterooms, including suites with private balconies.

Offering spacious accommodation options, *Gemini* plays host to a fitness centre and spa, a whirlpool hot tub with panoramic views, and a casual al fresco cafe.

The ship is also equipped with a fleet of Zodiacs, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, and snorkelling gear, and other tools

for exploration.

Meanwhile, *Delfina* is a sleek, 30m luxury catamaran designed for immersive explorations.

Accommodating just 16 guests in eight well-appointed staterooms, *Delfina* is suited to families and friendship groups.

Guests can enjoy panoramic views from the open-air observation deck, dine al fresco, and take advantage of state-of-the-art exploration tools like Zodiacs and other water sports equipment, while exploring the archipelago alongside veteran expedition staff.

The two ships arrive from Celebrity Cruises, where they formerly operated as *Celebrity Xpedition* and *Celebrity Xploration* (**CW** 13 Jun 2024). **MS**

Patriot-ic news

AMERICAN Cruise Line celebrated Independence Day with the christening of *American Patriot* in Newport.

The ship is the first vessel in American's new Patriot-class, a fleet of new 130-passenger ships, which will include *American Pioneer*, *American Maverick*, and *American Ranger*, when they launch later in 2025 and early 2026.

Patriot's christening festivities included cruise guests, community members, and officials from Sail Newport, as well as a small group of American's executives and crew members.

Cruise passengers and christening attendees gathered on *Patriot's* top deck for the official blessing and ceremonial bottle smash, followed by a traditional New England clambake at Fort Adams State Park.

Patriot features four decks, private balcony staterooms and suites, a chart room, and spacious lounges, including a top deck lounge.

Metal cruise change

THE world's biggest heavy metal cruise, '70,000 Tons of Metal', will now sail from Miami to the Bahamas next year, aboard Royal Caribbean's *Freedom of the Seas*.

The cruise was originally planned to return to Haiti, with the change made "out of an abundance of caution".



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