

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news, including a photo page from **Adventure World**, plus a full page from **HX**.

HX free upgrades

FREE suite upgrades and exclusive prices to Antarctica and other destinations are all available as part of HX's 130th anniversary sale.

Passengers can get up to 25% off until 31 Aug on select HX cruises departing through to the end of Mar 2027.

A suite for the price of a superior cabin is also available on selected HX departures between 24 Oct 2025 and 31 Mar 2027 on *Roald Amundsen*, *Fridtjof Nansen*, and *Fram*.

Head to **page 6** for more information on the sale.

Cruise nominees abound at NTIA '25

VIKING and Uniworld Boutique River Cruises will attempt to defend their National Travel Industry Award (NTIA) titles for a third year running, with both lines nominated for their category's major gong.

The two cruise lines are nominated for the 'Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator' and 'Most Popular River Cruise Operator' award respectively, joined by 17 other brands put forward in the two categories.

Viking (**pictured**) took out the ocean accolade for a second consecutive year in 2024 (**CW** 28 Oct), and will battle it out to be a 2025 finalist against Celebrity Cruises; Crystal; HX; MSC Cruises; Lindblad Expeditions; Norwegian Cruise Line; Oceania Cruises; Princess Cruises; Quark Expeditions; Royal Caribbean; Silversea; and Virgin Voyages.

Meanwhile, Uniworld will also



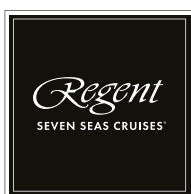
attempt to retain its crown, against AmaWaterways; APT; Avalon Waterways; Emerald Cruises; Tauck; and Viking, which like last year, has been nominated in both categories.

Other high achievers include Cruiseco, which was put forward for both the 'Most Outstanding Wholesaler - Product/Service' and 'Most Popular Reservations/Groups Team' awards.

Cruiseabout was recognised in the 'Most Outstanding Branded Leisure Travel Agency' category,

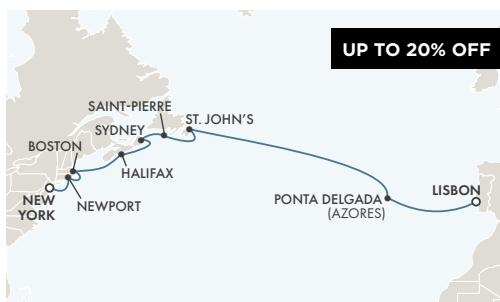
and the 'Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign' class.

There are also 30 nominees for the 'Most Outstanding Sales Executive - Cruise' award, while other nominees from around the sector include Cruise Guru ('Most Outstanding Online Travel Agency'); CruiseHQ ('Most Outstanding Wholesaler - Product/Service'); Norwegian ('Most Popular Reservations/Groups Team'); and CLIA ('Most Outstanding Travel Industry Training Program'). *MS*



LUXURIOUS VOYAGES ACROSS CONTINENTS

LET YOUR CLIENTS SAVOUR THE JOURNEY WITH UP TO 40% OFF



UP TO 20% OFF

HISTORY ON
THE HORIZON

LISBON TO NEW YORK

Seven Seas Splendor®

DURATION
14
NIGHTS

DEPARTS
23 AUG
2026

UP TO
68
EXCURSIONS

ALL-INCLUSIVE CRUISE FARE WAS NOW
DELUXE VERANDA from..... ~~AU\$14,770pp~~ AU\$11,816pp

always INCLUDED

UNLIMITED SHORE EXCURSIONS | SPECIALITY DINING | UNLIMITED DRINKS | PRE-PAID GRATUITIES
UNLIMITED ACCESS TO SPA FACILITIES | UNLIMITED WIFI | VALET LAUNDRY SERVICE
24-HOUR ROOM SERVICE and more

DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT



OCEANS of
DISCOVERY

LUXURIOUS VOYAGES
ACROSS CONTINENTS

with UP TO 40% OFF
SELECT SAILINGS IN 2026 & 2027

For T&Cs, visit RSSC.com

UNRIVALLED at sea™

Star of the show

PRINCESS Cruises has unveiled a fresh entertainment line-up for its newest Sphere-class ship, *Star Princess*, which sets sail this Oct.

Guests will be regaled with two original theatrical productions, a candlelight concert series under the stars, and an ensemble of global performers from 24 countries.

The program includes the new *Meridian* production, described as “a sweeping, cinematic spectacle of longing and liberation, set to a lush original score and reimagined chart-toppers”.

In the glass-enclosed Dome atop the ship, guests can also enjoy the Princess Cruises Candlelight Concert Series of live performances blending cinematic storytelling with musical artistry.

Additionally, premiering exclusively on board *Star Princess*, is Celestial Champagne Soiree, an evening event that combines immersive light, sound, and visual storytelling.

“We’re not just putting on shows; we’re crafting moments that will stay with guests long after the final curtain,” said Vice President of Hotel Operations & Guest Experience, Lorna Warren.

Star Princess will be the third ship to sail for the cruise line under her name.

A Nice outcome for cruise

THE calamitous scenes in Nice last week (**CW** 07 Jul) will not be repeated, the cruise sector has been assured, following a roundtable between industry stakeholders and local officials.

The discussion followed the stunning actions of Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi earlier that week, who had attempted to board a locally docked cruise ship without authorisation in order to expel her.

Bringing together regional authorities, port stakeholders, and Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) at the local Alpes-Maritimes Prefecture in Nice (**pictured**), with the cruise sector received a guarantee of port access and safety coordination for the remainder of the season.

Other key outcomes included the launch of structured dialogue between local authorities and the cruise sector, and reaffirmed support for the smooth continuation of operations during the current season, CLIA said.

“The roundtable held on Fri 11 Jul at the Alpes-Maritimes Prefecture marked a positive and constructive step forward,” a statement from CLIA read.

“Representatives from the economic, maritime, and political sectors agreed to launch a consultation process beginning in Sep to discuss the conditions for welcoming cruise ships.

“What we welcome in this



initiative is the start of a collective dialogue aimed at identifying practical solutions that will enable the sector to continue operating in the region with clarity and confidence - while also safeguarding the fundamental principles of free trade and freedom of movement.”

Estrosi’s efforts last week saw him issued with a temporary injunction by a local administrative court (**CW** 15 Jul).

The opinionated mayor has made no efforts to hide his distaste for the cruise sector in the past, moving to ban ships from docking in Nice (**CW** 24 Jan).

“We operate within a clear legal framework, and it is essential that this framework remains consistent and predictable for everyone involved,” CLIA said following the court’s decision.

“We trust that these legal decisions will help bring clarity and reassurance, and we sincerely hope they mark the beginning of a more balanced and collaborative approach - one that upholds the rule of law and where local discussions are guided by dialogue rather than unilateral measures.” *MS*

Asuka III christened

WHAT is said to be Japan’s “largest cruise ship ever”, *Asuka III*, has officially been named at her home port of Yokohama (**CW** 21 Jan).

Japanese shipping company Nippon Yusen (NYK Line) recently christened the 230m-long newbuild at the Osanbashi Int’l Passenger Terminal in Yokohama.

Asuka III, which is the first Japanese-commissioned cruise ship in around 30 years, was then bunkered with liquefied natural gas at the Chuo Wharf in Hakata a few days later.

She (**pictured**) is scheduled to embark on her maiden voyage on 20 Jul, after which she will join her sister ship, *Asuka II*, marking the first time that the company will operate two cruise vessels at the same time.

The ship is expected to visit 30 ports throughout Japan, in addition to Yokohama.

She is considered to be the first Japanese-flagged vessel of its type to have been fitted with both a dynamic positioning system and pod propulsion systems, as well as the first in the country to be able to use shore power.



EOFY SAVINGS

**HALF
PRICE
DEPOSITS***



Thursday 17th July 2025

Lindblad's night at the Australian Museum

LAST week, top agents and their clients gathered at the Australian Museum for a special evening hosted by Adventure World Managing Director Neil Rodgers and Lesa Bain, Vice President, National, Strategic and International Accounts at Lindblad Expeditions.

The event celebrated meaningful partnerships and a shared commitment to conservation through travel.

Guests were welcomed by Kim McKay AO, CEO of the Australian Museum, and heard a compelling presentation from Dr Greta Frankham about ShellBank, a pioneering initiative supported by Lindblad Expeditions. This genetic 'bank' helps scientists track marine turtles' origins and migrations, aiding conservation efforts across ocean boundaries.



CAM McDonell, Lindblad Expeditions with Martin Cummings and Chris Cook, Elite Travel & Cruise.

NEIL Rodgers, Adventure World Managing Director with Kim McKay AO, Australian Museum Director & CEO.



LAURA-JEAN Lyons, CruiseHQ; Kim Ryan, CruiseHQ; Elizabeth Glover, Adventure World; and Carina Mullen, CruiseHQ.



ELIZABETH Glover, Cam McDonell, Lubica Sibikova, Lesa Bain, Tanjil Daffern, Justin Hatcher, Neil Rodgers, and Anna Burgdorf.



LESA Bain, Vice President, National, Strategic, and International Accounts, Lindblad Expeditions.

NEIL Rodgers, Managing Director, Adventure World; Lesa Bain, Lindblad Expeditions; Kim McKay AO, Director & CEO, Australian Museum; and Dr Greta Frankham, Australian Centre for Wildlife Genomics.



CAM McDonell, Lindblad Expeditions with Jenny Drennan, Castlecrag Travel.



LESA Bain, Lindblad Expeditions and Michael Shischka, General Manager, Mary Rossi Travel.



CRUISE lines operating on the Seine in France will now have to watch out for swimmers, with the famous river having recently reopened to the public for the first time in more than 100 years.

Bathing sites will be located near the Notre-Dame de Paris, and the Eiffel Tower, while there will also be one in the east of the French capital.

The Seine originally reopened just for last year's marathon swimming at the Olympics - a scheme that allegedly saw many participants fall ill.

Paris officials are now confident the river is now completely safe for all.

Helloworld's new Signature



SIGNATURE Collection by Cruiseco launched yesterday as Helloworld Travel's newest brand in its cruise division.

The new collection was announced by Chief Operating Officer & Executive Director Cinzia Burnes at the recent Helloworld Owner Managers Conference in Vancouver (**CW** 05 Jun), offering a range of specialty designed luxury cruise packages.

Every Signature Collection product includes exclusive bonus enhancements such as premium hotel accommodation, tours, transfers, and more.

The special launch offering includes a 14-night 'Eastern Elegance' cruise-and-stay package with Seabourn Cruise Line, and a 13-night 'Tulip Gardens & Alpine Allure' with Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours.

There is also a 36-night 'Himalayas to the High Seas' sailing with Silversea and Tauck, which ventures through India.

Helloworld Head of Cruise Steve Brady said luxury has been a core part of the Cruiseco product range for many years, adding: "Our Signature Collection brings that into focus for agents and

customers alike."

"Our product team works closely with our cruise line partners, and we're excited to be able to showcase their product.

"With our best-in-market contracts across all major cruise lines, we are confident that this new offering will please agents and clients alike." *MS*

Aurora's sea trials

AURORA Expeditions' soon-to-be-launched third ship *Douglas Mawson* has successfully completed her sea trials off the coast of China.

Prior to joining the fleet later this year, the ship underwent tests to verify her systems meet stringent quality, safety, and efficiency requirements.

Douglas Mawson will carry up to 249 passengers, and once in operation, will initially sail in Tasmania, before embarking on her first expeditions to East Antarctica from Hobart and Dunedin.

Next year will see *Douglas Mawson* relocate to the Mediterranean as part of Aurora's push to explore outside the poles (**CW** 05 Sep).

Aurora currently sails two other vessels.

Crew removed by US

US CUSTOMS & Border Protection forced a number of crew members from a Great Lakes cruise ship to disembark last week.

No reason was given for the crew members' removal.

Thirteen crew members of two Victory Cruise Lines ships were forced to disembark during planned calls in Detroit, with eight taken from *Victory I* and five from *Victory II*.

"A limited number of Victory Cruise Lines crew were recently removed from *Victory I* and *Victory II* by US Customs and Border Protection," Chair John Waggoner confirmed.

PLATINUM PARTNERS

CVR TRAVEL GROUP

Expedia TAAP

ROYAL CARIBBEAN

LIVE NOW

HOME EX
HOME AGENT
VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

SIGN UP FREE HERE



EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman
Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon
Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Editorial Director - Damian Francis
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller
info@cruiseweekly.com.au

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER

Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220



130TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERS

FREE SUITE UPGRADES & EXCLUSIVE PRICES

Antarctica

And other destinations



*Source: Cruise Industry News Expedition Report 2025

UP TO 25% OFF – EXTENDED TO 31 AUGUST 2025

We're celebrating our 130th anniversary by offering your clients exclusive prices on selected HX departures before 31 March 2027. Highlights include:

Destination	Itinerary	Ship	Start Date	Duration	Cabins From*
Alaska	Alaska's Inside Passage – Fjords of The Great Land	MS Roald Amundsen	01.05.2026	10 Days	\$7,845pp
Antarctica	Highlights of Antarctica	MS Fridtjof Nansen	30.10.2026	12 Days	\$13,356pp
Galápagos Islands	Galápagos Islands – In Darwin's Footsteps	MS Santa Cruz II	08.04.2026	9 Days	\$11,552pp
Greenland	Serene Greenland – Exploring the Largest Fjord System on Earth	MS Spitsbergen	31.08.2026	10 Days	\$9,207pp
Northwest Passage	Northwest Passage – Across the Top of the World	MS Roald Amundsen	10.08.2026	26 Days	\$34,692pp
Norway	Ultimate Norway – Arctic Expedition under the Northern Lights	MS Spitsbergen	28.11.2026	8 Days	\$7,274pp
South America	Chilean Fjords – Discovering the Heart of Patagonia	MS Fridtjof Nansen	17.10.2026	15 Days	\$10,384pp
Svalbard	Svalbard in Spring – The Return of the Sun	MS Spitsbergen	18.05.2026	9 Days	\$10,164pp

* subject to availability

Plus free suite upgrades

In addition to our exclusive lead prices, we are also offering a suite for the price of a superior cabin on selected HX departures between 24 October 2025 and 31 March 2027 on MS Roald Amundsen, MS Fridtjof Nansen and MS Fram.



How to book

To learn more about our Anniversary Offers and to make a booking visit agentportal.travelhx.com or email apac@travelhx.com

Change the way
you see the world



*Applies to bookings made from 1 April 2025 to 31 August 2025 (inclusive) for selected HX departures from 1 May 2025 to 31 March 2027 (inclusive). Offers with a saving, discount or amount off stated in AUD represents a discount applied to the "From" price quoted in AUD per person based on full occupancy of cabin on the specified sailing or Tour Code. Bookings outside of these periods do not qualify. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Single supplements may apply and applies to all offer occupancies.