

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of the latest cruise news plus a full page from **AmaWaterways**.

Barcelona plunge

THE Port of Barcelona is set to limit cruise ship traffic by the end of the decade amid overtourism pressures being weathered by the destination.

Europe's busiest cruise port will significantly reduce its cruise ship terminal capacity by 2030, with the building of a new facility set to consolidate three berths into one.

The move will see five berths available at the port, down from seven, which will lower the city's cruise capacity from 37,000 to 31,000.

The announcement follows a sharp rise in cruise ship traffic in Barcelona in the past few years, with a 21% increase in 2025 calls compared to the same period in 2024.

Passenger numbers have also risen by 20% to 1.2 million.

"By working together, we can ensure that cruise tourism continues to be a well-managed, economically valuable, and increasingly sustainable part of Barcelona's future," a Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) spokesperson told **Cruise Weekly** in a statement.

CLIA said it welcomes the ongoing dialogue with the city.

Carnival's Key to Celebration



CARNIVAL Cruise Line has opened its US\$600 million Celebration Key, its new exclusive destination, with *Carnival Vista* making the first official visit.

President Christine Duffy, Chief Fun Officer Shaquille O'Neal, Carnival Corporation CEO Josh Weinstein and *Vista* Captain Paolo Severini turned the key (**pictured**) that "unlocked" the gates to the iconic 10-storey Suncastle, the signature attraction on the new destination on Grand Bahama.

The Suncastle is the world's tallest sandcastle, and is home to two racing water slides.

O'Neal also made the first shot at the basketball court, while the trio cut the ribbon to open Lokono Cove, Celebration Key's shopping village.

The destination was then toasted with champagne at Pearl Cove Beach Club, Celebration Key's adults-only retreat.

Other highlights of Celebration Key include the world's largest

swing and swim-up bar; the Caribbean's largest freshwater lagoons, and more than 30 food and beverage outlets.

"Today marks an extraordinary milestone for Carnival as we open the first phase of our initial \$600 million investment, with more to come," Duffy teased.

"Celebration Key is more than just a beautiful place; it's a celebration of the Bahamian paradise our guests love, complemented by an impressive variety of incredible new experiences and offerings.

"We've built the ultimate beach day for our guests whether they crave fun in the sun or relaxation under a palm tree."

Celebration Key will initially bring more than two million guests a year to Grand Bahama, This number is expected to grow to four million by 2028, with an extension to the destination's pier to allow it to accommodate two more ships. *MS*

Ama's new famil

AMAWATERWAYS' new 'River of Rewards' incentive is your passport to the Danube (**CW** 18 Jul).

Join AmaWaterways' biggest-ever trade incentive to win a spot on the famil - more on **p4**.

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Ponant's double Bastille Day party

PONANT Explorations celebrated Bastille Day last week with its partners across Australia.

The cruise line's National Sales Manager Sandra Cahill, together with Tauck's Helen Eves, co-hosted a celebration at L'isle de France Terrigal.

Central Coast-based travel advisors were treated to a memorable afternoon of French hospitality, with representatives from TravelManagers, MTA, Helloworld, Wentworth Travel, ATPi, and Flight Centre.

Meanwhile in Melbourne, Victoria & Tasmania State Manager Annabelle Brown hosted eight partners at The French Kitchen for an immersive culinary experience, led by renowned chef Diane Holuigue.

The day saw guests prepare a traditional four-course meal under Holuigue's expert guidance at the authentic French provincial



kitchen in Armadale.

Attendees later relaxed for a long-table lunch with champagne and wine flowing.

Participating agencies included Bunnik Tours, Journey Beyond, AmaWaterways, Worldwide Travel, Destination HQ, MTA, 303 World Travel, and Hawthorn Travel & Cruise. *MS*

Pictured with Annabelle Brown and Holuigue are Sally Anne Matthews, Bunnik; Ines Iniesta, Journey Beyond; Kim Vaughan, AmaWaterways; Simone Kaye, Worldwide Travel; Kirilly Plum, Destination HQ; Kendall Roberts, MTA; Melissa Schampers, 303 World Travel; and Eloise Tropea, Hawthorn Travel & Cruise. *MS*

Off to the movies

CONGRATULATIONS to these five quick-on-the-draw agents for being first to email **Cruise Weekly** and pick up a double pass to the upcoming Hurtigruten-sponsored Scandinavian Film Festival, which runs until 14 Aug.

The winners were Anna Powell, Travel Associates; Corinne Mutz, TravelManagers; Anita Fanfulla, Helloworld Tunstall Square; Maria Summers, Envoyage; and Susan Burchell, Helloworld Tunstall Square.

All five have now been contacted by Hurtigruten and will soon receive their passes.

Each of the winners will be able to enjoy a selection of the finest cinematic masterpieces hailing from the Scandinavian region including Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland (*CW* 15 Jul).

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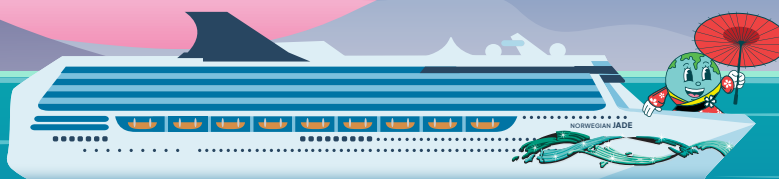
Our second destination is unlocked!

Learn more about Asia with NCL, ace a quick quiz and earn your next virtual passport stamp.

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GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN 1 OF 2 CRUISES!*

GET STARTED



*Conditions apply.



CRITICS used to say that performers working on a cruise ship was an acknowledgement that their career was over, but today, nothing could be further from the truth.

Perth-born dancer Faith Ward is the perfect example, with the former cruise ship entertainer selected to join the prestigious Dallas Cowboys cheerleading squad.

The iconic Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders is more than 60 years old, and was one of the first in the NFL.

Fans of Netflix show *America's Sweethearts* will soon see Ward strutting her stuff on the field, crystallising the future career opportunities available to cruise entertainers.

The New Zealand-born Australian will be seen giving some new vigour to the Cowboys' traditional pre-game rendition of AC/DC's rock anthem *Thunderstruck*.

Carnival dreams big for 27/28



CARNIVAL Cruise Line has unveiled the first instalment of its 2027/28 cruise schedule, with sales now open.

The season will see *Carnival Dream* offer two final sailings from Galveston in May 2027, before she returns to New Orleans for the first time since 2019.

The 4,600-guest ship will offer a week-long Western Caribbean itinerary featuring Belize, Cozumel, and Isla Tropicale, followed by a week-long Bahamas cruise calling into Celebration Key (see p1), Key West, and Nassau.

Dream will then relocate to New Orleans on 16 May, where she will offer a series of four- and five-day voyages to Mexico.

Additionally, *Carnival Liberty* will continue sailing from New

Orleans, extending a wide variety of seven-day Western Caribbean and Bahamas itineraries through Apr 2028.

Liberty will also offer special eight-day sailings over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, featuring stops at both Celebration Key and RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay.

"As we roll out our deployment plans through the spring of 2028, we have great news to share with our home port communities," the cruise line's President Christine Duffy enthused.

"More capacity with a larger ship means more tourism activity for Port NOLA and the region, where we've enjoyed a successful partnership for over three decades," she added. *MS*

The art of cruising

RIVERSIDE Luxury Cruises has launched a number of art-focused Danube itineraries, operated by *Riverside Mozart*.

The ship will sail voyages ranging from three to seven nights, according to overseas media, visiting key artistic destinations including Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest; as well as smaller ports such as Grein and Melk.

The itineraries feature notable cultural experiences, including an after-hours VIP visit to Vienna's Belvedere Palace; and excursions to Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Bratislava's Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, and Budapest's Hungarian National Gallery.

White Bay parking

A NEW 500-space, multi-storey parking lot is being planned for White Bay Cruise Terminal in Sydney.

The development would significantly increase the parking capacity at the smaller of Sydney's two terminals.



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