

NSW cruise webinar

DESTINATION NSW is hosting a free cruise webinar on 05 Aug.

'How to create unforgettable cruise shore experiences' will explore delivering, enhancing, and creating world-class excursions for cruise passengers, as New South Wales prepares for the upcoming season - **CLICK HERE** for more info.

CCL to the final frontier

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced its 2027 Alaska adventures, as well as a number of new Carnival Journeys long-haul voyages.

Both *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Legend* (pictured) will home port in Seattle in 2027, while *Carnival Luminosa* will sail from San Francisco, with the three ships offering more than 50 Alaska itineraries over the summer.

Luminosa will reposition to San Francisco on a 23-day Transpacific Journeys voyage departing Sydney, featuring stops in Suva, Moorea, Papeete, and Honolulu.

The ship will then sail 10-day cruises visiting Juneau, Ketchikan, Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord, and Prince Rupert.

Luminosa will also sail several Baja California cruises from San Francisco, including nine four-day extended weekend sailings to Ensenada, departing on Thu and returning on Mon.

Legend will reposition from Tampa to Seattle with a 16-day Panama Canal voyage.

The cruise features stops in Cartagena, Santa Marta, Cabo San Lucas, as well as a full transit of the Panama Canal, and Carnival's first visit to Acapulco since 2010.

Legend will then offer an extensive Alaska season, offering 22 week-long voyages, visiting some of the most popular ports in the destination, including Juneau, Ketchikan, Skagway, Tracy



Arm Fjord, and Victoria.

The ship will then sail a 16-day Journeys Hawaii cruise from Seattle, visiting Honolulu, Hilo, Nawiliwili, Kahului, and Victoria.

Meanwhile, two back-to-back Carnival Journeys cruises on *Spirit* will see the ship sail a nine-day Caribbean trip from Alabama, visiting Grand Cayman, Cozumel, Montego Bay, and Isla Tropicale.

Passengers can then embark on a 16-day Panama Canal voyage, featuring a full canal transit and stops in Cartagena, Cabo San Lucas, and Puntarenas.

Spirit will also offer a 15-day Carnival Journeys voyage to Hawaii, visiting all four major Hawaiian Islands, as well as Victoria in Canada.

The vessel will then begin her season of 20 seven-day cruises from Seattle.

Spirit will also visit Juneau, Ketchikan, Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord, and Victoria.

There is also a nine-day voyage, which adds Sitka to the itinerary.

"Our three-ship deployment continues to serve up the perfect blend of the Alaskan landscape's breathtaking natural beauty and our signature Carnival fun," President Christine Duffy said. *MS*

New Crescent CEO

LIVE-AT-SEA concept line Crescent Seas has appointed its first-ever Chief Executive Officer, Thatcher Brown.

Bringing more than 25 years of hospitality and cruise experience, Brown most recently served as Senior Vice President of Global Products for Virtuoso.

He will now shape Crescent's brand identity.



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Ponant plastic move

PONANT Explorations Group has committed to a zero-plastic fleet, with the firm's vessels now equipped with self-serve Nordic filtration water fountains.

Passengers can now bottle their own water in recyclable glass containers, eliminating the need for plastic bottles across all ships and operations.

These efforts have led to the avoidance of nearly one million plastic water bottles, representing 20 tonnes of plastic waste, compared to 2019 usage.

Single-use plastic usage per guest has reduced from 0.63kg in 2022 to 0.006kg in 2024 as a result of this reduction, alongside the ban of plastic straws, cups, laundry bags and single-serve food packaging.

Ponant also signed the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative in 2021.

Explora Xmas cruise

EXPLORA Journeys is preparing for the holiday season with its 'Currents of Connection' cruises in the Caribbean aboard *Explora I* and *Explora II* this year.

The Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve cruises will range from seven to 17 nights, visiting destinations such as Charlotte Amalie, Terre-de-Haut, Bridgetown, Fort-de-France, San Juan, and more.

HAL puts on a big show



HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is rolling out a refreshed onboard entertainment experience across its fleet, starting from now through to next year.

The enhancements include a new show, revitalised World Stage productions, a wider variety of live music in more venues, and immersive cultural programming.

Guests sailing on *Eurodam* last month were among the first to see *Welcome Aboard* (pictured), a show that offers an exciting preview of the entertainment and enrichment experiences passengers can expect from the new program.

Taking place on the first night of each sailing, *Welcome Aboard* will continue rolling out across the fleet throughout the year, and is expected to appear on all ships by the northern summer of 2026.

HAL is also bringing back classical music with the debut of new string ensemble called Vivace across all itineraries, along with the launch of The Dam Band, performing live music to accompany both production shows and guest entertainers on

the World Stage, which will offer expanded show schedules and redesigned set lists.

Other entertainment offerings include cabaret performances and more live music in venues like the Crow's Nest, Lido Pool and in the Ocean Bar.

HAL will also introduce a new regional soloist program, bringing culturally inspired performances to each itinerary, like folk guitar in Alaska, steel pan in the Caribbean and mariachi music in Mexico.

By the start of next month, a new entertainment team will double down on destination expertise and guest interaction, led by the cruise director, who will serve as the "charismatic host of the voyage", supported by an assistant cruise director and entertainment team.

"Our live music is second to none, and guests have asked for more, so we're delivering on this with higher energy, more authentic local music and more variety in entertainment on every sailing," SVP of Guest Experience & Product Development Michael Smith said. *JM*

Crystal package

TRAVELLERS can pair a Crystal Cruises voyage with a free hotel stay as part of Cruise Traveller's latest package.

The exclusive 12-night 'Islands, Empires and Rivas' package in May features a Mediterranean cruise aboard *Crystal Serenity* with complimentary, five-star hotel stays before the voyage in Athens and afterward in Rome.

Also included is a personal butler service and complimentary beverages for every guest on board.

The package begins on 15 May with two free nights in a premium hotel in Athens, before guests board the 740-guest *Serenity* for a nine-night journey to Rome.

Included in the itinerary are visits to Messina, Naples, Sardinia, Portofino, Toulon, and Villefranche-sur-Mer.

The voyage ends with a two-night stay in Rome.

Flights from Australia are additional and can be booked through Cruise Traveller - **CLICK HERE** for more info.

NCLH appointment

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has appointed Daniel Henry as Chief Digital & Technology Officer.

Henry was previously EVP at McDonald's, and also spent 17 years at American Airlines.

- LAST CHANCE -

EOFY DEAL



ROYAL CARIBBEAN

HALF PRICE DEPOSITS*





WHALE spotting is certainly one way to make being stuck in a traffic jam a lot less tedious.

Motorists stuck in gridlock on West Gate Bridge, Melbourne's busiest freeway, enjoyed a very rare sighting on Tues, when two humpback whales made their way underneath the bridge.

The duo was spotted on Ports Victoria's security cameras, showing the whales' fins cutting through the water of the Yarra River as they surfaced - just enough to capture the attention of observant drivers.

The pair continued up the river, coming close to Coode Island Reserve, before circling back to the bay.

Thankfully, a Ports Victoria spokesperson said the curious whales' decision to take the scenic route did not impact any vessel movements, as none were scheduled at the time.

While it isn't unusual for whales to be seen at the top end of Port Phillip Bay, near Williamstown and Port Melbourne, and even at the mouth of the Yarra River, this marks the first time in living memory that the marine mammals have travelled as far as the West Gate Bridge.

Melbourne Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece joked that he's "never been more jealous of motorists stuck in a West Gate Bridge traffic jam".

CCL boosts Mexico's Riviera



ALTERNATING six- and eight-day itineraries into the Mexican Riviera will make up the 2027/28 schedule for *Carnival Panorama*, which will continue to be based in Long Beach, the line said today.

More than 50 new itineraries were released by Carnival, with the shorter sailing including a two-day stop in Cabo San Lucas to allow guests to maximise their time enjoying the city's famous rock formations, in addition to the beach and nightlife.

The cruise will conclude with a stop in Mexico's renowned wine country, Ensenada, on the way back to her Californian base.

Longer eight-day cruises will see guests spend less time in Cabo but also stop in Puerto Vallarta to enjoy the historic old town of Mazatlan and the authentic Mexican culture and waterfront of La Paz, before returning up the coast to Long Beach.

Carnival said the latest offering continues its commitment to operating a variety of cruise options from California.

Panorama, which can sail more than 5,000 guests, features

attractions like the SkyRide aerial cycling experience, Sky Zone indoor trampoline park, WaterWorks aqua park, and a range of diverse dining options.

She is one of the cruise line's most popular ships for Mexican Riviera itineraries. *ML*

APT's new brochure

APT has launched a dedicated 'Small Ship Cruising 2026/27' brochure.

The publication is a showcase of APT's curated small ship journeys across Australia, New Zealand, Europe, and Antarctica, and more.

This is APT's first standalone brochure for this product range in years, detailing the tour operator's diverse selection of expedition and luxury cruises.

The brochure covers APT's Seabourn Cruise Line partnership, departures on Coral Expeditions' *Coral Adventurer* and *Coral Discoverer*, and the boutique *Lady Eleganza* in Europe.

CLICK HERE to view and request an APT brochure.



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