

Cruise Weekly today

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- Silversea
- Aurora Expeditions

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More Explorers in Training with Lindblad

NATIONAL Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions has introduced its 'Explorers in Training' immersive kids and teens program, which will be offered on select cruises.

The line's youth engagement program, formerly known as National Geographic Global Explorers, has been updated and expanded, and will roll out on voyages most popular with families, in destinations such as Alaska, Antarctica, Baja California, Iceland, and the Galapagos.

Participants will engage in hands-on activities designed to inspire curiosity and environmental stewardship, such as learning to drive a Zodiac, collecting plankton, logging wildlife sightings, and more.

Each young traveller will receive a region-specific field notebook to fill with details on their discoveries during activities, onboard experiments, and games.



Programs will be led by a certified field educator, and supported by expert staff, including National Geographic photography experts, undersea specialists, and naturalists.

Each participant will earn a patch and certificate celebrating their achievements at the expedition's end.

Vice President Lesa Bain told **Cruise Weekly** Lindblad has been

seeing more multigenerational families since COVID-19, which encouraged the line to rethink its youth program.

"It's designed so that it's a shared family experience," she explained to **CW**.

"We've always had family focus, and I think coming out of COVID that's even bigger, because families want to be together, they realise that they lost time." **MS**

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HLO cruise grows

CRUISE sales are continuing to grow robustly for Helloworld Travel, the company reported in an update to its FY25 guidance.

The strongly performing division has provided a sturdy contribution to Helloworld's bottom line, as the company upgraded its EBITDA to \$62 million from \$58 million.

Improved margins, careful cost management, and a value gain in its Webjet shareholding have helped the company revise and improve its full-year earnings guidance.

Although higher-spending, long-haul trips and TTV have declined year-on-year due to "marginally lower customer numbers", CEO & MD Andrew Burnes said Helloworld is seeing growth in mid-range destinations such as Japan, Bali, and Thailand.

Regal Princess to feel the Love Boat

LAUREN Tewes, the beloved Cruise Director from *The Love Boat*, will join a cruise themed around the TV show aboard Princess Cruises' *Regal Princess* later this year.

Tewes (**pictured left**) will be one of a number of iconic stars to join the cruise line's 'The Love Boat Celebration at Sea' voyage, departing from Galveston.

The American actress portrayed Julie McCoy on the 1970s TV series, and will reunite with her fellow cast members Jill Whelan (Vicki Stubing), Fred Grandy (Gopher Smith), Ted Lange (Isaac Washington), and Bernie Kopell (Dr. Adam Bricker) for this voyage.

Passengers will be able to meet with *The Love Boat's* original cast on the seven-night Nov cruise, and will also enjoy exclusive performances from actress and singer Charo (**pictured right**), who guest starred in the show as



entertainer April Lopez.

"We're honoured to welcome Lauren Tewes and Charo aboard *Regal Princess* for a joyful celebration that brings the magic of *The Love Boat* to life," Head of Entertainment Rebecca Thomson Foley said.

"This iconic show introduced the world to the joy of cruising, and reuniting with original cast members including Jill, Fred, Ted, and Bernie - and now Cindy and



Charo - makes this sailing a dream cruise for fans and a thrill for new to [Princess] guests."

Passengers can also purchase the exclusive 'Captain's Package' for the cruise, which will include special experiences such as a cocktail hour and dinner with the cast, and exclusive commemorative merchandise.

The cruise will call overnight in Cozumel, and will also visit Roatan in Honduras. *MS*



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DISNEY Cruise Line will debut giant puppets (**pictured**) on board its new ship *Disney Destiny* later this year - however, they are not quite as terrifying as they first sound.

The cruise line has posted first-glimpse images and videos on its Instagram page of the Titans of the Underworld puppets that will be used in the *Hercules* stage show, currently under development by Walt Disney Imagineering.

The larger-than-life puppets use exoskeleton technology, which enables the weight of the costume to be transferred away from the performer and onto the ground, allowing for more natural and believable movement of the characters.

Via hand controls, the performers can move individual fingers and wave the large hands with the help of pneumatic assistance in the suit's joint areas.

The Broadway-like production will feature iconic songs including *Go the Distance*, as well as new compositions, and the theatrical debut of *Shooting Star*, a ballad that was cut from the animated film.



Spider-Man's new *Destiny*



SPIDER-MAN and his Spider-Bot friends have been installed on the stern of Disney Cruise Line's new *Disney Destiny* (**pictured**), which is set to make her debut in Nov (**CW** 21 Mar 2024).

The work recently took place at the Meyer Werft shipyard, with the Marvel-themed stern to be one of the first features passengers will see as they arrive at the embarkation port.

Destiny is a sister to *Disney Wish* and *Disney Treasure*, and will debut one-of-a-kind venues and experiences, including a brand-new family dining experience, exclusive to the ship.

The vessel, themed as Disney's first 'Heroes and Villains' ship (**CW** 28 Apr), will first welcome passengers in Fort Lauderdale.

Destiny's inaugural season will see her sail four- and five-night cruises to the Bahamas and Western Caribbean, including visits to one or both of Disney's island destinations, Disney

Castaway Cay and Disney Lookout Cay at Lighthouse Point. *MS*

Costa cans Dubai

COSTA Cruises' *Costa*

Toscana will extend her stay in the Western Mediterranean throughout the upcoming winter season, instead of repositioning to the United Arab Emirates.

Toscana's previously planned cruises to and from Dubai will not be operated, Costa said, "due to the current fluid situation in the Middle East".

The ship will instead continue her scheduled seven-day cruises in the Western Mediterranean until 13 Nov, offering seven-day itineraries and longer cruises to destinations across Southern Europe and North Africa.

Booking details will be available soon, Costa said.

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