

## Australia welcomes its new Queen

**CUNARD** Line's new ship *Queen Anne* made her Australian debut on Fri, sailing into Sydney Harbour (pictured) as part of her 107-day maiden world voyage.

After an overnight stay, *Queen Anne* departed Sydney on Sat night, heading toward Brisbane.

She will continue her voyage through Australian waters with stops in the Whitsunday Islands, Cairns, and Darwin, injecting upward of \$11 million into the local economy along the way.

*Queen Anne* will then continue her world voyage to Bitung, Manila, and Hong Kong.

Cunard President Katie McAlister spoke of the cruise line's deep connection with Australia.

"The maiden arrival of our magnificent new ship *Queen Anne* to Sydney Harbour builds on our rich Australian legacy and marks another historic moment for Cunard - one that started



with our first world voyage that included Australia [back] in 1925."

The new Cunard flagship departed on her inaugural world cruise in Jan (**CW 13 Jan**), becoming the 14th of the line's ships to undertake such a voyage.

Speaking onboard, *Queen Anne* Captain Inger Klein Thorhauge said she was honoured to guide the ship through Sydney Heads for the first time.

"This incredible ship represents an exciting new chapter in Cunard's storied legacy, combining the elegance and timelessness that our brand is normally beloved for with the innovation and modern touches

that lead our brand into a new chapter," Thorhauge said.

"We took a fresh approach to her design, collaborating with a team of world-class designers who brought their expertise in luxury hospitality to the world of cruising for the first time."

Acting Destination NSW CEO Karen Jones said she is eager to welcome travellers back to NSW as they often return to places initially discovered on a cruise.

*Queen Anne's* maiden voyage will call at 30 different ports across 18 countries in total.

The ship's launch in Sep saw Cunard take record-breaking bookings, representing a 23% year-on-year increase. **MS**

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



On location on board *Celestyal Journey*

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you courtesy of **Celestyal Cruises**, on board its new ship *Celestyal Journey*.

**CW IS** on board the final voyage of *Celestyal Cruises'* inaugural Arabian Gulf season, sailing on the 'Desert Days' itinerary on board the line's new *Celestyal Journey*.

The ship is calling in Dubai today, where she will stay overnight as passengers disembark to enjoy the United Arab Emirates' most populous city.

*Journey's* Dubai call follows yesterday's visit to Bahrain, where guests visited the Al Fateh Grand Mosque, the Bahrain National Museum, and the Manama Souq.



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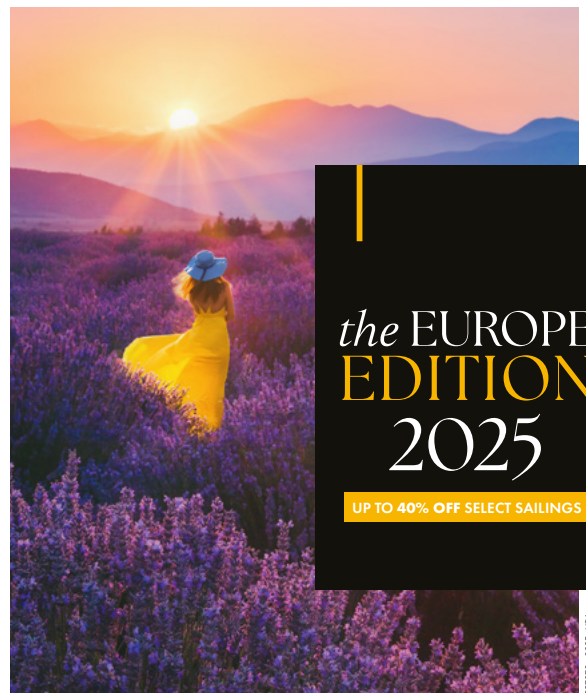
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## Oceania's new northern summer cruises

OCEANIA Cruises is offering a series of voyages to Canada, New England, and Iceland this summer, featuring immersive, small-group shore excursions and culinary experiences.

*Marina* and *Insignia* (pictured) will sail the region, featuring itineraries from 11 to 19 days.

These voyages offer hundreds of locally themed shore excursions, including hiking across glaciers, surveying volcanic landscapes, and exploring historic cities.

One of the season's highlights is sailing around Paamiut Fjord, where travellers can spot a variety of whale species, including humpbacks, minke, and orcas.

Guests can also discover Kirkjufell, an isolated mountain that juts out of the sea, home to an Icelandic fishing community and featuring beaches and hiking trails, a boat trip to observe



the local seals and puffins, and guided walks to Kirkjufellsfossar.

"We're thrilled to offer our guests the opportunity to explore some of the world's most stunning and less-visited destinations," Chief Luxury Officer Jason Montague said.

"Our thoughtfully curated itineraries provide access to hidden gems, giving travellers the rare chance to discover locales they never imagined.

"It's a true privilege for our staff and crew to see the joy these

unique voyages bring, especially when guests experience the unmatched beauty of these destinations aboard our intimate, luxurious ships." *MS*

### Swan opens 26/27

**SWAN** Hellenic has launched its 2026/27 Antarctic season, featuring 24 round-trip sailings from its Ushuaia homeport.

Itineraries range from 9-13 nights, with new excursions including a snowshoe walk.

### Crown Princess tilt

**THIRTEEN** passengers and three crew members on *Crown Princess* are recovering from minor injuries sustained when strong winds caused the ship to tilt beyond normal levels.

The Princess Cruises ship was in Fiordland, New Zealand, and encountered the strong winds during a course change, with crew responding to correct the situation and clean up.

In a statement to *CW*, the line said the safety of the ship was never compromised.

"Additionally, a small amount of water from the Lido Deck pool briefly entered the Horizons food court, but the area was quickly cleaned and reopened," Princess said.

Princess said it regrets any inconvenience caused and that the ship remains safe and fully operational as it continues its existing voyage as planned.



# 'Spektakulært'

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**MORE** than 3,000 Star Trek fans will go 'where no man has gone before' and set sail on a special fan cruise to celebrate the iconic show's 60th anniversary next year.

'Star Trek: The Cruise IX' will depart Port Canaveral onboard Royal Caribbean's *Adventure of the Seas* from 20-27 Feb 2026, with fans sailing alongside stars from the show and its many spin-off franchises.

Cabin prices start at US\$2,320 which includes all meals and access to all onboard events.

Stars from the original series including William Shatner and Walter Koenig will be onboard, alongside actors from *The Next Generation*, *Deep Space Nine*, *Discovery* and more.

There will even be actors onboard who played the largely indistinguishable characters such as Gorn and the Salt Vampire.

Fans will be able to take part in special activities and events to celebrate the show's lineage including theme parties, cosplay events, panel discussions with Q&As, plus episode and movie screenings hosted by Star Trek actors.

The itinerary will include port calls in Puerto Plata, San Juan and Perfect Day by CocoCay.

The ship's lounges, bars and restaurants will even be redecorated to fit the occasion.

**CLICK HERE** for more details.

## School's in for Helloworld



**HELLOWORLD'S** national cruise masterclasses have kicked off, with the company's cruise division teaming up with the Helloworld Travel Academy for the series.

Events have been held in Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Sydney (**pictured**) thus far, with the masterclasses coinciding with wave season - making it the perfect time to showcase the extensive array of Helloworld's cruise partners, and the great products available through Cruiseco and Creative Cruising.

"We put a lot of effort into ensuring our agents are equipped to perform in the current travel environment," General Manager Cruise Steve Brady said.

"In wave season, that means we ensure they have the knowledge and skills to make the most of this critical time of year.

"We're grateful to our cruise line partners for taking part in this and working with the Helloworld Travel Training Academy to maximise the skills of agents."

Helloworld is also celebrating wave season with extensive

marketing activity across Australia, with a widespread campaign in partnership with more than 15 cruise lines.

Promotions will be seen on high-impact print, radio, high-traffic outdoor billboard and digital, and will run for eight weeks, promoting the hottest deals in ocean, river, and expedition cruise to generate leads and drive business to agents.

**MEANWHILE**, cruise continued to perform strongly across the Helloworld dedicated cruise brands in Australia, the company has reported as part of its first half fiscal results.

Helloworld noted a strong Kimberley season last year, which delivered high domestic cruising results, as Australia also continues to see solid growth for the luxury, ocean, and expedition cruise sectors.

The company also enjoyed a strong northern summer across both river and ocean cruising, a benefit of the long tail of post-pandemic recovery, with increased departures compared to the PCP. *MS*

## NCLH seeks peace

**IF PEACE** is achieved between Russia and Ukraine, it would create a "significant tailwind" for Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH), according to the company's CEO, Harry Sommer.

NCLH has 11 ships scheduled to sail northern Europe in summer 2026, with more itineraries possible if the line is able to return to St Petersburg, Sommer pointed out during NCLH's full-year earnings call with investors last week.

"We think this can provide us a unique opportunity for the summer of '26 or, if not for the summer of '26, for the summer of '27," Sommer said.

## Research cruise

**BOOKINGS** are now open for a citizen science cruise to the Great Barrier Reef, where guests can contribute directly to key research initiatives.

The Australian Geographic Society and Great Barrier Reef Legacy have joined forces with Coral Expeditions to introduce the seven-night sailing, which will depart Cairns on 04 Dec.

The curated itinerary will take guests to highly remote corners of the reef to provide insight into the challenges and rehabilitation work being done on coral ecosystems.

Alongside data collection and coral biobanking missions to aid coral restoration, guests can take part in guided snorkelling, diving and hands-on fieldwork, plus enjoy onboard expert presentations.