



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news, including a photo page from **Royal Caribbean**.

Move over Broadway

VIRGIN Voyages has revealed its entertainment line-up for *Brilliant Lady's* inaugural season.

Seven new original productions will premiere aboard *Brilliant*, which will make her debut in New York City in Sep.

The productions will feature a mix of high-energy musicals, vintage numbers, duets, and reimagined disco.

Brilliant will also bring back reimagined favourites, all designed to complement the ship's longer itineraries and diverse destinations.

Vice President Entertainment Richard Kilman has declared Virgin is not attempting to compete with Broadway - "we're reinventing it".

"At sea, the fourth wall isn't broken; it's non-existent.

"*Brilliant Lady's* entertainment line-up is absolutely sophisticated, energising and offers something for everyone."

Virgin's new routes range from five to 16 nights, taking passengers from Bermuda's pink sands to Alaska's majestic landscapes and glacial fjords.

Riverside joins CLIA in Aus



EXCLUSIVE

RIVERSIDE Luxury Cruises has joined Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) in Australia, **CW** can exclusively reveal.

The German business recently appointed boots on the ground in Australia, naming a local Commercial Sales & Marketing representative, Susie Coughlin (**CW** 10 Feb), and has now joined the peak industry body as a River Cruise Marketing Affiliate.

CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz said Riverside is at the "heart of a thriving river cruise sector" in Europe, making it a welcome addition to the cruise community in Australia.

"River cruising has developed a phenomenal following among travellers from Australia and New Zealand, and the diversity of experiences now available on the world's inland waterways is greater than ever," Katz said.

"Riverside Luxury Cruises brings

its own distinct sense of luxury to this environment, making it an excellent addition to our cruise community at a time of enormous innovation."

Coughlin said joining CLIA will enhance Riverside's profile within Australia's travel trade.

"Riverside Luxury Cruises is an exciting new face in the river cruise sector, and our CLIA partnership will provide an important platform for our business as we increase our presence in the Australian and New Zealand markets," she said.

"We will be a familiar sight at CLIA events and training initiatives, and our travel agent partners will be an important part of our vision for growth in this region," Coughlin added.

Riverside commenced sailings in 2023, and operates three all-suite luxury river ships in Europe: *Riverside Mozart*, *Riverside Ravel* and *Riverside Debussy*. **MS**

Northern Lights '26

ALBATROSS Tours has released its Northern Lights program for early 2026, featuring two itineraries.

With just two departures each capped at 28 travellers, they are expected to sell out.

ENDS SOON!

WINDSTAR
CRUISES
180° FROM ORDINARY

TAHITI
ADVENTURES
AWAIT

READY, SET, PICK YOUR PERK

Credit **OR** One Hotel Night **OR** An All-Inclusive Package

RESERVE BY 31 MARCH 2025

EXPLORE VOYAGES



RIVER CRUISE & TOUR

2025/26 brochure out now

REQUEST YOUR FREE COPY





APT's "magnificent" European launch

APT has released its 2026 Europe season, with its new-generation river ships *APT Solara* and *APT Ostara* to launch in Apr and Jun (**CW** 19 Jan 2024).

The 15-day 'Magnificent Europe' tour sails to Amsterdam, Vienna and Budapest.

Exclusive experiences include a cocktail party and piano recital at Namedy Castle, as well as an authentic meal and show featuring songs from *The Sound of Music* near Salzburg.

A two-night city stay in Budapest has also recently launched, featuring culinary experiences and iconic landmarks, such as an intimate performance at the Hungarian State Opera.

Meanwhile, the 15-day 'Voyage Through the Balkans' river cruise on board *Ostara* will take passengers on a tour of Golubac Fortress, followed by a Serbian



meze tasting, and a cruise through the Iron Gates, exploring Belogradchik Rocks.

Guests will also have the opportunity to discover the Mediterranean and British Isles, off the back of APT's partnership with Seabourn Cruise Line.

The new 15-day 'Mediterranean Wonders' cruise sails through the islands and iconic landmarks of the region, visiting Corsica, Malta and Sicily.

Two exclusive APT cruises will depart in May 2026 from

Barcelona to Istanbul and vv.

Further north, travellers can embark on a 13-day cruise through Britain and Ireland on board *Seabourn Venture*, starting from London, then sailing through Edinburgh, Fair Isle, Orkney, the Hebrides, the Isle of Man, Belfast and North Wales, before ending in Dublin.

Guests will also be able to experience the beauty of Portugal on the 'Duoro Delights with Lisbon and Madrid' tour on board APT's purpose-built *Estrela*. *JHM*

Corinthian's debut

ORIENT Express will set sail with its much-anticipated luxury superyacht in Jun 2026, with bookings opening for the first time later this month.

The debut of Accor's luxury ship, titled *OE Corinthian* (**CW** 21 Nov 2024), will be the world's largest sailing yacht and is in the final construction stages at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in France.

Measuring 220 metres in length, the ship features three masts each with tilting rigid sails to optimise performance under wind propulsion.

Corinthian will also operate under a hybrid LNG propulsion system to minimise emissions.

The ship's first itineraries will run from between two and eight days, and take travellers into smaller ports in the French and Italian rivieras, among other departures.



Paul Gauguin
CRUISES

Are your clients ready for Tahiti?

\$1,500 flight credit when your clients book by 30 April!*

[VIEW SELECTION](#)

1800 878 671 | AU.PONANT.COM/PAUL-GAUGUIN

*Advertised price is in Australian dollars (AUD), per person, and accurate at time of publishing, and based on PG210326 departure. Flight credit is in Australian dollars (AUD), per person and can be redeemed only when booking flights directly with Paul Gauguin Cruises/Ponant. Guests who book on the listed cruises receive AUD\$1,500 per person flight credit on select Paul Gauguin Cruises itineraries before 30 April 2025 including: PG230825, PG210326, PG020825, PG050725, PG181025, PG201225, PG300825, PG180426, PG151125, PG271225, PG070226, PG280326, PG070126, PG261125, PG080426, PG250226, PG061225. To redeem your flight credit, quote code AUZAIRPG when speaking to your preferred travel agent or PONANT Consultant. Flight credit is not redeemable for cash. Flight credit to be discounted off the cruise fare once flight is ticketed. Offer valid on new bookings only and is not retroactive. Offer valid on new bookings made until 30 April 2025 included, unless sold out prior. Offer is applicable only to passengers flying from Australia and New Zealand. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Offer is combinable with PONANT bonus savings. PONANT Join the club offer, PONANT yacht club benefits, back-to-back advantages (COMBO10) and the Ponant roadshow discount. Not combinable with other offers unless specified. Please note specific terms and conditions may apply to airfare booked with PONANT. Flights booked with PONANT are subject to a different cancellation policy than PONANT's regular cancellation policy. Flight credit offer is not applicable for groups. More terms and conditions may apply. Photos: ©PONANT - Roger Paperno, Tim McKenna.



[Click here to discover](#)

Vista to go around the world in 2027

OCEANIA Cruises has announced its 2027 'Around the World' cruise aboard *Vista* (pictured), which will visit more than 100 ports in 46 countries.

The highly anticipated voyage will span 180 days, calling into six continents, with bookings available now.

The six-month cruise will set sail from Miami on 06 Jan 2027, with *Vista* to transit the Panama Canal, island-hop through the Pacific from Hawaii to Fiji, and sail along Australia's coastline.

Vista will then spend more than two months in Asia, visiting Thailand's golden temples, Hong Kong's vibrant markets, and Japan's cherry blossoms.

The ship will cruise the Arabian Peninsula, the Mediterranean, and the Iberian Peninsula, before concluding her voyage in London.

There is also a longer option available: a 244-day 'Epic Global



Adventure' from Miami to New York City, the longest option ever offered by Oceania.

Meanwhile, those interested in a shorter voyage can book the 127-day 'Continental Explorer' sailing from Miami to Doha.

Oceania is offering an 'Exclusive Prestige' package, starting at US\$76,199 per person, which offers an array of complimentary amenities, including a choice of free unlimited wine, beer, and spirits; a shore excursion credit; exclusive shoreside events; a free visa package; and more.

This will sit alongside the typical inclusions of gourmet specialty

dining; in-room dining; unlimited Starlink wi-fi, and more.

"Our Around the World cruise is an incredible way to explore the world in style, elegance, and comfort, and we're thrilled to offer this immersive journey in 2027 aboard *Vista*," Chief Luxury Officer Jason Montague said.

"Spanning six months at sea, this extraordinary voyage offers the rare opportunity to circumnavigate the globe while seamlessly connecting diverse continents, rich cultures, and authentic cuisines, creating an unforgettable experience for our guests," he said. *MS*

Swan's experts

SWAN Hellenic has revealed the lineup of experts accompanying its 2025 Arctic explorations, including a former PM of Greenland.

The six world-renowned experts will deliver specialist lectures, mixing with guests on board and on expeditions.

Aleqa Hammond, Greenland's first female PM, will join guests on the 'Iceland to Greenland Roundtrip Cruise' departing 31 Jul.

Among the other experts are glaciologists, a polar explorer, a political scientist, a Ph.D biologist, and more.

"They're all world authorities who are incredibly approachable and passionate about their fields, so they'll bring transformative depth of knowledge and personal experience to our...voyages," said CCO Patrizia Iantorno.

Follow the Northern Lights Norway to Finland

For escorted small-group enthusiasts

Oslo - Honningsvåg - Rovaniemi - Helsinki
On The Coastal Express - North | Flåm Rail



NORTHERN LIGHTS
PROMISE

T&Cs apply. See website for full details

Your clients will chase the magical Northern Lights across Norway and Finland on our best-selling small-group escorted tour. Journey through snow-draped fjords, and enjoy bucket-list experiences like husky sledding, Santa Village, a Glass Igloo stay, scenic Flåm Railway and more!

26/27 just launched

Early bird
BONUS onboard credit*

Don't miss out. Call our local Coastal Specialists on **1300 151 548** or visit agentportal.hurtigruten.com to book today!

 **HURTIGRUTEN**

Live the legend of Norway

Royal celebrates its rising stars

ROYAL Caribbean has continued the tradition by hosting rising stars from across the cruise industry to celebrate their achievements at the 2024 CLIA Cruise Awards.

Top travel organisations nominated rising stars across the fields of technology, marketing, commercial, sales, support, finance and product.

The group stayed at The Star Grand and were treated to a country-themed party at Surlys with the Royal Caribbean team on Fri night.

Each rising star will be sponsored by Royal Caribbean to complete their CLIA Masters Program and invited on a Royal Caribbean cruise.



RISING Stars and the Royal team.



CARLY Delalandy, Luxury Escapes; Asthika Ram, Royal Caribbean; and Sheree Clements, HOT.



VERONICA Wegner, PHT; Hilkey Wong, OVC; Kristy Sharpe, itravel; and Georgia Thomas, TravelManagers.



CATH Marshall, Royal Caribbean and Mark Irwin, Travelrite.



LUSI Trail, Cruise Guru; Jacqui Tuigamal, Cruise Guru; and Janelle Daniel, Royal Caribbean.



KRISTY Sharpe, itravel and Alex Doyle, Royal Caribbean.

REBECCA Dunn, Flight Centre; Roberta Chaplin, Royal Caribbean; and Flynn Cox, Flight Centre.



MARK Irwin, Travelrite and Johnny Li, Uchoice Holidays.



Stay Updated

on the latest cruise news

Follow Cruise Weekly on social media to get your cruise news first




PORThOLE

STAR Wars fans, did you ever look at the iconic Death Star and think “that would make a fantastic popcorn bucket?”

Apparently, the merchandise executives at Disney did, so they’ve gone and created one, which is now available on Disney Cruise Line (DCL).

The new Death Star popcorn bucket is currently being trialled across the DCL fleet as part of a new themed series of popcorn receptacles - there’s another one designed as the lovable Thumper from *Bambi*.

The popcorn bucket will soon be available at Disneyland in California as part of what will presumably be an extensive Star Wars merchandise lineup for the park’s ‘Season of the Force’, which starts on 28 Mar.

In true Disney over-the-top realism though, the new Death Star popcorn bucket features green and blue laser-like light and sound effects.

Also in true Disney over-the-top unrealism, the new popcorn tub retails for an eye-watering US\$22 (A\$35) - that’s some expensive popcorn.



Galapagos’ seal of approval



CELEBRITY Cruises’ Galapagos expeditions are now open for booking in 2027.

Seven, 10-, 11-, and 16-night all-inclusive itineraries on *Celebrity Flora* are now available for booking as part of the season.

Highlights of the season will include glamping under the stars on board, snorkelling with sea lions, kayaking with sea turtles, coastal explorations along volcanic cliffs, and guided tours alongside giant tortoises.

Travellers can also save 50% on the second guest in their stateroom on every 2027 Galapagos expedition through to 01 May.

Guests on all sailings will also be able to take part in *Celebrity’s* one-of-a-kind conservation project, Rewilding Galapagos, which is celebrating 10 years.

Each itinerary will see *Flora* guests visit the reforestation area with Galapagos park rangers and naturalist guides plant seedlings.

Celebrity guests have planted more than 85,000 endemic plant species since the program began.

“We have the privilege of connecting our guests with some of the most pristine destinations on our planet and understand that we need to play a role in

maintaining the health of these delicate ecosystems,” President Laura Hodges Bethge said.

“In the Galapagos Islands, we are very proud of our long-standing partnership and will continue to work closely to support education and conservation projects that promote the preservation of this natural marvel for future generations,” he said. *MS*

RCG’s high ethics

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) has been named for the 10th consecutive year among the ‘World’s Most Ethical Companies’ - the only leisure company to earn the mark.

The title was bestowed by Ethisphere, which releases an annual list of companies demonstrating a commitment to ethical business practices.

The list aims to recognise companies offering robust programs designed to positively impact employees, communities and broader stakeholders, while also contributing to sustainable and long-term business growth.

Other travel companies which made the list include Wyndham Hotels & Resorts and Airbus.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



STEVE LABROSKI

CEO
itravel

SESSION

Helpful advice for hungry advisors

HOME EX
HOME AGENT
VIRTUAL
EXPERIENCE

LIVE FROM 10 MARCH

REGISTER FREE

EDITORIAL

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

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

HEAD OF OPERATIONS & CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Anna Piper

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