



## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Exploring wellness

**EXPLORA** Journeys has launched two Ocean Wellness Retreats, a two-day wellbeing experience designed to focus on movement, mindfulness and rejuvenation.

MSC Group's luxury brand will draw inspiration from the ocean's natural rhythms to help guests achieve "physical and spiritual renewal".

Participants can join expert-led seminars covering topics like the science of sleep; wellbeing sessions from sound healing to breath work; movement practices including yoga; guided journaling; open-water meditations; and more.

"The ocean's natural rhythm is vast, soothing, and deeply restorative," said spa & wellness lead Julanda Marais.

"Our Ocean Wellness Retreats are crafted to reflect this, offering guests a journey of renewal and reconnection."

Participants will also receive a 100% cotton yoga tote, a lavender-infused eye pillow, mindful affirmation cards, an Ocean Wellness booklet, and an evening turndown amenity.

The retreats will take place on board *Explora II* from 18-25 Mar 2025 and *Explora I* from 02-09 Apr 2025.

## NCL's double celebration



**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) has celebrated a double milestone with its shipbuilding partner Fincantieri, taking delivery of *Norwegian Aqua* and commemorating the floating out of *Norwegian Luna*.

*Aqua* will be the first ship in the Prima Plus-class, and will sail her series of inaugural cruises in Europe later this month.

The ship will then be officially christened in Miami in a celebratory ceremony with Norwegian brand ambassador and the ship's godfather, American actor Eric Stonestreet.

"*Aqua* is more than just a ship - it's a commitment to our guests that we will continue to push boundaries and deliver more at sea," Norwegian President David Herrera said.

"From thrilling attractions like

the Aqua Slidecoaster to the debut of Sukhothai, our first Thai specialty restaurant, *Norwegian Aqua* is designed to create unforgettable moments for the whole family."

NCL also recently completed another landmark event, with the float out of *Luna*.

The milestone signified the completion of the ship's external work and marked the first time she had made contact with water.

*Luna* will now move to the floating dock previously occupied by *Aqua* for interior construction and furnishing in preparation for the ship's launch in the northern spring of 2026. *MS*

**Pictured** at *Aqua's* handover are Herrera, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings President and Chief Executive Officer Harry Sommer, and Captain Robert Lunderberg.

## Silversea's ode

**SILVERSEA** has unveiled its World Cruise 2028, which will visit 58 destinations across five continents over 132 days, with new shore experiences and overland tours.

Dubbed 'An Ode to the Moment', *Silver Shadow* will set sail from Miami on 05 Jan - marking the first time one of its world cruises will depart from the American city - and arrive in Nice on 16 May.

Guests will experience the culture and histories of the Caribbean, South America, Africa, the Middle East and Europe, along with a series of curated events and optional overland tours.

'An Ode to the Moment' is set across nine "chapters", starting with the 'Anthem of the Tropics', which will journey deep into the Caribbean, visiting the popular ports of Willemstad and Cartagena, and the lesser-known Jost Van Dyke, Gustavia, and Kralendijk.

Bert Hernandez, President of Silversea, explained the voyage "is designed to slow time, offering deeper exploration of each destination".

"With our unrivalled destination expertise, we guide guests to both iconic landmarks and hidden gems, ensuring they experience the world at its finest."

General sales for the world cruise will open on 20 Mar.



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## HLC gets inspiring

**HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises'** (HLC) *Hanseatic Inspiration* has successfully completed her 32-day semi-circumnavigation of Antarctica.

The cruise set off from Ushuaia on 28 Jan, crossing the Antarctic Circle and the international date line on its way to the disembarkation port of Christchurch.

Guests were able to observe almost all of the penguin species, sea lions, whales and elephant seals available to view in Antarctica.

Passengers also observed orcas, emperor penguins, and huge colonies of Adelie penguins, and more, from on board the ship.

The first landing took place in Whalers Bay, where guests directly witnessed humpback whales and orcas.

Other landings included expeditions to huts of Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton, the latter on 15 Feb, the Irish Antarctic explorer's birthday.

The expedition then sailed to Marguerite Bay and onward to the Ross Sea, a remote region only accessible for a small number of ships.

Other highlights in the Ross Sea included the first-ever landing at Cape Bird on Ross Island, crossing the waters off the ice wall of the Ross Ice Shelf, and an evening visit to Mount Erebus.

*Inspiration* also undertook a detour to Peter I Island in the rarely accessible Bellingshausen Sea.

Hapag-Lloyd has already planned its next Antarctic semi-circumnavigation for 2027, on board sister ship *Hanseatic Spirit*.

The Antarctic semi-circumnavigation is one of the longest and most challenging routes in Hapag-Lloyd's expedition program.

## Six new My Cruises segments

**MY CRUISES** continues to shape its 'Explorations by Norwegian' charter, with six new segments released for the 371-day odyssey.

The more-than-year-long global adventure on board the chartered Oceania Cruises ship *Regatta* (pictured), exclusively revealed by **CW** last year (**CW** 03 Oct 2024), has added segments taking travellers to far-flung corners of the Indian Ocean and Asia, some of which are not routinely visited.

Destinations now on the agenda include the Maldives, Bali, India, Singapore the Seychelles, Madagascar, and Zanzibar.

Also new for the global journey is the 'Destination Directors', who will work on board alongside the Cruise Director.

These extra personnel will be on board at different stages of the voyage, providing guests with a daily briefing featuring details of local highlights, information about the region and activities available close to the port prior to the ship's arrival.

My Cruises General Manager Michael Middleton said the company's cruise experts have worked closely with partners to develop experiences nobody has considered before.

"We have been blown away by the way this cruise has taken off in the Aussie market, with 25% of all sailings already sold," Middleton said.

"This growing demand for Explorations by Norwegian sailings has shown our incredible team of cruise experts that we have done the right thing with this unique and trailblazing itinerary," he added.

Through its charter, My Cruises will also allow travellers booking five or more segments to gift any to friends or family, in substitution for themselves.

"This flexibility for our customers was a key component in our initial creation phase for the cruise," Middleton added.



In a nod to a river cruise staple, the My Cruises charter will also offer guests an opportunity to rent a bicycle in ports to take for their own exploration, which Middleton said was a unique offering for an ocean cruise.

"A core part of My Cruises' Explorations By Norwegian is its unique blend of ocean, river, luxury and expedition cruising into one," he added.

Explorations by Norwegian will take a maximum of 700 guests to more than 220 ports, with segments ranging from seven days through to the full 371-day global circumnavigation.

While *Regatta* is part of the Oceania fleet, the onboard guest experience will be delivered by sister NCLH brand Norwegian Cruise Line. **ML**

## Atlas gets cooking

**ATLAS** Ocean Voyages has revealed the line-up of chefs and culinary experts for its upcoming Epicurean Expeditions this year.

Paulette Mitchell will sail on the 15 Apr voyage aboard *World Traveller*; Anna Wilamowska will appear on the 20 Apr cruise aboard *World Navigator*; and Ippy Aiona will appear on the 27 May 2025 sailing aboard the *World Voyager*.

Also appearing this year will be Mara Papatheodorou (27 May, 07 Jun, 20 Jul, 28 Jul, 01 Sep); Jeff Durham (07 & 14 Jun); Jon Schlegel (12 Jul, 11 Oct); Luciana Berry (12 Jul); Bobby Marcotte (28 Jul); Peter Campbell (28 Jul); Massimo Capra (01 Sep); Stephan Pyles (27 Sep); Paula Lambert (27 Sep); Christy Rost (11 Oct); and Chef Plum (22 Oct).

Guests exploring Europe on Atlas' Epicurean Expeditions will be immersed in each destination's culture, cuisine, and wines, visiting intimate ports across the region.







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## PORThOLE

**A CALIFORNIAN** woman has swapped her “land life” for cruise ship living, and said she has “no regrets” after spending almost six months at sea.

Belencia Wallace, 52, works full-time as a content creator, using the ships’ wi-fi and workspaces to post TikTok videos about her experience living on cruise ships.

The lifestyle change appears to be working out for Wallace, who has managed to amass 50,000 followers on TikTok after her adventure began in Oct 2024.

She has been at sea for 112 days so far, travelling on board a variety of Royal Caribbean ships, declaring *Symphony of the Seas* as her favourite.

“I don’t have any regrets about my cruise journey - my only wish is that I could have done it sooner,” Wallace told *MailOnline Travel*.

The cruise enthusiast said the total cost for a year at sea is around US\$50,000-\$60,000, which she described as “surprisingly affordable” compared to living on land, “especially when you factor in the cost of rent, utilities, groceries, and entertainment in a major city”.

Wallace said the most surprising thing about living on a cruise ship is the sense of community on board, with crew members becoming like family.

## Dining for all seasons



**FOUR** Seasons Yachts has unveiled its 11 restaurant and bar concepts aboard *Four Seasons I*, which will set sail next year.

The ship will feature three restaurants: the refined ‘Sedna’, which will be home to a rotation of master chefs-in-residence; ‘Terrasse’, which is inspired by the Cote d’Azur, offering “elegant-yet-relaxed” Mediterranean dining for breakfast, lunch, and dinner; and ‘Miuna’, an omakase experience for sushi aficionados, allowing just 16 guests per seating.

The trio of restaurants will be accompanied by seven bars and lounges, including the living room-style ‘Salon’; the adults-only terrace ‘Champagne & Caviar’; the poolside ‘Horizon Lounge’ (pictured); and the boutique-style ‘Cigar Lounge’.

There will also be a cafe called Pistachio, which will include freshly baked croissants, cakes, house-churned gelato, and more.

Complimentary breakfast is served daily, and all other dining and beverage experiences will be offered a la carte.

Children’s menus are also offered and guests aged five and under dine for free.

In-suite dining is also available 24 hours a day.

“Our restaurants and bars are the heartbeat of our hotels, and when we set sail in 2026, the same will be true aboard *Four Seasons I*, creating moments of connection, celebration and culinary excellence at sea,” Four Seasons President & Chief Executive Officer Alejandro Reynal said.

“Each offering has been thoughtfully designed to create a highly personalised experience, building on the success of our more than 600 restaurants and bars around the world, while introducing something entirely new,” he added. *MS*

## Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

<b>SYDNEY</b>	
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	14 Mar
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	14 Mar
<i>MSC Magnifica</i>	14 Mar
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	15 Mar
<i>Royal Princess</i>	16 Mar
<i>Crown Princess</i>	19 Mar
<i>Viking Orion</i>	20 Mar
<b>EDEN</b>	
<i>Royal Princess</i>	15 Mar
<i>MSC Magnifica</i>	16 Mar
<b>BRISBANE</b>	
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	14 Mar
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	15 Mar
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	16 Mar
<i>Crown Princess</i>	17 Mar
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	20 Mar
<b>CAIRNS</b>	
<i>Regatta</i>	15 Mar
<i>Scenic Eclipse II</i>	17 Mar
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	18 Mar
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	19 Mar
<b>BROOME</b>	
<i>True North II</i>	14 Mar
<b>FREMANTLE</b>	
<i>Bolette</i>	14 Mar
<b>ADELAIDE</b>	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	18 Mar
<i>MSC Magnifica</i>	20 Mar
<b>HOBART</b>	
<i>Viking Orion</i>	16 Mar
<i>Artania</i>	19 Mar
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	20 Mar
<b>MELBOURNE</b>	
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	16 Mar
<i>MSC Magnifica</i>	18 Mar
<i>Viking Orion</i>	18 Mar
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	19 Mar
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	19 Mar
<b>AUCKLAND</b>	
<i>Westerdam</i>	16 Mar
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	19 Mar