



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise news.

Hawaii passes tax

CRUISING in Hawaii could soon become more expensive after the State Legislature passed a new law to increase its transience tax on tourists, and expand it to cruise visitors.

The expanded bill is yet to be ratified by Hawaii Governor Josh Green, but once done, is tipped to see up to US\$100 million generated each year for state coffers.

Cruise pax would be charged a pro-rata fee based on cruise fares and time spent in port.

The move comes despite Norwegian Cruise Line VP Daniel Farkas threatening to withdraw its *Pride of America* ship from Hawaii if the law passes (**CW** 16 Apr).

CCL's Glamore to depart next month

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) Vice President Sales & Marketing Kara Glamore (**pictured**) is set to depart the company, as revealed by **CW** yesterday (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

A global review of Carnival's sales & marketing team has seen Glamore's role made redundant, with the former local head of the cruise line to depart on 01 Jun.

Glamore led Carnival's Australian team from her ascension to her role in Jul 2021 through to the integration of P&O Cruises Australia into CCL earlier this year (**CW** 31 Mar).

The retirement of Senior Vice President of Global Sales & Trade Marketing Adolfo Perez earlier this year saw Carnival review his team, subsequently appointing Janet Wygert as the new leader of the division last week.

Glamore's departure will now see Senior Director Sales &



Marketing Anton Loeb report directly to Wygert.

"I'm so proud of the Carnival Cruise Line team in Australia and what we achieved over the past years getting through COVID, and more recently with the P&O transition to Carnival," she said.

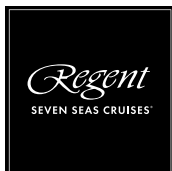
"Despite all this change, we've driven steady passenger and revenue growth year-on-year in all channels."

Glamore named championing the first return to sail post-COVID and record-level bookings for

Carnival's Australian fleet as highlights of her tenure.

"Kara's passion has always been about driving growth, fostering a commitment to working collaboratively with local, global, and shipboard teams, and empowering her direct team," Carnival Corporation Country Manager Peter Little described.

"We thank Kara for her contribution to CCL's success in the Australian market and wish her all the best in her future endeavours," he added. *MS*



UP TO 50% OFF YOUR DREAM VOYAGE

For a limited time, enjoy **UP TO 50% OFF** select 2025-2026 voyages to destinations around the globe. Don't miss this extraordinary value and indulge in ultra luxury without compromise.



A NEW YEAR TO REMEMBER

DOHA TO SINGAPORE
*Seven Seas Navigator**

DURATION
22
NIGHTS

DEPARTS
14 DEC
2025

UP TO
72
EXCURSIONS

ALL-INCLUSIVE CRUISE FARE WAS ~~AU\$22,840pp~~ NOW **AU\$17,130pp**
DELUXE WINDOW from.....

always INCLUDED

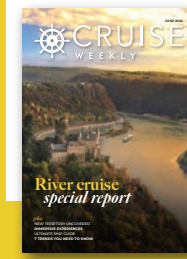
UNLIMITED SHORE EXCURSIONS | SPECIALITY DINING | UNLIMITED DRINKS | PRE-PAID GRATUITIES
UNLIMITED ACCESS TO SPA FACILITIES | UNLIMITED WIFI VALET LAUNDRY SERVICE
24-HOUR ROOM SERVICE *and more*

DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT



SALE
with up to
50% off
select 2025-2026
voyages

UNRIVALLED *at sea*™



Discover our
River Cruise
Special Report

Click here

Mexico fee is here

MEXICO'S cruise in-transit fee will start at US\$5 per head, and go up gradually, instead of the US\$42 amount initially announced (**CW** 10 Dec).

The fee will be introduced from Jul, and increase over time to US\$21 in 2028, according to media reports.

It will rise to US\$10 on 01 Aug 2026, and then again to \$15 on 01 Jul, 2027, before finally reaching US\$21 on 01 Aug 2028.

Mexico initially voted to introduce a US\$42 fee in Dec (**CW** 03 Dec) - an immigration tariff that cruise lines have previously been exempt from.

The Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA), which led the sector in its rally against the fee, said the tax would have a "devastating impact on cruise tourism, Mexico's economy and the livelihoods of its coastal communities".

The US\$42 fee is 213% more than the average cost at Caribbean ports, the FCCA told the media, which raises "serious questions about the competitiveness of Mexican destinations in the global cruise market".

The FCCA said even a modest 15% reduction in cruise calls to Mexican ports could negate the intended economic benefits of the tax, which had been announced without the industry's input.

Lindblad makes move to river cruise

A STRATEGIC partnership between National Geographic - Lindblad Expeditions and US group travel brand Transcend Cruises will see the formation of a charter agreement to launch a new European river cruising arm.

Beginning in 2026, Lindblad's entry into river cruising will begin initially with a single ship currently under development from Transcend Cruises.

The company launched in 2023 by chartering Riverside Cruises' *Riverside Mahler* and sailing it as *Transcend Advance*, but is now in the process of building its own.

The first of up to 10 new ships (**pictured**) is now in the works and currently in construction at the Den Breejen Shipyard in the Netherlands, to be launched through to 2028.

Each is being designed specifically for customised group travel, business events, meetings and corporate charters.

Named *Transcend Connect* and *Transcend Evolve*, the pair are on track to launch onto the Rhine/Main/Danube river stretch early next year.

It is unclear at this stage whether Lindblad has chartered the ships on a long-term basis.

Catering for up to 120 travellers per voyage, the 135-metre vessel will feature 60 staterooms which can be converted to 30 suites.

Lindblad's charter will initially run through to 2028, with specific itineraries and departure dates to



be released in the coming weeks.

The company said itineraries will take guests "deeper and farther" into riverside cities and towns on private tours.

Onboard each voyage will be an experienced expedition leader, a team of knowledgeable field staff and at least one representative from National Geographic.

Lindblad Expeditions CEO Natalya Leahy said the new venture is something guests have been craving for some time.

"We know that how you see it matters, and that's why we've curated these river voyages with the same depth, care, and expertise that define all of our expeditions," Leahy said.

"With National Geographic naturalists and historians, and exclusive events woven into each journey, our guests will explore Europe's storied rivers in truly meaningful ways."

Facilities onboard will include a main restaurant, upper sun deck with swimming pool, lounge at the rear of the ship and on the upper deck, a double-deck theatre and meeting rooms.

There will also be a three-level wellness area with two private treating rooms, outdoor-facing spa, and a sauna and fitness centre with Technogym equipment offering on-demand video yoga and exercise classes.

The ship will also offer 20 bikes for guests to take onshore.

Transcend Cruises CEO Hans Rood said he is excited to join with Lindblad Expeditions in the new symbiotic partnership.

"Our state-of-the-art newbuild river cruise ships offer both a luxury experience, as well as the opportunity to accommodate the lecturing and mind enriching requirements essential for their travellers," Rood said. *ML*

CARNIVAL'S GIFT CARD MAY-HEM!
4 WINNERS. \$400 EACH. EVERY WEEK FOR 4 WEEKS.



HOW TO BE IN THE DRAW TO WIN:

Simply make a Carnival booking during our Promotional Period (1-31 May) and visit GoCCL.com.au to Register.

Every deposited booking you make allows you an entry! The more you sell, the more chances you have to win!

LEARN MORE & REGISTER TODAY!

*Terms and Conditions Apply. Entry is open to Australian and New Zealand consultants registered on GoCCL.com.au. To be eligible, consultants must complete the registration process. Only deposited bookings will qualify for entry. For full terms and conditions, please visit GoCCL.com.au.



Europa to Africa

HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises has opened bookings for *Europa's* Indian Ocean and South Africa voyages, starting in Nov 2025.

The small luxury ship will travel around the southern coast of Africa, starting with the 'Fascination Africa: Wilderness, Desert and Safari' cruise, departing 21 Nov from Cape Town and concluding in Victoria in the Seychelles on 07 Dec.

Europa will visit Port Elizabeth, Durban, and Maputo, before making her way to Bazaruto and Madagascar, with guests to enjoy an African-themed entertainment program on board, including performances by South African singer, Nomfusi.

The 400-capacity vessel will also offer a 13-day 'Advent in Paradise' itinerary setting off on 07 Dec, which will take travellers from the Seychelles via Madagascar and Reunion to Mauritius.

There is also a Christmas and New Year's Eve sailing on offer, which includes relaxing days on the beach, Zodiac excursions to secluded beaches, and a New Year's concert presented by an international piano quintet.

Additionally, for the first time, *Europa* will set sail on an expedition to Madagascar in Jan, travelling from Port Louis via Toamasina, Antsiranana, and the island of Nosy Hara.



Antarctica a hit with Aussies



EXCLUSIVE

SILVERSEA'S six-day Antarctica fly-cruise option has been "incredibly popular" with Australians because it frees up time to bolt on further explorations in South America.

Speaking with *Cruise Weekly*, the cruise line's Senior VP of Expeditions, Destination and Itinerary Management Conrad Combrink said that while the abbreviated White Continent experience is also resonating well with Americans, it is perfect for the Aussie appetite.

"Australians travel for a long time and far distances to spend a lot of time away from home, and this option allows them to combine the trip with something else," Combrink explained.

"By booking [the six night fly cruise], it's not a 10-night investment spent only in Antarctica, now it becomes a six-night investment, and they can combine it with Iguazu, with the Chilean wine regions, or go to Mendoza and Argentina to explore more wines."

But freeing up time to explore nearby attractions by land is not the only possibility the shorter

Antarctica itineraries create, Combrink suggested, adding it opens the door to booking back-to-back Silversea expeditions.

"Travellers can fly back to Santiago, jump on a plane and five hours later be in Guayaquil or Quito in Ecuador and jump on a Galapagos voyage," he said.

Outside of the growing popularity of the six-day fly-cruise option, Combrink also noted Silversea's luxury expedition sailings have witnessed a shift in demographic in recent years.

"We are seeing a lot of multi-generational travel being booked which is great, and we are definitely seeing a younger demographic coming into expedition as well - especially on the six-night voyages.

"We can understand why too, because people still work and time away from the office is precious, so by booking these options, guests are maximising the experience.

"A lot of people think that we initiated the fly-cruise to skip the Drake Passage - that was not the intention at all, sure it's a bonus... but really it is because people are time-poor," he added. AB

Windstar mystifies

WINDSTAR Cruises has taken its destination discovery mantra to a new level on its recent first-ever 'President's Mystery Cruise'.

The cruise sailed from Athens in the Mediterranean, on board *Star Legend* from 19-27 Apr, and featured ports of calls that were previously unvisited by the line.

New ports included Taranto, Reggio Calabria, and Kalamata, while the cruise also called at Naxos Giardini.

Passengers were given a clue to the identity of each port around 36 hours before the ship's visit.

Special touches included a destination discovery event - a signature Windstar experience - on a coastal hilltop in Reggio Calabria; and a performance of the Tarantella, a romantic dance ritual from Puglia, performed on board while the ship was docked in Taranto.

The voyage was so successful that next year's 'President's Mystery Cruise' is already nearly sold out.

The next Mystery Cruise will depart on 20 Mar aboard *Star Seeker* from San Juan.

Ponant + OzHarvest

PONANT and OzHarvest are joining forces in the NT, as part of a three-year alliance.

The two are combining to support action against food waste and education programs on food and sustainability.

The new initiative aligns with Ponant's ethos of giving back.



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

DISCOVER MORE

Grand Mediterranean Exploration
71 nights from £ 7,999 pp, twin share



CRUISE
Traveller

Exclusive Australian
Representative



CARNIVAL Brand Ambassador John Heald receives all kinds of weird and wonderful requests from cruise travellers - some he can fulfil and others, sadly not.

One such request petitioned recently on his hugely popular Facebook message board was to bring back boxed cereal to the buffet instead of the large bulk dispensers.

The petitioning guest said boxed cereal made for an ideal snack for her family during days in port and that she is now "forced" to buy ziplock bags to "smuggle" cereal off the ship for her days ashore.

Heald was quick to pour cold water (or milk) on this idea.

"We do have cereal from dispensers," Heald replied.

"And yes, when we used to have them in those small boxes, people would take many of them - not to eat at breakfast, but to take back to their cabins or to take home, and it was just not practical."

Heald was particularly critical of the guest's veiled threat to take the cereal off the ship.

Onboard food is not to be taken ashore, but Heald added some wit to his reply.

"If you are caught by the local authorities bringing food off the ship they may treat you in a 'frosty' manner", he said, while apologising for being a 'cereal killer'.

Star ready to go back in time



FIVE signature theatrical productions across stage, air, water, and ice will feature in an updated entertainment line-up coming to Royal Caribbean's second Icon ship *Star of the Seas*.

Revealed by the line overnight, the selection will be headlined by the stage production of *Back to the Future: The Musical* (CW 24 Oct 2024) featuring well-known hits played by the largest orchestra at sea.

The line will also debut *Torque*, a new aqua show featuring choreographed stunts including high diving, synchronised swimmers, dancers, and more.

The AquaTheatre will also debut *Pirates & Mermaids*, a comedy show featuring dance, high diving, and artistic swimming.

In the Absolute Zero ice skating rink, Royal Caribbean will debut an ice show featuring high quality visuals and stunts.

The Royal Theatre will also present *Create*, a new in-house production which follows the soul-searching adventures of the robot KRE-8 in a story filled with music and captivating dance.

Off stage, Royal's new ship will offer a new 1930s Chicago-inspired dining experience at the Lincoln Park Supper Club, pairing live jazz music with cocktails and curated dishes.

In addition, three new culinary concepts will be introduced at the AquaDome Market, including smokey pulled pork and brisket; Southeast Asian flavours; and South American empanadas and arepas on offer.

Star will make her debut in Aug when she begins sailing from Port Canaveral on alternating seven-night eastern and western Caribbean itineraries. *ML*

Cruise goes inland

CRUISE Express has launched a new 14-day itinerary by rail and road, featuring four heritage train trips in New South Wales and Victoria.

The 'Spirit of the Southwest' itinerary departs on 31 Aug 2026 and includes 13 nights' hotel accommodation, most meals and group tours - **CLICK HERE** for more.



Backing cruise in NZ

CLIA'S focus on New Zealand over recent months has brought encouraging signs from the government, suggesting cruise will play a stronger role in the country's tourism future.

Despite challenges around cost and regulation, New Zealand is a key part of our industry and a high priority for guests.

Though the number of ships visiting New Zealand has been down, we are working hard to achieve better settings to encourage cruising long term.

Last month, CLIA met with Tourism Minister Louise Upston on board *Celebrity Edge* in Auckland, where we discussed ways to lift cruise tourism.

Together with cruise lines and industry stakeholders, we heard the Minister's support for cruising and the government's focus on increasing visitation.

In recent days, the message has been echoed by Minister for the South Island, James Meager.

Recognising issues around fees, surety of access and biosecurity, Meager said he is working alongside Minister Upston to fix problems and attract more ships.

Together with our cruise lines, CLIA is working to ensure New Zealand enjoys the same prosperity being experienced worldwide, providing benefits not just locally but also in Australia and throughout our region.

