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cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Monday 3rd November 2025

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of cruise news, plus a cover wrap from Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

Big month for CLIA

OCT'S Cruise Month put Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) travel advisors up front in a digital billboard campaign, in what was the most extensive annual push ever mounted.

This year is the first time CLIA has run a digital billboard campaign in major cities and near cruise terminals (pictured), directing travellers to book their next cruise with one of its agents.



Princess' royal return



PRINCESS Cruises' Discovery Princess (pictured) has completed a five-day getaway around Southeast Asia, setting her up for her maiden season in Australia, commencing next month.

Discovery will home port in Sydney from 06 Dec until 07 Apr, marking 50 years since the first Princess ship - Pacific Princess. also known as the Love Boat - first sailed into the city.

According to Princess Vice President of APAC Matt Rutherford, Discovery "brings a truly world-class style of cruising to our waters".

"She's ideally suited for the Australian market - spacious, stylish and full of variety," he told Cruise Weekly.

"From her stunning Sky Suites with the largest balconies at sea, to world-class dining venues and relaxed poolside spaces, Discovery Princess offers an experience that feels both premium and welcoming."

Discovery will take Australian guests on 12 cruises, including two voyages to Fiji, five to NZ.

Following that, she will return to the Northern Hemisphere via French Polynesia and Hawaii.

Rutherford is looking forward to the "season-long celebration" as Discovery sails into Australia.

"We'll be welcoming our partners, travel agents and loyal guests on board throughout the season, and we can't wait for them to experience everything this remarkable ship has to offer."

Discovery has been preparing for her inaugural Australian season with an Asia program, which saw the ship recently make her first call in Singapore.

Last week's five-day sailing in Southeast Asia saw Discovery make calls into Kuala Lumpur, Langkawi, and Penang.

In 2026-27, a third of the Princess fleet will be based in the Asia-Pacific region, with three ships (Royal Princess, Grand Princess, and Crown Princess) to sail in Australia. JHM

RSSC Black Fri bonus

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises' (RSSC) Black Fri bonus offers up to 45% off select suite categories, plus up to US\$500 shipboard credit.

Those who reserve by 02 Dec can access the offer on a number of cruises, including the 'Turkish Treasures' aboard Seven Seas Voyager, and 'Viva Espana', also on Voyager cover page.









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Monday 3rd November 2025

Cruise's push to rejoin ASCOT agenda

THE Australian Cruise
Association (ACA) and Cruise
Lines International Association
(CLIA) are pushing for cruise to
rejoin the Australian Standing
Committee on Tourism (ASCOT)
agenda to ensure the sector
receives the attention it deserves.

"We're really pushing for all of the states and territories to try and get cruise back onto the ASCOT agenda, which is that federal meeting place for the tourism ministers," ACA Chief CEO Jill Abel explained to **CW**.

"Cruise has appeared on the ASCOT agenda a few years ago, but for a very short period of time, so we really want to actually get it back as a permanent piece of that agenda."

CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz believes the recovery of cruise needs to be led at a national level; however, it is not a problem that can be solved by

Cruise Weekly



one tier of government.

"The states can have their strategies and ambitions, but it's the federal government that regulates cruise as part of the maritime industry...we need to make sure they come together to make sure the states and territories can deliver on their cruise ambitions," he told **CW**.

"We want to actually find the opportunity in the right settings and the right federal engagement

to support all the states and territories for that next piece of growth that we know is there, because it is showing it globally - we just want to make sure that we get our piece of that market share," he said.

"We're very encouraged that all the states and territories are very focused on cruise as part of their visitor economy mix, we just need to bring that all together in a joint action plan." MS

Coral cruise ends

PASSENGERS on the illfated Coral Expeditions cruise on which an 80-year-old passenger died (*CW* 31 Oct) have been flown home.

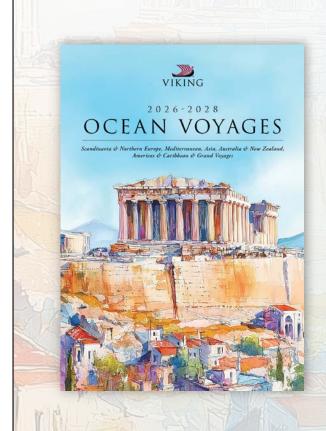
The ship, Coral Adventurer, will now return to Cairns, as investigations into Suzanne Rees' death continue.

Adventurer anchored near Thursday Island in the Torres Strait, from where passengers flew home late last week.

Reports indicate the ship has been prohibited from boarding new passengers, and Coral is now working with authorities to support the investigation.

Coral is also providing refunds to passengers, it has been reported.

The passenger died on Lizard Island in as-yet unknown circumstances, but was not aboard *Adventurer* when the ship departed that night.





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A BROWN bear dubbed '32 Chunk' has claimed the annual Fat Bear Week title in Alaska's Katmai National Park.

The voluptuous bear bested a field of competitors including two-time champion 128 Grazer, and runner-up, Bear 856, in a bracket-style online vote.

32 Chunk earned 96,000 votes in the contest, compared to 856's 64,000 votes, with more than 1.5 million votes cast - a new record for the 20-year-old event.

The new titlist is well-known to bear-watchers, having been a favourite in the competition for years.

He managed to pack on the pounds in late summer despite incurring a broken jaw in Jun from a confrontation with another bear.

Far from shaming the animals, Fat Bear Week aims to promote conservation and celebrate the park's wildlife.

Hurtigruten goes net-zero



HURTIGRUTEN has set sail on its first climate-neutral voyage (CW 03 Oct), with Richard With (pictured) departing Bergen to chart a course along the cruise line's Coastal Express route to Kirkenes and back.

The battery-hybrid ship will complete a 5,000-kilometre round trip using 100% advanced biofuel, reaffirming the cruise line's position as a leader in sustainable travel.

Richard With will run on HVO100, an advanced biofuel produced from waste and residual materials like used cooking oil and fat waste.

Hurtigruten has invested around US\$176m (A\$269m) in technical upgrades, in what has been one of the most extensive environmental upgrade programs

Advanced sewage treatment systems and purification units have also reduced NOx emissions by more than 80%, and all ships in the fleet are now fitted with shore power connections.

"Lifecycle analyses show that this fuel can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 90% compared with fossil alternatives," said Lea Rankinen, Managing Director of St1 Norway, Hurtigruten's fuel supplier.

"This voyage demonstrates how circular solutions can deliver real emission reductions today.

"Hurtigruten is showing decisive leadership, and for us at St1, this is about using technology and resources more intelligently." MS

A Royal choice

ROYAL Caribbean Group has announced the launch of Points Choice, where guests can apply loyalty points earned towards any of the company's cruise brands.

The company last year introduced status match across its three brands (CW 31 May 2024), and is now expanding loyalty redemption further.

Passengers can continue to build status with their preferred brand and spend them with any of the three cruise lines, whether it be with Royal Caribbean's Crown & Anchor Society, Celebrity Cruises' Captain's Club, or Silversea's Venetian Society.

The new enhancement will launch early next year, with details on exchange rates, eligibility and rules to come.

"If your preferred brand is Royal Caribbean and you are sailing on Celebrity, you can apply the Captain's Club points earned to the Crown & Anchor program to keep building your Crown & Anchor status," explained a statement from Royal Caribbean.

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Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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