

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a full page from Viking.

Viking spring sale

EXCEPTIONAL fares with Viking are available across the line's top-selling cruises.

The company's spring sale fares are sharply priced across its most in-demand river itineraries, with every booking including free return flights up to \$5,000 per couple.

Cruises on sale include the 'Grand European Tour', the 'Capitals of Eastern Europe', the 'Passage to Eastern Europe', the 'Magnificent Mekong', the 'Pharaohs and Pyramids', and the 'Portugal's River of Gold' itineraries.

Head to **page 4** for more information, or call Viking on 138 747.

Crescent relinquishes NCLH charter

CRESCENT Seas has relinquished its charter for two outgoing NCLH ships (**CW** 04 Apr), instead saying it is focusing on plans for its newbuild, with the line pointing to "far exceeded expectations" for its residential cruise line concept.

Plans for Crescent were announced in Mar by former cruise executive Russell Galbut (**CW** 24 Mar), with the cruise line to take on Regent Seven Seas Cruises' *Seven Seas Navigator* and Oceania Cruises' *Oceania Insignia* on long-term charters.

A month later, Crescent announced plans for its first newbuild, called *Ocean* (render **pictured**), with around 300 units of salable inventory, due to arrive in the fourth quarter of 2031.

Crescent would have received *Navigator* in Oct 2026, which was even set to be refurbished, as part of a transformation



announced just last month (**CW** 07 Oct).

However these plans now appear to have been abandoned following conversations with potential buyers, which made it clear that demand is moving toward larger, more customisable residences, the cruise line said.

"In the six months since launching Crescent Seas, the brand captured extraordinary interest from individuals around

the world," a spokesperson for the cruise line said.

Crescent had ambitious plans, saying it planned to launch five ships over the next five years, however it is unclear whether this strategy has also been discarded.

Those who paid a deposit on the first two ships will get full refunds and priority access to *Ocean*, the cruise line said.

CW has reached out to Crescent and NCLH for comment. *MS*



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The
HOLY VIKING!
I NEED TO WIN THIS
INCENTIVE

A prize so
extraordinary it feels
mythical by nature.

One agent wins three cruises
with air valued at over \$77,000.
Plus \$24,000 in runner-up prizes.

MAKE IT YOURS

You must register **EVERY** booking, the more you register, the more chances you have to win.



HX evolves its loyalty program

HX HAS evolved its Explorers Loyalty Programme, introducing a brand-new points system with four tiers of recognition.

The cruise line's most passionate travellers will be rewarded with either a platinum, gold, silver, or bronze membership, replacing the current two-tier system, with passengers to earn points for every night they sail.

A number of onboard activities and select experiences at home will also earn members points, which will unlock exclusive benefits and recognition with HX.

All tier levels will be the first to hear about the cruise line's offers, products, and exclusive promotions, and receive invitations to exclusive events.

They will also have access to a 5% discount on optional excursions, a welcome gift in their stateroom, and a cocktail on the

first two days of each cruise.

Those who sign up for the Explorers Programme today can immediately gain access to the bronze tier.

Silver and up can currently get 10% off 2027/28 expeditions, as well as 5% off all other cruises, and a birthday reward.

The new bronze and silver tiers reflect the cruise line's present loyalty offering, meaning no current members will lose any of their benefits.

Gold and up will be offered a behind-the-scenes ship tour and complimentary laundry twice a week, or once a day for suites.

Platinum members will enjoy the benefits of all other tiers, plus a complimentary spa treatment, a printed photo logbook, a complimentary stateroom upgrade 30 days before their cruise, no change fees, and the 'always on price promise', which

provides a partial refund if the price of their voyage is lowered.

Passengers will earn 10 points per night they spend sailing with HX, with an extra 5 points per night for suite guests.

Onboard spend of €250 is rewarded with 5 points, as are other various other levels of engagement, such as attending a HX webinar or event, or completing one of its University of Tasmania courses (**CW** 31 Oct).

Those who partake in a HX polar plunge also earn 5 points.

Current loyalty program members have had their new points total calculated from the past five years of their travel with the cruise line, with no cruises lost in the transition.

Previous Hurtigruten voyages will not be honoured, but those who have travelled with HX's former sister brand will receive a 100-point bonus. *MS*

Golding out at PE

A RESTRUCTURE at Ponant Explorations has seen Key Account Manager Julie Golding made redundant.

This is the second time Golding has left Ponant, following an almost three-year tenure with the cruise line from Mar 2021-Nov 2023.

She returned to Ponant in Oct 2024, after a year away from the cruise sector.

Golding said her time with the French cruise line was incredibly rewarding.

"I've loved connecting with our travel industry community and have learnt so much, [and] grown both personally and professionally," she told her LinkedIn followers.

"A highlight was signing Ponant Explorations onto a three-year partnership with OzHarvest, supporting their FEAST program."

THIS IS POLAR.

Arctic & Antarctic 2027/2028



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PRIDE and Prejudice is Holland America Line's book of the month, and to celebrate, the company has created a cocktail inspired by the much-loved Austen novel.

Holland America's culinary ambassador and beverage expert David Wondrich has created the Pemberley Punch, designed to accompany guests as they tune into the 19th-century classic through the cruise line's partnership with Audible (**CW** 11 Apr 2024).

The cocktail is made with cognac, rum, liqueur lemon juice, and ruby port, with ingredients poured into a champagne flute and topped with sparkling wine.

It is named after the grand country estate of Mr. Darcy, and aims to blend flavours popular in the Regency era.

"With the Pemberley Punch, we're blending classic flavours, literary inspiration, and our passion for delivering unique on-board experiences to our guests," Senior Manager Beverage Operations & Dining Innovations Drew Foulk.

Azamara goes pink with McGrath



THE Entertainment Group has partnered with Azamara Cruises and Ecrusing Travel Australia to launch the first-ever Pink Cruise: a philanthropic voyage raising funds for breast cancer through the McGrath Foundation.

The three-week cruise will depart Sydney on 03 Mar bound for Hong Kong aboard *Azamara Onward* (pictured).

A percentage of every stateroom booked through Entertainment will be donated to the McGrath Foundation.

Onward will make overnight calls to ports like Alotau and Manila, with Entertainment members able to get exclusive offers, such as almost 10% off.

Two exclusive pink-themed events will be hosted on board *Onward*, including a high tea and a cocktail party.

McGrath Foundation Director Tracy Bevan will also join passengers on board to share her passion and dedication.

"We're deeply inspired by the impact of [the McGrath Foundation's] work and are thrilled to welcome guests on board Azamara," the cruise line's Director of Sales Victoria Chigwidden said.

"With the relaxed luxury vibe, inclusive package, onboard white party celebration and so much more, we are sure this will be a cruise to remember." MS

Lindblad does winter

NATIONAL Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions has expanded its river collection with new itineraries for 27-28.

Demand for the cruise line's product has driven the expansion of its portfolio of river itineraries, with the 27-28 season to mark Lindblad's most extended lineup of itineraries to date.

New holiday voyages in Europe will be a highlight of the season, with Lindblad's *Connect* to continue to sail down Amsterdam's canals and through the French countryside with her popular spring and summer itineraries.

Strong demand will also see her sister ship *Evolve* join the fleet, introducing three new Christmas cruises and one holiday voyage exploring the destination's Christmas markets, extending Lindblad's program into winter.

The season will also span Egypt, India, and Vietnam.

Returning cruises will include *Charaidev II* on India's Brahmaputra River, *Jahan* on the Mekong in Vietnam, and *Oberoi Philae* on the Nile.

Egypt cruises will include a stop at the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum, which debuted last week.



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CRUISE INDUSTRY
Awards

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

NOMINATE YOURSELF OR A COLLEAGUE TODAY



EXCEPTIONAL 2026 FARES ACROSS TOP-SELLING ITINERARIES

We want to ensure you don't miss our incredible Spring Sale fares on some of our best-selling river itineraries. These fares are crafted to give you a clear advantage. With sharp pricing across our most in-demand river journeys, they are designed to convert quickly and will sell out fast.

Plus, every booking includes free return flights up to the value of \$5,000 per couple.
Be sure to secure your client's sailings before they're gone.



GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR

Amsterdam to Budapest or vice versa

**15 DAYS | 4 COUNTRIES
12 GUIDED TOURS**

15-days from **\$8,695pp** with flights included*

Based on 31 July 2026 departure.

Additional departures available from May to August 2026.



CAPITALS OF EASTERN EUROPE

Vienna to Bucharest or vice versa

**17 DAYS | 7 COUNTRIES
12 GUIDED TOURS**

17-days from **\$10,295pp** with flights included*

Based on 19 June 2026 departure.

Additional departures available from March to August 2026.



PASSAGE TO EASTERN EUROPE

Bucharest to Budapest or vice versa

**11 DAYS | 5 COUNTRIES
8 GUIDED TOURS**

11-days from **\$6,995pp** with flights included*

Based on 31 July 2026 departure.

Additional departures available from March to August 2026.



MAGNIFICENT MEKONG

Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi or vice versa

**15 DAYS | 2 COUNTRIES
16 GUIDED TOURS**

15-days from **\$11,295pp** with flights included*

Based on 16 March 2026 departure.

Additional departures available from January to June 2026.



PHAROHS & PYRAMIDS

Roundtrip from Cairo, Egypt

**12 DAYS | 1 COUNTRY
11 GUIDED TOURS**

12-days from **\$10,595pp** with flights included*

Based on 11 June 2026 departure.

Additional departures available from April to June 2026.



PORTUGAL'S RIVER OF GOLD

Lisbon to Porto

**10 DAYS | 2 COUNTRIES
8 GUIDED TOURS**

10-days from **\$8,095pp** with flights included*

Based on 19 July 2026 departure.

Additional departures available from May to July 2026.