

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features six pages of the latest cruise news, including a photo page from **Disney Destinations**, plus a full page from **Scenic Luxury Tours and Cruises**.

Sail on an Ikon

SCENIC is inviting advisors to secure their clients' voyage on board the new *Scenic Ikon*, which begins her inaugural season in Apr 2028 - see **p7**.

Siskie departs DCL

DISNEY Cruise Line SVP and General Manager, Sharon Siskie, has announced she will retire at the end of Jan 2026 after 31 years with the vacation company.

In a LinkedIn post, Siskie described her time at Disney as an "incredible journey".

HX reveals commercial strategy lead for ANZ

HX EXPEDITIONS has appointed a commercial strategy leader for the local market, with the promotion of Nathaniel Sherborne (**pictured**) as SVP and Managing Director, EMEA, ANZ, and Global Sales Enablement (**CW** breaking news).

Australia now sits within the UK and Europe structure under Sherborne's global remit, while Steve Smotrys - who previously looked after the local market - will continue in his role as MD & SVP, Commercial Americas, focusing on driving growth across the North American market.

Sherborne's newly expanded remit will see him drive commercial strategy across EMEA and ANZ, while continuing to steer global sales enablement to support HX's international growth.

Sherborne, who initially joined HX in 2023 as Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the UK



and Nordics, will also look after the line's guest excellence team.

"The broadening of my remit across EMEA and ANZ, alongside continuing to lead global sales enablement and the integration of our GX team, comes at an important time for HX as we move toward our 130th anniversary," he said.

"As we approach this milestone, these developments strengthen our ability to elevate

the customer experience, drive performance across key regions, and support the next phase of the brand's global growth."

Sherborne's promotion comes two months' after **Cruise Weekly** exclusively revealed the upcoming

departure of three executives from the cruise line (**CW** 24 Sep).

The leadership shuffle saw the exit of Chief Commercial Officer Alex Delamere-White, Vice President People & Culture Belinda Henriksen, and Chief Expedition Officer Alex McNeil.

At the time, HX said it will not replace any of the three roles as part of the restructure, and confirmed there was no impact to the local office. *JM*

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Oceania offers sneak peek of Sonata

OCEANIA Cruises unveiled a sneak peek of its upcoming ship *Oceania Sonata* (render pictured) this week, on the christening cruise of its latest ship *Oceania Allura* (**CW** yesterday).

Sonata will be the first ship in the cruise line's new class, which will be named after the vessel, with CCO Nathan Hickman revealing some of what guests can look forward to.

The new vessel will be the most spacious and amenity-rich to date, with Hickman divulging 30% of all accommodations on board will be suites, up from around 25% on *Allura*.

Sonata also will debut two brand-new suite categories, one of which will be named the Horizon suite.

This accommodation will sit between the Oceania and Penthouse suite, equalling the equivalent of two standard



staterooms, with 50 of this category on board the new ship.

Sonata's Owner's suites will also be reimagined, with the accommodation class to now feature two bedrooms.

Oceania will be adding two new dining concepts to *Sonata* without removing any which appear aboard *Allura*, Hickman

said, a possibility thanks to the ship's larger size.

This will include one haute cuisine venue and a far more casual offering, he added.

There will also be more space added to the Aquamar Kitchen and Terrace Cafe venues.

Sonata's itineraries will be revealed in Jan. *MS*



On location on board
Celebrity Xcel

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of *Celebrity Cruises*, which is this week hosting us aboard the new *Celebrity Xcel*.

TODAY is our second and last day onboard *Celebrity Cruises'* new *Celebrity Xcel*, which was yesterday christened by her godmother, celebrity chef Janaina Torres.

The day will begin with an immersion in *Celebrity's* new concept, The Bazaar, which aims to bring more of the onshore experience to the ship.

Guests will then be offered a backstage pass to the on board theatre, where they will learn how all the magic is created in *Celebrity's* entertaining shows.

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Celebrity reveals 2027-28 second wave

CELEBRITY Cruises has revealed its second wave of 2027-28 season itineraries, with more than 130 destinations across over 40 countries added.

Itinerary highlights include Celebrity's first-ever dedicated Grand Turk itineraries in the Caribbean, which will be operated by *Celebrity Xcel*.

Guests will be able to enjoy immersive experiences both ashore at destinations like Grand Cayman, St. Thomas, and St. Kitts, and on board through The Bazaar.

Southern Caribbean sailings will be available on *Celebrity Ascent* (pictured), with more sailings through the Panama Canal, and visits to Antigua, and St. Lucia.

Celebrity Solstice and *Celebrity Millennium* will sail to almost 50 destinations across seven countries, offering well over 100 port days staying more than 10 hours in destination.



Highlights include overnight stays in Hong Kong on New Year's Eve, and visits to Bali, Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

Celebrity Equinox will offer 14-night journeys to 17 destinations across seven countries, featuring Patagonian glaciers, Chilean Fjords, Iguazu Falls, Cape Horn, and more.

Additionally, there will be year-round, seven-night sailings on *Celebrity Beyond* from Miami and Fort Lauderdale, including visits to Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, and Perfect Day at CocoCay.

Celebrity Reflection will also visit the Royal Caribbean Group

private island.

MEANWHILE, Celebrity Cruises' new ship *Celebrity Xcel* was named yesterday in Fort Lauderdale.

The cruise line gathered its employees, trade partners, international media, and more around *Xcel*'s pool deck for the ceremony, which featured performances from the ship's onboard entertainment team.

Formalities included a pipe and drum corps presentation from the St. Andrews Pipe Band of Miami, as well as an electrified performance of the American national anthem from house guitarist Jeff Arnold. *MS*

Explore the Rockies

HX EXPEDITIONS has partnered with Rocky Mountaineer to give travel advisors across Australia and New Zealand the chance to secure a spot on a fam to the Canadian Rockies and Alaska.

Beginning on 30 Apr 2026 with Rocky Mountaineer's iconic 'Journey Through the Clouds' route, advisors will travel from Jasper to Vancouver in luxurious GoldLeaf Service.

The trip includes an overnight stay in Kamloops, where the winner will set sail on HX Expeditions' 10-day Alaska voyage from Vancouver to Seward, departing 02 May.

Advisors can go into the draw by making a deposited booking with HX Expeditions or Rocky Mountaineer between 17 Nov 2025 and 27 Feb 2026.

Find out more **HERE**.



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Princess Caribbean

PRINCESS Cruises has announced its biggest Caribbean and Panama Canal program yet, visiting 31 ports and sailing from five home ports for the 2027-28 season.

New for the cruise line, Princess will introduce port calls to Celebration Key as part of its expanded Caribbean deployment beginning 01 Nov 2026, with the first call from its newest ship, *Star Princess*.

From Oct 2027 through Apr 2028, travellers can enjoy 187 departures on nine ships during the Caribbean season, which will offer 43 itineraries ranging in length from four to 15 days and more late-night stays in the ABC islands.

Meanwhile, the Panama Canal season will operate from Sep 2027 through Apr 2028, with 22 departures on five ships across nine itineraries.

Aroya's president departs

AROYA Cruises President, Jorg Rudolph (**pictured**), has departed the Saudi Arabian cruise line as it prepares to enter its next phase of growth.

From early 2024, Rudolph has served as Aroya's first president (**CW** 10 Jan 2024), joining from Costa Cruises in Germany, where he was Managing Director.

With two decades of global cruise experience under his belt at lines including TUI Cruises, AIDA Cruises, Carnival Cruise Line, and Royal Caribbean International, Rudolph's appointment was considered pivotal for launching the first domestic Arabian cruise line.

His responsibilities as president included operations, financials, sales, marketing, guest experience, itinerary planning, revenue management and customer services.

Lars Clasen, Chief Executive



Officer of Cruise Saudi, will act as interim president while maintaining his current position.

"Dr. Rudolph has played a key role in the early success of Aroya Cruises, helping bring the product to life," said Clasen.

"As we move into our next chapter, this transition represents a natural and positive evolution for Aroya Cruises.

"We are focused on accelerating growth, enhancing performance, and continuing to deliver... experiences that reflect the spirit and hospitality of Saudi Arabia," Clasen added. *JM*

Travelmarvel NZ

TRAVELMARVEL has unveiled its new 2026/27 New Zealand collection, featuring a diverse range of land, rail and small group touring options designed to showcase both the North and South Islands.

Travellers can select from seven itineraries, including the 15-day 'NZ Getaway Land Tour' from \$7,295 per person, which begins in Auckland and ends in Christchurch.

Guests will cruise to Cape Brett in the Bay of Islands, visit Waitomo's Glowworm caves, experience Maori culture and geothermal wonders at Te Puia in Rotorua, board the Interislander Ferry and TranzAlpine train, and many more experiences.

The program is on sale now, with earlybird savings of up to \$2,000 per couple until 31 May 2026.



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The 23rd Cruise Industry Awards are
now open for nominations

NOMINATE YOURSELF OR A COLLEAGUE TODAY

For more information on Award Criteria and how to nominate, please visit cruising.org.au.
Nominations are open to all CLIA Travel Agent members and close Friday, 21 November 2025.

CRUISE Agents enjoy a date with *Destiny*

WEEKLY

Tuesday 18th Nov 2025

AMY Mortlock-Eytan from Disney Destinations recently hosted partners and their families for a magical famil experience, culminating in the christening sailing of Disney Cruise Line's newest ship, *Disney Destiny*. After exploring Walt Disney World Resort and joining Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party, the group embarked on a three-night cruise from Fort Lauderdale to Disney's Castaway Cay.

As the latest addition to the fleet, *Destiny* dazzled with immersive spaces inspired by Disney heroes and villains, innovative dining where meals become interactive adventures, and exclusive Broadway-style shows.

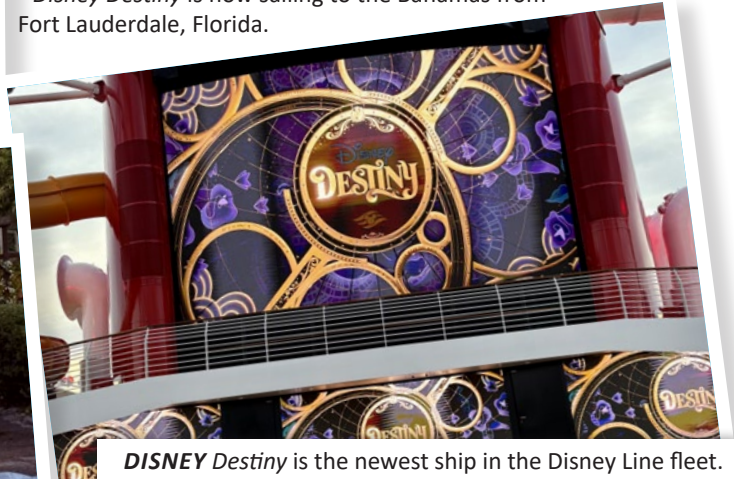
Families enjoyed exceptional staterooms, youth clubs, and the action-packed Hero Zone, while adults relaxed in luxurious retreats.

From exhilarating waterslides to magical encounters throughout the ship, *Disney Destiny's* blend of storytelling and innovation provided unforgettable memories - both at sea and at Disney's private island, Castaway Cay.

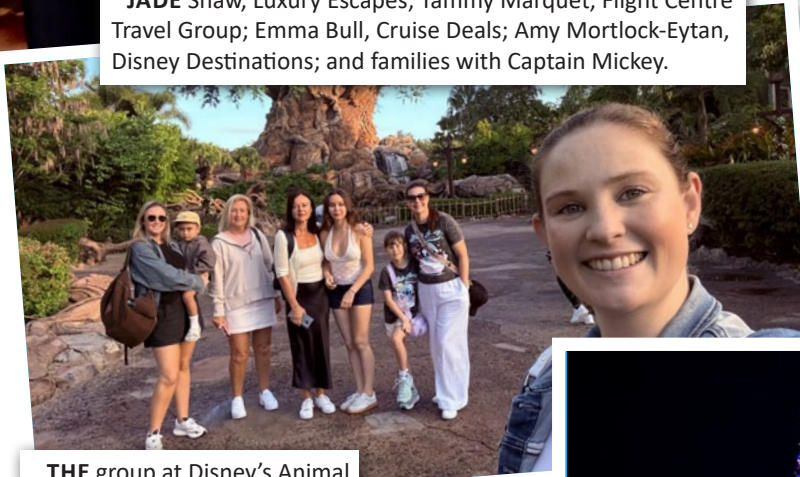
Disney Destiny is now sailing to the Bahamas from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



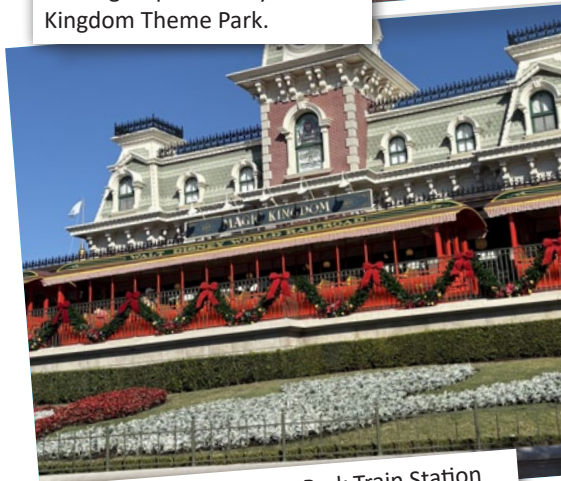
JADE Shaw, Luxury Escapes; Tammy Marquet, Flight Centre Travel Group; Emma Bull, Cruise Deals; Amy Mortlock-Eytan, Disney Destinations; and families with Captain Mickey.



DISNEY *Destiny* is the newest ship in the Disney Line fleet.



THE group at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park.



THE Magic Kingdom Park Train Station decorated for the holiday season.



CELEBRATING Christmas at Magic Kingdom Park.



A perfect day at Castaway Cay.



THE group enjoying a day at Disney's Castaway Cay in the Bahamas.



DISNEY *Destiny* features Spider-Man as its signature stern character.



ENJOYING dinner at Pride Lands: Feast of the Lion King.



WHILE wandering the new *Celebrity Xcel* last night, **CW** stumbled upon a speakeasy in a very discreet location.

Upon entry, we were told photography was a no-no, and given a case for our phones for the duration of our stay.

The 1920s-style bar featured a secret cocktail menu not on offer in other venues around the ship, as well as spot performances from mimes, magicians, and singers.

We were allowed to stay for an hour before being told our time was up, when we were escorted back into the real world with the rest of the ship.

Funnily enough, when asking multiple *Celebrity* officials about the secret venue the next day, their response from each was the same: "I have no idea what you're talking about".

Good luck to any *Xcel* pax seeking out this venue - our lips are sealed.

CCL pampers health workers



CARNIVAL *Luminosa* recently welcomed aboard 10 nurses and healthcare workers from Queensland Children's Hospital for a well-deserved spa experience as a thank you from Carnival Cruise Line (CCL).

The group were hosted at the ship's luxurious Cloud9 Spa, where they could enjoy the hydrotherapy pool and thermal suites, followed by massage treatments and a relaxing lunch.

"Carnival is proud to support the incredible work of the Children's Hospital Foundation and the healthcare heroes who

make a difference every day," stated Anton Loeb, the cruise line's Assistant Vice President Sales and Marketing.

"Today's ship spa day was a small way to say thank you to those who give so much."

As a long-time partner of the Children's Hospital Foundation in Queensland since 2019, CCL has donated over \$132,000. *JM*

Pictured: Bree-Anne McCarthy, Samantha Smith, Gordon Brown, Mara Newnham, Christina Adams, Helen Elgar, Amanda Coman, Tyson Dempsey, Laura Callender and Phoebe Walker.

Greece milestone

GREECE'S Chania has marked a cruise milestone, welcoming its highest-ever number of passengers in one year.

More than 400,000 cruise passengers visited the Crete city in 2025, compared to around 286,000 last year - a nearly 40% increase YoY.

Additionally, Chania has already recorded 204 ship calls in 2025, compared to 144 arrivals in 2024.

Another Amadeus

AMADEUS River Cruises has announced its second ship order in two years, with *Amadeus Mira* slated to launch in 2027.

Featuring hybrid-electric propulsion, the 158-passenger vessel will operate on the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers alongside sister ship *Amadeus Aurea*, which debuts next year.

Onboard facilities include wind-protected lounges, the Cafe Vienna gallery, massage and fitness facilities, plus a sun deck with heated pool and lido bar.



SAILING NEW WATERS

Here's why the cruise industry is setting sail for Southeast Asia.

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Scenic Ikon: 2028-2029

Antarctica,
The Mediterranean,
Aegean & Adriatic

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