

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news, including a photo page from **Bon Voyage**, plus a full page from **MSC Cruises**.

Unlock huge value

AGENTS can secure up to 50% savings for their clients on more than 6,000 MSC Cruises' sailings, thanks to the line's Black Friday sale.

The deals include voyages across the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Caribbean, Asia and beyond.

MSC Voyagers Club members will save an additional 5%.

Check out the **back page** to learn more.

Celeb rolling on the river



EXCLUSIVE

CELEBRITY Cruises President Laura Hodges Bethge said the line was "overwhelmed" with the level of interest shown in its river cruises upon their announcement earlier this year (**CW** 26 Sep).

The new product, which sold out less than five minutes after going on general sale, has necessitated a rush from Celebrity to get its hands on as many more river ships as possible, the line's leader told **Cruise Weekly**.

This came a few weeks after priority allocation sold out in just six minutes (**CW** 04 Sep).

"We'd love to get as many river ships as we can as fast as we can," Hodges Bethge told **CW** in an interview on board the new **Celebrity Xcel** earlier this week (**CW** yesterday).

"We knew when we opened for sale that it would be successful - we didn't realise it was going to go as quickly as it did."

Celebrity's first river cruises are set to sail in 2027, with itineraries for 2028 expected to open early next year.

The line also has the newly announced **Celebrity Xcite** to look forward to, due in 2028, with construction having commenced last month (**CW** 24 Oct).

Hodges Bethge revealed to this masthead that Trattoria Rossa, the new Italian restaurant set to be added to Celebrity's Solstice-class, will likely also debut on board **Xcite**.

The restaurant is one of three fresh concepts being worked on for the next Edge-class ship, Hodges Bethge revealed. **MS**

Celebrity's President is **pictured** sharing a panel with Royal Caribbean Group Chair & Chief Executive Officer Jason Liberty.

Seray sister coming

ABERCROMBIE & Kent (A&K) has announced another new Nile River cruise ship, set to join the fleet in 2028.

The vessel will be a sister ship to **Nile Seray**, which is debuting in late 2026 (**CW** 14 Aug), and will accommodate 64 passengers in 32 suites with floor-to-ceiling windows.

The yet-to-be-named ship will also feature two restaurants, a spa, gym, and top-deck swimming pool.

"This second vessel represents our absolute confidence in Egypt's enduring appeal and our commitment to setting new standards in Nile cruising," said Cristina Levis, A&K CEO.

Last chance noms

TODAY is the last opportunity to nominate for the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) awards.

Nine out of 14 categories are open to peer- or self-nomination, with winners to be announced at a gala celebration on Sat 07 Mar 2026 at the ICC Sydney.

"We know there's an enormous amount of talent and dedication among our members, so this is an important opportunity to stand up and make sure this is recognised," said CLIA MD in Australasia Joel Katz.

Nominations close tonight - **CLICK HERE** to make sure your vote counts.



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MAKE IT YOURS

Oceania talks future

OCEANIA Cruises has no plans to expand into expedition or river cruising any time soon, according to the brand's Chief Luxury Officer Jason Montague.

The two emerging cruise sectors are different business models, Montague pointed out, affirming Oceania would continue to focus on ocean for the time being.

On a panel on board the new *Oceania Allura* last week (*CW* 20 Nov), Montague said, "[River] is something that we always look at, but we are focused at Oceania and Regent Seven Seas Cruises on our current operations".

"They're different business models, and we want to make sure that we're delivering the best experience, both in the luxury and ultra luxury segments of ocean, and we are 100% focused on that."

Montague was even more conclusive when asked about expedition, saying: "that's definitely a different business model, and it's a pretty crowded space as well."

"I would never say never, but it's not on the immediate short-term view."

One new product coming to Oceania soon will be a mobile app, which will be based on the same platform as the product for its sister brand Norwegian Cruise Line.

HAL unveils 2027-28 journeys Down Under

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has launched its 2027-28 Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific season, featuring new overnight stays in Melbourne, Cairns and Lautoka, Fiji.

Between Sep 2027 and Mar 2028, the cruise line will offer a selection of itineraries ranging from 14 to 35 days.

Highlights of the season include *Legendary Voyages* that offer an immersive exploration of the regions, such as the 26-day 'Australia, Coral Sea & Fiji *Legendary Voyage*' aboard *Westerdam*, departing from Sydney on 04 Jan 2028.

The sailing, which ends in Auckland, visits 14 ports across Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and beyond, with guests able to snorkel coral reefs, explore traditional island villages, and unwind on white-sand beaches.

There is also a 34-day South Pacific crossing, a 14-day New



Zealand cruise, and a 35-day voyage encompassing Hawaii, Tahiti and Marquesas.

Additionally, travellers can enjoy more than 100 wildlife and nature tours, from visits to active sheep farms to explorations of glowworm grottos.

On board, guests can taste the authentic flavours of the region - from savoury meat pies to tropical fruits - with HAL's

Destination Dining program.

"Whether guests want to experience the awe-inspiring beauty of Milford Sound, the crystal-clear waters of Fiji and the South Pacific, or encounter the region's iconic wildlife, we've designed this season to deliver the authentic experiences travellers are looking for," said Paul Grigsby, VP of Deployment and Revenue Planning. *JM*

Aranui pulls curtain back on upcoming ship

ARANUI Cruises has revealed a sneak peek inside its newest ship *Aranoa* (*CW* 22 Sep), which is currently under construction in China.

The 116-metre-long passenger-freighter vessel will cruise French Polynesia from 2027, carrying cargo and just under 200 guests on itineraries to the Austral Islands and beyond.

Aranoa will cater to 198



passengers across 93 cabins, and features two restaurants, a lounge, two bars, two spa pools on the deck, a boutique, health spa, and a fitness centre.

Atlas' group offer

CRUISE Traveller is offering Australian agents a special groups program, with 15% commission on group departure bookings with Atlas Ocean Voyages.

The offer includes two free berths for every 10 guests booked, and applies to 12 sailings between Feb-Sep 2026 for bookings made by 30 Nov - find out more [HERE](#).



THE HEART OF SLOW TRAVEL

Regent Seven Seas Cruises' Lisa Pile shares her favourite experiences.

» CLICK HERE TO READ

Travel Daily 

CRUISE Industry waves Bon Voyage to 2025

WEEKLY

Friday 21st November 2025

MORE than 200 suppliers, agents, trade partners and association representatives came together to celebrate the end of 2025 at sister title **Travel Daily's** annual Bon Voyage party Wed night in Sydney.

Held at the glamorous Zephyr rooftop bar at the Hyatt Regency, guests enjoyed cocktails and delicious canapes while admiring the views of Darling Harbour and catching up with industry friends and colleagues.

"Bon Voyage is our way of thanking the industry for all of your support throughout the year," said Business Publishing Group General Manager, Matthew Vince.

"Thank you for reading **Travel Daily** and we look forward to working with you in 2026."

Prizes were given away to lucky attendees, including a three-night stay at Arkaba Homestead in South Australia thanks to Wild Bush Luxury, a \$1,000 tailoring experience from InStitchu, and two customised wine journeys from Good Pair Days.

Special thanks to sponsors CVFR and Azamara Cruises.



JULIAN De Carlo from Cunard with Princess Cruises' Bonnie Turner, Alex Lund and Matt Rutherford.



DELICIOUS cocktails thanks to sponsor Azamara Cruises.



ROYAL Caribbean's Dave Humphries and Bradley McAndrew with Josh Gordon and Joe Karbo from itravel.



TANJA Zimmerman and Alice Ager from Uniworld with Kristina Sambaher, Ponant.



MATT Rutherford, Princess Cruises; Matt Vince, **Travel Daily**; Julian De Carlo, Cunard; Joel Katz, Cruise Lines International Association.



VICTORIA Chigwidden, Azamara Cruises; Alice Ager, Uniworld; Brigita Devries, MSC Cruises.



LINDA Seirs, Aurora Expeditions; Megan Catterall, Luxe by itravel; Adrienne Witteman, Trendsetter Travel and Cruise Centre; and Steve McLaughlin Aurora Expeditions.



BON Voyage was blessed with blue skies and sunshine.



LUCKY winners scored prizes thanks to Wild Bush Luxury, InStitchu and Good Pair Days.



LEANNE Fonagy and Tahlia Shaw from Norwegian Cruise Line.



AS THE only cruise liner company in the world to allow pets on board, Cunard has offered a behind-the-scenes look into how it caters to four-legged passengers.

The line's *Queen Mary 2*, which features dedicated pet quarters, welcomes up to 24 dogs on board some of its transatlantic sailings.

Now, UK television series *Inside the World's Most Luxurious...* has revealed exactly how Cunard keeps furry friends happy at sea.

A kennelmaster named Oliver - essentially a pet butler - looks after the canine guests, taking them for regular strolls on deck, while in the kitchen, chefs prepare gourmet meals from special pet menus.

Head Chef Catalin said, "We have to take care of our guests from the animal kingdom."

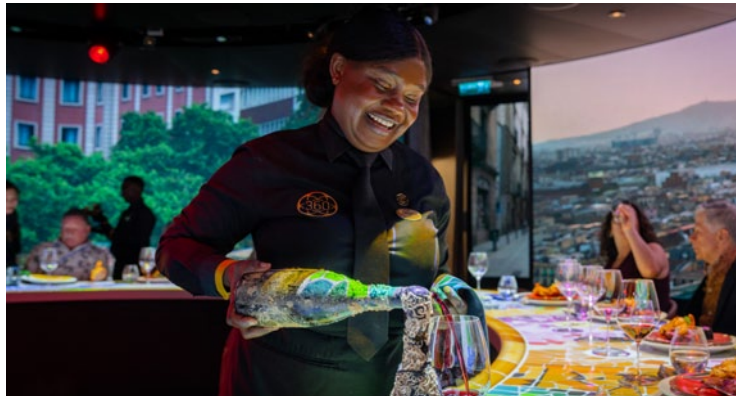
"All the best for them, if they require salmon, if they require filet steak or any other food, it can be prepared on board."

Pups who travel on *Queen Mary 2* are also offered handmade, wheat and gluten free heart-shaped biscuits, which feature the Cunard logo.

"They've been enjoying themselves on the boat, they love it," one guest enthused on the show.

"The care from Oliver is second-to-none, unbelievable, we're so pleased."

Discovery to 'wow' guests



IN JUST a few short weeks, *Discovery Princess* will be on her way to Sydney, serving up new culinary experiences to Australian cruise passengers.

"Food is such a big part of the Princess experience, and *Discovery Princess* truly shines here," Princess Cruises VP Matt Rutherford told *Cruise Weekly*.

"Guests can savour world-class dining at our signature restaurants like Crown Grill, Sabatini's Italian Trattoria and The Catch by Rudi, each offering distinctive flavours and exceptional service."

"For something truly special, there's 360: An Extraordinary Experience, a first-of-its-kind immersive culinary journey that engages all the senses - exclusive to *Discovery Princess* and *Enchanted Princess*."

The experience is a 90-minute seven-course, multi-sensory journey that blends destination-inspired storytelling with cuisine, wine pairings, interactivity and visual entertainment.

While 360 takes guests on a trip through the Mediterranean, the menu is not shared beforehand to

surprise and delight guests.

Sami Cohen, Princess' US VP for Food and Beverage, described Princess' culinary offerings as "out of this world".

"We try to create unique experiences that are unmatched [compared to] any of our competitors, any of our sister brands and any hotel or restaurant ashore," Cohen told *Cruise Weekly*.

"We spend a lot of time creating unique, memorable culinary experiences with entertainment or unexpected surprises."

It is not just great quality food that we are offering, great presentation or service - we will go a little bit beyond to 'wow' our guests," he added,

Cruise specialist Jane Fowler from TravelManagers noticed more of her clients looking for unique dining options.

"Passengers now seek not just meals but memorable moments - with options like chef's table experiences, cooking classes, food and wine pairings, and immersive local food excursions tied directly to the destinations visited," she said. *JHM*

Ayana '26 sailings

AYANA Cruises has announced its 2026 shared trip schedule for its flagship luxury vessel, *Ayana Lako di'a*.

Between Apr and Oct 2026, the phinisi (traditional Indonesian sailing vessel) will explore East Indonesia's UNESCO World Heritage-listed Komodo National Park with a new season of two- and three-day journeys.

The two-day itinerary highlights Kalong Island, where guests can witness thousands of fruit bats take flight at sunset; a guided trek on Komodo Island for encounters with Komodo dragons; snorkelling at Pink Beach; and a sunset hike to Padar Island's panoramic lookout.

The three-day sailing extends the adventure with visits to Taka Makassar's sand dunes, Manta Point for the chance to swim alongside manta rays, and Siaba Island, where guests can relax and snorkel.

All voyages include full-board gourmet dining, free-flow mineral water and non-alcoholic beverages, and a wide range of activities, such as snorkelling, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, yoga, and evening film screenings.

Fare prices include round-trip transfers to Komodo International Airport, Komodo National Park entrance fees, and professional photos.

Rates for 2026 offer flexibility for both solo travellers and couples, with the Master Suite starting from A\$3,275 per night for single occupancy.



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