



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus full pages from:

- CLIA
- Scenic

Uniworld + Aqua

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has unveiled its latest expedition for 2027, which will see it partner with Ponant-owned Aqua Expeditions in Indonesia and Singapore.

The cruise will visit Komodo National Park and the Maluku Islands, with passengers to enjoy daily scuba diving, snorkelling, and kayaking from Aqua's ship *Aqua Blu*.

Guests will see wildlife including Komodo dragons, manta rays, whale sharks, and more, over the course of the 14-day cruise.

The itinerary is priced from \$29,449, and also features six nights on land, which will include stays in Bali and Marina Bay.

Sailing only twice in 2027, the cruise calls Moyo Island, Saleh Bay, Komodo Island, Lawa Darat Gili, Padar, Horseshoe Bay, and more.

"This itinerary brings everything you love about river cruising - new destinations every day, stress-free all-inclusive travel, and a small ship atmosphere with only maximum 30 guests - all while unveiling one of the world's most remote corners of the Indonesian Spice Islands," Uniworld Managing Director Alice Ager said.

All dining on board is included, as are selected premium wines and beer, non-alcoholic drinks, 11 days of excursions, three nights pre- and post- the cruise in Ubud and Singapore, and more.

CLICK HERE for more details and to book.

Ponant names new CEO



PONANT Explorations Group has announced the appointment of Benoit-Etienne Domenget (**pictured**) as Chief Executive Officer, effective 03 Nov (**CW** breaking news yesterday).

He brings 25 years of experience in hospitality, luxury travel, and tourism to Ponant, and will be tasked with further driving its continued development.

Domenget was most recently CEO of Sommet Education, one of the world's leading luxury hospitality schools.

Francois-Henri Pinault, Chief Executive Officer of Ponant's parent company, said he is delighted to welcome Domenget to the firm.

"His extensive and diversified experience and expertise in strategic fields for our company will give him all the assets to make Ponant Explorations Group an ever-stronger and more innovative player in the luxury and responsible cruise sector," Pinault said.

Domenget takes over from Herve Gastinel, who led Ponant for almost five years.

"We warmly thank Herve

Gastinel for his unwavering commitment to the group," Pinault said.

"Under his leadership, the fleet has grown from 12 to 20 ships, and Ponant Explorations Group has successfully diversified its activities, in particular by entering river cruises, and new formats, such as the *Spirit of Ponant*," Pinault added.

The company recently introduced a new brand, Ponant Yachting, to formalise its growing catamaran yachting division (**CW** 11 Sep). *MS*

Scenic earlybird

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours is today promoting its super earlybird offer for its all-inclusive, ultra-luxury river cruising in Europe next year.

Travellers can secure included economy flights, or a business class air credit of up to \$4,500 per person, for river cruises of 11 days or longer.

Scenic's brochure for next year is out now, and for more information, head to **page 5** of today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Join CLIA in 2026

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Head to **page 4** of today's issue of **Cruise Weekly** for more information.

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A GUEST has uncovered what cruise lines do with children's lost teeth on cruise ships - just in case there is anyone else out there who may be interested.

Disney Cruise Line, one of the choice brands for younger cruisers, apparently has a special way of celebrating a lost tooth at sea, for those parents looking to commemorate their child's missing chomper.

On a Reddit thread dedicated to the topic, users spoke of a special souvenir pin offered to children which reads: "I Lost a Tooth on DCL".

One user even described their experience of servers at the dining room on a Disney ship springing into action when a younger passenger lost their tooth at dinner, bringing over the special pin.

Another even noted their child's proclivity for losing their teeth, not just on Disney ships, but at the company's sites around the world.

"My six-year-old has lost one on each of the three cruises we've been on, and then another at Disney World...they gave a plastic necklace, not a pin," the user detailed.

"This kid has lost four out of six teeth on Disney property!"

Viking fleet grows by two



VIKING has taken delivery of its two new river ships, *Viking Honir*, which will sail the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers, and *Viking Thoth*, which will sail the Nile (**CW** 12 May).

The delivery ceremony for *Honir* took place in Basel, while *Thoth* was presented at Massara shipyard in Cairo.

Chairman & Chief Executive Torstein Hagen said the cruise line is proud to welcome the two new ships to its growing fleet.

"With the arrival of these elegant new ships, we are pleased to offer even more curious travellers the opportunity to explore some of the world's most iconic waterways in Viking comfort," Hagen said.

With a capacity for 190 guests, *Honir* will spend her inaugural year sailing popular itineraries including 'Passage to Eastern

Europe', 'Rhine Getaway' and 'Christmas on the Rhine'.

Meanwhile, *Thoth* is specifically built to navigate the Nile, and will sail on Viking's 'Pharaohs & Pyramids' itinerary.

She can host 82 passengers in 41 staterooms.

Viking is expected to take delivery of 23 additional river ships by 2028.

The cruise line also welcomed another river ship, the three-deck *Viking Tonle*, into its fleet last month (**CW** 17 Sep), which will sail exclusively on the Mekong.

Tonle, which carries 80 passengers, will operate Viking's popular 15-day 'Magnificent Mekong' itinerary, which visits Hanoi, Vietnam; Siem Reap, Kampong Cham, and Phnom Penh in Cambodia; and Tan Chau, Sa Dec, Cai Be, and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. *JM*

Trafalgar cruise head

TRAFALGAR has hired experienced cruise executive Damien O'Connor to lead its new river cruise venture (**CW** 04 Jun).

O'Connor comes to Trafalgar with more than two decades of experience in cruise operations, having most recently served as Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts' Senior VP Yacht Operations.

Prior to that, he led the launch of Aman's cruise product, now named *Amangati* (**CW** 04 Aug).

O'Connor will be tasked with overseeing the development of Trafalgar's new ships, coming in 2028, as well as the touring brand's debut on the rivers next year.

Trafalgar will begin cruising on the Danube and Rhine, chartering two older ships from sister brand Uniworld Boutique River Cruises, before adding a third in 2027.

Terra still Nova-ing

NEW Antarctica cruise line Terra Nova Expeditions will continue to operate its charter vessel *St. Helena*, CEO & founder Greg Carter confirmed to **Cruise Weekly**.

Another non-cruise company was recently linked to an acquisition of the vessel, but Carter said the charter will go ahead regardless.

NEXT ISSUE:

Southeast Asia special report

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Sapphire revamped

PRINCESS Cruises has unveiled new guest experiences on board *Sapphire Princess*, following the Gem-class ship's two-week dry dock in Oregon (**CW** 30 Sep).

After undergoing general refurbishments and enhancements, the vessel now features two specialty restaurants, Makoto Ocean and Crown Grill, open for guests from 16 Nov.

Makoto Ocean, which has replaced the Internet Cafe located on deck 7, brings Chef Makoto Okuwa's Edomae-style sushi to sea.

Guests will enjoy specialties like truffle salmon, snow crab temaki, and toro tartare, alongside cocktails such as the Genmai Negroni.

The dry dock also saw the addition of Crown Grill, now occupying the former Savoy Dining Room on deck 5.

A guest favourite, the venue serves premium aged beef, chops, and fresh seafood.

Both dining experiences are priced at US\$60pp and included as a specialty dining option for guests who book the Princess Premier package.

"We're especially proud to bring these enhancements as *Sapphire Princess* prepares for remarkable seasons ahead, including our historic dual-ship deployment in Japan in 2027," VP of Food & Beverage Sami Kohen said.

Sapphire will sail to Mexico before repositioning for a season of South America/Antarctica cruises.

Avalon air packages to take off



GLOBUS family of brands (GFOB) has revealed that it will soon offer flight-inclusive packages in conjunction with Avalon Waterways.

The company launched the new offers this week on select Globus itineraries, and has confirmed to **Cruise Weekly** the roll-out will expand to additional brands' itineraries, including Avalon, "in the near future".

Travellers and advisors can now secure economy flights with premium airlines from \$1,499 when booked alongside select Globus Europe and North America tours, including the 24-day 'Britain & Ireland in Depth'.

Other itineraries included in the offer are 'Spain, Portugal & Morocco', 'Spirit of the Rockies with Rocky Mountaineer & Alaska Cruise', and 'Great Resorts of the Canadian Rockies with Rocky Mountaineer & Alaska Cruise'.

"We know that our travellers value convenience, so by adding flights to our remit, booking a trip with us is now even simpler and more streamlined," said GFOB Managing Director Asia Pacific Chris Hall.

"The new flight-inclusive packages bring every element of travel under one trusted roof -

allowing for our team to manage every detail of our guests' holidays, from start to finish.

"Each airline partner has been carefully selected to ensure they offer the same level of service that we're known for, and we're thrilled to be making travel with Globus family of brands even more accessible for advisors and our guests," Hall added.

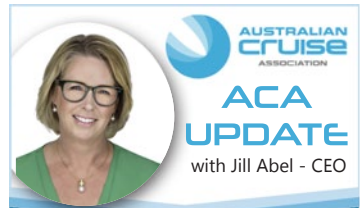
In order for the air promotion to be applied, travel advisors must book the land portion online and then call the reservations team to add the flights to the booking.

Travellers who do not need to book flights can still enjoy savings, with Globus also offering a \$500pp discount on its tours.

The offers are available on bookings made by 30 Nov 2025, can be booked via the website (**HERE**), advisors, or the Globus family of brands reservations team on 1300 130 134.

MEANWHILE, GFOB is also currently hosting a series of events for agents around the country (**CW** 09 Sep), providing details about the new air offering as well as its new suite of brochures for Globus, Cosmos, and Avalon Waterways.

Advisors can RSVP **HERE** to secure their spot. *JM*



A vibrant summer ahead

AS THE cruise wave season gets underway, it's clear that Australia's cruise community is buzzing once again, and our members are right at the heart of it.

While cruising now continues year-round, the summer months bring a special energy as more ships return to local waters and destinations come alive with visiting guests from near and far.

The season opened with *Crown Princess* returning to Australia before sailing north to Broome, where she became the first large ship to dock at the new Kimberley Marine Support Base - a milestone many years in the making.

Our members are welcoming new ships and strengthening ties with lines through innovative, locally driven experiences.

Anthem of the Seas, *Discovery Princess*, *Oceania Riviera* and *Douglas Mawson* all make their Australian debuts this summer, each offering fresh opportunities for connection and collaboration.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland and Ports North have collaborated on a new Cairns Cruise Map, guiding guests beyond the terminal to explore attractions, local shopping and venturing further into the region.

Distributed by Welcome Ambassadors, the initiative encourages wider dispersal of cruise spending across the community - a great example of collaboration driving local impact.

These stories reflect a season defined by the people, partnerships, and creativity that make Australia's cruise sector.

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