

Avalon brochure '26

AVALON Waterways has launched a new brochure for 2026, featuring itineraries across Europe displayed in a refreshed format.

Advisors can order the new brochure now - [CLICK HERE](#).

Get a taste of Norwegian

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) will introduce its first-ever taster cruises in Australia in 2026/27 on board *Norwegian Spirit*.

The much-loved local NCL ship, which is set to make her return to Australia later this year, will embark on two four-night 'Tasmania Taster' cruises, pitched at those who are new to either the sector or the brand.

The Sydney round trips will depart on 06 and 21 Jan 2027.

Spirit will also sail on nine departures from Sydney - the most ever for NCL - including two 11-day round trips featuring overnight calls in both Melbourne and Adelaide, offering plenty of time for an in-depth exploration of wine regions such as the Yarra

Valley, Derwent Valley, McLaren Vale, the Adelaide Hills and the Barossa Valley.

Additional season highlights will include calls in Hobart and Kangaroo Island, as well as NCL's first-ever visit to Phillip Island.

The program will begin with a 12-day South Pacific sailing from Lautoka to Sydney in Nov 2026, featuring four Fiji calls, visits to Port Vila and Mystery Island in Vanuatu, and NCL's first stop in Newcastle since 2019.

A series of 11-day open-jaw sailings between Sydney and Auckland will conclude the season, with scenic journeys through New Zealand's fjords, vibrant cities, and coastal gems.

The new season release comes as Norwegian counts down to the return of *Spirit* to Australia for her 2025/26 season.

She will arrive in Fremantle on 09 Dec before sailing Southern Australia's coast to Sydney. *MS*

Spotlight on river

CRUISE Lines International Association's River Cruise Spotlight Sessions are now available online.

Twelve videos can be viewed, which include presentations from 10 cruise lines [HERE](#).



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Celebrity excels at entertaining

CELEBRITY Cruises has unveiled its most expansive entertainment offering yet, available on board its upcoming ship, *Celebrity Xcel* (CW 18 Sep).

Setting sail in Nov, the fifth Edge-class vessel will feature the most resident performers delivering the greatest variety ever offered by the line.

Guests will be able to enjoy three brand-new theatre productions, two immersive club shows, music experiences, dance parties, and interactive activities.

The three new theatrical productions combine world-class singers, dancers, parkour artists, and specialty aerial performers with cutting-edge technology, kinetic lighting, laser video etching, projection mapping, pyrotechnics, and a 33-metre curved kinetic LED screen.

The line-up includes 'Mainstage', a high-energy live music concert



featuring hits from top artists across the decades; 'Between Takes', which transports guests to a 1920s Hollywood backlot; and 'Chapters', a journey through nature and transformation.

In The Club, guests can step back in time to the 80s at the 254 West interactive show, or put their detective skills to the test with 'Hotel', a comedic "whodunnit" performance.

Other entertainment highlights aboard *Xcel* include singalongs at the piano bar, a country music party, a candelit concert

experience, and the glitzy 'Shine the Night' party.

There are also plenty of games inviting friendly competition, including an escape-room style challenge and a destination-themed mystery game.

"*Xcel* will further elevate Celebrity's award-winning offering to create a world-class entertainment destination our guests are going to love," Vice President of Entertainment Lisa Lehr said.

"With over 75 resident performers, guests will find unforgettable experiences and unexpected surprises at every turn," she added.

Xcel will sail her inaugural season from Fort Lauderdale, offering seven-night itineraries alternating between The Bahamas, Mexico, Cayman Islands, and Puerto Plata, St. Thomas, and St. Maarten. *JM*

The day of *Destiny*

SHIPYARD Meyer Werft has delivered Disney Cruise Line's new ship *Disney Destiny* (CW 03 Oct), in a handover that took place in Eemshaven.

Destiny's first passengers will board next month, when she officially becomes the sixth ship in the Disney fleet.

Half of the cruise line's vessels have been built at Meyer Werft, which will also deliver a fourth ship in 2027 (CW 12 Aug 2024).

"We are delighted to deliver *Disney Destiny* to Disney Cruise Line today," said Meyer Werft Chief Executive Bernd Eikens, who signed the delivery documents together with Disney Signature Experiences President Joe Schott.

Destiny will sail on four- and five-night cruises to the Bahamas and Caribbean during her inaugural season.



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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.



SPIRIT of the Coorong, South Australia's newest tourist drawcard, invites travellers to sip and sail.

What was once a passenger boat in the Gippsland Lakes known as *Maranui*, has been transformed into the state's most scenic gin bar.

The 127-year-old vessel has just launched its 2025/26 Gin Flight Cruise schedule - a 90-minute experience that combines native botanicals, artisan gin, and breathtaking views of the Coorong region.

"We've got this beautiful little historic wooden boat that was largely underutilised," said General Manager Joel Hirsch.

"It only seats 12 people, so it's quite intimate and bespoke.

"I wanted to build a food and wine experience, but in a different way."

Tickets cost \$85pp, which includes three tastings, or \$245 for a date package for two.

New Cote d'Azur cruise rules

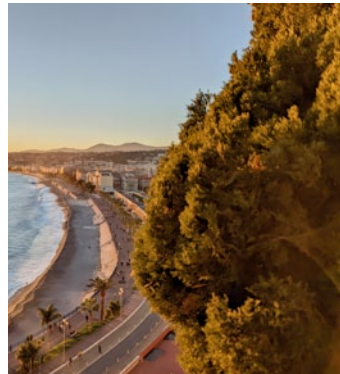
FRENCH authorities have unveiled unified cruise regulations for a number of ports in the country's Riviera, with pax disembarkation set to be capped at 3,000 per port per stopover. Destinations including Nice, Villefranche-sur-Mer, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, and Cannes will be subject to the new regulations, which will also require each destination's annual average to remain below 2,000 passengers per port per stopover, as reported by local media.

A maximum of just 15 ships per month will be allowed during the Jul and Aug high season.

Prefect of the Alpes-Maritimes Laurent Hottiaux and Mediterranean Maritime Prefect Christophe Lucas unveiled the new regulations late last week.

Ships scheduled to call in the region that carry more than 3,000 passengers include Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Breakaway* and *Norwegian Epic*; MSC Cruises' *MSC Seaview*; and many others.

Restrictions are expected to take effect from the 2026 season, and implemented gradually, to



allow for calls which have been scheduled in advance.

The final decision will now be presented to the public for comments, before it is finalised.

The local maritime union endorsed the approach, describing it as a balance between local economic contribution and upholding of environmental expectations.

These new regulations follow months of tension over sustainable cruise management along the Cote d'Azur.

Mayor of Nice Christian Estrosi earlier this year attempted to board Royal Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas*, in order to force her to leave (**CW** 07 Jul). *MS*

HAL Asia 2027-28

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is introducing three new ports for its freshly unveiled 2027-28 Asia season, with the line sailing to Hitachinaka, Nagoya, and Maizuru in Japan for the first time.

Between Sep 2027 and Apr 2028, *Noordam* will offer 15 itineraries ranging between 13-15 days, featuring overnight stays in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam; Seoul, South Korea; Bangkok, Thailand; Manila, Philippines; Osaka, Japan; and Shanghai, China.

Highlights include the 14-day 'Circle Japan', which takes guests to destinations such as Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu, and the 'Japan & South Korea Discovery', which features the lesser-visited Jeju and includes an overnight call at Incheon.

"We know our guests are eager for deeper exploration, so this season we've added new ports, increased calls to lesser-visited destinations and provided extended stays in popular locales," said Director of Deployment & Itinerary Planning Robert de Bruin.



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