



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

AmaMelodia arrives

AMAWATERWAYS has announced the launch of *AmaMelodia*, its second luxury river cruise ship in Colombia (**CW** 18 Sep).

With the ability to accommodate 64 guests, the vessel features staterooms ranging from 22m²-30m².

The ship's Main Restaurant offers Latin American and western cuisine, while guests can enjoy music and entertainment in the Main Lounge, and a Sun Deck.

AmaMelodia's debut follows the christening of *AmaMagdalena* earlier this year (**CW** 20 Jun), and further strengthens the cruise line's commitment to Colombia.

Royal sings new tune with Anthem's arrival

ROYAL Caribbean's *Anthem of the Seas* made her Down Under debut this morning, setting the stage for her 2025-26 summer season (**CW** 10 Apr 2024).

Anthem will offer more than 20 getaways ranging from two-night weekend escapes to epic 18-night adventures, with highlights including a five-night holiday to Hobart, nine- and 12-night cruises across New Zealand, and nine- and 11-night Christmas and New Year cruises.

"We're excited to welcome *Anthem* to Sydney and give Australian holidaymakers the chance to experience first-hand the innovative thrills, world-class entertainment and signature flavours that have made this ship a global favourite," Vice President & MD Gavin Smith said.

"The return this season cements Royal Caribbean as Australia's trusted holiday partner to deliver



unrivalled experiences for every kind of traveller."

Royal Caribbean has more in store this summer, with the long-awaited return of *Voyager of the Seas* next month.

She will home port in Brisbane for the first time, with 22 holidays ranging from two to 12 nights giving families a chance to explore the region.

Cruisers can also set sail across the Pacific on a 25-night adventure from Brisbane to Seattle, Washington.

Additionally, the season will mark the debut of six Wiggles-themed vacations across both ships (**CW** 26 Mar 2024). **MS**

Pictured is Smith with *Anthem* Captain Johan Hill and Chief Officer Abraham Hernandez.



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.

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Failure of care?

THE daughter of the Coral Expeditions passenger who died during an excursion to Lizard Island in Queensland over the weekend (**CW** 29 Oct) has spoken out, alleging a “failure of care and common sense” surrounding the death of her 80-year-old mother.

Suzanne Rees’s body was found on the island a day after *Coral Adventurer* had departed Lizard Island.

Her daughter, Katherine Rees, yesterday said her family was “shocked and saddened” that the vessel had left without ensuring her mother was on board.

“We understand from the police that it was a very hot day, and Mum felt ill on the hill climb,” the daughter said.

“She was asked to head down, unescorted.

“Then the ship left, apparently without doing a passenger count.

“At some stage in that sequence, or shortly after, Mum died, alone.”

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is now investigating why the passenger may not have been accounted for during boarding, and whether there was any non-compliance by the cruise line.

Queensland police, the state coroner and WorkSafe Queensland are also looking into the matter.

HX adding more short cruises



HX WILL be the latest cruise line to introduce more shorter voyages, as the company attempts to entice more travellers onto its expedition ships.

Sales Director Amber Wilson yesterday revealed at a HX luncheon that the cruise line’s upcoming 2027-28 program will include more voyages that last just over a week.

These include cruises of eight, nine, and 10 days in duration, in destinations such as Greenland, Alaska, Svalbard, and Iceland.

“We’ve got some shorter, 10-day voyages in 2027-28, to introduce people that haven’t done expedition cruising before,” Wilson revealed.

These will join HX’s Galapagos Islands cruises, which run as short as seven days.

Also being trialled for the new season will be fresh kayaking and

camping concepts, with capacity for both activities to be doubled.

Kayakers will be able to explore more independently and offered more time on the water.

Meanwhile, bivouac camping will be offered next year, allowing passengers to sleep under the stars in some of the world’s most remote destinations.

HX is also expanding its education program with the University of Tasmania (**CW** 15 Sep) around the globe, the cruise line announced yesterday.

The global roll-out will begin with the Arctic, and will be available across all of HX’s destinations next year. **MS**

Pictured are Vice President Sustainability & Industry Relations Tudor Morgan, Chief Scientist Verena Meraldi, Senior Marketing Manager Shannon Davis, and Amber Wilson.

 **CRUISE
WEEKLY**

On location on board
Discovery Princess

Today’s issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of Princess Cruises.

WE ARE looking forward to Penang, our next port of call on our five-day Malaysia cruise on board *Discovery Princess*.

Some of the highlights of the city include the giant golden Reclining Buddha Temple, which is 33 metres long, and the Temple of Paradise, which is the largest Buddhist temple in Southeast Asia, sitting on Penang Hill.

When we return to the ship this evening, we will enjoy a meal at Sabatini’s Italian Trattoria, followed by a show at the Princess Theatre.

Singapore upgrade

MARINA Bay Cruise Centre Singapore has completed its S\$40 million upgrade, reinforcing the destination as a leading cruise hub in Asia.

The facility’s upgraded terminal introduces a new check-in facility, an improved ground transport area, and enhanced passenger services to simplify travel and accommodate dual ship calls

A highlight includes new VIP halls for premium travellers.



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CRUISE ships could end up saving the day yet again for event organisers, having now been floated as potential accommodation for golf fans attending the next Ryder Cup in Ireland.

The biennial men's golf competition is scheduled to take place at Adare Manor Golf Club in 2027, and concerns are now being voiced about whether there is enough lodging in the area for the expected 200,000 fans.

British newspaper *The Times*, which reviewed minutes from a meeting of a tourism group, reported that there is a possibility of fans staying in rooms aboard cruise ships.

The vessels would dock at Foynes Point near Limerick, with guests to then take a train to the course.

The notes also said that work would continue on a "major rail transportation plan".

Luminosa returns to Qld



CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Carnival Luminosa* (pictured) has returned for her fourth season in Queensland, as the ship kicks off her 2025/26 Brisbane program.

Luminosa will welcome more than 70,000 fun-seeking passengers on 27 voyages between Nov and Apr.

She will make more than 80 port calls over the season, including nine to Airlie Beach, four to Cairns, and a further three to Port Douglas, alongside a range of South Pacific, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji voyages.

Luminosa will sail alongside sister ship *Carnival Encounter*, which operates year-round from Brisbane, with the two vessels forecasted to carry more than 230,000 guests from the

Queensland capital this year.

Carnival's four-ship Australian fleet is collectively expected to contribute almost \$800 million to the state's economy.

"Queensland is at the heart of Carnival Cruise Line's growth in Australia, and we're proud to once again home port *Carnival Luminosa* in Brisbane," Assistant Vice President Sale & Marketing Anton Loeb said.

"Each season, more Queenslanders are discovering how easy and fun it is to set sail straight from their doorstep.

"We're excited to welcome *Luminosa* back for another incredible summer of cruising and can't wait to deliver more unforgettable holidays from Brisbane," he added. *MS*

SA's big cruise win

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's announcement of its upcoming home port season in Adelaide in 2027-28 (**CW** 28 Oct) is a huge boon for the local industry, according to local travel agency RAA Travel.

The announcement means a 26% increase in cruise capacity for ships departing Adelaide compared to the upcoming 2026-27 season.

RAA Travel General Manager Gina Norman said the news signals a huge opportunity for local travellers and the South Australian economy.

Adventure will sail four cruises from Adelaide, visiting destinations such as Kangaroo Island and Port Lincoln.

Ritz-Carlton IPO?

THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection CEO Jim Murren has said an IPO is possible in "two to three years".

Murren said another possibility is the Ritz-Carlton branded cruise line being acquired by one of the big cruise companies.



THE HEART OF SLOW TRAVEL

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