



### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Silversea**.

### A very suite offer

**SILVERSEA** is offering savings of up to \$11,000 per suite and enjoy a suite upgrade of up to two categories for bookings on a range of Asia voyages in 2027 - see **page four**.

### RSSC World Cruise

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has opened bookings for its 2029 World Cruise, which sets sail from Miami, Florida on 06 Jan on board *Seven Seas Mariner*.

The 150-night journey will feature 70 ports of call and 326 shore excursions, concluding in Rome, Italy - learn more **HERE**.

## Emerald Cruises expands fleet

**EMERALD** Cruises has welcomed *Emerald Kaia* to its fleet (**CW** 25 Mar), with the next-generation superyacht successfully completing a transit through the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

The 128-guest luxury vessel will cruise the Adriatic Sea for the Mediterranean summer in 2026 and 2027, offering a range of eight- and 15-day island-hopping itineraries between Venice and Dubrovnik before repositioning to the Indian Ocean.

*Emerald Kaia* will then sail in the Seychelles archipelago from Dec 2026 to Mar 2027, offering voyages of between eight and 20 days, including the best-selling 16-day 'Safari & Seychelles'.

On board, passengers can enjoy culinary experiences including the new Solea Bar & Bistro, which serves Mediterranean-inspired cuisine, and the Night Market Grill immersive private



dining experience.

The superyacht also boasts a reimagined Wellness Deck featuring KLAFS salt therapy lounges, a cold plunge pools, a spacious spa, fitness spaces, and self-serve refreshments.

"The launch of *Emerald Kaia* and the upcoming inaugural sailing of *Emerald Astra* in May mark important milestones for Scenic Group as we celebrate 40 years of innovation in travel," said Glen Moroney, chairman and

founder of Scenic Group.

"As the only cruise company that designs, builds, and operates our own ships, we continue to set new benchmarks in luxury yacht and river cruising."

*Emerald Kaia* will be joined by sister yachts *Emerald Raiya* in 2027 and *Emerald Xara* in 2028, expanding the fleet to five, alongside *Emerald Azzurra* and *Emerald Sakara*, with sailings across the Mediterranean, Seychelles, and Caribbean. **JM**

*Regent*  
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## Bettison exits

**ZOE Bettison (pictured)** has stepped down from her role of South Australian Minister for Tourism and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, where she championed the growth of cruise in the state.

In a LinkedIn post, Bettison cited family illness for her decision to step back from the position, which has now been taken over by Emily Bourke.

Meanwhile, Bettison was recently elected as the member for Ramsay for another four years.

During her tenure, Bettison spearheaded the launch of the South Australian Cruise Attraction Working Group and last year, the state experienced a record-breaking 2024/25 cruise season with more than 120 ship visits.

South Australia also signed a pact with the Cruise Lines International Association last year as an executive partner.



## Cunard is set to dazzle



**CUNARD** has unveiled its most extensive entertainment program yet, with Olivier Awards as the line's headline partner.

The luxury British cruise line will offer world-class performers, theatre and cultural events on every Transatlantic crossing on board *Queen Mary 2*.

Guests joining the 'Olivier Awards Event Voyage' departing 22 May will enjoy the magic of the West End, with performances, musical theatre singalongs and talks offering a look behind the scenes of world-class theatre.

Exclusive to the voyage, The Oliviers in Concert will celebrate 50 years of the awards in a one-off production with the Royal Court Theatre orchestra.

Additionally, guests can join interactive workshops and attend a gala evening complete with red carpet moments and the chance

to be photographed with a real Olivier Award.

The entertainment lineup also includes Royal Shakespeare Company's new production of *The Constant Wife* starring Kara Tointon (pictured), concerts by the UK's National Symphony Orchestra, and a special program on board *Queen Mary 2*'s 450th Transatlantic crossing.

On selected Transatlantic Crossings, Cunard will deliver exclusive Entertainment Residencies, including musicals, comedy, opera and immersive theatre, along with more than 680 speakers from diverse fields.

"In 2026, we're offering the most extensive enrichment programme ever on a single year of crossings, placing world-class entertainment at the heart of every voyage," Cunard president Katie McAlister said. *JM*

## Save with Viking

**VIKING** has launched the Viking Saving Event, running from now until 30 Jun.

The sale offers up to 35% savings across voyages from 2026 to 2028, including the eight-day 'Lyon & Provence', the 17-day 'Komodo and the Australian Coast' from Bali to Sydney and the 13-day 'Antarctic Explorer'.

For bookings made this month, past guests can also receive exclusive discounts such as \$400 per couple within 12 months of the guest's last voyage and \$200 per couple after 12 months.

Viking is also providing travel agents with full commission on all fares sold.

## Carnival trains up

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line (CCL) has announced the second edition of its Fun-ternship Program, introducing participants to the world of hospitality and cruising.

During the eight weeks, CCL will welcome over 100 high school students from six of Carnival's US homeports including Baltimore, Tampa, Jacksonville, Norfolk, New York City and Long Beach.

The line said it will provide the students with a hands-on experience of its operations whilst at port and preparing for embarkment.

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**ADULTS** across the globe have gotten onboard the new trend of 'mermaiding' - buying replica mermaid tails and swimming in beaches, lakes and rivers.

Those who have embraced the trend described it as an escape from their regular lifestyle and a way to tap into their spiritual side.

Self-proclaimed mermaid Marisa DeAngelis from Florida created a mermaid retreat, which she runs twice a year for US\$1,300 per person and involves teaching guests how to swim with a tail and arts and crafts workshops to make mermaid-inspired accessories.

Patris Angel, who goes by the moniker Mermaid Starlight Seraika (**pictured**), has offered some precautions to those who are interested in embracing the Ariel-inspired hobby.

She advised people to always check the bottom of a body of water to ensure there are no hazards and to watch for waves drifting back ashore.

For those looking to get into the hobby, you might want to start saving, as a high quality tail can cost over \$10,000.



## Fred tackles food waste



**FRED.OLSEN** Cruise Lines (FOCL) is rolling out a six-month trial to reduce food waste through a new initiative leveraging AI.

Taking place on board its ship *Bolette*, the cruise company has partnered with Swiss tech company KITRO to install five devices that will automatically track and analyse food waste, using image recognition tech.

The system will capture and identify discarded food in real time, taking note of information such as weight, category and timing, offering in-depth insights into where and why waste occurs.

Thanks to the technology, onboard teams will be able to monitor trends, identify cost-saving opportunities and roll out targeted improvements.

According to a statement from Fred.Olsen, the findings from the pilot will determine whether a wider rollout of the tech will take place across the entire fleet.

"By using KITRO's innovative AI technology, alongside their expert support, we'll gain a clearer understanding of food waste on board, helping us make

meaningful changes where they matter most," Dominic Simpson, Sustainability Manager at Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines said.

"It's an important step in our wider commitment to improving efficiency and investing in fleet-wide upgrades that support our long-term sustainability goals," he added.

KITRO's head of sales Jonathan Comotti also commented on how food waste is one of the "most impactful and actionable sustainability challenges in the hospitality industry" and he is confident that through the partnership, the two companies will be able to set an example for the wider industry. *JHM*

**Pictured:** Josie Bartlett, sustainability intern at FOCL; Ajesh Scaria, executive chef on board *Bolette*; Anthony Fernandes, public health manager on board *Bolette*; Giulia Pappacoda, food waste consultant at KITRO; Jonathan Comotti, head of sales at KITRO; Dominic Simpson, sustainability manager at FOCL; and Giles Mason, sanitation manager at FOCL. *JHM*



**CLIA UPDATE**

with Joel Katz  
MD, CLIA Australasia

### Australia heads to Seatrade

Next week, the world's cruise industry leaders will gather in Miami for this year's Seatrade Cruise Global Conference, and CLIA will be working to ensure Australasia is front and centre.

We will be joining a strong regional delegation, working alongside the Australian Cruise Association and New Zealand Cruise Association to highlight the strength of our local market and reinforce our efforts to attract more cruise ships Down Under.

We will also share our experience with the wider industry.

I'll be leading a panel discussion of regional leaders to discuss "Lessons from Australasia", a session dedicated to issues around attracting and sustaining cruise deployment.

Australasia offers a valuable case study for other destinations, having experienced both enormous growth and frustrating hurdles as we navigate regulatory complexities and rising costs.

Together with our cruise lines and industry partners, CLIA is very firmly focused on these issues in Australasia.

All our advocacy efforts and government engagement is about addressing the factors that can inhibit our future prosperity.

With strong local demand and extraordinary destinations to explore, Australasia has a chance to thrive if we can unite governments around a positive environment for cruise tourism.



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The background of the top section is a scenic view of Miyajima Island, Japan, featuring a traditional red pagoda with a black spire, surrounded by lush green trees and blooming white cherry blossoms. The sky is a clear, light blue.

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