



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Viking sale fares

VIKING has released limited-time fares on select 2026 ocean and river voyages, such as the 23-day 'North Pacific Passage' - see the **back page**.

### Panache joins Sig

SIGNATURE Travel Network has announced Panache Cruises as its newest member in Australia.

The addition of the North Sydney agency signals the luxury network's continued expansion across Australia and New Zealand, and comes as Signature hosts its annual Horizon Club reward trip across Sydney and Melbourne.

## Princess orders its biggest ships yet

PRINCESS Cruises has announced the order of three new ships on a next-generation platform called the 'Voyager-class', which will be the line's largest yet.

The agreement with Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri will see the newbuilds delivered in late 2035, 2038, and 2039.

Completely reimagined outer decks, staterooms, and piazza designs will be highlights of the new Voyager-class, which will also be dual-fuel powered including liquefied natural gas.

The three ships will accommodate approximately 4,700 guests each, with details for the vessel design, anticipated features, and amenities to be shared in the future.

President Gus Antorcha said the Voyager-class will be aimed at Princess' loyal guests, as well as new-to-brand passengers.



"We have been leveraging extensive customer and agent research to strike the right balance between evolving our proven winners and introducing new concepts and partnerships grounded in what matters to our current and future guests.

"From exceptional dining and inviting pool environments to elevated entertainment and beautifully reimagined spaces throughout the ship, we are leaving no area untouched as we thoughtfully evolve the Princess experience," he said. *MS*



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## ACA partnership

**THE** Australian Cruise Association (ACA) and New Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA) have renewed their partnership to strengthen cruise in the Oceania region.

The renewed agreement formalises an ongoing partnership between the two peak industry bodies, recognising the importance of a coordinated regional approach in an increasingly competitive cruise sector.

Under the memorandum of understanding, ACA and NZCA will collaborate across key areas including regional promotion, industry intelligence sharing, engagement with cruise lines, and alignment on matters impacting the cruise sector.

The agreement also supports joint participation at major international industry events and strengthens communication and collaboration between the two organisations, ensuring a more coordinated approach to supporting cruise deployment and regional growth.

ACA chief executive officer Jill Abel said the partnership reflects the highly interconnected nature of cruise across Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific.

“Cruise itineraries across our region do not operate in isolation - they are part of a broader Australasian ecosystem,” Abel explained.

“Strengthening alignment between Australia and New Zealand is critical to ensuring we remain a compelling and competitive destination for global cruise deployment.

“By working more closely together, we can better support cruise lines, share insights and promote the depth and diversity of experiences available across our region.”

## HAL unveils new Evolution



**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) has this week released its most extensive fleet transformation program in its 153-year history, delivering a US\$500 million (A\$700m) revitalisation across four Vista class and two Signature class vessels.

Working closely with longstanding shipbuilding partner Fincantieri, the Holland America Evolution program will focus on expanding onboard choice with the addition of restaurant and bar options and enhanced key guest spaces, including new stateroom and suite categories with greater flexibility.

“Our guests have been very clear about what they love about our ships and what they want to see more of, and Holland America Evolution is our answer to that,” explained Beth Bodensteiner, president, Holland America Line.

“This investment allows us to introduce experiences and venues that are new to the fleet, add Pinnacle Class favourites like Grand Dutch Café, and create new stateroom categories designed for the way people travel today, all while preserving the perfectly sized ship experience that defines Holland America.”

The first ship to undergo renovations will be the Vista Class *Oosterdam* (pictured)

set to debut in 2027, with 76 added staterooms and new solo verandahs, Bridgeview suites, Vista suites and a Pinnacle suite.

“Over the coming months, we’ll be unveiling several more exciting additions to *Oosterdam* as well as the other five ships that are part of this evolution,” said Bodensteiner. *JHM*

## Silversea World ‘29

**SILVERSEA** has released its 125-day World Cruise 2029, named ‘A Pacific Awakening’, which will journey across more than 60 destinations in Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Taking place on board *Silver Whisper*, the voyage will begin in San Diego and features 17 overnights, new ports of call, six signature events and one overland experience.

The event lineup includes a private evening at the Iolani Palace in Honolulu, a private island experience in the Philippines, and an exclusive performance by the Tasmania Symphony Orchestra at the historic Theatre Royal.

Travellers can secure their spot on the world cruise from 21 Apr.

## Scenic yachts to Oz

**SCENIC** Group has expanded its luxury yacht cruising program for 2028, with the launch of *Emerald Xara* and the return of *Scenic Eclipse II* to Australia.

*Emerald Xara* will operate 15 new itineraries across Darwin and the Kimberley region, as well as Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia’s Raja Ampat islands.

Meanwhile, *Scenic Eclipse II* will return to the Oceania region in 2028 to offer an extended program across the South Pacific, sailing from Tahiti through the Pacific islands to the Kimberley coastline, Tasmania, and NZ.

The 2028/29 voyages are now open for preregistration.



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## PORThOLE

**ONE** couple has learned the hard way about leaving the cabin balcony door open.

While staying on *Carnival Freedom*, docked in Orlando, the couple posted a video on TikTok showing flocks of birds in their cabin.

“When you go on a cruise and you come back to a bunch of (birds) everywhere,” the caption read.

“Felt like we were living in a horror movie scene.

“I can breathe now because I can (laugh) about it.”

The video received mixed reception from viewers, with one person pointing out, “you’re not supposed to leave your balcony door open when you’re gone”.

Another user compared the video to a scene from Alfred Hitchcock’s iconic horror movie, *The Birds*.

Many others suggested that the erratic behaviour of the birds could have been a result of a hurricane, which impacted Florida.



## Poesia readies for Alaska



**MSC Cruises’ MSC Poesia** has shown off her new look and enhanced spaces ahead of her inaugural Alaska season, which begins next month.

*Poesia* recently emerged from the Palumbo Malta Shipyard with upgrades including the addition of MSC Yacht Club, as well as enhanced dining, wellness, and fitness venues.

MSC Yacht Club, the cruise line’s exclusive ‘ship-within-a-ship’ concept, now offers 69 freshly appointed suites, along with 24-hour butler and concierge service, and access to a private area featuring a dedicated restaurant, lounge, private sundeck with whirlpools, and grill restaurant and bar.

Guests will also enjoy two new specialty dining venues as part of the refurbishment: Butcher’s Cut, an authentic American-style steakhouse; and Kaito Sushi Bar, where guests can savour authentic Asian dishes.

Other enhancements include a

newly designed MSC Aurea Spa, and MSC Gym, complete with a Gentleman’s Barber, various workout studios, and the Top 15 Exclusive Solarium, a spacious outdoor area for Aurea guests.

*Poesia* will operate seven-night Alaska itineraries from Seattle starting in May 2026, visiting a range of iconic destinations throughout the state, including Ketchikan, Juneau, Endicott Arm, and Icy Strait Point.

Following her Alaska season, *Poesia* will reposition to offer round-trip Caribbean cruises from Miami during winter 2026/27, visiting destinations including Jamaica, Colombia, Costa Rica, Aruba, Curacao, and Belize, before returning to Alaska in summer 2027.

*Poesia* becomes the second of four MSC Musica-class vessels to be upgraded as part of MSC’s fleet modernisation program, following sister ship *MSC Magnifica*, which left the shipyard in Dec (**CW** 23 Dec). *MS*

## Legend entertains

**ROYAL Caribbean** has unveiled new entertaining experiences on board *Legend of the Seas*, including an aqua show that blends hip hop and ballet, featuring high divers, aerialists, robots and dancers.

The ship will also deliver *Fusion*, an ice-skating show featuring world-class skaters and cutting-edge tech, and the Broadway musical *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, which will debut in the Royal Theater.

Marking the first time the series will headline at sea, *America’s Got Talent LIVE* will offer a reimagined version of the global variety show, featuring fan-favourite performers from the series.

## Swan adds Grand

**SWAN Hellenic** has announced two new Grand Voyages along the west coast of South Africa for its autumn 2026 program.

The sailings can be combined into a 26-day expedition from Dakar to Luanda, spanning 14 countries, 18 ports and in-depth excursions exploring unique historic sites and natural ecosystems.

Additionally, the cruise line will grow its program to nine cruises across two seasons in 2027, including four voyages visiting 14 countries in 46 days from Cape Town to Lisbon, and five sailings spanning 15 countries in 51 days from Lisbon to Cape Town.

All of the voyages take place on board *SH Diana*.



# LIMITED TIME FARES FOR 2026

We've launched limited-time fares on river and ocean voyages for travel in 2026 that could save your clients thousands and earn you commission this year! **And with our AU\$1,000 flexible deposit**, your clients have peace of mind to plan with confidence, knowing their arrangements can adapt should they need to.

**OCEAN** SET SAIL 25 NOV 2026

Itinerary varies for this departure

**COMODO & THE AUSTRALIAN COAST**

## COMODO & THE AUSTRALIAN COAST

*Bali to Sydney*

17 DAYS • 2 COUNTRIES • 9 GUIDED TOURS  
From **\$6,745pp** in Deluxe Veranda

SAVE UP TO **\$10,300 PER COUPLE**

**OCEAN** SET SAIL 23 SEP 2026

**NORTH PACIFIC PASSAGE**

## NORTH PACIFIC PASSAGE

*Vancouver to Tokyo*

23 DAYS • 3 COUNTRIES • 8 GUIDED TOURS  
From **\$7,745pp** in Deluxe Veranda

SAVE UP TO **\$17,900 PER COUPLE**

**OCEAN** SET SAIL 28 SEP 2026

**TRADE ROUTES OF THE MIDDLE AGES**

## TRADE ROUTES OF THE MIDDLE AGES

*Bergen to Barcelona*

15 DAYS • 7 COUNTRIES • 10 GUIDED TOURS  
From **\$6,245pp** in Veranda Stateroom

SAVE UP TO **\$8,900 PER COUPLE**

**RIVER** SET SAIL 8 NOV 2026

**LYON & PROVENCE**

## LYON & PROVENCE

*Lyon to Avignon*

8 DAYS • 1 COUNTRY • 7 GUIDED TOURS  
From **\$2,395pp** in Standard Stateroom

SAVE UP TO **\$11,600 PER COUPLE**

**RIVER** SET SAIL 7 NOV 2026

**PARIS TO THE SWISS ALPS**

## PARIS TO THE SWISS ALPS

*Paris to Zürich*

12 DAYS • 4 COUNTRIES • 10 GUIDED TOURS  
From **\$3,395pp** in Standard Stateroom

SAVE UP TO **\$12,600 PER COUPLE**

**RIVER** SET SAIL 28 OCT 2026

**GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR**

## GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR

*Budapest to Amsterdam*

15 DAYS • 4 COUNTRIES • 12 GUIDED TOURS  
From **\$5,695pp** in Standard Stateroom

SAVE UP TO **\$22,600 PER COUPLE**

**RIVER** SET SAIL 12 NOV 2026

**PASSAGE TO EASTERN EUROPE**

## PASSAGE TO EASTERN EUROPE

*Budapest to Bucharest*

11 DAYS • 5 COUNTRIES • 8 GUIDED TOURS  
From **\$3,595pp** in Standard Stateroom

SAVE UP TO **\$12,200 PER COUPLE**

**RIVER** SET SAIL 11 SEP 2026

**CAPITALS OF EASTERN EUROPE**

## CAPITALS OF EASTERN EUROPE

*Bucharest to Vienna*

17 DAYS • 7 COUNTRIES • 12 GUIDED TOURS  
From **\$10,895pp** in French Balcony

SAVE UP TO **\$11,200 PER COUPLE**

**RIVER** SET SAIL 17 AUG 2026

**MAGNIFICENT MEKONG**

## MAGNIFICENT MEKONG

*Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi*

15 DAYS • 2 COUNTRIES • 16 GUIDED TOURS  
From **\$7,395pp** in French Balcony

SAVE UP TO **\$14,600 PER COUPLE**

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