



Cruise Weekly today

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

Donaldson to TTW

TRAVEL The World (TTW) has appointed Karli Donaldson as sales manager for Windstar Cruises, bolstering its commitment to the trade.

Donaldson brings almost 20 years of experience across airline, wholesale, and travel distribution roles.

She will be tasked with strengthening agency relationships, expanding market reach, and driving brand growth for Windstar.

TTW called out her understanding of the local market, as well as her skill in building partnerships, as key to supporting Windstar's continued expansion across its new ships and destinations.

Cruise lines reroute Alaska cruises

CRUISE lines are cancelling sailings through Tracy Arm (pictured) in Alaska, after last year's landslide in the fjord.

A number of cruise lines, including Alaskan newcomer MSC Cruises, have cancelled their sailings through the inlet, after the Aug landslide generated a tsunami with a run-up height of at least 30 metres.

The slide is creating ongoing safety risks, with geologists warning the steep slopes in the fjord remain unstable, making it hazardous for ship navigation.

"Due to current geological conditions, we have updated our Alaska 2026 itineraries to sail through Endicott Arm in place of Tracy Arm," MSC told **Cruise Weekly** in a statement.

"Guests will still experience Alaska's iconic scenery, including close-up views of the Dawes Glacier in Endicott Arm, a



remarkable destination known for its dramatic landscapes and active glacier activity."

This year will be MSC's first in Alaska, with *MSC Poesia* set to cruise in the destination from May through Sep.

Other cruise lines not visiting Tracy Arm this year include Holland America Line, Carnival Cruise Line, Windstar Cruises,

Virgin Voyages, and Princess Cruises, with most replacing the fjord with Endicott Arm.

Royal Caribbean has also rerouted, and has pulled its next year's Alaska schedule, with the US Geological Survey saying the steep mountainsides in Tracy Arm are expected to continue changing for several years following the slide. *MS*

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Cruises commit

BOTH Princess Cruises and Holland America Line (HAL) are set to contribute a combined total of US\$175,000 to support the rebuild of the Joseph T. Craig American Legion Post 3 in Ketchikan, Alaska, which was burned down in Sep 2023.

The post office was founded in 1919 and had been pivotal in supporting veterans and their families in the area.

Princess Cruises and HAL will contribute US\$100,000 and US\$75,000 respectively, through the Princess Foundation and HAL's On Deck for a Cause Program.

The cruise lines will continue to provide ongoing support for the rebuild, with details on this yet to be announced.

"This generous support from Princess Cruises and Holland America Line is a meaningful step forward in our rebuilding journey," said Bill Bolling of American Legion Post 3.

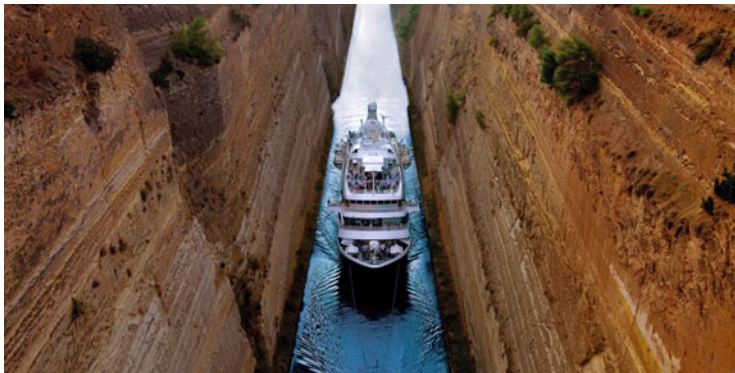
"While the loss of our building was devastating, this partnership helps ensure our mission will continue for generations," he added.

"We are deeply grateful for their commitment to honouring veterans and strengthening our community."

Both Princess Cruises and HAL have substantial Alaska seasons in 2026.

Princess has 180 departures, along with 19 ports of call, including Ketchikan, while HAL's itineraries include roundtrips from Seattle and Vancouver, ranging between seven to 28 days.

More Med for SeaDream



SEADREAM Yacht Club has announced new Mediterranean voyages for summer 2028, with more than 20 new cruises aboard *SeaDream II* released between May and Oct.

The ship will be repositioned from Northern Europe to the Mediterranean due to extraordinary demand, where she will deliver a full season spanning 24 itineraries, 12 countries, and more than 70 ports of call.

SeaDream II's 2028 season will take in the full breadth of the Mediterranean, including the Atlantic coast of Portugal, Greece, the Adriatic, the Aegean, the French Riviera, and the Amalfi Coast, which the line will visit on more voyages, reflecting strong guest demand.

Guests can visit Amalfi, Positano, Capri, and Sorrento, including dedicated overnights.

The Amalfi Coast will also feature as part of SeaDream's longer voyages program, with the introduction of a 10-night and 11-night voyage that combines the region with Greece and Sicily into a single voyage.

These cruises can also be combined back-to-back for an

even longer itinerary.

Other highlights of the season include more Corinth Canal transits (**pictured**), one of SeaDream's signature experiences, with most larger ships unable to navigate the 21-metre-wide waterway.

In-demand itineraries in Croatia and the Adriatic are also returning in 2028, with Venice, Dubrovnik, Hvar, Korcula, Rovinj, and Zadar featuring prominently across the season.

Dalmatia is represented more fully than in previous years, with Venice-Dubrovnik and Dubrovnik-Athens among the most in-demand.

The 2028 season also features overnight stays in Kotor, Hvar, Mykonos, Capri, Amalfi, and Sorrento, a scenic night cruise past Stromboli, and visits to ancient Delphi and Delos.

"We continue to listen to our guests, and their desire for Mediterranean yachting is clear," president & chief executive officer Andreas Brynstad said.

"They want more time in port, more intimate destinations, and the freedom to explore at their own pace." *MS*

Music to meditate

HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises has announced the return of its Classical Music meets Meditation program following its successful debut aboard *MS Europa* last year.

In response to positive feedback, the line will offer the itinerary aboard *Europa* again in 2027 on a 12-day journey from Santa Cruz to Cape Town.

Departing 06 Nov 2027, the cruise will bring together internationally acclaimed artists and leading experts in meditation and movement, combining high-caliber classical music with guided mindfulness practices.

The Swiss CHAARTS ensemble will return alongside soprano Marlis Petersen and Italian composer and violinist Francesca Guccione.

Guests can expect daily sessions led by specialists in yoga, meditation and bodywork to guide guests through practices that integrate movement, breath and awareness, which will be closely interwoven with the musical performances.

Petersen will also host sessions on breathwork and aromatherapy, offering guests rare, personal insights into voice, sensory perception and relaxation techniques, with optional individual sessions also available.



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HOLLAND America Line (HAL) recently held its latest naming ceremony - but it was not for a new ship.

HAL recently dedicated its newest signature tulip, which it is calling 'Savour the Journey'.

The naming ceremony took place at Keukenhof gardens, with the vibrant orange tulip serving as a symbol of HAL's Dutch heritage.

Cultivated by renowned Dutch growers KP de Geus of Maveridge International, exclusively for HAL, the naming of Savour the Journey culminated in a live sand-art performance that revealed the tulip's name, followed by a champagne toast.

The formal dedication was led by HAL captains Eric Barhorst and Jeroen Baijens, tulip grower KP de Geus, and tulip godmother and Olympic medalist Joy Beune.

RCG's foundation

ROYAL Caribbean Group has launched the Royal Caribbean Foundation, supporting its commitment to strengthening ocean communities through tourism worldwide.

The foundation aims to provide funds to institutions and organisations that support economic opportunity, community wellbeing and environmental efforts.

Princess transits Panama



PRINCESS Cruises' newest ship *Star Princess* recently made her first transit of the Panama Canal (**pictured**), with guests experiencing a front-row seat to the intricate lock system that defines the crossing.

Special programming was offered throughout the day, including commentary from destination experts, enrichment presentations on the history and significance of the canal, and scenic viewing opportunities from *Star's* open decks and observation spaces.

The transit marks a special moment in *Star's* inaugural season, and underscores Princess' long-standing connection to Panama Canal transits.

Princess pioneered regularly scheduled cruising through the Canal in 1967, becoming the first cruise line to transit it.

The upcoming 2026-2027 season includes 13 transits through the historic locks and 26 transits through the new lock.

"A Panama Canal transit is a true must-do journey for travellers around the world, and it's especially meaningful when

one of our newest ships makes this iconic passage for the very first time," *Star Princess* captain Gennaro Arma said.

"We're honoured to make this historic crossing in partnership with the Panama Canal Authority, whose expertise and stewardship have shaped one of the world's great maritime landmarks." *MS*

Scenic's new man

SCENIC Group has appointed Shane Lewis-Riley as its new director of trade sales and partnerships, effective 15 Jun.

Last week, Lewis-Riley announced his resignation from his current role of trade distribution director at Titan Travel, sharing on LinkedIn that he is ready for "an incredibly exciting new challenge".

Based in Manchester, he will oversee a new era for the cruise company, as it looks to expand its fleet of river and ocean ships for both Scenic Luxury Cruises and Emerald Cruises by 2028 (**CW** 10 Mar).

Lewis-Riley has also worked at Virgin Voyages and P&O.



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Cruise sets new records

CLIA's latest annual figures show an industry setting new records all over the world, providing a timely reminder of cruising's resilience.

Annual source market figures released last week show cruising reached new highs in 2025, with a record 1.45 million Australians taking an ocean cruise in 2025 - a 9.5% rise on the previous year.

Globally, the number of people cruising reached 37.2 million in 2025, also a new record, and a 7.5% increase on the previous year.

All the indicators are positive - the intention to cruise is very high among Australians, more young people are heading to sea, fly-cruise holidays are increasing, and local cruise passenger numbers continue to grow.

Despite recent events, underlying confidence in cruising remains strong.

CLIA forecasts global passenger numbers will continue to rise over coming years, including 38.3 million worldwide in 2026, increasing to 42.1 million in 2029.

While we continue to advocate for a better regulatory environment in Australia and a national action plan to attract local deployment, the fundamentals in this market are positive.

You can find out more in our annual source market report for 2025, now available to download from www.cruising.org.au - click **HERE** to see the report.

