



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **HX**.

HX's 130th birthday

HX IS promoting its 130th anniversary offer, which includes a number of deals on Antarctica this year. Pax can get up to 25% off or a free suite upgrade on voyages on a number of cruises. Itineraries to other destinations are also on sale with up to 35% off, including the Galapagos, Greenland, and Alaska in the sale. Sailings feature 'Galapagos Islands - in Darwin's Footsteps'; 'Discovering Greenland - From Reykjavik to Nuuk' and 'Alaska's Inside Passage - Fjords of the Great Land' - head to **page five** for more information.

AmaWaterways launches fly-cruises

AMAWATERWAYS has launched a fly-cruise offering in Australia, providing end-to-end river cruise journeys for the first time (**CW** breaking news).

The new AmaAir offering marks a significant expansion of AmaWaterways' local service capabilities, with guests and travel advisors now able to book international flights through the cruise line's Sydney-based reservations team.

"With the introduction of our local air services, we're making it much easier for our guests and travel partners to plan and book a complete journey with confidence," managing director Steve Richards said.

"From the moment a booking is made, our local team is there to support every step, from flights through to the river cruise experience itself.

"Whether it's finding the best



routing, competitive fares, or simply making the process smoother, we're here to support you," he added.

AmaWaterways is celebrating the launch of AmaAir with the introduction of a limited-time fly-cruise promotion, combining more than 300 selected river cruise itineraries across Europe

and Asia with return international airfares from Australia.

Featured itineraries include the 'Grand Rhine & Dutch Canals' 14-night cruise through the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, and Switzerland; and the seven-night 'Colours of Provence' voyage sailing on the Rhone round-trip from Lyon. **MS**

LIMITED TIME FARES FOR 2026



We've launched limited-time fares on ocean and river 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

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Royal Caribbean announces new Icons

ROYAL Caribbean has confirmed an order with Finnish shipbuilding company Meyer Turku for a sixth and seventh Icon-class vessel (**CW** breaking news).

The two ships will be delivered in 2029 and 2030, and will follow three other Icon-class ships which are currently on Royal Caribbean's order book.

This includes *Legend of the Seas*, which recently began her sea trials (**CW** 21 Apr), and *Hero of the Seas* (**CW** 31 Mar).

These two ships are due in 2026 and 2027 respectively, while the fifth Icon will arrive in 2028.

"The Icon-class reflects our bold creativity and engineering excellence that continues to define what a vacation can be," Royal Caribbean Group chairman & chief executive officer Jason Liberty said.

Meyer Turku chief executive officer Casimir Lindholm added:



"This milestone represents an important step forward in our partnership with Royal Caribbean Group to develop the shipbuilding sector over the next decade."

The seventh order is subject to customary conditions, including financing, Royal Caribbean said.

Other recent shipbuilding milestones for Royal Caribbean include the announcement of its new Discovery-class (**CW** 30 Jan), and the commencement of construction of its seventh Oasis-class ship (**CW** 24 Oct). *MS Pictured: Icon of the Seas.*

Take flight in France

UK-BASED barge cruise specialist French Waterways has elevated its Canal du Midi voyage with vintage auto and helicopter tours.

Guests this year can combine a luxury barge cruise with an excursion through the air by helicopter and a drive through the countryside in a vintage Citroen 2CV.

Travellers will visit medieval villages and a 17th-century chateau, enjoy private wine tastings at Minervois vineyards, shop local markets, and more.

On board the hotel barge *Savannah*, guests will savour gourmet meals prepared by a private chef, and relax in loungers or the spa pool on the sun deck.

All-inclusive six-night charters are available from US\$32,000 (A\$45,000) for four guests.



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Carnival no longer with a lone star in Texas

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's fifth Excel-class ship, *Carnival Tropicale*, will home port in Texas when she's delivered in 2028.

The ship will join *Carnival Jubilee*, which began sailing from the resort city of Galveston in 2024, making the destination home to two of the three newest ships in the cruise line's fleet.

Tropicale will boast a Texas star on her bow, just as *Jubilee* does, with the two ships offering a combined 6,000-plus pax from Galveston year-round.

Carnival also currently home ports three other ships in Galveston on a seasonal basis: *Carnival Breeze*, *Carnival Dream*, and *Carnival Legend*.

"*Tropicale* joining our Galveston line-up is a celebration of both our history and our future in Texas," the cruise line's president Christine Duffy said.

"For more than 25 years, Texas



has been at the heart of Carnival's growth, and this new Excel-class ship ensures we continue to deliver unforgettable experiences for our guests in and around the state," she added.

Carnival's latest addition to Galveston challenges competitor Royal Caribbean head-on, which recently announced the deployment of its upcoming *Icon*

of the Seas to Texas next year (**CW** 14 Nov).

Royal Caribbean also home ports *Harmony of the Seas*, *Symphony of the Seas*, *Jewel of the Seas*, *Mariner of the Seas*, and *Allure of the Seas* in Texas.

Other new ships recently arriving in Galveston include MSC Cruises' *MSC Seascape* and Norwegian's *Norwegian Viva*. *MS*

Clasen steps down

CRUISE Saudi chief executive Lars Clasen has stepped down.

The organisation will now be led by acting CEO Taha Nazer - formerly chief financial officer - until a new permanent head is named.

Nazer will lead Cruise Saudi's strategic, commercial, operational, and financial goals, having joined the organisation just two years after its establishment.

"I am proud of the board's confidence in entrusting me to lead Cruise Saudi during this important phase," Nazer said.

"Our focus remains on strengthening performance and accelerating the delivery of our strategic and commercial objectives, while creating real and sustainable value," he added.

Clasen helped develop Aroya Cruises and Aman at Sea.



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on the latest cruise news

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SNORKELLING is a popular shore excursion on expedition and ocean cruises, but typically it takes place in coastal destinations - not in South Africa's largest inland city.

A politician running for mayor in one of Johannesburg's largest locales has undertaken a creative stunt to highlight her ward's failings, snorkelling in a giant pothole which had opened up in a local road.

Helen Zille, a well-known South African politician, wore a wetsuit, a mask and snorkel, and a pink-and-white swimming cap as she doggy-paddled through the pool of muddy brown water.

The stunt was designed to showcase what she describes as years of mismanagement by the city's authorities.

The pool has been there for about three years because a burst water pipe hadn't been properly fixed.

Adventurer's suites showcased



ATLAS Ocean Voyages has unveiled its staterooms for its upcoming expedition sailing yacht *Atlas Adventurer* (CW 21 Jan).

The ship will offer expansive, residential-style living when she launches in 2028.

Portuguese studio Oitoemponto has designed *Adventurer's* suites with inspiration from the "golden age of travel", reflecting the spirit of 1930s ocean liners, featuring bespoke Art Deco furnishings.

Adventure's suite collection will be organised across three categories: Signature Collection, Concierge Collection, and Reserve Collection, which will offer increasing levels of space.

The ship will feature 98 Signature suites and 72 Concierge suites, as well as an exclusive enclave of 30 Reserve suites, which will be divided into a pair of two-bedroom Owners suites (103m²), and a small collection of Penthouse suites (53m²).

Reservations will open to the general public in Jun.

Cruisers can enjoy priority access for *Adventurer* ahead of her on-sale date by registering their interest **HERE** with Cruise Traveller, Atlas' exclusive representative Down Under. *MS*

Pictured **above**: Penthouse suite render; picture **inset**: Veranda suite render.

Let's eat, grandma

AMAWATERWAYS has introduced 'Cooking with Mamie', a new immersive culinary experience in France. Available exclusively on *AmaDante* and *AmaLyra* as part of its Paris & Normandy itinerary, the program aims to offer guests a deeper connection to French culture through hands-on traditions both on board and ashore.

Developed in exclusive partnership with the Atelier des Mamies cooking school, this unique offering brings authentic French grandmothers directly into the guest experience.

The program will see a French grandmother join the ship in Paris to host intimate cooking sessions for small groups of up to 10 guests, where they will prepare a range of classic desserts.

These sessions are included as part of the cruise.

Meanwhile, guests participating in a pre- or post-land program can take part in a similar experience in a workshop in Paris.



A NEW ERA OF LUXURY

Luxury Escapes' **Adam Schwab** reveals the hottest emerging destinations.

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Travel Daily

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Antarctica	Iconic Antarctica – The Explorer's Route	MS Roald Amundsen	31/10/26	16 Days	\$16,334 pp	\$22,833 pp
Antarctica	Life Returns – Springtime Expedition to Antarctica	MS Fram	16/10/26	23 Days	\$23,754 pp	\$31,894 pp
Galápagos	Galápagos Islands – In Darwin's Footsteps	MS Santa Cruz II	01/07/26	9 Days	\$10,304 pp	\$13,502 pp
Greenland	Discovering Greenland – From Reykjavík to Nuuk	MS Fridtjof Nansen	02/06/26	14 Days	\$13,432 pp	\$18,874 pp
Alaska	Alaska's Inside Passage – Fjords of The Great Land	MS Roald Amundsen	02/05/26	10 Days	\$5,549 pp	\$9,081 pp

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Discount Offer applies to new bookings made from 24 March 2026 to 30 April 2026 ("Offer Period") for selected HX departures from 20 April 2026 to 31 March 2028. Bookings made outside of the Offer Period will not qualify. Offers with a saving, discount or amount off stated in AUD represents a discount applied to the "From" price quoted in AUD per person based on double occupancy of cabin on the specified sailing or Tour Code. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Single supplements may apply and applies to all offer occupancies.
Suite Upgrade Offer applies to new bookings made from 24 March 2026 to 30 April 2026 ("Offer Period") and is capacity controlled for selected HX departures from 16 October to 30 December 2026. Departures may be removed at any time. Bookings made outside of the Offer Period will not qualify. Offer is subject to suite availability at the time of booking. Availability must exist in the following suite categories – ME (MS Roald Amundsen & MS Fridtjof Nansen) and Q2 (MS Fram). Offer is not applicable to any other suite category (ie MG on MS Fram and MF, MD, MC, MB and MA on MS Roald Amundsen & MS Fridtjof Nansen. Offers with a saving, discount or amount off stated in AUD represents a discount applied to the "From" price quoted in AUD per person based on double occupancy of cabin on the specified sailing or Tour Code. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Single supplements may apply and apply to all offer occupancies.

