

Cruise Weekly today

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



On location on board
AmaSofia

Today's issue of **Cruise Weekly** is coming to you courtesy of **AmaWaterways**, which is hosting us on its Danube-bound mega famil aboard **AmaSofia**.

TODAY, AmaWaterways' **AmaSofia** will spend another day in Linz, as guests embark on a range of shore excursions around the region.

These include a full-day trip to Salzburg near Austria's border with Germany, and Cesky Krumlov in Czechia.

Aurora Expeditions cruises into culture

AURORA Expeditions has recently unveiled its 2028 northern hemisphere season, including seven all-new 'Cultural Expeditions' that visit several of Europe's most fascinating historic coastlines.

Cruises will travel with onboard historians, archaeologists, naturalists, and local experts, who will bring each destination to life with every shore excursion at every port included in the fare.

One of the highlights of the season will be an 11-day trip around the British Isles aboard **Sylvia Earle**, departing 19 Apr 2028 from London to Dublin from \$19,938 per person, twin share.

Cruisers will journey through distinctive islands including Sark, the Isles of Scilly, Lundy, Anglesey, the Isle of Man, the Isle of Mull, Skye, and Rathlin Island.

Coastal walks and visits to island communities are complemented



by royal, clan, and maritime history, with opportunities to encounter puffins, grey seals, and thriving seabird colonies.

There will also be a 15-day 'Valletta to Lisbon: The Mediterranean: Beyond the Icons' cruise aboard **Douglas Mawson**, departing 31 May 2028 from Valletta to Lisbon from \$26,029 per person, twin share.

Guests will sail beyond the Mediterranean's familiar routes to explore ancient temples, historic ports, and Moorish

fortresses, with highlights including Sicily's Valle dei Templi, Palermo's markets, Sardinia's rugged coastline, Tangier's medina, and Portugal's Algarve.

The new itineraries will replace Aurora's Europe Small Ship Cruises (**CW 12 May**) which sailed to lesser-known destinations and offered local experiences.

Head of product Justin Ewin told **Cruise Weekly** that the shift has brought Aurora's European program more into line with the brand's DNA.

"[We are] bringing more activity and more immersion into the itineraries...[by] focusing on more remote areas," he said.

"We think we've got a bit of a unique proposition in the market where we're going to make them highly immersive [and] educational, whether it be history, archaeology, but also active and nature-based," Ewin explained. *MS*



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On location in
Normandy

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of Viking, aboard the brand new *Viking Fjølvar*.

ON THE second-last day of our famil, we are sailing into the historic Norman village of Les Andelys, known for its giant fortress, Chateau Gaillard, which overlooks the city.

We will take part in a guided walking tour of the village and may even burn off all the croissants and Camembert with a walk up to the castle.

As we sail back into Paris tonight, we will toast to the end of a wonderful cruise during the Viking Explorer Society cocktail party, which will continue on to the Captain's Farewell drinks.

Princess takes aim

PRINCESS Cruises will embark on an axe-throwing roadshow to mark the opening of its 2028 Alaska season, inspired by the lumberjack culture of Ketchikan.

The series will kick off in Brisbane and Adelaide on 25 Aug, followed by Sydney and Perth on 26 Aug, and Melbourne on 27 Aug.

Attendees will receive the latest updates on Alaska while enjoying food, drinks and friendly competition, along with the chance to win one of 10 spots on an Alaska famil in May 2027.

To enter, agents must book an eligible Princess Alaska cruise between 16 Aug-12 Oct 2026 and tell Princess what excites them most about cruising Alaska with Princess.

Agents should contact their Princess Cruises BDM to register their interest.

Fresh luxury on the Nile



AMAWATERWAYS has offered a first look at *AmaNubia*, its new luxury river ship set to debut on the Nile River in Nov 2026, joining *AmaDahlia* and *AmaLilia* as part of the line's growing fleet in Egypt.

A half-sister to *AmaLilia*, the new vessel can carry 76 guests in 38 staterooms, including 15 spacious suites.

Guests will enjoy locally inspired cuisine featuring Middle Eastern flavours, a wellness area with spa services, a fitness centre and public spaces for relaxation.

Every sailing is accompanied by dedicated Egyptologists, who will deliver engaging lectures, expert insights and guided exploration throughout the journey.

AmaNubia will sail the 'Secrets of Egypt & the Nile' itinerary, which combines a luxury Nile river cruise with hotel stays in Cairo, including the Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at The First Residence.

Guests can also enhance their journey with AmaWaterways' optional land extensions in Alexandria, Jordan and Dubai.

"Egypt continues to be one of the most exciting destinations in our portfolio, and the response from both our guests and the travel advisors who have experienced our Nile cruises this year has been extraordinary," AmaWaterways CEO Catherine Powell said.

"With *AmaNubia*, we're continuing to elevate the guest experience through beautifully designed ships, enriching experiences led by expert Egyptologists and partnerships with some of Egypt's most prestigious hotels."

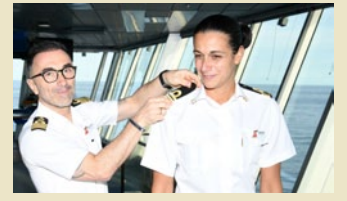
MEANWHILE, AmaWaterways has also shared updated renderings of the newly transformed *AmaDahlia* (see **HERE**), which is set to begin sailing again next month in Egypt. *JM*

CCL's leading lady

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) celebrated a milestone in Sydney yesterday, with Daniela Gargiulo (pictured right) appointed the global fleet's first female Staff Captain.

A ceremony took place onboard *Carnival Adventure* as Captain Francesco Bencivenga (pictured left) welcomed Gargiulo to be his second-in-command, as the ship returned from the South Pacific.

Gargiulo first joined CCL as a deck cadet in 2013.



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On Board: *AmaSofia*
Journeys Restaurant

Journeys Restaurant is the main dining room on *AmaSofia*, serving gourmet breakfast, lunch, and multi-course dinners featuring locally sourced regional and international dishes. Guests can dine on cooked-to-order breakfasts, varied lunch buffets with menu options, and formal three- and four-course dinners. Journeys complements the Chef's Table at the other end of the ship.



'FIREFIGHTERS ride flamingo boat to save turtle' - it is one of those headlines that makes you do a double take.

A video with that exact title is now doing the rounds on local news stations in the US, showing Lafayette firefighters and wildlife officers on board a rather eye-catching boat sailing a lake in Colorado last week.

They were on a rescue mission to free a snapping turtle that had become entangled in fishing line at Waneka Lake, and it seems the only vessel available to them was a pink flamingo pedal boat, which firefighters borrowed from a nearby rental boathouse.

Thankfully the turtle was saved - albeit, after a painfully slow and laborious pursuit.



Cruiseabout marks 10th store



CRUISEABOUT opened the doors to its new store at Indooroopilly in Brisbane yesterday, marking the tenth store in the brand's national network and the first of five new openings planned for FY27.

The Indooroopilly store is Cruiseabout's fourth in Queensland, giving the state the brand's largest retail footprint in the country.

Debbie Monk has been selected to lead the new location, bringing more than 20 years of cruise industry experience, including time with Norwegian Cruise Line and Princess Cruises.

"Our data from both the cruise lines and our online teams have shown that the western suburbs are full of Aussie travellers who love to cruise," said Cruiseabout general manager Brad Kennedy.

"Before our current rebrand, we had a store in Indro that was always really popular, so we are really looking forward to calling the centre home again and reintroducing ourselves to local cruise lovers."

Meanwhile, Cruiseabout has also launched its fourth online and remote team, CATA White, and in Nov, the brand's eleventh store will open in Doncaster, Vic.

HX unlocks access

HX EXPEDITIONS has become the first commercial cruise line to visit Old Harbor, a remote Alutiiq community on Kodiak Island in the US.

During the historic visit, guests aboard *MS Roald Amundsen* were able to experience the traditions, stories and daily life of one of Alaska's oldest continuously inhabited communities.

Old Harbor will become part of HX's 2027 Alaska program, with the experience shaped by local voices and in alignment with the community's values.

Influential Oceania

OCEANIA Cruises has unveiled 'Curated Conversations', an onboard educational program allowing guests to hear from influential figures firsthand.

Debuting on select 2027 sailings, the first participants will be Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple and actress and director Karen Allen, best known for her role in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

SAILING INTO OPPORTUNITIES

CLIA Australasia executive director Joel Katz on the growth in cruise.

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