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ROYAL CARIBBEAN

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of the latest cruise news, plus a cover wrap from **Royal Caribbean**.

Big Royal summer

ROYAL Caribbean has unveiled an expanded summer lineup for 2027-28 - find out more on **cover page**.

Mexico fee rises

MEXICO'S increased cruise passenger fee officially came into effect on 01 Aug, doubling to US\$5 (approx A\$14) (**CW** 09 Jul 2025).

The impost is set to rise again on 01 Jul 2027 to US\$15 per person, before climbing to US\$21 on 01 Aug 2028.

The phased fee increase is a compromise on the initial proposal of a US\$42pp impost.

NCL opens up 2028 summer sailings

BOOKINGS are now open for Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) northern hemisphere summer 2028 season, featuring 450 voyages across 150 destinations.

The program includes voyages ranging in length from three to 14 days, operated by 20 ships.

With a focus on destination immersion, vessels will spend around 80% of each sailing in port, with average calls surpassing 10 hours.

The season will also include 175 overnight stays and late departures across 53 destinations, including Santorini, Livorno and Juneau.

Norwegian Aqua (pictured) will operate its first full summer season of three- and four-night roundtrip Bahamas cruises from Miami, including visits to NCL's private island destination, Great Stirrup Cay.

Additionally, *Norwegian Aura*



will offer seven-day roundtrip Eastern Caribbean voyages from Miami, while *Norwegian Luna* will sail a 10-day repositioning cruise from Miami to New York City in May 2028.

The summer 2028 season will also feature an expanded Europe program, with highlights including NCL's first-ever visit to Vik, Norway, and *Norwegian Jewel's* debut in Morocco.

Guests can also enjoy seven- to

11-day Alaska sailings across four ships between Apr and Oct, including scenic cruising through Glacier Bay and Hubbard Glacier.

"From Northern Europe and Alaska to the Bahamas and South Pacific, this season brings together some of our most exciting voyages yet, with more opportunities for guests to immerse themselves in the destinations they visit," NCL president Marc Kazlauskas said.

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Travel Daily

Sentosa looks to leverage cruise visits

EXCLUSIVE

SENTOSA is looking to capture more pre- and post-cruise business from international visitors, with the Singapore destination developing packages designed to encourage cruise passengers to extend their stays on the island.

Speaking to **Cruise Weekly**, Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) divisional director, business & experience development, Addison Goh, said the destination was working to create more opportunities for cruise passengers to spend a day in Singapore before or after a sailing.

The SDC is also developing more in-depth heritage itineraries for cruise guests seeking experiences beyond traditional leisure activities, with Goh noting that the approach could appeal to travellers looking for greater depth from their shore experiences sailing with brands



such as National Geographic.

Goh also confirmed it was in discussions with "a series" of additional cruise brands, however, he noted that Sentosa remained focused on finding cruise partnerships that offered the right market fit rather than pursuing larger pax volumes.

Cruise is expected to play an increasingly important role in Sentosa's long-term development plans, with the sector forming part of the destination's broader

Greater Sentosa Master Plan revealed last month.

The 20-year plan will see new attractions, hotel developments and refreshed experiences added across Sentosa and neighbouring Pulau Brani.

Goh also confirmed the SDC is exploring an all-inclusive land package modelled on the value of cruise experiences, potentially bundling accommodation, food and attractions into a three-night, four-day stay. **AB**

RSSC for the trade

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) will host a series of trade events between 01 and 25 Sep, intended to help Australian and New Zealand advisors to maximise sales on its 2028/29 Voyage Collection.

The events will be offered in two formats, with the first designed for advisors and their clients, aiming to spark interest in guests who may not have previously sailed with the cruise line.

Meanwhile, the second series is tailored exclusively for advisors, providing practical sales insights, new marketing tools, and other resources to drive bookings.

Both formats will highlight the Voyage Collection's destination-driven itineraries, immersive experiences and RSSC's inclusions.

RSVP for the events **HERE**.

2028-2029 OCEAN SEASON NOW OPEN



We have launched our **expansive 2028-2029 ocean deployment**, including two new ocean itineraries and more than **700 new departure dates**.

Among these offerings is the new **15-day Alaskan Fjords & the Inside Passage voyage**, which explores Kodiak and two new Alaska ports, and the **16-day Mediterranean, Malta & North Africa journey**.

Sell either of these two brand-new ocean itineraries by 31 August and **we'll double your Rewards by Viking points**.



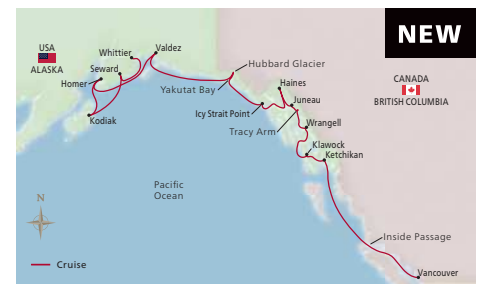
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A MUCH-LOVED 50-year-old wooden vessel has finally returned to her waters in Hobart, following 18 months of extensive restorations.

Sea Breeze, also affectionately known as *Little Blue Boat* by locals, has finally reclaimed her rightful place in Montrose Bay, after she was destroyed in a severe storm back in 2024.

During the heavy wind and rain, the boat was ripped from her moorings and smashed on the rocks beside the Montrose boardwalk.

Thankfully, Hobart's Wooden Boat Centre rescued her and paid \$1 to become her owner.

She has since undergone major restorations thanks to community donations.

First launched at Macquarie Wharf in 1976, the trusty *Sea Breeze* has long been a fixture for local commuters driving south to Hobart along the Brooker Highway.

World Asia big on wellness



MSC Cruises has unveiled one of its biggest-ever spa and wellness offerings aboard its newest flagship, *MSC World Asia*, which is set to debut on 04 Dec.

The ship's 1,260m² MSC Aurea Spa will introduce a collection of advanced wellness therapies, including whole-body cryotherapy to support muscle recovery and circulation, and LPG Endermologie, which stimulates collagen, elastin and hyaluronic acid production while helping smooth and firm the skin.

There is also a Thermal Area offering 12 unique experiences, including a snow room, Himalayan salt room, Japanese-inspired ganbanyoku beds, and Finnish and bio saunas.

Guests can also receive a

personalised consultation, with AI-powered skin and scalp analysis, FootBalance 3D foot scanning, bespoke facial treatments and tailored wellness recommendations.

"Wellness has become an increasingly important part of the travel experience, and our ambition with *MSC World Asia* was to create a spa that rivals the finest wellness destinations on land," Georg Schmickler, senior vice president onboard revenues, MSC Cruises, said.

"By combining beautifully designed spaces, innovative therapies, advanced technologies and personalised experiences, we've created our most comprehensive wellness offering to date," he added. *JM*

New Disney class

DISNEY Cruise Line revealed a sneak peek of its brand-new class of ships on the weekend during its D23: The Ultimate Disney Fan Event in Anaheim, California.

The new class will sit between Disney's classic ships and newer vessels, with the mid-range size set to give it more flexibility with destinations and itineraries.

Part of Disney's previously announced expansion to 13 ships by 2031 (*CW* 12 Aug 2024), the first three ships are set to enter service from 2029.

During the fan event, the cruise line also shed more light on *Disney Believe*, which is currently under construction and due to enter service in late 2027 (*CW* 19 Mar 2026).

Buzz Lightyear and Woody will feature on the stern of the fourth Wish-class ship, while Moana will be the central icon of the Grand Hall.

Additionally, the ship will have new venue and entertainment concepts built around the theme of "promise and possibilities", the line said.

RIVER CRUISE CHANGES COURSE

Here is how the booming sector is entering a new era.

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