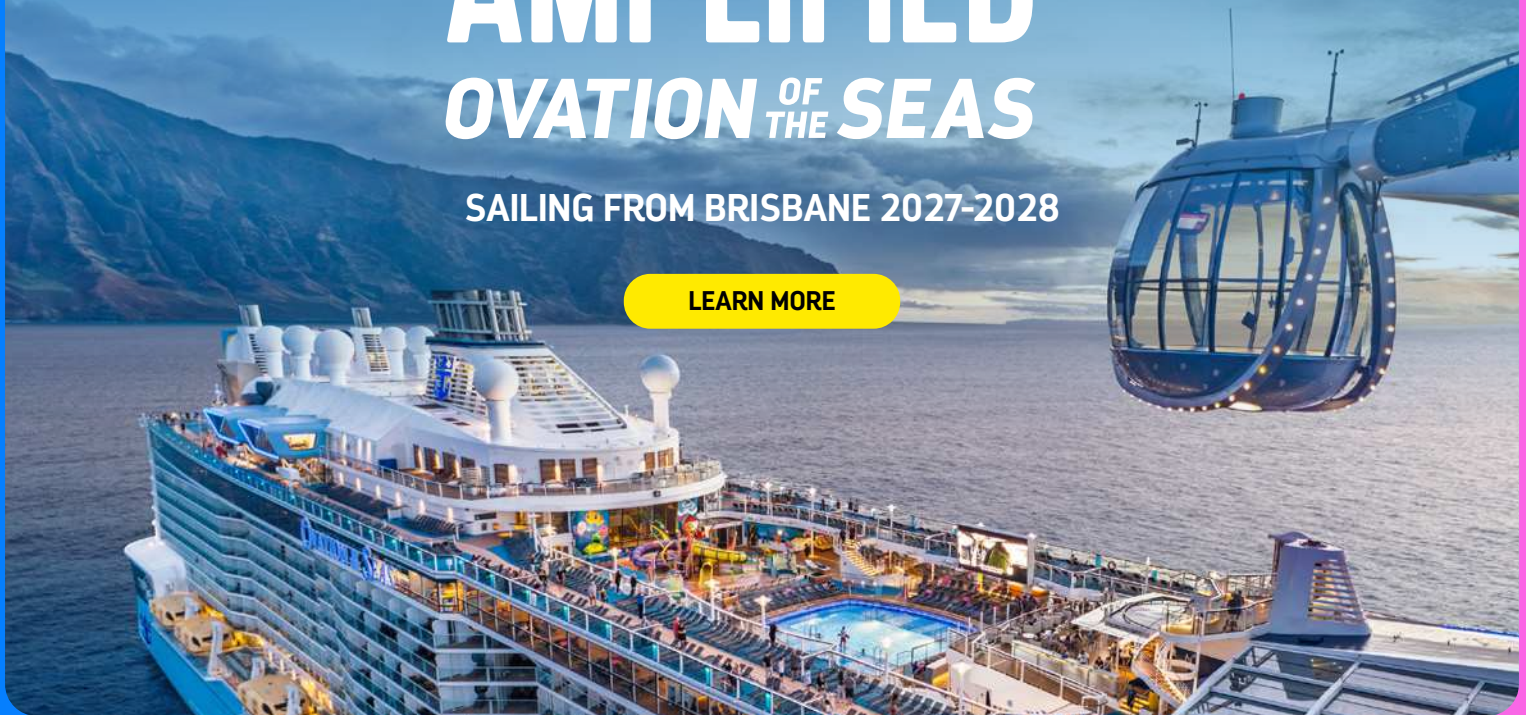




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Cruise Weekly today

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

Ovation on sale

AUSSIE travellers will soon be able to experience Royal Caribbean's newly revitalised *Ovation of the Seas* on 2027/28 sailings from Brisbane.

Bookings for voyages onboard the ship have opened today, with new family escapes ranging from three to eight nights starting in Nov 2027, plus a 16-night transpacific adventure from Honolulu, Hawaii to Brisbane.

For more information, see the **cover page**.

Royal Caribbean has also opened bookings for *Navigator of the Seas*' Singapore season through to Oct 2027.

Nat Geo-Lindblad's river cruise sets sail

NATIONAL Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions has announced the launch of its inaugural river expedition (**CW** 07 May 2025).

Through its collaboration with US group travel brand Transcend Cruises, the business' foray into river cruising has officially begun, with the seven-night 'Holland and Belgium: Medieval History and Scenic Waterways' itinerary now underway.

The voyage is operated by the newly chartered 120-guest *Transcend Connect* (pictured) - a new river ship designed to sail through the heart of Europe, featuring cutting-edge technology, luxurious amenities and wrap-around picture windows.

Guests will travel down Amsterdam's scenic canals, call on historic cities such as Antwerp and Delft, and take in vibrant flower vistas, iconic windmills and fairytale towns.



"It is an honour to welcome our first guests aboard this inaugural European river expedition, marking an exciting milestone as we bring our experience and expertise to Europe's waterways," Trey Byus, Lindblad Expeditions CEO said.

"This voyage is just the beginning of our expansion in the region, and we look forward to creating even more opportunities for travellers to experience the region through our immersive lens."

National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' river cruises will continue in Sep with the launch of the 'Rhine River: Castles, Culture and Culinary Delights' voyage, also aboard *Connect*.

Each sailing will have an expedition leader, several field staff and, for the inaugural season, at least one National Geographic expedition expert onboard to guide guests on private tours, exclusive tastings and curated experiences. **JM**

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**.



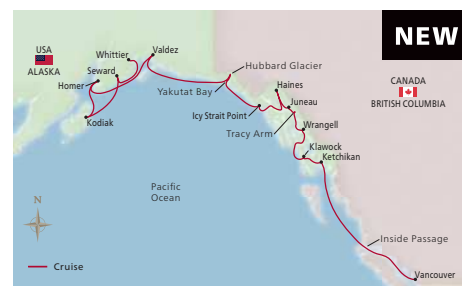
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Sailings unaffected

EUROPEAN Waterways has maintained its full program of luxury hotel barge cruises, with no cancellations expected, despite some of the region's rivers experiencing historically low water levels (**CW** 24 Jul 2026).

The luxury operator has only made slight itinerary adjustments, proactively repositioning four vessels in Burgundy to nearby waterways, generally within 50km of their original route.

Its cruises in Scotland, Ireland, England and Italy are unaffected and the majority of French itineraries, including the Canal du Midi, Champagne, Alsace and Brittany, said the cruise line.

"The impact of Europe's low water levels on our canal cruises has been limited," John Wood-Dow, co-founder and director of European Waterways, said.

"All of our vessels remain operational and where we have needed to adjust a route, the changes have not altered the overall experience with most of the usual excursions being retained."

The company's strong local partnerships and the flexibility of its hotel barges mean it can react quickly, move vessels if required, and introduce alternative experiences when needed, Wood-Dow added.

Atlas unveils Europe '28



ATLAS Ocean Voyages will visit 12 new destinations during its European program in 2028, which is set to be its biggest ever in the region with a record 47 voyages.

The line's three expedition yachts will operate seven- to 18-night sailings between Apr and Sep 2028, with new ports of call including Beaulieu-sur-Mer and Boulogne-sur-Mer in France; Lavrion, Naxos and Poros in Greece; Casamicciola Terme and Agropoli in Italy; Ostende, Belgium; Fjallbacka and Ystad in Sweden; Saaremaa, Estonia; and Svolvær, Norway.

Epicurean Expeditions will spotlight regional cuisine, wine and culinary traditions, while Cultural Expeditions will showcase history, local communities and storytelling throughout the Mediterranean and Northern Europe.

"Our Europe 2028 collection reflects exactly what today's

luxury traveller is seeking: deeper cultural connections, authentic local experiences, and access to remarkable destinations that larger ships simply cannot reach," said James Rodriguez, president and CEO of Atlas Ocean Voyages.

"These itineraries are intentionally designed around Europe's extraordinary boutique ports and lesser-discovered coastal communities, where every arrival feels personal and every destination tells a richer story."

The line's Australian representative, Cruise Traveller, is offering Aussies a US\$1,000 per stateroom air credit for Europe bookings made by 30 Sep 2026.

Cruise Traveller MD Joe O'Sullivan said: "Atlas Ocean Voyages has proved a perfect fit for Australians seeking authentic, low-impact visits to smaller ports and remote and pristine places in Europe and around the world."

Click **HERE** to find out more. *JM*

Ace for Silverstream

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced its three new Ace-class vessels will be equipped with Silverstream Technologies' air lubrication system.

The ships are currently being constructed at the Fincantieri shipyard in Italy, with the first - *Carnival Destiny* - set to arrive in 2029 (**CW** 13 Jul).

Silverstream technology works by reducing frictional resistance between the water and the hull surface, minimising fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and is already installed or ordered onboard 18 vessels across several Carnival Corporation lines.

Windstar's eclipse

WINDSTAR Cruises has announced its next solar eclipse sailing, which is set to depart Athens on 27 Jul 2027.

The line's flagship sailing yacht, *Wind Surf*, will be positioned in the path of totality near Malta on 02 Aug, giving guests the opportunity to witness the last total solar eclipse visible from continental Europe for decades.

Bookings are now open for the nine-night 'Total Solar Eclipse from Greece and Malta' itinerary.

The cruise line just wrapped two solar eclipse sailings in the Mediterranean and Iceland.



SAILING INTO OPPORTUNITIES

CLIA Australasia executive director

Joel Katz on the growth in cruise.

READ THE CRUISE GUIDE



A COUPLE from Texas has shared with the internet how they are spending "less than ever" by packing up their lives and living at sea.

Libby Rome and her husband have been living and working remotely from cruise ships for the past three years, and share snippets from their "worry free" lifestyle on social media.

The couple had already spent 16 years as digital nomads, when they travelled the world and lived out of hotels, so the transition to life-at-sea was a natural progression - and had the added bonus of saving them money.

"I wake up in a new country every few days, and I enjoy the benefits of cruising all year round," Rome shared in a post on Instagram.

"Somehow I am spending less than I ever did on land.

"There's a strategy behind how we keep costs low, the cruise lines we choose, and how we structure our lifestyle to make it sustainable."

Rome revealed that she and her husband sail around Europe on Princess cruise ships for just US\$33 (\$46) per person per day.

"We are both thrilled and excited to have this really neat lifestyle where we don't really have to worry about much, no chores and no errand...we're having fun," she told *People*.

RSSC lights up *Prestige*



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has unveiled a new crystal light installation aboard *Seven Seas Prestige*, which launches in Dec (**CW** 10 Dec 2025).

Designed to pay homage to the line's first new ship class in a decade, the light feature (**pictured**) is shown in a new behind-the-scenes video - watch it **HERE**.

The fixture, intended as a contemporary interpretation of a traditional chandelier, can be seen rising through 11 decks within the ship's Starlight Atrium.

Created in partnership with renowned crystal house Preciosa Lighting and Studio DADO, the architectural piece is comprised of more than 300 hand-crafted Bohemian crystal rods, and can be programmed to create multiple moods and effects at different times of the day.

"With *Seven Seas Prestige* being Regent's first new ship class in 10 years, we wanted to create something extraordinary, a defining statement that captures our heritage of

unrivalled luxury while signalling a bold new era," Wesley D'Silva, RSSC president, explained.

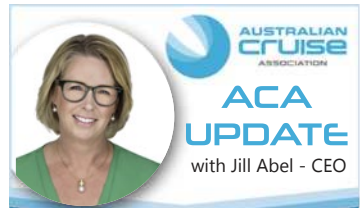
"This magnificent installation, which is truly a work of art, has been crafted in a centuries-old tradition and brought to life through the wonders of modern technology and engineering."

The crystal light fixture will serve as the centrepiece for RSSC's first-ever sound and light show, *Lumiere*, which will take place aboard *Seven Seas Prestige* as a daily pre-dinner event.

The spectacle will transform the Starlight Atrium into a stage for a choreographed display of light and music, with guests invited to enjoy a glass of champagne at Galileo's Bar while taking in the display.

"*Lumiere* was designed to create a moment of shared anticipation and wonder each evening, bringing guests together beneath the heart of *Seven Seas Prestige* before they begin their night," D'Silva added.

Last month, RSSC also unveiled an all-new sports deck aboard the newbuild (**CW** 02 Jul). *JM*



Demand meets delivery in NZ

LAST week I joined industry colleagues in Auckland for the New Zealand Cruise Association Conference, where there was a strong sense of optimism about the future of cruise in our region.

A highlight was hearing from Tourism and Hospitality Minister Louise Upston, who reinforced the NZ Government's commitment to cruise and the important contribution our sector makes to destinations, communities and the broader visitor economy.

What particularly resonated was NZ's whole-of-government approach and recognition that growing cruise requires us to get both demand and delivery right.

On the demand side, we need to ensure Australia and NZ have strong appeal to the international traveller.

We need to inspire people to visit our part of the world, creating the consumer demand that ultimately helps drive cruise line deployment.

On the delivery side, we need to create an operating environment that enables cruise lines to respond to that demand with confidence.

Our region has an extraordinary proposition - some of the world's best natural and cultural attractions, safe and welcoming destinations and experiences increasingly sought after by today's travellers.

But demand and delivery must work together. Strong international promotion needs to be matched by the right policy settings, infrastructure, border processes and regulatory environment.

We look forward to continuing these important conversations when our industry comes together again at the ACA Conference in Brisbane from 02-04 Sep.