

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise news, including a photo page from **Uniworld Boutique River Cruises**.

Unforgettable news

SMALL ship cruise line Unforgettable Croatia has released a comprehensive brochure for Aussie advisors, called the 'Croatia Collection'.

The 72-page guide encapsulates the essence of Unforgettable Croatia, including what life is like on board, past guest testimonials, the cruise line's service, and which itineraries are best for families or adults-only.

There are also details of Unforgettable Croatia's cruise itineraries, land add-ons, private tours, yacht charters, multi-country journeys, and more - view the brox **HERE**.

Sommer ships out as NCLH names new CEO

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has appointed John Chidsey as president & chief exec, tasking him with "driving the next phase of growth and execution" (**CW** breaking news).

The move is effective immediately, with Chidsey (**pictured**) succeeding Harry Sommer, who is stepping down from the role, as well as from his position on the board.

Chidsey has a proven track record of leading large global consumer-facing companies through strategic and operational transformation, NCLH noted, having most recently led fast food restaurant franchise Subway for the past five years.

He is also familiar with NCLH, having served alongside Sommer on the company's board for the past 12 months.

This is Chidsey's second stint as a director, after he also sat on the



board from 2013-2022.

Chair Stella David said Chidsey has been a "highly respected leader and strategic voice" during his time on the board.

She also thanked Sommer for his almost three years of dedication and service to NCLH in the top job.

"John has demonstrated his ability to lead businesses through meaningful transformation with a focus on operational rigour and accountability," she added.

"He is the right person to lead the company through its next phase of execution and performance improvement."

Chidsey said he was honoured to take on the role.

"I look forward to building upon the solid foundation already in place, laid out by the company's award-winning brands, dedicated team and crew members, and loyal guests," he said.

"In my new position, my priority will be to partner with the board and management team to sharpen execution, improve performance, and continue providing exceptional vacation experiences while delivering durable, long-term value creation," he added. **MS**

Regent

SEVEN SEAS CRUISES®

EXPERIENCE THE UNRIVALLED®

FREE 2-CATEGORY SUITE UPGRADE*

and A LOW **7.5%** DEPOSIT ACROSS ALL DESTINATIONS

plus UP TO **30%** OFF SELECT SAILINGS



*For full terms and conditions visit [RSSC.com/Upgrade-Your-Horizon](https://www.rssc.com/Upgrade-Your-Horizon)

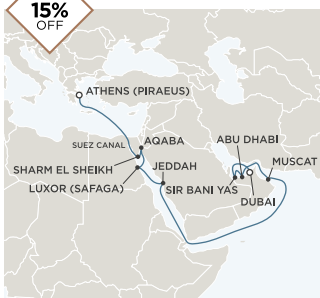
UPGRADE your HORIZON

Nobody Does It Better™ than Regent Seven Seas Cruises®.

For a limited time, your clients can enjoy a **FREE 2-Category Suite Upgrade** and a **Low 7.5% Deposit**, plus **Up to 30% Off** select sailings. All whilst sailing in unrivalled luxury. Secure their upgraded suite by **28 February 2026**.

UP TO
15%
OFF

FEATURED VOYAGE



MASTERPIECES OF PETRA

Seven Seas Voyager®

ATHENS TO DUBAI

7 DEC 2026 | 21 NIGHTS | 30 EXCURSIONS

ALL-INCLUSIVE CRUISE FARE WAS NOW
DELUXE VERANDA from... ~~AU\$23,390pp~~ **AU\$20,060pp***

DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT



Celebrate the USA

AMERICAN Cruise Lines has launched its 'Celebrating 250 Years of America' campaign, as the company honours the country's semiquincentennial.

The campaign includes commemorative 250th recognition on board ships, enhanced enrichment programming, and special guest experiences, including celebratory events throughout the year.

There will be a 250th-inspired game show, daily announcements of American historical trivia, and patriotic red, white and blue-themed cocktail parties and desserts.

Celebrations will extend to the shore, with guests enjoying included excursions at every port-of-call.

Many cities that American's ships regularly visit are hosting major events, like Sail 250's maritime celebrations in New York City, Boston, Baltimore, and Norfolk, with opportunities to take these in from American's small ships.

A highlight of the year will be the Independence Day celebrations, which will see guests enjoy fireworks displays and patriotic events everywhere American's small ships are sailing.

Guests aboard the cruise line's 52-day 'Great United States' cruise will take in the fireworks over Boston Harbor.

Explora set to visit Australia



EXPLORA Journeys has opened reservations for its inaugural world journey, 'Endless Worlds', which will set sail in 2029, bringing the cruise line to Australia for the first time.

The cruise line's first ship, *Explora I*, will depart on the world cruise on 06 Jan 2029, travelling to four continents and more than 60 destinations, including first-time calls to Cairns, Airlie Beach, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and Hobart.

Explora I will stay overnight in 12 destinations, and make almost 40 other maiden calls, including ports in the Indian Ocean, the South Pacific, Peru, and Komodo Island (pictured).

There are three journey durations, with the full cruise sailing for 128 days from Dubai to Barcelona, while two shorter options include a 112-day itinerary concluding in New York City, and a 108-day voyage ending in Miami.

"We are inviting our guests to secure their place on a rare voyage designed around the true luxury of time," president Anna Nash said.

"Each journey option reflects the signature values of Explora Journeys: unhurried discovery, cultural curiosity, intuitive service and a profound connection to the sea," she added.

"Whether it's the spiritual tranquillity found in a Balinese temple or the vast theatre of the open ocean, we are providing a sanctuary from which to witness the world in its most authentic form," Nash explained.

Explora's door-to-door service will include international business class flights and transfers, as well as luggage and visa logistics.

Guests will also receive a shipboard credit of up to US\$1,000 while practicalities, such as weekly laundry and a comprehensive medical program, are also included. *MS*

Atlas record growth

ATLAS Ocean Voyages has announced record sales growth to start the year, delivering the strongest Jan booking performance in the cruise line's history.

The milestone continues Atlas' exceptional sales momentum from last year, with demand for future voyages at an all-time high.

Jan bookings grew by more than 60% compared to the same period last year, and nearly tripled from Jan 2024.

The record performance was fuelled by several strategic initiatives launched at the start of the year, including the announcement of *Atlas Adventurer*, a new sailing yacht, scheduled to join the fleet in late 2028 (*CW* 21 Jan).

It highlighted the ongoing growth and increasing interest in Atlas' approach to year-round luxury expedition travel, the cruise line said.

Atlas also announced last month it will be opening an Australian office, and basing a ship *Down Under*, as revealed by *Cruise Weekly* (*CW* 29 Jan).

"We are seeing strong forward booking trends, healthy pricing, and earlier purchase behaviour, all of which reinforce the durability and long-term revenue potential of our year-round luxury expedition model," CEO James Rodriguez said.



OUT NOW:

2025 Year in Review Special Report

» CLICK HERE TO READ

Travel Daily

Friday 13th February 2026

Uniworld celebrates golden years

THIS year, Uniworld celebrates its 50th anniversary, marking five decades of transforming the river cruising experience and setting the gold standard for luxury travel.

In honour of its golden anniversary, Uniworld will celebrate throughout 2026 with a collection of exclusive experiences and commemorative moments designed to surprise and delight guests, from elegant onboard celebrations to a special 50th anniversary sale.

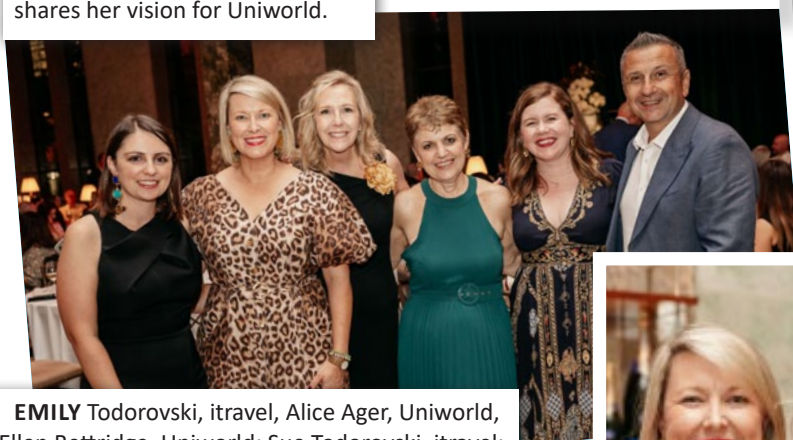
"Everything we do begins with our guests," said Uniworld president and CEO of Uniworld Ellen Bettridge, who visited Australia and New Zealand this week.

"For 50 years, we've listened closely, evolved alongside our travellers and continuously raised the bar for what luxury river cruising can be.

"This anniversary is both a celebration of how far we've come and an exciting look at where we're headed next, and we're thrilled to be celebrating with our guests all year long."



ELLEN Bettridge, Uniworld CEO, shares her vision for Uniworld.



EMILY Todorovski, itravel; Alice Ager, Uniworld; Ellen Bettridge, Uniworld; Sue Todorovski, itravel; Jen Pagett, Uniworld; Steve Labroski, itravel.



THE Uniworld team.



SHELLEY Martin, Uniworld; Maria Slater, Maria Slater Travel; Gaynor Vantstant, Travel Focus International; and Sandy Chen, Suncatcher Holidays.



ALICE Ager and Ellen Bettridge.



CHRIS McIlroy, Travel Inspirations.



FUN entertainment.



MADELYN Samuels, Emma Sheldrick, Noriye Oto and Danielle Gregory from Our Vacation Centre with Alice Ager.



JEN Pagett, Uniworld and Annalize Troost from TravelManagers.



THERE are plenty of interesting things to spot in the ocean from a cruise ship, but something most are not expecting to see is a leg.

A swimmer who lost their prosthetic leg almost a year ago has finally been reunited with it, more than 20 kilometres away from where they lost it.

The leg, which was lost in England by Brenda Ogden, a woman in her sixties, is worth almost A\$4,000, and was carried out to sea when she was knocked over by a wave on a beach in Bridlington in Apr.

Ogden's swimming group tried to find the limb, but it was swept away by the tide - that is, until another woman spotted it earlier this month, almost a year later.

Elizabeth Forbes found the leg among the rocks while hunting for fossils on the shore of Atwick, more than 20 kilometres away.

Forbes did not take the limb, instead posting a photo to social media, where a number of users got in touch claiming they knew who it belonged to, reuniting Ogden with her leg.



Alaska cruises catching on



AZAMARA Cruises has launched its 2027 Alaska cruisetours, with feedback from the line's guests inspiring new journeys throughout the destination and into the Rockies.

The program further highlights Azamara's 'Destination Immersion' philosophy, pairing prolonged time ashore with carefully curated land journeys across Alaska and Canada.

Cruisetours are offered in flexible four-, five-, and six-night programs and are paired with Azamara's 10- and 11-night Alaska sailings.

Each cruisetour combines iconic destinations with seamless logistics, including hotels, transfers, luggage handling, escorted tours, select meals, and admissions, to create a more immersive experience.

Highlights include the four-night 'Alaska Explorer Cruisetour', which visits Denali and Talkeetna via a combination of riverboat and rail travel.

The tour is available as both pre- and post-cruise options, showcasing Alaska's interior and cultural heart.

Guests cruise the Chena River aboard a historic sternwheeler, pan for gold, ride in a deluxe dome railcar, and explore Denali

on the Tundra Wilderness Tour.

Additional experiences include a jet boat adventure in Talkeetna and hands-on cultural programming at the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

There is also a five-night 'Canadian Rockies Cruisetour' aboard the Rocky Mountaineer in its GoldLeaf Service.

The post-cruise journey delivers one of North America's most iconic rail experiences, taking guests through the Canadian Rockies with elevated dome seating, gourmet dining, and outdoor viewing platforms.

Highlights include Banff National Park, Lake Louise, Moraine Lake, and a scenic gondola ride offering sweeping mountain views. *MS*

MSC gets FIFA fever

MSC Cruises will offer live broadcasts of the 2026 FIFA World Cup across all of its ships between 11 Jun-19 Jul.

Guests will be able to watch the tournament games across several onboard venues, including sports bars, casino bars, and poolside LED screens, as well as designated lounges and theatres.

Soccer fans can also enjoy a program of tournament-themed activities such as interactive games, quizzes, and family-friendly fun.

MEANWHILE, MSC Cruises has teamed up with marine conservation organisation ORCA to place an ORCA Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) aboard *MSC Poesia* during the ship's inaugural Alaska season in summer.

The marine professional will study whale behaviour and collect data, notably their reaction to the presence of cruise ships, with the results to be shared with the scientific community and used to inform whale avoidance training.

SENIOR RESERVATION CONSULTANTS



Senior Reservation Consultants Wanted

Due to rapid sales growth across our key destinations, we are seeking experienced and passionate **Senior Reservation Consultants** to join our dynamic team!

If you have in-depth knowledge of either Europe, Canada & Alaska, Islands, or Asia, and are driven by exceptional customer service and have strong sales skills, we would love to hear from you. As a key member of our team, you will play a vital role in helping us deliver dream holidays to our industry partners.

Please e-mail your CV to employment@entiretravel.com.au

EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman

Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, James Bale

Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper

Editorial Director - Damian Francis

Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

info@cruiseweekly.com.au

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan

Business Development Manager

Kara Stanley

advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER

Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220