

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of the latest cruise industry news, including a special feature from **HX**.

NCLH orders three

SHIPBUILDER Fincantieri has secured an order for three new cruise ships for Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) for the company's three brands.

The vessels will be built for Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises, and Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC), with deliveries scheduled for 2036 and 2037.

Each vessel will be a sister ship to the most recent Fincantieri ship built for the three lines, which, by this time, will be *Norwegian Aura*, Oceania's Sonata class 4 ship, and RSSC's Prestige class 3.

NCLH now has a total of 17 new-builds on order.

Azamara capitalising on market gaps

EXCLUSIVE

AZAMARA Cruises is continuing to add capacity in Australia, as its "relaxed luxury" format resonates with locals.

Director of sales Victoria Chigwidden (**pictured**) told **Cruise Weekly** the departure of other lines from Australia has allowed Azamara to capitalise, responding to local demand for its voyages.

"We're sitting at the number two market globally," Chigwidden said, confirming Azamara's 12% market share in Australia.

"We've continued to flourish, as Azamara product resonates with Australians," she added.

The cruise line's next few seasons will see more pre-Christmas voyages added, which Chigwidden believes will lead extra travellers to consider it.

"It's giving our guests an opportunity to sail with us because we're here longer,



but to also take a holiday, but not necessarily have to do the Christmas time cruise if they don't wish to," she explained.

Longer seasons in Australia have allowed Azamara to add new ports to its schedule, such as K'gari, and bring back popular calls from the past like Brisbane.

Chigwidden said Azamara's commitment to diversifying its Australian itineraries each season

created greater guest retention.

"We've got something different to offer," she said.

"We're doing that to accommodate the Australian market, because the demand is there," Chigwidden explained.

"I think it will spark our clients, and maybe those guests who have been on that particular cruise but don't want to go on the same sailing again." *MS*



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On location on board
Le Commandant-Charcot

Today's issue of *CW* is coming
to you courtesy of Ponant
Explorations, which is this
week hosting us aboard *Le
Commandant-Charcot*.

TODAY *Cruise Weekly*
will disembark Ponant
Explorations' luxury icebreaker
Le Commandant-Charcot, which
is docked in Hobart this week.

The ship is now preparing to
sail for Cape Town, following
her inaugural visit to Australia.

This is *Le Commandant-Charcot*'s first-ever visit to
Australia, and is currently
scheduled to be her last local
call for two years.

She will arrive back in Hobart
in 2028 amid her first-ever
circumnavigation of Antarctica.

A&K commences build of second Nile ship

ABERCROMBIE & Kent (A&K)
has celebrated the keel-laying of
its second Nile riverboat (render
pictured), which took place at
The Arab Contractors shipyard.

The maritime tradition marks
the joining of a vessel's first
structural components, beginning
construction for the as-yet-
unnamed riverboat, scheduled to
launch in 2028.

She will feature 32 suites for just
64 guests, mirroring the design
and spacious accommodations of
Nile Seray, which is scheduled to
launch later this year.

Like her sister, the new vessel
will offer suites with a minimum
of 33m², floor-to-ceiling windows,
and waterside Juliet balconies.

Her two grandest suites will
boast full private balconies with
outdoor spa pools.

The vessel will feature two
restaurants, a spa with two
treatment rooms, a well-



equipped gymnasium, a top
deck with canopied daybeds,
swimming pool, and an outdoor
bar with wrap-around views of
the Nile valley.

"Celebrating this keel laying
represents another important
step in our commitment to
Egypt," Abercrombie & Kent
Travel Group chief executive
officer Cristina Levis said.

"The construction of this
second vessel reflects both
the tremendous interest we've
seen from travellers and our
confidence in Egypt's enduring
appeal as a destination.

"Working with The Arab
Contractors demonstrates
our dedication to Egyptian
craftsmanship and supporting the
local economy," she said. *MS*

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Tuesday 17th Feb 2026

Content produced in collaboration with HX

HX is rewarding both new and returning guests with exclusive savings. Up until 10 Mar, returning Explorers can enjoy up to an additional 10% off, while first-time guests receive \$800 per cabin in onboard credit. These loyalty benefits are combinable with HX's 2026 Wave Sale, which offers savings of up to \$6,000pp across all-inclusive expeditions to Antarctica, Greenland, the Galápagos, Alaska, and more.

Founded in 1896, HX specialises in expert-led expeditions to some of the world's most remote regions, with itineraries focused on wildlife encounters, glacial landscapes and cultural connection. All voyages are fully inclusive.



HX has also introduced the HX Greenland Promise, providing added protection for guests in the unlikely event of a cancellation or change in travel advisory. Greenland remains open to visitors and continues to welcome tourism aligned with sustainability and cultural exchange. Discover more [HERE](#)

New suite benefit for guests

HX has introduced a new premium pre-expedition experience for Antarctica Suite guests, launched in Ushuaia in the 2025/26 season.

Designed to ensure a seamless transition from land to ship, the experience takes place at the Arakur Resort & Spa, a luxury property set high within the Cerro Alarkén Nature Reserve, overlooking Ushuaia and the Beagle Channel.

On arrival in Ushuaia, guests are met by the HX team and transferred to Arakur, where they will enjoy a gourmet lunch followed by time at leisure.

Guests can choose to unwind in the spa, sauna, and indoor

and outdoor pools, or take in the Patagonian landscape, with remote check-in handled behind the scenes.

As part of the experience, main luggage is transferred directly to the ship, allowing guests to relax with only their personal items for the day. Spa treatments and massages can be arranged directly with the hotel at an additional cost.

Included for all Antarctica Suite guests, the approximately five-hour experience has been designed to ensure guests begin their Antarctic voyage rested, relaxed, and fully immersed in the natural beauty of Patagonia.

Discover more [HERE](#)

Win the ultimate famil

TRAVEL advisors could win the ultimate famil adventure - an epic rail journey through the Canadian Rockies followed by an unforgettable Alaska HX expedition.

Book and deposit with HX or Rocky Mountaineer between 17 Nov 2025 and 27 Feb 2026 to enter and boost your chances with every booking.

Discover more [HERE](#).



Get in touch

WITH unbeatable offers, exciting incentives, and dedicated local support, HX is ready to help deliver unforgettable expeditions. For more details call 1300 159 127 (AU), 03 288 2085 (NZ) or visit the agent portal [HERE](#)

Flying solo

ALMOST 20% of HX guests choose to travel solo, creating a like-minded and welcoming community on every voyage.

Your clients can be as private or sociable as they like with flexible dining arrangements and optional onboard get-togethers. HX offers no or low solo supplements* on every sailing. Sailing highlights:

- Antarctica & Falklands – From Punta Arenas to Buenos Aires – 20/03/2026
- Discovering Greenland – From Reykjavik to Nuuk – 02/06/2026
- Alaska's Inside Passage – Where the Mountains Meet the Sea – 01/06/2026

Discover more low or no solo supplement sailings [HERE](#)
*Conditions apply, please see travelhx.com for more details.



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THE *Spirit of Tasmania* has leapt into action to help save seven stranded people after their boat capsized.

Emergency services were called when a boat capsized in Corio Bay off Geelong at about 8.20pm, with a large police operation launched, involving the marine unit, water police and Air Wing.

Fortunately, the *Spirit of Tasmania* ferry, which was nearby at the time, also deployed rescue boats, bringing aboard the capsized boat's seven occupants.

The lucky sailors were brought to safety and medically assessed at the scene.

What caused their boat to capsize is under investigation.

Swan hits a hole-in-one



SWAN Hellenic has announced a golf excursion package as part of its Lisbon to Fuerteventura voyage in Sep, which will see guests get to play on five of the most prestigious golf courses in the world.

The six-night 'Atlantic Horizons: From Portugal to the Canary Islands' cruise will depart Lisbon aboard *Diana* on 07 Sep.

Guests will be able to play Palmares Ocean Living & Golf in Portugal, Costa Teguse Golf Club in Spain, and The Tony Jacklin Casablanca, Mogador Golf Club and Golf du Soleil in Morocco.

The package includes all transfers, green fees, manual trolleys, driving range warm-ups when time allows, and halfway refreshments provided by each prestigious club.

Full care service is also included, from baggage handling and shoe shining to club cleaning.

E-trolley and e-cart reservations are offered subject to availability at additional cost, and additional rounds can also be booked alongside the main package.

Golfers are allowed around four-and-a-half to five hours to

complete their rounds.

Swan Hellenic is offering the package at a per-person price of US\$375 (approximately A\$530) per course or US\$1,500 (approximately \$2,120) for the complete five-course package.

"Nothing about Swan Hellenic is just par for the course," chief executive officer Andrea Zito said.

"Which is why it gives us such pleasure to take our intrepid guests to experience five of the most magnificent golf courses in the world – all in one unforgettable cruise to see what others don't." *MS*

Great Lakes savings

CRUISERS can visit all five of North America's Great Lakes in one voyage, as part of a nine-night sailing with Victory Cruise Lines this May.

Travellers will cruise from Chicago to Toronto sailing aboard the 190-guest *Victory I*, which will visit Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

Ports visited include Milwaukee, Detroit, Mackinac Island, and Niagara Falls.

Those booking with the brand's general sales agent Cruise Traveller can get last-minute savings of US\$5,600 per couple (approximately A\$7,900) plus shore tour credit when booking before 27 Feb.

The 10-night package, which includes a hotel stay before the cruise, is available from US\$4,399 per person (approximately A\$6,215), twin-share, in an outside stateroom.

Included are all onboard meals and beverages, shore excursions, shipboard wi-fi, and the hotel stay.

Save with Seabourn

SEABOURN Cruise Line has limited-time savings, available until 03 Mar of up to 15% on its 2026/27 Kimberley expedition cruises, sailing between Darwin and Broome aboard *Seabourn Pursuit*.

The 10-day itineraries deliver an immersive journey into one of Australia's last great frontiers, combining Zodiac explorations to King George Falls and the Horizontal Falls with cultural experiences alongside the Wunambal Gaambera people, the traditional owners of the land.



On Board: *Le Commandant-Charcot*

Nuna

Nuna is the one and only Alain Ducasse restaurant at sea, offering *Le Commandant-Charcot* guests a menu specially designed by the Michelin-starred chef. The restaurant features some of his signature dishes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as Ligne Roset furniture and French Bernardaud porcelain.



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