

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a full page from **Celebrity Cruises**.

Visit PNG with PGC

AN EXCLUSIVE package with Paul Gauguin Cruises on a new Melanesia voyage is available through Cruise Traveller.

The itinerary visits PNG, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Fiji next year, sailing aboard *Paul Gauguin*.

Cruise Traveller's 18-night package, 'Melanesian Mosaic', begins on 28 Mar 2027 with a flight to Darwin and a night's stay in the NT capital.

Guests then board *Paul Gauguin*, where they will visit destinations such as Thursday Island, Alotau, Samarai, Honiara, Espiritu Santo, and Port Vila.

The rarely offered itinerary from Darwin to Lautoka will access remote lagoons and isolated islands, thanks to *Paul Gauguin*'s shallow draft.

Travellers can currently save almost \$8,000 per couple, and get a free hotel stay and a \$2,000 flight credit if they book by 24 Mar - [CLICK HERE](#).



River and ocean collide



THE popular Uniworld Boutique River Cruises and Seabourn Cruise Line combination voyages (**CW 19 Aug**) are returning next year, the river brand has announced.

Uniworld and Seabourn have collaborated in the past to bring river and ocean combinations to luxury travellers, with next year's itineraries to bring together the river cruise line's *Venezia* (**pictured**) and the ocean brand's *Seabourn Ovation*.

Three new itineraries will be offered next year, including 'The Wonders of the Adriatic & the Venetian Lagoon'.

The 16-days cruise from Athens to Venice will begin with an eight-night voyage from the Greek capital to Fusina aboard *Ovation*, exploring ports in Croatia, Montenegro, and Slovenia.

Guests will then be transferred from Fusina into the heart of Venice to continue their adventure through the city's

lagoon on board the 150-guest namesake river ship *Venezia*.

This sector will offer time to savour the islands of Burano and Chioggia, as well as ample time to explore Venice.

Also introduced is 'The Best of Italy, Croatia & Malta with Slovenia', which sails for 19 days from Ljubljana to Civitavecchia.

Passengers start with three nights in the Slovenian capital, with day trips to Lake Bled and Postojna Cave, before transferring to *Venezia* for seven nights cruising the lagoon.

Guests will then be transferred to Fusina to embark *Ovation*, where they will visit ports in Malta and Italy.

The last new cruise offered for next year will be 'The Best of Italy, Croatia & Malta', sailing for 16 days from Venice to Rome, combining the lagoon cruise with a coastal journey through Italy, Croatia, and Malta. MS

Celeb's happy place

TAKE your clients to their happy place with Celebrity Cruises' biggest sale of 2026.

Up to 75% off a second guest is available as part of the offer, while clients can also save up to \$1,000 per stateroom.

There is also a weekend bonus of \$150 off Alaska voyages - [CLICK HERE](#) or call Celebrity on 1800 965 874 for more information.

Celestyal launches big savings summer

CELESTYAL Cruises has launched its 'big savings for a big summer' campaign, with up to 50% off its voyages.

The sale is valid across 100 sailings throughout the Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf over the next two years.

Running from today until the end of next month, the promotion combines savings of up to 50% with up to €200 (around A\$334) to spend with **CelestyalPay**, which can be used onboard for specialty restaurant dining, as well as beverages and cocktails.

A third and fourth guest will also sail free when sharing a room with two full fare paying guests on select sailings.

Fares are inclusive of all meals, soft drinks, wi-fi, port fees, and gratuities.

For more information agents can [CLICK HERE](#).

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HAL \$25 deposit

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is allowing Australian travellers to secure their next cruise with a deposit of just \$25 per person.

The offer is valid from 19-26 Feb on select sailings for 2026 and 2027.

Guests who take advantage of the deal will also be able to enjoy HAL's wave benefits, including stateroom upgrades, reduced kids' fares on select sailings, and up to US\$400 onboard credit per stateroom.

Wave benefits also include offers on HAL's Alaska cruises and cruise tours, including up to A\$200 shore excursion credit per stateroom using promo code #1ALASKA26.



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Small ships are going big



DATA has revealed interest in small-ship cruising is booming, with the intimate style of voyaging becoming particularly popular with Australians over the last decade.

The research, compiled by small-ship cruise line Unforgettable Croatia and digital travel marketing agency Adido, analysed four years of Australian search data from 2022 to 2025, which found a spike of 64% in travellers seeking out small ships.

Adido aggregated search volumes across dozens of cruise lines which carry less than 250 guests, with numbers increasing by 64% over the past two years.

Collective brand searches rose by 22%, when looking specifically at 2025 versus 2024.

Searches for terms including "small ship cruises" doubled versus 2022 levels, and "expedition cruising" quadrupled over the past four years.

"Small-ship cruising has moved firmly into the mainstream for Australian travellers, and we're seeing that reflected directly in both enquiry levels and booking patterns," Unforgettable Croatia co-founder Graham Carter said.

"Guests are increasingly drawn to more intimate ships, destination-focused itineraries and experiences that feel more immersive and personal."

Adido chief executive officer

Andy Headington said the firm's latest search analysis shows small ship and specialist cruise brands are gaining visibility.

"We're seeing particularly strong gains around expedition and small-ship terminology, alongside sustained growth in brand searches, which typically indicates a more informed and conversion-ready customer."

"For specialist operators and agents focused on small-ship cruising, the outlook is very positive," he said.

MEANWHILE, Unforgettable Croatia has released a comprehensive brochure for Aussie advisors, called the 'Croatia Collection' (*CW* 13 Feb).

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 - **CLICK HERE** to read.

Unforgettable Croatia is also currently running a travel advisor incentive, inviting agents to win a Greek holiday with its sister brand Unforgettable Travel (*CW* 12 Jan).

Those who book a cruise before 02 Mar will go into the draw. MS

MSC Lunar New Year

MSC Cruises is celebrating Lunar New Year with savings of up to 18% on select voyages.

The sale applies to a number of sailings across the Far East and the Mediterranean, and can be booked from now until 03 Mar.

Savings can be accessed on a range of departures between 02 Apr 2026 and 29 Oct 2027 on board *MSC Bellissima* and *MSC World Asia*.

Bookings can be made at **MSC Book**, using the code "Lunar New Year".

Travellers can maximise value by combining this sale with the cruise line's *MSC Voyagers Club* 5% booking discount for loyalty club members.



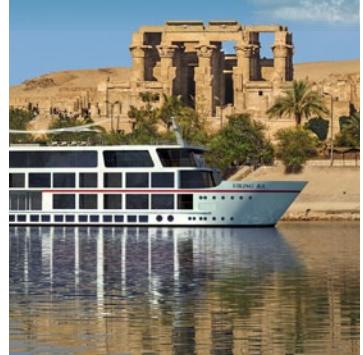
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WE'VE all seen them from our balcony staterooms - 'pier runners', who are just moments shy of missing all aboard, and the gangway being pulled up on them.

Chrissy Valdez, senior director of operations at travel insurer Squaremouth, recently listed a number of ways to avoid this fate befalling you.

Her number one tip is of course to book cruise line-backed shore excursions, which the ship will always wait for to return, no matter how late it is.

However Valdez said it is also worthwhile saving the phone number of both the port agent and even the cruise ship itself.

These are usually made available on the daily newsletter or the line's app.

Valdez also insists upon booking inbound or outbound flights through the cruise line, ensuring they help you out if the trip's schedules goes awry.

Ortiz to spritz up Ritz



THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection and fashion designer Johanna Ortiz have debuted a first-of-its-kind take-over at sea.

Ilma's pool and lounge spaces have been reimagined with Ortiz's signature prints, celebrating the ship's northern winter season.

The collaboration will transform the yacht's Pool Deck and Observation Terrace, and will continue through into the Mediterranean summer season.

A curated offering of cocktails and mocktails will also be available at the bars in both takeover areas, drawing from the

designer's favorite botanicals and coastal flavours.

"Johanna Ortiz brings an unmistakable point of view that embodies culture, emotion, and beauty in motion," Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection chief marketing officer Gaby Aiguesvives said.

"The brand's vision aligns naturally with how we curate our voyages, where thoughtful design and storytelling enhance every moment on board."

"This collaboration invites guests to experience life at sea through a fashion-led lens that feels effortless." MS

NCL Pearl changes

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has changed a number of *Norwegian Pearl*'s itineraries for her upcoming summer season in Europe, *Cruise Industry News* reported.

At least two departures have been adjusted, according to statements sent to booked guests, with the 10 May departure from Piraeus one of the cruises affected.

Pearl's previously scheduled visit to the Greek island of Santorini will be replaced with a call to Mykonos, while the ship's arrival and departure times for her visit to Kotor will give guests an extra half hour on shore.

The cruise line has also adjusted the itinerary of *Pearl*'s 21 Jun departure, also sailing from Piraeus.

This cruise will now feature a visit to Split instead of Zadar.

Arrival and departure times for *Pearl*'s visit to Montenegro have also been adjusted.

The ship will be one of eight vessels Norwegian will have based in Europe for the summer 2026 season.



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