

## Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a full page from **HX**.

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Meanwhile, passengers can also score a \$400 per person discount on Norway and Galapagos cruises.

The deals are part of **HX**'s wave campaign for this year, available for a limited time.

Head to **page 4** of today's **Cruise Weekly** for more.

## Aman reveals first voyages for new yacht

**AMAN** at Sea has unveiled the inaugural itineraries for *Amangati* (pictured), as the new cruise line prepares to launch its first ship in the Med in spring 2027.

The inaugural program of five- to eight-night itineraries are designed around late departures and overnight stays, exploring Dalmatia, Spain's Mediterranean coast, and the French Riviera, including rarely accessed ports such as Beaulieu-sur-Mer.

Select journeys will see *Amangati* remain at anchor during the Cannes Film Festival and the Monaco Grand Prix, an event which Explora Journeys has had a stronghold over the past few seasons (**CW** 09 Oct).

*Amangati*'s first program will also see her pass through Venice's historic Grand Canal, a rarity for cruise ships following their expulsion from the city almost two years ago (**CW** 08 Feb 2024).



There will also be a program of shore excursions, managed by a concierge service, which will include the use of *Amangati*'s two helipads to reach shore, in addition to the vessel's tenders.

The ship's voyages will also include a dedicated 'Suite Host', providing a butler service for each of her staterooms.

Reservations are open now for *Amangati*, which recently floated

out for the first time (**CW** 13 Jan).

The ship's intimate design includes nine decks accommodating only 94 guests, as well as four dining venues and an Aman Spa.

Suites range from 68m<sup>2</sup> to 354m<sup>2</sup>, all with their own terrace.

Interiors draw inspiration from a Japanese ryokan inn, with full-height windows ensuring a strong connection to the sea. **MS**



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### A Dominican Opera

MSC Cruises will offer a brand-new, year-round itinerary from the Dominican Republic, the line announced overnight at international tourism fair Fitur.

The cruise line will home port in La Romana starting from Nov, with the announcement made in the presence of the country's Minister of Tourism David Collado.

It is the first time MSC has offered year-round sailings in the Southern Caribbean, with *MSC Opera* to operate a brand-new itinerary, offering weekly departures.

Guests can book a seven-night voyage, or extend their sailing to a back-to-back 14-night butterfly cruise.

Sailings are already available to book, with the first departing on 16 Nov.

One of the highlights of this new itinerary is Catalina Island.

Not to be confused with Santa Catalina Island off the coast of Southern California, the destination is located two-and-a-half kilometres from the Dominican mainland, and offers guests an exclusive nature reserve experience, as well as pristine white sand beaches and crystal-clear waters for snorkelling.

Dominican officials hope *Opera*'s program will bring around 120,000 international visits to the country each year.

### Sonata's first cruises arrive



**OCEANIA** Cruises has revealed *Oceania Sonata*'s maiden season, with the ship's inaugural program set to span ports across Europe and the Americas.

The 1,390-guest vessel's first 22 voyages open for sale on Wed, and span Aug 2027 through Apr 2028, visiting more than 90 destinations on cruises ranging from seven to 16 days.

*Sonata*'s maiden voyage will set sail from Civitavecchia on 07 Aug 2027, beginning a 14-day journey to Trieste, calling at Catania, Valletta, Katakolon, Bar, and Zadar.

Other European destinations visited by *Sonata* during her maiden season will include Barcelona, Athens, Lisbon, Paros, Koper, Sarande, and Palamos.

There will also be overnight stays in destinations such as

Istanbul, Livorno, and Bordeaux.

*Sonata* will then transit the Atlantic to Miami, where she will begin her inaugural tropical season, with ports of call including Bridgetown, Tortola, Zihuatanejo, and Puerto Quetzal.

One of the highlights of these voyages will be the ship's transit through the Panama Canal.

"*Sonata*'s inaugural season is defined by the cultural diversity and geographic variety of the destinations she visits," said chief luxury officer Jason Montague.

"As the first of four ships in the *Sonata*-class, her premiere sets the tone for the thoughtfully designed itineraries, exceptional comfort and meaningful, unruled freedom to explore the world that underscore the continued evolution of Oceania," he added. MS

### Carnival floats out

CARNIVAL Corporation's shipbuilding division celebrated a milestone over the weekend, completing the first project at its new floating dry dock in the Bahamas.

The company said the new project represented "years of planning and teamwork all coming together seamlessly."

**Pictured** is *Carnival Elation* entering the new dry dock.



### Princess giveaway

PRINCESS Cruises is celebrating 50 years with a trade giveaway.

Fifty prizes will be up for grabs through to 15 Apr, with travel advisors earning the chance to win one by making a qualifying Princess Plus or Princess Premier booking.

The major prize, of which there are 15 to be won, is a twin-share balcony stateroom on a number of Princess sailings in Australia.



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**AN AMERICAN** woman's long-lost high school class ring has been found on a beach on the east coast, around 2,500 kilometres away in New Jersey.

The class ring is from Crete High School in Nebraska, from the 1966 graduating class, and was lost years ago.

That was until a man and his metal detector were scouring a beach along the Jersey Shore with a metal detector when he found the 60-year-old ring.

The artefact was eventually traced back to Crete, NE, and with the help of the local public library and the school district, the owner was found.

Interestingly, the family said it has no idea how the lost ring got so far away.



## A fifth Icon is underway



**ROYAL** Caribbean's fifth Icon-class ship has begun to take shape, with the line celebrating the first cut of her steel.

The vessel is set to debut in 2028, with the milestone celebrated at the Meyer Turku shipyard in Finland (**pictured**).

Royal Caribbean's fifth Icon-class ship joins an expanding line-up that includes *Legend of the Seas*, which will debut in Jul in Europe, and a soon-to-be-named fourth Icon-class ship arriving next year.

The cruise line also has options in place to build a sixth and seventh Icon-class ship.

Furthermore, Royal Caribbean

is reportedly preparing to order a brand-new class of ships, which sources indicate could be the long-awaited 'Discovery-class' (**CW 12 Jan**).

Although no official announcement has been made, work on the new vessels may have already begun at Chantiers de l'Atlantique, according to France's *Le Marin*.

Speculation has suggested the Discovery-class is set to come in smaller than the Icon-class, with chief executive officer Michael Bayley suggesting as much at the launch of *Icon of the Seas* (**CW 23 Jan 2024**). MS

## Aqua res system

**AQUA** Expeditions is advising its online booking system will undergo scheduled maintenance over the weekend, and will not be available for use.

The cruise line recommends completing any urgent bookings in advance.

## Beachcomber bars

**MARGARITAVILLE** at Sea has announced an expanded line-up of bars and lounges on board its upcoming vessel *Beachcomber*, which will set sail from Miami in early 2027.

The ship will feature uniquely curated beverage programs across a range of venues, including speakeasy-style hideaways, high-energy lounges, and poolside bars.

*Cowboy in the Jungle* will be inspired by South American traditions and techniques, focusing on rum- and agave-based spirits; while *Daiquiri Shack* will serve frozen classics and rotating blends.

There will also be the tiki-inspired *Polynesian Lounge*.

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Antarctica	Antarctica & Falklands Expedition (Northbound)	MS Fram	12/3/2027	19 days	\$26,244 pp	\$35,007 pp
Arctic Canada	Greenland, Labrador and Newfoundland – Encounters at the Edge	MS Roald Amundsen	20/9/2026	18 days	\$17,641 pp	\$25,123 pp
Galápagos	Galápagos Islands Expedition Cruise - Nine of the Best Isles	MS Santa Cruz II	18/8/2026	9 days	\$12,129 pp	\$16,192 pp
Greenland	Grand Greenland – Mythical Lands of the North	MS Fridtjof Nansen	31/7/2026	17 days	\$17,099 pp	\$23,453 pp
Northwest Passage	Through the Arctic Labyrinth (Greenland to Alaska)	MS Fridtjof Nansen	14/8/2026	26 days	\$34,256 pp	\$47,931 pp
Norway	Ultimate Norway – Arctic Expedition under the Northern Lights	MS Spitsbergen	28/11/2026	8 days	\$6,466 pp	\$10,992 pp
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\*subject to availability



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