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Cruise Weekly today

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

A new symphony

OCEANIA Cruises' upcoming ship *Oceania Sonata* will be a symphony of luxury, offering immersive itineraries, genuine hospitality, and the finest cuisine at sea - head to the **cover page** for more info.

Your happy place

TAKE your client to their happy place with Celebrity's biggest sale of the year.

Get up to 75% off a second guest, save up to \$1,000 per room, and enjoy a special bonus off Europe cruises - **p4**.

Celebrity orders 10 more river ships

CELEBRITY River Cruises will welcome 10 additional ships to its fleet, which will double in size to 20 by 2031, as it opens its 2028 season for booking.

The new season, which will be Celebrity's second on the rivers, features an 80% increase in European destinations compared to the cruise line's inaugural 2027 deployment, with more than 160 sailings to over 50 destinations across the continent.

Guests can sail the Rhine to the vineyards of Alsace, follow the Danube to Budapest's centuries-old market halls, and visit other highlights, including the Czech Republic and Vienna.

Itineraries will take guests to 24 new ports, including journeys into the wild beauty of the Lower Danube with a Celebrity-first overnight land stay in Bucharest, tulip-season sailings, and Christmas market cruises.



The announcement of the new order of ships also marks the start of construction for the cruise line's first river vessel, which will be named *Celebrity Compass*.

She will launch next year alongside *Celebrity Seeker*, and will be followed by *Celebrity Wanderer* (pictured), *Celebrity Roamer*, and *Celebrity Boundless*, which will join the fleet in 2028.

"Guest demand for Celebrity River Cruises has exceeded our expectations, and expanding

the fleet allows us to bring this highly anticipated experience to even more travellers," said Jason Liberty, chairman and CEO of Celebrity's parent company, Royal Caribbean Group.

"With Celebrity's expansion into river, we're strengthening our connected vacation ecosystem, offering more choice, more access, and more reasons for guests to stay with us - turning the vacation of a lifetime into a lifetime of vacations." *MS*

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Discovery class announced



ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) is expanding its vacation portfolio with the official announcement of its new Discovery class, which will be built at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard (**CW** 22 Jan).

The agreements include two firm ship orders with options for four additional vessels, with the first ship in the class set to debut in 2029, and the second to be delivered in 2032.

No further details about the Discovery class and its ships were provided, although reporting has suggested the vessels will come in smaller than Royal Caribbean's current generation of Icon-class builds (**CW** 22 Jan).

RCG chair and CEO Jason Liberty said: "The Discovery-class represents our continued commitment to shaping the future of vacations."

"These ships will be a showcase of what's possible when design meets purpose, ultimately bringing the world closer to our guests," he added.

"Through our partnership with Chantiers de l'Atlantique, we are leveraging France's world-class shipbuilding ecosystem and new technology to, once again, reimagine the industry for decades to come."

Chantiers de l'Atlantique has built a total of 21 ships for RCG over the past four decades.

The shipyard is currently

building two more vessels for RCG, including Royal Caribbean's Oasis 7 and Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Xcite*.

"The Discovery class introduces a bold new concept that puts our guests at the centre of it all," the cruise line's president and CEO Michael Bayley said.

"It will deliver extraordinary, one-of-a-kind experiences - from cutting-edge design to immersive moments - every detail crafted to surprise and delight guests in ways they've never imagined, all while visiting truly breathtaking destinations around the world," he added. *MS*

Cruise hot for TM

CRUISE holidays continue to be strongly in demand at TravelManagers, with the home-based agent network reporting a 12% increase in cruise sales.

"Our PTMs continue to leverage their own B2C cruise platform, delivering a seamless client experience and a constant cruise presence without the need for individual website management," chief operating officer Grant Campbell said.

TravelManagers is on track for annual growth of around 6.3% by 31 Mar.



Oceania Cruises® Reveals *Oceania Sonata's*™ Maiden Season of Voyages

OCEANIA Cruises®, the world's leading culinary- and destination-focused luxury cruise line, has unveiled a first look at the itineraries of *Oceania Sonata*™, the first ship in its all-new Sonata Class, debuting in August 2027.

Now available online for preview, with bookings opening on 29 January 2026, *Oceania Sonata's* inaugural season features 22 sailings from August 2027 through April 2028, spanning more than 90 destinations on voyages from 7 to 16 days.

Ushering in a new chapter for Oceania Cruises, the 1,390-guest vessel will trace a sweeping route through the heralded capitals and enchanting coastal towns of Europe to vibrant ports across the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America – offering captivating shore excursions, overnight port stays and longer days ashore.

"*Oceania Sonata's* inaugural season is defined by the cultural diversity and geographic variety of the destinations she visits," said Jason Montague, Chief Luxury Officer of Oceania Cruises. "As the first of four ships in the Sonata Class, her premiere sets the tone for the thoughtfully designed itineraries, exceptional comfort and meaningful, unrushed freedom to explore the world that underscore the continued evolution of Oceania Cruises."

Remaining true to the line's destination-rich philosophy, *Oceania Sonata's* maiden

voyage will set sail from Rome (Civitavecchia) on 7 August 2027, beginning a 14-day journey to Trieste. Highlighted ports of call include Catania, Italy; Valletta, Malta; Katakolon, Greece; Bar, Montenegro; and the Croatian port of Zadar.

Oceania Sonata Highlights:

- *Oceania Sonata* is the most innovative and luxurious Oceania Cruises ship to date; she represents a bold vision for an entirely new generation of luxury travel experiences. As always, at the heart of this beautiful ship is an extraordinary crew dedicated to providing exceptional cuisine, personalised, intuitive service and immersive enrichment opportunities.

- The most diverse culinary program at sea, featuring 13 culinary experiences at no additional cost.

- Debuting the most exclusive fine-dining restaurant at sea, La Table par Maîtres Cuisiniers de France, the only restaurant at sea launched with the seal of approval by the fabled Maîtres Cuisiniers de France.

- A wider choice of entertainment and social spaces, socialise with family and friends in the evening.

For additional information on Oceania Cruises' small-ship luxury, exquisitely crafted cuisine and expertly curated travel experiences, visit

[OceaniaCruises.com](https://www.OceaniaCruises.com), call Oceania Cruises on 1300 355 200, or speak with a professional travel advisor.





MAGIC Johnson is continuing to bring glory to Los Angeles decades since his retirement from the LA Lakers, having been revealed as one of the investors in the city's newly announced cruise terminal (CW 27 Jan).

The Port of Los Angeles is developing two new cruise facilities to significantly expand its capacity, and JLC Infrastructure - one of the point guard's many companies - will play a leading hand in the project's development.

Southern California's new cruise terminal will also be able to accommodate the newest and most environmentally friendly cruise ships - yet another assist for Magic in LA.



RCG exceeds with Q4 results

ROYAL Caribbean Group's (RCG) fourth quarter results exceeded guidance, delivering more than 30% earnings growth, with the company's wave season off to a record start.

The results, released overnight, exceeded guidance due to greater revenue and stronger results from joint ventures.

Royal Caribbean operates a 50% JV with TUI Cruises, which operates the Mein Schiff and Hapag-Lloyd brands.

Net income for the fourth quarter of last year was US\$800 million (A\$1.14 billion), while Royal Caribbean also reported total revenue of US\$4.3 billion (A\$6.1 billion) and an adjusted EBITDA of US\$1.5 billion (A\$2.1b).

The strong financial performance is partly the result of the company's cyber sales and wave season, which together helped deliver the best seven booking weeks in its history.

Royal Caribbean has approximately two-thirds of its capacity for 2026 already booked, which is within historical ranges and at record pricing levels.

RCG is seeing elevated close-in

bookings, while onboard and pre-cruise spending are exceeding prior years, driven by higher participation at increased prices

Nearly 50% of onboard revenue from last year was booked pre-cruise, with 90% of pre-voyage purchases being made through digital channels.

Looking to this year, the share of booked guests who have purchased onboard revenue pre-cruise is up year-over-year.

"2025 was an outstanding year, and the momentum is further accelerating into 2026," chairman and CEO Jason Liberty said.

"Wave is off to a great start and we continue to see strong and growing preference for our leading brands and differentiated vacation experiences.

"We expect another strong year of financial performance with both revenue and earnings growing double digits."

Liberty said Royal Caribbean remains on track to achieve its 'Perfecta Program' goals, including a 20% compound annual growth rate and return on invested capital, by the end of next year. MS

HAL is a Legend

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has unveiled its 2027-2028 Legendary Voyages season, showcasing 25- to 59-day journeys, including the brand's first Caribbean-based cruise of this kind.

The 28-day 'Pan Am 100 Years Legendary Voyage' is a special sailing that retraces historic Clipper routes across the Caribbean, Mexico, and Latin America, ex Miami.

Zuiderdam will visit 18 destinations, closely following Pan Am's pioneering Great Circle Route, with nearly half the ports featured on the airline's original schedules.

This cruise joins the return of a number of guest-favourite journeys such as the 47-day 'Ultimate Mediterranean & Atlantic Passage' and the refreshed 28-day 'Legendary Amazon Explorer'.



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