



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Some private news

FOUR Seasons Yachts has debuted a number of private island experiences, ahead of its inaugural Caribbean season later this year.

Two signature experiences will be available across voyages during the 2026-27 season, including a private Beach Day at Prickly Pear Cays in Anguilla and an exclusive 'yacht club escape' at Norman's Cay Yacht Club in The Bahamas.

Four Seasons l's inaugural Caribbean itineraries will include voyages through The Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, St Barthelemy, Nevis, Antigua, and Anguilla, which are now available to book.

Celebrity launches river extensions

CELEBRITY River Cruises has launched before and after cruise stays in four European cities, which are now open for booking across the next two years.

Passengers are being offered two- and three-night stays in Prague, Budapest, Amsterdam, and Lausanne with one 'Discovery Collection' tour included each day from the cruise line's recently announced shore excursion program (**CW** 16 Mar).

Guests will stay in centrally located, high-end accommodations and enjoy daily destination programming, with a balance of guided discovery and personal exploration built into the program, as well as optional premium experiences.

Accommodation, daily breakfast, and ship transfers are included in all stays.

In Amsterdam, a local contemporary artist will



lead passengers through the destination's street art scene in the city's most creative districts.

The day ends with guests picking up a spray can and co-creating a piece of street art on the wall themselves.

In Prague, guests can follow the trail of alchemists and ancient

scholars through gothic spires and hidden symbols, descending into the destination's historic defences, including medieval walls, secret bunkers, Cold War shelters, and more.

There is also a food and drink-focused option, tracing Czechia's beer heritage and taverns. *MS*



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HAL lodge upgrade

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is on track to complete \$70 million of enhancements to its Denali Lodge in time for next year's Alaska season (**CW** 09 Jan 2025).

The enhancements are already underway, with many upgrades already finished.

Expanded guest capacity will be a key target of the enhancements, as will amplified dining experiences and improvements to Denali Lodge's outdoor areas.

Guests staying at the property this season will be able to enjoy its renovated accommodations, refreshed public spaces, and expanded culinary offerings, which are inspired by Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

Other completed projects include an enhanced riverside interpretive trail with new scenic viewpoints; improved on-site wayfinding throughout the property; and public space renovations at both the Cottonwood and Canyon Lodge buildings.

There is also a new 'Outpost Coffee + Provisions' coffee and convenience store concept, as well as expanded seating at Karstens restaurant.

Final enhancements are underway and scheduled for completion ahead of the 2027 Alaska season, which will be HAL's 80th in the region.

Oceania's special news



OCEANIA Cruises has announced its Specialty Cruises for next year, which will see guests travel alongside culinary and cultural leaders.

The line's 2027 Specialty Cruises will visit the Mediterranean, the Baltic, and Japan, and include exclusive events, expert insights and distinctive experiences.

Select voyages will be hosted by celebrated culinary icons and television personalities, such as Claudine Pepin on an 11-day Tokyo round trip aboard the *Oceania Riviera*.

Pepin is the daughter of Oceania's founding executive culinary director Jacques Pepin.

Also hosting are cookbook author Sara Moulton on a 14-day Lisbon round trip aboard *Oceania Marina*, and Oceania's executive culinary directors Alexis Quaretti and Eric Barale on a 13-day Athens to Rome voyage aboard *Oceania Vista*.



Other select sailings will feature travel experts who will provide insights on distinctive Mediterranean ports, designed to bring travellers closer to the region's culture and people.

American television host Samantha Brown will host a 10 day specialty cruise from Trieste to Barcelona aboard *Oceania Allura*, during which she will share her insights on select ports.

There will also be a 12-day Reunion Cruise from Trieste to Athens aboard *Oceania Aurelia*, immediately following the reimagined ship's inaugural voyage (**CW** 07 May).

The sailing will act as an end-of-year celebration hosted by senior Oceania executives, where loyal and first-time guests alike can come together. **MS**

Pictured clockwise from top left: Sara Moulton; Claudine Pepin; Eric Barale and Alexis Quaretti; and Samantha Brown.

Decks & Decades

AMBASSADOR Cruise Line has launched a sailing celebrating the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, departing from Newcastle upon Tyne.

The three-night 'Decks & Decades' cruise aboard *Ambition* departs in Sep, and will combine live entertainment, themed dining experiences, fancy dress nights, and musical performances, all of which will celebrate the three decades.

'Decks & Decades' entertainment program will also feature era-specific acts charting the three decades.

Cunard low deposit

CUNARD Line has launched its 'The Cunard Event' promotion, offering reduced deposits on voyages across the next three years.

Passengers can currently access a reduced 5% deposit, and for those booking before 14 Jul, up to US\$1,200 onboard credit.

This reduced deposit is fully refundable when cancelling more than 180 days prior to departure, providing guests with additional peace of mind.

Onboard credit can be applied to treatments at the spa, as well as one of Cunard's champagne afternoon teas, at specialty dining venues, or on shore excursions.



WIN a July in July with Carnival

Make a Carnival booking via GoCCL between 1-31 July 2026 (AEST) for your chance to **WIN 1 of 4 LIMITED EDITION** custom Carnival x July Carry On Trunks!

To enter, register your booking via the entry form and tell us in 50 words or less: *Where is the first place you'll go with your custom Carnival x July carry-on?*



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PORThOLE

MUSICAL composer

Benjamin Squires has landed what could be the best job at sea: composer-in-residence for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines.

Squires' is already breaking ground in his new role, unveiling what is thought to be the world's first soundtrack inspired by a cruise he took on board *Balmoral*.

The composer's new album, *Soundtrack for the Seas*, was inspired by a Northern Lights cruise, and is based on original recordings captured on board.

Squires' day job involves scoring trailers for films such as *Wicked: For Good* and *Avatar: Fire and Ash*, with his latest *Soundtrack for the Seas* featuring voices of the ship's guests, her bells, and even a traditional Sami Yoik - a local form of melodic vocalisation unique to the Sami people of Northern Europe.

The soundtrack will be woven into the guest experience across the Fred. Olsen fleet, with an exclusive, specially composed sleep track available in staterooms, which is designed to aid rest.

"Spending time aboard *Balmoral* gave me access to so many extraordinary moments - from the thrill of standing on deck as the ship departed to watching the Northern Lights dance across the sky," explained Squires.

Japan on top for MSC



JAPAN has become one of MSC Cruises' top destinations, with the line reporting a strong surge in bookings for the country, up more than 50% year-on-year.

Katrina McAlpine, managing director for MSC Group's cruise division, said demand for Japan sailings has accelerated significantly, with forward bookings for 2027 departures already tracking well ahead of the same period last year.

The most popular Japan voyage is *MSC Bellissima's* (pictured) nine-night Tokyo round trip itinerary, visiting Tokyo, Hiroshima, Kagoshima, Gangjeong, Sasebo, and Kobe.

Other itineraries range from a four-day quick getaway to longer 10-night sailings.

"Japan offers an incredible combination of culture, cuisine, history and natural beauty, and Australians are increasingly choosing to cruise with MSC to conveniently experience multiple destinations in a single trip," McAlpine said.

Japan is one of a number of international destinations that have been leading a rise in fly-cruising from Australia over the past nine months (*CW* 21 Oct), with Princess Cruises also reporting record bookings and capacity growth.

The Government of Japan has made the development of its cruise market a national priority, with aggressive growth strategies aimed at hitting one million passengers by 2030. *MS*

Turkiye's sail & stay

AN EXCLUSIVE new sail and stay package from Cruise Traveller has been unveiled, centring on a Turkish Riviera sailing with Star Clippers.

Those who book by the end of the month can save \$1,672 per couple on the 14-night 'Turkish Riviera Sailing', which begins on 02 Aug, and combines the cruise with four nights on the mainland - **CLICK HERE** for more details.



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

\$145 billion sailing in

WE'RE halfway through 2026, and already we've seen seven spectacular new cruise ships delivered from the world's shipyards - with another seven due by the end of the year.

It's a busy time for ship launches, and part of an investment pipeline that will see a total of 86 new vessels constructed and launched before the end of 2039.

These ships are worth almost \$145 billion combined, which is further proof of the long-term confidence in cruising and the enormous potential presented by cruise tourism.

Together, they will bring around 234,000 additional berths, providing a huge boost to capacity and an opportunity to bring new guests into the market.

Importantly, these new ships span the full spectrum of cruise experiences, from the most spectacular of the large ships through to the most luxurious of the small.

That means we have a ship and a cruising style to suit everyone.

CLIA's training and events programs help travel advisors understand this diversity, so they can maximise cruise business.

Our Cruise360 conference in Sep is a great opportunity to boost your cruise knowledge, so **CLICK HERE** to secure your place.

