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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of the latest cruise industry news, plus a cover wrap from **Royal Caribbean**, and a full page from **Ponant Explorations**.

Royal Caribbean's Legend debuts

ROYAL Caribbean's new *Legend of the Seas* is now available to book, featuring onboard neighbourhoods for all types of travellers.

Whether your client is seeking family fun, adventure, an adults-only retreat, or a VIP experience, there is something on board for everyone.

See the **cover page** for more information on the new ship.

Save on Ponant's Kimberley trips

PONANT Explorations is currently offering savings of up to \$3,000 on suites on board its 10-night 'Iconic Kimberley' itinerary, which sails from Darwin to Broome or vice versa.

There are 14 departures available to book next year between May and Aug, on board either *Le Jacques Cartier* or *Le Soeal*.

The expert-led cruise is designed to immerse guests in the region's unique landscapes, complete with daily excursions, gourmet meals, butler service, and private balconies.

For more details, head to **page 4**.

Inspiring cruise packages



INSPIRING Vacations has scaled up its Fly Cruise Stay packages this month with a collection of new voyages.

The expansive, multi-week journeys string together flights and escorted touring with both river and ocean sailings.

There are three new packages in Europe and the Arctic, with trips longer than three weeks.

A highlight will be the 23-day 'Aurora Voyage: Norwegian Fjords, the Arctic Circle & Finnish Lapland', which combines an 11-night Hurtigruten Signature expedition cruise aboard *Trollfjord (pictured)* along Norway's coast with a seven-night land tour through Lapland.

The package is available from \$16,995 per person, and offers multiple departures in 2027/28.

There is also a 24-day 'Capitals & Rivers of Europe: Prague to Paris', which combines a 14-night river cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam aboard *Emerald*

Cruises with four nights pre-cruise in Prague and four nights post-cruise in Paris.

The package is available from \$12,995 per person, with multiple departures next year.

Inspiring Vacations' new Asia packages include an 18-day 'Grand Japan & South Korea: Autumn Foliage Voyage', which combines return international flights, hotel stays in Tokyo and Princess Cruises' signature 14-night fall foliage cruise aboard the *Diamond Princess*, timed for the peak autumn season.

The package is available from \$5,895pp, departing in Nov.

There are also a number of multi-region itineraries, including a 22-day 'Honolulu to Sydney: Hawaii, Tahiti & New Zealand' voyage this Sep, which combines a South Pacific repositioning sailing aboard *Celebrity Cruises'* *Celebrity Edge* with a Waikiki stopover and flights, available from \$5,595pp. *MS*

Rolling the camera

HURTIGRUTEN has returned as naming partner for the 2026 Nordic Film Festival, set to bring the best of cinema from Scandinavia to Palace Cinemas across eight Australian cities.

Highlights of this year's edition include *Fjord*, winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival, starring Sebastian Stan and Renate Reinsve, shot on the western coast of Norway.

Viewers will also be able to see *Arru*, a drama following a family of Sami reindeer herders protecting their land from proposed copper mines; and *The Pension Heist*, a comedy following three women who set out to steal from the world's largest sovereign wealth fund.

"Nordic film has a way of transporting you directly into the heart of this part of the world," Hurtigruten managing director Damian Perry said.

"Whether it's the Norwegian coast, the Arctic or the Icelandic highlands, these films give agents and their clients a real feel for the places Hurtigruten sails.

"We're proud to support the festival for the second year running," he added.

In celebration of the partnership, Hurtigruten is giving away 15 double passes to the Nordic Film Festival.

To be in the running, agents need to email apacmarketing@hurtigruten.com.au, explaining what their three recommended experiences in Norway are.

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VIEW OFFER



Silversea reunion ends with a bang

SILVERSEA has wrapped its 2026 Venetian Society Reunion Voyage, which saw first-time guests and members of the line's loyalty program gather on board *Silver Shadow* for a round trip voyage from Nice.

From 19 Jun to 01 Jul, the ship visited 10 ports across France, Italy, and Malta on an itinerary selected by Venetian Society members and hosted by Silversea president Bert Hernandez and other brand executives.

Guests enjoyed exclusive touches throughout the cruise, including commemorative gifts inspired by destinations visited, themed culinary experiences, and enhanced entertainment, such as vocal ensemble Tenors Unlimited and singer Kenny James.

Highlights of the port visits included a private wine experience in Tuscany, an exclusive concert in Salerno,



an olive oil escape at Antica Masseria, and a farewell party and fireworks in Portofino.

"Silversea's Venetian Society Reunion Voyages are built around the guests who know us best," Hernandez said.

"These reunions offer a moment to connect deeply with our most loyal and experienced travellers,

and I value that time - not only to celebrate, but to listen, exchange, and continually elevate the Silversea experience."

The cruise line has confirmed its next Venetian Society Reunion Voyage will take place aboard *Silver Dawn* on a 12-day sailing from Copenhagen to Southampton on 03 Sep 2027. *JM*

Ponant package

A RARE voyage to some of Indonesia's most unknown islands is being offered as part of a package with small ship representative Cruise Traveller.

The voyage visits Darwin and Manila in Aug 2027, and will visit a number of islands in Malaysia and Indonesia with Ponant aboard *Le Soleal*.

Cruise Traveller's 16-night fly, cruise and stay adventure begins with a flight to Darwin, using Cruise Traveller's flight credit of \$1,200 per person and a pre-night stay in the capital of the NT.

Le Soleal will then set sail for the Kai Islands, Triton Bay, the Maluku Islands, Pulau Molana, Limasawa, the Cuatro Islands, and Cresta de Gallo Island.

The voyage ends in Manila where guests enjoy a free night in a luxury hotel - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

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Blake Muir - Mentee

For more information visit - www.travelindustrymentor.com.au



OF ALL the things that could be a cruise selling point, we bet donuts were not on your bingo card.

Virgin Voyages, however, has made headlines with the white-chocolate-topped donuts it sells on board *Brilliant Lady*.

American travel journalist Jill Schildhouse declared on Yahoo Creators that the pastry was so good she would "book another sailing just to eat it again".

Schildhouse described the donut in mouth-watering detail: "The chocolate forms a thin, velvety shell that gently cracks when you bite into it, giving way to a warm, pillowy donut beneath."

"It's rich without being cloying, indulgent without



Play it again, Viking



VIKING recently hosted travel advisors at the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's 'Italian Serenatas' concert series.

The events across Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane celebrated Italian Baroque music, and formed part of Viking's ongoing partnership with one of Australia's leading cultural organisations (*CW* 20 Apr).

Senior events & trade coordinator Natalie Kessel, national commercial manager

Shaun Kavanagh, and commercial managers Helen Mezzan and Leon Hill all hosted agents at the events, which featured works by renowned Italian composers including Antonio Vivaldi, Arcangelo Corelli, Giuseppe Antonio Brescianello, and more.

The partnership is now in its third year, and provides access to premium concert experiences, VIP events, and other exclusive opportunities during the Brandenburg's season. *MS*

Southern delight

JAPAN'S Mitsui Ocean Cruises is offering an eight-night voyage around the country's southern islands this Sep, on board the 458-guest *Mitsui Ocean Fuji*.

Departing Kobe on 19 Sep, the 'Japan's Autumn Colours' cruise will showcase the picturesque coastlines of the islands of Kyushu and its autumnal colours.

Ports of call include Fukuoka, known for its vibrant culinary scene; Ibusuki, with its volcanic sand baths; the island of Tanegashima; Yatsushiro and its old castles; as well as Busan in South Korea.

The voyage is available from \$7,880 per person, twin-share, in a verandah suite with a private balcony, with fares including excursions, meals, select onboard beverages, gratuities and wi-fi.

When booking through Cruise Traveller before the end of the month, guests can receive free return flights to Osaka from Sydney, Melbourne, or Brisbane - **CLICK HERE**.

SAILING INTO OPPORTUNITIES

CLIA Australasia executive director Joel Katz on the growth in cruise.

READ THE CRUISE GUIDE



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