

Save on Sea Cloud

SEA Cloud Cruises is offering a 15% early booking discount on its 2027/28 sailings, along with other special offers.

The season will be operated by the line's boutique yachts, *Sea Cloud II* and *Sea Cloud Spirit*, which combine personalised service and refined elegance.

For more information, visit [page four](#).

Scenic unveils 2028-29



SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has unveiled its 2028-29 Europe, Mediterranean and Americas Discovery Yacht collection, which will be the cruise line's biggest expansion of its land-and-sea offering to date.

The season will be highlighted by *Scenic Ikon's* (pictured) inaugural program, which will see her join *Scenic Eclipse* and *Scenic Eclipse II*, taking the Discovery Yacht fleet to three ships and opening up new itineraries across the Eastern Mediterranean, Adriatic, Aegean, Atlantic, and West Africa.

This will include first-time calls in Naxos, Milos, Paros, Hydra, Kotor, Zadar, Istanbul, and an overnight in Egypt with a visit to the Great Pyramids of Giza.

There is also a significantly expanded range of handcrafted

land journeys across Italy, Malta, Turkey, and Greece before and after the voyages.

Scenic guests will also enjoy elevated suite inclusions, such as private guided excursions, chauffeur transfers, and helicopter experiences as part of the cruise line's efforts to take its all-inclusive experience to "new heights" (*CW* 17 Jun).

A super early bird offer for departures from Apr 2027 to Apr 2029 includes complimentary helicopter flightseeing.

"The handcrafted land journeys have been designed to align pre- or post- a Scenic Discovery Yachts voyage, so guests can link storied coastlines, cities and inland regions into one continuous experience, enjoying the ease of a single, seamlessly curated journey, all delivered by Scenic," director land product Angus Crichton said.

Ikon will host up to 270 guests in 135 all-verandah suites across five decks, making her slightly larger than her Discovery Yacht fleetmates (*CW* 21 Oct). *MS*

An even bigger row

HURTIGRUTEN is expanding its Nordic Film Festival giveaway following yesterday's victory by the Norwegian national team over Brazil in the World Cup (*CW* yesterday).

Those who show their most enthusiastic "row" celebration, as demonstrated by the Norwegian squad, can now also win a team dinner, in addition to the film tickets.

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HAL goes long and short in the Caribbean

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has announced its 2027-28 Caribbean season, which will include a range of options including quick escapes and extended journeys.

The season will explore more of the Caribbean with longer port stays, immersive experiences, private island escapes, and a longer journey tracing the historic routes of Pan Am, once the largest airline in the world.

Featuring almost 30 itineraries across almost 50 departures, the 2027-28 Caribbean season will feature more nine-day-or-longer voyages than any other cruise line, HAL said.

The brand's extended journeys will travel across the eastern, western, and southern Caribbean, as well as the Panama Canal.

HAL will also sail on five- and six-day getaways, offering guests a range of diverse experiences,



such as visits to Carnival Corp's private island RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay (**pictured**).

Meanwhile, the cruise line's 28-day 'Pan Am Legendary Voyage' traces the historic Clipper flying boat routes pioneered by the airline in the 1930s.

Other highlights across the season will feature upgrades to HAL's fleet, including the debut of

the reimagined *Oosterdam* with new staterooms and onboard venues (**CW** 16 Apr).

"We've built this season to give guests more ways to experience the Caribbean, whether they are looking for a quick getaway or a longer journey that explores more of the region," vice president deployment & revenue planning Paul Grigsby said. *MS*

Fiji's tourism tax

FIJI is preparing to implement a new tourism tax from 01 Sep, which will apply a 5% levy on cruise operators, with an annual turnover of at least FJ\$2 million (approximately A\$1.29m).

Initially running for a 12-month period, the tax will also apply to tour operators and hotels to support national carrier Fiji Airways, which is under financial pressure due to rising jet fuel costs and ongoing recovery from COVID-19 pandemic losses.

Fiji's tourism sector opposes the impost, with Fiji Hotel & Tourism Association CEO Fantasha Lockington saying: "Operators cannot simply return to guests, agents or wholesalers to recover another 5% without risking disputes, cancellations, destination and brand reputational damage."

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A LARGE amount of apples that mysteriously washed up on a beach in the United States this week are thought to have come from a ship.

Employees of the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, as well as a number of local volunteers, collected several large bags of the apples from a beach in North Carolina, with a number of oranges also found.

Corolla said the apples were not left as a treat for the horses as they are not a natural part of their diet, and can represent a choking hazard.

The fruit is thought to have fallen from some kind of seagoing vessel - or at least, that is Corolla's theory.



NYC's British invasion



THE United Kingdom's Cunard Line stole the show at the United States' 250th anniversary over the weekend, with *Queen Mary 2* taking centre stage in New York City's harbour.

Anchored in a prime position, the ship gave guests front-row views of one of the most significant Independence Day celebrations ever staged, featuring the largest gathering of tall ships and naval vessels ever seen in New York City.

The celebration drew attention across the United States, as NBC's *Today* show broadcast live from

on board.

Celebrations featured the International Parade of Sail, with more than 100 vessels cruising through the harbour, including 47 tall ships from 20 nations.

The flotilla sailed from the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge past the Statue of Liberty and up the Hudson River to the George Washington Bridge.

Guests also witnessed an International Naval Review, during which a navy vessel formally acknowledged the anchored fleet of 37 American and allied naval ships. *MS*

Quebec's boost

QUEBEC City's port is set to receive C\$5.1 million in financial support from the provincial government to fund the electrification of the wharf 30 cruise ship pier.

The addition of shore power to the berth will see greenhouse gases associated with ship calls reduced by 90% over the next 10 years.

A greener port and maritime corridor as a whole is aimed at providing the Port of Quebec with greater appeal to the cruise market, as more travellers seek experiences supported by cleaner and more sustainable operations.

Quebec City joins the ports of Montreal, Charlottetown, Halifax, Boston, and New York City, among others in the region, which have or will be electrified by 2030.

"This investment will strengthen our economy, support our environmental goals and help build a stronger future for Quebec," minister for energy and maritime strategy Bernard Drainville said of the development.



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