



Cruise Weekly today

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

Caribbean jewels

PONANT Explorations has announced the new seven-night 'Jewels of the Northern Caribbean' itinerary, which will offer four departures in Jan and Feb 2028.

The sailings will explore three Caribbean countries, travelling from the Dominican Republic (La Romana) to the Bahamas (Nassau) via the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Guests will enjoy one excursion per day per person led by the cruise line's nature guides as well as local guides and partners.

The itinerary also includes an exclusive stopover in Monte Cristi in the Dominican Republic - learn more **HERE**.

Emerald's new ship makes a splash

EMERALD Cruises' *Emerald Lumi* (pictured) recently completed a significant milestone ahead of the line's new Seine voyages (**CW** 08 Apr), with the ship entering the water for the first time.

The major development at the vessel's shipyard in Romania comes ahead of Emerald's first cruises on the river, which will commence next year.

Emerald's new Star-class ship has been specifically designed for the Seine, with her 110-metre length allowing her to cruise into the heart of Paris and Honfleur.

Lumi will welcome 130 guests in spacious staterooms and suites with all-weather balconies.

Onboard social spaces include Reflections Restaurant, Horizon Bar & Lounge, and a heated indoor pool that transforms into an evening cinema.

The cruise line will operate its

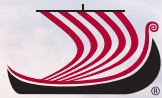


new eight-day 'Sensations of the Seine & Normandy' itinerary round trip from Paris to Honfleur with extended time in port, overnight stays, and included experiences spanning Claude Monet's House & Gardens - Giverny, the Operation Neptune sites, as well as local food & wine, and EmeraldActive excursions.

"*Lumi's* water launch is an exciting step in bringing a fresh style of river cruising to the

Seine," said Elisabeth Sadler, vice president product river cruises for Emerald's parent company Scenic.

"By combining extended overnight stays in key ports with curated local history and culinary experiences, plus a choice of active EmeraldActive excursions, this new itinerary offers a more immersive, unhurried way to explore Northern France than many traditional river itineraries," she added. *MS*



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New Fiji tax could cost cruise millions

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has warned Fiji's new cruise tax (**CW** 07 Jun) could have a "multi-million-dollar impact" on the sector.

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

CLIA told **Cruise Weekly** it has continued to warn that rising costs and regulatory complexities are making the broader Australia & South Pacific region uncompetitive as a cruise destination, with ships deployed to other markets instead.

Major cruise lines like Royal Caribbean and Princess Cruises offer island-hopping itineraries to Fiji, stopping at ports like Suva, Lautoka, Dravuni Island, and Denarau Island.

"Australasia and the South



Pacific are at risk of losing cruise tourism to other parts of the world that offer a more positive operating environment," the association said.

"Ad hoc tourism taxes and other rising costs have a multi-million-dollar impact on the cruise economy and hamper our region's efforts to attract cruise ships to local destinations.

"Local businesses and

communities across Australasia and the South Pacific are at risk of losing tourism and jobs as a result," the association claimed.

CLIA and its cruise line members have been calling for coordinated action across governments in the Pacific to support cruise tourism, improve the region's competitiveness, attract more ships, and create greater economic opportunities. *MS*

Finding the fjords

HOLLAND America Line is updating five of its seven-day itineraries aboard *Rotterdam* to allow guests to experience more of the Norwegian fjords.

The 30 May, 27 Jun, and 01 Aug 2027 *Rotterdam* departures will now include visits to Oslo, Kristiansand, Sandnes, and Flam.

On 25 Jul and 08 Aug 2027, *Rotterdam* will call at Eidfjord, Hellesylt, Alesund, and Bergen, complemented by scenic cruising in the Hardangerfjord and Storfjorden, the gateway to Geirangerfjord.

"Northern Europe continues to be one of the most sought-after regions we sail, with fjord cruising ranking among the most desired experiences for our guests," Holland America vice president of deployment & revenue planning Paul Grigsby said.



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CRUISE Traveller has landed on the 'paw-fect' name for its adorable new mascot.

After running a competition in its new agent Facebook group, the small ship cruise specialist chose 'Jett' as the winning entry, which was submitted by Maria Summers from Envoyage.

Summers scored a \$100 gift voucher for her efforts.

The final verdict, however, was left with MD Joe O'Sullivan's 11-year-old son, Jack, who decided 'Jed' captured the pup's personality.



Get well with Crystal



CRYSTAL has unveiled four new Wellness at Sea retreats for next year, designed to support guests' nutrition, fitness, and mental wellbeing, as well as educate them about life extension.

Created by Dalila Roglieri, Crystal's wellness ambassador and culinary nutritionist, the sailings include nutrition consultations, cooking demonstrations, and culinary workshops.

Guests can practice yoga, Pilates, strength training, dance, aqua fitness, and pickleball, as well as a variety of mindful

activities, including meditation, breathing classes, gratitude journaling, and sound healing.

Travellers can also tune in to lectures focused on healthy ageing and the latest developments in life extension.

The first wellness voyage is set to depart on 20 Mar from Fort Lauderdale, arriving in Las Palmas on 02 Apr.

Other departures include 20 Aug-03 Sep from Panama to New York, 12-21 Oct from New York to San Juan, and 08-22 Nov from Lisbon to Fort Lauderdale. *JM*

Check in with MSC

MSC Cruises has launched digital remote check-in in Seattle to streamline passenger embarkation for Alaska sailings.

The new tool allows guests to complete full embarkation procedures before reaching the terminal, allowing them to proceed directly to security and boarding

Introduced during *MSC Poesia's* inaugural Alaska cruise (**CW 18 May**), the service is accessible to guests travelling on the cruise line's official airport transfer from Seattle-Tacoma International.

The solution will also be extended to airport arrivals, hotels, and other selected locations where guests begin their journey.

MSC's digital remote check-in service is the latest technological development from the line, which earlier this year also introduced an AI concierge (**CW 08 May**).

The next-generation digital service is available in more than 90 languages, and is fully integrated into the MSC app.

ELEVATED EXPERIENCES

APT Travel Group CEO **David Cox** on catering to discerning travellers.

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EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman
Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, James Bale
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Editorial Director - Damian Francis
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller
info@cruiseweekly.com.au
Social Editor - Alexandra Lilly

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
Business Development Manager
Kara Stanley
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER
Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220



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