

Cruise Weekly today

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

A Grand Odyssey

ATLAS Ocean Voyages has announced a new 128-night 'Grand Odyssey Expedition' in 2028 aboard its upcoming luxury expedition sailing yacht, *Atlas Adventure* (CW 28 Apr).

The voyage will travel from Japan to South Africa, visiting 87 ports across 19 countries, including Vietnam, the Philippines, the Maldives, Madagascar, and more.

Highlights include witnessing a lunar eclipse in Singapore, the chance to find the 'big five' on an African wildlife safari, and onboard Christmas and New Year festivities.

Guests who book by 30 Sep can enjoy a special offer from Cruise Traveller - click [HERE](#).

Regent's 35th anniversary collection

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) will celebrate 35 years at sea next year with an anniversary collection that will include its new ship *Seven Seas Prestige*.

The 35th Anniversary Sailings range from seven to 24 nights and sail aboard all of RSSC's ships, exploring multiple corners of the globe, from Europe and the Med to Asia and North America.

Highlight sailings include the 12-night 'Sapphire Sojourn' sailing from Los Angeles to Panama City on *Seven Seas Prestige*, an iconic Panama Canal transit on *Seven Seas Splendor* sailing from Miami to San Francisco, and a journey up the East Coast of the United States to Canada to take in the autumn foliage on *Seven Seas Grandeur*.

The collection also includes an exclusive 11-night 'Enduring Iberia' Reunion Cruise, sailing from Lisbon to Barcelona on



Seven Seas Mariner.

"We are incredibly proud to be celebrating 35 years of setting the standard for ultra-luxury travel," president Wesley D'Silva said.

"We have achieved so many milestone moments and this latest anniversary is the perfect time to reflect, as we look

forward to a new era with *Seven Seas Prestige*.

"Our resounding success is a credit to our shipboard and onshore teams, valued travel advisors and, of course, our loyal guests," he added.

Pictured: the Solara Pool Deck aboard the new *Prestige*.



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Serenity in the Med

EXPLORA Journeys has revealed new food and beverage, wellbeing, and entertainment offerings for *Explora II*'s 'A Serene Mediterranean' collection for winter 2026/27.

The season features a lineup of shore-to-table experiences, including a journey by private boat to the Old Port of Marseille's historic fish market, before returning on board for a chef's kitchen interpretation of bouillabaisse, paired with regional wines.

Guests can also enjoy a complimentary 12-day wellness program on the 'Barcelona to Lisbon Journey' from 11-23 Feb 2027, where they can practice yoga, journalling, mantra, and pranayama, as well as join expert-led workshops spanning neuroscience, holistic wellbeing, nutrition, astrology, and natural movement.

Entertainment will consist of intimate conversations, performances, and interactive sessions with a lineup of acclaimed speakers, performers and experts.

Zelda La Grange will share reflections from the two decades she spent as Nelson Mandela's closest personal aide, while psychologist and neuroscientist Helena Boschi will explore the relationship between the brain, behaviour and resilience.

Beak-ing news from Ponant



PONANT Explorations has announced 15 additional Smithsonian Journeys voyages for 2028, rounding out its roster of 38 cruises exploring all seven continents, in partnership with the world's largest museum (**CW** 19 Nov).

The new release of small-ship cruises spotlights destinations from the Mediterranean to the Maritimes and Asia to the Arctic, with highlights including a rare voyage along Italy's Adriatic coast and an eco-rich adventure exploring Costa Rica.

Each voyage will welcome two Smithsonian Journeys experts on board to share context about the places, people, and landscapes visited on the cruise.

'Sailing the Adriatic: Treasures of Eastern Italy and Sicily' departs on 27 Sep 2028 for an eight-night cruise from Venice to Valletta aboard *Le Dumont d'Urville*.

The cruise traces the Adriatic's lesser-explored western shores,

taking guests to Byzantine mosaics in Ravenna, Renaissance masterworks in Urbino, the trulli houses of Alberobello, and the Baroque architecture and Greek theatres in Sicily.

Smithsonian Journeys experts Ross King, an art historian, and Allen Glazner, a geologist, will journey alongside guests.

There is also a 'Costa Rica by Sea: Wildlife and Rainforests of the Pacific Coast' cruise, departing 16 Feb 2028 on a seven-night round trip from Puntarenas on *Le Bougainville*.

The cruise explores the environmental richness and cultural heritage of Costa Rica's Pacific Coast, from the Osa Peninsula, one of the most biologically diverse places on earth, to Manuel Antonio National Park.

Guests will be able to spot scarlet macaws, sloths, squirrel monkeys, a wide range of birdlife, and more. *MS*

Viking returns

VIKING will be the major sponsor of the NTIA Finalist Celebration for the fourth consecutive year.

Held on 09 Oct as the opening event for the 2026 NTIAs, the celebration brings together travel advisors, tour operators, corporate travel businesses, suppliers, and industry professionals, allowing for a more relaxed evening to connect and socialise before the formalities the following night.

Viking will bring its distinctive sense of hospitality to the event, ensuring that the evening is centred around connection, recognition, and shared achievement.

Managing director for Viking Michelle Black expressed her excitement for returning as the major sponsor.

She said: "It's a great opportunity for finalists to connect with one another ahead of the NTIA Gala Dinner, and we're proud to bring a sense of community and camaraderie to the NTIA weekend for the fourth year."

The Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) said that Viking plays a crucial role in making the event a consistent crowd favourite, as chief executive officer Dean Long stated the cruise line creates "an atmosphere of celebration and anticipation."



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IT'S a bird, it's a plane, it's a...robot?

Sometime in the future, when you are enjoying an expedition cruise in Alaska and you spot a puffin, you may need to double check what you are seeing.

Scientists have unveiled a new robotic creation, and this one is designed to mimic a seabird.

Like puffins, the new winged robot has the ability to dip in and out of the water, and it could be the next big thing when it comes to studying ocean habitats.

In a study published in the journal *Science*, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said their false puffin could be used to help monitor fragile marine ecosystems, eliminating the need for a research vessel or underwater equipment.

Work still needs to be done to improve the robot's flying range, however.

Changes to *Gem* and *Jade*



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has unveiled new experiences on board *Norwegian Gem* and *Norwegian Jade*, introducing the adults-only Vibe Beach Club, and the Thermal Suite in the Mandara Spa and Salon.

Repurposing the existing sun deck on both vessels, the beach club offers a private full-service bar, hot tub, seven private cabanas, and more than 50 lounge chairs.

The Thermal Suite comes with

several unique spaces, all utilising treatment therapy including charcoal, ice, salt, and IV therapy.

In addition, *Norwegian Jade* comes with experiential showers with multiple water jets and lighting effects to reinvigorate the body, as well as a plunge pool for brief cold water immersion.

Norwegian Jade will also be getting her own fully licensed Starbucks, offering the same beverages and savoury items as the stores on land. *JB*

A clean sheet

ONLINE cruise agency Clean Cruising has been named in *The Australian's* Best Places to Work list for the second consecutive year.

The agency was ranked in the top six nationally in the Best Places to Work for 16–34 year olds, Best Places to Work for those aged 55+, and Best Places to Work for ethnic minorities categories, as well as reclaiming its spot in the top 10 High-Flyers list for medium-sized businesses.

All rankings were based off the results of the WorkL workplace survey, which measures rewards and recognition, information sharing, empowerment, wellbeing, and job satisfaction.

Big concert at sea

MARGARITAVILLE at Sea is hosting a meet up in Nassau in Jan for an exclusive concert at sea with country music artist Zac Brown Band.

It will be the first time all three of Margaritaville's ships come together at sea.



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