

Limited time sale. 7 days only.



The *River* Sale

12 days from
\$5,600
per person



Combine exceptional cruise savings with a complimentary **2-4 night land package** for a limited time only. Choose from **more than 300 river cruise departures** in 2026 and 2027.*

*Book between 27 May and 3 June 2026. Terms and conditions apply. See www.amawaterways.com/au/offers/may-savings.



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of cruise industry news, plus a cover page from **AmaWaterways**.

Travelmarvel Asia

TRAVELMARVEL has launched its full Asia program for next year, with the popular 13-day Imperial China tour to return in 2027.

Operating as a small group tour with a maximum of 24 travellers, the itinerary includes a river cruise with other China highlights.

A four-night Yangtze River sailing is combined with moments including a cable car ride to the panoramic views of the Great Wall of China, and the chance to be immersed in the local culture in Hutong making dumplings with locals.

The itinerary is priced from \$6,395 per person.

End of the world

SILVERSEA recently completed its 2026 world cruise, 'The Curious and the Sea', which sailed for 140 days from 06 Jan-27 May.

The journey aboard *Silver Dawn* unfolded across six continents and 59 destinations, and culminated with a final marquee celebration in Funchal before concluding in Lisbon, Portugal.

Silversea curated a series of events exclusively for world cruise guests across the voyage, including celebrations in French Polynesia, Vanuatu, Bali, India, and Cape Town.

Ponant explores more



PONANT Explorations Group's exclusive alliance with The Explorers Club will see 12 voyages feature speakers from the multidisciplinary society in 2027.

The fourth year of the partnership between the company and The Explorers Club will also see Paul Gauguin Cruises join the program.

Next year's roster of speakers ranges from experts in marine biology and conservation to polar exploration and storytelling.

Among the speakers joining the program are mountaineer and philanthropist Peter Hillary, son of Edmund Hillary, who completed the first successful ascent of Mount Everest in 1953.

Also joining the roster will be cultural anthropologist Wade Davis, along with a penguin specialist, coral expert, award-winning authors, photographers, and more.

Each will join a specific voyage to engage guests through onboard lectures and

conversations, sharing unique perspectives shaped by years of work in the field.

Ponant's alliance with The Explorers Club will also see scientist grantees join select cruises on board *Le Commandant Charcot* to conduct and share real-time research using the ship's two dedicated laboratories.

"The Explorers Club partnership reflects the spirit of exploration that defines our voyages," Ponant Explorations Group's Samuel Chamberlain said.

"From Greenland to The Kimberleys to French Polynesia, our guests engage with exceptional voices and individuals who bring destinations to life through their knowledge, perspective, and lived experience.

"These meaningful encounters offer deeper insight into the cultures, environments, histories, and stories that shape each place we visit, creating journeys that are more immersive, enriching, and inspiring." *MS*

Cruising overseas

TRAVEL Associates has announced its Cruise Boutique concept will expand internationally for the first time, with the launch of its first store in New Zealand.

The location will be led by local Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) team leaders Simon Matthews and Tania Paull, head of luxury brands NZ Kelly de Graaf announced last week on LinkedIn.

Cruise Boutique's overseas launch comes as cruise demand continues to surge, de Graaf said.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to bring together some of the industry's most passionate cruise specialists to deliver expert, personalised advice across every style of cruising; from contemporary and premium through to luxury, expedition and river cruising," she said.

There are nine dedicated Cruise Boutique Travel Associates stores in Australia, with the first launched in 2019 (*CW* 12 Aug 2019).

Save with Ama

CRUISERS can currently score a 12-day AmaWaterways sailing from \$5,600 with its new 'The River Sale' offer.

The offer lasts for seven days only, with cruisers also able to combine exceptional savings with a two- to four-night land package - more details on the River Sale are available on the cover page of today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.



Save 30%* on Arctic Voyages

Hurry, book by 30 June 2026



*T&Cs apply



Rock on at sea

POPULAR heavy metal cruise 70000TONS OF METAL has announced its 2027 voyage will round trip departing Miami from 14-18 Jan.

The onboard experience will include 60 bands, with more than 120 live performances.

Additionally, the voyage will comprise of exclusive artist activities, meet-and-greets, as well as the opportunity for passengers and artists to mingle on board.

From Miami, guests will make their way to Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic, where there will be the chance to experience the local culture, beaches, and mountain views.

Additionally, guests can take the cable car up to the summit of Mount Isabel de Torres, where they can find the famous statue of Christ and botanical gardens.

For guests looking for some history, there is also Parque Independencia or Casa de Cultura, a three-story Victorian house serving as a hub for local art, literature, exhibitions, and general creative expression.

Local cuisine on offer includes La Bandera Dominicana, Pica Pollo and beverage such as Mamajuana.

Further details on ship information, sale dates, and lineups will be revealed in the coming months.

Steel cut on *Crystal Grace*



CRYSTAL has celebrated the steel-cutting for *Crystal Grace* (pictured), with construction officially beginning on the cruise line's newest ship.

The ceremony took place at the Fincantieri shipyard in Venice, ahead of *Grace's* scheduled delivery in May 2028.

Focusing on exceptional service, spacious design, and immersive travel, *Grace* will introduce Crystal's next generation of ships, with two more to follow in 2031 and 2032.

"As we look to the future, we are focused on creating ships that feel both deeply rooted in Crystal's heritage and unmistakably modern, where space, service and experience come together in a way that is both intuitive and extraordinary," said Cristina Levis, chief executive

officer of Crystal's parent company Abercrombie & Kent.

"*Grace* will do that for the brand, and we are so proud that this moment with our partners at Fincantieri brings that vision one step closer to reality."

The ship will offer expansive suites, including Crystal's first-ever Owner's suite (**CW 05 Feb**); a culinary partnership with celebrity chefs Nobu Matsuhisa and Massimiliano Alajmo, among others; Broadway-style entertainment; and a high space-to-guest ratio.

Grace will embark on her inaugural voyage on 11 Jun 2028, cruising from Civitavecchia to Fusina over eight nights.

Travel advisors will be able to sell *Grace* with help from Crystal's new partnership with marketing platform Approach Guides. **MS**

Viking on show

VIKING has partnered with the Australian National Maritime Museum to launch 'Treasures of the Viking Age: The Galloway Hoard' for its final Australian showing, running until 11 Oct.

Following the success of the exhibition at Melbourne Museum (CW 11 Nov 2025), Viking has extended its support in Australia to give Sydney a glimpse of the renowned exhibition.

The Galloway Hoard is a collection of rare Viking-age artefacts such as jewellery, heirlooms and ceremonial objects, believed to be buried around 900 AD .

Viking guests and trade partners will have access to a range of benefits and activations throughout the exhibition, such as after-hours access and the chance to win a voyage with the cruise line.

"We are pleased to partner with the Australian National Maritime Museum to bring this incredible collection to Sydney," said Michelle Black, managing director, Viking.

"There is a natural connection between Viking's journeys and an exhibition that brings the Viking Age to life in such a tangible way.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to providing experiences for the 'thinking person'.



OUT NOW:

River Cruise SPECIAL REPORT

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Travel Daily



SILVERSEA'S *Silver Whisper* diverted from a recent voyage from Papeete to Vancouver to rescue a sailboat adrift in the South Pacific.

April Alice was around 1,600km southwest of Vancouver when she released the distress call last Tue morning, with *Whisper* reaching her by the afternoon.

The stranded boat was too far away from the closest land in Hawaii for a helicopter rescue.

Guests looked on from *Whisper's* observation deck as the Captain pulled the battered sailboat's passengers on to the ship, where they were treated by *Whisper's* medical staff.

April Alice was left adrift in the Pacific with a broken mast as *Silver Whisper* continued its voyage to Vancouver, where she docked on Thu local time.

Whisper has since begun her Alaska season, which will last through to late Aug.

Getting a kick out of MSC



ITALIAN soccer royalty Gianfranco Zola (pictured) will join a special MSC Cruises sailing later this year, offering guests a unique opportunity to get close to a man who has achieved at all levels of the sport.

Zola will host practice sessions for all passengers on the 19 Oct ex Southampton cruise, offering tips, skills and insight from his

time at the top of the game with Napoli and Chelsea - both clubs with which MSC has close sponsorship ties.

Fans can also attend a live Q&A with Zola in *MSC Virtuosa's* theatre, where he will share stories from his career, followed by an exclusive meet and greet.

All activities are included as part of the fare. *MS*

Adora in Malaysia

MALAYSIAN firm Hwajing Travel announced that it will bring Adora Cruises' *Adora Mediterranea* to Malaysia's Port Klang for an exclusive home port season, with four itineraries between 24 Nov and 16 Dec.

Boosting Malaysia's cruise presence against its Asian neighbours, the 12-deck Chinese vessel has a capacity of 2,680 guests across 1,057 cabins, and boasts Mediterranean-inspired design, international dining, live entertainment, themed bars, family-friendly facilities and more

Her onboard experience also includes Halal-friendly meals, and a crew speaking in English, Malay, and Mandarin.

The round-trip itineraries start from RM499 (approximately A\$175), with ports of call at Penang, Langkawi, and Phuket.



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