



Cruise Weekly today

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

Viking is delivering

VIKING has taken delivery of its two newest vessels, *Viking Annar* and *Viking Fjolvar*, at Meyer's Neptun Werft shipyard in Rostock-Warnemunde, Germany.

Annar will sail itineraries on the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers, while *Fjolvar* will specialise on Seine itineraries.

As part of its long-term growth, Viking plans to add an additional 22 river ships to its fleet by 2028, along with nine ocean ships by 2031, and two expedition ships by 2031.

Riverside's growth strategy



RIVERSIDE Luxury Cruises will work very selectively in the Australian market, focusing on the right trade partners, managing director Charlie Hewitt-Davies has explained.

The United Kingdom-based head of Riverside explained the cruise line's approach at a Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) Leaders Who Lunch event in Sydney while visiting Australia this week.

She said Riverside will be targeting its product at guests of high-end ocean cruise lines, as it looks to offer an equivalent level of luxury which it believes is not yet represented in river cruising. "We want to work in this market with a few select partners.

"We're not mass-market, we are a small team, and it's very much about working with a few partners, building relationships, building trust, and having a mutually beneficial business."

Hewitt-Davies told **Cruise Weekly** the partners Riverside will target are smaller, boutique operations with the high-net-worth clients the cruise line appeals to.

"We're not huge in this market, and it's about making sure that we can position ourselves with the right people who have got the same mindset as us when

it comes to service that flows through from the point-of-sale all the way through to the guest experience," she explained.

Although luxury ocean passengers will represent a large part of Riverside's market, the line is hoping to appeal to new-to-cruise travellers as well through shorter itineraries of three and four nights - a practice more common in ocean cruising.

"You might have a new-to-cruise client who's going to Europe and may want to try river cruising but is not sure they want to commit financially, or in terms of their time, to an eight-night cruise."

Hewitt-Davies also revealed other strategies Riverside will employ to encourage bookings from Australia, which will include travel advisor famils.

These will include "solidifying our partnerships with key partners in this industry and getting people on the ship so that they can then sell confidently to their clients", she said to **CW**.

Riverside is also currently re-costing its sales guide in AUD. **MS Pictured** are LTC GM Nikki Glading, Hewitt-Davies, Riverside Cruises country manager Stewart Williams, LTC global product director Shannon Fogarty and head of events Lisa Wright.

NTIAs announced

SOME of the cruise industry's most popular brands have been announced as National Travel Industry Award (NTIA) nominees this morning.

Among the finalists in the 'Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator' category are: Princess Cruises, Crystal, Oceania, and others.

Nominees in the 'Most Popular River Cruise Operator' category, include: AmaWaterways, APT, Avalon Waterways, Emerald, Viking, Uniworld, Scenic, and more.

A record 2,000 peer nominations were submitted with the winners being announced on 10 Oct.

View all the finalists **HERE**.



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APT goes small

APT Luxury Travel has unveiled its Small Ship program for 2027 and 2028, showcasing new journeys across Australia, Europe, and Antarctica.

Trips to the Kimberley will take place on board *Seabourn Pursuit* involving daily Zodiac excursions led by a team of 23 experts, along with onboard expert-led lectures, from \$16,895 per person.

The highlight of Europe is the 11-day 'Norwegian Fjords' itinerary on *Seabourn Venture* from \$14,995pp, including a journey on the Flam railway, and an evening of classical music from composer Edvard Grieg at Gamle Logen.

Guests can also experience the Adriatic onboard *Lady Eleganza* during the 14-day 'Croatia in Depth' itinerary, available from \$12,295 per person with savings of up to \$2,200 per couple.

Down south, the 15-day 'Antarctic Voyage' also on *Seabourn Venture* will allow guests to observe an abundance of sea life, as well as guided shore visits and Zodiac excursions, and is priced from \$22,395pp. *JB*



A new lens on the Kimberley



CORAL Expeditions and Australian Geographic have released two new 'A Lens on Nature: The Kimberley' tours for next year, combining the rugged wilderness of the region with the art of photography.

The launch marks an extension of the long-standing partnership between the two companies, which first began in 2018 and focuses on education, discovery, conservation, and immersion in the natural world.

All-inclusive eight-night voyages on board *Coral Discovery* will depart round trip from Broome with 60 guests, and are designed for passionate photographers keen to snap wildlife in their natural habitats, and the spectacular landscapes of the Kimberley region.

Guests will be led by Coral Expeditions' onboard team,

and joined by award-winning Australian Geographic photographers and experts, offering the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the region while refining their photography skills.

"These new Kimberley departures bring together two deeply aligned brands with a shared belief in the power of immersive nature experiences to inspire curiosity, creativity and care for the environment," Coral chief commercial officer Jeff Gillies said.

"By pairing Coral Expeditions' small-ship access and expert expedition leadership with Australian Geographic's storytelling and photographic expertise, we are creating a richly rewarding program for guests who want to see, learn and engage more deeply." *JHM*

HX's ESG milestones

HX EXPEDITIONS has released its 2025 ESG Report, with highlights such as a 12% reduction in CO₂ emissions, the removal of 1,200 tonnes of ocean plastic, and more than \$370,000 donated to global community projects.

This year, HX's reporting was informed by the European Sustainability Reporting Standards, setting a new benchmark for the expedition cruise industry, the line said.

HX also introduced its first dedicated long-term sustainability strategy with SMART goals to 2030.

In addition, this year was the first time HX adopted a destination-level approach to tracking its impact.

Last year, HX offered dedicated science cabins on every voyage in Antarctica to support research of marine ecosystems, while in Greenland, locally designed excursions and storytelling experiences were rolled out.

Amber Wilson, HX director of sales for ANZ, noted the "profound impact" its trips have on guests.

"HX travellers often experience a positive change in their attitudes towards their environment and are motivated to take further action after they've returned home, with many continuing to contribute to the citizen science projects that they interacted with during their expedition as well as other community-based conservation efforts," she said.

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MANY beaches in cruise destinations around the world have their own rules, and one is now banning umbrellas.

Punta Molentis beach in Sardinia is now restricting the use of umbrellas to families with kids aged 10 or under, and individuals over the age of 65.

Other rules the local council has imposed include making beachgoers reserve their spot online for €10 (approximately A\$16) per person.

Guests arriving by boat can only stay for a maximum of one hour, and disembarking with rucksacks and cool bags is strictly prohibited.

In addition, a maximum of 70 vehicles are allowed to park per day, no more than 150 people are allowed on the sand dunes at the same time, and guests cannot leave umbrellas, tents, chairs, beach towels, or any other equipment on the beach overnight.

Carnival's new cabanas



CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced Australia's first-ever beachfront cabana club (pictured) for cruise guests, adding a new level of luxury for those sailing from Sydney to Moreton Island.

The cruise line's guests can book one of 20 private cabanas at the brand-new Tangalooma Dunes Cabana Club for their exclusive use from Aug.

Each cabana accommodates up to eight people and includes water views and ambient music; lockable storage; a fridge and towels; adjustable shutters and fan; and charging ports.

Sydney-based *Carnival Adventure* and *Carnival Splendor*

sail year-round to Moreton Island, and will visit the Coral Sea destination nine times this winter.

The cabanas are now available to pre-book for \$399 per cabana.

"Carnival is proud to offer the first beachfront cabana club for cruise guests in Australia," assistant vice president sales & marketing Anton Loeb said.

"The cabanas are perfect for families or groups of friends looking to spend a day relaxing in style on beautiful Moreton Island," he added.

Carnival has a long-term partnership with Tangalooma Island Resort that gives the cruise line exclusive access. *MS*

GPH good to go

PORT operating company Global Port Holdings (GPH) has received a 30-year concession to construct and operate the cruise terminal at Spain's Port of Ferrol, following a successful tender.

The agreement provides GPH a total area of 960m² on the Outer Breakwater Wharf, with development taking place in two phases.

Passenger volumes at the Port of Ferrol currently sit around 23,000 annually, and are projected to rise to 80,000 by 2034.

The first phase will see the construction of a 480m² terminal building, with a second phase to follow later.

A mobile facility will also be available so the port can support calls berthed away from the terminal, allowing it to handle multiple cruise ships docked simultaneously.

The port will provide a number of services for ships and their passengers, such as guest guidance, baggage control, gangway operations, and related services.



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