



Cruise Weekly today

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

Emmylou a staple

MURRAY River Paddlesteamers has announced that it will make its new three-night sailings aboard *Emmylou* a permanent itinerary in its cruise program.

The move follows popular demand of the three-night program ahead of the launch of *Australian Star*, which will commence sailing later this year (CW 29 Sep 2022).

Following its acquisition of Murray River Paddlesteamers (CW 03 Jun), Travelmarvel will continue to operate *Emmylou* on its weekly four-night cruises, in conjunction with the three-night offering.

To celebrate the announcement, guests can earn savings of up to \$800 per couple, complimentary V/Line transfers from Melbourne to Echuca, as well as waived solo supplement, when booking a three-night sailing before 31 Aug 2026.

With the saving included, fares for the three-night cruises from Echuca are available from \$1,600pp twin-share or solo, with fares covering all onboard meals, daily shore excursions, selected beers and wines with dinner, soft drinks, bottled water, and tea/coffee, as well as coach transfers.

Each cabin comes with a private en suite, air conditioning, and wi-fi.

HLO's 2027 Cruise Stars



HELLOWORLD chief operating officer Cinzia Burnes revealed the network's 2027 Cruise Stars trip at last week's Owner Managers Conference in Cairns, which will see lucky advisors rewarded with a 10-night Great Barrier Reef round trip with Celebrity Cruises aboard *Celebrity Edge*.

The voyage will sail from 28 Oct-07 Nov 2027, with eligible advisors chosen based on deposited sales for FY27.

Ten Aussie advisors will travel on the voyage, as well as five from Helloworld's overseas networks, with one bonus spot for the top-selling Celebrity agent.

Burnes said Helloworld has seen an "amazing" response to its 2026 Alaska cruise family program and its 2026 Cruise Stars reward trip, which will sail from Hong Kong to Japan with Royal Caribbean in Nov.

Advisors chosen to go on the trip will be revealed at the end of next month, she added.

Helloworld is also working on a range of new features for its cruise wholesaler Cruiseco, including an improved self-generated PDF tool, Burnes said.

Users will be able to generate a PDF from any cruise or cruise package, with updates to include an improved look and feel, and the ability to include their store's call-to-action, as well as a phone number and e-mail.

The new Helloworld Travel Summit 2027 was also unveiled at the conference, which will see Helloworld Travel's branded and associate networks, Helloworld Business Travel, Magellan, My Travel Group, Alatus, Express Travel Group, and MTA all come together under one roof for the first time.

To be held at the Bellagio, CEO Andrew Burnes said next year's event will mark a significant evolution of the scale, reach, and ambition of the company's conference program. MS

Ponant package

AN EXCLUSIVE new fly, cruise, and stay package in Melanesia is available with Cruise Traveller.

Guests can save more than \$7,000 per couple and enjoy free flight credit when booking the 'Exploration of Tribal Lands' package with Cruise Traveller by 06 Jul.

The deal includes a cruise with Ponant - [CLICK HERE](#).



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Get to the (Scenic Eclipse) chopper

HELICOPTER 'flightseeing' is now included with eligible Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours super earlybird bookings, as the line looks to take its all-inclusive experience to "new heights".

The deal is available on voyages departing between Apr 2027 and Apr 2029 aboard *Scenic Eclipse* and the new *Scenic Ikon*, offering 20-minute flights over selected destinations, and 30-minute flights over Antarctica.

Scenic's Discovery Yacht fleet, including *Eclipse*, *Ikon*, and *Scenic Eclipse II*, are equipped with two Airbus H130 helicopters which seat up to six guests.

The line has also introduced greater inclusions across higher suite categories, including private jet transfers between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia on Antarctic Peninsula voyages and helicopter landing experiences at destinations including Snow Hill



Island, the McMurdo Dry Valleys, and locations across Europe.

Other benefits for guests in the Panorama, Grand Panorama, Scenic Yacht Suite, Grand Terrace, Owner's Penthouse, and Ikon Penthouse stateroom categories will include exclusive Scenic Discovery excursions, a private half-day excursion, and private airport transfers.

Scenic will also introduce a new Chairman's Lounge on board *Ikon*, exclusively for the ship's Penthouse guests and Chairman's Club members.

This private retreat will offer an exclusive bar and 15 different dining experiences.

"We know from guests' feedback that a helicopter flightseeing experience can reframe a journey," director of discovery operations Jason Flesher said.

"By including helicopter flightseeing experiences, we are quite literally elevating ultra-luxury discovery, giving guests perspectives that few travellers will ever experience by making these life-changing moments part of the extensive inclusions already provided and our guest's personal stories for life."

Scenic recently released details of its 2028/29 season, which will see *Eclipse II* return to Australia, offering voyages across the Kimberley, Asia, the South Pacific, and East Antarctica (**CW** 08 May).

The season will be Scenic's most extensive to date, spanning all seven continents, more than 100 countries, and 600 ports. **MS**

A golden event

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises will be hosting a new 'A Touch of Gold' event series across Australia between Jul and Sep, to further update travel agents on the integration of Luxury Gold into its brand (**CW** 20 Aug 2025).

The series of events will kick off in Sydney on 22 Jul, and will then head to Melbourne, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Perth, Adelaide, and Canberra, before finishing in Hobart on 28 Sep.

Additionally, Luxury Gold is offering 10% savings on all departures in 2027, combinable with past guest savings up to \$750pp.

Furthermore, Luxury Gold will be running its 'Golden Ticket' promotion, with every new Luxury Gold booking before 31 Aug receiving a \$150 e-gift card.

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Discount offer applies to new bookings made from 1 May 2026 to 31 August 2026 ("Offer Period") for selected HX departures from 15 May 2026 to 31 March 2028. Bookings made outside of the Offer Period will not qualify. Offers with a saving, discount or amount off stated in AUD represents a discount applied to the "From" price quoted in AUD per person based on double occupancy of cabin on the specified sailing or Tour Code. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Single supplements may apply and applies to all offer occupancies. Offer applies to new bookings made from 1 May 2026 to 31 August 2026 ("Offer Period") and is capacity controlled for selected HX departures from 16 October 2026 to 31 December 2027. Departures may be removed at any time. Bookings made outside of the Offer Period will not qualify. Offer is subject to suite availability at the time of booking. Availability must exist in the following suite categories — ME (MS Roald Amundsen & MS Fridtjof Nansen) and Q2 (MS Fram). Offer is not applicable to any other suite category (ie MQ on MS Fram and ME, MD, JMG, MB and MA on MS Roald Amundsen & MS Fridtjof Nansen. Offers with a saving, discount or amount off stated in AUD represents a discount applied to the "From" price quoted in AUD per person based on double occupancy of cabin on the specified sailing or Tour Code. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Single supplements may apply and apply to all offer occupancies.



Azamara offer

A **SPECIAL** offer from Azamara provides travellers with up to 20% off select sailings and up to US\$750 in onboard credit across a number of itineraries.

The collection of itineraries offers travellers embarkation from destinations such as San Juan, Miami, Rome, and Auckland - call Azamara on 1800 960 810.

Seward's new terminal



ROYAL Caribbean Group and the Alaska Railroad Company have celebrated the official opening of the cruise company's new terminal in Seward.

The US\$137 million (A\$194m) terminal features an upgraded double-berth pier, and has been built for year-round operations.

The ribbon for the 'Dale R & Carol Ann Lindsey Alaska Railroad Terminal' (pictured) was recently cut at a ceremony attended by local representatives Louise Stutes and Alyse Galvin; Alaska Department of Commerce Community & Economic Development commissioner Julie Sande; and Mayor Sue McClure.

Now the largest terminal in Alaska, the state-of-the-art facility replaces ageing dock facilities that date back to the mid-1960s.

It is designed to elevate guest experiences by optimising passenger flows, sheltered queuing, and efficient processing.

Located directly adjacent to the Alaska Railroad station, the terminal allows for convenient onward travel to Anchorage, Fairbanks, and other destinations.

Works also saw Seward's pier modernised to include a new shore power system.

The terminal serves as the community's largest indoor space, enabling ongoing recreational sports, concerts, festivals, and community gatherings during winter weather throughout the offseason.

"We're thrilled to celebrate the culmination of nearly a decade of efforts to unlock this world-class travel destination, bringing long-term economic opportunities to Seward and beyond," SVP deployment destination & development Josh Carroll said.

"The journey to open the Dale R and Carol Ann Lindsey Alaska Railroad Terminal as a portal to premier travel destinations would not have been possible without our supporting partners, government official stakeholders, and the local community."

Four Royal Caribbean Group ships regularly call at Seward: Silversea's *Silver Whisper* and *Silver Moon*, Royal Caribbean's *Ovation of the Seas*, and Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Summit*. *MS*

Festive Freddy

CRUISE Traveller is now offering guests the opportunity to embark on 2026 Christmas market cruises with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, giving travellers the chance to experience the twinkling lights, traditional treats, and crafts associated with yuletide markets across Europe.

Both cruises will be six nights long, departing from Southampton on 10 and 16 Dec, operated on *Balmoral*.

The first departure will travel along the Seine, featuring overnight stays in Rouen, France and Antwerp, Belgium.

Highlights of the trip include witnessing the colourful timber-framed houses in Rouen, and the Christmas markets in Antwerp, with local delicacies such as apple brandy and Belgian waffles.

The second will see *Balmoral* head to Hamburg, renowned for its Christmas market in the town square.

Travellers can enjoy handmade crafts, ornaments, and wooden toys, with culinary offerings such as lebkuchen, bratwurst, roasted chestnuts, and mugs of steaming mulled wine.

The departure also includes a shore excursion in the French harbour town of Honfleur, characterised by its cobbled streets and quaint houses.

Both trips are available from \$1,908pp, with all fares including onboard gratuities and selected drinks with lunch and dinner - call Cruise Traveller on 1800 507 777.

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THE Unforgettable Travel Company recently held its annual 'Healthy Office Challenge', which saw the businesses' 78 employees across 19 teams collectively complete 37,114,601 steps - equivalent to 29,864km, or 708 full-length marathons.

A record 91% of Unforgettable's staff took part in the six-week challenge, including the Australian office, completing 1,654 workouts, 865 yoga sessions and 1,229 meditation sessions.

Unforgettable spent 1,648 hours - or almost 69 days - exercising during the challenge.

The group burned 2.1 million calories throughout the challenge - which is equivalent to the total amount of food an adult consumes over two-and-a-half years.

Everyone who completed the challenge received an extra two days' annual leave, as well as a subsidy for healthy food and gym membership during the challenge.

A FitBit was also purchased for any staff member who was without one to accurately track their performance.



Fred's new 2027 cruises



FRED. Olsen Cruise Lines has unveiled new autumn and winter adventures for next year, featuring 20 sailings departing between Oct and Dec.

Guests will have the opportunity to witness the Northern Lights in Northern Norway, explore the cultures of Morocco and the Mediterranean, or enjoy a festive escape, from Christmas markets to Caribbean island-hopping.

Guest demand for shorter, more destination-rich itineraries has seen Fred. Olsen deploy *Balmoral* on a dedicated Mediterranean program offering fewer sea days and more time to explore iconic and lesser-visited destinations across the Greek islands, Italy, Croatia, and the French and Turkish riverias.

The program includes four maiden calls for Fred. Olsen, including Milazzo, Taranto, Golfo Aranci, and Alanya.

Guests will also have the chance to explore many ports that are only accessible to smaller ships, including Mahon, Propriano, Ermoupoli, and Agios Nikolaos.

"Our new autumn winter program for 2027 is particularly

exciting, because it offers such a breadth of experiences, from shorter sailings, perfect for those new to cruising or looking for a quick escape, to longer voyages for those seeking something more immersive," Fred. Olsen head of product innovation Martin Lister said.

"You can soak up the cultural wonders of Morocco or explore some of Europe's most iconic landmarks, from Rome's Colosseum to Gaudi's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona.

"There's a shorter-than-usual cruise to Northern Norway going in search of the Northern Lights, a five-night Mystery Cruise for something a little different, as well as a longer voyage to enjoy the warmth of the Caribbean in winter," he added.

"Our Mediterranean fly-cruises, driven by strong demand, take guests straight to the destination, with more time ashore to explore regions such as the Greek islands, Italy, Croatia and the French and Turkish riverias, including an itinerary visiting six islands in just 10 nights," Lister said. *MS*

Pictured: Balmoral.



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

A bigger voice

THE benefits of cruise tourism extend well beyond the port, creating economic benefits worth more than \$7 billion a year in Australia alone.

That's why CLIA's advocacy efforts extend well beyond the cruise lines, highlighting the needs of more than 22,000 Australians whose jobs are supported by this industry.

Key among those are the many thousands of travel advisors who make up our CLIA community, and who form a critical part of Australia's cruise economy.

Alongside them are many more in other parts of the visitor economy - tour operators, interpreters, hotels, transport providers, attractions, restaurants, retailers and more.

But the cruise industry creates benefits for an even wider supply chain - farmers, winemakers, produce wholesalers and others.

Then there are the maritime service providers, port workers, waste management services, security officers, and more.

Political representatives and decision makers need to take these Australians into account, not just in the cities but in regional centres, remote locations and Indigenous communities around the country.

That's why our advocacy work is critical - it's about giving voice to the many people whose livelihoods, investment and regional economic activity depend on Australia being a competitive cruise destination.

