



Cruise Weekly today

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

Reach for the stars

UNFORGETTABLE Croatia has rolled out Starlink wi-fi across its fleet.

The cruise line first introduced Starlink on board *My Wish* last year as part of a trial program, and following positive guest feedback on the improved onboard connectivity, the technology has now been installed across the entire six-ship fleet.

Guests on board Unforgettable Croatia's ships will now benefit from faster and more reliable complimentary internet access throughout their voyage.

Cruises also include luxury transfers, daily breakfast and lunch, and more.

Oceania unveils 2028 and 2029 seasons

OCEANIA Cruises has unveiled its new 2028-29 collection of voyages, which includes more than 230 cruises and over 60 overnight stays.

Sailings range from seven to 180 days, visiting iconic cities such as Tokyo, New York, and Amsterdam.

Open for bookings today, the double launch of two full future seasons is designed to give travellers more time and flexibility to plan.

The program will see *Oceania Marina* return to Australia on multiple 14-day voyages, including scenic cruising through the fjords of Milford Sound, and calls at Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, New Zealand, Indonesia, and more.

Other highlights of the collection include visits to the ancient ruins of Ephesus, the remote Japanese harbour towns of Ishigaki and Miyazaki, the



volcanic landscape of Husavik, the pristine wilderness of Alaska's Icy Strait Point, and the autumn foliage along Canada's St. Lawrence River.

"This new, expansive collection reflects our passion for immersive travel opportunities and offers guests the chance to explore a little further with more depth

thanks to more than 60 overnight stays," chief luxury officer Jason Montague said.

"From the historic harbours of the Mediterranean to the remote fjords of New Zealand, each sailing reflects our belief that the world's greatest destinations deserve to be experienced, not simply visited." MS

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EMERALD Cruises' new yacht *Emerald Kaia* is set to join the *Stugots* from *The Sopranos* as one of the most famous television ships.

Kaia will be featured on TV program *Getaway* this weekend, with episodes airing both this coming Sat (20 Jun) and next Sat (27 Jun), both at 5:30pm AEST.

Hosted by presenter Jules Lund, the episodes were filmed during *Kaia's* (pictured) 12-day 'Greek Islands, Corinth Canal & the Bosphorus' sailing, showcasing the relaxed luxury and intimacy associated with Emerald's superyacht experience, including its suites and social spaces.

The episode will also give viewers an insight on the itinerary's immersive shore experiences, with ports of call including Athens, Santorini, Mykonos, Chania, Kusadasi, Gallipoli, and Istanbul.

Viewers also have the chance to win an Emerald Mediterranean yacht cruise valued at \$38,000 including flights, as well as a \$250 voucher on their next sailings, which they can enter the running for **HERE**.



Solo females up for HX



SOLO female travellers are now one of HX's fastest-growing segments, with this sector now making up 20% of guests.

HX noted many of these guests are not single, but are choosing to travel independently.

Sales director Amber Wilson (pictured) said the trend is being driven in part by a growing cohort of professional women aged 50 and over who have travelled extensively for work and now have the financial freedom to explore on their own.

"This shift of moving away from traditional 'couples travel' toward personal bucket-list fulfilment proves we are seeing more travellers prioritising personal alignment, and it's bringing a whole new energy to the solo market," Wilson said.

"Rather than waiting for a spouse to be ready or available, they're booking solo cabins and joining groups of like-minded women," she added.

According to Cruise Lines

International Association (CLIA), solo travellers accounted for 12% of all cruisers, effectively doubling the segment's market presence from consecutive seasons.

Women are overwhelmingly driving this ballooning interest, according to Virtuoso, which suggests roughly 71% of the total independent travel market is made up of women. *MS*

MSC disputes claim

MSC Cruises has told *Cruise Weekly* it strongly disputes allegations of intellectual property theft from Dreamology Labs, which is suing the line for US\$1.9 billion (approximately A\$2.7b).

The cruise brand said the statements in the lawsuit are "false and defamatory", that MSC launched onboard attractions and entertainment on board its ships which breached Dreamology's intellectual property.

Opening the Atlas

BOOKINGS are now open for *Atlas Adventurer's* inaugural 2028/29 season, ahead of her Nov 2028 launch (**CW** 14 May).

On the 16 expedition voyages across Asia and Africa, guests will be treated to regional cuisine, traditions, and encounters with locals.

Guests can also receive flight credit of \$4,275 per suite when booking before 30 Sep.

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Viking rocks Morocco

VIKING has launched a new five-night Morocco extension for its Egypt sailings.

The land journey will be able to be added onto Viking's 12-day Pharaohs & Pyramids river journey, allowing guests to experience Marrakech over three nights and Casablanca over two.

Included are nine meals and four guided tours.

Scenic goes into India



SCENIC Group has announced new 2027 India and Sri Lanka journeys, introducing the Hooghly River as its newest destination.

Itineraries will launch in Oct 2027 on the soon-to-be-redesigned *Scenic Aura* through a river and land program.

There will be five cruises spanning North India, South India, Rajasthan, and Sri Lanka.

The program will be anchored by a nine-night ultra-exclusive cruise along the Hooghly, sailing through some of India's most historically significant regions.

Highlights of the program will include a visit to the global headquarters of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, where guests can observe devotional music and vibrant rituals.

Passengers will also meet master craftspeople in Matiar's artisan quarter, and travel by a traditional toto electric rickshaw

to the Katra Masjid caravanserai inn through the streets of Bengal.

Each itinerary will feature unique 'Scenic Enrich' experiences, including an elegant high tea at Kathgola Palace in Murshidabad, and time at the revered Hooghly Imambara, celebrated for its spiritual resonance and architecture.

Aura will be redesigned by Scenic Group's team at MKM Yachts to create a new, intimate ship experience.

Details of the interior revitalisation will be released later this year.

Aura will sail with just 44 guests per departure, with land groups capped at 25.

"The introduction of *Scenic Aura* on India's Hooghly River is a significant milestone for Scenic Group with the collection developed entirely around what our guests are asking for," journey designer Adam Burke said. *MS*

On Board in Tassie

LUXURY Tasmanian expedition cruise line On Board has launched its 2028 and 2029 departures, with early bird offers of \$1,800 off per cabin.

New dates are available across On Board's 'Port Davey Escape', 'South Coast Cruise', 'Port Davey Highlights' and 'East Coast Expedition' programs - **CLICK HERE**.

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