



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **HX**.

HX air credit offer

HX IS offering a premium air credit deal, as the expedition line celebrates 130 years.

Those who book a new Antarctica expedition between 11 May-31 Aug will receive a premium air credit toward international flights.

The deal offers a premium economy air credit of \$1,500pp and a business class air credit of \$3,000pp.

To learn more about the offer, or to receive a campaign toolkit and for FAQs, visit the agent portal **HERE**, or head to **page four**.

Travel advisors can also call the HX team on 1300 159 127.

Atlas introduces new referral program

ATLAS Ocean Voyages has launched a new referral program, Atlas Inner Circle, which rewards loyal guests for introducing their family and friends to the new luxury cruise line.

Passengers who refer a first-time Atlas traveller will receive a US\$250 future cruise credit per suite once the referred traveller books and sails.

Referred guests who are new to Atlas will also enjoy US\$250 discount per suite on their first expedition, creating a shared benefit for both the referring passenger and the new traveller.

Referral submissions must be received within 14 days of the new guest's deposit date, and guests may earn rewards for up to three referrals per expedition.

There is no limit to the number of referrals a guest may make throughout the program, creating ongoing opportunities to earn



credits while helping others discover the Atlas experience.

"Our guests are, without question, the most authentic ambassadors for the Atlas Ocean Voyages experience," president and chief executive officer James Rodriguez said.

"Many of our new guests first learn about Atlas through a

recommendation from a friend, family member, or fellow traveller who has sailed with us before.

"Atlas Inner Circle is our way of rewarding those loyal guests for sharing their enthusiasm for our brand while extending a warm welcome to travellers discovering Atlas for the very first time," Rodriguez added. *MS*

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Emerald's new yacht welcomed to fleet

EMERALD Cruises welcomed the third vessel in its luxury yacht fleet, *Emerald Kaia*, with a christening ceremony held in Venice on the weekend.

The event, which doubled as a celebration of parent company Scenic Group's 40th anniversary, was attended by the company's chair & founder Glen Moroney, general manager of oceans operations James Griffiths, the President of the North Adriatic Sea Port Authority, Matteo Gasparato, and executives from the Port of Venice.

Scenic Group's director of discovery operations Jason Fleisher performed the ceremonial bottle break across the yacht's bow, while Australian employees Kim Scoular, director of operations; and Ray Gilbert, senior software engineer, served as *Kaia's* godparents (**CW** 25 Feb). Guests on board the eight-day



'Adriatic Discovery: Venice, Istria and the Croatian Archipelago' sailing watched the ceremony from the yacht's Observation Deck, which was positioned alongside the pier below.

The event was also live-streamed on YouTube to viewers around the world, in partnership with travel content creator Stephan van der Meer.

Moroney said: "*Emerald Kaia* is a proud addition to our yacht fleet and a fitting highlight as we celebrate 40 years of innovation."

Following her inaugural Mediterranean season, the new yacht will head to the Seychelles and the Indian Ocean. *JM*

Pictured at the christening are captain Rob Kuznin, Kim Scoular, Ray Gilbert, and Glen Moroney.

GFOB's new BDM

GLOBUS family of brands (GFOB) has appointed a new business development manager in Perth, Rebeka Belcher, who will work closely with travel advisors across WA, SA, and NT to drive growth for Avalon Waterways.

Belcher brings more than 15 years of travel industry experience, including senior roles with Silversea and Uniworld River Cruises.

She said she is looking forward to getting back in front of the trade.

"I've spent more than a decade working in cruising across this exact region, so I know the trade and I know what advisors are looking for," she said.

Brett Simon, head of commercial, said Belcher will strengthen the company's presence in a key market.

EMERALD
CRUISES & TOURS



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Stay Updated

on the latest cruise news

Follow Cruise Weekly on social media to get your cruise news first




ONE of the best parts of a cruise is meeting new friends while on board, and now, some social media users are starting to make those acquaintances before their voyage.

One traveller with the username 'udkme', is helping cruisers find their fellow passengers, posting on TikTok: "comment your cruise dates and try to find someone else with the same ones".

The post is going viral, with passengers finding fellow shipmates to link up with while on board.



Aurora's new deep dive

AUSTRALIAN anaesthetist and cave diver Richard Harris (pictured) will join Aurora Expeditions for two upcoming Antarctica expeditions as a special guest.

Harris will travel on the 'Across the Antarctic Circle' cruise, departing on 28 Feb 2027, and the 'Antarctica Complete' trip, departing on 01 Feb 2028, where he will share firsthand insights from more than 30 years of cave-diving, technical diving, exploration, and rescue work.

He is best known for playing a crucial role in the Tham Luang cave rescue in Thailand in 2018, when he helped save a junior soccer team trapped in a local cave system.

Participants of Aurora's polar dive program will also have the rare opportunity to learn from Harris, who is a world-leading diver in some of the planet's most remote environments.

Guests will be able to hear from Harris when he delivers talks about the Chiang Rai rescue, sharing insights into resilience, leadership, and decision-making under pressure.

Aurora dive operations manager Catherine Buckland said Harris' involvement will bring a unique perspective to both the onboard program and the dive experience.



"Harry' is an extremely accomplished technical diver, with decades of experience exploring and operating in challenging underwater environments," Buckland said.

"His knowledge of diving and exploration, combined with his remarkable experiences as part of the Thai cave rescue, will offer expeditioners fascinating insights both onboard and within our dive community," she added.

"Our polar dive program attracts passionate and experienced divers from around the world, and having someone of Harry's calibre join these voyages will add another layer of depth to the experience," Buckland said.

Harris said he is looking forward to joining Aurora and experiencing the earth's southernmost continent for the first time.

"Antarctica has long been a destination that has fascinated me, and I'm excited to finally experience it with Aurora," enthused Harris. *MS*

APT's record day

AUSTRALIANS are travelling again, following recent global disruptions such as the Iran war, with APT Travel Group (ATG) recently reporting its strongest sales day for 2026.

The record-breaking day, which was ATG's fifth-best on record, signals renewed consumer confidence ahead of the company's centenary year in 2027.

ATG chief executive officer David Cox (pictured) said the numbers reflect something the business has long known, that Australians have an enduring passion for travel despite what is happening in the world.

"We recorded our best sales day of 2026 and importantly, this is not incremental growth," he said.

"Australians have continued to book travel throughout this year, but the past week has shown just how quickly momentum can build when confidence lifts.

"The demand has always been there - what we are seeing now is our guests' confidence catching up with their intent to travel."

Cox said the Iran war ceasefire has provided the extra certainty many people were waiting for.

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PREMIUM AIR CREDIT OFFER

To celebrate 130 years of exploration, HX is taking your clients even further — with an exclusive Air Credit on Antarctica expedition packages. Make their journey to the seventh continent more seamless, more accessible, and more unforgettable.

Book a new Antarctica expedition between **11 May – 31 August 2026** and receive a Premium Air Credit toward international flights.



**PREMIUM ECONOMY
AIR CREDIT**
\$1,500^{PP*}



**BUSINESS CLASS
AIR CREDIT**
\$3,000^{PP*}

ENDS 31 AUGUST 2026

To learn more about our offer, a campaign toolkit and for FAQs, visit agentportal.travelhx.com
To book, contact our local GX team on **(AU) 1300 159 127** or **(NZ) 03 288 2085**
or email au.info@travelhx.com



Air Credit Promotion offer applies to new bookings made from 11 May 2026 to 31 August 2026 ("Offer Period") and is capacity controlled for all HX Antarctica departures from 01 October 2026 to 31 March 2027 when return international Premium Economy or Business Class flights are booked. Departures may be removed at any time. Bookings made outside of the Offer Period will not qualify. \$1,500 per person discount is applicable for eligible bookings confirmed in Premium Economy. \$3,000 per person discount is applicable for eligible bookings confirmed in Business Class. To Redeem the offer please quote HX-AIRCREDIT-26 when booking with our Expedition Specialists. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice.

