



CRUISE

WEEKLY

delivered daily!



cruiseweekly.com.au
cruiseweekly.co.nz
Wednesday 24th Jun 2026

Discover Ponant

PONANT Explorations is set to host discovery sessions across four Australian cities in Jun and Jul.

Travel advisors in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth will hear from Ponant over the next two months, with a range of new incentives to be introduced at the events.

Head to **page four** of today's **Cruise Weekly** for more.

Carnival lowers estimates



CARNIVAL Corporation has forecasted future profits below analysts' estimates due to higher fuel costs, as the Iran war continues to pressure the sector.

The company said it expects quarterly adjusted earnings per share for next quarter to be about US\$1.35, compared with estimates of US\$1.42.

Carnival overnight also posted second-quarter revenue of US\$6.7 billion (A\$9.7 billion), which was below analysts' expectations despite it being a record for Q2.

Prolonged fuel disruptions have created a tougher operating environment for the industry, with Carnival citing fuel prices that were nearly 30% higher.

The eight-brand cruise company is the only major player in the industry that does not hedge fuel.

Carnival also cited geopolitical volatility as having weighed

on bookings, particularly for European itineraries.

However, the company said its booking position for the second half was higher than at the same point last year, helped by strong demand from high-end travellers, while bookings for 2027 and beyond continues to exceed prior-year levels.

Carnival reached an all-time high in customer deposits of US\$9 billion (A\$13 billion), up more than US\$450 million compared with the prior-year record.

Other highlights for the company's most recent quarter included adjusted net income of US\$569 million (A\$823 million), up more than 20% compared with the prior year.

Chief executive Josh Weinstein said Carnival had been successful in its commercial execution and cost efficiency efforts.

"We achieved another quarter of record results, marking our 12th consecutive quarter of record net yields and delivering over 20% more to the bottom line, overcoming extreme geopolitical headwinds." *MS*

Hurtigruten finance boost

HURTIGRUTEN Group has restructured its debt and secured new long-term financing worth €430 million (approximately A\$708 million).

The loans will replace existing debt and reduce the company's financing costs.

As part of the deal, shareholders also invested an additional €100 million (A\$164.6m) into the business.



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A date with Palau

CRUISE Weekly's sister title *Travel Daily* has set a new date for its sustainable tourism event with Room-Res and the Palau Visitors Authority for Mon 20 Jul in Sydney.

A panel on responsible tourism will take place, featuring Laura Clarke, Palau Pledge co-founder and Honorary Consul General - Republic of Palau to Australia; and Onorina Fugawai, tourism manager, Pacific Trade Invest.

The leaders will discuss what responsible tourism looks like for Palau, how to talk to tourists about sustainability and how the industry can work together to ensure its future.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Cunard puts on a show



CUNARD Line has revealed its entertainment lineup for next year, featuring the return of four Event Voyages on board *Queen Mary 2* and fresh entertainment residencies across its fleet.

The cruise line's 'Theatre at Sea with the Olivier Awards' is set to return with a program celebrating the best of theatre through exclusive performances, workshops, and behind-the-scenes insights during Cunard's transatlantic crossing from 20-27 Oct 2027.

Brought to life by the team behind *The Times'* Cheltenham Literature Festival, there will also be a Literature Festival at Sea, bringing together leading authors and journalists for a week of talks, discussions, and events celebrating the written word between 02-09 Dec 2027.

Rounding out the Event Voyages are the 'Dance the Atlantic' sailing from 16-23 Jul 2027, in partnership with the English National Ballet and a trip with the National Symphony Orchestra between 01-08 Oct 2027, complete with classical performances led by acclaimed conductor Anthony Inglis.

Cunard will also introduce a new series of entertainment residencies across *Queen Mary 2*,

Queen Anne, *Queen Elizabeth* and *Queen Victoria*.

The residencies will bring award-winning theatre companies and renowned performers on board selected sailings, presenting musicals, literary adaptations, historical dramas, and one-person shows, complemented by workshops and recitals.

Highlights include *The Truman Capote Talk Show*, an award-winning portrayal of the celebrated writer; *The Essence of Audrey*, a new biopic inspired by the life of Audrey Hepburn; *Frozen Love: A Buckingham Nicks Story*, charting the early relationship between Fleetwood Mac's Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham; *An Afternoon Stroll* with Hilaire Belloc; and *A Ghost Among the Living*.

"Entertainment has always been central to the Cunard experience, and our 2027 program brings together world-leading cultural partners in a way that only Cunard can," president Katie McAlister said.

"From our signature Event Voyages on board the world's only ocean liner to new residencies across the fleet, we're giving guests the opportunity to connect with the arts in a way that simply isn't possible anywhere else." *JM*

Get Windy in Asia

WINDSTAR Cruises has officially launched its 2028/29 Asia season, with 25 departures aboard the 112-suite *Star Seeker*.

Highlights of the new season include Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Singapore, with the small-scale *Star Seeker* sailing directly into the hearts of city ports such as Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok, as well as smaller beaches and villages like Phu My, Laem Chabang, and Ko Yao Noi.

Guests who book before the end of next month will receive a complimentary all-inclusive package of onboard credit worth US\$100 and 5% savings when paid in full.

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PORThOLE

CRUISE Traveller is calling upon advisors to name its new furry mascot (**pictured below**), with a \$100 gift voucher for the winning pick.

Those with a great name idea for the border collie can jump on to Cruise Traveller's new Facebook group for agents, accessed **HERE**.

Entries close 30 Jun.



MSC gets glam

MSC Cruises has unveiled a comprehensive range of new spa and beauty experiences across its fleet, including new luxury experiences, advanced treatments, medical wellness services, and more.

New offerings include an AI-powered skin analysis, IV therapy, aesthetic treatments, Japanese head spa rituals, advanced skincare technologies, and professional teeth whitening.

Other offerings will include barbering services, ear piercing, a restorative tea service, and more.

Avalon agent charter to return



AVALON Waterways has announced the return of its advisor charter for next year, following strong engagement and commercial success from its inaugural sailing earlier this year (**CW** 13 Apr).

Agents will cruise the Danube on Avalon's 'Danube Dreams' itinerary, travelling from Budapest to Vilshofen on a dedicated full-ship charter.

The eight-day sailing will combine an immersive product experience with structured training sessions, workshops, and Q&A opportunities with senior Globus family of brands (GFOB) leadership, designed to strengthen product knowledge and support sales across the wider portfolio.

Advisors will also partake in Avalon's hallmark choice in excursions, 'Active', 'Discovery', and 'Classic', across a range of iconic Danube destinations.

Cruise Weekly was the only Australian media outlet to be invited on this year's inaugural

charter on the Rhine, with accompanying GFOB executives, such as head of commercial Brett Simon expressing their hope the famil would return in 2027.

The 2026 charter delivered measurable results, Simon said, with participating agents having already driven significant passenger bookings to date.

"The 2026 charter proved that advisors who experience Avalon Waterways first-hand are not only more confident selling our ships but become genuine advocates for the brand," he said.

"The results from our inaugural charter exceeded expectations and we're looking forward to bringing back a charter for our advisors in 2027."

Avalon president Pam Hoffee will also again join the sailing (**CW** 30 Mar), saying spending time with the advisor community on board is "invaluable". **MS**

Pictured on this year's famil: Isabella Baynham, Helloworld Rowville; and Siobhan Smith, Helloworld Hobart.



Due north

AS CRUISE lines continue to diversify deployment strategies, Northern Australia presents a compelling opportunity to strengthen our position as a year-round cruise destination.

Cruise guests are increasingly seeking authentic, destination-rich experiences that extend beyond traditional gateway ports.

In response, cruise lines are seeking itineraries that combine unique cultural encounters, natural attractions, and opportunities for deeper community engagement.

Importantly, the region's winter climate also enables cruise lines to extend their Australian deployment beyond the traditional summer season.

We are already seeing encouraging signs.

Darwin, for example, has welcomed a growing number of overnight calls, reflecting a broader trend toward longer stays and more immersive experiences.

Similar opportunities exist across Northern Australia, where destinations are increasingly focused on developing products and experiences that align with evolving cruise guest expectations.

As the global cruise industry continues to grow, Australia's north will play an important role.

By continuing to invest in destination development, visitor experiences and the right policy settings, we can further strengthen the case for expanded deployment and ensure more communities share in the economic benefits that cruise tourism delivers.



DISCOVERY SESSIONS

30 June - **Perth** - Pan Pacific

2 July - **Brisbane** - The Calile Hotel

7 July - **Sydney** - Four Seasons

9 July - **Melbourne** - 1 Hotel

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*The winner will be selected at random by PONANT Explorations and notified by email. The Prize consists of one cruise cabin for two guests aboard a PONANT Explorations voyage, with the cabin category, voyage, travel dates and voyage length determined at the sole discretion of PONANT Explorations as part of the Mystery Cruise experience. The Prize includes cruise accommodation only and does not include airfare to and from the embarkation or disembarkation point, transfers unless otherwise specified, pre- or post-voyage hotel accommodation, travel insurance, optional land programs, stateroom upgrades, or any other personal expenses. Travel insurance is mandatory when taking the cruise and may be purchased at an additional cost. Optional land programs, stateroom upgrades, transfers and flights may also be purchased at an additional cost. The Prize is non-refundable, non-transferable for cash value, and cannot be redeemed for cash or onboard credit. The voyage and cabin is confirmed 2 months prior to departure. Should the winner advise PONANT Explorations that they are unable to travel, the Prize may be transferred to another Travel Agent, in the business provided PONANT Explorations is notified within the required timeframe. If the winner declines the Prize and/or fails to respond within the required timeframe, the Prize will be forfeited. In such circumstances, PONANT Explorations reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion, to select an alternative winner and shall have no further liability to the original winner.^Prize is \$200 Dining Gift Card and is not transferrable for cash. Winners will be notified by email and card will be sent by express post to your Agency address. Contact your state manager or salesAPAC@ponant.com for full information.