



### Cruise Weekly today

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

## Puerto is punted

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line will be steering its ships away from Puerto Vallarta, according to media reports.

The cruise line was scheduled to call the destination this week, but has decided to skip it as it continues to stabilise, following a spate of cartel-related violence last week (**CW** 24 Feb).

Carnival had earlier told this masthead it would be cancelling shore excursions to the Mexican mainland (**CW** 25 Feb), but that it was yet to make a decision on visiting Puerto Vallarta.

Cruises to the destination are expected to resume soon.

## Cruises cancelled in the Middle East

**A NUMBER** of cruise lines have cancelled their voyages in the Middle East this week following the Israeli-United States strikes on Iran.

Celestyal Cruises' two ships, *Celestyal Discovery* (**pictured**) and *Celestyal Journey*, are currently in the midst of their Arabian Gulf season, with both ships' voyages this week cancelled.

Both vessels were set to depart later today, with *Discovery* sailing from Abu Dhabi and *Journey* departing from Dubai.

*Discovery* is currently unable to disembark guests, Celestyal told media in a statement, due to instructions from local authorities, following retaliatory missile and drone strikes from Iran over the weekend.

Celestyal will transfer passengers to Zayed International Airport in Abu Dhabi, once their disembarkation is approved.



Meanwhile, *Journey* is currently stuck in Doha, where she will remain alongside until Sat.

Celestyal plans to resume *Journey's* Arabian Gulf season from this weekend, if possible.

The ship's current guests have been given the option to disembark in Doha or to remain on board until Sat.

"All guests who were due to travel on the cancelled sailings will be offered the option of a full refund or a future cruise credit," a Celestyal statement said.

"We strongly encourage guests to speak directly with their travel

provider regarding onward or alternative travel arrangements."

Meanwhile, MSC Cruises cancelled its sailing aboard *MSC Euribia*, which was set to depart from Doha over the weekend.

The vessel was to sail on a seven-day Arabian Gulf itinerary, but will instead now stay alongside in Dubai.

The cruise line said in a statement it is reviewing and monitoring all of its operations in the region.

Other cruise lines currently affected include TUI Cruises and Aroya Cruises. *MS*

### Regent

SEVEN SEAS CRUISES®

EXPERIENCE THE UNRIVALLED®



## SAIL into SAVINGS

with up to

# 45% OFF

SELECT 2026 & 2027 SAILINGS\*

Let your clients embark on a lavish celebration of Europe's most captivating cities with The World's Most Luxurious Fleet®. Discover more with Regent and sail into savings of **UP TO 45%**—where extraordinary destinations meet exceptional value.

### FEATURED VOYAGE



### SPOTLIGHT ON FABERGÉ

*Seven Seas Grandeur*®

#### ROME TO LONDON

24 MAY 2026 | 13 NIGHTS | UP TO 60 INCLUDED

Itinerary: Rome, Tuscany, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, At Sea (2 Nights), La Coruña, At Sea, Paris, London

OVERNIGHT IN PORT

DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT

\*For applicable sailings and full terms and conditions, visit [RSSC.COM/SAIL-INTO-SAVINGS](https://www.rssc.com/sail-into-savings)



## New special report

*CRUISE Weekly's* sister title *Travel Daily* has released its latest special report, *Future Forward*, focusing on the biggest trends that are set to define the industry this year.

From the increasing number of adults-only cruises and fly-cruising hitting new heights, to the continued rise of solo travel and the next hottest destinations, the report is a great resource for advisors.

*Future Forward* features insights from industry leaders including AmaWaterways MD Steve Richards, Travel Associates GM Rachel Kingswell, NCL VP and MD APAC Ben Angell, Luxury Travel Collection GM Nikki Glading, Australian Cruise Association CEO Jill Abel, Regent Seven Seas Cruises VP sales & GM Lisa Pile, and more.

To view the issue click [HERE](#).



## Biggest CLIAs ever

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) is set for its biggest-ever Cruise Industry Awards, which will welcome almost 600 people this Sat.

The event, which is being held at the ICC Sydney for the first time, will recognise 15 winners from more than 80 finalists across the country.

*Cruise Weekly* will feature all the winners next Mon.

## Crystal WC from Australia



**CRYSTAL** has announced its 2029 world cruise, which will sail from Melbourne to New York City aboard *Crystal Symphony*.

The 129-night voyage will journey across five continents, including the line's first-ever circumnavigation of Australia.

Bookings open to the public on 16 Mar, with the cruise visiting more than 70 destinations in over 20 countries.

Other highlights will include Indonesia, New Zealand, the South Pacific, the Americas, and the Caribbean.

The itinerary features 13 overnights, including Hanga Roa and Ushuaia, and introduces new ports of call for the cruise line, such as Exmouth, Robinson Crusoe Island; and Buzios.

"Our 2029 world cruise is designed to connect remarkable regions of the world in one seamless journey," VP of itinerary planning Mario Parodi said.

"From Australia and the South Pacific to the fjords of Chile to the Amazon River, this voyage reflects our commitment to crafting itineraries that are both far-reaching and thoughtfully paced."

Travellers on the full 2029 world cruise can look forward to a range of perks, including business class flights and transfers, 5% Crystal Society Savings, and US\$1,500 credit per person.

Cruisers will also receive two nights in Melbourne pre-cruise; complimentary laundry and pressing; one complimentary medical visit per passenger; up

to two pieces of luggage valet per person; and special themed onboard events.

Pricing for the 2029 world cruise starts at US\$69,000 per person (approximately A\$97,000), based on double occupancy.

**MEANWHILE**, Crystal is set to introduce a new ship, *Crystal Grace*, which will debut in 2028 (**CW** 10 Dec).

The cruise line recently revealed the first suite renderings of its new vessel, which will include all-suite, all-veranda staterooms with enhanced storage.

Select suites will offer wraparound verandas, marking a first-ever configuration for the cruise line.

*Grace's* most common suite will be the 31m<sup>2</sup> aquamarine veranda suite, which features a vanity area and a comfortable sofa, with afternoon canapes served daily.

There will be multiple versions of this stateroom, which include a 7.9m<sup>2</sup> veranda.

Some will feature a separate shower and bathtub, while others will offer a spacious walk-in shower and closet.

Meanwhile, the generous 114m<sup>2</sup> penthouse suites are designed for guests seeking an elevated residential-style retreat.

These suites feature a 61m<sup>2</sup> veranda, with the four penthouse suites at the aft of the ship on decks 7 and 9 including a 91.2m<sup>2</sup> wraparound veranda.

Each suite offers two walk-in closets and separate living/dining areas with ocean views. *MS*

## Ultimate Antarctica

**TERRA** Nova Expeditions has launched a 20-day 'Ultimate Antarctic Adventure', designed to provide deeper immersion and exploration.

The journey combines the comfort and safety of the line's polar expedition vessel *St Helena* with five nights aboard *Icebird*, a custom polar yacht catering to six passengers.

The yacht will allow guests to explore remote waters and maximise wildlife viewing and time ashore, with a level of privacy, flexibility, and access that is not possible on standard Antarctic itineraries.

Adventure activities such as kayaking, snowshoeing, and polar plunge are included.

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO  
**TO EGYPT**

EVERY BOOKING COUNTS

LEARN MORE



**UNIWORLD**  
BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES

LUXURY GOLD



## PORThOLE

**THERE** are many interesting places in the world to grow up, but how about at sea?

Ben Featherstone, 29, is a theatre singer on a cruise ship sailing through the Caribbean while raising his two-year-old daughter Piper on board.

Featherstone works three nights a week during a six-month contract, and spends the rest of his time with Piper, who spends one month on board before going back to her mother, who is training to become a paramedic in the United Kingdom.

Journaling the experience via social media, Featherstone says that despite the challenge of raising a two-year-old, the cruise ships provides a lot of benefits, such as being able to take Piper to the water park for recreation as well as having the kids' club as a means of childcare and interaction with others her age.

## Viking's artful deep dive



**VIKING** recently hosted advisors at an exclusive event at Brisbane's Gallery of Modern Art, as part of the line's partnership with the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA).

Guests were given special after-hours access to 'Olafur Eliasson: Presence', an exhibition exclusive to Brisbane.

The money-can't-buy experience allowed travel advisors to immerse themselves in the contemporary Danish artist's multi-sensory works, which explore perception, nature and the shared human experience.

After a private tour guided by lead curator Geraldine Kirrihi Barlow, guests enjoyed a three-course dining experience at GOMA, curated by the gallery's executive chef.

The bespoke menu, which was paired with premium beverages, was designed to complement the artistry of the evening.

The Presence exhibition opened on 06 Dec 2025 and will run until 12 Jul 2026. *JM*

**Pictured:** Helen Mezzzen, Viking; Geraldine Kirrihi Barlow, QAGOMA; Libby Burnett, QAGOMA; & Shaun Kavanagh, Viking.

## Cruise fraudster

**A FORMER** Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) executive has been arrested by Interpol for fraud.

Tom Markwell (**pictured**) was detained in Buenos Aires last month, and is accused of orchestrating a US\$2m (approx A\$2.8m) fraud scheme that ran for four years.

Markwell served as the company's senior director of events from Jul 2019 until Sep 2023, and is being indicted on eight counts of wire fraud and identity fraud.

According to federal charges, Markwell and two outside accomplices ran a scheme using a fictitious supplier to generate fraudulent invoices, which he then approved and paid to himself.



**WHAT TIME CAN DO FOR YOU...**

- Further develop your management and leadership potential
- Develop confidence and networking opportunities
- Strategic career planning
- Increase your knowledge of organisational culture & processes

# UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: Join Our Mentoring Program and Ignite Your Success!

**TIME is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia**

**For more information visit - [www.travelindustrymentor.com.au](http://www.travelindustrymentor.com.au)**

**CRUISE WEEKLY**  
[cruiseweekly.com.au](http://cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[cruiseweekly.co.nz](http://cruiseweekly.co.nz)  
Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.  
Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

**EDITORIAL**  
Editor - Myles Stedman  
Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, James Bale  
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper  
Editorial Director - Damian Francis  
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller  
[info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)

**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**  
Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan  
Business Development Manager  
Kara Stanley  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)  
**GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER**  
Matthew Vince

**ACCOUNTS**  
[accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.com.au)  
Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia  
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220  
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220



Cruise Weekly is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.