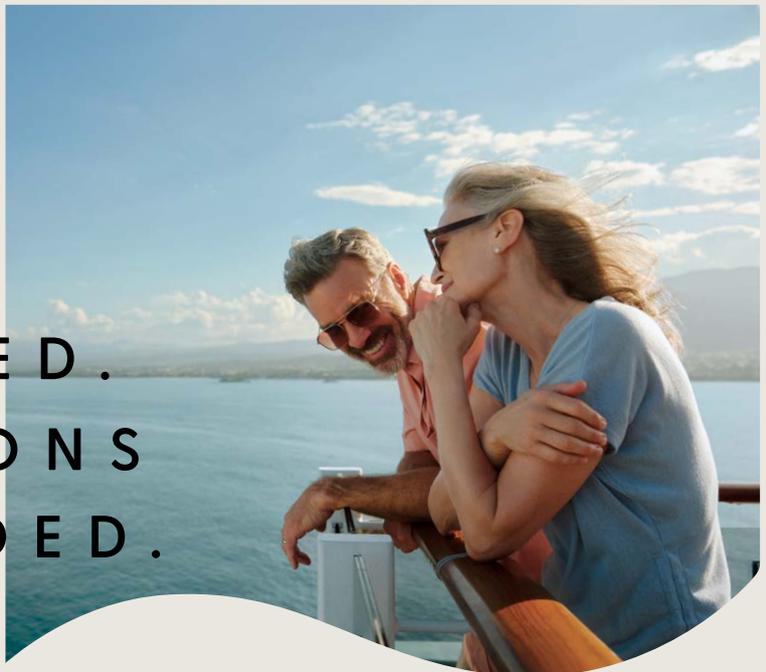




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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a cover wrap from Norwegian Cruise Line.

Viking expedition expands



VIKING is set to build two new expedition ships, which will be delivered in 2030 and 2031, the cruise line has announced.

The two new arrivals will double the cruise line's expedition fleet, which is currently comprised of *Viking Octantis* (pictured) and *Viking Polaris*, both delivered three-and-a-half years ago (CW 29 Sep 2022).

No other details about the two expedition ships have been made public, although Viking announced it has also taken an option for two additional ocean ships, which are set to be delivered in 2034.

The announcement comes as Viking reported a massive revenue hike of 21.9% for the fiscal year.

Total income was US\$6.5 billion (approximately A\$9.2 billion) while adjusted gross margin was US\$4.3 billion (A\$6.1 billion), an increase of 22.6% compared to the same period in 2024.

Adjusted EBITDA was US\$1.9 billion (A\$2.9 billion), an increase of 38.8% compared to the same period in 2024.

Viking also noted it has sold 86% of its capacity passenger cruise days for this season.

"This performance reflects

our consistent execution and is supported by key metrics that reinforce our momentum," chair & chief executive officer Torstein Hagen said.

"We also reached important milestones in 2025, growing our river, ocean and expedition fleet to more than 100 vessels and further expanding our destination-focused offerings around the world.

"These achievements reflect the strong demand from our core consumer, the loyalty of our guests, the value of our premium products, and the dedication of our employees to provide exceptional travel experiences on all seven continents."

MEANWHILE, the cruise line has also cancelled its Nile voyages through to Mar, amid the Iran conflict, which has disrupted travel plans across the Middle East and North Africa.

Viking announced the decision following the release of its fiscal results, saying it is arranging for its current cohort of travellers in Egypt to return home.

Other cruise lines reported to have stopped their Nile cruises include Avalon Waterways and Tauck, with AmaWaterways set to continue sailing in the region. MS

Iran threatens ships

IRAN'S armed forces has said it will attack any ship trying to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, which links the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a branch of the country's army, has reiterated that the Strait is "closed", with action to be taken against any ship attempting to transit it.

Iranian senior military advisor Ebrahim Jabari said any ship trying to navigate the Strait will be "set ablaze".

CruiseMapper shows Celestyal Cruises' fleet, which includes *Celestyal Discovery* and *Celestyal Journey*, is still in the Persian Gulf, as are MSC Cruises' *MSC Euribia* and Terra Nova Expeditions' *St. Helena* (CW 02 Mar).

MSC told *Cruise Weekly* it is following the guidance of the regional US military authorities to keep the ship in Dubai.

"We are actively in contact with embassies and foreign offices to ensure they have the relevant information about their nationals on board and to understand any repatriation plans being developed."

Terra Nova told *CW* there is no concern at present for its vessel, while Celestyal was unable to respond before this masthead's deadline.

Just Cruise with NCL

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's (NCL) prices have dropped, with clients now able to sail for less, thanks to the Just Cruise fare (CW yesterday).

The new structure will make it easier for travel advisors to sell and earn, and has been designed to provide greater choice and more flexibility than ever before - see more on the cover page.



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Disney in Singapore

DISNEY Adventure, the newest vessel from Disney Cruise Line (CW 17 Dec), has sailed into her new home port in Singapore.

Upon arrival at Marina Bay Cruise Centre in Singapore, the ship was greeted to a water and fireworks display, which the cruise line described as “marking the start of an extraordinary new chapter in cruise vacation experiences for guests in the region.”

Disney’s five-year home porting commitment in Singapore allows it to capitalise on the largest cruise hub in Asia, with more than 2 million passengers across 375 ship calls throughout last year.

The cruise line has reaffirmed its ambition to expand the fleet to 13 ships by 2031, following the debut of *Disney Adventure*, as well as other vessels such as *Disney Treasure* and *Disney Destiny*.

Adventure will embark on her maiden voyage from Singapore on 10 Mar for several three- and four-night sailings with Disney-inspired accommodation and entertainment, alongside Singaporean dining options and signature beverages.



Avora debuts with RSSC ship



AVORA Residences is set to acquire *Seven Seas Navigator* from Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC), signalling the arrival of a new entrant in the luxury residential cruise market (CW breaking news).

The vessel is scheduled to debut as *Avora Lumina* in Jan 2028 under a nine-year charter with a nominal purchase agreement after she undergoes a full residential conversion.

Planned upgrades include personalisation and residential enhancements, reimagined common spaces optimised for long-term living, plus a dedicated business and global connectivity centre designed to support extended voyages.

Sales are now open for the ship’s residences, which will range from around 28m² to 109m², featuring premium finishes, expansive ocean views, and opportunities for personalisation.

The Avora brand was founded by Mikael Petterson, the creator

of fellow residential line, Villa Vie Residences, with the intention of offering an option between Villa Vie’s contemporary offering and the ultra-high-net-worth product available aboard *The World*.

“Residential cruising has proven its viability,” Petterson said.

“*Lumina* represents the next evolution - purpose-built for long-duration global living, expedition capability, and a more refined residential experience.”

The new cruise line offers life-of-ship ownership, with pricing ranging from approximately US\$545,000 to US\$4.2 million (approximately A\$775,000-\$5 million) across 242 private residences, and a five-year ownership program starting from US\$219,600 (approx A\$311,000).

Launching from Lisbon, *Lumina* will embark on a three-year continuous global circumnavigation that will see her visit more than 140 countries, remaining in port for up to five days at a time. JM

Vancouver record

THE Port of Vancouver is expected to welcome more than 1.4 million passengers this season, with 2026 on track to beat the facility’s previous record by 5% set in 2024.

This year will also be a 19% increase compared to last year, when Canada Place welcomed 300 cruise ship calls and nearly 1.2 million passenger visits.

Most cruise ships arrive between May and Sep as part of the Alaska cruise season.

The port is also moving to expand its shore power capabilities to reduce cruise ship emissions.

“We expect to see record cruise ship visits bring record numbers of visitors to Vancouver this year - injecting more than \$1 billion into the economy,” vice president of operations and supply chain Cliff Stewart said.

“The Vancouver cruise sector and Canada Place cruise terminal continue to provide a powerful economic boost, as passengers visit shops, restaurants and local attractions, and cruise lines re-stock ships.”



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Travel Daily



PORTHOLE

A FLORIDA beach town is facing a US\$42,000 (approximately A\$60,000) bill to remove an abandoned boat, which has since become a tourist attraction.

Earlier this year, firefighters with the Flagler Beach Fire Department helped the boat after she lost power and began to capsize in crashing waves, before eventually winding up marooned on shore.

The boat has seen hordes of visitors flock to her for photo opportunities, with some describing the phenomenon as something out of a TV show.

"It's amazing to see that," a resident called Paula told local news website ClickOrlando.

"It reminds me of growing up and watching Gilligan's Island."

Despite the curiosity the boat draws, the city believes the boat remains a hazard, and is trying to get rid of it

However, because the owners surrendered the boat to the state, the logistics of her removal are now left to the local taxpayers.

Initial removal estimates were valued at as much as US\$80,000 (approximately A\$114,000), but the city believes the job can now be done for almost half that.



Return of the *Solstice*



CELEBRITY Cruises has relaunched *Celebrity Solstice*, departing her dry dock in Singapore on Tue with eight new experiences on offer.

Among these are four brand-new, Celebrity-first spaces including Sunset Park, a top deck recreational area; Italian restaurant Trattoria Rossa; Boulevard Lounge, a 250-seat venue designed for piano bar singalongs and karaoke; and The Parlor, *Solstice's* new sports lounge and gaming area.

Two productions will be making their debut in the ship's theatre, including *Smoke and Ivories*, paying homage to the 1950s with piano and acrobatics, as well as *Rockumentary*, recreating iconic concerts from over the years.

Solstice's dry dock also saw all of her existing staterooms fully revamped, while 54 new accommodations were added, bringing the total to 1,479 cabins.

These upgrades have introduced a number of new stateroom

categories: the panoramic infinite veranda suite, panoramic ocean view suite, and deluxe panoramic ocean view.

The Retreat will be complemented by a brand new sun deck, as well as a hot tub, outdoor seating, and a reimagined private lounge.

Wellness-focused AquaClass staterooms have also been revamped with amenities such as massaging shower heads, aromatherapy diffusers, in-room yoga mats, premium robes and slippers, and a pillow menu.

Guests in AquaClass also have complimentary access to exclusive restaurant Blu and The Spa's Persian Garden.

Solstice will now sail through Asia and Australia before she makes her Alaska debut in May.

The ship will then begin a 110-night Grand Voyage on 13 Sep, calling at more than 55 ports from Alaska, the Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand, and Asia, finishing in Hong Kong on NYE. *JB*



Victoria's cruise ambitions

The ACA Board and I were in Melbourne recently for the first meeting of 2026.

During our visit, we had the opportunity to meet with Craig Walker, CEO of Ports Victoria, for a tour of Station Pier.

Fittingly, *Viking Venus* was docked, highlighting the strong presence of ACA members in the region.

Station Pier, Victoria's premier cruise shipping location, is a vital hub, welcoming more than 300,000 passengers and crew each year.

Opened in 1930, the pier and its buildings are heritage-listed, making it a landmark of local, state and national significance.

An ongoing maintenance and upgrade program ensures the facility remains safe and operational for modern cruise demands, while preserving its rich maritime history.

After a significant revitalisation, Station Pier has also reopened to the public for the first time since 2020, reconnecting the community with one of Melbourne's most storied waterfront assets.

While in the city, we also met with key government stakeholders to continue our collaborative work supporting Victoria's cruise ambitions, aligned with ACA's strategic priorities to drive sustainable future growth.

Coinciding with our visit, Murray River Paddlesteamers joined the ACA - a fantastic addition to our growing membership.

We look forward to supporting opportunities to combine traditional ocean cruising with paddlesteamer experiences, extending visitor stays within Australia and offering a compelling pre- or post-cruise inland journey.