



ROYAL BEACH CLUB  
LELEPA

# A ROYAL HOLIDAY LIKE NO OTHER

OPEN FOR SALE



Royal Beach Club<sup>SM</sup> Lelepa isn't just another Royal first - it's the South Pacific, reimagined. A first-of-its-kind Royal Caribbean<sup>®</sup> exclusive cruise destination that takes a familiar holiday paradise and resets it as something entirely new. The kind of destination that makes every other holiday play catch-up, where gorgeous waters collide with adventures for all, included in your cruise fare. Be among the first to experience a paradise you can only find on Royal Caribbean<sup>®</sup>  
— available on sailings from October 2027.



ROYAL CARIBBEAN

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Royal Beach Club<sup>SM</sup> Lelepa reflects current features and design concepts and includes artistic renderings. All features and designs are subject to change without notice.



# CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Thursday 19th March 2026

## Win an Egypt cruise

UNIWORLD and Luxury Gold are giving Australian travel advisors the chance to win a trip for two to Egypt.

Taking place 05-15 Sep 2026, the famil includes a seven-night cruise - enter [HERE](#).

## Lelepa open for booking



ROYAL Caribbean has announced its 2027-28 summer season, which will see the debut of Royal Beach Club Lelepa (pictured), the region's first exclusive cruise destination (CW 04 Jun).

Lelepa will welcome guests on all South Pacific sailings from Sydney and Brisbane aboard *Anthem of the Seas* and *Voyager of the Seas* from Oct 2027, as first reported by *Cruise Weekly* last year (CW 18 Aug).

The private destination will feature two beaches, including an adults-only area, and activity-packed family beach.

There will also be 10 bars, dining outlets, umbrellas,

loungers, and towels, all of which will be included.

Other highlights include nature trails and snorkelling.

Lelepa will be visited on *Anthem* from Sydney across 24 sailings ranging from three to 17 nights, including short breaks and South Pacific itineraries.

The season will also see *Voyager* sail from Brisbane on 29 sailings ranging from two- to 25 nights, including seven-night South Pacific itineraries and four-night Whitsundays getaways.

"Royal Caribbean continues to raise the bar on the ultimate family holiday with Royal Beach Club Lelepa - a first-of-its-kind destination," vice president & MD Gavin Smith said.

The new line-up of 53 long and short getaways to Australia, the South Pacific, and New Zealand are now open for bookings on Royal Caribbean's website - see more on the [cover page](#). MS

## Celestyal cancels

TWO more Celestyal Cruises voyages have been cancelled - *Celestyal Discovery's* 27 Mar and 30 Mar sailings - as its two ships remain trapped in the Arabian Gulf, the cruise line has confirmed (CW 10 Mar).



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## AmaWaterways' Australian growth

**AMAWATERWAYS'** new City Escapes program (*CW* yesterday) reflects growing demand for longer stays in Europe's most iconic river cities, particularly from the Australian market.

The experiences offer extended stays and deeper cultural immersion in a range of European destinations, which aligns with demand from Australian travellers, managing director Steve Richards said.

City Escapes' launch comes at a time when AmaWaterways is reporting record sales, including a high-water mark in Feb.

"We are thrilled with the momentum we are seeing, particularly with our TV commercial now in market," Richards said.

"Feb saw strong demand for the Danube and Rhine rivers, but also for the French rivers, Portugal, and the Mekong, with our second



ship coming in 2027."

AmaWaterways is celebrating the launch of City Escapes with a limited-time promotion on select departures for bookings made between 03 Mar and 30 Jun.

The offer includes up to A\$3,000

in cruise savings per stateroom, a complimentary upgrade and US\$50pp in onboard credit. *MS*

**Pictured** is *AmaSofia*, the cruise line's newest ship, which was recently christened on the Rhine with 1,200 advisors present.

## Viking gets Greek

**VIKING** has launched a new three-night 'Greek Traditions' extension for its Mediterranean ocean voyages.

The itinerary will be available pre- or post-cruise on select itineraries from this year.

Guests will stay in Nafplio, where they will be immersed in local culture and cuisine, with olive oil, honey, and wine tastings; a visit to ancient Nemea; guided walking tours, and time to explore one of Greece's most charming historic towns.

Prices starting from \$2,699, and includes three nights in Nafplio, seven meals (breakfasts, lunches & dinners), and three tours:

The itinerary will be fully escorted by a Viking tour director, with all transfers included - **CLICK HERE** for more information.



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## Stay Updated

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A PAIR of burrowing owls has finally made it home to Miami after a cruise adventure to Spain (CW 16 Dec 2025).

After sneaking onto Royal Caribbean's *Allure of the Seas* last year during her 10-night voyage to Spain, the birds had to remain in the country for a series of quarantines before they could make the journey back to Florida.

"We've had a few instances [where owls] landed on a cruise ship, but this is the first time they made it all the way to another country," said Madison Cole, the avian conservation coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The process took a year in total, and according to Cole, it was only possible through the collective effort of "so many different people...who just genuinely wanted to make sure that the owls returned home".

## Do you Believe in Disney?



**DISNEY Believe (pictured)** has been announced as Disney Cruise Line's next ship, the fourth in the company's Wish-class.

Stories from Disney, Pixar, Marvel, and Star Wars will be onboard highlights, including mystical worlds from *Encanto* and *Frozen*, to *Snow White*, *Moana*, and *The Little Mermaid*.

*Believe* is expected to debut late next year.

The announcement took place overnight at the 2026 Disney Annual Shareholders Meeting, which also marked the first day in the role for chief executive officer Josh D'Amaro.

*Believe* will be the ninth ship in Disney's fleet, which is currently set to total 13 by 2031.

She will follow on from her Wish-class sister ships including *Disney Wish*, *Disney Treasure*, and *Disney Destiny*.

The cruise line is planning to introduce a new class of ships that will debut in 2029, which will be smaller than the Wish-class, but larger than its earlier vessels.

Furthermore, Disney is planning to launch cruises in Japan through a partnership with The Oriental Land Company (CW 11 Feb 2025), which also operates Disney's Tokyo property.

The reveal of *Believe* comes following the official debut of Disney's eighth ship, *Disney Adventure*, which began sailing from Singapore earlier this month (CW 05 Mar). MS

## HX bolsters Alaska

**EXPEDITION** cruise line HX has announced two new itineraries for its 2026 Alaska program, featuring inaugural calls in Klawock and Valdez.

Travellers can join the nine-night 'Alaska's Inside Passage: Fjords of the Great Land' voyage from Vancouver to Whittier, offering a condensed yet immersive exploration of Southeast Alaska.

The itinerary takes guests through Misty Fjords and rugged coastal landscapes, where they can expect to encounter whales, bears, sea lions, otters, and bald eagles.

HX Expeditions has also introduced the 12-night 'Alaska's Inside Passage: Where the Mountains Meet the Sea', which explores Prince William Sound before crossing the Gulf of Alaska and travelling through Southeast Alaska and British Columbia.

Highlights include glacier cruising, wildlife viewing, cultural encounters with Indigenous communities, and exploration of ancient forests and scenic fjords.



Travel Daily

## 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

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