



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Get into the Spirit

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line has extended *Norwegian Spirit's* incentive, which offers travel advisors a \$100 gift card for every booking made until the end of the month.

The extension follows strong uptake from trade partners - with those who book any eligible *Spirit* sailing through to Apr 2028 and submitting it via Partners First Rewards continuing to earn a gift card.

Norwegian is supporting sales with a new suite of ready-to-share *Spirit* marketing assets, created to help advisors promote and sell the local ship - more on **p4**.

## Ponant's Kimberley eclipse voyage

**PONANT** Explorations has unveiled the initial release of its 2028 voyages, in alliance with its partner Smithsonian Journeys.

The first departures for the 2028 line-up include an all-new solar eclipse itinerary in Western Australia's Kimberley region (**pictured**), along with a number of returning favourites.

'Solar Eclipse on Western Australia's Kimberley Coast' is a 10-night voyage in the Kimberley from 19–29 Jul 2028) aboard *Le Jacques Cartier*, which is timed to coincide with the total solar eclipse on 22 Jul.

The cruise departs Darwin and concludes in Broome, spotlighting ancient Aboriginal rock art at Swift Bay and Zodiac exploration through the crocodile-rich mangroves of the Hunter River.

Guests will also navigate through the tidal currents of Montgomery Reef, one of the



world's largest reef systems.

During the eclipse, the moon will fully obscure the sun for up to five minutes, which is among the longest durations anywhere on earth.

Guests will also be joined by two Smithsonian experts, including meteorologist Joe Rao and Brent Garry, a geologist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight

Center, who will share insights and perspectives over the course of the voyage.

Other itineraries for the season will include the seven-night 'Panama & Costa Rica by Sea' cruise aboard *Le Bougainville*, a 10-night 'Madagascar & Seychelles' voyage, and the 10-night 'Expedition of Baja & the Sea of Cortez' sailing. *MS*

## LIMITED TIME FARES FOR 2026



We've launched limited-time fares on ocean and river voyages for travel in 2026 that could save your clients thousands and earn you commission this year! **And with our AU\$1,000 flexible deposit**, your clients have peace of mind to plan with confidence, knowing their arrangements can adapt should they need to.

**OCEAN** SET SAIL 25 NOV 2026

Itinerary varies for this departure

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### KOMODO & THE AUSTRALIAN COAST

*Bali to Sydney*

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SAVE UP TO **\$10,300 PER COUPLE**

**OCEAN** SET SAIL 23 SEP 2026

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## Three pax dead

**THREE** passengers have died on board a cruise ship in the Atlantic, while a fourth is in critical condition.

One of the travellers has been confirmed to have contracted hantavirus, an illness usually transmitted to humans from rodents.

The victims were travelling on board *Hondius*, which is owned and operated by Oceanwide Expeditions, a Dutch-based cruise line.

The first person to develop symptoms was a 70-year-old passenger, who died on board the ship, and his wife, who was evacuated to South Africa and has since died in hospital.

The third passengers who died remains on the ship.

A 69-year-old British man is currently being treated in intensive care in Johannesburg.

"To date, one case of hantavirus infection has been laboratory confirmed, and there are five additional suspected cases," the WHO told French news agency *AFP*.

"Hantavirus infections are typically linked to environmental exposure (exposure to infected rodents' urine or faeces)," the organisation explained.

"While rare, hantavirus may spread between people, and can lead to severe respiratory illness and requires careful patient monitoring."

## Cruise catching on in the NT



**NT MINISTER** for Tourism Marie-Claire Boothby has highlighted the value of her territory's cruise sector, as she met with the industry in Sydney last week.

Boothby and NT Department of Tourism & Hospitality chief executive officer Suzana Bishop met with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) executive director Joel Katz to discuss the opportunities presented by cruise tourism in the region.

Cruising has grown significantly in the NT of late, contributing more than \$205 million to the local economy last financial year, an increase of 13% on FY24.

Darwin's tourism industry has benefited from increased cruise ship calls – including important visitation during the NT's off-peak

wet season, as it further positions itself as an international cruise gateway to Asia and a hub for expedition cruising.

Katz said the NT delegation clearly recognised the huge value of cruise tourism to Darwin and across the territory, particularly in rural and remote communities.

"Against a backdrop of strong global growth in cruise, we discussed the importance of policy certainty at a federal level to support forward planning for cruise lines and future deployment decisions," he said.

"Cruise demand is there and the opportunity for the NT is clear; the focus now is ensuring that Australia has the right settings in place to capture it." *MS*

**Pictured:** CLIA director of government affairs Hugh Cavill with Boothby, Katz, and Bishop.

## HAL's Grand 2028

**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) is set to sail to six continents as a part of its two Grand Voyages for 2028.

Travellers have the choice between the 129-day 'Grand World Voyage' aboard *Volendam*, or the 90-day 'Grand Australia & New Zealand Voyage' sailing on board *Zaandam*.

A round trip from Fort Lauderdale departing 04 Jan 2028, the 'Grand World Voyage' will visit 45 ports across 26 countries.

Sixteen ports are part of the special 'Mariners' Collection', which are only available on Grand Voyages, including Easter Island, Walvis Bay (Namibia), Reunion Island, and Cape Verde.

Travellers will also get to see 31 UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as Komodo National Park and the Taj Mahal.

The 'Grand Australia & New Zealand Voyage' is a round trip from San Diego departing 30 Jan, featuring 41 ports in 12 countries and territories.

It will also feature an abundance of UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the Great Barrier Reef and Tongariro National Park.

The voyage will also include multiple overnight ports of call, such as Hobart, Sydney, Cairns, Fremantle, Auckland and Papeete.

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## Stay Updated

on the latest cruise news

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**FANS** of the 1980s sitcom *Three's Company* may notice one of the show's most popular characters running around a cruise ship sooner or later - or perhaps multiple versions of them.

The newest cruise craze, as detailed by the *New York Post*, is 'Mrs. Roper Romp', a kooky get-together in which passengers dress up as the Helen Roper character, complete with super-sized sunglasses, orange wigs, multicoloured muumuus, and plenty of oversized jewelry.

Hordes of Mrs. Ropers have been spotted of late aboard Royal Caribbean, Holland America Line, and Carnival Cruise Line.



## Sydney comes to Hapag-Lloyd



**HAPAG-LLOYD** Cruises recently celebrated its collaboration with Australian-based choreographer Rafael Bonachela from the Sydney Dance Company (SDC), premiering one of his new works on board *Europa 2*.

Bonachela recently debuted his new piece *Pulso* on the ship (pictured), which will join his other onboard productions including *Somos*, bringing SDC to the seas for the first time.

The piece debuted on *Europa 2*'s cruise through the Canary

Islands, sailing from 11-21 Apr from Tenerife to La Gomera.

*Pulso* was conceived specifically for *Europa 2* and reflects themes of identity, cultural roots, and human connection through space, rhythm, and movement.

The collaboration will continue into summer, with Bonachela's works appearing on board as part of Hapag-Lloyd's 'Dance Visions 2026', which sees the cruise line partner with a curated program of internationally acclaimed artists (CW 07 Aug). MS

## APT South America

APT has announced its South America and Antarctica 2027/2028 program, including a number of cruise itineraries exploring the region.

The 'Best of South America with Belmond Andean Explorer & Galapagos Cruise' itinerary offers an immersive 31-day journey cruising aboard the modern expedition yacht *La Pinta*, which will immerse guests in the flora and fauna of the volcanic islands, with snorkelling opportunities and land excursions.

Prices for the itinerary start from \$42,995pp.

Returning for the 2027-28 season is the 15-day 'Antarctic Voyage', an expedition which cruises through the Antarctic Peninsula aboard Seabourn Cruise Line's *Seabourn Venture*, in a continuation of the partnership between the two companies.

Guests will encounter penguins, seals, and whales across Antarctica's wilderness, with experiences including zodiac cruises and shore landings, from \$25,995pp.

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