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WEEKLY

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Tuesday 5th May 2026

Cruise Weekly today

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

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The cruise line is promoting its 2027 cruising season in Asia, which will see travellers visit the golden temples of Thailand, the cultural capitals of Japan, and the towering groves of Singapore.

Travellers can take advantage of Silversea's latest promotion on a range of Asian voyages next year, with reduced deposits from 15%.

Contact your Silversea sales manager or read more on **page four**.

WA cruise loses one of its brightest stars

THE industry is mourning long-serving Tourism Western Australia (TWA) cruise tourism project manager Christine Cole, who passed away last week.

Her loss was announced to the sector by TWA MD Anneke Brown, who said the organisation was "deeply saddened" by her passing, saying her contribution to the cruise and tourism industry "cannot be overstated".

Cole recently celebrated 25 years with TWA, having first joined the organisation back in Dec 2000.

"Christine was a kind, caring, passionate individual who was much loved by those who knew her and those who were privileged to work with her.

"She held many roles at Tourism WA and in recent years became our 'Queen of Cruise'.

"Her passing will be greatly felt by her colleagues at Tourism



WA, the West Australian tourism industry and the global cruise industry," Brown said.

Cole had been open about her battle with breast cancer, which she was first diagnosed with five years ago.

She was a regular fixture at the Australian Cruise Association's annual conferences, with the organisation's chief executive officer Jill Abel lauding her impact on the sector.

"Christine was not only a respected industry leader, but

also a valued friend to many of us," she said.

"Her warmth, energy, and unwavering commitment to the industry will be deeply missed.

"Her contribution extended well beyond her home state, playing an integral role in advancing cruise tourism nationally and supporting so many across our industry and the globe." MS

Cole is **pictured** second from the right with her TWA colleagues Renata Lowe, Jackie Crooks, and Anneke Brown.

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Riverside to launch *Mahler* in Europe

RIVERSIDE Luxury Cruises has announced the return of *Riverside Mahler*, which will rejoin its fleet in 2028, becoming its fourth vessel.

The cruise line acquired the ship upon its launch in 2023, one of five former Crystal Cruises vessels (**CW** 11 Jan 2023).

Riverside subsequently chartered the ship out to Uniworld Boutique River Cruises, which has operated her as *Elisabeth* for the past three-and-a-half years (**CW** 12 Oct 2023).

Mahler will sail for Riverside for the first time when she returns to the fleet, joining sister ship *Riverside Debussy* on the Rhine, Main, Moselle, and Danube rivers, introducing new routes and specialty themed sailings.

The line also operates *Riverside Mozart* and *Riverside Ravel*, which specialise in the Danube and Southern France respectively.



“Introducing *Mahler* gives us the opportunity to take everything we’ve built so far and apply it to the Rhine in new, creative ways - more access, more flexibility, and a fresh take on a river everyone thinks they already know,” chief executive Jennifer Halboth said.

“As demand for true luxury river cruising continues to grow, this expansion allows us to build on

our commitment to delivering an exceptional, highly personalised experience while honouring the legacy of these remarkable ships,” she added.

Riverside is aiming to offer a new level of luxury travel not yet seen by Australian guests, according to recently appointed country manager Stewart Williams (**CW** 07 Apr).

Aussies on *Hondius*

FOUR Australians are among the 88 guests who remain aboard Oceanwide Expeditions’ *Hondius*, which is currently positioned off the coast of Cape Verde following the deaths of three passengers (**CW** yesterday).

A press update from Oceanwide said *Hondius* is still dealing with a “serious” medical situation on board, with two crew members currently suffering from acute respiratory symptoms and requiring urgent medical care.

No-one else aboard *Hondius* is currently suffering any ill symptoms, Oceanwide said, clarifying that hantavirus has not been confirmed in the two ill crew members, nor any of the three dead guests.

The only confirmed case is in a guest who is currently being treated in Johannesburg.

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ONE of China's hybrid SUVs can now double as a boat, thanks to built-in propellers in the Chery Jetour G700.

The company claims the car's amphibious feature, which is only found on the 'Ark Edition', is there purely for emergency situations like flash floods.

Chery has showcased the car's floating abilities several times in the past month, claiming the vehicle is able to stay level in the water using an advanced gyroscopic system.

The company recently showcased its cars' ability by crossing the Minjiang River in just 10 minutes.

It did it all without taking on any water - pretty important, given how electricity and water usually react.



NCLH cuts profit forecast

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has cut its profit forecast, following weak demand and rising fuel costs.

The company's management slashed its full-year adjusted EPS guidance overnight from \$2.38 down to a range of \$1.45-\$1.79, citing weak demand, as well as missteps in its Caribbean strategy.

NCLH posted a lower-than-expected first quarter revenue result of US\$2.33 billion (approximately A\$3.25 billion) versus a prior estimate of US\$2.36 billion (approximately A\$3.29 billion).

The Iran war has forced consumers to re-evaluate travel plans, particularly to Europe, the company said, adding that its current booking range is now below optimal.

This problem is particularly acute following its slower-than-expected roll-out of upgrades at Great Stirrup Cay, NCLH's private island, which in Feb initially caused the firm to flag a likely difficult quarter (*CW* 05 Feb).

About half of NCLH's fuel consumption for the year was hedged, with the company

now expecting to pay US\$782 (approximately A\$1,091) per metric ton of fuel up from the prior US\$670 (approx A\$935).

NCLH said that, as part of an effort to turn around its poor recent financial run, it is beginning to cut costs.

The company is making some shoreside personnel adjustments, a spokesperson told Reuters, as the company came under pressure from investor group Elliott earlier in Q1 (*CW* 30 Mar).

NCLH recorded restructuring expenses of US\$12.2m (approx A\$17m), with executives telling the media on an earnings call that these associated costs would reduce by 15% for the year.

"We have already begun taking decisive actions to strengthen execution and accountability across the company, which will enhance results over the longer term," the company's new chair & chief executive officer John Chidsey said.

"These are long-term structural actions that we believe will help offset near-term pressures and position the business for stronger performance over time." *MS*

Azamara Approach

AZAMARA Cruises has partnered with demand generation platform Approach Guides to introduce new marketing tools for travel advisors with exclusive incentives and rewards.

Running until 31 May, the initiative offers pre-designed 'content experiences' - ready-to-use marketing materials featuring Azamara itineraries, destinations, and promotions that can be instantly co-branded and shared by advisors with their clients.

"This partnership with Approach Guides is designed to give advisors intuitive, high-impact tools that make it easier than ever to connect with clients and drive bookings," said Dondra Ritzenthaler, chief executive officer of Azamara Cruises.

Agents who book an Azamara cruise and register with Approach Guides to share co-branded content can also enjoy a series of incentives, including a branded gift.

Click [HERE](#) to find out more about Approach Guides.



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