CRUISE WEEKLY
delivered daily!
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Friday 15th May 2026

Cruise Weekly today

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

Atlas unveils 2028

ATLAS Ocean Voyages has announced its 2028 Arctic season, highlighting 13 new journeys across Svalbard, Greenland, Iceland, and Eastern Canada.

The all-inclusive sailings range from seven to 17 nights aboard the line's 198-guest vessels *World Navigator* and *World Voyager*.

Guests will explore dramatic landscapes and remote wildlife habitats, joining Zodiac safaris and guided landings led by expert expedition teams.

Those who book with Cruise Traveller by 30 Jun will enjoy a bonus air credit of US$1,500 per twin suite - click **HERE** to learn more.

Talactac succeeds Hagen as Viking CEO

VIKING has announced a new CEO, with CFO Leah Talactac (**pictured**) set to take over from the cruise line's founder and current head Torstein Hagen (***CW*** breaking news).

Talactac joined Viking in 2006, and led the cruise line's initial public offering in 2024 (***CW*** 03 May 2024), which was the largest on the New York Stock Exchange that year.

She was then appointed president of Viking, alongside her CFO role, following the success of the IPO (***CW*** 30 Jan 2025).

Hagen will now serve as executive chairman, remaining atop Viking's board of directors, while Linh Banh, executive vice president of finance, has been appointed as Talactac's replacement as CFO.

"This leadership transition reflects the strength and depth of Viking's management team and

the succession planning we have built," Hagen said.

"Leah's appointment as CEO is a natural next step, and the board and I have full confidence in her ability to lead Viking with the same continuity, discipline, and vision that have guided us since Viking was founded.

"On behalf of the entire Viking family, we congratulate Leah, and I look forward to partnering closely with her and the board as she guides Viking forward in this next chapter."

The news came alongside Viking reporting its first quarter results, with the cruise line bringing in revenue of US$1.05 billion (A$1.45 billion) - an increase of 17.5% compared to the same period last year.

Gross margin increased 21.2% and adjusted gross margin increased 16.9% year-on-year.

Net yield was $596, an increase of 9.5% compared to the same period last year, while adjusted EBITDA was $104.8 million, an increase of 43.9% YOY.

The cruise line said it has sold 92% of its capacity passenger days for this season, and 38% for next year.

Hagen described 2026 as "off to a strong start", with the cruise line "very pleased" with its results thus far. *MS*

LIMITED TIME FARES FOR 2026

VIKING

We've launched limited-time fares on 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.

RIVER **SET SAIL** 28 OCT 2026

GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR

Budapest to Amsterdam

15 DAYS • 4 COUNTRIES • 12 GUIDED TOURS

From **$5,695pp** in Standard Stateroom

SAVE UP TO $22,600 PER COUPLE

RIVER **SET SAIL** 12 NOV 2026

PASSAGE TO EASTERN EUROPE

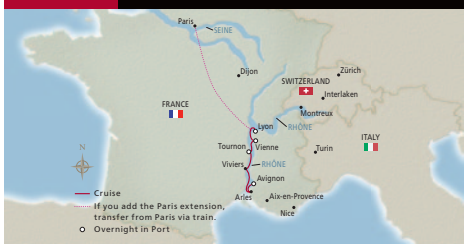
Budapest to Bucharest

11 DAYS • 5 COUNTRIES • 8 GUIDED TOURS

From **$3,595pp** in Standard Stateroom

SAVE UP TO **$12,200** PER COUPLE

RIVER **SET SAIL** 8 NOV 2026



LYON & PROVENCE

Lyon to Avignon

8 DAYS • 1 COUNTRY • 7 GUIDED TOURS

From **$2,395pp** in Standard Stateroom

SAVE UP TO **$11,600** PER COUPLE

NO KIDS | NO CASINOS | NO NCFS

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Travel Daily

SPECIAL REPORT *OUT NOW*

Future Forward: Introducing the 2026 traveller

» CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT

Evrima Ritzed up

THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection and luxury tableware company Ginori 1735 have unveiled the first-ever Ginori Terrace concept at sea aboard *Evrima* (**pictured**).

Ginori will bring its Il Viaggio di Nettuno collection to the seas for the first time, with Ritz-Carlton introducing the takeover across three of *Evrima's* spaces.

Custom-designed outdoor textiles and decor will be introduced, alongside a beverage program.

The Pool House on deck 5, *Evrima's* all-day dining venue, has been styled in Ginori's Azzurro colourway of sky blue stripes and teal hues.

The Mediterranean culinary destination Mistrael on deck 8 has also been transformed with orange, coral, and blush-toned upholstery and decor, while *Evrima's* onboard Marina has been adorned with brightly coloured furnishings and vivid textiles.

The collaboration will also include a limited-time Ginori-inspired craft cocktail menu.

Cruise shines at ATE '26

AUSTRALIA'S cruise offerings were showcased to the world this week during Adelaide's Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE).

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and the Australian Cruise Association (ACA) were both at the event as part of their partnership with ATE host Tourism Australia.

The two peak bodies connected with international buyers, tourism operators, regional and state tourism organisations, and government representatives throughout the week.

"ATE provides a valuable platform to ensure cruise remains visible within broader tourism and visitor economy discussions," said CLIA Executive Director in Australasia Joel Katz.

"CLIA's participation helps strengthen relationships across the tourism sector and reinforces the value cruise delivers to destinations, regional economies, and international visitation."

Held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from Sun 10 May until yesterday, the event attracted more than 2,900 attendees from 32 countries, including 730 buyers and travel advisors.

CLIA and the ACA were among 1,400 Australian industry representatives from 674 tourism organisations who collectively participated in more than 55,000 scheduled meetings this week.

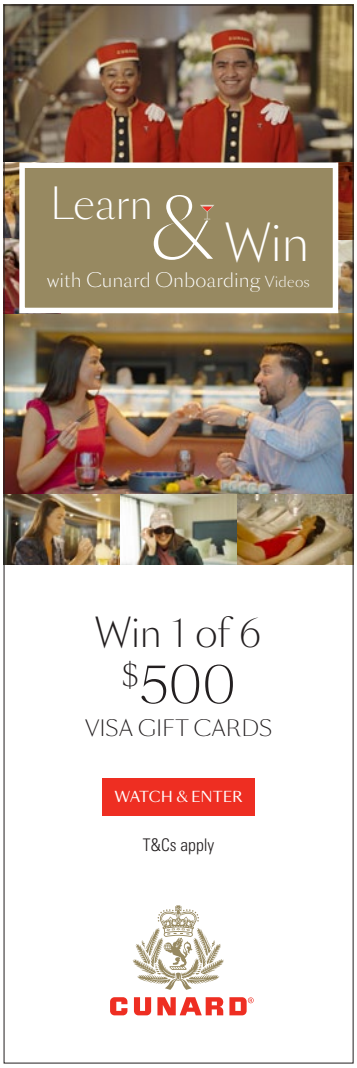
It was announced yesterday that ATE will return to Sydney next year, hosted in partnership with Destination NSW. *JM*

Pictured: Katz with ACA chief executive officer Jill Abel.

Barbecue on MSC

MSC Cruises has introduced 'The Chicken Man' aboard *MSC Seashore,* a new grab-and-go food option offering chicken and barbecue options.

The new concept was added during a recent dry dock.



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PORTHOLE

ARCHAEOLOGISTS are currently working to restore a colonial-era boat found during the construction of the Barangaroo metro in Sydney.

The boat is believed to be the oldest colonial-era vessel ever found in Australia, and is expected to be on display at the National Maritime Museum by next year.

She is estimated to have been used by British settlers between 1790 and 1830 for trade across Sydney Harbour.

The boat is believed to have travelled south to Shoalhaven and north to Newcastle, with her timber traced back to eucalypt species found around the Hawkesbury River.

Archaeologists took two months to painstakingly excavate the boat piece-by-piece, all of which had to be kept moist for over a year while a facility was built to preserve the vessel.

HX's new cabin to party like it's 1896

HX HAS opened its 1896 Cabin (**pictured**) which is now available to be booked by guests on board *Fridtjof Nansen*.

The experience is inspired by the original 19th-century cabins found on board HX's first ships from its original voyages 130 years ago.

Guests can book the stateroom on voyages throughout the year as an optional upgrade for €100 per night per person, however bookings are limited to one night.

Aiming to blend authenticity with practicality, the 1896 Cabin includes a selection of design elements, including more than 20 distinct furniture pieces, such as a bunk bed sleeping two, and a single bed.

The 1896 Cabin also features wooden chests, chairs, stools, wardrobes, an old-fashioned desk, and a hidden bar in a barrel.

Handcrafted wooden interiors include wall planks, ceiling beams, and flooring designed to evoke late-19th-century expedition ships, including an old-fashioned toilet seat.

Decoration is completed with vintage maritime decor, including horns, framed artwork, and expedition-era objects.

"This cabin was always meant to honour our origins, and what our teams and partners have delivered is extraordinary" chief executive Gebhard Rainer said.

"The 1896 Cabin has surpassed everything we first envisioned.

"We hope it gives guests a real sense of what life at sea was like 130 years ago."

Half of all profits from the 1896 Cabin will be donated to the HX Foundation, supporting the cruise line's fleet-wide 130th anniversary fundraising goal of €130,000 for conservation, science, and heritage initiatives.

Guests sailing aboard *Fridtjof Nansen* can reserve their stay in the 1896 Cabin at the time of booking, while on board via reception, or on the HX app.

All guests onboard *Fridtjof Nansen* will also have the opportunity to visit the stateroom during the day, with scheduled access alongside onboard talks.

MEANWHILE, HX is currently promoting its 130th anniversary offer, which includes a number of deals on Antarctica this year.

Passengers can get up to 25% off or a free suite upgrade on a number of cruises.

Itineraries to other destinations are also on sale with up to 35% off, including the Galapagos, Greenland, as well as Alaska. *MS*

A NEW ERA OF LUXURY

Goldman Travel Group's **Anthony Goldman** on catering to the luxury traveller.

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Travel Daily

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Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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