



# CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Tuesday 19th May 2026

## MSC sails Europe

*MSC Euribia* has kicked off her Northern European season, which will see her sail from Kiel and Copenhagen with stops in UNESCO-listed fjords, coastal villages, Nordic towns, and more.

The ship will be one of four MSC Cruises vessels sailing the region in summer, alongside *MSC Magnifica*, *MSC Preziosa*, and *MSC Virtuoso*.

## TTC adds two sales managers



**THE** Travel Corporation (TTC) has announced two new sales manager appointments, Abbe Lunn and Declan Barrie.

Representing TTC's tour brands, as well as the company's new Trafalgar River Cruises product, Lunn (pictured left) comes to the team after more than 10 years with Intrepid Travel.

Lunn's territory will cover all of New South Wales.

Joining her on the new-look sales team will be Declan Barrie, (pictured right) who comes from the TTC Contact Centre.

Barrie also worked with STA Travel, and will join the team in Qld, looking after the Gold Coast, Townsville, and Cairns.

Field sales directors Jo Leckie and Melinda Wouda said the appointments are a reflection of the strength of the company's people-first culture.

"We're proud to both attract some of the industry's most respected talent externally, while also developing and promoting exceptional talent from within our own business.

"Abbe's outstanding reputation and longstanding relationships across the trade make her a fantastic addition to the team, while Declan's passion for travel, deep TTC knowledge and genuine connection with agents make him an incredibly exciting internal success story.

"It speaks to the calibre, passion and dedication of the team we are continuing to build across Australia," they added.

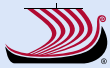
The pair will be charged with helping promote the new Trafalgar River Cruises, which launched last month (CW 17 Apr).

Trafalgar River Cruises adapts the brand's coach touring product into a floating hotel-style concept across Europe's major rivers, operating as a contemporary and more cost-effective alternative to its luxury sister brand Uniworld Boutique River Cruises. *MS*

## Save with Silversea

**SAVE** up to \$11,000 per suite, and get a free two category suite upgrade with Silversea, in a deal that expires on 02 Jun.

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 - **page 5**.

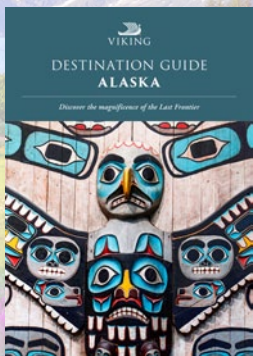


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## Lindblad leaders lunch with LTC

**THE** Luxury Travel Collection's (LTC) Leaders Who Lunch concept joined with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions on Fri when the cruise line's chief executive officer Natalya Leahy visited Australia last week.

Hosted at OTTO Ristorante in Brisbane in partnership with Adventure World, the lunch brought together a curated group of top luxury advisors, with Leahy using the opportunity to reinforce Australia as one of the cruise line's key strategic growth markets (CW 13 May).

One of the highlights of the afternoon was hearing from expedition leader Karla Pound, whose stories and firsthand experiences brought the spirit of expedition travel off the ship and into the room.

"Leaders Who Lunch gives our members something they cannot find anywhere else - direct,



unfiltered access to the leaders shaping the future of luxury travel," LTC general manager Nikki Glading said.

"To have Natalya not only share Lindblad's intent for this market, but actively seek the insights of the advisors in the room, speaks to the power of the relationships we build through this platform - that kind of access is what LTC

membership is built on." **MS Pictured** are Adventure World managing director Neil Rodgers, Glading, Travel Associates head of operations Rindala Jensen, Leahy, LTC global product director Shannon Fogarty, Lindblad senior vice president & chief sales officer Kathi Riddle, and Lindblad vice president strategic national and int'l sales Christine Stevens.

### Hondius docks

**OCEANWIDE** Expeditions has announced that hantavirus-hit ship *Hondius* has safely arrived and docked in Rotterdam with 25 crew on board and two medical staff (CW 13 May).

No individuals on board have symptoms of hantavirus, the line confirmed, and she will disembark her passengers in a staggered approach as she is thoroughly cleaned.

Meanwhile, all Arctic voyages aboard *Hondius* from 13 Jun onwards are scheduled to go ahead as planned.

However, sailings 'HDS02-26' (29 May - 05 Jun) and 'HDS03-26' (05-13 Jun) have been cancelled to allow for an in-depth cleaning of the ship.

All affected guests and partners have been informed directly, including rebooking options and additional details, Oceanwide said.

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*Paul Gauguin* CRUISES

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## Pursuit provides a big PNG donation

THE crew of Seabourn Cruise Line's *Seabourn Pursuit* has delivered cyclone relief to communities in Papua New Guinea during its recent expedition voyage in the country.

*Pursuit's* stop at Alotau last week coordinated the donation of essential relief supplies to support communities impacted by Cyclone Maila, which devastated parts of the region last month.

The handover took place at the Alotau Provincial Wharf in Milne Bay, where local officials received four tonnes of supplies.

Donations included fresh produce, non-perishable food items, and additional essential goods such as sheets, towels, and other hotel supplies sourced directly from *Pursuit*.

"Expedition travel gives us the opportunity to connect with some of the world's most remote



communities, and when we learned about the impact Cyclone Maila had on the region, the team immediately wanted to find a way to help," *Pursuit* expedition leader Dominic Del Rosario said.

"What began as a simple conversation quickly became a team effort, with the ship's

crew and staff coming together to contribute supplies that we hoped could make even a small difference for families recovering from the storm. It was an incredibly meaningful moment for all of us on board."

*Pursuit* is set to depart from Darwin to Broome today. MS

## Hapag hits Japan

HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises' Japan season is now underway aboard *Hanseatic Inspiration*, as the destination emerges as one of the line's most popular.

Guests will explore all four of Japan's main islands: Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku on select expedition routes, with access to smaller ports and more remote regions made possible by *Inspiration's* small ships and Zodiacs.

Highlights of the season range from volcanic landscapes and traditional harbour towns to cultural landmarks and guided hikes.

There will also be an itinerary from Japan to Alaska.

Strong demand has already prompted Hapag-Lloyd to expand its Japan season over the coming two years aboard *Hanseatic Spirit*, *Europa*, and *Europa II*.



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## Stay Updated

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**WATCH** out cruise lines - sunlounger hogs could soon be sued if a ruling in one court sets a precedent.

A German tourist recently sued his tour company because he was unable to enjoy a deck chair during his vacation at a resort in Greece.

The property, like most cruise lines, has a policy banning the reservation of seats.

However, this rule was allegedly not enforced, with the guest suing, claiming this experience impacted his trip.

However, it seems that this is a regular occurrence for many lines, as *Cruise Hive* noted enforcement is often erratic and inconsistent.

The topic is a particular bugbear for Carnival Cruise Line brand ambassador John Heald, who frequently posts about the company's strict 40 minute time limit on reserving a sunlounger.

## Scenic sees double in Seville

**SCENIC** Luxury Cruises & Tours' two Discovery Yachts, *Scenic Eclipse* and *Scenic Eclipse II*, recently met in Seville.

The pair of vessels are two of just a handful of oceangoing ships also capable of navigating the Guadalquivir River into the heart of Seville.

Guests on board both ships marked the occasion with a special celebration featuring speeches from the Captains, and a ceremonial exchange of gifts with Seville port representatives and local dignitaries.

The welcome was further enriched by a traditional flamenco horse presentation.

Guests in the evening attended an exclusive Scenic Enrich event at Casa de Pilatos, one of Seville's most celebrated landmarks, with a night of local gastronomy and the arts, including a flamenco group and a live opera performance with a pianist.

Fleet captain Erwan Le Rouzic said the meeting was a proud and



symbolic moment for the line.

"Seeing *Scenic Eclipse* and *Scenic Eclipse II* together in Seville is a wonderful celebration of our journey and it is especially meaningful to share it in a destination as beautiful and historic as Seville," he said.

"We are sincerely grateful to the Port of Seville for their outstanding partnership, support and generosity in hosting this occasion, and for helping us create a moment that will stay with our guests for years to come," Le Rouzic added.

A third Discovery Yacht, *Scenic Ikon*, is set to join the fleet in the Med in 2028 (*CW* 08 May). *MS*

## The NCF effect

**A STUDY** by the American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA) has found NCF structures can disproportionately impact lower-priced bookings, reduce override revenue across the agency channel, and influence supplier preference, as more cruise lines adopt fully commissionable fare models.

The study found this can result in significantly reduced commission rates earned by advisors on cruise bookings.

*The History, Economic Impact and Future of NCFs in the Travel Industry* offers detailed insight into how NCFs work, why suppliers use them, and how they affect advisors.

"Non-commissionable fares have a real and measurable impact on the economics of the travel advisor channel," president Zane Kerby said.

"These findings make clear that when advisors are asked to sell and service the full value of a booking, their compensation should reflect that full value."

Norwegian most recently got rid of NCFs in Jan (*CW* 08 Jan).



## LUXURY CRUISING REDEFINED

Luxury Travel Collection GM **Nikki Glading** reveals the hottest luxury trends.

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