



### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **HX Expeditions**.

### HX offers air credit

**HX IS** celebrating its 130th anniversary with a premium air credit offer on its Antarctica expedition packages.

Book a new Antarctica expedition between 11 May and 30 Jun and receive premium air credit toward international flights of \$1,500 per person for premium economy and \$3,000 per person for business class.

Those who wish to learn more about the offer can visit [agentportal.travelhx.com](http://agentportal.travelhx.com) for a campaign toolkit and frequently asked questions.

The offer ends at the end of next month - visit **page four** for more information.

## Barcelona set to double cruise tax

**BARCELONA** is bringing in a new cruise tax which will see the per-passenger levy doubled to €8 (approximately A\$13).

The city's goal is to eliminate transit cruises altogether, and operate solely as a home port.

All cruise ship passengers who stay in the city for less than 12 hours will be hit with the charge, unless they are embarking or disembarking a ship.

The new measure will be carried out from next year.

"My goal is to reduce cruise ship stopovers in the city of Barcelona to zero in the coming years," mayor Jaume Collboni said, as reported by the United Kingdom's *Daily Express*.

Collboni said additional revenue will be reinvested in the management of high-traffic areas, as well as in improving the quality of life in the districts most affected by the constant flow of



cruise passengers.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) said in a statement to **CW** it is seeking further detail of the plan, following the mayor's comments.

"We support fact-based dialogue on sustainable tourism, grounded in credible local data and focused on balancing resident priorities, destination management, environmental progress, and the important economic and social value cruise brings to Barcelona and Catalonia," the statement read.

Ports of the State, which manages Spain's government-owned ports, reported a record

832 cruise calls to Barcelona last year, representing almost 4 million passengers, making it the busiest cruise port in Europe.

The move comes after Barcelona last year announced it is set to limit cruise ship traffic altogether by the end of the decade, amid overtourism pressures facing the destination (**CW** 21 Jul).

Barcelona is set to significantly reduce its cruise ship terminal capacity by 2030, with the building of a new facility set to consolidate three berths into one.

This will see the total number of calls available at the port fall from seven to five, which will lower the city's cruise capacity from 37,000 to 31,000.

Barcelona has also recently come under fire for doubling its overnight municipal surcharge, and increasing its coach tour tax from €20 to €80. *MS*



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## Costa's €60 fine

**COSTA** Cruises has warned guests they may be fined €60 (approximately A\$98) for consuming onboard food outside of the area it was served, including staterooms, pool areas, and lounges.

A letter was recently sent to guests which said the removal of food from a restaurant or dining area is a risk to health and hygiene, with the cruise line reserving the right to impose a €60 cleaning fee, as reported by *Crew Center*.

Costa added the measure is intended to help prevent food contamination, reduce the risk of parasites, and maintain high standards of cleanliness on board its ships.

## We are (Carnival's) family



**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line's Family Famil is returning this year, giving nine lucky travel advisors the opportunity to experience a sailing with the brand alongside their loved ones.

The unique famil invites agents to bring their partner, children, best friend, or chosen family member on board for an immersive Carnival experience designed to showcase the fun and connection that make its cruises popular with families.

Selected agents will sail on board *Carnival Encounter* on an eight-night South Pacific voyage departing Brisbane on 18 Jul.

The sailing will also feature Carnival's popular 'Grinchmas in Jul' experiences.

Advisors will have the option to choose between twin- or quad-

share accommodation, allowing them to tailor the experience to their own family dynamic.

Carnival's selection process will not just reward booking performance alone, but also focus on identifying advisors who genuinely embody the cruise line's spirit and passion for delivering fun vacations.

Applications for the Family Famil are now open to via the [GoCCL.com.au](http://GoCCL.com.au) trade website.

"Carnival's Family Famil is one of our most loved trade initiatives because it gives agents the opportunity to experience exactly what makes a Carnival holiday so special: quality time together, unforgettable moments, and fun for every generation," the cruise line's national sales manager Mark Richards said. *MS*

## Virus was brought on

**OCEANWIDE** Expeditions believes hantavirus was likely brought on board its ship *Hondius* before the embarkation of her disease-hit cruise (**CW** 19 May).

A statement from chief executive officer Remi Bouysset said there has thus far been no indication the infection was born on board.

"The indications strongly suggest that the virus was introduced prior to embarkation and did not originate from the vessel itself," he said.

"This is based on the medical and epidemiological information currently available, including guidance from WHO experts and relevant health authorities.

"Investigations remain ongoing regarding the exact location where the virus may have been contracted."

Bouysset added there is no evidence the source of infection was linked to the vessel's condition or the cruise line's onboard operations.

"We maintain strict pest-control and biosecurity procedures onboard our vessels, including regular inspections and monitoring," he said.

"These were performed during this voyage, which began on 01 Apr, with no evidence of rodents or pests being present throughout."

## Silversea Arctic '26

**SILVERSEA'S** 2026 Alaska season is now underway, with 30 voyages to operate across *Silver Whisper* and *Silver Moon* - two of the smallest ships to sail the region.

The itineraries feature 13 destinations, including Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, Skagway, Icy Strait Point, and Valdez, as well as smaller ports like Pine Island in British Columbia.

At the same time, Silversea has kicked off its Arctic season, which will see *Silver Endeavour* and *Silver Wind* offer 21 voyages across 55 destinations, including Svalbard, Disko Bay, and Ilulissat.

# Family-edition Famil

Back by popular demand



## It's back! The famil that is FUN for everyone!

We're giving 9 agents the chance to sail on a Carnival cruise with their favourite people. Don't miss this unique experience! Apply today and tell us why you deserve a spot!

**ENTER TODAY**

\*Entries close 12 June 2026.



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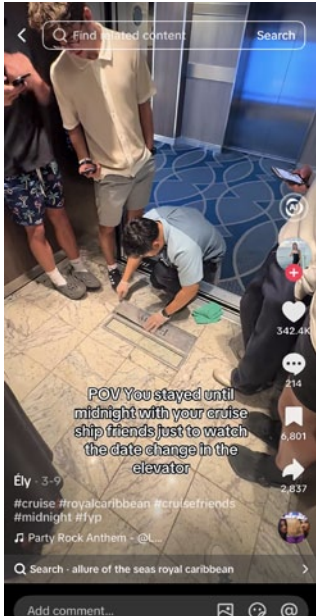


**A GROUP** of boys are going viral on TikTok for their love of one particularly niche cruise ship ritual.

The boys waited up until midnight on their cruise to watch the crew change the daily insert - the metal plate on the floor of the elevator that names the day of the week.

Although the ship is not identified, this tradition is most commonly associated with Royal Caribbean, where it has been a staple across most of their vessels for decades.

Daily inserts are also seen on some Holland America ships, and help cruisers keep track of what day it is while on vacation - and sometimes, when it is probably time to go to bed.



## A HAL of a time in Perth



**HOLLAND** America Line recently showcased its fleet evolution to its Western Australian trade partners, enjoying an evening by the ocean hosted by key account manager Erin King.

Attendees gathered for canapes and drinks at COAST Port Beach in Perth, where they learned more about Holland America Evolution, the largest fleet update in the cruise line's history (**CW** 16 Apr).

The program will deliver a US\$500 million (approximately A\$700 million) revitalisation across its four Vista-class and two Signature-class vessels.

"It was fantastic to spend time in WA connecting with our valued trade partners and to share our exciting news of our fleet upgrade," King said.

She added that trade partners expressed strong enthusiasm for the new solo verandah options, highlighting the growing demand from solo travellers seeking premium cruise experiences. **MS Pictured** are King with Jazmyn

Guppy and Danielle Meyer from Flight Centre Armadale, and Louise Whyte and Belinda Moore from Travel Associates Cottesloe.

### Viking sessions

**VIKING** has announced new Virtual Explorer Sessions featuring Alaska and Europe, with the sessions now open for registration.

Four dates will take place from Jun to Sep, designed to inspire clients, drive future bookings, and allow travel advisors to earn Viking Rewards points.

First is Alaska & The Inside Passage (25 Jun, **CLICK HERE**), alongside sessions focused on France (16 Jul, **CLICK HERE**), Scandinavia (20 Aug, **CLICK HERE**), and Eastern Europe (24 Sep, **CLICK HERE**).

The sessions will provide an immersive introduction to the Viking experience, through expert-led presentations, practical insights and live Q&A.



### End the cash grab

**LAST** week's Federal Budget dealt another blow to the Australian travel industry at a time when we are already fighting difficult forces here and abroad.

It is a blow that lands particularly hard on the cruise sector, and CLIA has been making our industry's frustration known in Canberra as we continue to fight the regulatory headwinds we navigate in this region.

The government's decision to increase the Passenger Movement Charge adds yet another multi-million-dollar burden to cruise travel.

It comes on top of countless other fee increases and charges that have made Australia one of the most expensive countries for cruise ships to operate in.

When you combine this with a difficult regulatory environment, Australia is becoming uncompetitive as a destination.

Without action, we will continue to lose cruise tourism to other destinations overseas.

All this is despite strong demand and record numbers of cruisers both in Australia and globally.

The opportunities in cruising are still huge, but we need a greater focus on maximising those opportunities here in Australia.

We cannot price ourselves out of the market - 20,000 Australian jobs depend on cruising.

The cash grab on tourism has got to end.



# PREMIUM AIR CREDIT OFFER

To celebrate 130 years of exploration, HX is taking your clients even further — with an exclusive Air Credit on Antarctica expedition packages. Make their journey to the seventh continent more seamless, more accessible, and more unforgettable.

Book a new Antarctica expedition between **11 May – 30 June 2026** and receive a Premium Air Credit toward international flights.



**PREMIUM ECONOMY  
AIR CREDIT**  
\$1,500PP\*



**BUSINESS CLASS  
AIR CREDIT**  
\$3,000PP\*

**ENDS 30 JUNE 2026**

To learn more about our offer, a campaign toolkit and for FAQs, visit [agentportal.travelhx.com](https://agentportal.travelhx.com)  
To book, contact our local GX team on (AU) 1300 159 127 or (NZ) 03 288 2085  
or email [apac@travelhx.com](mailto:apac@travelhx.com)