



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news, including a special feature page from **HX**.

The Magic returns

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Carnival Magic* is welcoming guests once again, following a 35-day dry dock.

Magic now features a host of refreshed venues and upgraded amenities throughout, including a redesigned Lido restaurant layout for better flow and an elevated dining experience; revitalised WaterWorks aqua park and pool decks, a new mini-golf course, and a renovated Cloud 9 Spa and fitness centre.

The ship now also boasts Carnival's new United States-inspired 'From Sea to Shining Sea' bow crest.

RSSC's refurbished *Voyager* hits the seas

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises' (RSSC) newly transformed *Seven Seas Voyager* has set sail for the first time, with refreshed suites and elegant new public spaces.

Voyager recently set sail from Marseille following her extensive multi-million-dollar refit, returning to service last week following a 25-day dry dock.

Highlights of the refurbishment include enhanced dining experiences, and the introduction of the Epicurean Enrichment Studio, a new venue first established aboard *Seven Seas Mariner* at the end of last year (**CW** 08 Dec).

The Epicurean Enrichment Studio will offer destination-inspired culinary programming and hands-on demonstrations, connecting guests more deeply to the destinations they visit through cuisine and culture.

Voyager's refurbishment aims



to introduce a consistently elegant look and feel across the entire fleet, as RSSC continues to upgrade its older ships.

This includes a refresh of all suites with updated furnishings, lighting, hardware, and more.

The ship's Signature, Grand, *Voyager* and *Seven Seas* suites (**pictured**) have been fully redesigned, and include a new bathtub and separate shower.

Guests can also enjoy revitalised public spaces such as the Pool Grill, which has been fully renovated to include

a new pizzeria concept serving handcrafted pizzas.

This was also first introduced aboard *Mariner* during her dry dock (**CW** 27 Jan), in an effort to establish more casual dining options across the fleet.

Additional enhancements include refreshes to the Atrium, Prime 7, and Chartreuse restaurants, as well as the library.

The Coffee Connection cafe has been relocated to a new midship location on deck 5, while new carpeting has been introduced throughout the ship. *MS*

Regent

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Viking welcomes its newest vessel

VIKING officially welcomed *Viking Mira* (**CW** 01 Aug 2025) to its fleet at Fincantieri's shipyard in Ancona, Italy yesterday.

Weighing around 49,260 tonnes, the new build features 499 staterooms and can cater for up to 998 passengers.

The cruise line's executive vice president & head of business development, Jeff Dash, alongside SVP operations of Fincantieri Giorgio Gomiero, and director of the Ancona Shipyard Gilberto Tobaldi, marked the ship's arrival at a special ceremony.

Mira will offer itineraries in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe, debuting on 05 Jun with the seven-night 'Iconic Mediterranean' voyage from Civitavecchia to Barcelona.

"We are delighted to welcome the *Viking Mira* to our elegant fleet of small sister ships," said new Viking president & chief



executive officer Leah Talactac.

"Our guests are curious travellers, and the arrival of a new ship allows us to offer them even more opportunities to explore the world in Viking comfort."

The expansion of Viking's ocean fleet is set to continue, with *Viking Libra* - the world's

first hydrogen-powered cruise ship capable of operating with zero emissions - currently under construction, also at the Ancona shipyard (**CW** 09 Apr 2025).

The vessel is slated for delivery in Nov, with another hydrogen-powered ocean ship - *Viking Astrea* - to follow next year. *JM*

Spotlight on Palau

CRUISE Weekly's sister title **Travel Daily**, along with Room-Res & the Palau Visitors Authority, are hosting an industry event on the future of responsible tourism.

The event will feature Laura Clarke, Palau Pledge co-founder and honorary consul general - Republic of Palau to Australia, as well as Onorina Fugawai from investment service Pacific Trade Invest.

Taking place on 11 Jun in Sydney, the event will cover what travel agents should know about Palau, how the destination is ready to welcome travellers while protecting its natural and cultural assets and what sustainable travel looks like in practice - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

Flights to Palau are available from Brisbane with Qantas.

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Content produced in collaboration with HX Expeditions

Inside the Ultimate Basecamp at Sea



ANTARCTICA is a true bucket-list destination, but for many travellers the key question remains: what does daily life actually look like once you arrive?

HX Expeditions answers this with its distinctive 'Basecamp at Sea' philosophy.

Rather than constantly moving between locations, HX Expeditions focuses on spending longer in the most rewarding areas, operating each voyage like a flexible expedition hub.

From this base, guests rotate through a range of experiences across land, sea and ship, ensuring maximum time exploring.

HX's hybrid ships are purpose-built for Antarctica and are designed to keep everyone active.

With IAATO limits of 100 guests ashore at a time, the rotational model allows guests to enjoy multiple daily activities, from

landings and Zodiac cruises to kayaking and hiking.

Science and education sit at the core of the experience, supported by onboard experts and one of the industry's most advanced Science Centres.

This adds strong appeal for experience-driven travellers seeking deeper engagement.

After each day's exploration, guests return to premium onboard comforts - relaxing Scandinavian design, various restaurants, wellness spa, gym, pools and more.

Enjoy premium air credits

FOR a limited time, HX Expeditions is offering your clients up to \$3,000 per person in air credits when booking premium economy or business class flights as part of their Antarctica expedition.

Valid on new bookings made between 11 May and 30 Jun 2026 for departures between Oct 2026 and Mar 2027, this offer enhances the journey from the very start - ensuring a more seamless, comfortable experience backed by HX's 130 years of polar expertise.

"Antarctica is a once-in-a-lifetime destination, and we want every part of the journey to live up to that experience," said Amber Wilson, director of sales Australia and NZ, HX Expeditions.

"This offer gives our partners a compelling way to enhance their clients' trip from the outset - combining the comfort of premium air with meaningful savings," she added.

For full terms and conditions, campaign toolkit, and FAQs, visit agentportal.travelhx.com.

Offer ends 30 Jun 2026.

130th anniversary incentive



TO CELEBRATE HX's 130th anniversary, travel advisors can earn a \$130 Prezzy e-voucher for every new, fully deposited HX booking made between 1 May

and 31 July 2026.

For more information, advisors can register bookings via the [HX incentive form](#) or visit the agentportal.travelhx.com.



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Book and deposit an Antarctica voyage for your clients and go in the draw to win a cabin for two on an HX Antarctica Famil in Q4 2026.



HX

EXPEDITIONS

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Conditions apply



PORTHOLE

CARNIVAL Cruise Line donated nearly 900 towels to the Queensland Children's Hospital Foundation last week.

The towels were to be handed out to volunteers during National Volunteer Week, which took place from 18-24 May.

However, always in the volunteering mood, the hospital immediately handed the towels out to a number of cyclists who had just finished a ride down from Bundaberg.

The cyclists were in the middle of their 800 kilometre bike ride when a heavy downpour struck, leaving them cold and drenched by the end of their ride.

Carnival guests raise funds for the hospital's foundation on every voyage through the Conga For Kids deck parties by purchasing a \$20 Conga For Kids t-shirt, with all proceeds helping sick children.



New Polar Latitudes CEO



POLAR Latitudes Expeditions has appointed Filip Werner Hermann (**pictured**) as chief executive officer, with the company's new head to commence in the role on 01 Aug.

Hermann joins Polar Latitudes from Danish international shipping company DFDS, where he most recently served as VP & head of passenger & freight business in Northern Europe.

Prior to joining DFDS, Hermann spent nearly six years with Boston Consulting Group, which was also once the employer of former Carnival Corporation president Marguerite Fitzgerald.

He succeeds Patrick Shaw, who passed away earlier this year (**CW** 19 Jan).

Hermann takes on the role during a time of significant growth, as the company adds extra departures and ventures into new destinations

Polar Latitudes recently entered the North Atlantic market

through its merger with Albatros Expeditions (**CW** 03 Apr 2025).

The cruise line will also expand into Patagonia and the coast of South America from next year.

"Speaking for all of us on the board of directors, I first want to thank the entire polar community for their support during our recent transition; secondly, I want to express my extreme joy at having Filip join us as our new CEO," founder John McKeon said.

"His credentials are impressive alone, but knowing him and his vision for our future assures me that he is the perfect person to guide us toward a future filled with ambition and success."

Hermann described joining the line as a "dream come true".

"The company has grown significantly over the last couple of years, but the ambitions don't stop here.

"I can't wait to continue the journey and meet everybody on the team." *MS*



Luxury lines double down

AUSTRALIA'S position in global cruise deployment continues to receive strong validation, with luxury and premium cruise lines including Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Holland America Line unveiling new itineraries highlighting Aussie programming.

These extended voyages are particularly valuable for the visitor economy, bringing thousands of high-yield international guests into Aussie ports and delivering longer stays, strong onshore spending and regional dispersal.

Regent's 28/29 voyages include a 150-night world cruise aboard *Seven Seas Mariner*, calling at Sydney, Brisbane, Airlie Beach, Townsville, Cairns, and Darwin.

Additional voyages bringing international guests down under from Singapore, Bal, and Tahiti further reinforce Australia's role in global deployment strategies.

Meanwhile, Holland America Line's 2028 Australia and NZ Voyage departing San Diego highlights the strength of the American source market and the growing focus on international visitation through cruise tourism.

Importantly, these itineraries extend well beyond cities to destinations including Broome, Exmouth, Albany, Kangaroo Island and Port Arthur.

Immersive regional touring is also on offer, such as overland experiences from Fremantle to Busselton Jetty, Cape Naturaliste and Lake Cave in the Margaret River region.

These announcements highlight the important role of cruise.