



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise news, including a photo page from Hapag-Lloyd Cruises.

Carnival breached

CARNIVAL Corporation has issued notification letters to customers alerting them of a data breach that occurred earlier in the year when an unauthorised actor gained access to a limited portion of the business' IT systems (CW 29 Apr).

The company said it is still investigating to determine what personal information was affected as part of the incident, as well as who it belongs to, but it is so far known to include names, addresses, emails, phone numbers, dates of birth, and government-issued identification numbers.

Viking announces 2028-29 world cruises

VIKING has announced its 2028-29 world cruise itineraries, which will visit six continents.

The flagship itinerary is a 142-day cruise on board *Viking Vesta*, departing Fort Lauderdale on 21 Dec 2028, and spanning more than 30 countries.

Featuring overnight stays in 16 destinations such as Sydney, Singapore, Zanzibar, Cape Town and more, the cruise concludes in London on 12 May 2029.

The longest option sails for 170 days, continuing from London after the main world cruise ends, and including 21 additional ports of call across Northern Europe, before concluding in Stockholm.

Those wishing to embark in LA can join a 153-day option, which also sails through to Stockholm, visiting 37 countries, or disembark in London (pictured), visiting 27 nations over 125 days.

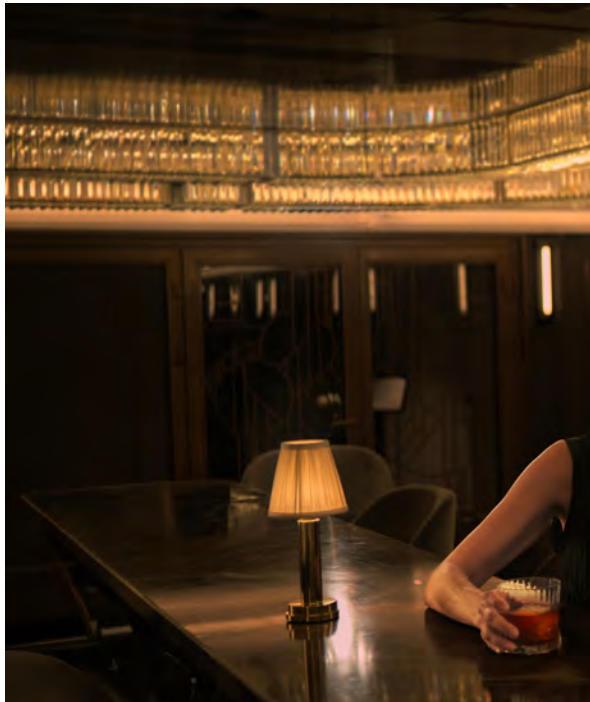
Viking also offers world cruise



guests the unique opportunity for optional multi-day overland excursions to explore the region further inland before rejoining the ship at a later port.

Overland excursions include the six-day 'Uluru & Great Barrier Reef Overland' excursion to admire Australia's natural

wonders; a six-day 'India's Golden Triangle Overland' excursion to experience the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and the 'Pink City' of Jaipur; or the five-day 'Kruger National Park Overland' excursion in search of Africa's 'big five': lions, leopards, elephants, rhinoceroses, and buffalos. MS



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EXPEDITIONS

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Unforgettable '27

UNFORGETTABLE Croatia has unveiled its small-ship cruising program for next year, which features 131 guaranteed departures between May-Oct.

Sailing mainly between Split and Dubrovnik, the operator will offer 12 cruise itineraries and nine cruise and land journeys across six ships.

Travellers will visit well-known ports such as Trogir and Hvar, as well as lesser-visited destinations like Korcula, Vis, and the national parks of Mljet and Krka.

The season will also introduce an optional complimentary Michelin Star add-on for the Signature Cruises.

Guests can enjoy premium dining experiences at Michelin Star and Bib Gourmand restaurants across Croatia, including Restaurant 360 in Dubrovnik, Pelegrini in Sibenik and LD Restaurant in Korcula.

"With a fleet of intimate vessels, guests can explore both Croatia's best-known destinations and lesser-visited islands and national parks in a more relaxed way," said Unforgettable Croatia co-founder Graham Carter.

The 2027 cruises are now available to book, with prices starting from \$3,850 per person, including luxury airport transfers and more.



NCL's Great Tides opening



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has revealed its highly anticipated Great Tides Waterpark (**pictured**) will open on 04 Sep, with day passes now on sale.

The water park, one of the centrepieces of the line's recently redeveloped Great Stirrup Cay private island (**CW 08 Jan**), will receive her first guests during a cruise aboard *Norwegian Luna*, a seven-day Caribbean sailing.

Guests can reserve private cabanas for up to six guests, which include admission into the water park and offer shaded comfort just steps from the park's signature Tidal Tower.

"Great Stirrup Cay continues to evolve as the premier private island destination in the Bahamas, and we're excited to officially open Great Tides Waterpark," president Marc Kazlauskas said.

"With the best activities for families and for every type of traveller - from high-energy slides to laid-back lagoon experiences

- guests can purchase their day passes ahead and lock in an unforgettable day on the most spectacular private island in the Caribbean beginning tomorrow."

The launch date announcement of the Great Tides Waterpark follows the slower-than-expected rollout of upgrades at Great Stirrup Cay, one of the many factors which saw NCLH cut its profit forecast earlier this month (**CW 05 May**).

Great Tides Waterpark spans 2.5 hectares, and will deliver a range of immersive attractions for all ages, such as water coasters and other attractions.

Additional highlights will include Cliffside Cove cliff jumps; The Great Slide four-person body slide; Fearless Falls racing slides; the hidden Grotto Bar; and the kids' Splash Cay.

The water park experience extends beyond the 19 exhilarating slides with three all-new food trucks serving a wide range of food options. *MS*

CLIA's NZ focus

REPRESENTATIVES from Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) visited Wellington this week to meet with New Zealand ministers in a forum convened by the country's tourism & hospitality minister Louise Upston.

They were joined by representatives from the New Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA), Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Group, and Heritage Expeditions, to discuss strategies for attracting more ships and fostering greater economic opportunities from cruise.

The talks included other ministers with portfolio interest in cruise operations in NZ, including minister for climate change, local government & Auckland Simon Watts; minister for customs & associate minister for immigration Casey Costello; minister for biosecurity Andrew Hoggard; and minister for the South Island and associate minister for transport James Meager.

"Cruise tourism is worth NZ\$1.23 billion a year to the New Zealand economy and supports more than 8,000 jobs around the country, but action is needed to create an environment in which cruising can thrive," said CLIA executive director Joel Katz.

"By working together across all areas of government and industry, we can focus on lifting New Zealand's competitiveness as a cruise destination and encourage more ships to visit."

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FIVE trade partners from Australia and New Zealand recently joined Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' Australian and New Zealand representation company, Luxury Travel Marketing, for an exclusive famil aboard the expedition vessel *Hanseatic Inspiration*.

Hosted by Hapag-Lloyd Cruises ANZ account managers Rachel Harrigan and Erin Kramer, the seven-night voyage sailed from Keelung in Taipei through the southern islands of Japan to Beppu, uncovering a lesser-known side of the country along the way.

From the crystal clear waters of Okinawa to the cedar forests of Yakushima, the itinerary showcased Japan well beyond the usual tourist trail.

Food was a highlight throughout, with the group exploring local specialities ashore and experiencing the five-star dining offering aboard the 230-guest boutique vessel.

The famil gave participating agents first-hand product knowledge to confidently sell Hapag-Lloyd Cruises to discerning clients.

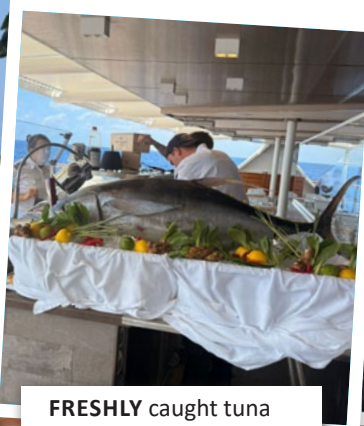
Other participants included Pamela Sanchez Zola, Zeppelin Travel; Nyssa Erskine, Wild Earth; Karine Tomlinson, Cruise Traveller; Remko Remnic, North South Voyages; and Mark Darbyshire, MTA.



A VISIT to a local restaurant in Okinoerabujima.



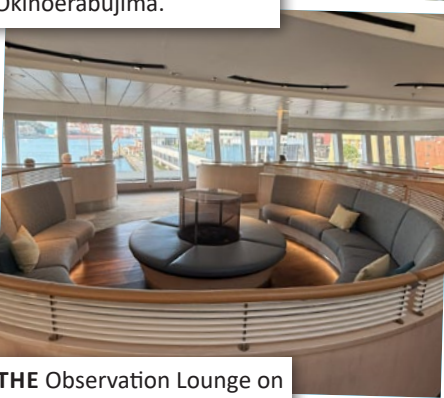
HANSEATIC Inspiration in Okinoerabujima.



FRESHLY caught tuna carved up and served as sashimi on the Lido deck.



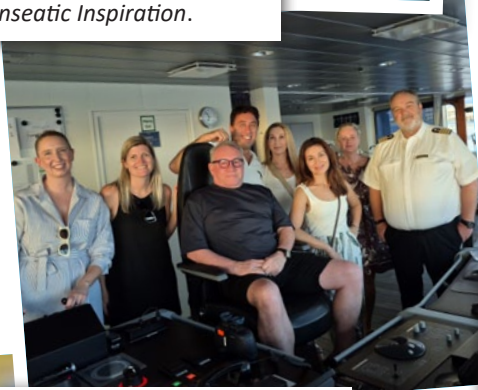
ENJOYING one of the ship's zodiacs.



THE Observation Lounge on *Hanseatic Inspiration*.



ON BOARD in the Observation Lounge: Mark Darbyshire, Rachel Harrigan, Remko Remnic, Karine Tomlinson, Nyssa Erskine, and Erin Kramer.



ON the bridge with the captain.



RELAXING in the main lounge area, the Hanseatrium.



YAKUSHIMA Cedar Forest Walk.



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A CRUISE ship steward has been moved to tears after a passenger surprised her with a US\$5,000 tip.

Bobby Rivas, known as Bluffin' Bob, is a casino/gambling content creator, and was on a recent Virgin Voyages cruise where he surprised her with the generous tip.

Bluffin' Bob said in the exchange that he won the money while on board at the ship's casino.

He asked the crew member what the largest tip she'd ever received was, which they said was US\$300.

Bluffin' Bob then handed the crew member the money - causing them to ask whether it was real or not - before they broke down in tears.

The exchange was shared online, where viewers praised Bluffin' Bob for his generosity.

CLICK HERE to view the video posted on Instagram.

Virgin leads with values

NEW data from Virgin Voyages' latest *Impact Report* shows the cruise line has an 82% guest satisfaction score and 95% average rating for crew service.

The cruise line believed this shows its 'values-driven experiences' - referring to the line's disruption of the sector - are the future of the industry.

Released yesterday, Virgin's *Impact Report* took a long-term view of the effect it has had since its launch in 2021, detailing how it has embedded change into the core of its business strategy.

The cruise line has spent the past five years positioning itself as a disruptor, focusing on adults-only cruises targeted at Gen X and older Millennials.

No buffets or main dining rooms are also hallmarks of the Virgin experience, as is tech-forward, app-first service.

Chief customer officer Michelle Bentubo cited this emphasis as key to the cruise line's high satisfaction scores.

"Five years on and we're really proud of our achievements. We've been shaped by the feedback from our sailors, first



mates and incredible crew, making us show up better for our people, communities and environment," she said.

"I'm even more optimistic for the future because the same principles that shaped our beginning; listening, learning, doing the right thing and creating joy for people we serve, will continue to guide our future."

Virgin has also committed itself to efficient operations, having installed shore power equipment on three of its four ships; reduced fuel consumption on some itineraries by as much as 10% through a silicone-based hull paint; and met 97% of its water demand through reverse osmosis technology onboard, using water directly from the ocean. *MS*

APT bakes donation

APT Travel Group has raised more than \$7,000 for Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea through its annual fundraiser, significantly surpassing its original goal of \$3,000.

The funds, up on last year's total of \$6,500, will go towards supporting Cancer Council's work funding critical research, prevention initiatives, and support services.

This year's bake-off saw 20 of APT's team members participate in a friendly competition, while a coffee cart and prize giveaways allowed employees to contribute to the initiative, with APT's charitable arm OneTomorrow doubling every dollar raised by staff.

"Our people have once again shown incredible generosity in getting behind this cause," said Craig James, coordinator of OneTomorrow.

"To not only exceed our goal but also build on last year's result is a fantastic achievement, and reflects how much this cause resonates with our team."



LUXURY CRUISING REDEFINED

AmaWaterways MD for ANZ **Steve Richards** on the new luxury cruisers.

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