



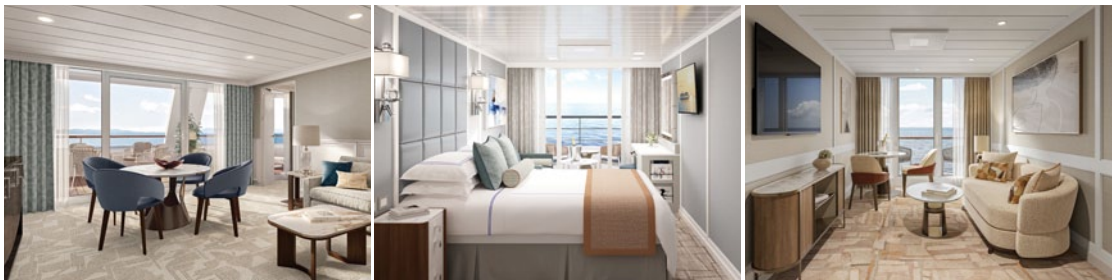
2028 & 2029  
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*the* **WORLD**  
aboard *Oceania Aurelia*™

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### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a cover page from **Oceania Cruises**.

### Oceania is worldly

**OCEANIA Cruises** is going around the world in 2028 and 2029 aboard its newly renovated ship *Oceania Aurelia* (**CW** 07 May).

The cruise line has launched two 180-day world cruises for 2028 and 2029 aboard *Aurelia*, the ship set to launch late next year as a reimagining of *Oceania Nautica*.

*Aurelia's* inaugural sailings, which will open for sale on 13 May, include the two World Cruises, as well as two Grand Voyages of more than 70 days.

The ship's 2028 Around the World voyage will depart from Miami to New York City, departing 18 Jan - read more on the **cover page**.

## Celestyal cancels Arabian Gulf season

**CELESTYAL Cruises** looks set to cancel its Arabian Gulf program, confirming it will call off its winter 2026/27 season.

The cruise line will instead extend its current Mediterranean program, with both *Celestyal Discovery* and *Celestyal Journey's* Arabian Gulf seasons cancelled for 2026-2027.

*Discovery's* 2027-2028 in the region is also cancelled, with further details for *Journey* for next year to be announced soon.

Additional sailings will be added to the end of Celestyal's current two-ship Eastern Mediterranean season, with *Discovery* to offer two additional 'Iconic Greek Islands' sailings in Nov, and four more in Mar.

The cruise line will also introduce a new Western Mediterranean program for winter 2026/27 and winter 2027/28 for *Discovery*, with further details to be shared soon.

New sailings will go on sale from 15 Jun.

Meanwhile, the cruise line's other ship *Celestyal Journey* will add four departures in Mar, comprising two 'Heavenly Greece, Italy and Croatia' sailings and two 'Idyllic Greece' itineraries.

"Following a review of our winter deployment, we have decided to focus on strengthening our authentically Mediterranean offering," chief commercial officer Lee Haslett said.

"As a brand rooted in the region, these updates allow us to add more choice across some of our most popular itineraries and introduce brand new Western Mediterranean sailings for the first time.

"We know our guests value Celestyal for our warm hospitality, destination immersion and premium casual approach to cruising, and this extended program will give them even

more opportunities to explore the region with us."

Celestyal was forced to end its most recent Arabian Gulf season early due to the Iran war (**CW** 05 Mar), with its two ships stuck in the United Arab Emirates following the Strait of Hormuz crisis (**CW** 20 Apr).

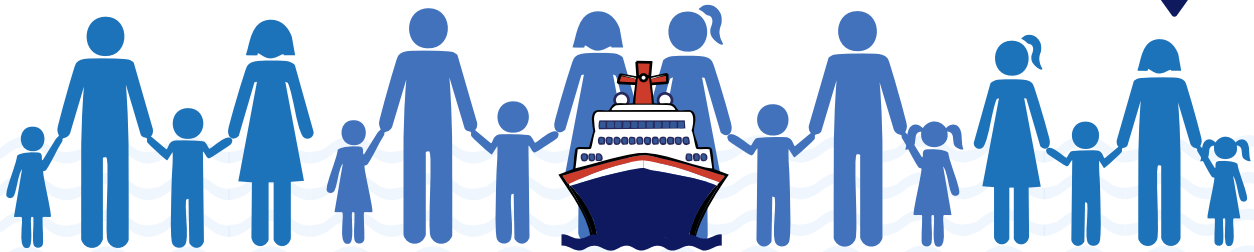
The line's Arabian Gulf strategy marked a major departure from its core Eastern Mediterranean market by offering destination-intensive, winter itineraries for the first time, in addition to its summer European cruises.

Celestyal had in 2024 signed a three-year memorandum of understanding with Visit Qatar, which signified a three-year commitment to the region, promoting the West Asian country as a key destination.

Celestyal hosted dozens of travel advisors on its Arabian cruises last year to promote the product (**CW** 12 Dec). *MS*



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\*Entries close 12 June 2026.

## Dine out on *Explora III*



**NEW** culinary and wine concepts have been announced for Explora Journeys' upcoming ship *Explora III* (pictured), which will officially launch on 03 Aug.

The new venue, The Cellar by Explora Journeys (**CW** 03 Feb) will sit at the heart of *Explora III's* culinary concepts, featuring a collection of nearly 350 labels.

Explora has announced The Cellar will include iconic labels such as Petrus, Chateau Le Pin, Harlan Estate, and Screaming Eagle, as well as wines from emerging regions like Lebanon, England, Hungary, Romania, Japan, and China.

The venue's culinary offering has been designed as an extension of the wine experience, and includes caviar, lobster, fine cheeses, hand-crafted chocolate truffles, and cured meats.

*Explora III* will introduce 'The Chef's Table by Explora Journeys' experience, which will see guests share their preferences with the culinary team, who will shape every aspect of the evening, including the menu, pairings, the atmosphere and more.

Meanwhile, positioned beside the Conservatory Pool will be Shore Club on 11 at The Conservatory, a venue offering made-to-order Mediterranean-inspired cuisine, such as salads, grilled favourites, savoury and

sweet crepes, gelato and more.

Shore Club's beverage program will feature crafted cocktails as well as alcohol-free creations.

*Explora III* will also see the cruise line evolve its signature culinary experiences which will be progressively rolled out across the fleet.

New food and beverage menus will be introduced across Explora's Italian fine dining experience Anthology and its Crema Cafe, as well as its in-suite dining program.

"This expansion of our culinary offering underscores our unwavering commitment to delivering truly world-class food and wine experiences at sea," senior VP food & beverage Alban Gjoka said.

"From the highly personalised menu at The Chef's Table to the depth and discovery offered through The Cellar, we have created concepts that go beyond expectation and set a new standard," he said.

"These are not simply dining venues, but immersive journeys in their own right - designed to offer something genuinely distinctive that sets us apart in the industry."

Bookings are open for *Explora III*, with her inaugural Mediterranean prelude journey scheduled for Jul. *MS*



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### Oceania Cruises® Reveals *Oceania Aurelia's™* Maiden Season of Voyages

**OCEANIA** Cruises® has announced the inaugural sailings for their newest ship, *Oceania Aurelia™*, debuting in late 2027, offering travel advisors an exceptional opportunity to secure early bookings for clients seeking immersive, long-duration luxury travel. Highlights include two 180-day Around the World voyages in 2028 and 2029, alongside two Grand Voyages exceeding 70 days - now open for reservations.

Purpose-built for extended journeys, *Oceania Aurelia* will carry fewer than 500 guests attended by 400 crew, delivering a highly personalised, residential-style experience.

Advisors can position these voyages to their guests who are seeking in-depth exploration, with itineraries featuring overnight stays in sought-after destinations such as Bora Bora, Tokyo, Singapore, Mumbai, Seville, and Bordeaux. Enriching shore excursion programmes add further appeal, with access to nearly 100 UNESCO World Heritage sites across each world cruise.

The 2028 Around the World voyage (Miami to New York, departing 18 January) includes the ship's christening in Miami, followed by a Panama Canal transit and comprehensive exploration of the Pacific,

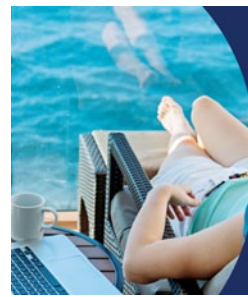
French Polynesia, Australia, Southeast Asia, Japan, India, and the Mediterranean.

The 2029 sailing (Los Angeles to New York, departing 6 January) traces the Pacific coastlines of the Americas, including Peru and Chile, before continuing to Easter Island, the South Pacific, Australia, Southeast Asia, India, and Europe.

Two Grand Voyages provide additional selling opportunities. The 78-day 'Grand Nordic & Baltic Discovery' explores Northern Europe, while the 71-day 'Grand South America Adventure' combines Caribbean islands, South America, Antarctica cruising, and optional Machu Picchu experiences. Oceania Aurelia's inaugural season begins November 2027 in Europe, including a Mediterranean debut sailing and Oceania Club Reunion Cruise - ideal for new-to-brand prospects and past guests.

Guests looking to book the 2028 or 2029 world cruises will receive complimentary Oceania Club Gold status, with returning guests elevated to Platinum or higher from embarkation - an added value benefit advisors can leverage. To help support, our team has created relevant marketing material. [Download HERE.](#)





**PACKING** for a cruise is, for some, almost as fun as boarding the ship itself; however, there is one fashion style you should avoid at sea - particularly in certain parts of the world.

Writing in *Reader's Digest*, Lauren Doyle, president of boutique travel agency The Travel Mechanic, said she never packs camouflage clothing with her when cruising - and not just because she is not a fan of the style.

Doyle said wearing camo is actually illegal in some parts of the world, particularly in destinations where cruising is popular, such as the Caribbean and the Philippines.

Certain countries, including Jamaica, Barbados, and the Bahamas, do not want their people confusing citizens for military or police personnel, and the ban is total, including swimwear, hats, and even bags.

## HAL year-round in Europe



**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) is expanding to year-round Europe cruising, becoming the latest brand to add winter voyages visiting the continent.

The cruise line will expand its presence in the region with an extended 2027-2028 season sailing through winter, visiting Scandinavian cities, Christmas markets, Lapland (pictured), and the Mediterranean.

*Nieuw Statendam* will remain in Europe year-round, with the new itineraries to add more than 70

additional port days year-over-year, giving guests more time in destinations along with extended stays and fewer crowds.

The deployment also includes two additional voyages aboard *Zuiderdam* during the winter.

"Europe continues to be one of the most sought-after destinations for our guests, and as a cruise line with Dutch roots, it's a region we know incredibly well," vice president of deployment & itinerary planning Paul Grigsby said. *MS*

## Princess expands

**PRINCESS** Cruises has deepened its strategic commitment to Singapore, expanding its deployment from two ships to three.

The cruise line will position three ships in Singapore: *Diamond Princess*, *Sapphire Princess*, and *Grand Princess*, with its number of local sailings set to double by 2030.

More than 150,000 passengers are expected to sail from Singapore over the course of the partnership.

The extension of Princess' program in the island country is born out of a three-year partnership between the line and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), which has been working recently with a number of brands in the sector to increase its share of the Asian cruise market.

Disney Cruise Line recently committed to sailing its new ship *Disney Adventure* from Singapore for at least five years from 2026, in partnership with STB through its Cruise Development Fund (CW 15 Nov 2024).



## RIVER CRUISE CHANGES COURSE

Viking's **Michelle Black** on exploring new destinations and rivers.

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