CRUISE WEEKLY
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Monday 16th Nov 2026

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of the latest cruise news, plus a full page from **Ponant Explorations**.

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Cruise from French Polynesia to Pitcairn Island, explore the enchanting Malay Archipelago or experience the best of Australia's Kimberley region.

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Expedition leaders weigh in



LUXURY expeditions need to be more than simply the offering of a luxury ship in a remote destination, expedition cruise sector leaders have said.

Speaking at Fri's Australian Expedition Summit in Sydney, several leaders from across the expedition sector argued that it risked diluting the meaning of expedition by applying the label to products that are essentially high-end cruises which visit isolated destinations.

"I've seen in the industry a lot of larger cruise operators talking about 'expeditions', and then you see the marketing material and it's focused on the ship and people having champagne on their balcony," Aqua director of sales Benjamin Garcia said.

"That's fantastic, that's luxury, but does it really make an expedition or not?

"The idea is that luxury can enhance an expedition, but luxury itself does not make a voyage an expedition," he added.

Aqua's founder & chief executive officer Francesco Galli Zugaro, in town for the Summit, believed the ship should be a means to an end, rather than the destination itself.

"Other products in the market [sell] the ship as a destination because of the dining, the shopping, and that works very well," he explained.

"In our case, the ship is a means to an end, which is getting the guests to specific parts of the world in complete comfort, but still allowing us to push the guests a little beyond that comfort level where they have these wild moments."

Ponant Explorations state manager Victoria/Tasmania Annabelle Brown made the point that the experiences off the ship are the most important reason people choose expedition.

"Expectations of guests post-COVID are much higher than they were prior," she explained.

"They do expect all of that comfort, but they expect an immersive experience, something that really takes them into the environment," Brown said.

"How they get there is one thing, but once they're there, to be able to engage with remote communities, that's what you're there for."

However, Brown noted that there is still room for luxury lines, such as Ponant, to genuinely operate expeditions, remarking that the sector has evolved from something people endured in considerable discomfort into an experience where the journey itself can be luxurious. *MS*

Pictured: Garcia with CLIA head of international training & development Peter Kollar, Brown, and Galli Zugaro.

Discoverer to debut

ANTARCTICA21 has christened *Magellan Discoverer*, the first hybrid-electric expedition ship purpose-built for Antarctic air-cruises, in Punta Arenas, Chile.

The 88-passenger vessel features battery-powered propulsion designed to enable near-silent, zero-emission navigation during wildlife encounters and landings.

All 40 cabins have private balconies, while onboard facilities include a 360-degree walking deck and sauna.

Discoverer is set to join sister vessel *Magellan Explorer* for the 2026-27 season, with its maiden Antarctic air-cruise scheduled for 15 Dec. *ZH*

VIKING

Flights on us

MUST END 30 NOV

Time is running out. Flights on Us ends 30 November 2026, so now is the time to turn enquiries into confirmed bookings. Clients who book a selected 2027 -2029 river, ocean or expedition voyage will enjoy included economy airfares valued at up to $2,800pp.

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Luminosa returns

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Carnival Luminosa* has returned from an 18-day dry dock, completing a series of onboard enhancements.

The most notable changes are a brand-new arcade and Galleria shops, and a new Effy Jewellery store.

Luminosa's casino area has also received an upgrade, with 99 new slot machines.

The ship will resume her three- to 14-day sailings from Singapore and Brisbane, before embarking on a 23-day transpacific voyage to San Francisco on 06 Apr 2027.

While positioned in the Bay Area, she will offer voyages to both Alaska and Baja.

She will return to Brisbane following the San Francisco season, offering three- to nine-day itineraries.

Luminosa will depart Australian waters for good on 15 Mar 2028 (***CW*** 16 Oct), set to be repositioned to Long Beach then Baltimore. *JB*

Celebrity savings

CELEBRITY Cruises has launched its early Black Friday sale, offering up to 75% off a second guest and savings of up to $1,300 per stateroom.

Featured itineraries include an 11-night Great Barrier Reef sailing from Sydney in Mar 2027, and a 12-night Japan voyage coinciding with the Nebuta Festival in Jul 2027.

Bookings must be made by 18 Nov for departures between 13 Nov 2026 and 10 May 2029. *ZH*

Miracle on the Mississippi



AMERICAN Cruise Lines said it is proud of its crew for its professional response, and grateful to New Orleans' first responders, following the allision between its ship *American Heritage* and the tanker *Atlantic Asphalt* on Fri local time (***CW*** breaking news Sat).

Heritage, which was docked at the time, was struck by *Atlantic Asphalt* following what US Coast Guard Captain Melanie Burnham described as a "loss of steering".

All passengers and crew members were safe and accounted for, although at least 30 passengers and two police officers were injured.

Authorities have confirmed a salvage operation is underway to remove the vessel from the river, and will reportedly take weeks to complete; it is too early to know if the ship can be repaired and returned to service.

American is currently helping its guests and crew members with their immediate needs, including arranging flights and hotel accommodation, and providing ongoing support.

"We would like to recognize Captain Leonard Stewart, whose immediate and decisive actions with the crew allowed for the rapid evacuation of the vessel," American said in a statement.

"Captain Stewart remained on the bridge as the vessel capsized, calling for aid and keeping the ship alongside the dock for as long as possible."

The allision took place at about 12:30pm local time on the Mississippi River near New Orleans' Thalia Street Terminal, causing the ship to take on water and roll onto her side.

Several videos showed passengers and crew members in the water wearing life jackets near the location of the incident, with others climbing onto balcony railings as the ship submerged.

Water temperature at the time of the incident was reported to be about 19°C.

American thanked the Coast Guard, the Port of New Orleans, and the police, fire, and EMS departments for their help. *MS*

Coral expansion

CORAL Expeditions has expanded its offering for the 2027/28 season with added itineraries across Australia and Asia-Pacific.

Headlining the expanded program is the 12-day 'Kimberley and Beyond' itinerary aboard *Coral Discoverer*, travelling to regions such as Ashmore Reef, Scott Reef and the Berkeley River, with added time to enjoy snorkelling, bird watching and guided walks.

For trips in the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Expeditions will introduce three annual 10-night expeditions, featuring the Osprey Reef, the Ribbon Reefs, Lizard Island, Nathan Reef and Mackay Reef.

At the start of 2028, there will be five 10-night expeditions in Indonesia aboard *Coral Geographer*, visiting regions such as Raja Ampat and West Papua.

Meanwhile, Coral's New Zealand voyages will run from Nov 2027 to Feb 2028, exploring the country's coastlines and fjords, as well as the Subantarctic Islands.

Oct and Nov 2027 will also see the cruise line's return to South Australia and South West WA, with a voyage along the Great Australian Bight and two 10-night 'Wild Islands of South Australia' departures.

These additions will complement Coral Expedition's wider program in Western Australia, which features the Abrolhos Islands and Coral Coast voyages.

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PORTHOLE

BELIEVE it or not, cutting in line is still considered rude aboard cruise ships.

Fox News spoke with an etiquette expert in light of a post on the *Royal Caribbean Blog*, condemning those who cut in at the buffet line, even if it is for something as small as a piece of toast or fruit.

"It's never acceptable to jump in front of someone in a buffet line, whether on a cruise ship, at a restaurant buffet or at a wedding," etiquette expert Diane Grossman told Fox News.

"Everyone is waiting their turn, so having someone jump in front of you comes across as rude," she added.

"It also disrupts the flow of the buffet line, and in some cases can even cause a buffet traffic jam."

Grossman also condemned those who save spots for someone in a line, saying this should only be for children.

The cruise passengers of Reddit also stepped in to provide their two cents on the situation, each offering different views.

"If there's a wide opening, it's fine - if you're squeezing in between people, then go wait in line like everyone else," one user wrote.

"If they have to wait for you after getting [past] the first item, then you've cut in line," wrote another.

Royal names a new *Legend*



ROYAL Caribbean has officially named its newest ship, *Legend of the Seas*, at a special Veterans Day naming ceremony in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Led by the ship's godmother, retired US Air Force General Lori Robinson, the 11 Nov ceremony honoured the service and sacrifice of American veterans.

"At its heart, *Legend* is about bringing people together and creating meaningful moments with those we love most," Robinson said.

"Holding this ceremony on Veterans Day makes the occasion even more special as we recognise the service members, veterans and military families whose commitment and sacrifice help protect those precious moments with loved ones."

Robinson also played a role in the maritime tradition of blessing the ship, its dedicated crew and those who will travel on her for years to come.

"The naming of *Legend of the Seas* marks an important milestone for Royal Caribbean Group as we continue to advance our mission of delivering the best vacations in the world," chairman and CEO, Royal Caribbean Group Jason Liberty said.

Royal Caribbean president & chief executive Michael Bayley also highlighted the significance of the event.

"Today is a celebration of the people who make *Legend of the Seas* and Royal Caribbean so special, from the dedicated crew members bringing unforgettable vacations to life every day to the veterans whose service and sacrifice we proudly recognise on Veterans Day," he said.

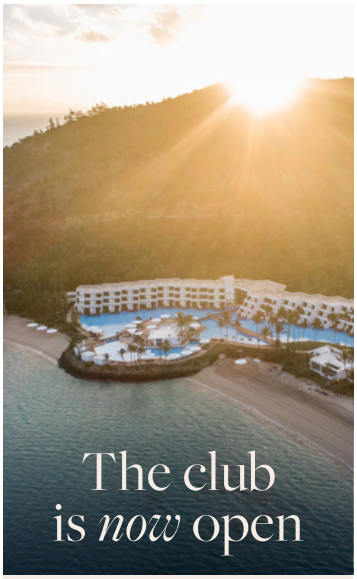
Across eight neighbourhoods, *Legend of the Seas* will feature 28 dining venues, seven pools and a range of family-friendly attractions, including the Crown's Edge skywalk and a zip line suspended almost 50 metres above the ocean.

Entertainment aboard the ship includes America's Got Talent LIVE and a special production of Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. *ZH*

Aranoa has arrived

ARANUI Cruises has welcomed its new passenger-freighter ship *Aranoa* to Tahiti.

Built by Huanghai Shipbuilding in Shandong, China, the new 116-metre vessel joins sister ship *Aranui 5* in delivering the cruise line's unique blend of passenger cruising and essential cargo supplies to remote French Polynesian communities. *MS*



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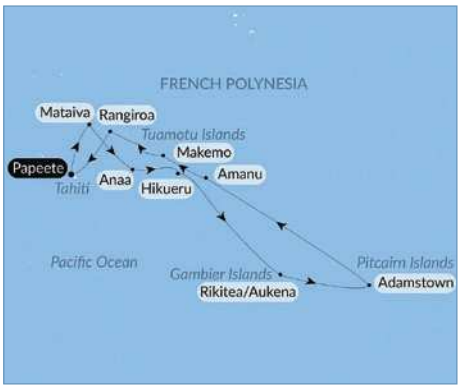
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