CRUISE WEEKLY
delivered daily!
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Thursday 19th Nov 2026

Cruise Weekly today

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

Viking weekly deal

VIKING'S itinerary of the week is the 'Ancient Adriatic Treasures' Venice to Istanbul cruise over 15 days.

The voyage visits five countries in the region, features 12 guided tours, and sails in Jul and Sep 2027, Mar-Apr 2028, Aug and Oct 2028, and from Feb-Jul 2029.

Highlights of the Adriatic and Aegean voyage include Split and Dubrovnik, ancient Olympia, UNESCO-listed Troy, and two days in the capitals of Greece and Turkey.

Cruisers can currently book with economy flights included up to $2,800pp - for more info, head to the **back page**.

Cruise impact drops 20% in two years

A NEW report has revealed the cost of Australia's cruise decline has reached $1.75 billion over the past two years, the second year in a row of significant economic losses for the sector.

The figures, released by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and the Australian Cruise Association (ACA), show that the sector's contribution to the Australian economy has fallen by more than 20% over the past two years, from $8.43 billion in 2023-24 to $6.68 billion in 2025-26.

While individual passengers are spending more (averaging $459 per person per day, or up 4.1%), regulatory uncertainties and rising costs are making the country uncompetitive as a destination, CLIA said.

It has resulted in fewer ship visits and as a result, fewer customers for local businesses.

The annual economic report shows that cruise remains a major contributor to the Australian economy, supporting more than 20,000 full-time jobs and generating $2.15 billion in wages in 2025-26.

However, the overall annual result is an 8.7% decline on the total economic contribution of cruise tourism in the previous fiscal year, which was itself down 13.2% from the year before.

CLIA executive director Joel Katz said Australians continue to cruise in record numbers, but this latest report underscores that Australia is becoming uncompetitive as a cruise base, as it loses ships to other countries.

"Demand for cruising is at record levels around the world and Australia remains a very attractive cruise destination, yet we are losing economic opportunities at an alarming rate," Katz said.

"We have been warning that regulatory uncertainties and rising costs are making Australia uncompetitive, and we can now see this in the devastating losses being felt by businesses."

ACA chief executive officer Jill Abel said cruise tourism delivered vital economic benefits to communities all over Australia, bringing opportunities to rural centres and remote communities as well as the major gateways.

"Cruise visits are crucial for a huge range of businesses like local tour operators, attractions, shops, hotels, restaurants, and travel agents," Abel said.

The decline could continue in the coming years, with Carnival Cruise Line having recently announced *Carnival Adventure* and *Carnival Luminosa* will depart Australia in Mar 2028, leaving the brand with just two ships Down Under (***CW*** 27 Oct). *MS*



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Longoria to name *Prestige* in LA

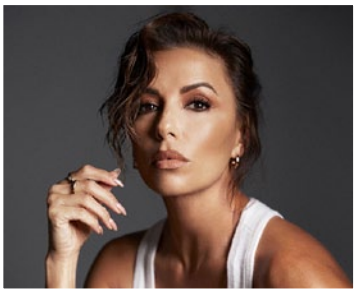
REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has named American actress Eva Longoria (**pictured**) as godmother of its upcoming ship *Seven Seas Prestige*.

Longoria will christen the first vessel of RSSC's new ship class in more than a decade during a ceremony in Los Angeles in Feb.

The former *Desperate Housewives* star will bestow blessings and good fortune upon *Prestige*, her crew, and the generations of guests who will sail aboard her.

Longoria's appointment as godmother follows a continued collaboration between the actress and the cruise line, tied to the upcoming second season of her travel and culinary series, *Searching for France*.

As part of the partnership, Longoria recently sailed aboard *Seven Seas Grandeur* to film part of an episode celebrating the art



of exploration, culinary discovery and immersive travel.

The content will air exclusively during the premier episodes of *Searching for France*, which aims to introduce new audiences to RSSC's approach to luxury travel.

"Eva Longoria embodies many of the qualities that define *Seven Seas Prestige*, from her sophisticated global outlook and passion for discovery to her ability to create meaningful connections through storytelling," president Wesley D'Silva said.

"As we prepare to welcome *Seven Seas Prestige* and usher in a new legacy for ultra-luxury, all-inclusive cruising, we are honoured to have Eva serve as godmother," he added.

"Her influence, creativity and commitment to making a positive impact make her an extraordinary ambassador for this historic moment in Regent's journey."

Longoria said it is an incredible honour to be named godmother of *Prestige*.

"Travel has always been one of the most enriching ways to experience the world, bringing people, cultures and perspectives together in meaningful ways.

"Having recently experienced Regent's warmth, hospitality and attention to detail aboard *Seven Seas Grandeur*, I am thrilled to be part of this exciting new chapter and look forward to christening *Seven Seas Prestige* in Los Angeles," she said. *MS*

Some dream news

THE maiden voyage for Trafalgar's *Trafalgar Dreamer* is on sale now, with the 18 Apr 2027 departure pairing an inaugural celebration in Paris with the debut of the eight-day itinerary.

Guests on the departure will join the captain, crew, and ship's godmother in Paris for the official naming ceremony before setting sail on the brand-new eight-day round trip itinerary, 'Best of the Seine with Paris & Normandy'.

The celebration begins with a Parisian welcome soiree and a candlelit celebration along the Seine, featuring live music, interactive art, and more.

Dreamer brings the Trafalgar fleet to the Seine, following the successful launches of *Trafalgar Verity* on the Rhine and *Trafalgar Reverie* on the Danube earlier this year.



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PORTHOLE

THE final night of last week's Luxury Travel Collection Remarkable Soiree saw attendees embark on a friendly competition, backed by wholesaler CruiseHQ.

At the start of the week, the organisation handed out CruiseHQ scarves, challenging guests to style them in the most unique way possible.

There were a number of valiant entries throughout the week, but the overall winner of the prize was Why Travel's Deb Gibb, who wore the scarf styled on her shoes (**pictured**).

Winners will receive their mystery prizes shortly.



Princess correction

PRINCESS Cruises' annual Blue Fri sale, as promoted in Fri's ***CW***, is not available in the Australian market.

The offer is only available to United States-based cruisers.

Step up into the spotlight

OPINION



JOEL *Katz is the executive director of Cruise Lines International Association.*

Got an opinion to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to info@cruiseweekly.com.au.

IT'S fantastic to see so many outstanding travel advisors and agencies putting themselves and their colleagues forward for recognition at the 2026 CLIA Cruise Industry Awards.

However we know there are still plenty of exceptional people out there who haven't quite taken that step.

Perhaps you're waiting for someone else to nominate you; perhaps you're thinking your achievements aren't quite award-worthy.

Or perhaps you're simply too busy doing what you do best – delivering extraordinary cruise experiences for your clients.

Here's your reminder: don't underestimate what you bring to our industry.

The CLIA Awards celebrate the passion, professionalism, innovation and commitment that make our community so special.

From the seasoned experts to the rising stars, from individual advisors to the agencies setting new standards, there's so much worth celebrating.

And there's nothing wrong with putting your own hand up.

Self-nomination isn't about boasting; it is about taking pride in your achievements and giving your hard work the public recognition it deserves.

Equally, if you know a colleague who goes above and beyond but would never dream of nominating themselves, perhaps it's time you gave them a little nudge, or put their name forward yourself.

With this year's celebrations promising a night of glitz, glamour and a few surprises, there's never been a better time to step into the spotlight. But first, you need to be in the running.

> "Self-nomination isn't about boasting; it's about taking pride in your achievements and giving your hard work the recognition it deserves"

Nominations close at the end of Friday 20 November.

Nominate yourself. Nominate a colleague; celebrate someone who deserves their moment.

Just don't be the one wishing you'd entered when the lights go up on our industry's biggest night.

Find out more and **CLICK HERE** to nominate yourself or a peer.

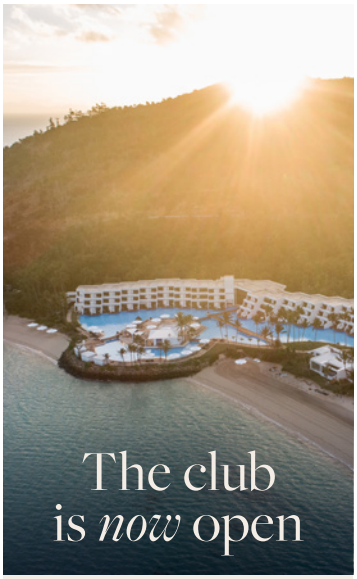
The 24th Annual Cruise Industry Awards, hosted by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), will take place on Saturday, 13 Feb 2027 at the Grand Ballroom at the ICC Sydney.

General nominations for the awards close this Fri, 20 Nov.

Seabourn Black Fri

SEABOURN Cruise Line has announced its annual Black Friday sale, offering guests deals on nearly 780 luxury ocean and expedition itineraries, with sailings available into 2029.

Available for new bookings from 18 Nov to 08 Dec, the sale includes free two-category Veranda Suite upgrades and up to US$2,000 shipboard credit.



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ADVERTISING & MARKETING
Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
Business Development Manager - Kara Stanley
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER
Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS
accounts@traveldaily.com.au
info@traveldaily.com.au
Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

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VIKING

ITINERARY OF THE WEEK



ANCIENT ADRIATIC TREASURES

Venice to Istanbul or vice versa

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Book by 30 November 2026 and clients will enjoy included economy airfares up to $2,800pp across river, ocean and expedition voyages*

PRE & POST CRUISE EXTENSIONS

Extend your clients' Viking journey with a pre- or post-cruise extension, offering more time to explore their embarkation or disembarkation city, or a new destination.



COMO & THE ITALIAN LAKES: 3-NIGHTS
Offer clients the Italian lakes, from Lake Maggiore's Borromean Islands, owned by Milanese nobility since the 16th century, to Bellagio, the "Pearl of Lake Como".



VENICE: 2-NIGHTS
Offer clients Venice, renowned for art, architecture and culture. They can explore landmarks, hidden piazzas and quiet passages on foot, or travel its canals by vaporetto water bus.



ISTANBUL: 2-NIGHTS
Offer clients Istanbul, where East meets West. They'll visit the Blue Mosque, Underground Cistern and Grand Bazaar, then have a Turkish lunch while cruising the Bosphorus.

NO KIDS • NO CASINOS • NO NCFS

*Conditions apply. Economy flights included up to AU$2,800 pp (use code FOU28). New bookings only. Prices in AUD per person, twin share, subject to availability. Prices correct at time of publishing. Ancient Adriatic Treasures based on 6 February 2029 departure. Offers apply to selected 2027 -2029 Viking River, Ocean & Expedition voyages. Available from 05 Aug 2026 to 30 November 2026. For full T&Cs visit viking.com.