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CRUISE WEEKLY
delivered daily!
cruiseweekly.com.au
cruiseweekly.co.nz
Thursday 26th Nov 2026

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a cover wrap from **Uniworld Boutique River Cruises** and a full page from **Disney Cruise Line**.

Uniworld Black Fri

GET 50% off the second guest on select 2027 cruises this Black Friday with Uniworld Boutique River Cruises.

The offer is available on itineraries along the Danube, Rhine and more - **cover page**.

Win Disney tickets

GET a two-day Walt Disney World theme park ticket per guest for a limited time when you book select Disney Cruise Line sailings of four nights or more between Apr and Sep 2027 - see the **back page**.

MSC takes delivery of *World Asia*

MSC Cruises and Chantiers de l'Atlantique have celebrated the delivery of *MSC World Asia*, the 24th ship in the line's fleet.

The latest evolution of MSC's World-class platform arrived in Saint-Nazaire and is the 20th ship Chantiers de l'Atlantique has built for the cruise line.

World Asia will now sail to Le Havre, where she will be officially named this weekend.

The vessel will begin her inaugural season on 04 Dec, welcoming guests on seven-night itineraries across the Mediterranean through summer 2027, before heading to the Southern Caribbean for the winter 2027-2028 season.

"Today's delivery of *MSC World Asia* is a proud moment for MSC Cruises and Chantiers de l'Atlantique, reflecting more than 25 years of partnership," MSC Cruises executive chair



Pierfrancesco Vago said.

"Each World-class ship advances innovation, technology and the guest experience, while bringing us closer to our goal of net zero emissions from marine operations by 2050.

"Among the world's most energy-efficient cruise ships, *MSC World Asia* demonstrates our commitment to improving each new ship's environmental performance and investing in our long-term future."

Following the delivery of *World Asia,* Chantiers de l'Atlantique will deliver *MSC World Atlantic* in Oct, with a further four World-class ships on order with the shipyard through 2031. *MS*

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CRUISE WEEKLY

Thursday 26th Nov 2026



CRUISE WEEKLY

On location on board
Viking Vela

***Cruise Weekly* is today coming to you from aboard *Viking Vela* as she undertakes a Greek Odyssey itinerary.**

THE Greek island of Rhodes, today's call for *Viking Vela*, offers an intriguing mix of ancient ruins, medieval monuments and nature, with stunning olive and citrus groves amid forests of pine & cypress.

Conquered by the Knights Hospitaller in the 14th century, the city was reconstructed using wealth from the Holy Land, with many buildings from that era still standing today.

The UNESCO-classified old town of Rhodes is Europe's largest active medieval centre of commerce, and offers cruise guests a fascinating insight into this bygone era of chivalry.

Adora heads outside China

CHINESE cruise line Adora Cruises' ship *Adora Mediterranea* has begun her first international home port season in Malaysia, and the first overall for the brand.

From 24 Nov to 14 Dec, *Mediterranea* will operate eight sailings from Port Klang, including short cruises to Penang, Langkawi, and Phuket, and a one-way voyage to Guangzhou via Nha Trang.

Mediterranea's arrival further reinforces Adora's commitment to expanding cruise choices and strengthening Malaysia's position as a regional cruise departure hub, the line said.

The maiden voyage of Adora's second ship, *Adora Flora City,* also recently set sail from Guangzhou on Sun.

Townsville bucking the trend



TOWNSVILLE has bucked Queensland's wider cruise trend as the state's only destination to show growth in ship visits during 2025-26.

This summer the city is preparing to embark on its biggest cruise season yet, with yesterday's maiden visit of Holland America Line's *Noordam* marking one of 24 ship visits scheduled for Townsville.

This will include five maiden calls and eight large vessels, with an estimated $10.5m expected to flow into the local economy.

Recently released data shows cruise ship visits to Townsville increased from 21 in 2024-25 to 23 during 2025-26, which Drew Penny, general manager business development for the city's port, said was a result of growing confidence in the destination and the opportunities unlocked by the recently widened shipping channel (***CW*** 08 Feb 2018).

"It's encouraging to see that momentum reflected both in the latest industry data and in the record season now underway, which will bring almost 36,000 passengers and more than 17,000 crew to the region," he said.

"[Yesterday's] visit by *Noordam* demonstrates the benefits delivered by the channel upgrade and the growing appeal of Townsville and Magnetic Island as a cruise destination.

"As larger vessels increasingly choose Townsville, we're welcoming more visitors to our region and creating new opportunities for local businesses and tourism operators."

Following yesterday's inaugural call, Townsville will welcome Oceania Cruises' *Oceania Riviera* tomorrow, carrying approximately 1,200 passengers, before Viking's *Viking Orion* arrives on 04 Dec.

Australian Cruise Association CEO Jill Abel said Townsville's performance highlighted the strength of the destination and local collaborative efforts driving cruise growth.

"Destinations that continue to invest in infrastructure, visitor experiences and industry partnerships are well placed to attract future cruise opportunities," she said.

Lisa Woolfe, Townsville Enterprise director of visitor economy & marketing, said the result reflected the destination's growing appeal to both cruise lines and passengers.

"Townsville has continued to perform strongly as a cruise destination, despite challenging conditions across the broader industry," she said. *MS*

Pictured are Penny, *Noordam* Captain Vincent Engel, Woolfe, and state member of parliament

A mystery is solved

WINDSTAR Cruises earlier this month sailed on its third Mystery Cruise, an eight-night journey along Spain's coast, where guests boarded *Star Legend* without knowing where they would sail.

Travellers received clues to each destination just 36 hours before arrival, with the cruise sailing from Barcelona to Malaga and visiting Mahon, Cartagena, Gibraltar, Motril, Castellon, and Puerto Banus - the latter two of which were maiden visits for Windstar.

The line also revealed two Mystery Cruises for next year, visiting Europe and Japan.



CRUISE WEEKLY

Thursday 26th Nov 2026



PORTHOLE

A TIKTOK user has shared what nobody warned him about after taking his first cruise - and he seems to have struck a chord with fellow constant cruisers on the app.

The user, known only as Steve, explained how, after initially thinking a week was a long time on the high seas, he's now looking at an eight-, 10-, or 12-night cruise for his next vacation, remarking at how quickly seven days pass at sea.

He also picked up on how many cruisers pine for the peace of a sea day, admitting no-port days were what he was least looking forward to before.

Steve appeared not to have missed out on the value cruising offers too, writing "hotel, food, entertainment, and transportation all in one?

"Regular vacations have some explaining to do."

Agents experience France



VIKING recently hosted travel advisors on a Lyon & Provence river famil aboard *Viking Buri*.

Eight agents were hosted by cruise consultant Bree Connor and commercial manager Victoria Joanne Cullen on a trip sailing between Lyon and Avignon along the Rhone.

The journey took the group through historic towns and celebrated food and wine regions of Southern France.

Represented in the group were agents from Smart Flyer, Clean Cruising, Your Travel & Cruise, Complex Travel Group, Travel Associates Mountain Creek, and Geelong Travel.

The famil provided advisors with first-hand experience of Viking's river product, including onboard dining, shore excursions and the opportunity to explore destinations independently.

Ports of call included Vienne, Tournon, Viviers, and Arles, with agents experiencing a mix of included and optional shore excursions throughout the trip.

This included travelling through the scenic Doux Valley aboard the historic Train des Gorges in Tournon; exploring Avignon and visiting the historic Palais des Papes; and visiting local wineries to sample regional wines in Chateauneuf-du-Pape.

Connor said the Tournon steam train excursion was one of the highlights of the itinerary.

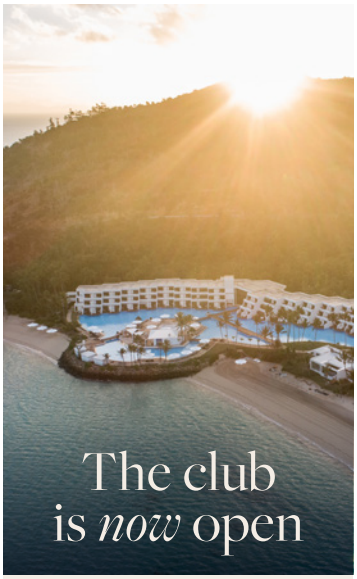
The cruise line offers three primary itineraries featuring the Rhone, with durations from eight to 15 days. *MS*

Celebrity Black Fri

BETWEEN today and Tue, Celebrity Cruises is giving travellers the chance to enjoy up to 75% off a second guest, as well as savings of up to $1,700 per stateroom.

The deal is available on select sailings of three nights or more departing between 26 Nov 2026-10 May 2029.

CLICK HERE for more information on the sale.



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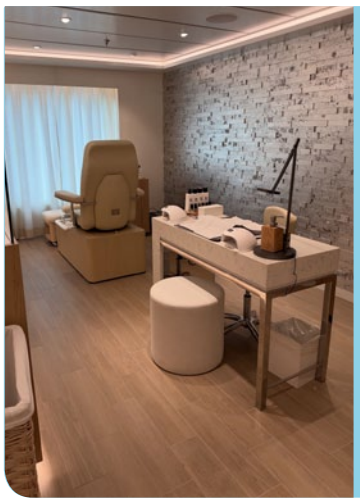

CRUISE WEEKLY

On Board: Viking Vela

The Hair Salon

With expert stylists, the onboard salon enables guests to look great from head to toe, offering an array of hair, nail and grooming services.

As well as traditional wash, cut, blow dry and styling, the salon also offers the soothing Nordic Hair Ritual for enhanced relaxation.

It's part of the wide variety of spa offerings available onboard, which also include massages, facials and other pampering treatments.

CRUISE WEEKLY

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Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

EDITORIAL
Editor - Myles Stedman
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Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

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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