

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Cruise Lines International Association**.

Ocean week is here

THIS week is ocean week, the first week in Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) annual Cruise Month.

Running from 04-10 Oct, ocean week will showcase ocean cruising around the country, as part of a campaign to support cruise's growth.

Oct's Cruise Month invites travel advisors to showcase their expertise, inspire their clients, and drive new enquiries and bookings.

CLIA is providing advisors with ready-to-use marketing toolkits to share Cruise Month content - head to the **back page** for more information.

Cruise given final two-year exemption

THE Australian Government has provided cruise lines with a final two-year extension to the *Coastal Trading Act*, before broader reforms to the laws are pushed through, Minister for Transport Catherine King has confirmed (**CW** breaking news Fri).

The long-standing exemption will be extended from 31 Dec 2026 until 31 Dec 2028, allowing large cruise vessels to continue to operate in Australia without needing a standard temporary coastal trading licence, which provides the statutory framework for overseas lines to sail locally.

King said the exemption will remain in effect while the government considers the final report of the independent review of the Act, which has provided recommendations on how to support the long-term sustainability of Australia's maritime and cruise sectors.

"We will continue to work with the cruise industry, unions, and seafarers throughout this process," she told **CW**.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) led the sector in welcoming the government's extension of the exemption to support cruise operations.

"Minister King has provided important recognition for the essential role cruise tourism plays in bringing visitors to destinations around the Australian coast, which creates economic benefits worth more than \$7 billion a year," CLIA executive director Joel Katz said.

Also hailing the extension was the Australian Cruise Association, which welcomed the government's acknowledgement of the importance of the sector, and its need for certainty.

"ACA looks forward to continuing to work constructively

with the Australian Government as the broader reforms to the *Coastal Trading Act* progress," chief executive Jill Abel told **CW**.

"Getting these long-term settings right will be critical to ensuring Australia remains competitive, supports future deployment decisions and maximises the economic benefits cruise tourism delivers to destinations and communities across the country."

Ponant Explorations Group chief executive officer Deb Corbett also welcomed the extension.

"We are pleased the government has renewed the exemption which provides certainty for Ponant Explorations' operations for the next two years," she told **CW**.

"We look forward to working with the government to finalise the longer-term settings for the cruise sector," she said. *MS*



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Fred returns north

FRED. Olsen Cruise Lines has unveiled new 2028 sailings, which will include the launch of a Canada voyage, marking the UK-based brand's return to the country.

The new program features almost 40 new sailings, which will depart between Jan and Jul 2028.

Sailing from Liverpool on 14 Jun 2028, the cruise marks Fred. Olsen's first voyage to the North American country since 2024.

Scheduled for a quieter period of the season, the sailing offers opportunities to spot whales, marine wildlife and icebergs en route, while exploring Newfoundland's rugged coastline, the dramatic Gaspé Peninsula and the Old Quebec neighbourhood of Quebec City.

There will also be a new 19-night scenic voyage, a Caribbean island-hopping adventure taking in Bermuda, the Bahamas and Puerto Rico, and sailings specially timed to offer opportunities to witness a total solar eclipse and the Northern Lights at sea.

"Our 2028 program has been carefully designed to help guests discover more of the world around them," head of product innovation Martin Lister said.

The full program will go on sale tomorrow.

New cruise port in Japan



NAHA'S cruise sector, alongside MSC Group and Royal Caribbean Group, has celebrated the start of construction of a new cruise terminal at the city's port.

Scheduled for completion in 2028, the terminal will provide modern, purpose-built facilities designed to enhance and support the long-term development of tourism in Okinawa, strengthen connectivity around the region, and enhance the experience for cruise passengers.

The recently held groundbreaking included a traditional Japanese ceremony at the future terminal site, marking the formal start of construction.

"For Royal Caribbean Group, Japan is one of the most important cruise markets in Asia - not only as a destination, but as a long-term partner in our global business," chair & chief executive officer Jason Liberty said.

"We do not simply bring guests here, we also invest here and

with Naha, Okinawa, we are investing in infrastructure that will benefit the local community for years to come."

MSC Group executive chairman Pierfrancesco Vago added: "Okinawa is uniquely positioned at the crossroads of some of Asia's most exciting cruise destinations, and we see real potential for its future."

"This project forms part of our long-term vision to expand our presence in the region and create new opportunities for guests of MSC Cruises and Explora Journeys to enjoy Asia year-round." *MS*

Pictured are Preston Carnahan, Royal Caribbean vice president destination development; Genta Koja, Governor of Okinawa Prefecture and Naha Port Authority president; Oliviero Morelli, MSC president, Japan Korea and SEA; and Javier Rodriguez Sanchez, CTL Maritime VP business development, ports & destinations.

Radiance is shining

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Carnival Radiance* has set sail from Long Beach with new dry dock enhancements.

Refreshed guest areas in the interior and new open deck areas were highlights of the work, while she also returned with Carnival's new 'From Sea to Shining Sea' bow crest.

The 15-day works took place in British Columbia, with guests boarding the ship over the weekend becoming the first to see the enhancements.

Radiance now resumes year-round sailing from Long Beach, offering a variety of four- and five-day cruises to Baja California and the Mexican Riviera, with visits to destinations including Ensenada and Catalina Island.

MEANWHILE, Carnival has opened its 2028-29 sailings along North America's west coast, which will include Alaska, Hawaii and Mexico.

Carnival Adventure, *Carnival Legend* and *Carnival Spirit* will offer diverse itineraries and new Carnival Journeys sailings from Seattle, San Francisco and Long Beach.

These longer voyages will see *Adventure* offer a nine-day Alaska cruise departing from Seattle, followed by a 16-day Hawaii voyage, both sailing in Sep 2028.

Bookings for the new cruises have opened now.

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DISNEY collectors are a passionate bunch and the introduction of new exclusive wooden Disney Cruise Line stickers at the brand's private island is sure to send fans into a frenzy.

Ten unique designs are now available to be bought at the Disney T'ings store at Lookout Cay at Lighthouse Point, reports independent Disney new website WDWNT.

Exclusive Lookout Cay mystery boxes featuring themed wooden figurines are also available in the shop.

Stickers are a big part of the Disney sailing experience, serving as collector's items.



More Serenity for Crystal



CRYSTAL' *Crystal Serenity* (pictured) will debut a new owner's suite and four junior penthouse premium suites, following her 2028 dry dock.

The addition builds on the success of the owner's suite for *Crystal Grace's* inaugural 2028 season, which the line said is booking well.

Serenity's new accommodations will introduce generously spaced staterooms with contemporary designs on deck 11.

At 160m², *Serenity's* owner's suite will be located midship and include a 38m² verandah.

Meanwhile, the four new junior penthouse premium suites,

inspired by those aboard *Crystal Symphony*, will each offer 80m² of interior space, and a 19m² verandah, complementing the ship's six existing junior penthouse deluxe suites.

"We are continuing to thoughtfully evolve *Crystal Serenity* while preserving the character and sense of ease that have made her so beloved by our guests," SVP hotel operations Bernie Leypold said.

"These new suites allow us to introduce fresh design elements and greater choice while creating an accommodation collection that feels cohesive, contemporary and distinctly Crystal." MS

HAL is tres excited

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) will offer more calls to Montreal than any other cruise line in 2028 according to the brand, with its Canada & New England season on sale now.

The program will offer UNESCO sites, national parks and the debut in the region of the reimagined *Zuiderdam*, which will emerge from her dry dock in the northern spring of 2028 (CW 15 Jul).

The season operates from May through to Oct 2028 aboard *Volendam* and *Zuiderdam*, with cruises ranging from seven to 14 days.

Longer Collectors' Voyages will also be available, departing from Montreal, Quebec City, Boston, New York City and Fort Lauderdale.

Select itineraries will feature late-night calls in Charlottetown and St John, along with overnight stays in Quebec City, giving guests more time in each port.

The destination experience extends on board through regional dining, local entertainment and more.

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