

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Cunard**.

Queen of Australia

CUNARD Line's *Queen Elizabeth* will return Down Under as part of her 115-night World Voyage in 2029, with an overnight stay in Sydney scheduled (**CW** yesterday).

Other Australian calls on *Queen Elizabeth's* trip down south will include Perth, Kangaroo Island, Melbourne and Burnie.

Australians can book multiple local trips, including Perth to Sydney, Sydney to Los Angeles, and Sydney to Miami.

Cunard's full 2029 program features almost 100 cruises to more than 100 destinations in almost 50 countries - head to the **back page** for more info.

Princess expanding Sanctuary Collection

PRINCESS Cruises has announced plans to expand its Sanctuary Collection, the brand's luxury ship-within-a-ship tier, across a number of its Royal-class vessels, including its Australia-based *Royal Princess*.

The broadened premium experience, designed as a "luxury resort", brings select suites and staterooms, exclusive spaces, elevated dining, personalised service, and all-inclusive amenities to more Princess guests aboard five of the line's ships built between 2013 and 2021.

First introduced on *Sun Princess*, Sanctuary Collection will first be added to *Royal* in the coming months, with her first cruise after the expansion to be a 12-day South Pacific voyage departing on 04 Jan 2027.

Guests who booked a Reserve Collection stateroom aboard *Royal* prior to yesterday will



enjoy the Sanctuary Collection experience, including its additional amenities, at no additional cost, excluding the Princess Premier package.

Other ships to undergo the expansion will include *Regal Princess* and *Discovery Princess*, whose Sanctuary Collection

cruises will begin from Apr; *Sky Princess*, whose sailings will begin in May; and *Enchanted Princess*, whose voyages will begin in Jun.

The line said the expansion represents the first phase of a multi-year fleet modernisation initiative focused on enhancing the guest experience. **MS**



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Aroya to the Med

SAUDI Arabia's first-ever cruise line, Aroya Cruises, has begun its inaugural Mediterranean winter season, with voyages between Istanbul and Alexandria.

Aroya's eponymous ship departed Istanbul on Mon for six-, seven-, and eight-night voyages between Turkey's largest city and the major Egyptian city of Alexandria.

The itineraries connect the Anatolian country's coastal destinations with Egypt's cultural heritage, taking in Bodrum's waterfront, Marmaris' natural harbour, and Kusadasi, a gateway to Ephesus, one of the ancient world's most celebrated cities.

In Alexandria, Aroya's first overnight calls give guests more time to discover the historic port city's waterfront and distinctive architecture, or venture further afield on excursions to Cairo and the Pyramids of Giza.

Guests can also begin or end selected voyages in Alexandria.

"Our first winter season in the Mediterranean is an important step in building a year-round presence in the region," commercial executive director Ala Tashkandi said.

"Turkey and Egypt offer a wealth of cultural experiences that make them compelling destinations for a winter cruise," he said.

Norwegian treats partners



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has rolled out the VIP treatment for its top trade partners on its annual retreat, which took place earlier this month.

NCL hosted senior executives from its leading online travel agency and consortia partners for a few days of fine wine, gourmet dining, celebration, premium experiences, and networking in the Yarra Valley.

Highlights of the retreat included an exclusive Behind the Bubbles experience at Chandon, followed by a degustation dinner showcasing the region's best food and wine.

Guests also enjoyed lawn games, archery and vineyard-side yoga at Balgownie Estate Yarra Valley, and received personalised gifts including July tote bags, NCL caps and Chandon champagne bottle stoppers.

The celebrations then rolled into the Beyond Borders Travel

Summit and the National Travel Industry Awards, where NCL took home the Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign - Supplier award (**CW** 12 Oct).

"Our trade partners are such an important part of our success, and this retreat is our way of saying thank you for their incredible support," director of sales Angela Middleton said.

"It's a fantastic opportunity to spend quality time together, strengthen the relationships we've built and celebrate the people who continue to champion NCL."

The cruise line earlier this week opened bookings for its newly named *Norwegian Bella*, which will begin sailing from Europe in May 2028 (**CW** 21 Oct).

Bella, the final ship in the cruise line's Prima-class, will sail on itineraries including seven-day voyages to the Mediterranean from Barcelona. **MS**

New river highlights

EUROPEAN Waterway has unveiled new itineraries and experiences for next year, with the cruise line currently also offering 10% off bookings.

Additions include a new itinerary through Brittany, exclusive encounters at medieval chateaux in Burgundy, and new culinary and cultural discoveries along the Canal du Midi.

One of European Waterways' signature additions for next year is a new itinerary through Brittany aboard the six-passenger *Nymphaea*, travelling between Josselin and Redon along the Oust and Nantes-Brest canal.

The journey takes guests through one of France's most distinctive regions, combining medieval villages, historic castles and Breton cuisine.

Highlights include a private visit to the impressive Josselin Castle, exploring the medieval streets of Malestroit, discovering the menhirs of Monteneuf, and visiting the picturesque village of Rochefort-en-Terre.

Burgundy, which is European Waterways' most popular destination among Australians this year, will also welcome several new cultural experiences in 2027, such as castle visits to the medieval Chateau de Germolles and the Chateau de Bazoches.



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PRIVATE islands are all the rage in cruising at the moment, and for approximately \$8.6m, you could have your own.

A country home in the United Kingdom listed for £4.5 million features its own private island, an outdoor bar and Warwick Castle as its neighbour.

The seven-bedroom property, called Castle Reach, is set on an 8,100m² lot, and boasts views of the castle, as well as access to a privately owned riverside frontage on the Avon River.

Castle Reach is within walking distance of Warwick's town centre and is a ten-minute drive from Leamington Spa.



Terra Nova is on track



TERRA Nova Expeditions is almost ready for its inaugural season, which will see it sail in Antarctica with its ship *Terra Nova Adventurer* (pictured).

A LinkedIn update from chief executive officer & founder Greg Carter said *Adventurer's* interiors have been receiving their final touches in a Las Palmas shipyard, before Terra Nova takes back the ship on schedule in Nov.

"She has a fresh exterior with our logo on the funnel, and the interiors are close to done: upgraded guest spaces, new

furnishings, and a raft of technical improvements," he explained.

"We can't wait to show you them on delivery in a few weeks."

Carter called out the "serious effort" of securing *Adventurer* for the cruise line, after Terra Nova was last month forced to swap vessels (**CW** 01 Sep).

Terra Nova's original ship, *St. Helena*, remains stuck in the Persian Gulf, after she had earlier entered a dry dock in Dubai (**CW** 20 Apr).

The cruise line's first voyage is scheduled for Dec. *MS*

Poesia returns

MSC Cruises' *MSC Poesia* is making a return to PortMiami for the winter 2026/27 season, with several itineraries across the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The ship's 11-night Southern and Western Caribbean sailings will include calls in destinations such as Jamaica, Costa Rica, Honduras, Colombia and Belize.

Meanwhile, passengers can explore the Southern Caribbean on 10-night itineraries with visits to Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao and the Dominican Republic.

Poesia, as well as *MSC World America*, *MSC Meraviglia* and *MSC Seaside* will all homeport in Miami this winter, marking a milestone of four MSC ships based in the city.



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Queen Elizabeth visiting Australia in 2029

World Voyage sectors to and from Sydney and Fremantle on sale

On sale to Cunard World Club members
3 November 2026, 9am AEDT

On sale to general public
5 November 2026, 1am AEDT

Southampton to Fremantle | **23 Jan 2029** | 52 nights | Q903C
Southampton to Sydney | **23 Jan 2029** | 61 nights | Q903D
Singapore to Sydney | **1 Mar 2029** | 24 nights | Q904F
Hong Kong to Sydney | **6 Mar 2029** | 19 nights | Q905
Hong Kong to Fremantle | **6 Mar 2029** | 10 nights | Q905A
Fremantle to Sydney | **16 Mar 2029** | 9 nights | Q905D
Sydney to Los Angeles | **25 Mar 2029** | 28 nights | Q906
Sydney to Miami | **25 Mar 2029** | 43 nights | Q906B
Sydney to Southampton | **25 Mar 2029** | 54 nights | Q906C

Cunard World Club members can enjoy an exclusive **10%# discount** until 30 December 2026.

For more information and the full programme launch

Visit [Onesource](#)

*Fares are cruise only per person ("PP"), in AUD, in complete twin stateroom, based on lead categories at the date of publication, inclusive of discounts. Offer is available for new bookings made between 3 November 2026 and 30 December 2026 only. Not combinable with other offers. Supplements apply for higher stateroom grades, categories and other fare types. Some staterooms have obstructed views. Advertised Fares are available until allocation is exhausted and may fluctuate. Offer available on Cunard Fare and Early Saver Fare. Cunard fare is the cruise fare packaged with on board credit ("OBC") on sailings of seven nights or more. OBC is per person, in USD and applied to the first two guests in the stateroom only. The amount varies by stateroom type and itinerary duration, as specified. OBC expires at the conclusion of your cruise, is not transferable, not redeemable for cash and cannot be used in the casino or medical centre. Early Saver Fare is the cruise fare only; restrictions apply including stateroom allocation by Cunard; a non-refundable deposit of 10% is required to secure your booking. Early Saver Fares are applicable to stateroom grades up to and including Britannia Balcony grade and do not apply on Club Balcony or Grill Suites. Fare terms and conditions: <https://www.cunard.com/en-au/the-cunardexperience/our-fares>. *Cunard World Club (CWC) members are eligible to receive a 10% discount on cruise fares when booking a Cunard Fare or Early Saver Fare. Offer is only redeemable by the recipient CWC member with a matching CWC number on select cruises. Discount applies to all guests travelling in the same stateroom as CWC member. If the recipient CWC member does not sail, cruise fares for any remaining guests will revert to the prevailing market rate and any difference will become immediately payable. Offer is valid on all new release voyages sailing as follows: Queen Anne Voyages between 5 January 2029 and 7 April 2029, Queen Mary 2 voyages between 12 January 2029 and 11 May 2029, Queen Victoria voyages between 5 January 2029 and 8 April 2029, and Queen Elizabeth voyages between 31 October 2028 and 6 May 2029. All travel is subject to the Cunard Booking & Passage Conditions at <https://www.cunard.com/en-au/advice-and-policies/booking-conditions-insurance-crime> which guests are bound by. Cruise itineraries and onboard offerings are not guaranteed. Charges may apply for some activities, venues and menu items. For bookings in NZD: credit card surcharge fees for Visa/Mastercard (1.1%) and AMEX (2.75%) apply. For bookings in AUD made on or after 1 October 2026, no credit card surcharge fees apply. Carnival UK Ltd. trading as Cunard, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom, ABN 23 107 998 443.