



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

RSSC freshens up

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has unveiled Serene Spa & Wellness, its largest-ever offering of its kind, aboard the soon-to-debut *Seven Seas Prestige* (**CW** 10 Dec 2025).

Located on deck 4, the facility houses 10 treatment rooms including an acupuncture room, a medi spa room, as well as a couple's treatment room.

In addition, the thermal suite will house the cruise line's inaugural salt room, alongside saunas, steam rooms, a hydrotherapy pool, aroma room, and snow room.

The salon features three hair stations, one barber, and two manicure stations.

Brisbane aiming higher in cruise

BRISBANE and Queensland are determined to capture some of the opportunity available to Australia's lagging cruise sector, as the city hosted this week's annual Australian Cruise Association (ACA) Conference (**CW** yesterday).

Opening the event on Wed, which was ACA's largest-ever with more than 170 delegates, chair Brendan Connell spoke of the cruise sector's expansion around the world, and how Australia can capitalise on it.

"What we're seeing is a growth story in cruise globally, which is really great, and the challenge for us here in Australia needs to be how we capture not just our fair share of that growth, but an above-average share," he said.

"How we can get our hands on it as much as possible and get the policy settings and the investment settings right to take

advantage of that.

"Australia can't just rely on its natural advantages anymore, although they are strong - we need to be a place that is competitive, predictable, and that is easy to do business with, and that relies on the whole ecosystem coming together and getting some of those challenges right," he added.

Queensland Minister for Tourism Andrew Powell, also speaking at the conference opening, highlighted cruise's contribution to his state, and the government's ambitions to work with the sector even more.

"Last year alone, the industry generated more than \$2 billion in economic output and delivered 532 ship visit days - they're impressive numbers, but I reckon we can do better than that, and we plan to do better than that.

"We actually want to see that

grow from \$2 billion to \$3.3 billion over the next decade because that's more jobs, it's more investment, it's more opportunities, particularly for regional Queensland.

"It's one of the reasons that in our 20-year tourism plan, the [state] government identified cruise tourism as a priority-grade sector...every itinerary creates an opportunity to showcase more of the state."

MEANWHILE, Hobart has been announced as the host of next year's ACA Conference, marking the return of the event to Tasmania for the first time in 15 years.

The announcement comes as the state implements its four-year cruise action plan, focused on strategies such as attracting higher-value itineraries and encouraging greater dispersal beyond Hobart. *MS*

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Seabourn '29 WC

SEABOURN Cruise Line has announced its 138-day 2029 World Cruise, 'Iconic Islands & Remote Horizons', which will see *Seabourn Quest* explore almost 60 destinations in more than 30 countries.

Sailing from Miami to Lisbon from 07 Jan to 26 May 2029, the cruise will offer rare access to iconic and remote destinations, including Burnie, Bora Bora, Easter Island, Zanzibar, Nuku Hiva, Praslin, Antsiranana, and Akaroa.

There will be 20 extended stays, including eight overnight calls in destinations such as Sydney, Lima, Easter Island, Bora Bora, Bali, Singapore, Zanzibar, and Cape Town.

"Our 2029 World Cruise exemplifies the type of extraordinary travel experiences that define Seabourn," president Mark Tamis said.

"This voyage combines globally celebrated destinations with some of the world's most remote and fascinating places, creating opportunities for deeper discovery and meaningful cultural connection.

"From exclusive shoreside events and immersive experiences to the personalised service and intimacy that set Seabourn apart, every element of this journey has been thoughtfully designed to inspire."

NCL throws Great celebration



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) hosted government officials, travel partners, and a wide variety of special guests for an exclusive preview of Great Tides Waterpark on Great Stirrup Cay this week (**CW** 28 May).

The event gave attendees a first look at the new landmark, which is set to open tomorrow, including its attractions, culinary offerings, and special activations from the line's beverage partners.

Starting with a ceremonial ribbon cutting, invitees heard from John Chidsey, president and CEO of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings; Marc Kazlauskas, president of NCL; NFL legend Herschel Walker, the United States' ambassador to The Bahamas; and Randy Rolle, member of Parliament of Bimini and the Berry Islands.

Throughout the day, guests enjoyed specialty cocktails,

beverage tastings, branded giveaways, and photo opportunities from Aperol at the Grotto Bar, Casamigos at Floataway Bar along the Wandering River, Coca-Cola by Splash Cay, and Hampton Water.

They were also able to try samples from three new food trucks and experience attractions like the 50-metre Tidal Tower and the Cliffside Leap, while entertainment came in the form of a Junkanoo performance inspired by the culture, music, and spirit of The Bahamas.

VIP guests included NHL star Taylor Hall of the Carolina Hurricanes and Josh Peck, actor, bestselling author, and podcast host and creator.

"Great Tides Waterpark represents an exciting new chapter for Great Stirrup Cay and a defining moment for Norwegian Cruise Line," Kazlauskas said. *JM*

Good call for Newy

THE recent 2025-26 *Passenger Survey* from Cruise Newcastle shows that cruisers are having an all-round positive experience when visiting the Steel City.

Conducted between 19 Oct 2025 and 31 Mar 2026, respondents on average rated their trip to Newcastle a 4.5 out of 5, citing high satisfaction with local services, amenities, and the walkability of the city.

Out of all the destination touchpoints, welcome volunteers and visitor information services were the highest-rated, highlighting the strength of Newcastle's community-led visitor welcome program.

Almost 80% of respondents said they would be open to go back to either the city or surrounding regions.

This figure is even more notable as 62% of respondents were international travellers.

In addition to the strong passenger feedback, the Port Authority of NSW recently awarded the Newcastle Tourism Industry Group's Cruise Welcome Volunteer Program funding through its community grants program, as the initiative aims to deliver essential wayfinding services and create new detailed visitor maps for the upcoming cruising season.



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ROYAL Caribbean has chosen the name 'Dolly' for its new chief dog officer, who will join *Hero of the Seas* next year.

The name was selected via a social media poll conducted by the line's chief executive officer & president Michael Bayley, with the name honouring the late Dolly Parton.

One commenter on Facebook suggested: "Miley Cyrus' godmother was Dolly, so how about Miley being *Hero of the Seas* godmother?"

Dolly will become Royal Caribbean's fourth chief dog officer, joining Rover (*Icon of the Seas*), Sailor (*Star of the Seas*), and Skipper (*Legend of the Seas*).



My Cruises begins exploring



EXPLORATIONS By Norwegian, the world's longest cruise (**CW** 15 Jan), has set sail, with hundreds stepping aboard *Regatta* in Rome yesterday to begin a journey spanning more than 370 days, 220 ports and 62 countries.

The departure marks the beginning of the inaugural Explorations voyage, created exclusively by My Cruises, offering a new approach to world cruising.

More than 10,000 Australian guests are expected to experience the inaugural season, with the flexibility to choose between a complete circumnavigation of the globe or shorter sectors.

My Cruises global head of cruise Michael Middleton said seeing *Regatta* depart Rome marked a significant moment for the brand and its guests.

"After years of planning and months of anticipation, watching our first guests step aboard and begin their adventure was incredibly special," he said.

"Our vision from the beginning was to create a world cruise experience that gave Australian travellers greater flexibility and the freedom to explore the world in a way that suits them."

The voyage has been timed to capture the cherry blossom season in Japan, with the cruise featuring iconic sights like Mt Fuji, and sailing to destinations across China, Thailand, Singapore, Bali, and more.

Other highlights will include Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, with the voyage incorporating prime positioning to view the Northern Lights at their peak. *MS*

Polar meals for all

POLAR Latitudes Expeditions is introducing two new halal-friendly expeditions, with a seven-night Svalbard voyage from 17 Aug 2027 and a 10-night Antarctic Peninsula voyage from 11 Mar 2028.

No pork products will be served aboard these voyages, along with no alcohol used during cooking or baking.

Alcohol will remain available to guests who choose to drink, while soft drinks and mocktails will also be served with lunch and dinner.

Wellness areas, including the sauna and gym, will operate with rotating men-only, women-only and mixed hours, with a schedule to be published on board.

The 'Svalbard: North to the Midnight Sun' departure will sail round trip from Longyearbyen, taking guests to walrus sites, historic locations and seabird cliffs.

'Antarctic Peninsula: The Classic Voyage' sails round-trip from Ushuaia, taking guests to penguin colonies and Zodiac cruising through icebergs.

ELEVATED EXPERIENCES

APT Travel Group CEO **David Cox** on catering to discerning travellers.

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