

Cruise Weekly today

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

HAL serves up

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has unveiled the redesign of Ocean Bar aboard *Oosterdam*, now featuring a new stage for Vivace Strings, pianists and late-night cabaret.

The upgrade to the bar area is designed to create a stronger connection with the live performances, encouraging an atmosphere that allows for drinks both during and after the set.

This is complemented by the renewed seating arrangement, creating a more open layout and ensuring that the venue feels revitalised.

The new bar sports Art Deco-design features, including custom furnishings with details inspired by vintage travel trunks and luggage, which aims to pay homage to old-time cruising.

Additionally, all lounge furnishings are made from recycled products, reaffirming HAL's commitment to sustainable practices.

Ocean Bar's redesign is part of HAL's US\$500 million project to renew all six Vista-class and Signature-class ships (**CW** 16 Apr 2026), with *Oosterdam* and *Zuiderdam* the first vessels to get a facelift.

Brisbane's Olympic cruise plan



QUEENSLAND'S Minister for Tourism Andrew Powell has thrown his weight behind the proposal for cruise ships to shore up Brisbane's accommodation gap during the 2032 Olympics (**CW** 24 Aug).

Tourism leaders last month proposed using cruise ships as 'floating hotels', as South East Queensland faces a projected 10,000-room accommodation shortfall for the Olympics.

"I think that cruise ships might play a particular role during the Olympics," Powell told last week's Australian Cruise Association (ACA) Conference, which was hosted in the Queensland capital.

"We've seen that cruise ships have played the role of floating hotels during major events, including previous Olympic Games...it's another accommodation option, and it's a conversation worth having as we plan for the opportunities for 2032," he said.

However Port of Brisbane chief executive Neil Stephens said that with cruise scheduling typically taking place years in advance, work needs to start very soon.

"If you didn't start yesterday, you need to start tomorrow - there are lots of challenges," Stephens cautioned.

"We're competing with the high season in the rest of the world...spend from passengers on a cruise ship in the Northern Hemisphere is much more than it is here, so, we're going to have to work with the cruise lines to encourage them, maybe even incentivise them," he explained.

The result, Stephens believes, could be cruise lines committing to far larger local programs, as opposed to brief, multi-week deployments during the event.

"Every Olympic Games going back to Barcelona in 1992 has used cruise ships...it created a cruise industry, it has created a legacy business," he added. *MS*

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Life's a beach at Tangalooma for CCL

QUEENSLAND'S Tangalooma Island Resort on Fri launched its Tangalooma Dunes Cabana Club, which is opening this season in partnership with Carnival Cruise Line (CCL) (**CW** 12 Jun).

Available for day hire for \$240, Tangalooma Resort features 20 private cabanas with seating for up to eight, delivering an experience ideal for relaxing and soaking up the sunshine.

Cabanas include bench seating with a central table for food and drinks; an in-cabana fridge to keep beverages and share platters cool; and adjustable shutters and a fan to control cooling and privacy for all-day comfort.

The cabanas are wheelchair-accessible, ensuring all guests can enjoy the beachfront experience.

Passengers sailing on Carnival's Sydney-based ships *Carnival Splendor* and *Carnival Adventure* can book the cabanas to enjoy on



their day ashore.

Carnival Corp country manager Peter Little said the company is excited to expand its partnership with Tangalooma to bring this Australia-first offering to its cruise guests, setting a new benchmark for shore experiences.

"The long-running partnership between Carnival Cruise Line, the world's most popular cruise line, and the family-owned Tangalooma Island Resort is a unique and important one, delivering significant benefits to

Queensland tourism," Little said.

"The collaboration gives Carnival guests exclusive cruise access to Tangalooma, as we showcase the beautiful destination to guests sailing on our ships from Sydney every year," he added. **MS**

Pictured: Kimmy Tallon, Flight Centre; Sarah Miller, Carnival; Brett Wendorf, Your Travel & Cruise; Anton Loeb, Carnival; Anna Russell, Clean Cruising; Casey Russell, Clean Cruising; and Brooke Reidy, Cruiseabout.

Half Moon rising

PRINCESS Cruises has moved most of its calls from Princess Cay, its private beach destination on Eleuthera in The Bahamas, over to the newer RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay (**CW** 02 Jun 2026) and Celebration Key.

The cruise line has not made any indication that it is discontinuing Princess Cay, which has been part of its itineraries since 1992.

In a statement provided to **Cruise Weekly**, Princess confirmed the change.

"As with all cruise vacations, itineraries may occasionally be adjusted for a variety of operational and commercial reasons," Princess said.

"We can confirm that the majority of published calls this fall have shifted to RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay from Princess Cay," the cruise line added.



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ACA hosts 2026 conference in Brisbane

THE Australian Cruise Association (ACA) last week held its annual conference, which this year took place in Brisbane, with more than 170 delegates in attendance.

This year's turnout was the largest-ever for the conference, which was hosted in the Queensland capital for the first time since the former Cruise Down Under association began taking its annual event on the road 25 years ago.

Themed 'Building Value Beyond the Berth', the conference brought together cruise line executives, regional ports, tourism operators, and destination management stakeholders.

Next year's conference will take place in Hobart at The Tasman, marking the first time Tasmania's most populous city has hosted the conference since 2012.

Mon 07 September 2026



AUSTRALIAN Cruise Association membership & events consultant Gemma Axford and chief executive officer Jill Abel.



PONANT director of marine operations Captain David Marionneau and chief executive officer Deb Corbett.



AUSTRALIAN Cruise Association deputy chair Kristy Little, TasPorts customer engagement & cruise coordinator Lidija Bicker, TasPorts executive general manager commercial & trade Phil Hoggett, and Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel at Circular Quay sales manager Bronwyn Rossiter-Pocklington.



KEYNOTE speaker and Holland America Line vice president onboard revenue Carole Biencourt with Ports North general manager corporate services Leanne Jeffries.



AUSTRALIAN Cruise Association deputy chair Kristy Little, conference MC and former *The Great South East* host Sofie Formica, and Port of Brisbane chief executive officer Neil Stephens.



MONICA Johns, Port of Townsville and Annalese Chainey, Tourism & Events Queensland.



KIWIS can now get their hands on a brand-new two-person submarine, with all funds generated from the sale going towards marine and ocean conservation.

Sold by nonprofit SeaKeepers, *Nemo* (pictured) was manufactured by Dutch company U-Boat Worx, and is able to submerge 100 metres, moving at around three knots, and offering the same footprint as two jet skis side by side.

Nemo's retail value is currently estimated at US\$1.9 million (A\$2.63 million).

SeaKeepers has run over 500 science projects since 1998, with a network of 250 partner vessels for scientist-led expeditions and education.



Ritz-Carlton revenues rise in Q2



THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection grew its cruise revenues by 42% YoY to hit US\$103 million (A\$143m) in the second quarter of 2026, according to unaudited results posted by its parent company, Cruise Yacht Upper Holdco.

Adjusted EBITDA remained negative at US\$5 million for the quarter ended 30 Jun 2026, up from -US\$14 million in Q2 2025, and -US\$24 million year-to-date.

The line's occupancy was 51% in the quarter, marking a 57% drop compared to last year, as the brand's capacity grew with the

addition of *Luminara* (pictured), its third vessel (CW 01 Jul 2025).

Meanwhile, second-quarter bookings jumped by 35% to US\$103 million, and year-to-date bookings hit a record US\$237 million, up 46%, with returning guests comprising around 22% of those who sailed during the three-month period.

The average daily rate per passenger climbed 7% in the quarter to US\$1,993 and 14% YTD to US\$1,840, driven by "enhanced itineraries, strong luxury positioning, and growing brand equity", the company said. JM

An Alaskan success

SILVERSEA has wrapped up its 2026 Alaska season, which saw it operate 30 voyages to 14 destinations aboard *Silver Moon* and *Silver Whisper*.

Guests sailing on the seven-night itineraries between Vancouver and Seward visited popular ports like Juneau and Skagway, as well as lesser-known stops such as Metlakatla and Klawock.

Highlights included cruising past Hubbard Glacier, exploring Sitka Sound via kayak, and riding a private luxury railcar to the summit of the White Pass, with a dedicated guide narrating the Klondike Gold Rush history along the way.

Guests also enjoyed a floatplane excursion over Misty Fjords National Monument, enjoying a bird's-eye view of the granite cliffs, waterfalls, and glacial lakes.

During the season, the ships gained direct access to the Alaska Railroad for the first time via Seward's new Dale R. & Carol Ann Lindsey Alaska Railroad Terminal (CW 17 Jun).

RIVER CRUISE CHANGES COURSE

Here is how the booming sector is entering a new era.

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