

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise news, including a photo page from **Uniworld Boutique River Cruises**, plus a full page from **Paul Gauguin Cruises**.

Fire damages port

A **FIRE** broke out at Alaska's Glacier Creek cruise terminal on Mon where *Norwegian Jade* was docked.

The ship was able to safely depart, while emergency responders from the Coast Guard, Whittier Fire Department, and other nearby departments battled the blaze for about 45 minutes.

In an update shared that evening, Whittier Fire Department volunteer Michael Pese said that "half the dock is gone", while other officials pointed out that there had been no working fire hydrants near the dock.

The US\$80 million facility only opened last year, and primarily serves Norwegian Cruise Line ships; the cause of the fire is not yet known.

Marine tour company Phillips Cruises & Tours' *Klondike Express* was also moored at the dock at the time.

While the ship - which had no passengers on board - did not catch fire, the line confirmed it sustained smoke damage and will not operate for the remainder of the season.

New vessel for Quark?

EXCLUSIVE

QUARK Expeditions global president Sam Seward has revealed the expedition cruise line is actively investigating adding another ship to its fleet, with the precise model of operation still to be determined.

Speaking to **Cruise Weekly** before appearing on stage at Cruise360 this week, Seward confirmed the search for its next vessel to cater for a recent period of strong bookings growth was already well underway.

"For our next project, we are talking to a few parties about collaborating on a part-year charter - just like the [agreement] we have with APT - where we would work with them to optimise the expedition spaces and the whole guest experience from beginning to end," he said.

"We do also have some active conversations about a year-round arrangement as well, so we have got a few irons in the fire."

Quark is no stranger to the charter model, having just last week announced a 10-year partnership on a yet-to-be named 99-suite ship with APT's Travelmarvel brand, which is set to debut in time for the 2029/30 season (**CW** 14 Sep).

Travelmarvel will operate Mediterranean itineraries, while Quark will charter the vessel for Antarctic expeditions.

Quark has also had a longstanding partnership with



Mystic Cruises that will see *World Voyager* operate an Antarctica season from Oct, as a successor to *World Explorer*.

Speaking about the partnership, Seward said that APT was a great business and an exciting partner to work with.

"They are a household name in this market and we are solely and myopically focused on polar only," Seward explained.

"That was one of the most important features of why they were happy to talk to us...[APT] were like 'these guys know exactly what they are doing'."

Seward made it clear that there were no plans in place to deviate from its successful business model focusing on the polar regions any time soon.

"We are unambiguously polar only, that's our position, and it means we are not stretching ourselves to try and innovate through subtropical itineraries or find Mediterranean deployments."

"We are just trying to build the best possible guest experience in the polar regions."

Seward will join Windstar Cruises' Helen Beck and Swan Hellenic's Mario Bounas at Cruise360 this week. *MS*

Paul is tempting

PAUL Gauguin Cruises' latest travel advisor incentive, 'Tempting Tahiti', offers a \$200 gift card for each booked passenger for a limited time.

Travellers also receive €1,000 shipboard credit on all sailings across the next two years.

For more information, head to the **back page**.

Houston, we have NCL

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has unveiled the entertainment line-up aboard its new ship *Norwegian Aura*, with a Whitney Houston-themed production to take centre stage.

The new original show has been developed with Houston's estate, celebrating the remarkable talent of the singer known as 'The Voice'.

Aura, which will debut in May, will also deliver a mix of immersive theatre shows, live music, and late-night entertainment with the debut of other productions such as *ILLUMINOX: Infinite Wonder Unboxed*, a new original illusion spectacular blending acrobatics and visual effects.

Meanwhile *LunaTique: Pop Circus* will mark the return of adults-only nightlife to NCL.

Aura will home port in Miami for her inaugural season in Jun, sailing on seven-day eastern Caribbean voyages.



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ENTER TODAY





HX unveils 2028-29

HX HAS launched its 2028-29 season, during which it will become one of the first-ever cruise companies to sail an Antarctic voyage departing from the Falkland Islands.

This itinerary, which the cruise line said has not been sailed in more than a decade, unlocks a new route to South Georgia and Antarctica, allowing travellers to complete the voyage in a more condensed timeframe.

There will be new shorter-format expedition voyages in Alaska and Greenland, including two eight-day Inside Passage expeditions and an eight-day 'Discovering West Greenland - Icebergs & Communities of Disko Bay' itinerary, sailing round-trip from Nuuk.

The cruise line is also introducing its first dedicated Scandinavia program, which will include the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Bothnia.

Meanwhile, the 14-day 'Norway Cape to Cape - Beyond the Arctic Circle' takes guests from Lindesnes to the North Cape, connecting the fjords, coastal communities and Arctic landscapes.

This itinerary offers the chance to witness the Northern Lights backed by HX's Northern Lights Promise, which offers guests a future cruise credit for no sighting.

Cooking up special guests

PONANT Explorations Group has announced a line-up of Australian special guests to join its 2027-28 enrichment program, who will share their expertise, personal experiences, and stories throughout three voyages across WA, the Pacific, and Antarctica.

Guests will be joined by Irish celebrity chef Alastair McLeod (**pictured**), English coral biologist Emma Camp, and Australian former cricket player Ian Healy.

McLeod became a household name in Australia following his appearances on *Ready Steady Cook*, and has spent the past 17 years on the show *Weekender*.

He has joined previous Ponant Explorations culinary adventures at sea, beginning with an Antarctic cooking demonstration experience on the pool deck of *Le Boreal* in 2024.

McLeod will return to Ponant for another culinary experience in Jul, joining guests in WA aboard *Le Soleal*.

Camp is a leading coral biologist whose research explores how corals can survive and adapt to some of the world's most extreme marine environments.

Her work spans remote Pacific reefs including the Cook Islands and Society Islands, where diverse lagoons and reef systems reveal how temperature, light, and water chemistry shape coral.

As team leader of the Future Reefs Program at UTS and one of this year's 'Explorers Club



50' honourees, Camp has led expeditions across some of the world's most remote reef environments and has become a leading voice in conservation.

Camp will join Ponant in Nov 2027 as a special enrichment guest aboard Paul Gauguin Cruises' *Paul Gauguin*, bringing her expertise and passion for ocean exploration to a journey through some of the Pacific's most extraordinary reef systems.

Meanwhile, one of Australia's most respected sports figures, Ian Healy will serve as a special enrichment guest aboard an Antarctica expedition in Jan 2028. Guests will enjoy exclusive presentations, informal conversations, and unique opportunities to hear firsthand stories from one of Australia's greatest sports icons while experiencing Antarctica's breathtaking landscapes.

Healy enjoyed a remarkable international career as the Australian test team's wicket-keeper from 1988 to 1999. *MS*

RSSC reveals luxe dining line-up

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has revealed Solmar Terrace, its new dining concept on board *Seven Seas Prestige*.

Located on deck 5, the al fresco venue is open from 12-6pm, offering guests a mix of international-inspired flavours in an elegant setting.

The menu is highlighted by Oriental small plates such as Korean beef short rib, chicken or shrimp satay, teriyaki pork belly, king oyster mushroom, and Japanese broiled salmon.

"Dining is an essential part of the Regent experience, and *Seven Seas Prestige* represents an exciting opportunity to further elevate our all-inclusive culinary offering," president Wesley D'Silva said.

"As the first new Regent ship class in more than a decade, *Seven Seas Prestige* ushers in a new era for our brand, with extraordinary new experiences throughout the ship."

MEANWHILE, RSSC has revealed the menu line-up for *Prestige's* Azure venue, with Mediterranean-inspired concepts such as miso-roasted eggplant, croquetas di carne, gambas al ajillo and lobster orzo saganaki.

Additionally, RSSC has also enhanced the menu for Prime 7, drawing inspiration from famous steakhouses across the United States.

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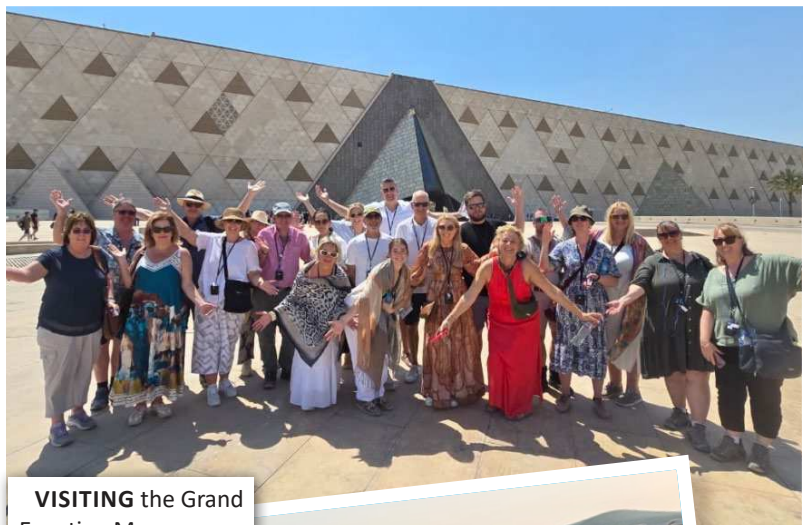
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CELEBRATING Uniworld's 50th birthday, Uniworld Australia and New Zealand recently hosted 140 agents and their partners on a double-ship charter on the Nile in Egypt, an iconic destination for both Uniworld and Luxury Gold.

Guests enjoyed seven nights on board both *River Tosca* and *S.S. Sphinx*, cruising from Luxor to Aswan return, visiting all the temples and tombs.

Passengers were accompanied by an Egyptologist throughout their journey, which included a visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum and the spectacular pyramids and Sphinx.

To mark Uniworld's milestone anniversary, guests attended an onboard Golden Party and a traditional Galabeya Party.



VISITING the Grand Egyptian Museum.



GUESTS in front of the awe-inspiring pyramids.



SUNSET drinks on the top deck.



UNIWORLD'S Clarke Peninton, Alice Ager, Tiffany Mestrinho, Melissa Drewett and Alka Thapar.



ENJOYING the Royal Suite on *S.S. Sphinx*.

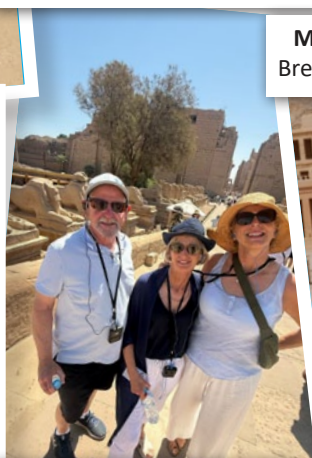


HIGH tea at the iconic Old Cataract Hotel: Julie Devereux, Travel Associates; Susan and Santo Montalto, Emma Whiting Travel; Carol and Solomon Hoffman, Toorak Travel; and Greg and Deana Thomas, Helloworld Lower Templestowe.



DUAL ships sailing the Nile together.

MARTINE Hero and Tracey Bremner, Clean Cruising.



DALLAS and Sue Newton from Cruising Wine Tours with Emma Grose, MTA.



CRUISEABOUT'S Brad Kennedy on board a felucca in Aswan.



JUST as some people might like to find out whether a house might be haunted before they make the decision to move into it, some cruisers might also like to know if their cabin has a dark history before they book their next cruise.

USA Today posed the question to Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), asking the industry body whether passengers can find out information about specific cruise cabins.

CLIA responded that, while "there is publicly available information about ships more broadly", such as sanitation inspect reports, it was "not aware of any publicly available database that provides a comprehensive history of a specific cruise cabin".

However, founder of CruiseTipsTV, Sheri Griffiths, believes there may still be a way for travellers to uncover information - and that is through digital word of mouth.

"The only way that you could research (the history of) a specific cabin is to literally do an open-ended search on that cabin, and then you can hope that somebody created a YouTube video or a short piece of social content about that particular cabin, or that they wrote about it on Cruise Critic or Cruiseline.com on the forums," she said.

A famil fit for a pharaoh



UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises hosted 140 travel advisors on a huge trip on the Nile over the past week as part of its full-ship charter program.

Hosted by the Uniworld sales team, the trade famil to Egypt welcomed agents and their partners from all corners of Australia on a seven-night Luxor return cruise, with three pre-nights in Cairo.

Sphinx and *River Tosca*, each of which accommodate 82 guests, were used for the famil.

The two ships embarked on the 'Splendours of Egypt & the Nile' itinerary, Uniworld's signature program on the river, which visits Giza's Saqqara, the Great Pyramid, and the Great Sphinx.

Also included are the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum, Dendera temple complex, Valley of the Kings, KV62, and afternoon tea at the Old Cataract, Aswan.

Managing director Alice Ager said the plan was initially to charter only one ship, but once the vessel had filled up quickly, they swiftly took them both.

"I think we've really showcased the best of what Egypt has to offer with this double-charter,"

she said.

"Each of our ships has a unique personality and this week we've all had the opportunity to really explore both ships - we had dinner on both ships and enjoyed the entertainment in both lounges," Ager added.

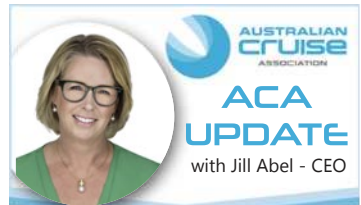
"It's a game-changer for Egypt, having the highest calibre of professional travel agents experience 'Splendours of Egypt & the Nile' first-hand - I'm anticipating huge results based on the feedback."

Ager said the highlight was the 50th anniversary golden celebration on the sundeck on the last night.

She said she was glad to showcase Egypt to the trade at a time when the destination is one of Uniworld's hottest.

"Egypt is definitely a trending destination for both Luxury Gold and Uniworld, with 2028 sales up 100 percent plus year-on-year, we saw the perfect opportunity with this double-ship charter.

"It's the week before our official season kicks off, so it's warm here in Luxor - but it's great that there are fewer tourists this time of year," she added. *MS*



The next phase of growth

THIS week I'm in Darwin for the NT Cruise Forum, where more than 90 delegates have gathered to discuss the opportunities cruise tourism presents for the Territory.

My State of the Industry presentation focused firmly on growth: globally, cruise continues its strong trajectory, with 84 new ships currently on the orderbook through to 2035.

For Australia, that opportunity comes with a challenge. We operate in an increasingly competitive global environment, with destinations competing for deployment.

At ACA, our focus is ensuring Australia is prepared for this next phase of growth - with the right policy settings, infrastructure, destination experiences, and operating environment.

It was particularly valuable to present alongside Lisa Pile from Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises, whose future deployment demonstrates the importance of our region.

Regent's 2027 programs include Darwin as both a transit and turnaround port, while Oceania continues to feature Australia and NZ strongly in its regional itineraries.

Perhaps most encouraging was the strong attendance at the conference from local businesses.

Cruise offers opportunities well beyond the port - from day tours and shore experiences during transit calls to longer pre-and post-cruise stays that encourage visitors to travel further into the NT, supporting accommodation, hospitality, attractions and regional operators.

The global growth is coming. Our job now is to make sure Australia is ready to capture it.

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*US\$1,000 (Paul Gauguin) and EUR1,000 (PONANT) shipboard credit offers are based on double occupancy and valid for new bookings only, made between 1 September and 31 October 2026 (US\$500 / EUR500 for single use of cabin); offers are combinable with Bonus/Early Booking Savings, PONANT Yacht Club Savings, Consortia Amenity Programs, Onboard Savings, Referral offer and roadshow special offer, but not combinable with free or reduced solo supplement or any other offer. Paul Gauguin offer valid on all 2026 & 2027 departures; PONANT offer valid on Le Jacques Cartier French Polynesia 2026 & 2027 select cruises only. Full terms and conditions available at au.ponant.com/tempting-tahiti-2026. Travel agents earn a \$200 gift card for every guest booked and deposited on the Tempting Tahiti offer between 1 September and 31 October 2026, dispatched by 30 November 2026 after validation.