

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of news, including a photo page from **Royal Caribbean**, plus a full page from **Railbookers**.

Cruising by rail

RAILBOOKERS is showcasing its range of cruise extensions across Europe, Canada and beyond - see **page five**.

Spivak's new gig

AMAWATERWAYS has appointed Steven Spivak as its new chief commercial officer, effective 30 Sep.

He is tasked with helping the cruise line grow its sales, while also supporting advisors and their clients and strengthening trade partnerships.

Spivak joins from Tauck, where he was VP, global sales and customer experience.

GFOB's Leigh: Aussies are resilient

EXCLUSIVE

AUSTRALIAN travellers represent more value to Globus family of brands (GFOB) than just their high booking volumes, the company's new managing director Christopher Leigh (pictured) has told **Cruise Weekly**.

Speaking at last week's Cruise360 conference, Leigh said this year's European heatwaves, which caused record low water levels on major waterways like the Rhine and Danube, showed the resilience of Australian travellers and their resistance to cancelling their trips.

The weather conditions led to disruptions for cruise lines such as GFOB's Avalon Waterways, with groundings as well as widespread cancellations.

However Leigh said Australians preferred to continue their travels at a far higher rate than other markets around the world.



"Cancellations from the low water are approximately 10% higher in the US than they are for Australia," Leigh explained.

"What that tells me is that the long-haul investment into travel from Australia to get to Europe, and all the logistics that go around that, play a part in people willing to go ahead."

Leigh believes GFOB has responded "very well" to the range of problems brought about by the extreme temperatures.

The company's expertise in touring through its Globus and

Cosmos brands allows it to seamlessly substitute sectors of a cruise with a land component.

"In the event of a situation like this, we can pull people off the river and put them on a coach and we can still continue with what they've planned - there's no disappointment from their perspective," Leigh said.

"We've seen [fewer] cancellations as a result of that," he added. **MS**

Keep your eyes peeled this afternoon for the **CW** Cruise360 special edition in your inbox. **MS**

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Whittier cruise terminal destroyed

THE Alaska fire marshal's office has declared the Glacier Creek cruise terminal in Whittier a "total loss", following a fire at the facility last week (**CW** 16 Sep).

Glacier Creek was only about two years old when it caught on fire on Wed, with the US\$80 million (approximately A\$112 million) facility primarily used by Norwegian Cruise Line.

No injuries were reported, and *Norwegian Jade*, the only cruise ship using the berth at the time, was able to depart without any damage.

The old facility, Whittier Alaska Cruise Ship Terminal 1, remains open for the rest of the town's calls this year, which includes *Norwegian Jade* and Regent Seven Seas Cruises' *Seven Seas Explorer*.

It is too early to speculate on the future of the facility, Chris Da Silva, chief marketing & communications officer of the cruise terminal's ownership company, said.

"We are still assessing the full extent of the damage to the dock and do not yet have enough information to characterise the overall condition of the facility or make determinations about future operations, repairs or timelines," he told *Anchorage Daily News*.

Scenic's \$100m India deal



SCENIC Group and boutique river cruise operator Assam Bengal Navigation will introduce two luxury river vessels on India's Brahmaputra River by 2029-30, as part of a planned 10-year expansion worth up to ₹8 billion (approximately A\$117 million).

Announced by India's Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, the landmark partnership follows a meeting held in New Delhi with Scenic founder and chair Glen Moroney and Assam Bengal MD Shri Ashish Phookan.

The venture is expected to combine Scenic's luxury cruise expertise, global brand and distribution network with Assam Bengal's knowledge of India's rivers and its established presence in the Ganges and Brahmaputra cruise markets.

It could also open opportunities for coastal and regional cruising, with *India Shipping News* reporting the partners are also exploring potential itineraries

connecting destinations such as Kolkata, Chennai, the Andaman Islands and Phuket.

The partnership follows Scenic's already announced deployment of the 44-guest *Scenic Aura* on the Hooghly River from Oct 2027 (**CW** 18 Jun).

Scenic will add five cruises spanning North and South India, Rajasthan and Sri Lanka.

The program will be anchored by a nine-night ultra-exclusive cruise along the Hooghly, sailing through some of India's most historically significant regions.

River cruising in India is growing rapidly, with an almost 20% increase in voyages in the country during the 2024-25 season.

India's government is aiming to triple total cruise passenger numbers to 1.5 million.

The Brahmaputra in particular is emerging as a serious new luxury river cruise battleground, with Viking having also committed two 80-guest ships to operations on the waterway. *MS*

Starting to Believe

THE first gigablock of Disney Cruise Line's *Disney Believe* has floated out as the ship begins to take shape at Meyer Werft.

It marks the first of three gigablocks which will make up the vessel's superstructure.



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Monday 21st Sep 2026

KING Bling, a permanent resident of the Ducky Go Round on *Legend of the Seas*, was the headline attraction for Royal Caribbean at CLIA Cruise 360 last week. Royal Caribbean brought Surfside, its stay-all-day family neighbourhood, to Sydney for the event.

Cruise 360 attendees were challenged to collect Royal plushies for the chance to win incredible spot prizes including concert tickets.

In partnership with the Hong Kong Tourism Board and Cathay Pacific, Kathleen Fowler from itravel won the ultimate Hong Kong fly/cruise holiday including five nights aboard *Spectrum of the Seas*.



TEAM Royal Caribbean Australia.



BRAD McAndrew, Rob Patane and Asthika Ram from Royal Caribbean with TravelManagers agents.



BRODIE Dobson, Royal Caribbean with Kate Moulton and Raymond Cashman, Cruiseabout and Kim Ryan, CruiseHQ.



CATH Marshall, Royal Caribbean with Christian Hunter, Nicola Strudwick and Chlorissa Devries from Travellers Choice.



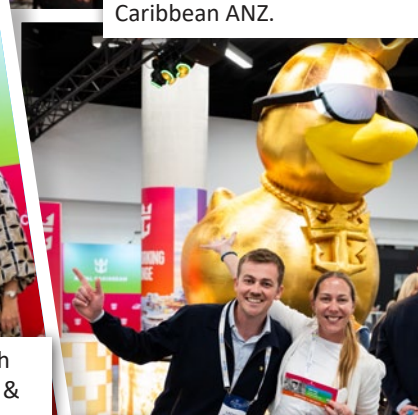
KAREN Macmillan, Hong Kong Tourism Board MD with Gavin Smith, VP & MD, Royal Caribbean ANZ.



REPPING the Royal merch - smiles all around.



BRODIE Dobson, Royal Caribbean with Josh Duncan, Rachael Lochhead, Savannah Tuson & Danni Newman from Flight Centre Travel Group.



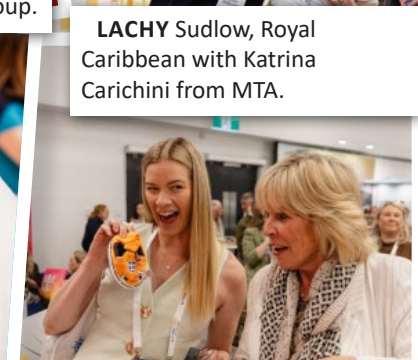
LACHY Sudlow, Royal Caribbean with Katrina Carichini from MTA.



ULTIMATE Hong Kong holiday prize winner, Kathleen Fowler from itravel Surry Hills with Dave Humphreys, Royal Caribbean; Karen Macmillan, Karen Prideaux and Celia Ho, Hong Kong Tourism Board; Lynne Haslop and Johnson Liu, Cathay Pacific.



GAIL Chapman and Adam Pease, Inspiring Travel.



CARLY Retallack and Kathy Millet from TravelManagers unboxing their plushies.



HAVE you ever had a cruise cancelled, or perhaps missed out on a stateroom on an inaugural sailing?

Maybe screaming at the ocean will do the trick.

That's how more than 100 angry San Franciscans took out their frustrations recently, gathering at the city's Vista Del Mar neighbourhood, which overlooks the Pacific Ocean.

The 'Guttural Scream at the Sea' event was organised by local resident Danielle Egan, with a flyer listing many good reasons to scream, including rent, frustrations with AI, unspecified anger and the simple fact that it feels good.

A screaming contest also took place ahead of the group event, where participants were judged based on the volume, length and style of their vocalisations.

Maybe make sure no one else is around before attempting this yourself.

LTC members hear of Quark's spark

THE Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) last week held its latest 'Leaders Who Lunch' event at Doltone House Jones Bay Wharf, giving its members direct access to Quark Expeditions president Sam Seward ahead of his appearance at Cruise360.

Attendees heard directly from Seward about the strategy shaping Quark's next chapter, as the polar specialist revealed its Australian bookings were 22% ahead of last year.

The event saw attendees enjoy a reimagined version of Quark's Indigenous-led 'Tundra to Table' concept (**CW** 30 Jun), which was created by Aboriginal Australian chef Mark Olive.

"Demand has caught up with and overtaken capacity," Seward told guests, adding that travellers are booking earlier, selecting more premium staterooms and choosing longer itineraries than average.

Quark has responded by launching its 2028/29 season six months earlier than usual.

"We are growing really successfully here in Australia...for that we have to thank you guys... it's really down to the support we



get from our trade partners," the Quark head said.

Seward also shared that in addition to its recently announced newbuild partnership with APT Travel Group, which will see a new polar vessel enter service in 2029, Quark has plans for further fleet growth, as hinted by **Cruise Weekly** last week (**CW** 16 Sep).

LTC GM Nikki Glading said the event demonstrated both the strength of her organisation's luxury cruise proposition and the extensive nature of the relationships behind it.

"That depth of partnership is also reflected in the benefits we're able to secure for our members and their clients," Glading said.

"We're incredibly proud that Quark has chosen LTC as the only global network to offer an exclusive experience, available solely to LTC clients." **MS**

Pictured are Shannon Fogarty, LTC; Tenille Hunt, Quark; Danielle Galloway, FCTG; Sam Seward, Quark; Nikki Glading, LTC; Chris Catanzariti, Quark; and Lisa Wright, LTC.

RIVER CRUISE CHANGES COURSE

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

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ALASKA'S NATIONAL PARKS WITH ALASKA RAILROAD FROM SEWARD



7-DAY ITINERARY

Seward > Kenai Fjords National Park > Anchorage > Talkeetna > Denali National Park > Anchorage

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sightseeing tour of Kenai Fjords National Park with lunch included
- Sightseeing tour of Denali National Park

CANADIAN ROCKIES AND LAKE LOUISE EXPLORER



9-DAY ITINERARY

Vancouver > Jasper > Lake Louise > Banff

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Hop-on, hop-off sightseeing tour in Vancouver
- Admission to the Vancouver Lookout
- Icefields Parkway tour from Jasper to Lake Louise
- Sightseeing gondola ride in Lake Louise
- Tour of Banff's mountains, lakes, and waterfalls
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