

Cruise Weekly today

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

Spirit of the Med

SILVERSEA'S *Silver Spirit* has departed on her Grand Voyage around the Mediterranean for 2026, visiting 40 destinations in 12 countries.

The 50-day voyage will take guests from Lisbon to Athens, pairing iconic calls such as Istanbul, Dubrovnik, Casablanca and Barcelona, with lesser-travelled stops including Volos, Gythion, Kotor and Amalfi.

Also included are overnight stays in Malaga, Livorno, and Istanbul, giving guests extended time ashore.

One of the highlights of the itinerary will be a two-day overland journey from Livorno to Florence.

"Silversea's Grand Voyages are designed to immerse guests more deeply in each destination, building the kind of moments guests remember long after a voyage ends," president Bert Hernandez said.

"Whether it's a private evening inside an ancient cistern in Istanbul, or an after-hours journey through Florence after the crowds have gone home, this kind of depth and access is what keeps guests returning to Silversea voyage after voyage." *MS*

Explora to enter river



EXPLORA Journeys is set to be the next luxury cruise line to enter the European river market, after signing a letter of intent with Dutch shipbuilder Den Breejen Shipyard for the construction of its first river vessels (*CW* breaking news).

The letter of intent does not specify how many ships are planned, with Explora also yet to reveal details of their size, capacity, and delivery schedule.

"Since launching, Explora Journeys has sought to change the way people experience ocean travel through its 'Ocean State of Mind' philosophy - combining the freedom and discovery of travelling by sea with the elegance and refinement of European hospitality and design," the line said in a statement.

"The brand now intends to bring that same approach to Europe's most iconic rivers."

Explora said it will share further details regarding the new river ships' design, onboard experiences, delivery schedules and initial itineraries in due course, with sales planned to open next year.

The cruise line's river project will move ahead while the line continues its ocean fleet expansion, with three new ships in the pipeline for delivery in 2027 and 2028.

Earlier this year, Explora took delivery of the 900-guest vessel *Explora III*, marking the third ship in its planned six-ship ocean fleet (*CW* 04 Aug).

Den Breejen has experience constructing vessels for the European river cruise market, having built Emerald Cruises' *Emerald Luna*, which accommodates 182 guests and primarily sails on the Rhine, Main, and Danube rivers. *JM*

Windstar Europe '28

WINDSTAR Cruises has unveiled an expanded Europe program for summer 2028, with 348 itinerary combinations on offer.

The line will deploy five yachts - *Star Explorer*, *Star Legend*, *Star Pride*, *Wind Spirit* and *Wind Surf* - to the Mediterranean and Northern Europe from March to Oct.

Highlights include sailings through the Kiel Canal and Elbe, a voyage timed to Hamburg's major maritime festival, a new Windstar port in Ireland's Aran Islands, a round trip Mystery Cruise from Athens, and enhanced exploration of the British Isles aboard Windstar's newest yacht *Star Explorer*.

"Europe is a destination many of our guests return to again and again, and in 2028 we're giving them new ways to experience places they may think they already know," COO Stijn Creupelandt said.

"For travel advisors, that creates a compelling reason to start a new Europe conversation with both first-time and repeat guests."

Clients can take advantage of an early booking offer on eligible 2028 Europe voyages booked by 31 Oct, including a complimentary all-inclusive package and 5% savings on cruise fares when paid in full at the time of booking. *JM*



OUT HERE, EUROPE
UNFOLDS EFFORTLESSLY.



MEDITERRANEAN
GREEK ISLES
NORTHERN EUROPE

VIEW 2027
SAILINGS

NORWEGIAN
CRUISE LINE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NCL'S 2027 EUROPE SAILINGS CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BDM OR CALL 1300 255 200



Country star aboard

MARGARITAVILLE at Sea Cruise has announced American country music star Zac Brown as the godfather of its new ship *Beachcomber* (**CW** 16 Jul 2025).

The award-winning musician will christen the ship and perform on board during her inaugural celebration in Miami in Jan.

It marks the next step in an ongoing collaboration between Brown and Margaritaville at Sea, with the singer having helped create *Beachcomber's* first-of-its-kind Same Boat live music venue.

Brown will also headline an exclusive concert in Nassau on 28 Jan 2027, when *Beachcomber*, *Islander*, and *Paradise* come together for the first gathering of the Margaritaville at Sea fleet.

The line's chief executive Christopher Ivy said Brown "shares our belief that great music, memorable experiences and bringing people together can turn a vacation into something much more".

"Zac has already put his own stamp on *Beachcomber*, and we couldn't imagine a better person to help us officially welcome her to the fleet."

The new ship will sail four-to-eight-night itineraries to the Eastern and Southern Caribbean before repositioning to Galveston in Oct 2027. **JM**

Croisi adapting on the rivers

CROISIEUROPE, the largest European river cruise line, is reimagining its itineraries for next summer, following this year's heatwaves across the continent.

The cruise line has launched new sailings on the Rhine and Danube, redesigning select itineraries and repositioning part of its fleet to anticipate the specific characteristics of each river basin.

CroisiEurope is using the unique capabilities of its fleet, notably through the deployment of ships with a shallow draft, to introduce new programs on rivers such as the Danube.

The cruise line's new approach to its Danube program includes new itineraries centred on Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade and the Iron Gates gorge.

The program from Vienna to Passau and Budapest has also been revised, while CroisiEurope is expanding its itineraries onto the Main with a brand-new cruise from Mainz to Nuremberg.

Following the 'Route of Emperors & Kings', the cruise will showcase the castles and history of Bavaria.

CroisiEurope is also expanding its summer program on the Rhine, with a new cruise around Amsterdam and the IJsselmeer, the Netherlands' largest inland lake, offering the chance to discover a more off-the-beaten-track side of the country.

Another new itinerary will

take guests from Amsterdam to the Moselle Valley and on to Luxembourg, combining Dutch landscapes, vineyards, and villages along the Moselle.

On the Upper Rhine, CroisiEurope will expand its program around Strasbourg and Basel, offering new ways to explore Alsace, Switzerland, and the Black Forest.

CroisiEurope said the new program is designed to anticipate navigation conditions while preserving the quality and diversity of the travel experience, offering guests and trade partners greater peace of mind.

"Climate change and its impact on rivers now represent a structural challenge for the river cruise industry," the line said.

"In 2027, the company is taking this expertise a step further by using it to anticipate change."

Travelcall's Samantha Lang told **Cruise Weekly** that, following a summer during which hundreds of river cruise departures were affected, travellers are now aware of the problems the sector faces, and are now prioritising guaranteed departures.

"When I'm discussing river cruises with clients, if they haven't river cruised before, it's one of the first questions that they're asking," she said.

"I'm also being quite proactive in the sense that, when I'm discussing it with them, I do bring it up in the consultation." **MS**

Vancouver growth

IN THE year leading up to Aug, Vancouver's Canada Place cruise terminal welcomed 291 passenger ships, a year-on-year increase of 19.3%.

Vessels visiting Vancouver collectively carried 1,134,476 passengers, marking a 16.6% increase in total YTD.

In Aug, Vancouver welcomed 71 passenger ships to its port, a 26.8% increase from the 56 vessels seen in Aug 2025.

The month also saw 280,474 people arrive into the city via cruise, compared to 240,964 in Aug 2025. **JB**

Miami's milestone

PORTMIAMI welcomed its 10 millionth cruise passenger for the 2026 fiscal year last week, marking its best-ever annual passenger volume with less than a week remaining in the financial year.

The figure surpassed its previous record of 8,564,225 cruise passengers, reflecting strong global demand for sailings to and from Miami.

It comes after the port completed an upgrade of Royal Caribbean's terminal, which can now accommodate larger cruise ships and offers improved passenger flow (**CW** 12 Jan 2026).

The port generates US\$61 billion for the Miami-Dade County annually, and supports around 350,000 jobs. **JB**

Introducing Australia's *most rewarding*
club for travel connoisseurs

SIGNATURE
Travel Club

Get in touch to *find out* how you can partner with us



DIVERS have explored a mysterious British town beneath the sea, which vanished 600 years ago.

The town of Shipden was home to just over 100 people, and was lost just several hundred metres off a beach in Norfolk located in the East of the United Kingdom.

Shipden was thought to be consumed by the advancing North Sea during the 13th century, and recently, divers took advantage of a clear day to conduct some dive photography of the settlements' remains.

The town was once a thriving coastal establishment, recorded in 1086 as having 117 residents, three acres of meadow, woodland capable of supporting 36 pigs, a harbour, and two churches.

Centuries of erosion consumed the settlement, which was gone by 1400.

Princess is screen royalty



PRINCESS Cruises invited travel agents and other industry figures to catch a first look at its new television series *Chefs Ahoy* on Tue in Sydney.

Hosted at Moore Park's Entertainment Quarter, attendees got to see the opening episode, which takes place aboard *Sun Princess* in Greece, as celebrity chefs Courtney Roulston and Minoli De Silva competed to make the best dish, which was served at the Captain's Dinner.

The remainder of the four-part series will take place in Japan, Spain, and South Korea, with episodes in Asia filmed aboard *Diamond Princess*.

Other chefs featured include

Miguel Maestre, Dan Hong, Mark LaBrooy, Khanh Ong, Vincent Yeow Lim, and Alice Zaslavsky.

Hosted by comedian Peter Helliard, each episode follows the chefs as they explore their respective locations and find inspiration from the local culinary scene to create their dish.

The winner of each episode is determined by the dish that receives the most orders during the Captain's Dinner.

Chefs Ahoy will air on Nine on Wed 30 Sep at 8.45pm AEST. *JB*

Pictured: Nick Ferguson, senior director, sales & marketing Asia Pacific, Princess; Courtney Roulston; and Chloe Jones, head of marketing, Princess.

A ticket to cruise

A BEATLES-THEMED cruise is set to depart next winter aboard Oceania Cruises' *Oceania Nautica*.

The voyage forms part of a series of sailings chartered by British online travel agency cruise.co.uk.

Featuring popular tribute act the Bootleg Beatles, the cruise will be a three-night 'Iberian Homecoming' sailing departing from Lisbon on 17 Jul and arriving into Southampton.

The show will trace the musical evolution of The Beatles, with the band playing hits including 'She Loves You', 'A Hard Day's Night', and 'Let It Be'.

"One of the benefits of exclusively chartering *Oceania Nautica* is that we can create additional experiences specifically for our guests," cruise.co.uk managing director Tony Andrews said.

"We want each of these cruises to offer something memorable beyond the destinations themselves, while still delivering the luxury experience," he said. *MS*



SAILING INTO OPPORTUNITIES

CLIA Australasia executive director Joel Katz on the growth in cruise.

READ THE CRUISE GUIDE

 **CRUISE
WEEKLY**

 **CRUISE
WEEKLY**

cruiseweekly.com.au
cruiseweekly.co.nz

Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman
Travel Daily Editor & Acting Editorial Director - Adam Bishop
Senior News Journalists - Zach Havard and Janie Medbury
Journalist - James Bale
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Editorial Director - Damian Francis
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

Cruise Weekly is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
Business Development Manager - Kara Stanley
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER
Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au
info@traveldaily.com.au
Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

 **TRAVEL DAILY**

 **Pharmacy
Daily**