

Cruise Weekly today

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

Prestige is delayed

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has pushed back the launch of *Seven Seas Prestige* to 28 Dec from its previously scheduled date of 13 Dec (CW 16 Sep).

In a statement, the cruise line said that it needed additional time to work on the vessel, ensuring she is up to standard for guests in time for her inaugural sailing from Miami.

The cruise line has contacted affected guests, all of whom will receive 100% refunds on the amounts paid as of 28 Sep.

RSSC said it "sincerely apologises for any inconvenience" and thanked its travel partners for their ongoing support. *JB*

A Royal connection between Australia and Asia

ROYAL Caribbean is building a more connected Asia-Pacific cruise network with its 2027-28 Australian deployment (CW 26 Aug), allowing travel advisors to package local departures with Asian cruises to create longer, multi-week holidays.

Director of sales Dave Humphreys told **Cruise Weekly** travel advisors now have the ability to connect local coastal getaways, repositioning voyages, and Asian cruises into one vacation, thanks to the year-round Singapore deployment of *Navigator of the Seas* (pictured), as well as *Voyager of the Seas*' expansion across Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo.

This expanded deployment creates opportunities for extended, multi-destination itineraries, Humphreys said.

"*Navigator's* year-round deployment in Singapore is



ideal for travellers seeking a city stopover who want to add a quick two- to five-night tropical escape to Malaysia or Thailand.

"*Voyager* gives advisors a compelling way to sell immersive cultural getaways, from celebrating Chinese New Year in Hong Kong to exploring vibrant destinations across Taiwan and Vietnam," Humphreys said.

"It's a simple way to experience more of Asia without the complexity of multiple internal flights, transfers, and hotel changes," he added.

Expanding across major aviation hubs such as Singapore and Hong

Kong also allows Royal Caribbean to tap directly into strong flight networks from Australia's major capital cities, Humphreys added.

"Airfares will always be a consideration when people are planning a trip, so having strong air connectivity into these gateways is important," he said.

"At the same time, the value of a cruise goes beyond the fare itself - by combining accommodation, dining, entertainment, and travel between multiple destinations into one ticket, travellers can get great value out of their overall travel budget."

Humphreys said having *Navigator* in Singapore year-round allows advisors to target Asian city stopovers, while multi-destination journeys across Hong Kong, Taiwan and Vietnam enable travellers to experience local celebrations such as the Lunar New Year. *MS*

Regent

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Tips now included

PRINCESS Cruises is increasing the price of its Plus and Premier packages by A\$10 per person per day for Aussie guests travelling on USD sailings, while adding crew appreciation to the inclusions.

For guests from Australia cruising aboard Princess ships where onboard purchases are charged in US dollars, new packages will be available at A\$89 per person per day for Princess Plus and A\$139 per person per day for Princess Premier, with crew appreciation included in both.

The new Princess Plus and Princess Premier packages go on sale 13 Oct 2026 for applicable voyages sailing after this date.

Australian-dollar sailings remain unchanged at A\$79 for Plus and A\$129 for Premier.

The new offering allows Aussie guests to account for crew appreciation at the point of purchase while overseas.

“By including crew appreciation in our Plus and Premier packages for Australians cruising internationally, advisors can offer their clients greater certainty around the cost of their holiday upfront, while retaining the benefits and value they’ve come to expect from Princess,” senior director sales & marketing Nicholas Ferguson said. *MS*

Sandy Cay breaks ground



MSC Group’s new luxury private island destination in the Bahamas has celebrated a key milestone, with the official groundbreaking ceremony for Sandy Cay taking place on Mon.

The event brought together representatives from MSC Group’s Cruise Division, as well as government officials from The Bahamas and a number of key project stakeholders.

Among the guests were Pierfrancesco Vago, executive chairman of the MSC Group’s Cruise Division; and Philip Davis, prime minister of The Bahamas.

Construction and site works are already well underway at the private island, putting it on track for its slated 2028 opening.

Sandy Cay will offer travellers a secluded island escape with pristine beaches, complete with dining options, spaces to unwind,

and curated experiences.

Located adjacent to Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, Sandy Cay was first announced in Apr and is being developed exclusively for MSC Cruises and Explora Journeys guests (*CW* 01 May).

MEANWHILE, there are new developments in store for Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, including additional dining venues, new beach concepts for families and adults, and expanded relaxation areas.

MSC and Explora guests will also be able to enjoy new immersive experiences that allow them to engage with marine conservation.

“Guests will enjoy two distinct destinations, each with their own character while sharing the same commitment to environmental stewardship, authenticity and exceptional hospitality,” MSC Group said. *JM*

Lights, CLIA, action

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) is ringing in Cruise Month with the launch of its video guide, assisting members with how they can get involved and maximise sales during Oct.

Hosted by CLIA marketing executive Ashleigh Marshall, the guide covers key themes and dates across Cruise Month, in addition to the marketing resources in CLIA’s Cruise Month Toolkit and walkthroughs of the webinars and competitions.

CLIA’s video guide can be accessed on the Cruise Month page **HERE**. *JB*

Celebrity on show

BOOKINGS for Celebrity Cruises’ Australia, Asia and Japan sailings for 2028/29 (*CW* 11 Aug 2026) are now on sale.

The season will see 23 voyages departing from either Sydney or Auckland, with itineraries ranging between four and 14 nights on board both *Celebrity Edge* and *Celebrity Solstice*.

In Japan, spring and autumn sailings will operate on board *Celebrity Millennium*, giving guests a taste of both cherry blossom and hibiscus seasons.

Southeast Asia winter sailings will run aboard *Solstice* and *Millennium*, calling in Bangkok, Bali, Hanoi and more. *JB*

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MIGHT travellers on board Murray River Paddlesteamers' itineraries may soon be able to enjoy a new port of call?

A new bar is set to open right on the banks of the Murray River next month, with the heritage-listed 175-year-old Nor' West Bend Station at Stuart expanding to introduce Nor' West Bar.

Visitors can knock back a refreshing beverage while overlooking the Murray River, with skippers able to pull right up to the bar.

Patrons will be able to enjoy a selection of beers, cider, hard lemonade, and gin & tonics paired with grazing snacks within a relaxed setting.

"We wanted to make better use of our riverfront and give people another place to sit," the bar's co-founder, Lisa Goodland, told *Glam Adelaide*.

"We also had lots turn out last year and we had a lineup in the main barn and wanted to make it easier and hopefully quicker for people."

Nor' West Bar will open from 11am to 5pm on Sat and Sun of the Oct long weekend, with plans to extend its opening hours over the festive period.



CW founder honoured



THE annual Signature Luxury Cruise Awards were held yesterday, with Explora Journeys and Silversea some of the biggest winners on the day, while a *Cruise Weekly* luminary was honoured.

Explora was the champion of the large ocean ships category, recognising cruise lines with vessels carrying between 750-2,000 guests, while it also finished second in three other categories: cuisine at sea, spa & wellness, and 'super suites', distinguishing the sector's biggest and best accommodations.

The Geneva-based cruise line was also one of three brands specifically highlighted for its sustainability initiatives, alongside Hurtigruten and Ponant.

Other big winners included Silversea, which won the boutique ships award (between 25 and 250 guests), finished on the podium in the small ships and luxury expedition categories, and was a finalist for the cuisine, wellness and super suites awards.

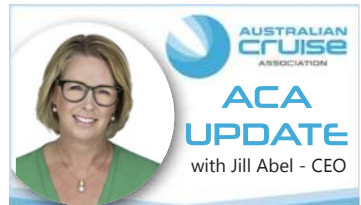
Another of the day's biggest winners was Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC), which took home three gongs on the day, winning the small ships (250-750 guests) and super suites categories.

RSSC's upcoming *Seven Seas Prestige* ship (see **page 1**) was also named as the most anticipated new luxury vessel about to hit the water.

However, the highlight of the awards was the presentation of the inaugural Jenny Piper Memorial Industry Icon, named in honour of the late founder of *CW*, who passed away earlier this year following a battle with cancer (*CW* 09 Jun).

Piper's husband and *CW* editor-at-large Bruce took the stage to present the award (**pictured**), which was given to Phil Hoffmann Travel founder Phil Hoffmann.

The Signature Luxury Cruise Awards are an annual accolade program hosted by *Signature Luxury Travel & Style* magazine, a sister title to *CW. MS*



Australia's Endless Summer

AS AUSTRALIA works to strengthen its position as a year-round cruise destination, East Arnhem is a powerful example of the extraordinary experiences our country can offer beyond the traditional cruise season.

Australia's last true frontier, East Arnhem's remote, uncrowded coastline is ideally suited to small expedition ships.

As ACA's newest member, we're delighted to welcome Developing East Arnhem to the Association at an exciting time for the region, with upcoming calls from Pearl Expeditions and Coral Expeditions demonstrating its potential within Australia's expedition cruise offering.

The dry season from May to Oct brings clear skies, calm seas and low humidity, complementing our southern cruise season and offering visitors the chance to experience an endless summer during the winter.

But East Arnhem's greatest strength is its connection to Yolngu culture, one of the world's oldest living cultures.

World-renowned Indigenous art centres let visitors meet artists and buy directly from them, while meaningful shore programs include bush tucker and bush medicine walks led by Yolngu guides.

Guests can also support ranger programs, ghost net removal, turtle monitoring and the Yothu Yindi Foundation, creating opportunities for cruise tourism to contribute directly to the region.

Importantly, East Arnhem is pursuing high-value, low-impact tourism that creates meaningful benefits for Yolngu people and local businesses while respecting Country and community.

It is precisely this diversity of destination and experience that strengthens Australia's competitiveness as a cruise destination year-round.