



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Viking**.

Viking on sale

VIKING'S 2025 river cruises are now on sale.

Save up to \$6,600 per couple on select river sailings, plus get an additional \$200 per couple discount on 2024 and 2025 voyages if booked before the end of the month.

For more information, see **page 4**.

MEANWHILE, Viking also recently launched its 2023-2025 Ocean Cruise brochure, which is now available to order (**CW** 23 Mar).

In addition to new 2024 and 2025 departure dates, the brochure also features six new itineraries - **CLICK HERE**.

Celebrity appoints new CEO

CELEBRITY Cruises President & Chief Executive Officer Lisa Lutoff-Perlo will transition to Vice Chair External Affairs, with Laura Hodges Bethge named as her successor.

Having served in her role since 2014, Lutoff-Perlo will from May work closely with Royal Caribbean Group President & Chief Executive Jason Liberty.

"Lisa has been instrumental in transforming the Celebrity Cruises brand to what it is today," Liberty said.

"From helping us introduce the revolutionary Edge Series of ships to advancing the role of women in maritime careers, Lisa has had an incredible career during her time leading Celebrity Cruises, and multiple parts of our Royal Caribbean International brand."

Lutoff-Perlo said: "it has always been difficult for me to imagine leaving the incredible Celebrity

brand, but the time is right for me to start an exciting new chapter and turn the helm over to a new leader.

"I'm excited to now work closely with Jason on broader initiatives as we sail towards an even brighter future.

"It has been my great honour to lead this brand...together, our accomplishments have been extraordinary."

Lutoff-Perlo's career with Royal Caribbean Group began in 1985, with her first role as a District Sales Manager.

In 2005, Lutoff-Perlo became Celebrity's first female Senior Vice President of Hotel Operations, and in 2012, she was named Royal Caribbean International Executive Vice President Operations.

Meanwhile, Hodges Bethge most recently served as EVP Shared Services Operations.

NCLH adds Starlink

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) will offer Starlink high-speed internet on board its fleet.

NCLH is currently testing Starlink, beginning with Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) *Norwegian Breakaway*, with the intent to roll out the technology across its entire fleet in a phased manner.

If trials are successful, NCLH is aiming to equip seven additional vessels with Starlink by the year's end, including all three of the company's new additions this year: NCL's *Norwegian Viva*, Oceania Cruises' *Vista*, and Regent Seven Seas Cruises' *Seven Seas Grandeur*.

A comprehensive rollout plan is under development, and details regarding timeline and availability on specific ships will be communicated later.

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Heritage appoints

SOUTHEAST Asian boutique luxury river cruise operator Heritage Line (**CW** 17 Jan) has appointed Sydney-based public relations agency Anne Wild & Associates (AWA) as its representative in Australia and New Zealand.

Responsibilities will include media relations, exclusive partnerships, agent and media familiarisation trips, “creative ideation” and special projects.

“Travel is in our DNA at AWA, and we are thrilled to be expanding our Travel & Lifestyle portfolio once more,” said MD Anne Wild.

“With Asia and the Mekong River in particular trending with Australian and NZ travellers during 2023, the timing is ideal to showcase Heritage Line as one of the most high-end cruise lines in the region offering educational, cultural, adventurous and immersive cruise experiences along the waterways in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.”

AWA has also been reappointed as the local rep for Greece’s Myconian

Tech on Disney

DISNEY’S ‘MagicBand+’ is coming to its cruise line, having been used at its parks for some time now.

On board Disney Cruise Line’s ships, the tech will be known as DisneyBand+, according to local Orlando media.

Passengers will be able to use the wearable device to open their stateroom, buy food and merchandise, and more.

Sylvia for Explora

EXPLORA Journeys has announced that explorer, oceanographer and conservationist Dr Sylvia Earle will be the godmother of its first ship, *Explora I*.

Earle is already a godmother of her namesake *Aurora Expeditions* vessel, having formally christened the *Sylvia Earle* in Antarctica just two months ago (**CW** 23 Feb).

She will name *Explora I* in Rome on 08 Jul this year.

Pandaw Laos rejig

PANDAW Cruises has announced a new 10-night itinerary on the Upper Mekong in Laos, with the rejig aiming to “futureproof” the line’s expeditions in the light of the construction of several planned dams on the river which is already impacting water levels in the region.

The new voyage sails between Chiang Khong in Thailand and Pak Lay, a large town just upstream of Vientiane, with the itinerary no longer including touring in Vientiane which is instead being offered as a pre- or post-cruise extension.

The revised itinerary is in place immediately and applies to all new and existing bookings - see pandaw.com.

Crystal on board with Virtuoso

THE reborn Crystal Cruises has become a global preferred partner for the Virtuoso luxury consortium, with Virtuoso SVP of Sales & Partnerships, Cory Hagopian, saying “with Crystal’s new ownership in place we are confident that our relationship will only grow stronger”.

Crystal is now part of A&K Travel Group, and is led locally by Tony Archbold (**CW** 30 Jan).

The cruise line, which will debut the revamped *Crystal Serenity* out of Marseille on 31 Jul followed by *Crystal Symphony* from Athens in Sep this year, also recently partnered with the Signature Travel Network.



EXCITEMENT is building at Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours ahead of the inaugural voyage of its new *Scenic Eclipse II*.

The newbuild departed from her shipyard in Rijeka, Croatia over the Easter weekend, with the moment celebrated at a ceremony attended by Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic and Scenic Founder & Chair, Glen Moroney (**pictured**), who conducted a tour of the vessel.

Although a sister ship to the first groundbreaking “Discovery Yacht” *Scenic Eclipse I*, the second iteration reflects a host of enhancements to further elevate the experience, including a new Sky Bar featuring private cabanas, a swim jet-equipped Vitality Pool and an immersive Chef’s Garden @ Epicure dining experience and presentation area.

Redesigned Owner’s Penthouse Suites include walk-in wardrobes and completely



transformed bathrooms featuring a private mini spa with a steam room, while other suites have also been remade.

Founders Glen & Karen Moroney will be onboard the 11-day maiden departure from Lisbon, Portugal tomorrow, sailing to Barcelona.

Together the two Scenic Discovery Yachts are set to explore more than 350 ports in 54 countries over the next 12 months, in a combined portfolio of 85 global voyages.





AFTER 237 days at sea, Australia's Michelle Lee has become the first woman to row the Pacific Ocean solo, unassisted, and without stopping.

The Sydney woman was greeted by cheering friends and supporters as she rowed into Port Douglas in Far North Queensland on Wed morning, marking the end of a 14,000-kilometre journey.

She crossed the paths of four cyclones and five hurricanes on her epic journey from Ensenada on the west coast of Mexico, with the marine life of the Pacific and a satellite phone for company.

Lee was at one point even attacked (but unharmed) by a baby shark in her 8x2 boat *Australian Maid*, when it jumped up onto the deck.

New Princess dining

PRINCESS Cruises has unveiled 'The Catch by Rudi', a new signature seafood restaurant now on board *Enchanted Princess*.

The new concept from Rudi Sodamin, who is a longtime collaborator with Carnival Corp, will be available once *Enchanted* emerges from dry dock on the weekend.

After its debut, it will be rolled out across three more Princess ships.

Pax back in Airlie Beach



THE Whitsundays is once again a firm favourite for cruise lines, with 13 ships dropping anchor last month.

More than 30,000 passengers disembarked to explore the Great Barrier Reef, Whitehaven Beach, and mainland attractions in Airlie Beach and Proserpine.

Most of the passengers will have been greeted by Tourism Whitsundays' Volunteer Cruise Ship Ambassadors (**pictured**), who are overseen by dedicated volunteers to provide a positive and welcoming experience for arrivals.

The program was started by local community members in 2004, and today consists of 35 volunteers who meet every ship coming into Airlie Beach and Shute Harbour.

The Ambassadors are easy to spot in iconic blue floral Hawaiian shirts, where they wait at the top of the jetty or at the bus stop, ready to greet guests with

a warm Whitsundays welcome, and offer directions to all the highlights of Airlie Beach.

Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer Rick Hamilton is hugely appreciative of the work that the Volunteer Cruise Ship Ambassadors are doing to welcome cruise guests to the Whitsundays receive.

"The welcome passengers are receiving from our Ambassadors is another reason for them to get off the ship and explore The Whitsundays," he said.

"Whether they are coming ashore to visit the chemist, have a meal or do some shopping, every dollar is going into our local economy.

"Our volunteers are from all industries but have one thing in common, a love of people and customer service, this is something that isn't trainable, and we're fortunate to have so many people who all love helping people enjoy their holidays."

Viking weekly deal

VIKING'S deal of the week is the Capitals of Eastern Europe river cruise, which explores some of the continent's lesser-known treasures.

Phone Viking on 138 747.

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in
Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	11 Apr
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	12 Apr
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	15 Apr
BRISBANE	
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	12 Apr
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	13 Apr
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	15 Apr
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	14 Apr
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	17 Apr
CAIRNS	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	15 Apr
FREMANTLE	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	13 Apr
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	17 Apr
BROOME	
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	14 Apr
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	14 Apr
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	15 Apr
<i>Coral Princess</i>	17 Apr
BUSSELTON	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	12 Apr
GERALDTON	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	14 Apr
CHRISTCHURCH	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	10 Apr
PICTON	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	12 Apr
WELLINGTON	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	11 Apr



RIVER 2025 NOW ON SALE

Save up to \$6,600 per couple on select river sailings. Plus, get an additional \$200 per couple discount on 2024 and 2025 river voyages if booked before 30 April 2023.



For more information contact your Commercial Manager or email agents.anz@vikingcruises.com

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*Conditions apply. Prices are per person, in Australian dollars, based on double occupancy, subject to availability and correct at time of distribution. Prices include all advertised discounts and offers are subject to availability. All offers are valid on new bookings made between 3 April 2023 and 29 May 2023 unless sold out prior. Additional discount of \$200 per couple applies to 2024/2025 River voyages booked between 3 - 30 April 2023. Prices and availability correct as of 21 March 2023. For offer terms and conditions visit [vikingcruises.com.au/cruise-offers.htm](https://www.vikingcruises.com.au/cruise-offers.htm)