



Cruise Weekly today

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

HLO purchases ETG

HELLOWORLD has announced it will acquire Express Travel Group (ETG), the parent company of Creative Cruising (**CW** breaking news).

ETG is owned by its Chief Executive Officer and Director Tom Manwaring, and Sintack Pty Ltd, who will receive \$70 million in stock and cash.

In addition to Creative Cruising, ETG operates a suite of brands, including Express Tickets, Independent Travel Group, Select Travel Group, Alatus, italk travel & cruise, and a range of New Zealand-based operations.

More details in today's issue of **Travel Daily**.

Cruise one of FCTG's top performers

CRUISE tourism is rebounding faster than international tourism arrivals, according to Flight Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) Jun Global Leisure Strategy Showcase.

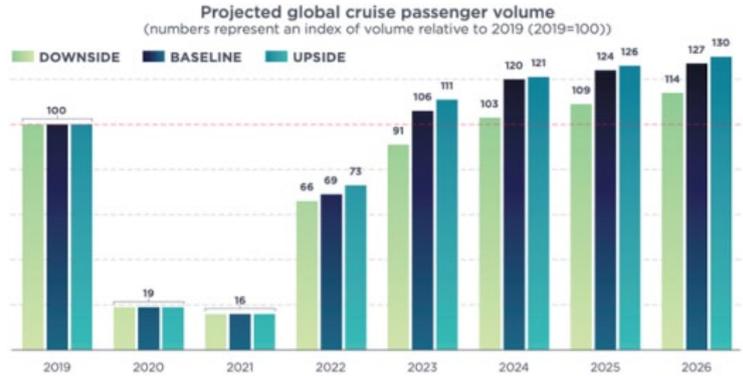
Passenger volume is forecasted to reach 106% of 2019 levels this year, with 31.5 million set to sail.

This compares to the United Nations World Tourism Organization forecast from Jan that international tourist arrivals will be 80% to 95% of 2019 levels this year.

The passenger volume baseline is forecasted to reach 127% of 2019 levels in 2026.

Cruisers are valuable travellers, as many plan multiple holidays at a time, with 37% intending to sail more than once.

The sector is set to be one of Flight Centre's growth drivers, with one of the company's goals to expand its cruise offering by increasing and differentiating its



product ranges.

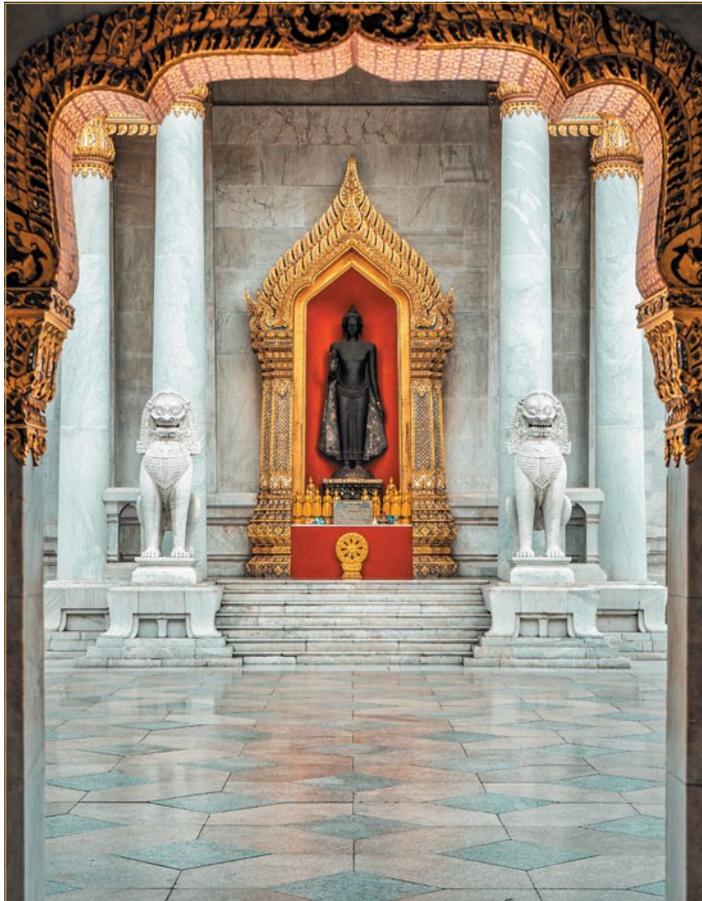
Ocean cruise is recovering faster than river cruise, according to FCTG, but both remain on a positive trend.

Flight Centre cited cruise as having come to the rescue in its first half results, as airline commission reductions bit travel advisors hard (**CW** 22 Feb).

Cruise was one of the highlights

of the earning report, with strengthening sales volume and improved profits and margins one of the key drivers of its supply margin.

The company's boutique Travel Associates brand is also determined to capitalise on the key opportunity provided by the cruise industry's investment road map into new ships (**CW** 19 Jun).



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Paul Gauguin 2025

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has launched its program for 2025, exploring French Polynesia, Fiji, and the South Pacific.

The 26 voyages span six different itineraries offering experiences ranging from seven to 14 nights.

New for 2025 is the opportunity to book the Tuamotus & Society Islands itinerary, featuring Paul Gauguin's first-ever overnight stay in the Fakarava atoll - a UNESCO-listed Biosphere Reserve renowned for its marine habitat.

Travellers who book early can also enjoy up to 30% savings on all-inclusive fares.

Other highlights of the 2025 deployment include further exploration of Bora Bora, a favourite on most of Paul Gauguin's itineraries, as well as the Cook Islands, and more.

CLIA representing cruise to the G20

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has set a course for the sector's future at a series of G20 events this week in India.

CLIA outlined cruise's advances in sustainability, putting the sector on the agenda as governments discuss the future of world tourism.

At a series of events held in Goa, CLIA set out the cruise industry's vision for responsible operations, including its industry-wide commitment to net-zero carbon cruising by 2050.

Managing Director Joel Katz, gave a keynote presentation to G20 Tourism Working Group representatives on Mon, explaining the strength of cruise's global revival and key issues affecting its future direction.

On Tue, Katz addressed key Indian ministers, government officials, and stakeholders on

making the country a hub for cruise tourism.

He explained how close collaborations between cruise lines, governments, ports, destinations, and other industry stakeholders can maximise economic benefits for local communities while fostering tourism in a managed, sustainable way.

On Wed, Katz joined a public-private sector dialogue looking at the importance of travel and tourism to G20 economies, co-organised by India's Ministry of Tourism, in association with the World Travel & Tourism Council and UNWTO.

The dialogue involved representatives from G20 governments and private sector leaders in round-table discussions about their priorities and opportunities for greater public-private collaboration.

"Cruising is undergoing a renaissance worldwide," Katz explained.

"It is an industry with enormous potential, and it's an industry that is moving forward with a clear vision for sustainable and responsibly managed operations.

"Cruise lines are investing heavily in new ships, new technologies and new propulsion systems that are already making a huge difference as we head towards zero-carbon cruising by 2050," he said.

Katz added the cruise industry is committed to reducing emissions and protecting the marine environment, as well as taking a leadership role when it comes to responsible tourism on land.

"As a planned and scheduled form of tourism, cruising offers great opportunities for destinations and cruise lines to work together".



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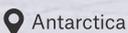
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A TOURIST has spotted a rare creature lurking in the ocean below their aircraft, which will bring joy to many Aussies.

The tourist was flying over the Great Barrier Reef near the Whitsunday Islands when something peculiar caught their eye.

Beneath their aircraft, a white spot disrupted the blue of the ocean, which the tourist started recording.

They sent their video to the White Whale Research Center, and found they had caught a glimpse of Migaloo - an incredibly rare all-white humpback whale.

The creature was first spotted in Jun 1991 near Byron Bay, and was last sighted in 2020, leading some to think Migaloo may have died.

He is one of the most famous humpback whales on the planet, with his own website dedicated to him.

Viking bears down with new brox

VIKING has released its 2023-2025 Expedition brochure, featuring new Arctic itineraries and additional departure dates on popular voyages.

Sailing from Jul 2025, the 13-day 'Into the Northwest Passage' itinerary cruises round trip from Nuuk, and features destinations including the Ilulissat Icefjord, and the eastern entrance of the Northwest Passage in Pond Inlet.

Guests can also discover natural beauty and dramatic landscapes during the 15-day Canada & Greenland Explorer itinerary, which sails between Toronto and Nuuk.

Those interested in more in-depth exploration can choose the new 27-day Canada & the Northwest Passage itinerary, which features additional destinations above the Arctic Circle.

Viking has also released additional departure dates for a number of top-selling itineraries, such as Niagara & the Great Lakes, Panama & Scenic South America and Canadian Discovery.

These itineraries have limited sailings and are now open with



departure dates until 2025.

"We now have a wide range of expedition voyages open and ready for guests to secure their preferred sailing up until Sep 2025," Managing Director Michelle Black said.

"From new itineraries exploring the stunning Arctic region during the Northern Hemisphere summer to the unbelievable experience of our Antarctica voyages, there's something for

every type of traveller."

Travel advisors can learn about the new Expedition brochure at the cruise line's popular Viking Vor training nights, which are being held across Australia in the coming months (**CW** 16 Jun).

After the success of the Viking Vor event in Brisbane in Mar, the cruise line will hold a number of events in new locations, including Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth.



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