



Cruise Weekly today

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

Viking's new WCs

VIKING has launched two new 2026 world voyages, the Longitudinal World Cruises numbered VI and VII.

Both are extended expedition voyages from Antarctica to the Americas, with each cruise sailing from Buenos Aires to Milwaukee over 69 (VI) and 63 (VII) days.

The two new longitudinal itineraries combine several of Viking's popular shorter expedition voyages, and are offered on just one sailing annually, Managing Director Michelle Black said.

The 2026 Viking World Journeys ocean voyage from Los Angeles to London is also open for booking.

Avalon boosts off-season capacity

AVALON Waterways has responded to demand and increased capacity on European itineraries in the winter months.

"We have 88% more capacity than last year in Nov and Dec", shared President Pam Hoffee aboard the cruise line's newest vessel, *Avalon Alegria*, this week.

"We were seeing that late Oct cruises were filling and people were asking 'do you have Nov?', 'do you have Thanksgiving cruises'," Hoffee explained.

In response, the cruise line has extended its season on the Danube, Rhine, Rhone and Seine rivers, rather than taking a break during Oct and Nov.

Avalon has also increased capacity on festive season cruises for 2025, marking the third year in a row the line has boosted end-of-year itineraries, and doubling of capacity on Christmas cruises since 2018.



New Christmas market itineraries in 2025 include several longer cruises such as the 16-day 'Christmastime from Basel to Vienna' and the 17-day 'Christmastime from Budapest to Basel' sailings.

Furthermore, in response to demand for the brand's wine-themed cruises, Avalon has increased capacity on the speciality itineraries by 80% for 2025, with seven itineraries taking place over 18 departures on the Rhone, Seine, Rhine, Danube and Moselle rivers.

MEANWHILE, Globus Family of Brands CMO, Steve Born, shared that sales are going well for *Avalon Alegria* (pictured), the line's first ship based in Portugal.

"We're nearly sold out for 2024 and sales are very, very strong for the 2025 season," he said.

"I think it's a combination of the destination popularity, interest in the growth of river cruising, migrating some from the Rhine and the Danube over to other destinations, and then obviously the popularity of the suite ship design", he shared. AP



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THE cruise industry, as it always does, had its fair share of fun on Mon's Apr Fools Day.

Carnival Cruise Line teased its new airline, Air Force Fun, which promised to deliver passengers to their ship wherever it was around the world; given the cost of airfares around the world, this was a gag we're sure plenty wished was true.



Meanwhile, Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines kept its Apr Fools joke on the ship, teasing slides from its Olsen suites - the largest accommodations the company offers - directly to their ships' bars and pool deck.



Aussies to inherit the World

MSC Cruises Managing Director Lisa Teiotu believes the line's upcoming ship *MSC World America* will resonate strongly with Australian guests, as the local market continues to grow in importance to the company.

The cruise line yesterday announced the introduction of seven distinct districts to *World America*, which will include a dedicated family area; a tranquil zen area; a lively promenade with entertainment, shops and bars; and more.

World America will be targeted more to the Western-style cruise experience, Teiotu told *Cruise Weekly*, which will increase MSC's appeal with Aussie guests.

"It really feels very different to the other ships that we have throughout the fleet... so it provides an alternative experience," she said.

World America will become MSC's new flagship when she sails from her home port in Miami from next Apr.

The new ship's seven distinct districts will include MSC Yacht Club, Family Aventura, Aqua

Deck, Zen Area, Galleria, The Terraces, and Promenade.

Other new onboard features will include a comedy club, and two new yet-to-be-released restaurants, Teiotu teased.

Australian cruisers are already frenziedly booking the line's other World-class ship, *MSC World Europa*, giving MSC hope *World America's* impending arrival will further increase the line's appeal Down Under.

"*World Europa* at the moment is our most popular ship in the fleet, it's selling out in the Europe, and we just can't find enough cabins at the moment to sell into our Australian guests, and our guests all around the world," Teiotu said.

"*World America* is enhanced for the American market, and we really think that the Australian guests will resonate with that... it's really targeted more to the Western cruise experience."

The ship's sailings are already available to book, with her inaugural season to see the ship cruise seven-night itineraries to the Caribbean. *MS*

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	05 Apr
<i>Noordam</i>	06 Apr
<i>Royal Princess</i>	06 Apr
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	06 Apr
MELBOURNE	
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	07 Apr
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	06 Apr
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	06 Apr
BROOME	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	06 Apr
AUCKLAND	
<i>Grand Princess</i>	06 Apr
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	07 Apr
FIORDLAND	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	06 Apr
TAURANGA	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	06 Apr
<i>Grand Princess</i>	07 Apr

HAL Caribbean trio

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is set to deploy all three of its Pinnacle-class ships to the Caribbean for the 2025-26 season, and will sail on longer cruises with nearly 30 itineraries available.

New to the season is the addition of Miami as a home port, as well as the return of *Koningsdam* to the Caribbean.

Cruisers will be able to explore the eastern, western and southern regions of the Caribbean, and enjoy a partial Panama Canal transit.

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