



### Cruise Weekly today

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

## Crystal launches Referral Program

CRYSTAL has launched a Referral Program, rewarding guests who introduce their family and friends to the line.

New guests referred to Crystal receive 5% off their cruise fare, with the past traveller to receive the same value as a credit to use toward a future voyage.

"This opportunity not only rewards our guests for their referrals, but also extends the warm embrace of the Crystal family to new travellers," CSO Marrett Taylor said.

There is no limit to the number of guests one can refer - **CLICK HERE** for more.

## Two RCI ships in Australia in 2025-26

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has announced its 2025-2026 deployment in Australia, with two new ships, *Anthem of the Seas* (pictured) and *Voyager of the Seas*, set to cruise Down Under (CW breaking news).

*Anthem*, which will make her Australian debut, most recently cruised in Singapore.

She will join *Voyager* Down Under in Nov 2025, which had also been based in Asia.

The new Australian ship will cruise "shorter and bolder" getaways from Sydney, while *Voyager* will make her long-awaited return to her new home of Brisbane.

The two ships will sail a line-up of 45 cruises to the New Zealand and the South Pacific between Nov 2025 and Apr 2026, and are now open for booking.

They will replace *Quantum of the Seas* and *Ovation of the Seas*



in Australia.

"Between the excitement of *Anthem of the Seas* making its Australian debut, *Voyager's* return Down Under, and more weekend getaways than ever before, the 2025-2026 summer season is one for the books," Vice President & Managing Director Gavin Smith said.

"Every kind of holidaymaker

can make memories in more ways than one with a varied line-up, from short getaways to a longer sailing from Asia, and new experiences like the show-stopping 'We Will Rock You' musical production, ice-skating shows and six exclusive family adventures created by Royal Caribbean and the Wiggly Friends," he said. MS

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# Emerald announce new yacht *Kaia*

**EMERALD** Cruises has announced its new luxury yacht *Emerald Kaia* (pictured), setting sail in Apr 2026.

The ship will accommodate an increased capacity of 128 guests, and will cruise in the Mediterranean, the Adriatic, the Aegean, and the Seychelles.

*Kaia* will introduce a suite of innovations, such as an expanded Sky Deck, a new internal Sky Lounge, and private cabanas.

There is also a larger Observation Sun Deck, on the bow, complementing the existing Observation Lounge, and offering a spa pool and sun lounges.

*Kaia* also offers enhanced dining venues, including a larger terrace for guests to enjoy al fresco dining at La Cucina restaurant, while the new additional-cost Night Market is an Asian-style grill concept for up to eight guests.

The Marina has been enhanced



with a dedicated Marina Lounge, providing additional opportunities for water sports.

The deck also features a reimagined gym, with a platform for outdoor workouts.

All staterooms boast a 10% larger floor plan, with new connecting Balcony Suites on deck 4 allow private spaces for small groups.

"*Kaia*, with its significant design and amenity enhancements, marks a pivotal expansion for

our fleet," Scenic Group Chair & founder Glen Moroney said.

"It builds on the strengths of *Emerald Sakara* and *Emerald Azzurra*, allowing us to offer unmatched superyacht experiences along the world's most captivating coastlines."

*Kaia's* itineraries are now available to view and book in Emerald's new 2024-2027 Cruise Planner ([CLICK HERE](#)), which offers the full collection of voyages across the fleet. *MS*

## Ambience crash

**AMBASSADOR** Cruise Line's ship *Ambience* was involved in a berthing incident on 05 Apr in Cape Town, where she made contact with a container ship.

A statement from Ambassador said *Ambience* was unable to main her position in strong gusting winds, despite the assistance of two tugs and a pilot.

No injuries have been reported for either guests or crew members, and following the incident, *Ambience* docked safely, and was cleared for guests to disembark.

Both ships report only minor damage, and there was no water ingress or pollution.

*Ambience's* departure time was delayed to the following day, when the forecast became more favourable, however this did not affect the remainder of the ship's itinerary.



2025 - 2026

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**SWAN** Hellenic guests were among the first to experience the solar eclipse on 08 Apr (pictured), with passengers aboard *Diana* enjoying views of the celestial event from the Gulf of California.

The eclipse was one of the longest in recent years, at almost five minutes.

It occurred on the seventh day of a sold-out, eight-day cruise from Acapulco to La Paz.

Paul Maley of the NASA Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society has been accompanying guests throughout the cruise, as has Michael Shara of the American Museum of Natural History, who gave an expert talk so guests could experience the moment in even greater depth.



## Drinks on MSC

**MSC** Cruises has introduced its 'World's Greatest Bars' program, with two globally renowned bars opening "pop-ups" on board selected ships.

The bars include popular Barcelona spots Paradiso and Sips, each coming on board for a six-month extravaganza.

## Eclipse II to arrive in Aus



**SCENIC** Luxury Cruises & Tours' *Scenic Eclipse II* (pictured) is set to arrive in Australia next week, before she travels throughout the country and to the South Pacific.

The cruise line has confirmed *Eclipse II* will sail into Australian waters next Fri, 19 Apr, when she arrives in Sydney.

*Eclipse II* will then visit Newcastle on 22 Apr, the city where Scenic was founded almost 40 years ago.

The ship is set to visit the eastern states and Top End of Australia, Indonesia, the South Pacific, NZ, and Antarctica over the next two years.

Australian itineraries will comprise the coastline of Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef and its islands, the NT, the Kimberley, the coast of Western Australia, and more.

Those exploring farther afield will enjoy New Zealand, East Antarctica, and the Ross Sea.

"As an Australian-founded company, we are incredibly proud to mark this significant

milestone," GM Sales & Marketing Anthony Laver said.

"With its enhanced ultra-luxury spaces, new culinary experiences and next generation submersible, *Scenic Eclipse II* reflects our commitment to continuous innovation and bringing life-changing experiences to guests.

"The arrival of *Scenic Eclipse II* in Australian waters represents a new era in ocean cruising for this region, where ultra-luxury meets discovery," he added. *MS*

## Seattle kicks off

**SEATTLE'S** cruise season has kicked off, with the seaport city celebrating 25 years of sailing to Alaska.

Port and local officials recently welcomed Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Bliss* to Bell Street at Pier 66.

Authorities are also working to finalise the electrification of Pier 66, with cruise ships planned to be able to connect to shorepower this summer.



## New South Wales news

**GREETINGS** from Seatrade Cruise Global, Miami where I am part of the ACA's record attendee delegation to this major cruise gathering.

More news to follow from the show, as well as the conference sessions, in the next column.

Back in Australia, important gatherings of another kind have been taking place in NSW.

Last week, ACA participated in a Cruise Workshop held in Eden on the South Coast.

The event was run by DNSW as part of their NSW First program, aimed at attracting new operators to work with cruise in each of the state's major ports.

It was great to be involved in the session, which attracted around 40 attendees including the Port Authority of NSW, Cruise Eden, ground handlers and regional tourism.

Reflecting the growth and the positive outlook for the cruise sector, around half of the attendees were operators interested in becoming involved in the industry.

Future workshops are planned for Newcastle on 12 Jun and Sydney on 03 Jul.

The event took place as Australia's highly successful summer cruise season comes to an end.

Carnival's *Pacific Adventure* was the final ship into Eden last Sun, with her call capping off a record season which saw 41 ships visit the regional port.

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