



Cruise Weekly today

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

Cruise pilot points

CRUISEPILOT and Velocity Frequent Flyer have relaunched their partnership, allowing Velocity members the ability to earn points on some of the world's most popular cruise lines.

Among the brands included in the offer are Virgin Voyages, Royal Caribbean International, Princess Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises, Disney Cruise Line, MSC Cruises, Carnival Cruise Line, and more.

Velocity members can earn 3 Velocity Points per \$1 spent on cruise fares booked through CruisePilot, with Silver members earning an additional 50% of the base Velocity Points (4.5 points per \$1 spent).

Gold members will earn an additional 75% (5.25 points per \$1 spent); and Platinum members will earn double the points (6 points per \$1 spent) on their cruise fare.

Velocity members must provide their membership number to CruisePilot at the time, or within 30 days, of making the reservation, and the booking name of the lead passenger must match that on the Velocity membership.

APT, Viking gonged twice



APT and Viking will battle it out for both the 'Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator' and 'Most Popular River Cruise Operator' at the National Travel Industry Award's (NTIA) later this year (CW breaking news yesterday).

The two cruise lines have been named finalists in both categories, joining Norwegian Cruise Line, Ponant, and Princess Cruises in the Ocean category, and Avalon Waterways, Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours, and Uniworld Boutique River Cruises in the River class.

This year is the second in a row Viking has been nominated in both categories.

APT is also celebrating its second year in a row being nominated in the River category.

Also celebrating in the cruise industry today is CruiseCo, recognised as a finalist in the 'Most Outstanding Wholesaler -

Product/Service' category.

The finalists were determined by industry voting, with a record 8,266 votes cast.

"Thank you to everyone who participated in the voting process, and it's great to have a record number of votes for these categories," Australian Travel Industry Association Chief Executive Officer Dean Long said.

"It's inspiring to see the passion and commitment within our industry, and the high calibre of finalists reflects the exceptional talent and dedication of our travel professionals.

"We are excited to celebrate these finalists at NTIA 2024 and acknowledge their contributions to our vibrant industry."

The NTIA 2024 ceremony will take place on 26 Oct at ICC Sydney, where the winners will be announced in a night of celebration and recognition. MS

A Sth Pacific Quest

SEABOURN Cruise Line has unveiled new ultra-luxury voyages on *Seabourn Quest* for the 2025 and 2026 seasons, which are now open for sale.

Quest has launched voyages to Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific, Polynesia, Panama Canal, and Hawaii, on a total of 22 itineraries with 46 destinations in 13 countries.

Itineraries range from 10 to 48 days, including 15-day voyages in Australia and New Zealand, which will visit destinations such as Melbourne and Cairns.

A new series of 10-day voyages sailing round trip from Papeete are designed to provide a full immersion in French Polynesia.

There is also a 19-day Panama Canal Passage from Long Beach to Miami.

Quest will also visit Bora Bora and Tahiti, and enjoy extended stays in destinations such as Napier, Honolulu, Kona, Puerto Vallarta, and Cartagena.

"Guests will immerse in the urban and natural wonders in Australia and the beauty and traditions of the South Pacific," President Natalya Leahy said.

"Along with navigating breathtaking coastlines and introducing guests to vibrant cultures, *Seabourn Quest's* itineraries invite guests to indulge in unmatched luxury, refinement and enjoyment on board," she added.

NEW NAME. SAME SWEET MEMORIES.



PROUDLY CRUISING AS
 Carnival IN 2025

BOOK NOW VIA FLAGSHIP





New Zealand's cruise own goal

“NEW Zealand has done this to itself” was the message from Carnival Corporation Chief Strategy & External Affairs Officer Teresa Lloyd, in reference to the alarming decline in cruise calls scheduled in the country over the next few years (*CW* 16 Aug).

Speaking last week's New Zealand Cruise Association Conference, Lloyd articulated the government's lack of understanding of the problems faced by the industry, including port costs, destination regulations, and fuel.

“Time and time again when ports and other players in the New Zealand market have said, ‘there's nothing we can do’, there is everything you can do,” the Carnival executive encouraged.

“There's a whole lot of data that makes New Zealand difficult to work with, but more importantly, the signal is, ‘you don't really

matter’ to a business that has committed itself to the region for nearly 100 years.

“When we came to the government in New Zealand and articulated some of our problems and challenges, we were told, ‘well, if you don't come, someone else will’...those are the signals, and that's what's happened, and that's why we are where we are.”

Lloyd's impassioned dictation on the ‘Future of NZ Cruising’ panel made clear Carnival's cruise ships were not being pushed away from NZ; rather, they have been forced away from the country due to the “crippling” growth in the cost of doing business.

“These ships aren't being pulled into other more lucrative markets, they have been pushed out of New Zealand...we would hope that the signals we were trying to send were received a little earlier than they have been,

and we've had to take some pretty drastic action, which is now what everybody is feeling,” Lloyd said.

“These are not decisions that are taken easily, we don't just redeploy ships at a heartbeat... that winter home port season we run from New Zealand and have dedicated ourselves to for years took decades to get up and running,” she added.

Lloyd's concerning revelation came with the sting in the tail that the damage being done to New Zealand's cruise industry would likely take around five years to undo.

“These things don't move that quickly, decisions [the lines are making now] are significant,” Lloyd warned.

“What we need to see is the signals are right, [and] the signals that the pricing is addressed,” Lloyd explained. *MS*

Astrid's new role

EXPERIENCED cruise industry executive Astrid Maier has begun a new role as Senior Cruise Product Specialist at CruiseHQ.

Maier is best known for her time with Creative Cruising and The Cruise Team as a Product Executive.

Riverside promos

EARLYBIRD cruise bookers can enjoy a 25% discount on all 2025 bookings until 31 Jan under a new series of deals from Riverside Luxury Cruises.

Bookings after this date but before 28 Feb 2025 will see the discount cut to 15%, but it can be reinstated on itineraries seven nights or longer.

Riverside Luxury Cruises sails three ships - *Ravel* and *Debussy*, and the double-wide *Mozart* on the Danube.

TRAVEL INSPIRATION ON THE BIG SCREEN

APERITIVO AT THE PICTURES IS BACK!

Uniworld “Agent Bring Consumer” events are back - and this time in the cinema. Aperitivo at the Pictures are for your clients - but you can bring them with you!

If you can't make it, don't worry, the Uniworld Team will forward the guest list and all leads and enquiries on to you. With exclusive offers for attendees, tickets include a presentation, a viewing of the latest Uniworld documentary, sparkling wine, popcorn and, of course, a choc-top! To get behind Aperitivo at the Pictures, please share the invitation with your clients. But please don't delay, as there are very limited spaces available and these are going to be very popular.



[Click here for
ADVISOR TOOLKIT](#)

[Click here for
EVENT DETAILS](#)

Please contact the Uniworld Sales Team for help in promoting these events or with any questions you have. [Jen Pagett](#) | [Fran Gildon](#) | [Shelley Martin](#)

UNIWORLD
BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES.



THE wreck of a torpedoed World War I warship has been found in “amazing” condition, after being lost on the seabed for more than a century.

The British warship was found covered in barnacles and seaweed, after she was torpedoed by a German U-boat more than 100 years ago.

The wreck of the *Hawke*, it is believed, has been found by divers working with research team ‘Lost In Waters Deep’.

Hawke sank on 15 Oct 1914, off the coast of Scotland, and may now be found lying on her starboard side.

“The guns look as if they’re still active, they’re so highly polished it’s unbelievable,” one of the divers told *CNN*.

“I’ve never seen guns like that in such amazing condition, it’s absolutely beautiful.”

Hawke sank in just seven minutes, it is believed, taking more than 500 sailors with her.

Cruising gets rocked



CREATIVE Cruising recently hosted its successful Cruise Spirit retreat at Uluru, which brought together travel advisors for three days of immersive cruise content.

The retreat featured masterclasses on expedition and Antarctica, as well as luxury cruising, providing in-depth insights into the latest trends in each sector.

Advisors had the opportunity to learn from industry experts representing Quark Expeditions, Ponant, Silversea, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, and Tauck, as well as global travel insurer Cover-More.

The retreat featured discussions on current cruise and market trends, while participants engaged in sessions on effective marketing and social media

strategies to drive sales and enhance their business growth.

Attendees also had the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pre-dawn access to Field of Light Uluru, the Mutitjulu Waterhole, and the new Voyages-led drone show Wintjiri Wiru.

“It’s been a terrific few days - Cruise Spirit stores represent some of the top cruise stores in the industry,” Group General Manager Cruise Steve Brady said.

“It was great to host them, not only at an awe-inspiring location, but the feedback on the masterclass content has been so positive,” he added.

“Providing top agents with even more skills and knowledge to do what they do best.” *MS*

Pictured: the group at Uluru.

Extinction protest

AMBASSADOR Cruise Line became caught up in a climate protest by environmental movement Extinction Rebellion as one of its ships was trying to dock in Amsterdam last weekend.

According to a post on Ambassador’s Facebook page, protestors prevented *Ambition* from entering the locks to approach the Dutch capital during her City Break cruise from Edinburgh to Amsterdam and Antwerp.

As a precaution, the Captain made the call to divert the ship to IJmuiden, around one hour away.

Passengers were transferred by road back to Amsterdam, where scheduled shore tours continued as planned, with *Ambition* staying longer in port to account for the delay.

In a subsequent post, Ambassador said it has been informed by Dutch port agents a second protest is planned for this weekend, which will see it again divert to IJmuiden.

The line has apologised to impacted guests.

Discover the all new *River Cruise Special Report*

