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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise news plus a cover page from Norwegian Cruise Line.

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Meanwhile, travel advisors can double their money on all Norwegian sailings when the booking is registered via Partners First Rewards.

Agents can score the big rewards for bookings registered between 01 Jan and 31 Mar.

Head to today's cover page for more information, and for more from Norwegian, head to page 4.

RSSC introduces all-overnights cruises

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has announced an "industry-first" with its unique Immersive Overnight sailings, which will feature an overnight stay in every port of call.

Destinations featured in the Immersive Overnights collection include the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, and Asia, with cruises on board *Seven Seas Splendor* (pictured), *Seven Seas Explorer*, *Seven Seas Voyager*, and *Seven Seas Navigator*.

The new collection of six 2024 and 2025 itineraries will also feature 26 special evening shore excursions created to explore the destination in a completely new way, such as an exploration of world-class art from Picasso, Rodin, and Munch in the home of a Swedish prince; sunset wine-tasting at a Tuscan villa; and a Michelin-star dinner in Athens.

Additional evening excursions



and unique multi-night overland tours in Italy, Croatia, France, Greece, Germany, and Finland will be announced soon.

All Immersive Overnight sailings are included in RSSC's Upgrade Your Horizon offer, where guests receive a free two-category suite upgrade and low deposits.

"Regent's history of innovation is what made us industry leaders in ultra-luxury cruising, and we continually strive to elevate the unrivaled Regent experience for our discerning and well-travelled guests," President Andrea

DeMarco said.

"Our Immersive Overnights collection featuring an overnight stay in every single port of call will change the way luxury travellers cruise.

"These extended overnight experiences will allow guests unparalleled immersion in a range of incredible global destinations from Incheon, South Korea; to Zadar, Croatia; to Stockholm, Sweden," she added.

CLICK HERE for more information on the Immersive Overnight voyages. *MS*

— REGENT PRESENTS —

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HLC new local rep

HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises (HLC) has expanded its presence in Australia, appointing Luxury Travel Marketing to represent it locally.

The partnership has been struck as HLC's *Europa 2* passes through Australia on a series of Pacific voyages.

"We are extremely proud and humbled to have been appointed to showcase Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, as this adds a new chapter to our respected, well-established luxury sales and marketing company, which has been operating for the past 14 years," said Managing Director Margi Jansma.

Co-MD Lauren McAlpine said: "we are very excited to partner with such a prestigious cruise provider, and we are lucky enough to kick start this partnership by showcasing the majestic *Europa 2*".

HAL adds Legendary Aussie voyages

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has added more 'Legendary Voyages', three of which will cruise to and from Australia in 2025-2026.

The 28-day Islands of the South Pacific cruise sails from Sydney, with guests embarking *Noordam* (pictured) on 04 Jan 2026.

The ship then heads to Auckland, visiting 20 ports in seven countries along the way.

Noordam will sail along the eastern states of Australia, with four calls in Queensland and an opportunity to snorkel at the Great Barrier Reef.

The ship then calls at the Conflict Group en route to Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Tonga, before arriving in New Zealand.

There are also two 'South Pacific Crossing' cruises, including a 27-day sailing from Seattle to Sydney, visiting nine ports across the



Pacific Ocean, which includes four calls in Fiji.

The cruise, which departs 12 Oct 2025, will also overnight in Honolulu, departing late the next day, allowing for extra time to experience the city's culture, cuisine, and history.

There is also a 36-day South Pacific Crossing departing 15 Mar,

sailing from Sydney to Seattle.

Noordam will explore 17 ports throughout New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Tahiti, the Cook Islands and Hawaii, with overnight stays at Papeete, Tahiti; and Honolulu, and a number of late departures.

"Our 28-day Islands of the South Pacific voyage offers Aussie travellers a port-intensive itinerary, allowing them to see the world from their doorstep and explore a range of countries across the region," Vice President of Sales and Partnerships Ryan Taibel said.

"Aboard our mid-sized ship, *Noordam*, which comfortably accommodates 1,924 guests, you're not just taking a trip - you're indulging in a special experience at some of the world's most unique ports."

CLICK HERE for a full list of Legendary Voyages. *MS*

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Wednesday 24th Jan 2024

IT IS just days before Royal Caribbean International officially launches the maiden sailing for its first Icon-class vessel *Icon of the Seas* in Miami on 27 Jan.

Travel sellers from all around the world recently had the chance to sample this mammoth ship for the first time, which boasts eight themed neighbourhoods catering for all ages, more than 40 eateries, zip lines, a special nook for kids and teens, and an amazing Aqua Dome entertainment theatre, to name just a few of the entertainment options.

The cruise line believes its new Icon-class ships will create some serious waves in the multi-generational cruise segment, hyping the vast array of experiences on board as a unique selling point.



CEO of Royal Caribbean International Michael Bayley and CEO of Royal Caribbean Group Jason Liberty provide an update on all things *Icon*.



THE view from the top - *Icon* makes for an impressive picture when gazing down at the fertile and chirpy world of the Central Park neighbourhood.



PERFORMERS put the finishing touches on their aerial performances before *Icon's* launch on 17 Jan.



THE cabins are complete with smart technology lighting, HD TV screens with Chromecast streaming capability, and plenty of storage space.



THE Ultimate Family Suite is out of this world - there are trampolines, private cinema screens for the kids and even a slide to get from the top floor to the bottom. The kids will never want to step foot on shore again.



THE cocktails were flowing aboard *Icon's* special preview sailing.



SURFS up dude! The Flow Rider attraction in the Thrill Island neighbourhood got a bit gnarly on day one but thankfully no major wipeouts were witnessed.



WHEN the thrills were all done, the chills were on offer at Chill Island on Royal's Perfect Day at CocoCay in The Bahamas.



ONE of the major brains behind the development of all of Royal Caribbean's experiences, Jay Schneider, provided some fascinating context behind some of the design elements aboard *Icon*.

Did you miss some of season ONE?
Click here to listen

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APPARENTLY there is only one word you can't say on a cruise ship, with TikTok identity Marc Sebastian finding out the hard way recently.

The social media user is on board Royal Caribbean International's Ultimate World Cruise (**CW** 03 Jan), which has been featured recently in Porthole for its frequent documentation online.

Sebastian told his TikTok followers using the word 'Titanic' is a big no-no on a cruise ship.

He claims he invoked the ill-fated British ocean liner in an entire room full of passengers enjoying their lunch, when mentioning *Serenade of the Seas* is only 100 feet longer than the sunken White Star Line-operated vessel.

"When I tell you that utensils dropped, waiters gasped, it's dead silent," Sebastian said.

Dive in with A-ROSA

A-ROSA has boosted its swimming lessons program, following its success last year.

Classes for children will be held again on *A-ROSA Sena* this year, with extra dates added for 2024.

There is also a new course available, aimed at children who are more experienced swimmers, and want to increase their stamina.

Norwegian back in Africa



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is returning to Southern Africa for its longest season in the region to date.

The cruise line's *Norwegian Dawn* arrived in Port Louis on Sat to sail from the capital city of Mauritius for the first time.

Dawn will offer a selection of 12- and 21-day itineraries, including open-jaw sailings departing from both Port Louis and Cape Town.

The ship will stop at sought-after locations such as Reunion, Nosy Be, Richards Bay, and Mossel Bay.

New-to-Norwegian destinations will include Luanda, Abidjan, Banjul, and Dakar.

Guests seeking wildlife and cultural experiences can embark on *Dawn's* 12-day round trips to South Africa and Namibia on 01 Feb and 08 Mar, with calls to Mossel Bay, Durban, Luderitz, and Walvis Bay.

There will also be a 21-day voyage along West Africa, which will see *Dawn* call Luanda, Sao

Tome, Abidjan, Banjul, and Dakar.

Dawn will return to home port from Port Louis and Cape Town, in 2024/25 and 2025/26, reinforcing Norwegian's commitment to Africa.

"We are thrilled to set sail again in African waters following our successful cruise season out of Cape Town in 2022/2023," Vice President & Managing Director Ben Angell said.

"Africa is on most travellers' bucket lists, and our Southern African itineraries offer the best way to experience this fascinating region with our extensive range of round trip and open-jaw sailings, a rich selection of destinations and two seasonal home ports," he commented.

"On these destination-rich itineraries guests could encounter elephants, lions and hippos in Richards Bay on one day, and on the next enjoy an award-winning spa experience or relax on the beach at Befotaka Bay in Madagascar," Angell added. *MS Pictured: Dawn* in Cape Town.



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Get on board in 2024

CLIA travel agents continue to lead the charge as the most successful cruise specialists within our region.

CLIA membership expands your cruise knowledge and skills through access to online courses and live and virtual events; earn your CLIA certification from our globally recognised training and certification program; and access valuable tools and downloadable resources via the CLIA Members Hub to help you be the best cruise sales agent.

Behind the scenes, CLIA's critical government advocacy programs represent the cruise community's needs and interests as we work to protect and enhance the cruise industry and our members.

CLIA is working to make sure our members get the best possible support on the path ahead, so if you haven't already renewed your CLIA membership for 2024, now is the time to do so.

Existing members must renew by 31 Jan to maintain access to all benefits, including our exclusive events, our award-winning education programs, and the 2024 CLIA Australia Travel Agent Rewards Program.

If you are not yet a member, do not miss out - take a moment to review CLIA's member benefits and get in touch with our membership team **HERE**.

