



Cruise Weekly today

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

Seabourn on land

SEABOURN Cruise Line has unveiled new Seabourn Journeys, offering new pre-, mid-, and post-cruise extensions for its 2024 Grand Africa Voyage.

The journeys offer in-depth, land-based extensions allowing guests to further explore Africa.

Mid-cruise safari options include unique properties and national parks in Botswana and Namibia.

Guests can visit sites like Kariega Game Reserve Eastern Cape, Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, and Onguma The Fort, or enjoy an exclusive wine experience paired with gourmet dining.

This experience is available at La Residence wine estate in Franschhoek during four-day pre- and post-cruise stays.

Most packages include select meals, transportation, and guided experiences for smaller groups, ensuring intimate, personalised exposure to the location and its culture.

Guests stay in luxury hotels and lodges that highlight their surroundings and indigenous culture, with transfers conveniently timed to the start or end of Seabourn cruises.

Philly cruises are back on

CRUISES are set to recommence from Philadelphia in 2026 for the first time in 15 years.

Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Jewel* will home port from Philadelphia from Apr 2026 to Oct 2026, offering seven-to-nine-day voyages to Bermuda, where the ship will overnight.

Later in the season, *Jewel* will sail 10- and 11-day voyages to Canada and New England, alternating home ports between Philadelphia and Quebec City.

The cruises will call at ports like Saguenay, Charlottetown, Halifax, Bar Harbor, and Boston.

Cruises will recommence from Philadelphia in time for a number of marquee events, including the United States Semiquincentennial.

Philadelphia is expected to play a prominent role in the celebrations, given the city's extensive contributions to the United States' history.

The city will also host the MLB All-Star Game and the FIFA World Cup in 2026.

"We remain committed to delivering more experiences for our guests to create unforgettable memories, so they can vacation better with us," Norwegian President David Herrera said.



"We are particularly proud to partner with PhilaPort to launch cruising in the area, making it even more accessible to the US Mid-Atlantic region.

"Our new 2026 spring/summer deployment further meets the vacation demands of our guests with more shorter cruise offerings to fun-in-the-sun destinations, such as the Bahamas and the Caribbean, as well as a variety of longer itineraries to bucket-list destinations, such as Alaska."

PhilaPort Executive Director & Chief Executive Jeff Theobald said Philadelphia is extremely excited to partner with Norwegian.

"Philadelphia has so much to offer, as the birthplace of freedom and the home to much of our nation's history, we look forward to connecting cruisers with our world-class city.

"This new service rounds out the portfolio of services offered at PhilaPort, and we look forward to this next phase of growth." *MS*

NZ cruise fee hike

A FORTHCOMING 88% spike in Customs fees charged to cruise travellers entering New Zealand from 01 Dec has been slammed by both the New Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA) and CLIA Australasia.

The New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries is currently inviting submissions for the planned fee hike, which would see the levy charged to cruise ship arrivals jump from NZ\$11.48 to NZ\$21.54.

The impost is well beyond the NZ Government's own published cap of \$16.44 and brings with it scope to increase further with a new upper cap.

NZCA Chief Executive, Jacqui Lloyd, said the increased cost will have "disastrous consequences" for the country's cruise industry.

"It threatens to cost cruise lines visiting New Zealand an additional unbudgeted \$2 million for the 2024/2025 season," Lloyd commented.

CLIA Australasia said the levy increase may cause serious harm to local tourism at a time New Zealand is already seeing 22% reduced visitation from cruise ships.

The association said New Zealand is already one of the most expensive countries in the world for cruise operations and that it will be advocating for a more constructive process, with both itself and NZCA set to lodge submissions.

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CRUISE guests should be suspicious of the amenities in their stateroom bathrooms, one US travel agent believes. Cruise ships are very much in the business of sustainability and for many years have offered guests refillable soap, shampoo and other amenities in their bathrooms.

However, Hannah Westphal, the owner of US agency ByHannah Vacations, is urging travellers, who understandably may not want to bring their own from home, to be sceptical of what's onboard.

"I have to admit, I would never use those refillable shampoo and conditioner bottles in the shower," she told the UK's *The Sun*.

"It's a bit off-putting not knowing exactly what's in those dispensers."

"There's always the worry someone might have refilled them with something...and believe me, I've seen hair removal creams and God knows what else."

Despite Hannah's warning, she said if the toiletries are in a locked dispenser, those are usually okay to use.

Westphal's advice, if you can't bring your own from home, is to ask your stateroom attendant for new bottles to be delivered once you board.

Now you've got us worried a little bit Hannah...

President to the fjords



MEMBERS of Celebrity Cruises' Captain's Club loyalty program can explore the Norwegian Fjords with the line's executive team in 2025 on the prestigious annual President's Cruise itinerary.

The sailing onboard *Celebrity Apex* departs from Southampton on 17 May 2025 and allows the line's loyal members to cruise and mingle alongside senior Celebrity executives including President Laura Hodges Bethge.

Conversely, Celebrity's upper management use the opportunity to learn from its loyal clientele on what they love and what should change about the cruise experience both onboard as well as pre- and post-sailing.

The eight-night round-trip voyage takes travellers deep into the spectacular Norwegian Fjords and to ports including Bruges in Belgium before exploring Olden, Geiranger, Alesund and Stavanger in Norway itself.

Guests will also have access to a range of still-to-be-announced shore excursions, special events and unique dining experiences

only available on the annual President's Cruise.

"The President's Cruise is a massive celebration of our Captain's Club members, and the sailing is an incredible opportunity for me and my executive team to spend time with our guests," explained Hodges Bethge.

"It is incredibly rewarding to hear guests' stories and experience Celebrity through their eyes.

"The feedback and ideas we receive while onboard are instrumental in shaping the future of Celebrity Cruises, allowing us to innovate and enhance our offerings in ways that truly resonate with our guests," Hodges Bethge added.

Celebrity's management have recently returned from the 2024 edition of the voyage - a six-night Caribbean escape onboard *Celebrity Beyond*.

The sailing featured a pool party featuring the Team USA artistic swimming team set to compete at the Paris Olympics. *ML*

HX names first CXO

HX HAS appointed its inaugural Chief Expedition Officer, Alex McNeil, with the cruise veteran to oversee all aspects of the line's itineraries.

The new C-suite role will see McNeil ensure each voyage is designed to offer unparalleled exploration, education, and leave a positive impact on the communities HX interacts with.

McNeil has almost 20 years and nearly 200 expeditions of experience, including to the Geographic North Pole.

Newly appointed HX CEO Gebhard Rainer said McNeil will leverage his extensive experience and business acumen to maximise the experiences of the next generation of explorers who travel with HX.

Cruise Calendar



Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY		
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>		21 Jul
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>		21 Jul
BRISBANE		
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>		23 Jul
CAIRNS		
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>		18 Jul
AIRLIE BEACH		
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>		25 Jul
BROOME		
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>		19 Jul
<i>Scenic Eclipse</i>		19 Jul
<i>Coral Geographer</i>		20 Jul
<i>Le Laperouse</i>		23 Jul