



CRUISE

WEEKLY

delivered daily!



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Monday 29th Jul 2024

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of cruise industry news including a photo page from **Uniworld Boutique River Cruises**.

Barcelona tax hike

CRUISE ships visiting Barcelona will be slugged with a higher tax on day visitors as the city continues its fight against overtourism.

The move follows a wave of anti-tourism protests in Spain, which included locals spraying visitors with water pistols.

"There is intensive use of public space without any benefit for the city and a feeling of occupation and saturation," Barcelona Mayor Jaume Collboni told *El Pais*.

The fee is currently €7 (A\$11.61), but it is unclear how much it may increase.

Royal's Icon now at 132%

SUSTAINED demand for cruise holidays and record onboard spend levels has led Royal Caribbean Group to post strong financial results for Q2 2024.

The company, which operates Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Silversea, reported revenues of US\$4.1 billion, with just over two million pax carried across the quarter.

Royal Caribbean International CEO, Michael Bayley, told investors the brand's first Icon-class vessel - *Icon of the Seas* - was operating at "about 132% load factor", or around 7,405 passengers from its 7,600 capacity.

Group-wide load factors were reported to be sitting at 108%, marking a 3% year-on-year jump.

The company also reported booking volumes higher than the prior corresponding period.

"We met our financial targets 18 months earlier than expected,



have our balance sheet in a strong position, reinstated our dividend, and we are just getting started," said Royal Caribbean Group CEO, Jason Liberty.

P&Os gold medals

CRUISERS booked on P&O Cruises during the Olympic Games in Paris won't miss a minute of the action, with the line screening events onboard.

The line's three ships will screen events both live and on replay across the public areas, lounges, and by the pool via the official broadcast.

Skagway landslide

CRUISE ships visiting the Alaskan port of Skagway had to make alternative plans last week after a landslide closed the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway, and 80km of the South Klondike Highway.

While the slide caused no injuries, ships scheduled to visit the popular port were forced to make major last minute changes to itineraries.

Guests from Holland America Line's *Koningsdam* were unable to return to their ship after their day excursion, requiring a six-hour, 482km overnight bus ride to reboard in Haines which included two Canadian border crossings.

Quantum of the Seas opted to skip her planned call, while *Discovery Princess*, *Carnival Miracle*, *Ruby Princess* and *Norwegian Jewel* made other arrival arrangements.

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST WEEKEND

UTOPIA OF THE SEAS

NOW SAILING FROM PORT CANAVERAL

Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL

LEARN MORE

Monday 29 July 2024

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises celebrated Egypt last week with Australian fashion icon Camilla Franks.

The event was graced by the presence of Uniworld's global Chief Executive Officer Ellen Bettridge, Managing Director Alice Ager, and Consul General of Egypt Mohamed Khalil, as well as Camilla Franks herself.

The exclusive gathering was attended by Uniworld's top travel advisors, while Bettridge also took this opportunity to officially announce the details of an extraordinary 50-day Rivers of the World itinerary in 2026.



THE Uniworld dream team.



NORIYE Oto, Danielle Gregory, Camilla Franks, Emma Sheldrick, Alice Ager, Madelyn Samuels, the team from Our Vacation Centre.

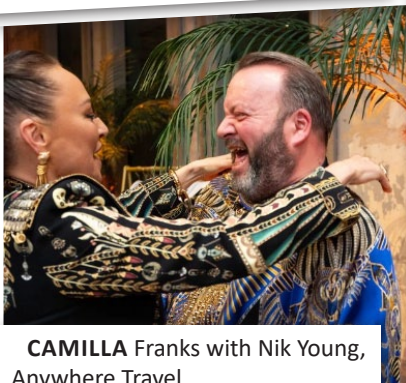


EGYPTIAN entertainment welcome.

ELLEN Bettridge announcing 2026 Rivers of the World - 50 nights to celebrate Uniworld's 50 year anniversary.



GEMMA Smith, Claremont Cruise & Travel and Simone Rosa, Travel Associates Victoria Point, who were two of the incentive winners, wearing their gowns purchased during their VIP shopping experience that day.



CAMILLA Franks with Nik Young, Anywhere Travel.

MELANIE Harlow, Schmitzer and Turner Travel Associates; Meaghan Wolf, Wolf & Turner Travel Associates; Chris McIlroy, Travel Inspirations; Vanessa Schmitzer, Schmitzer & Turner Travel Associates.



JEAN Summer, Clean Cruising; Shelley Martin, Uniworld; Tracey Bremner, Clean Cruising; Vanessa Green, Cruise Critic; Jen Pagett, Uniworld; Grace Bettridge, Uniworld; Felicity Dascombe, Pursers Travel Group; Jacinta Blundell, Caboolture Cruise & Travel.



ALICE Ager, Uniworld, with Camilla Franks.



ROCHELLE Clark, ecruising; Lauren Wall, ecruising; Jules Higgins, Luxury Escapes; Jen Pagett, Uniworld.

The **industry** experts
you need to hear from.
Get your tickets now!



WEIRD things wash ashore from time to time around the world and when we hear about it, naturally we assume it was a whale, dolphin or some other kind of sea creature - not a 283-tonne aircraft.

Residents in the Russian town of Derbent in the country's south now have a massive plane, bigger than a Boeing 747, adorning their coastline.

The aircraft model was designed in 1975 and used at the end of the Cold War, being particularly useful as it used eight jet engines to glide mere feet above the water's surface, making it impossible for radar at the time to detect, before being retired in the 1990s.

It's been nicknamed the 'Caspian Sea Monster' but in fact, it didn't wash ashore at all but was deliberately built there and designed to look dilapidated, as its purpose now serves as home to a museum.

Princess sends half the fleet to Alaska



PRINCESS Cruises will deploy eight ships to Alaska for 2026, with its newly launched schedule seeing 180 itineraries visiting 19 destinations across the region.

The season includes the arrival in the region for *Star Princess* (CW 26 Apr), the line's second Sphere-class ship, which will reposition to Alaska following her debut winter in the Caribbean.

Star Princess was due to debut in the Mediterranean in Jul 2025 but delays in construction (CW 22 Apr) will see the ship head directly to the Caribbean after its launch, now set for 26 Sep 2025.

Travellers will have maximum viewing opportunities of the spectacular Alaskan scenery via many of *Star Princess'* highlights including her geodesic structure, The Dome, and her suspended glass Piazza.

Star Princess will join *Royal Princess* cruising from Seattle on adventures ranging from 7-20 days and offering up to four glacier viewing opportunities while sailing the Inside Passage.

President John Padgett said 2026 will reinforce Princess as an authority in Alaska.

"The deployment of the

magnificent *Star Princess* to Alaska for the first time will offer guests unprecedented views, luxurious accommodations, and the finest food, beverages and entertainment ever seen in the Great Land," Padgett said.

Princess' ultimate itinerary for the season will be the 20-day 'Ultimate Alaska Solstice' on *Ruby Princess*, sailing round-trip from San Francisco, while *Emerald Princess* will offer a 16-day round-trip from Los Angeles.

The line will also have *Discovery Princess*, *Grand Princess*, *Coral Princess* and *Island Princess* in Alaska during the season. *ML*

Stockholm powers

SWEDEN'S first shore power unit has been switched on for the first time, with AIDA Cruises becoming the first to plug into the facility after two years under construction.

The port now features two shore power units for cruise ships, with over 35 vessels expected to connect by Oct, making up nearly half of the port's total cruise visitation.

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