



Cruise Weekly today

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

The king of cruises

PRINCESS Cruises' Crown Princess is soon set to call Sydney home, with the 100-day countdown on until the arrival of the biggest ship the line has ever based year-round in Australia.

Crown will debut Down Under on 26 Oct, with the 3,090-guest ship to make almost 80 visits to more than 20 ports around Australia.

The season will also see *Crown* set sail on what is believed to be the biggest world cruise ever undertaken by any line, with the vessel set to embark on an epic 113-night circumnavigation of the globe departing local shores in May.

Scenic launches Asia '25

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has launched its ultimate Asia ocean and river cruising journeys for next year, which will take guests to experience some of the most captivating destinations across South East and North Asia.

A highlight of the collection is the 'Ultimate Journey through South East Asia', a 28-day sailing exploring the Mekong on board *Scenic Spirit*, before travelling to Indonesia and Taipei on board *Scenic Eclipse II*.

There is also the 'Ultimate East Coast, Northern Australia & The Indonesian Archipelago' on board *Scenic Eclipse II*, for those seeking a unique island-hopping holiday.

This 28-day voyage sails from Auckland through New Zealand's Bay of Islands and onto the Whitsunday Islands and the Great Barrier Reef, before venturing to some of the more remote islands of Indonesia.

Scenic will also offers a 17-day 'Japan & South Korea In Depth' itinerary, where guests can experience 16 different ports.

Travellers after a more intimate cruising option can enjoy the 'Treasures of the Mekong' on board *Scenic Spirit*, a 13-day river cruise and land journey taking in Siem Reap and Angkor Wat, before traversing to Vietnam.

Highlights of this itinerary include an exclusive dinner at an Angkor temple, an excursion in Phnom Penh travelling along the waterfront in a tuk tuk, and visiting the Royal Palace of Cambodia, which serves as the official royal residence for the country's king.

Travellers will also sail on local sampans in Vietnam to discover the historic towns of Tan Chau and Sa Dec, before arriving in Ho Chi Minh City.

Call 138 128 to book. *MS*

Encore avoids Red

SEABOURN Cruise Line has unveiled a range of new itineraries for *Seabourn Encore* next year, as part of a repositioning designed to avoid hostility in the Red Sea.

Originally scheduled to sail west from Asia to Europe, *Encore* will instead go the long way, crossing both the Pacific and Atlantic as she shifts from Singapore to Dubrovnik via the Panama Canal.

The result is an impromptu series of northern spring itineraries featuring 36 ports in 18 countries, including *Encore's* first visit to the US.

Cruisers can explore more of Southeast Asia, Hawaii, the Panama Canal and the Western Mediterranean between Mar-May, with 18 maiden calls among the port line-up, and overnights including Ho Chi Minh City and Honolulu.

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A CRUISE ship may not be the first destination to come to mind when thinking of *Time's* annual World's Greatest Places list, but Royal Caribbean International's new *Icon of the Seas* has been bestowed with a feature in this year's issue.

"For cruisers happy to go (very, very) big, this new class in cruising is an indisputable show stopper," *Time's* Terry Ward wrote.

Icon was the only entry from the cruise sector on the list, which will have the rest of the cruise world desperate to have their vessel included.



Merry cruise-mas to all

OCEANIA Cruises is inviting guests to celebrate the holiday season with a diverse selection of more than 40 voyages for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons.

Cruisers can explore Australia, the Caribbean, South America, East Asia, and Africa, celebrating with a white-sand Christmas in the Caribbean, Hanukkah in East Asia, or a colourful New Year's Eve in South America.

The festive season cruises will include Christmas carollers during embarkation, glistening evening performances on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and a decadent brunch on New Year's Day, following on from champagne New Year's Eve celebrations the night prior.

There will also be a statuesque menorah with nightly lighting ceremonies throughout Hanukkah, and carols throughout the ship from a string quartet.

"There's no better place to spend the holidays than in your home away from home aboard our beautiful ships," President Frank Del Rio said.

"Traditional holiday dishes and new favourites can be enjoyed in

Oceania Cruises' always included specialty dining venues and the spectacular Grand Dining Room, or of course in your beautifully appointed stateroom."

Highlighted 2024-25 holiday voyages include a 'Hidden Caribbean Coves' 10-day cruise round trip from Miami aboard *Vista* from 17 Dec 2024, which will visit Guadeloupe, Antigua, St. Barts, and St. Lucia.

The following year, cruisers can embark on a 'Pacific and Island Holiday', cruising for 17 days from Los Angeles to Miami aboard *Vista* from 20 Dec 2025.

Guests will explore the exciting ports along Latin American coasts, enjoying a sun-soaked Christmas Eve on the beaches of Puerto Vallarta, a daylight transit of the Panama Canal, and an exploration of Cartagena's charming Old Town.

There are also Grand Voyages during the holiday seasons, including a 'Colonial Crowns' 32-day voyage from Cape Town to Singapore aboard *Riviera* from 11 Dec 2024, which will explore the cities of Africa and Asia on a cruise up the African coast. *MS*

Travel24 adds more

WITH just over a week until the new industry event Travel24, additional key sessions and speakers have been added to the already packed program.

CATO Managing Director Brett Jardine will join the final session of the day, 'The biggest thing around the corner is...!', and will share his thoughts on the next big thing in travel in the next 24 months.

Meanwhile, another new session has been added, with Destination Webinars founder Charlie Trevena to reveal the results of a recent poll around what support agents need to stand out online.

She'll be joined by Anna Shannon of Travel Agent Finder and Wendy Addinsall from Red Grape Social.

Travel24's full program is now available to view on the website **HERE**, and features speakers including Minister for Tourism Don Farrell; Lisa Teiotu, Managing Director at MSC Cruises; Jill Abel, CEO at the Australian Cruise Association; and more.

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