



Cruise Weekly today

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

Viking incentive

VIKING has kicked off a new travel agent incentive which will see three travel advisors win \$5,000 in Viking Rewards points and a voyage for two.

Every Viking ocean voyage sold by a travel advisor in Jun and Jul will include an entry into the major prize draw, with three winners to be selected.

Winners will enjoy a Veranda stateroom on an eight-day Mediterranean voyage of their choice, for both themselves and a companion, however airfares are not included.

All bookings in the incentive need to be registered at vikingincentive.com.

CLICK HERE for more information.

P&O Cruises Australia to be retired

CARNIVAL Corporation will integrate P&O Cruises Australia into its flagship Carnival Cruise Line (CCL) brand from next year, in order to "strategically align its portfolio" and strengthen its performance in Australia and the Pacific region (CW breaking news).

P&O Australia itineraries will operate as usual through early next year before Carnival Corp sunsets the brand in Mar.

From this date, P&O's existing Pacific Encounter and Pacific Adventure will begin sailing under the CCL brand, while Pacific Explorer will exit the fleet.

Guests with existing P&O Cruises Australia bookings will be notified in the coming days of any changes, the company said.

Carnival Cruise Line President, Christine Duffy, said its two new ships will keep their names albeit with a new Carnival prefix to become Carnival Encounter and

Carnival Adventure.

"We look forward to building on the history and heritage of P&O Cruises Australia by bringing some of our innovations to more cruise guests in the region," CCL President Christine Duffy said.

"While we plan to make some technology upgrades and other small changes to the ships, they will continue to be geared to the unique Australian market with a familiar feel and much of the same experiences for P&O Cruises Australia guests."

Carnival Corp CEO Josh Weinstein said the company remains committed to Australia and the South Pacific with CCL's four ships in the market, including three year-round vessels.

"P&O Cruises Australia is a storied brand with an amazing team, and we are extremely proud of everything we have accomplished together in

Australia and the broader region," Weinstein said.

"However, given the strategic reality of the South Pacific's small population and significantly higher operating and regulatory costs, we're adjusting our approach to give us the efficiencies we need to continue delivering an incredible cruise experience year-round to our guests in the region."

Longstanding company executive and current interim leader of Carnival Corp Australia, Peter Little, will continue to lead the team as Country Manager.

P&O guests will be invited to participate in Carnival's loyalty program and promotional offerings specific to CCL ships sailing in the region.

Weinstein added Carnival Corp will find ways to celebrate and honour the P&O Australia brand in the coming months. MS

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Queen Anne named in Liverpool

CUNARD Line has named the city of Liverpool as a godparent of its new ship *Queen Anne*, alongside five local icons, as tens of thousands of people gathered along the Mersey waterfront to witness the naming ceremony.

Local restaurant entrepreneur Natalie Haywood, broadcaster Ngunan Adamu, heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson, singer Melanie C, and artistic director Jayne Casey (**pictured**) were all chosen to embody the “heart and future of Liverpool, just as *Queen Anne* does for Cunard”, the line said.

Liverpool was the birthplace of Cunard, with the line’s first transatlantic crossing departing 184 years ago in Jul 1840, and the city serving as its headquarters for 128 years

It was the site for the naming ceremony overnight, at which the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic



Orchestra performed.

The godmothers joined British personalities Matt and Emma Willis in overseeing the ceremony, alongside Cunard President Katie McAlister and Captain Inger Klein Thorhauge, who introduced *Queen Anne*.

Formal proceedings concluded with the seafaring tradition of smashing a bottle of champagne

against *Queen Anne*, and a performance by operatic superstar Andrea Bocelli, including his iconic song *Time to Say Goodbye*.

“Liverpool is the spiritual home of Cunard, and we are therefore delighted and feel it very fitting that the city of Liverpool is the godparent to *Queen Anne*,” McAlister said. *MS*

Lindblad sale

LINDBLAD Expeditions is offering a “last chance sale” for this year’s departures, with savings of up to \$2,500.

The credit offer is available on select itineraries, and is valid for new bookings made between 01 Jun and 31 Jul, with spaces limited.

Highlights include the ‘Roots of the Pacific: Exploring New Zealand & Melanesia’ 16-day cruise from \$18,563 per person; the ‘Journey to Antarctica: The White Continent’ 12-day voyage from \$26,950 per person; and the ‘Galapagos Aboard *National Geographic Endeavour II*’ 10-day sailing from \$11,804pp.

The saving is not applicable on airfares or extensions, and may not be combined with other offers.

Those who pay in full can receive an extra 10% discount.

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HAL amenities deal

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is offering 60% off its top amenities with its 2025 Have It All Early Booking Bonus for Alaska and Europe cruises.

The offer applies to HAL's best-selling amenities, including specialty dining credit, shore excursion credit, prepaid crew appreciation, and more.

"We're incredibly excited to offer this opportunity to travellers looking to book early and plan their next adventure in 2025," Vice President of Sales & Partnerships Ryan Taibel said.

"Booking with the 2025 Have It All Early Booking Bonus means that guests can make their money go further while exploring the stunning beauty of Europe and Alaska."

CLICK HERE for more details on the sale.

Aranui celebrating 40th anniversary

ARANUI Cruises is celebrating 40 years of adventure in 2024, with a series of commemorations culminating in a special birthday cruise in the Marquesas Islands in Nov.

The anniversary voyage will feature a dazzling Polynesian night at Nuku Hiva, complete with a Marquesan show, fireworks, a local feast and official ceremony including partners and mayors from the Marquesas Islands.

Guests on the birthday voyage, departing on 16 Nov, will receive unique souvenirs, enjoy special entertainment from local bands, and will go in the draw to win a free cruise.

Fares start from \$8,181 per person twin share.

Aranui will commemorate its anniversary year-round, with all guests who sail on its cargo cruise vessel *Aranui 5* to take part in birthday celebrations every



Polynesian Night, and receive limited-edition gifts.

The cruise line has also worked with Australian-based filmmaker Guido Pezzimenti to create a short film to mark the occasion, which captures the spirit of Aranui and the people who call the islands home, which can be viewed **HERE**.

"We are excited and proud to announce the celebration of 40 years of Aranui," the cruise line's local representative Laurent

Wong said.

"Serving the communities of the Marquesas Islands with our ongoing cargo deliveries, while providing countless, incredible memories for our guests and crew over the years, has truly been the experience of a lifetime.

"As we reflect on the past 40 years of adventure, we can't help but feel incredibly grateful." **MS**

Pictured: the cruise line's former ship *Aranui 3* with its current ship *Aranui 5*.

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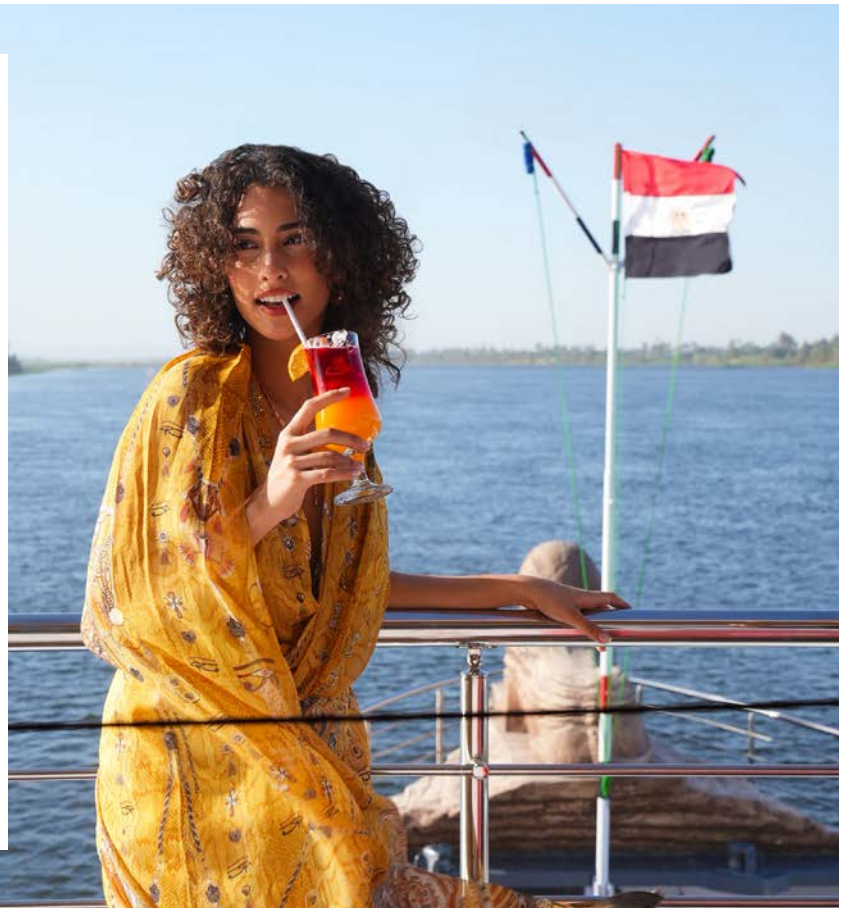
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PORTHOLE

LAST week we learned of former Costa Cruises ship *Costa Magica's* upcoming fate as "floating accommodation" for police officers during the next G7 Summit in Italy later this month (**CW** 29 May).

Now we have the details of *Magica's* next assignment, which seems far more fun.

The ship is soon set to offer party cruises in the Greek islands, according to *TravelPulse Canada*, which will combine a music festival with cultural experiences and scenery on three- and four-night itineraries.

Magica's new owner Seajets has launched the initiative under a new brand Neonyx Cruises, with the ship to be renamed *Goddess of the Night*.

The adult-only voyages will feature seven to 10 international music DJs along with dancers and acrobats, a casino, and more.

Mat McLachlan battlefield cruises

THREE D-Day river cruises have been launched by Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours, departing in Jun, Jul, and Sep 2025.

The special cruise groups will sail aboard *Amadeus Diamond* (pictured) round trip from Paris, stopping in rural towns along the way to Normandy, to explore the art, culture, and colour of regional France, as well as the history of World War II.

The eight-day cruises are priced from \$6,474 per person twin share, and travel during the anniversary of the Battle of Normandy, the Allied operation which launched the successful liberation of German-occupied Western Europe.

The cruise was first launched in Sep and sold out in weeks (**CW** 12 Sep), with Mat McLachlan to now offer three departures next year.

The cruise sails along the Seine, with three on-board World War II seminars during the voyage, and two days of comprehensive touring exploring Normandy and the American and British Operation Neptune landing sites, in the company of an expert WWII historian.



All meals are included, with gourmet dining aboard *Amadeus Diamond* including a daily breakfast buffet, multi-course lunch and dinner, as well as afternoon tea and other snacks.

Free-flowing wines are included at every lunch and dinner, as are beer and soft drinks, and complimentary coffee and tea.

A welcome and farewell cocktail reception are included, as is free on board wi-fi.

Guests will also have

complimentary use of bicycles.

"The D-Day landings in Normandy during WW2 were part of the largest seaborne attack in history," Mat McLachlan founder Mat McLachlan said.

"They involved 7000 Allied warships, vessels and landing craft manned by over 195,000 naval personnel from eight allied countries, as well as an airborne attack, designed to land around 150,000 Allied troops on five different beachheads." *MS*




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