



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Cruise Lines International Association**.

RSSC gets Kool

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has announced the entertainment for its 2025 World Cruise Gala.

The last few suites for the record-breaking five-month, 150-night voyage on board *Seven Seas Mariner* are still available, with American R&B legends Kool & the Gang to headline the gala event.

The performance will commemorate the start of the voyage on 07 Jan, with guests to enjoy some of the band's greatest hits, including *Ladies Night* and *Get Down On It*.

"We are delighted to host such a remarkable celebration for our cherished guests ahead of this milestone voyage," said President Andrea DeMarco.

"This gala is more than just a pre-cruise event; it marks the beginning of an extraordinary journey that embodies the pinnacle of luxury travel and exploration," she added.

"For many, a Regent world cruise is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and we are honoured to set the stage with unforgettable memories from the very start."

Three new Carnival heads

CARNIVAL Corporation has announced a number of executive leadership changes, with new chiefs for three of its cruise lines.

Holland America President Gus Antorcha will now take up the same position with Princess Cruises, replacing John Padgett, who will step away from the business in mid-Feb.

Replacing Antorcha at the top of Holland America will be Beth Bodensteiner, currently the cruise line's Senior Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer.

The two leaders will take their new roles from 02 Dec.

"Gus and Beth are proven leaders who reflect the talent and capabilities of our organisation and who have a deep knowledge of our industry, our business, and what drives our success," Carnival Corporation Chief Executive Officer Josh Weinstein said.

Meanwhile, Mark Tamis has rejoined Carnival Corporation as the new President of Seabourn Cruise Line.

Tamis, who for the past seven months has run his own hospitality company, was previously Carnival Cruise Line Senior Vice President Guest Operations, among a number of appointments in the cruise sector.

He will replace Natalya Leahy, who has accepted a position outside of Carnival Corp.

"Under [the trio's] leadership, I have no doubt that Princess, Holland America, and Seabourn

will remain well-positioned for a bright future, and we look forward to the next chapter for these two world-class brands and their ongoing success," the Carnival Corp CEO added.

"I would also like to thank John for more than a decade of service and innovation, including developing and launching Princess MedallionClass, which revamped the Princess guest experience and set a new standard for service and personalisation in the cruise industry and for travel and hospitality overall, as well as returning the Princess brand to its rightful iconic status within the cruise industry."

Antorcha said it is a privilege to lead Princess.

"I look forward to working with the talented team and their travel partners, and to continue delivering the distinctly effortless, personalised Princess MedallionClass vacation experience that has made Princess so popular," he said.

Bodensteiner, a 20-year veteran of Holland America, spoke of her pride in ascending to the cruise line's leadership.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to work together with my trusted leadership team to continue building on our rich history of helping millions of guests explore the world with expertly crafted itineraries," she added. *MS*

Seeker floats out

WINDSTAR Cruises celebrated a big milestone this weekend, with the line's *Star Seeker* floating out at the WestSEA Shipyard in Portugal.

Most of the ship's hull is finished, with tugboats guiding her into the water.

Seeker is now off to the outfitting dock, where her interiors and final touches will be completed.

The ship is set to make her debut in Dec 2025, when she will sail from Malaga to Miami, before heading to the Caribbean, Alaska, and Japan.

Seeker will have capacity for 224 guests in 112 staterooms, most with a large verandah or infinity windows.

The ship's itineraries are now open to book - **CLICK HERE**.

Join CLIA in 2025

JOIN Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) for next year, with members offered exclusive benefits to make the most of the cruise sector.

Members can earn rewards on their cruise bookings, such as bonus commissions, and other incentives with more than \$2,000 in indicative value.

CLIA is also supporting the interests of travel advisors - head to **page 5** for more information on memberships, and to join today.



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CCL to celebrate America's birthday

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) will salute the United States' 250th birthday in 2026, on 10 sailings which will feature patriotic entertainment, food, and drink.

The cruises include a variety of itineraries ranging from three to eight days, and sailing from six different home ports: Miami, Port Canaveral, Jacksonville, New York, Long Beach, and San Francisco.

Seven ships will also meet up near Celebration Key on 04 Jul for a unique celebration at sea, while three ships will unite off the west coast, near Ensenada.

Guests can choose from short getaways including sailings on *Carnival Conquest* or *Carnival Glory*, both departing on 03 Jul 2026, offering three-day escapes to Celebration Key at Grand Bahama from Miami and Port Canaveral respectively.

Meanwhile, *Carnival Sunrise* will depart 02 Jul to sail a four-day

Bahamas cruise from Miami, and *Carnival Elation* will sail to the Bahamas on a four-day cruise from Jacksonville.

Guests looking for a longer sailing can select a seven-day Eastern Caribbean cruise aboard *Carnival Celebration* from Miami, departing on 28 Jun 2026, visiting Celebration Key, Nassau, Amber Cove, and Grand Turk.

Carnival Vista will offer an eight-day Eastern Caribbean sailing from Port Canaveral, departing on 27 Jun 2026, calling at ports including San Juan and St. Thomas.

Lastly, *Carnival Venezia* will depart New York City on 01 Jul 2026 for an eight-day cruise visiting Celebration Key, Nassau, and Half Moon Cay.

Guests can also join the 250th birthday celebration from the West Coast with three cruise options departing from California.

Carnival Firenze will sail a three-day Baja Mexico cruise from Long Beach over Independence Day weekend, while *Carnival Luminosa* will sail a four-day option, departing 02 Jul 2026 from San Francisco, both featuring stops in Ensenada.

Meanwhile, *Carnival Radiance* will sail a five-day Mexican Riviera cruise from Long Beach on 30 Jun 2026, visiting both Cabo San Lucas and Ensenada.

"We're America's cruise line, and we're commemorating this milestone in a big way," Carnival President Christine Duffy said.

"Uniting our ships will multiply the fun and make America's 250th birthday even more memorable for guests.

"The cruises we're opening for sale today offer great variety, so guests can choose their ideal way to take part in a truly once-in-a-lifetime occasion." *MS*

Pandaw makeover

RIVER cruise line Pandaw's Mekong ships have been refitted for a new generation of expedition cruising.

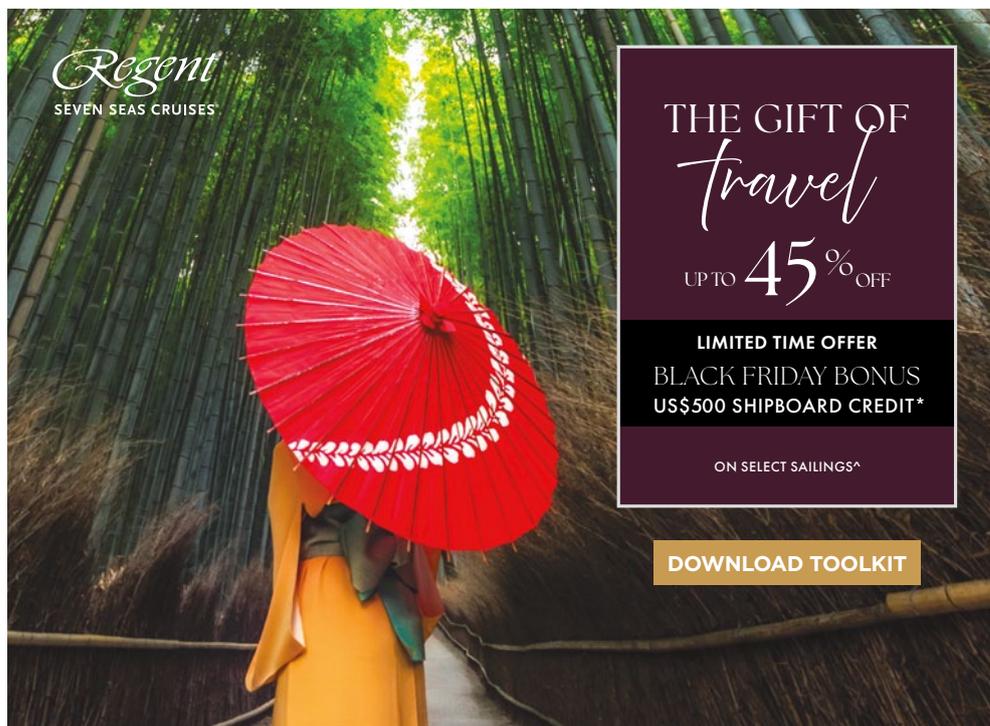
The ships will feature new state-of-the-art gyms, libraries, spas, expansive open decks, and more.

The classic Pandaw staterooms have also had a makeover, with a new look, featuring Khmer fabrics.

They also now feature mini bars and Nespresso machines, with a selection of locally sourced tisanes.

Pandaw operates four 28-stateroom river ships on the Mekong between Saigon, Phnom Penh, and Siem Reap, with two departures a week for a three-, four-, or seven-night experience.

The line has also eliminated supplementary charges for solo travellers into 2025.



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HX Greenland call

HX HAS called for stakeholders to “strike a balance” in Greenland, between preserving the sanctity of the destination while allowing visitors to experience it for themselves.

The calls come as Greenland is reportedly considering introducing limits on visitation, which would particularly affect the cruise sector (**CW** 19 Nov).

“As new tourism regulations and laws emerge, it’s vital to strike a balance that allows small, controlled groups of visitors to experience and appreciate this extraordinary destination without compromising local traditions, cultures, and environments,” a HX spokesperson told **CW**.

“Dialogue between bodies like AECO, the Greenlandic communities, and responsible suppliers like HX could help.”

Legend makes her debut

AMERICAN Cruise Lines (ACL) has celebrated the debut sailing of its 100-pax *American Legend* (pictured) vessel in Florida.

The cruise line’s 19th small ship, and second for the year, will operate the eight-day ‘Florida Gulf Coast & Keys’ itinerary, voyaging round trip from St Petersburg in Tampa Bay.

Highlights of the cruise include visits to Marco Island, Key West, and Punta Gorda, with guests having an optional pre-cruise hotel stay in Tampa.

The first cruise, which is currently in progress, will also include an official christening ceremony on board, taking place on 27 Nov and featuring well-wishes from godmother and Key West Mayor, Dee Dee Henriquez.

The latest debut is followed by major expansion news earlier this month, with ACL signing contracts for four additional vessels, all of



which are expected to join the fleet in 2027.

The agreement brokered on 01 Nov with Chesapeake Shipbuilding bolsters an already burgeoning order book for the US cruise line, which includes nine ships expected to be received within the next three years.

ACL is most well-known for sailing the Mississippi River system, the Columbia and Snake Rivers traversing the Pacific Northwest, and River sailings on the United States’ east coast.

Legend is part of ACL’s Coastal Cat class of vessel, with virtual tours on offer **HERE**. **AB**

Canaveral record

PORT Canaveral has closed out the fiscal year posting record numbers, including earnings of US\$156 million in cruise operations.

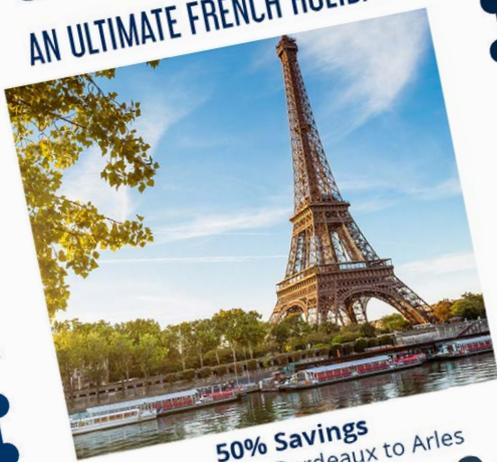
The facility handled a record 7.6 million passenger movements - a 12% increase over the previous year, with 13 homeported ships, expected to grow to 16 in coming years.

The port also handled more than 900 calls in total.

“Cruise continues to be a significant segment of our business portfolio with some of the newest and largest ships in the world based at Port Canaveral,” Chief Executive Officer John Murray said.

“This speaks volumes to the confidence our cruise partners have in our ability to consistently deliver exceptional results for their guests,” he added.

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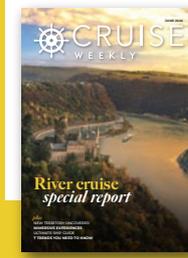
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THE company perhaps best known for delivering good feelings on special occasions has operated its first-ever Christmas cruise in the US.

Hallmark made a point of ignoring recent politics with its passengers in exchange for carolling and cocktails.

"It's like a cult, but a good one," one passenger joked, explaining that many people gathered on the ship to honour the good vibrations of the Hallmark Channel.

The crowd on board was mostly comprised of women, however there were many couples on deck too, including one loved-up husband and wife who were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary.

Men also donned some of the funniest shirts on board.

One male passenger had Christmas lights on the front that read, "My wife made me wear this".

Think differently: CCL



THE second phase of Carnival Cruise Line's (CCL) 100% Holiday campaign has rolled out, challenging prospective Australian cruisers to think differently about sailing.

Today the Brave created the new marketing push, which encourages pax to switch off and stop worrying about the everyday concerns of their busy lives, because CCL has every aspect of the cruise holiday taken care of.

A central pillar of the advertisement is the notion of 'holiday brain', the moment when the concerns of life on land disappear in exchange for

cocktails by the pool, delicious food, and fun bars.

According to Today the Brave Creative Director Vince Osmond, the campaign seeks to break the normal conventions of cruise marketing to establish a deeper connection with Australian travellers thinking about voyages.

"The default in the cruise category is to overwhelm audiences with experience montages, but we knew we could connect with people through deeper insights with the universal feeling of holiday brain," he said.

Watch the latest ad campaign from CCL [HERE](#). AB

Hamburg calls up

CRUISE Gate Hamburg (CGH), the organisation operating the city's port, has provided a positive outlook for next year, with almost 300 calls anticipated in 2025.

CGH expects 294 cruise visits next year, from 45 different vessels representing 21 different lines.

This total is up from 268 calls this year.

A special highlight will be three inaugural calls, from *Star Pride* (Windstar Cruises) *Emerald Princess* (Princess Cruises), and *Pacific World* (Japan Grace).

Hamburg is also expecting 39 calls from river ships.

"We are very pleased with the renewed increase in calls," CGH Managing Director Simone Maraschi enthused.

"The commitment of the cruise lines to continue offering year-round voyages from Hamburg - with more than 30% of calls occurring outside the peak season - also demonstrates the passengers' undiminished desire to travel," he added.

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