



Cruise Weekly today

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

Cruise Month sails into River Week

RIVER cruising is taking centre stage at Cruise Month this week, as Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) month-long promotional initiative enters its second week.

The river sector is being celebrated as one of the rising and most innovative areas of international travel, with CLIA MD Joel Katz highlighting the opportunities available.

"Cruise lines are introducing new ships, new itineraries and new experiences, which together make river cruising one of the most exciting areas in travel," the CLIA head said.

"With the rise in popularity of river cruising has come greater investment in new ships, setting new standards in design and style," he said.

"We have seen a succession of new ship launches this year, including newcomers on the



Rhine and Danube in Europe, on the Douro in Portugal, on the Nile in Egypt and on the Magdalena in Colombia," Katz added.

Nine major river cruise lines make up CLIA's membership, covering almost all of the world's major river cruise destinations.

They include specialist ships operating in rivers across Europe,

as well as in Asia, North America, South America, and Africa.

Cruise Month runs throughout Oct, and includes a special social media campaign using the hashtag #LoveCruise; digital advertising aligned with the four weekly themes; Cruise Month coverage in the media; and more - see **pages 3 and 4. MS**

Eclipse II to WA

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours' *Scenic Eclipse II* is set to arrive in Western Australia next year, following her successful inaugural year Down Under.

Eclipse II will sail the Western Australian coastline in Aug and Sep on the 'Australian Odyssey: Western Australia & The Abrolhos Islands' voyage.

Two exclusive departures will discover the Houtman Abrolhos, as well as Exmouth and Dirk Hartog Island.

Excursions will include the Kalbarri Skywalk and coastal helicopter flights - **CLICK HERE**.



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Cosgrove cruises

APT has announced Peter Cosgrove, former Australian Governor-General and 2001 Australian of the Year, as a special guest and host on select Kimberley and Northern Europe & Arctic expedition cruises next year.

While on board, Cosgrove will conduct a series of hosted dinners as well as several lectures, drawing on his extensive military and vice-regal experience to discuss various topics, including the history of World Wars I and II.

Guests can join Cosgrove on four departures, including the 'Kimberley Coastal Expedition' departing 18 Jun 2025 and the 'Iceland, Faroe Islands and Scotland' itinerary setting sail on 03 July 2025.

The former Australian of the Year will also accompany travellers on the 'Iceland and Arctic Explorer' sailing, which departs 13 Jul.

Disney+ savings

DISNEY Cruise Line has launched a new offer for Disney+ subscribers, who can enjoy US\$100 onboard credit plus up to 30% savings on select sailings.

The offer applies to select Australia and New Zealand cruises, and is valid through to 15 Dec 2024 - for more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

Royal voted by the people



ROYAL Caribbean has been named as a People's Choice Award finalist for the Australian Travel Industry Association's (ATIA) upcoming 2024 National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA).

Presented by News Corp Australia's *Escape* title, the People's Choice category invites the Australian public to nominate their favourite travel brand, whether it be an ATAS-accredited retail or online travel agency, tour operator, or cruise line.

Royal Caribbean - the only cruise line to make the cut this year - will go up against Contiki, Flight Centre North Lakes, JC Travel Team, and Taking Off Tours, which are also nominated as finalists in the category.

"We are thrilled to be named as a finalist for the NTIA People's Choice Award," said Gavin Smith, Vice President and Managing Director for Australia and New Zealand at Royal Caribbean.

"Our guests are at the heart of everything we do, so we are delighted to be recognised by Aussies for our amazing holidays, he commented.

"We're looking forward to seeing our loyal guests again and welcoming more first-time cruisers than ever before."

ATIA's acting Chief Executive Officer Ingrid Fraser congratulated all of the People's Choice Award finalists.

"This award is a special recognition from the travelling public, underscoring the exceptional service and dedication of our ATAS-accredited brands, sometimes in life-changing ways," she enthused.

"We're excited to see who will take home the title of People's Champion at this year's NTIA."

The winners will be announced at the NTIA gala event, which is scheduled to take place on 26 Oct at the ICC Sydney. *JM*

Final call for Cal

OCT is the last month for travellers to experience Captain Cook Cruises expedition voyages onboard *MS Caledonian Sky*, before the ship joins the Travelmarvel fleet in Nov (*CW* 08 Jul).

There are discounted spots left on three of the four remaining voyages, including the 'Southern Lau Expedition' on 12 Oct, 'Mamanuca & Yasawa Islands Expedition' on 19 Oct, and 'Northern Yasawa Islands Expedition' on 22 Oct.

Find out more or book [HERE](#).

Celestial appoints

CELESTIAL has appointed Rachel Wilton to the newly created position of Vice President of Revenue, Product and Shore Experiences, effective immediately.

Based in the UK, Wilton will lead the development of pre- and post-cruise experiences for the agent community, enhance the shore excursion program, and execute the company's revenue management strategy.

Wilton, who joins from Virgin Atlantic where she served as VP Holidays and Global Sales, will report to CCO Lee Haslett.

Wilton's "exceptional strategic vision and proven track record in driving profitability and operational excellence make her the perfect fit for Celestial", Haslett said.

Discover the all new *River Cruise Special Report*





THE cruise industry and its more than 300-strong global fleet plays a key role in maritime welfare - often very necessary, as unfortunately, some find themselves in trouble and need help getting out of it.

A vessel was recently rescued in the English Channel, after its emergency call to Dover resulted in no help.

That's because instead of calling Dover, United Kingdom, the ship instead accidentally called Dover, Delaware, almost 6,000 kilometres away.

The caller blamed the internet for the mistake - let's be thankful he was rescued.

Windstar moves

WINDSTAR Cruises has promoted Stijn Creupelandt to Chief Operating Officer, while another of the line's executives, Vice President of Marine & Technical Operations Paul Barrett, will retire.

Creupelandt joined Windstar in 2021 as Vice President Hotel Operations & Product Development, having come to the company from Seabourn Cruise Line.

He began his career as a waiter on *Seabourn Pride*.

Meanwhile, Barrett, who has been with Windstar since 2017, has played a critical role in the cruise line's growth.

MSC Foundation gets snappy



MSC Foundation and conservation organisation Focused on Nature are bringing an exclusively curated exhibition of Hussain Aga Khan's photography of marine life to guests on board Explora Journey's new ship *Explora II* (**CW** 13 Sep).

The exhibition, located in the ship's Galleria d'Arte, offers a visual journey into the wonders of marine life through the lens of the famed nature photographer.

The collection of 28 limited-edition photographs will be on display for an initial period of six months, gifted to the MSC Foundation by Khan himself.

The photographer and new Explora Journeys President Anna Nash, as well as MSC Foundation Executive Director Daniela Picco, recently came together to officially open the exhibition.

The collection is available for purchase, with proceeds going to support the MSC Foundation, as part of a joint commitment to marine conservation.

"For over 30 years, Prince

Hussain Aga Khan's photography has fostered a profound appreciation for nature and has influenced how we interact with our natural resources," Nash said.

"Our partnership with the MSC Foundation and Focused on Nature embodies a unified vision for environmental awareness and education," she added.

"By leveraging our global presence at sea, this inaugural collaboration with Explora Journeys is designed to inspire action in preserving marine life and advancing marine science."

MSC Foundation Executive Director Daniela Picco said the organisation is honoured to partner with Khan to showcase his photography on *Explora II*.

"This exhibition gives cruise guests a unique opportunity to experience the beauty of our oceans through art, while also being inspired by Prince Hussain's unwavering dedication to marine conservation and his powerful advocacy for their protection," she said. *MS*

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

It's River Cruise week

AS CLIA's recent River Cruise Showcase in Sydney proved, there's a huge amount of enthusiasm around river cruising right now.

And with Cruise Month now focused on river cruising for the second of our weekly themes, we have an opportunity to extend that success further.

A key attraction of river cruising is the ease, especially when traversing multiple countries.

A river cruise allows you to unpack once, then draw back the curtains each day to find yourself in new destinations.

Guests can indulge their own particular interests through guided excursions, or simply explore on their own at a quiet pace.

In recent years, river cruise lines have been enhancing this further.

Many are working to create a stronger connection with a destination's culture, history, food, wine, and way of life.

Others are creating more adventurous activities, introducing opportunities to explore by bike or kayak in scenic locations along the rivers they visit.

CLIA has created a wealth of resources for members to use during Cruise Month, including a range of river cruise assets in our Cruise Month Toolkit.

Visit the CLIA Members hub to find out more, follow CLIA Australasia on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, and use hashtag #LoveCruise.





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