



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Paul Gauguin Cruises**.

Flights are on Paul

FLIGHTS to Tahiti are on Paul Gauguin Cruises, with travellers able to claim a \$1,500 air credit when booking by the end of the month.

The offer is available on the 06 Dec departure of *Paul Gauguin's* 'Marquesas to the Tuamotos & Society Islands' round trip from Papeete.

The 14-night cruise retails from \$15,799 per person - head to **page 4** for more.

SA is cruise-first

SOUTH Australia has continued to prove itself as arguably the country's most cruise-positive state, following the signing of a new pact with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

The South Australian Tourism Commission has joined the Association as an executive partner, which will bring the DMO into CLIA's wider community of cruise lines, travel advisors, ports, tourism operators, industry suppliers, and other destinations.

The partnership follows SA's creation of a Cruise Attraction Working Group (**CW** 06 Sep).

Australia to receive newer NCL ships?

EXCLUSIVE

A NEWER Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) ship may be on its way to Australia soon, Chief Sales & Marketing Officer International Jason Krimmel (**pictured**) has told **Cruise Weekly**.

However, Norwegian is unsure whether or not local demand is strong enough to handle one of its newest, Prima-class vessels.

Norwegian's aggressive newbuild strategy, which will see it add seven ships over the next 11 years, could present an opportunity for a newer vessel to be home ported Down Under.

Sydney is set to play host to *Norwegian Sun* this year, the cruise line's second-oldest ship (**CW** 23 May), as well as *Norwegian Spirit* from 2025-2027.

Krimmel said the fleet's comings and goings over the next few years could work in Australia's favour, with the potential for a younger ship Down Under.

"I'd love to get a new ship down to that region, or a newer ship than what we've had down there," Krimmel enthused.

"That time is getting close, but our desire is definitely to get a newer ship down there."

Asked why there are no firm plans to bring Norwegian's newest Prima-class ships to Australia (**CW** 24 Mar), Krimmel said the demographic of the local cruiser is one factor hamstringing the local market.

"One of the things that we have



to do is expand the guest profile in Australia, because it's a huge investment to take a ship that has that multi-gen, various age group appeal, and bring it to life down in Australia."

"[Locally based *Norwegian Spirit*] doesn't have the bells and whistles of a racetrack or the Aqua Slidecoaster, but that's also not necessarily what the Australian guests are looking for."

Cruisers who depart from Norwegian's local home ports

such as Sydney and Melbourne are typically older couples unlikely to bring a large family group with them.

"We're not as huge in the family market Down [Under] - you could argue it's because we don't expose them to our newest ships - but I would say it's definitely our goal," he said.

"Truthfully, I thought we would have been able to accomplish that now, but we haven't yet," Krimmel admitted. *MS*

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Amun floats out

VIKING has announced the float-out of its newest Egypt ship, which is set to debut in Sep as the cruise line's seventh vessel on the Nile.

The new *Viking Amun* touched water for the first time recently, ahead of her debut on the 12-day 'Pharaohs & Pyramids' itinerary.

The ceremony took place at Massara shipyard in Cairo, with *Amun* to now move into her final stage of construction.

Amun will host 82 guests, and is an identical sister to the line's other Egypt ships, *Viking Osiris*, *Viking Aton*, *Viking Sobek*, and *Viking Hathor*.



Oceania sees stars

OCEANIA Cruises is set to take guests to the stars and back, with five solar eclipse sailings next year, with the quintet of voyages to position passengers in prime viewing locations in Europe.

Oceania had previously announced a single solar eclipse voyage (**CW** 17 Oct), but will now position ships off the shores of Iceland, Portugal, and the UK, with *Marina* to be positioned in the path of 100% totality, and *Insignia*, *Sirena*, and *Vista* at 90% totality.

Adventure hits the high sea



CAPTAINS Mickey and Minnie Mouse were on hand at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Germany last week for the official float-out of *Disney Adventure* (pictured).

Accompanied by commemorative fireworks and typical Disney fanfare, *Adventure's* construction milestone now sees her move to the outfitting dock where interiors will be installed.

Next stages for the ship will include the installation of Disney's four signature funnels on the top deck, along with attractions such as the line's first-ever roller coaster, the Ironcycle Test Run.

The float-out of *Adventure* comes nearly seven years after her keel was first laid as Dream Cruises' *Global Dream*, before the line's bankruptcy two-and-a-half years ago saw the unfinished vessel purchased by Disney (**CW** 17 Nov 2022).

Adventure will be the largest

ship in the Disney fleet, able to carry approximately 6,000 passengers, and will be home ported year-round in Singapore, as the cruise line seeks to build its following in Asia.

Adventure will begin its sea trials later this year before debuting a schedule of three-, four- and five-night port-free cruises (**CW** 15 Nov 2024) beginning from 15 Dec. *ML*

Unforgettable '26

EIGHT itineraries and 144 departures have been scheduled in the 2026 season for small-ship European cruise brand Unforgettable Croatia.

The season will feature eight ships, each with a maximum of 19 cabins, sailing the Dalmatian coast, with a new itinerary between Sibenik to Opatija to sail twice in Jun.

A True makeover

TRUE North has unveiled a major refurbishment of its small ship fleet, *True North* and *True North II*, which are now ready to operate sailings around Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea throughout 2025.

Both ships now feature new and improved seating areas on the bow, providing an ideal vantage point for whale watching and sunset viewing.

True North boasts a completely redesigned bar & lounge, offering guests a modern and inviting space to unwind, while *True North II* now features a more contemporary aesthetic after undergoing a full paint job.

The cruise line has also expanded its premium beverage selection, now offering an exclusive range of wines from new partner Plantagenet Wines.

"This is the most comprehensive refit we've ever undertaken, giving both ships a well-earned touch up," says Chad Avenell, Director of True North.

"Our guests expect nothing but the best, and these upgrades reaffirm our commitment to delivering once in a lifetime adventures."

True North has also opened up a select number of cabins for solo travellers, waiving the single supplement.



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PORTHOLE

SAUDI Arabian cruise line Aroya Cruises is scoring goals, calling on soccer legend Cristiano Ronaldo and his model wife Georgina Rodriguez to power its new digital marketing campaign.

Launched on the couple's Instagram channels, the promotional video depicts Ronaldo and Rodriguez at home planning their holiday.

Rodriguez scrolls through options on her phone before choosing Aroya Cruises; the famous duo then transform their home into the Aroya ship, complete with a sun lounger, branded kitchenware, and a balcony with ocean views.

They then step out to their cabin balcony, declaring "yalla" - Aroya Cruises' tagline, which means 'let's go' in Arabic.

The star-studded campaign comes ahead of Aroya's Mediterranean debut later on in the year.

RCL ship upgrades coming



ROYAL Caribbean Group is set to embark on a company-wide modernisation and revitalisation project as part of a major partnership with Spanish shipbuilding company Navantia.

The two parties recently signed a strategic framework agreement in the presence of executives from both companies (pictured).

Allure of the Seas was most recently docked at Navantia's shipyard in Cadiz undergoing a major revitalisation project which will see a range of new attractions, dining and technology installed on the ship.

The vessel previously visited the Navantia yard in 2015 and 2020 for routine maintenance.

The latest signing is a renewal of a long-standing partnership held between the two parties, which have worked together since 2012 when Navantia upgraded two Royal Caribbean ships.

"We are absolutely delighted to renew our frame agreement with Royal Caribbean and look forward to strengthening the already excellent relationship between our companies through safe and successful dockings of their fleet," Navantia General Director Ship Repairs Marcos Diaz said.

It's unclear at this stage which ships across the Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises or Silversea fleets will visit Navantia as part of the renewed agreement. *MS*

A bite of Greenland

HX IS offering a taste of Greenland at sea with the launch of its new culinary program, in partnership with local chefs.

Select HX voyages this season, starting with *Fridtjof Nansen*, will feature menus crafted by a rotating team of top Greenlandic culinary talent, such as Inunnguaq Hegelund, one of the country's most celebrated chefs.

HX is also partnering with the local Qajaq Brewery to offer locally crafted beers as part of the cruise line's all-inclusive drinks selection.

"It's an honour to collaborate with HX on this new culinary program and to share the flavours of Greenland with travellers from around the world," Hegelund said.

"Greenlandic cuisine is deeply connected to nature, tradition, and sustainability, and this initiative allows us to tell these stories through food.

"I'm excited to work with an incredible team of chefs and suppliers to bring this vision to life," he added.

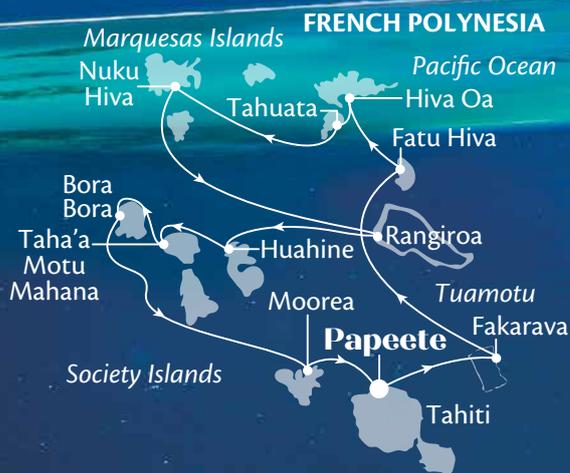
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