

Cruise Weekly today

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

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FREE suite upgrades and exclusive prices to Antarctica with HX are available. See more on **page 4**.

NCL boss departs

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) President David Herrera has departed after two years in the role (**CW** breaking news), with Harry Somme to serve as interim leader.

A statement from Norwegian linked the change to the cruise line's "continued strategic evolution" as well as the focus on its Charting the Course Strategy and 2026 targets.

Viking firing on all financial cylinders

VIKING has posted impressive second quarter financial results, with a major increase in both revenue and profit for the period compared to last year.

Total revenue was US\$1.8 billion for the second quarter, an increase of 18.5% compared to the same period last year, while gross profit increased 22.3%.

Adjusted EBITDA also totalled US\$632.9 million, an increase of 28.5%, rounding out some of the key highlights of what was an impressive period for Viking.

The cruise line has already sold 96% of its capacity passenger cruise days for this year, and 55% of its capacity passenger cruise days for 2026.

"We delivered another quarter of great results, further underscoring the strength of our business model and of our core guest demographic," Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Torstein



Hagen said.

"In the second quarter, our revenue increased 18.5% and our adjusted EBITDA increased 28.5% year-over-year, reflecting continued solid demand for our destination-focused travel experiences," he added.

"We are also pleased to have successfully taken delivery of two new ships, an achievement made possible due to the dedication

of our team and the sustained momentum of the Viking brand as we execute on our long-term growth strategy."

Viking's orderbook has it scheduled to take delivery of six more river vessels for the remainder of the year.

The line also announced it will start operating two river vessels in India, which are set to be introduced in 2027 and 2028. *MS*

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Clean to clean up?

CLEAN Cruising has been recognised as a finalist in four categories at this year's National Travel Industry Awards (**CW** yesterday) - the most of any agency.

The business is up for the 'Most Outstanding Independent Leisure Travel Agency' award, the 'Most Outstanding Employee Engagement and Recruitment Program' gong, and the 'Sustainability Award - ATIA Accredited Agency' prize.

Clean Cruising's Sam Renvoye is also recognised in the 'Most Outstanding Travel Consultant Leisure' category.

Victory would see her add to her already very full trophy cabinet for this year, having earlier taken home CLIA's 'Cruise Consultant of the Year' award (**CW** 10 Mar).

A very Regent Christmas



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has unveiled a collection of special festive voyages around the world, with 12 sailings through the 2025-26 and 2026-27 holiday season.

The first of these festive voyage will depart Bali on 12 Dec 2025 on board *Seven Seas Explorer*, visiting Lombok and Komodo before reaching Australia via Darwin, with stops along the east coast, and Christmas Day in the Queensland capital Brisbane.

Passengers on board will savour special menus, elegant decorations, and holiday-themed performances, from musical revues to cabaret shows.

Festive dishes and specialty beverages will be on offer during each of the sailings, with feasts for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Hannukah.

Christmas Eve menus will feature European-themed dishes, such as Scandinavian gravlax, German Christmas goose and English Christmas pudding.

On Christmas Day, guests can enjoy American-inspired dishes such as Christmas gumbo duck, burrata-truffle risotto, roasted turkey with chestnut stuffing and pumpkin pie or, with a nod to European tradition, a Christmas panettone pudding.

Additionally, a cranberry 'Santa

Clausmopolitan' and eggnog will also be available in every bar to extend the festivities.

Christmas and Hanukkah services will be held as well as festive-themed trivia nights and musical performances.

Guests will ring in the New Year with European-style dishes such as apple and goat cheese tarte tatin, sauteed foie gras with honey, figs and brioche, followed by surf-and-turf with beef tenderloin and lobster tail, with a classic baked Alaska to finish.

There will also be a special Champagne experience for New Year's Eve, while seasonal specialty coffees and hot chocolate will be available onboard at Coffee Connection.

"Guests will be immersed in the festive spirit from the moment they step on board, with each ship decked out in spectacular seasonal style," Chief Luxury Officer Jason Montague said.

"From magnificent Christmas trees in the atrium, to festive floral arrangements, an exquisite hand-crafted gingerbread village and a breathtaking display for the lighting of the Menorah, there's a celebratory sight around every corner, plus unique holiday customs, seasonal cuisine and luxurious decorations to marvel at on board." JM

Atlas maps out '27

ATLAS Ocean Voyages has announced its 2027 Europe season, featuring 24 new Epicurean and Cultural Expeditions across Northern Europe and the Mediterranean.

The season will explore seven new ports across Germany, England, Greece and the Netherlands, with 25 overnight stays and around 90 late departures.

Highlights include a 12-day 'Flavors of Sun & Sea' sailing from Naples to Athens, which allows guests to delve into the best of Italy and Greece.

Also new for 2027 is the Concierge Collection, an elevated suite of amenities and services across all cruises.

Azamara's dual delight for Australia

AZAMARA Cruises is returning to Australia for the 2025-26 season, with *Azamara Pursuit* and *Azamara Onward* to visit once again.

Arriving in late Dec will be *Pursuit*, which will explore the eastern coast, before heading to the south and west.

Highlights will include visits to Adelaide and Margaret River, as well as a series of New Zealand voyages.

Onward will also sail into Australia in mid-Feb, as part of her epic World Cruise, showcasing the best of the destination before continuing her global journey.

The season so far has proved to be a success, with only a few staterooms left, following a highly successful 2024-25 program in Australia.

The two ships will sadly not reunite as they did in Sydney this year (**CW** 20 Feb).

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A CRUISE traveller has laid bare her embarrassing moment in a video shared on TikTok, which has racked up around 600,000 views.

Abi, 34, said she was innocently enjoying a moment on her balcony on board a Royal Caribbean cruise, before she realised her mistake.

The text overlaid on the clip reads, "Just enjoying the view NAKED on the balcony", while the footage shows a sunset over the Mediterranean aboard *Odyssey of the Seas*.

The video later pans up toward the sky, capturing what appears to be security cameras above the balcony deck.

Abi said she had been standing on the balcony "for a good few minutes" before looking up, spotting the cameras, and running back inside, initially mortified, before laughing it off afterward with her husband.

A Brilliant fleet addition



VIRGIN Voyages' fourth and latest ship *Brilliant Lady* (pictured) arrived in Portsmouth this week, ahead of her debut.

Initially due to launch nearly two years ago, the ship was delayed due to construction, supply chain, and staffing challenges (CW 28 Apr 2022).

While in Portsmouth, *Brilliant Lady* will host 1,300 agents on her first commercial sailing, which departs tomorrow for New York.

"Portsmouth has become a meaningful part of our journey; it is where we introduced *Scarlet Lady* to the world and - four years

later - where we're celebrating the arrival of *Brilliant Lady*," Chief Executive Officer Nirmal Saverimuttu said.

Due to her multiple home ports, *Brilliant Lady* will embark on four separate 'MerMaiden' voyages, starting on 05 Sep from New York City to Bermuda, before heading to Miami, where she will offer a Caribbean cruise from 17 Oct.

The 2,792-passenger ship will then sail from Los Angeles to destinations on the West Coast of the United States from 05 Apr 2026, and from Seattle to Alaska from 21 May 2026. MS

Celeb opens river

CELEBRITY Cruises has announced priority booking access for its highly anticipated river cruises will open early next month (CW 29 Jan).

Guests can secure their place on a Danube or Rhine river sailing in 2027 from 03 Sep for a refundable \$800 deposit.

The down payment will unlock early access to the cruises ahead of them going on sale to the general public.

"We are excited to offer guests the chance to experience the first-ever Celebrity River Cruises holiday in 2027 with Priority Booking Access," President Laura Hodges Bethge said.

"Guests will enjoy the warm hospitality Celebrity is known for, on innovative ships, with land experiences unlike any other, as we set sail on Europe's iconic Danube and Rhine rivers."

Celebrity said the fleet of 10 purpose-built ships will "blend the design and sophistication of its Edge-class ocean ships with the European charm of traditional river cruising."



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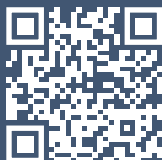
*Source: Cruise Industry News Expedition Report 2025

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| Galápagos Islands | Galápagos Islands – In Darwin's Footsteps | MS Santa Cruz II | 08.04.2026 | 9 Days | \$11,552pp |
| Greenland | Serene Greenland – Exploring the Largest Fjord System on Earth | MS Spitsbergen | 31.08.2026 | 10 Days | \$9,207pp |
| Northwest Passage | Northwest Passage – Across the Top of the World | MS Roald Amundsen | 10.08.2026 | 26 Days | \$34,692pp |
| Norway | Ultimate Norway – Arctic Expedition under the Northern Lights | MS Spitsbergen | 28.11.2026 | 8 Days | \$7,274pp |
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* subject to availability



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