

Cruise Weekly today

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

Sail free with HX

SELL three and sail free as part of HX's biggest giveaway ever, celebrating the cruise line's 130th anniversary.

HX is giving away 130 adventures to lucky travel advisors in destinations such as Antarctica, the Galapagos, Greenland, Alaska, and more.

Those who make three bookings between 01 Jul and 31 Oct can sail for free on a HX expedition with a guest.

The offer is valid for new FIT bookings departing throughout 2025-2027.

Prizes are limited, and are non-transferable - see more details on **page 4**.

Youth to drive cruise wave in 2025/26

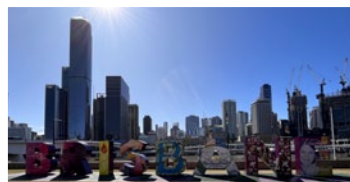
AUSTRALIA is preparing to welcome dozens of international cruise ships over another busy summer season, delivering billions of dollars in economic contribution to destinations around the country.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia MD Joel Katz, speaking at yesterday's Cruise360, said a total of 63 ships will operate in local waters between Oct 2025 and Apr 2026, bringing hundreds of thousands of passengers to Australia.

Katz said the coming summer will see a continuation of recent trends among cruise fans, including an increase in younger guests and first-time cruisers.

"The popularity of cruising continues to grow worldwide, and Australia is undoubtedly one of the world's most spectacular cruise destinations," he added.

"The summer ahead will



offer an incredible diversity of experiences aboard some of the world's most spectacular ships."

"Internationally, the average age of a cruise guest is now just 46.5 years, and more than a third of cruisers are aged under 40," the CLIA MD said.

Gen X and Millennials are now the most enthusiastic cruisers, Katz added, showing a stronger intention to cruise than their baby boomer counterparts.

"We are also seeing increasing numbers of new-to-cruise guests - about 31% of cruisers over the past two years have been first-time guests, up from 24% in 2019," he explained.

Other trends to be discussed at Cruise360 this year include the growth in luxury cruising, the increasing popularity of expedition, the diversity of experiences available in river, and the emergence of Gen Z as the next major cruise market.

CLIA yesterday kicked off its 10th Cruise360 conference in Brisbane (**pictured**), hosting around 850 delegates from cruise lines, agencies, and other industry bodies.

This year's Cruise360 includes the biggest contingent of overseas guests to ever take part.

More than 30 speakers and panellists are taking part, with **Cruise Weekly** Editorial Director Damian Francis moderating two sessions during the conference.

Watch out for a special issue of **Cruise Weekly** tomorrow, covering all the major news from the conference. *MS*

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On location in
Brisbane

Today's issue of *CW* is coming
to you from Cruise Lines
International Association's
Cruise360 in Brisbane.

TODAY is the second day of
CLIA Australasia's first-ever
two-day Cruise360 conference,
and we have a packed schedule
before our departure tonight.

The day will focus heavily on
river cruising, with delegates to
hear from AmaWaterways co-
founder Kristin Karst, and bust
myths with Australian Travel
Industry Association Director of
Membership & Industry Affairs,
Richard Taylor.

Attendees will also hear from
MSC Group Vice President
International Sales Antonio
Paradiso, as part of a fireside
chat with *CW* Editorial Director
Damian Francis.

Coral's '27 Kimberley season



CORAL Expeditions has
announced its 2027 Kimberley
season, featuring almost 50
departures across its fleet of
three vessels.

Voyages will run from Mar
through Sep aboard *Coral
Discoverer*, *Coral Adventurer*, and
Coral Geographer.

Guests can choose from a
diverse program, including Coral's
classic 10-night Kimberley cruise
from Darwin to Broome.

Additionally, there is a refreshed
'Coral Frontiers and Kimberley
Icons' voyage, which also sails
over 10 nights.

Coral will also present a special
seven-night voyage in partnership
with Australian Geographic, 'A
Lens on Nature: The Kimberley'.

The cruise will depart once in
Jul and once in Aug, and has been
specially designed for travellers
with a passion for photography,
nature, and cultural connection.

Sailings in Mar and Apr will
showcase the Kimberley's
spectacular 'Waterfall Season',

when the region's waterways are
at their peak.

Other highlights include
the Kimberley's towering
escarpments, tidal phenomena,
sacred First Nations rock art and
cultural sites, thriving bird life and
marine sanctuaries, and more.

"With four decades of heritage
exploring this vast coastline,
Coral Expeditions is the leader in
the Kimberley with our purpose-
built ships, expert guides, and
our signature warm Australian
hospitality," CCO Jeff Gillies said.

"Our Kimberley program
continues to provide the
preferred choice for travellers
who want a truly authentic
expedition experience with time
ashore to connect with this
country," he added.

"We're also seeing growing
interest both from solo travellers
seeking the companionship of
like-minded travellers and from
private groups who are keen to
discover the Kimberley together,"
Gillies enthused. *MS*

Explora's new ace

EXPLORA Journeys has
announced the world's
number 1 male tennis player,
Jannik Sinner, as its global
brand ambassador.

Sinner's role will see him
appear in select campaigns
for Explora, and co-create a
series of exclusive onboard
activations and wellness rituals
with his team.

The Italian's entourage will
also wear apparel featuring
the Explora logo during
upcoming tournaments.

"I'm honoured to join
Explora Journeys as their
brand ambassador...I believe
in the power of nature and
mindful routines, and I see
those values reflected in every
experience with Explora,"
Sinner said.

The announcement comes in
time for the US Open, where
Sinner kicked off his title
defence this morning with
defeat of Czech Vit Kopřiva.

HX themed menus

HX HAS launched new
themed menus highlighting
the heritage of its crews.

The new dining initiative
at HX's onboard eatery
Restaurant Fredheim features
a Filipino inspired menu
alongside South American,
Italian, and Indian selections.

They will be available on
rotation on HX's ships.

Milwaukee's third

THE Wisconsin city of
Milwaukee is preparing to
begin construction of a new
cruise dock next month.

Slated for completion ahead
of the 2026 season, the
South Shore Cruise Dock will
become Port Milwaukee's third
designated cruise dock.

Viking is one of several cruise
lines that call into the port.

TAKE A LOOK AT CRYSTAL

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THEIR BOOTH



THE generosity of strangers can be a heartwarming marvel to behold - just ask Nichol and her 16-year-old son Devon.

Two generous passengers visiting Sydney, Nova Scotia in Canada on *Majestic Princess* struck up a casual friendship with Nichol and her son Devon, who was born with cerebral palsy and enjoys visiting the port to admire the cruise ships.

So endeared to the pair were the travellers that as they were preparing to re-board the ship, they offered to help Nichol and Devon to live out their dream of taking a cruise holiday, with all expenses paid.

The MacNeils fly out from Halifax to New York next week for the one-way voyage back to their home town, during which they will enjoy the amazing fall foliage of the Atlantic region.

Port of Sydney staff say they can't wait to hear all about the trip from Devon on his return.

Sail to the forgotten islands



HERITAGE Expeditions has launched a brand-new voyage exploring the wilds of Indonesia and Borneo, including a visit to an orangutan rehabilitation centre.

The 14-day cruise, which departs Darwin on 08 Sep 2026, aims to immerse guests in the ancient customs and traditions of Indonesia's remote islands.

Travellers will meet the Lamalerans, one of Indonesia's last subsistence whaling communities on Lembata Island, and experience the tradition of water buffalo racing on the island of Sumbawa.

Other highlights include walking with Komodo Dragons, snorkelling Pink Beach, and exploring rarely visited jungles looking for proboscis monkeys,

tarsiers, elusive clouded leopards and sun bears, East Javan Langur, giant squirrel, and the hundreds of species of birdlife.

"This really is an authentic expedition experience, we'll be sailing well-off traditional tourist routes to experience some of Southeast Asia's most captivating and rarely-seen wonders," said Commercial Director and Expedition Leader Aaron Russ.

"There really is something for everyone on this voyage, and we can't wait to share this special part of the world with our guests on this incredible adventure."

Travellers can enjoy a 20% discount on the 'Indonesia's Forgotten Islands' voyage when they book before 31 Oct - **CLICK HERE** for more details. *JM*

Viking treasures

VIKING has partnered with Museums Victoria to sponsor upcoming exhibition, 'Treasures of the Viking Age: The Galloway Hoard'.

The exhibition is a rare and unique collection of Viking-age mementos, jewellery and heirlooms dating back to the early medieval kingdoms of Britain and Ireland, mainland Europe and as far away as Central Asia.

The items were buried around 900AD and discovered by metal detectorists in 2014.

"We are very pleased to partner with the museum and help bring one of the world's most extraordinary Viking-age collections to Melbourne," said Viking ANZ MD, Michelle Black.

"This is a rare and exciting opportunity to connect Viking travel partners with Museums Victoria's vision to inspire and enrich visitors through knowledge and experiences."

'Treasures of the Viking Age: The Galloway Hoard' opens at the Melbourne Museum tomorrow and will run until 26 Jan 2026.



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