

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of the latest cruise industry news.

New age at Aurora

AURORA Expeditions has named Madeline Georgiadis as its new Global PR & Communications Coordinator.

Georgiadis was previously the Public Relations Manager for Carnival Australia.

She also previously served as the Communications & Social Media Executive for Accor, before a six-year hiatus from the travel industry.

The appointment is part of a wider plan from Aurora to bolster its PR and marketing department, with the cruise line having not had a dedicated PR & Communications rep since the departure of Svetlana Monastyrsky 12 months ago.

Carnival caps off record fiscal year

CARNIVAL Corporation has achieved a record full year adjusted net income, with the company's strong fiscal results for the year enabling it to reinstate its dividend.

The company posted a full-year net income of US\$2.8 billion, with a record adjusted net income of US\$3.1 billion, up more than 60%.

Carnival also posted full-year record revenues of US\$26.6 billion on record net yields, outperforming guidance for the fourth time this year, which the company said was largely due to strong close-in demand.

The result, described by Chief Executive Officer Josh Weinstein (**pictured**) as "phenomenal", allowed Carnival to approve the reinstatement of its quarterly dividend of US\$0.15 per share, to be paid out in Feb.

"These milestones reflect the collective strength of our cruise



line portfolio and confidence in our long-term future," he said.

Other highlights included an all-time high full-year operating income of US\$4.5 billion, up 25% compared to the prior year, and record full year adjusted EBITDA, of US\$7.2 billion, up more than US\$1 billion compared to 2024.

Carnival's cumulative advanced booked position for next year remains in line with 2025 record levels, at historical high prices, boosted particularly by North

America and Europe.

The last three months saw the company achieve record booking volumes for 2026 and 2027.

Carnival is projecting its full-year 2026 adjusted net income to be US\$3.5 billion, surpassing record 2025 levels.

"The momentum is carrying into 2026, which is shaping up to surpass even these remarkable results with another year of double-digit earnings growth and return on invested capital expected to exceed 13.5%, closing in on our 20-year high," Weintraub said.

"With our strengthened balance sheet, powerful and diverse portfolio of world-class cruise lines and exclusive destinations, we are well positioned to capitalise on a tremendous runway to continue driving yield improvement and exceptional returns," he added. *MS*



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NCL unveils northern summer 27/28

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has unveiled its highly anticipated 2027/28 northern hemisphere winter deployment, with an additional 320 voyages launched to the West Indies, the Caribbean, and the Mexican Riviera.

A highlight of the season will see Puerto Rico welcome two Prima-class ships for the first time, offering week-long voyages to the Southern Caribbean.

Each ship will provide a distinct itinerary, with *Norwegian Prima* featuring Sat turnarounds and seven-day itineraries calling in the British Virgin Islands; St. Maarten; Barbados; St. Lucia; St. Kitts & Nevis; and the US Virgin Islands, from 13 Nov 2027 through 22 Apr 2028.

Norwegian Viva will complement her sister ship's itineraries, operating Sun turnarounds from 14 Nov 2027 through 23 Jan 2028, on

southbound seven-day voyages to Aruba and Curacao.

Meanwhile, seven ships will depart from home ports across Florida during the season, allowing guest to choose from a variety of itineraries sailing to the Caribbean and the Panama Canal.

Many of these itineraries include a stop at Norwegian's signature private destination in the Bahamas, Great Stirrup Cay.

The island will boast exciting upgrades and enhancements such as a new pier, a heated swimming pool, and Great Tides Waterpark (CW 30 Jul), once works are complete early next year.

Norwegian Joy, *Norwegian Jewel*, and *Norwegian Luna* will offer short Bahamas getaways and extended Caribbean and Panama Canal voyages.

Joy will feature three- and four-day Bahamas escapes between Nov 2027 and Apr 2028, while

Norwegian Jewel presents a mix of 10- and 11-day voyages to the Caribbean and Panama Canal from Nov 2027 through Jan 2028.

Luna will deliver seven-day Caribbean sailings from Oct 2027 through Apr 2028 with Great Stirrup Cay on every itinerary.

The season will also see *Norwegian Dawn* return to Jacksonville, kicking off her second season from Florida's most populous city, sailing four- and five-day Bahamas itineraries calling in Freeport, Nassau, and Great Stirrup Cay.

NCL will also continue its year-round deployment from Philadelphia, which is set to upgrade its cruise terminal.

Norwegian Pearl will sail a selection of five- to 12-day itineraries to Bermuda, the Bahamas, and the Eastern and Southern Caribbean between Oct 2027 and Apr 2028. *MS*

Freedom cancels

ROYAL Caribbean has cancelled multiple sailings on *Freedom of the Seas* due to the ship's redeployment, with thousands on board at least 18 cruises thought to be affected, according to the unofficial *Royal Caribbean Blog*.

Passengers are being invited to rebook on a certain number of other sailings, with the original price they paid to be protected, or if the replacement cruise they choose is cheaper, the price will be lowered.

Those who cancel are being offered a full refund on any portion of the fare paid.

Royal Caribbean has not announced where *Freedom* is being repositioned to.



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A 20-MILLION-YEAR-OLD fossil of a whale's backbone washed up on the shores of Victoria over the weekend.

The fossil was found on Ocean Grove Beach in Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula, just outside Geelong.

It is believed that the fossil wound up on the beach through irregular currents and shifting sands.

The remnant of the prehistoric creature was responsible for rudely interrupting a family's day at the beach, who had to go report it to the news, and find people to put their paleontology degree to use.

The scientists will examine the fossil and verify its age, before it gets tired and decides to disintegrate of old age.



Discovery discovers Journey



CELESTYAL Cruises' *Celestyal Discovery* and *Celestyal Journey* have met in the Arabian Gulf for the first time ever, celebrating the line's inaugural dual-ship season in the region.

Guests aboard both ships waved to each other as the two vessels called Abu Dhabi late last week.

The moment came as *Discovery* made her Arabian Gulf debut earlier in Dec, 12 months after her sister ship *Journey* sailed on her first season in the region (**CW** 12 Mar).

Celestyal has been holding a series of plaque exchange ceremonies on board *Discovery* this month to mark her arrival in the region, in destinations such as Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah, Doha, and Oman.

She will operate three-, four-

and seven-night 'Iconic Arabia' cruises, sailing round trip from her northern winter home port in Abu Dhabi.

"*Discovery's* debut in the Arabian Gulf marks an exciting new chapter for our brand," CCO Lee Haslett said.

"The warm welcome we've received reflects the region's growing enthusiasm for cruise, and this is replicated by the demand we're seeing from guests for immersive experiences and authentic encounters, all at unbeatable value.

"Having both *Celestyal Discovery* and *Celestyal Journey* operating in the Arabian Gulf for the next three years underscores our commitment to offering guests deeper, more meaningful ways to explore." *MS*

Viking's new space

VIKING and Highclere Castle in England have announced the construction of a new contemporary events space, 'The Viking Pavilion at Highclere Castle'.

This purpose-built space will replace the temporary marquee on the castle's southwest lawn, providing an elegant setting for future events and guest experiences.

The Viking Pavilion has been designed to complement Highclere's historic architecture, while incorporating sustainable features such as solar panels and a heat exchanger system.

Surrounding grounds will feature curving pathways, carefully planted trees, soft planting beds and an intimate seating areas, aiming to create transition between heritage and modernity.

Meanwhile, Viking has also announced a new partnership with the Norwegian Football Federation, which will see it sponsor the national team's academy, as well as its underage teams.



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