



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Paul Gauguin 2027

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has released its 2027 voyages, which will include 34 sailings on 10 different itineraries.

The voyages of seven to 20 nights will explore the Society Islands, Tuamotus, Marquesas Islands, Cook Islands, and South Pacific.

There will also be a Boutique Crossing Collection of three 13-, 17-, and 20-night journeys between Singapore, Australia, Fiji, and Bali.

The 'Crossing Melanesia: Australia to Fiji' voyage will cruise from Darwin to Viti Levu, visiting Thursday Island, Alotau, Samarai, Guadalcanal, and will overnight in Honiara.

## Eden gives Royal standing Ovation

EDEN welcomed its largest-ever cruise ship on Sat, with 4,862 passengers aboard Royal Caribbean's *Ovation of the Seas* visiting the South Coast town.

The ship's arrival follows the NSW Government's approval of a planning modification which permits vessels up to 370m long to berth in Eden (CW 25 Jul 2024).

Cruise passengers debarked to explore the destination, including the town centre and the Killer Whale Museum, and travel on a variety of shore excursions such as walking photography tours, a kayaking safari, and a cruise around Twofold Bay.

Passengers also enjoyed a pop-up Taste of Eden Festival (pictured) at the local Seahorse Inn Hotel & Villas, showcasing the best of the South Coast exclusively to *Ovation* passengers.

Hosted by Visit Eden and supported by the Federal



Government, the festival offered local food & beverages, market stalls, fresh oysters, live entertainment, and more.

"Eden is one of NSW's most stunning coastal destinations, and we're delighted to partner with A Taste of Eden Festival to mark *Ovation of the Seas'* debut visit," Senior Director of Marketing Kathryn Lock told *Cruise Weekly*.

"This exclusive experience brings together the best of the

region, giving our guests a true taste of the south coast.

"We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Visit Eden for their support in creating this immersive experience."

*Ovation* is one of 25 ships, including 12 maiden calls, to visit Eden this summer cruise season, with more than 40,000 passengers and 20,000 crew members estimated to inject millions of dollars into the local economy. MS



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## Destination HQ keen for more cruise

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**BOUTIQUE** Melbourne agency Destination HQ says it is eager to offer more expedition cruise ship charters to its growing client list, with its first major itinerary setting sail next week.

The agency, a founding member of Flight Centre Travel Group's Luxury Travel Collection, will welcome 100 clients on board Coral Expeditions' *Coral Geographer* (pictured) for a 16-night tour of Raja Ampat and the Spice Islands, cruising from Darwin to Sorong.

Hosted by Destination HQ Senior Consultants Kate Traynor and Sophie Anderson, the itinerary features no long sea days and daily shore excursions.

Among these will be plenty of opportunities for scuba diving, snorkelling, kayaking, hikes to waterfalls and birding.

Also included are all meals



and activities on board, nightly entertainment and guest lectures, plus the emcee services of 1980s AFL legend and TV personality, Robert DiPierdominico.

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly*, Traynor said the charter is just the beginning for Destination HQ.

"We have cruise lines that have come to us and said 'hey, we want to work with you'.

"So I guess we just want to get it out there that we are a small boutique agency that can make the impossible possible."

Traynor said the two-year experience planning the charter had taught them so much on what to do, what not to do and how to make future charters easier in the planning stages.

"We love a challenge, but [the next one] will hopefully a little bit easier," Traynor added.

Challenges the group encountered included locking in the charter and only being able to sell 20 of the 60 cabins to its regular clients.

"Then we entered the world of Google ads and online marketing, which opened up a new world.

"So that sold pretty much the rest of it and gave us a whole new bunch of new clients, which we're so excited to meet onboard." *ML*

## Cruise lines do pay

**THE** American branch of Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has refuted claims made by newly sworn in US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who stated on *Fox News* that the cruise sector is not paying its fair share of tax because many are registered in foreign countries.

"Cruise lines pay substantial taxes and fees in the US - to the tune of nearly \$2.5 billion, which represents 65% of the total taxes cruise lines pay worldwide, even though only a very small percentage of operations occur in US waters," CLIA said.

The statement made by Lutnick caused stock prices of the major cruise companies to fall by the end of the day's trading, down by 6% for NCLH, 5.5% for Royal Caribbean, and 3.95% for Carnival.



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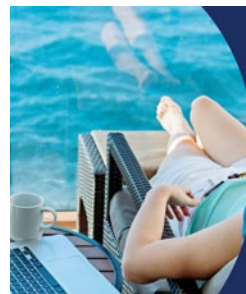
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## Viking previews river trips

**A LONG-LOST** 1980s arcade on board a shipwreck has been rediscovered for the first time in three decades.

The abandoned cruise ship sat rusting on the Welsh coast for 30 years, containing a collection of untouched vintage arcade machines.

*Duke of Lancaster* was beached at Llannerch-y-Mor Wharf on Wales' Dee River, when her owners abandoned her following long-standing legal disputes.

However, urban explorers have discovered 50 vintage arcade machines - featuring classics like Space Invaders and Galaxian - sitting in the ship, covered in dust and rust.

Some machines had miraculously survived the decades, while others had been damaged by water leaks and vandalism.

The machines are now undergoing restoration.

**VIKING** has published its 2025-2027 river brochure, featuring destination-focused and culturally immersive journeys exploring the iconic rivers of Europe, Egypt, Southeast Asia and the US.

The 234-page brochure features a diverse selection of river voyages and new content, including a European Season Guide, QR codes linking to exclusive Viking content, and a First Time River Voyage Guide.

The brochure also details two new eight-day river itineraries: one on the Seine, and another on the Mississippi.

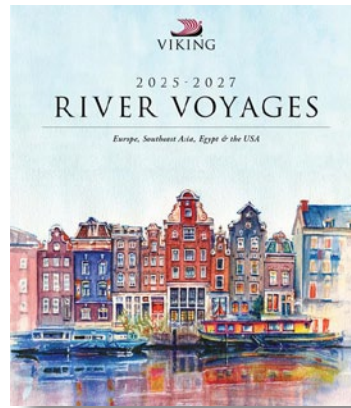
The new eight-day 'Christmastime in Paris & Normandy' journey, a round trip voyage from Paris, discovers the city's iconic attractions, as well as Rouen, Normandy's capital.

Sailings commence on 30 Nov, and travel up to Christmas Day.

Bookings are open for 2026 and 2027 departures.

Additionally, the eight-day 'Nashville, Memphis & the Cumberland' cruise explores more than two centuries of culture and history along the Mississippi.

Sailing between Memphis and



Nashville, guests can discover the frontier lives of the Cherokee people, immerse in rock & roll and country music, and savour a southern barbecue or Kentucky's famous bourbon.

Sailings for this itinerary are limited to only four departure dates between Oct and Nov 2026.

"I believe there is no better way to explore the fascinating destinations of the world's rivers than by sailing their historic waterways on an elegant Viking ship," MD Michelle Black said.

Viking's 2025-2027 River brochure is available to view online or to order free via Coghlan [HERE](#). *MS*

## Cruising to save

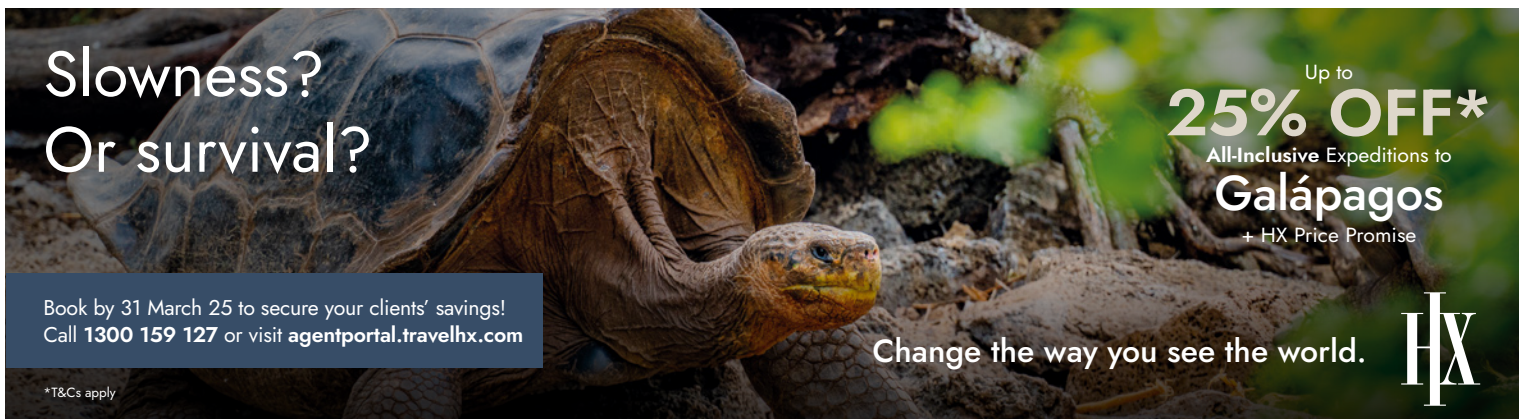
**AUSTRALIAN** travellers are opting to take short breaks, including cruises, instead of longer holidays in order to save money, new research from Carnival Cruise Line (CCL) has uncovered.

Two-thirds of Aussies surveyed have at least one short break planned this year, with more than half opting for more than one.

Nearly two-thirds (57%) of those polled said a shorter, local trip away helped them unwind better compared to a longer holiday.

For example, Aussies are spending an average of \$4,745pp on a holiday of 14 nights or more, whereas four separate four-night Carnival cruises costs approximately \$2,400 per person.


"That's why our 2026/27 program is packed with exciting short three- to four-night getaway options, giving Aussies more ways to maximise their time off while experiencing the best of what cruising has to offer," CCL Australia VP Kara Glamore said.



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