

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise news plus a full page from HX.

HX free upgrade

FREE suite upgrades and exclusive prices are available on HX's cruises in Antarctica and other destinations.

Passengers can score up to 15% off if they book by the end of next month.

Cruises include daily excursions and activities, meals, gratuities, and more.

Additionally, those who sell three cruises can sail free with HX to celebrate the line's 130th anniversary.

HX is also giving away 130 adventures to those who make three bookings between 01 Jul and 31 Oct.

Head to **page 5** for more information on the promotion.

NCL reveals Great Stirrup Cay plans

A **NEARLY** 2.5-hectare water park will be developed by Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) as part of a redevelopment of its private island Great Stirrup Cay (CW 14 Apr).

Named the Great Tides Waterpark, the facility will feature 19 water slides, a jet kart track, a 836m² children's splash zone, and what NCL is calling the industry's first "cliffside jump", featuring cliff-style pool dives of up to 4.5 metres in height.

Great Tides Waterpark will also feature the Caribbean's only family slide, allowing up to four people to go down together.

Eight of the water slides will emerge from a 50-metre Tidal Tower, with two to be enclosed, and a conveyor belt to carry rafts back to the top.

More serene activities at the new-look island will include a 234-metre dynamic river



with multiple entry points, a wading pool, and an illuminated "dreamlike bioluminescent scene for the ultimate multi-sensory experience", along with eight mini-slides for kids.

Guests will also be able to enjoy private cabanas, swim-up bars and plenty of F&B offerings.

NCL detailed its Great Stirrup Cay expansion plans earlier this year, at the christening of

Norwegian Aqua.

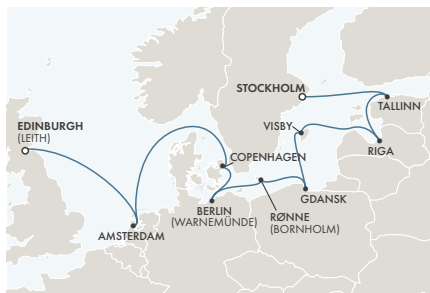
The first new features on Great Stirrup Cay will open later this year, including a new heated pool, multi-ship pier, welcome plaza, and an island-wide tram.

The NCL private destination will also feature a new Vibe Beach Club, an adults-only outdoor lounge with private cabanas, loungers, other upgraded amenities, and more. *ML*



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Zurvas promoted

JARROD Zurvas has expanded his role with Celestyal Cruises to become Director of Business Development Asia Pacific, now overseeing the cruise line's sales activity in both Australia and New Zealand, in addition to Asia.

Zurvas will work closely with Ascend Travel Group's Julie Primmer and Lynda Wallace, who will continue to lead Australian trade relationships.

This shift will allow the United Kingdom-based Janet Parton to focus on her new role as Vice President Business Development UK, and MD of Celestyal Travel, a new Britain-specific initiative.

Zurvas joined Celestyal earlier this year, as Director of Business Development for Asia, based in Kuala Lumpur (**CW** 08 Apr).

Scenic's Geraldton call to be town's last until '27

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours' *Scenic Eclipse II* is set to visit Geraldton next week, in what will be one of the destination's last cruise calls for two years.

The visits are much welcome for Geraldton, after the cancellation of 12 cruise ship calls, which were initially expected to arrive in 2025 and 2026.

Visits were cancelled due to itinerary changes, cruise line withdrawals, and Australian Border Force (ABF) complications.

Eclipse II is scheduled to berth in Geraldton twice this season: once next Wed, and again on 06 Sep.

The local council has planned a family friendly celebration at Blue Healers Square on both dates, with local entertainment and hospitality on show.

Eclipse II's calls are not the only good cruise news for the destination though, as it explores the Geraldton Port Maximisation

Project, which seeks to deliver a new multipurpose berth to accommodate cruise vessels more reliably and efficiently.

"We are hoping that this facility, along with a positive turnaround of cruise deployment in Western Australia, will see more itineraries including Geraldton, and guests being welcomed by the amazing volunteers," Australian Cruise Association Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel told **CW**.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Managing Director Joel Katz told **CW** Scenic's visit will help highlight the potential Western Australia offers for the industry, particularly in the upper luxury and expedition sectors.

"CLIA has been advocating for the right settings to help encourage more cruise ships to visit WA, working closely with the WA Government, the Australian

Cruise Association, and our industry stakeholders," he said.

"WA has a very clear vision to support and develop cruise tourism, and we believe a collaborative approach among cruise lines, governments, destinations, and other industry supporters can help unlock the state's huge potential."

There are also hopes for a boost in cruise calls to Geraldton if the destination's northern neighbour Broome is granted "first point of entry" status by the ABF (**CW** 08 Mar 2024).

"Broome becoming a first point of arrival for cruise vessels will have flow-on opportunities down the coastline, as vessels will have the opportunity to consider Dampier and Geraldton ports of call before arriving in Fremantle," then-Tourism WA Managing Director Carolyn Turnbull told **CW** last year. **MS**


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Princess packages

SPECIALTY coffee and teas are now unlimited in Princess Cruises' Plus package, in a further update to the package, which was only overhauled last week.

Coffees and teas will no longer count toward the 15-drink daily limit, following a change Princess said reflected the wishes of its passengers.

The cruise line last week announced a refresh of its popular Premier and Plus packages, adding a number of new benefits and changing others (**CW** 22 Jul).

Customers will now receive more dining choices and shore excursion credits, which will vary by voyage length.

Passengers can score \$100 for voyages of six-nine days, \$200 for 10-20 days, and up to \$300 for sailings of more than three weeks.

RCG cruises past forecasts



ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) has posted better-than-expected second quarter results, prompting it to raise its full-year 2025 adjusted earnings per share (EPS) guidance from US\$15.41 to US\$15.55.

The cruise company earned an adjusted net income of US\$1.2 billion or US\$4.38 per share for Apr-Jun 2025, compared to a net income of US\$900 million or US\$3.11 per share for the same period in the prior year.

RCG also reported total revenues of US\$4.5 billion and an adjusted EBITDA of US\$1.9 billion, while capacity for the second quarter was up 5.8% year-on-year, and guest numbers reached 2.3 million, up 10% YOY.

Load factor for the three-month period was 110%, up two percentage points compared to the same period last year, driven by the addition of large ships to the line's fleet.

"Demand for our portfolio of brands and our industry-leading experiences continues to accelerate," President & CEO

Jason Liberty shared.

The RCG head said the company is well on its way to achieving its fiscal targets by the end of 2027.

RCG expects its capacity in the third quarter to increase 2.9% compared to Q3 2024, and forecasts its adjusted EPS to be in the range of US\$5.55-\$5.65. *JM*

Pandaw unaffected

PANDAW'S itineraries in Thailand and Cambodia are unaffected by border checkpoint closures, amid the ongoing conflict between the two countries.

The cruise line has confirmed all its itineraries in the destinations are operating safely and without disruption.

All of Pandaw's major destinations in the region remain unaffected, including Siem Reap, Phnom Penh, Bangkok, Chiang Rai, and Chiang Mai.

Transportation hubs in both countries are also operating normally, including river ports, airports, and hotels.

Scenic savings

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours guests can currently save up to \$2,900 on selected 11-day France river voyages.

A new lead-in rate of \$8,195 per person is available for those booking by the end of next month, on various departures in 2026.

Passengers can also save up to \$2,000 per person on selected 15-day Christmas and New Year cruises in Europe by 30 Sep - call 1300 173 812.

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THEY say "nothing is more expensive than a free boat", but don't tell American woman Lara Manetta, who purchased her vessel for just US\$1.

Manetta is at least the third person to buy the boat at the discount price too, after two prior owners also gave the ship away at the peppercorn rate, after she had given them more trouble than hoped for.

The boat has given Manetta no such issues though, and she has since travelled more than 1,500 kilometres in the vessel with her husband.

Manetta first became interested in boating due to the price of housing on land, and perhaps contrary to belief, did not need to spend too much on fixing the boat up.

"Our biggest cost was a few cans of paint," Manetta wrote in an essay on her experience published on *Business Insider*.

Perhaps she and her husband may become interested in cruising one day, as many take up a life on a cruise ship as a more affordable alternative to living on land.

Avalon bringing cosiness



LIMITED availability remains on Avalon Waterways' late season autumn and winter river cruises in 2025, branded as its 'Cosy Cruise Collection'.

The program is being marketed as a way for travellers to wrap up their year of travel and enjoy some of Europe's most quaint towns, largely free of crowds, "in its most magical months".

Sailings still offering availability include the 'Romantic Rhine' and 'Danube Dreams'.

There are also staterooms on the Rhine and Moselle rivers, and in Burgundy and Provence.

Availability in Nov is looking particularly open on Avalon's Paris to Normandy sailings, and its 'Bonjour Bordeaux' itinerary.

Globus family of brands
Managing Director Asia Pacific

Chris Hall said the concept of cosy cruising is "finding its moment".

"Travellers are increasingly seeking out comfort, warmth, and authentic experiences, with the added benefit of more breathing room - our Harvest, off-season and Christmas cruises deliver that and more," Hall said.

"They're immersive, indulgent and provide unforgettable memories - and luckily for our guests, [there are] still spaces available on trips taking place at the end of the year."

Avalon guests can also expect mulled wine, cobblestone streets, and "warm memories from bow to stern" on its Christmas departures, he added.

These cruises feature stops at some of Europe's most famous Christmas markets. *ML*

Weekend in Xiamen

TRAVELLERS can embark on an adventure to the coastal city of Xiamen on a new series of two-night weekend sailings launched by StarCruises.

Embarking on Fri each week on board *Star Voyager*, the series of six cruises begins on 19 Sep, with other departures on 26 Sep, 03 Oct, 17 Oct, 31 Oct and 14 Nov.

Cruisers will cast off from Hong Kong's Ocean Terminal, spending the following day exploring Xiamen.

Voyager will then return to Hong Kong on Sun afternoon.

The new series complements the existing 'Weekend Sea-cation High Seas Cruises' also offered by StarCruises.

Michael Goh, President of the line's parent company StarDream Cruises, said guests can now discover Xiamen without having to take any days off work.

"*Star Voyager's* Hong Kong to Xiamen itinerary is designed to combine convenience, comfort and adventure - perfect for anyone looking to make the most of their weekends this fall," he enthused.

Bookings for the new two-night Xiamen cruises open on 05 Aug, with an earlybird promotion on until 15 Sep.

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*Source: Cruise Industry News Expedition Report 2025

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| Itinerary | Ship | Start Date | Duration | Cabins From* | Cabins now from* |
|---|--------------------|------------|----------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Highlights of Antarctica | MS Fridtjof Nansen | 19.12.2025 | 12 Days | \$18,471pp | \$16,872pp |
| Antarctica and Falklands Expedition Southbound | MS Roald Amundsen | 29.10.2025 | 19 Days | \$20,939pp | \$15,314pp |
| Life Returns - Springtime Expedition to Antarctica | MS Fram | 24.10.2025 | 23 Days | \$27,756pp | \$21,219pp |
| Antarctica & Falkland Expedition | MS Roald Amundsen | 08.12.2025 | 16 Days | \$18,364pp | \$15,485pp |
| In-depth Antarctica, Falklands & South Georgia Expedition | MS Fram | 14.11.2025 | 23 Days | \$31,385pp | \$28,471pp |



Plus Sell 3, Sail Free

To celebrate our 130th Anniversary, we're giving away 130 unforgettable adventures!*
Make 3 bookings on HX voyages between 1 July and 31 October 2025, and you and a guest could sail for free on one of our expeditions in 2026. Scan the QR code to log your bookings.

How to book

To learn more about our Anniversary offers and to make a booking visit agentportal.travelhx.com or email apac@travelhx.com

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*Applies to bookings made from 1 April 2025 to 31 August 2025 (inclusive) for selected HX departures from 1 May 2025 to 31 March 2027 (inclusive). Offers with a saving, discount or amount off stated in AUD represents a discount applied to the "From" price quoted in AUD per person based on full occupancy of cabin on the specified sailing or Tour Code. Bookings outside of these periods do not qualify. Offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Single supplements may apply and applies to all offer occupancies. *Sell 3, Sail Free to be eligible, bookings must be new FIT HX voyages departing in 2025, 2026, or 2027. A total of three deposited bookings must be made during the incentive period, which runs from 1 July to 31 October 2025 (12:00am GMT). Once your entries are validated, you'll be invited to select your preferred prize voyage from the available list. Voyage selection is on a first come, first served basis and subject to availability.