

Cruise Weekly today

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

Explore this sale

THERE has never been a better time to book a HX expedition than now, with the cruise line's Explorer Sale running through to the end of this month.

New members will receive 5% off, while Level 2 members will receive 10% off all new bookings made, both online and offline.

Call 1300 159 127 for more, or head to page 4 of today's **Cruise Weekly**.

Viking's final days

TRAVEL advisors have only two weeks left to secure a range of incentives and offers on Viking's ocean, river and expeditions sailings in 2025, 2026 and 2027 in the line's 'Discover More for Less' sale.

Open until 30 Jun, advisors can knock 30% off selected river and ocean sailings, including the 15-day flagship 'Grand European Tour' between Amsterdam and Budapest, which now offers savings of \$4,800 per couple.

Shorter Rhine itineraries plus cruises between Barcelona and Rome are also available.

Next-gen Eclipse coming



SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours is currently developing its next generation of Scenic Eclipse vessels, which will be the follow-up to the first two ships in the class, General Manager Sales & Marketing Anthony Laver has confirmed to **CW**.

The next ship in Scenic's pioneering 'Discovery Yacht' class will spearhead her own platform, rather than directly follow on from *Scenic Eclipse* and *Scenic Eclipse II*.

More details will be revealed later in the year, Laver added.

"The next-gen Eclipse will follow the philosophies of what we've been doing in yacht cruising," Laver shared.

Constant innovation will underpin the new class of ships, Laver said, as Scenic attempts to keep ahead of the influx of competitors in the luxury yacht space since *Eclipse's* debut.

"The company does not want

to be sitting there watching the idea that was developed and innovated by us taken to different stages or levels by our competitors," he added.

"The guest experience from what we've learned from the Scenic yacht class will just be amazing," Laver enthused.

Scenic Eclipse II will arrive back in Australia in Aug (**CW** 08 Oct), following her successful inaugural season Down Under in 2024 (**CW** 22 Apr 2024).

The ship will sail WA in Aug and Sep on the 'Australian Odyssey: Western Australia & The Abrolhos Islands' voyage.

Two exclusive departures will discover the Houtman Abrolhos, as well as Exmouth and Dirk Hartog Island, with excursions to include the Kalbarri Skywalk and coastal helicopter flights. **MS**

Laver is **pictured** with Emerald Cruises Director Sales & Marketing Angus Crichton.

TTF tees off on Vic

TOURISM & Transport Forum CEO Margy Osmond has urged stakeholders in Victoria's port division to work collaboratively on addressing the state's cruise ship exodus.

Osmond's comment come from a 2023 move by Carnival Corporation to pull its Cunard and Princess ships out of Victoria due to a 15% hike in berthing fees by the govt.

"The loss of more than 100 ships over the next four years in Victoria is projected to reduce economic activity by an estimated \$37.6 million, which is a significant blow to the state's visitor economy," Osmond told **Cruise Weekly**.

"Cruising plays an incredibly valuable role in Victoria's tourism success, with passengers spending time in Melbourne before or after their journey.

"This helps to support local hotels, restaurants, and attractions, so the impact of this decline will be felt across the broader visitor economy."

Osmond said addressing the fee issue is crucial to Victoria staying competitive for cruise.

"There is a clear opportunity for government and industry to come together to chart a positive path forward for cruising in Victoria, ensuring the state continues to benefit from the economic advantages this sector delivers," she said.

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Coral's experts

CORAL Expeditions has announced the guest lecturer line-up for its upcoming 60-day circumnavigation of Australia, which departs Cairns on 17 Oct on board *Coral Adventurer* (CW 07 Dec 2023).

Renowned zoologist, educator, conservationist and author Ian Morris will lead the guest lecture program alongside Goyma Gondarra, as the ship makes her way towards Darwin via the Torres Strait and Tiwi Islands, and East Arnhem Land.

From Darwin to Fremantle via the Kimberley, three more guest lecturers will be on board to offer insight into coastal ecosystems, including wildlife photographer Quentin Chester; environmental scientist Dale Arnott; natural historian Howard Gray; and geologist and conservationist Ian Herford.

From Fremantle to Adelaide, Herford will be joined by Steve Winderlich and his business partner Anne O'Dea, who together bring decades of knowledge and experience in managing cultural and environmental matters.

Sailing from Adelaide to Sydney, Winderlich and O'Dea will be joined by Arnott and Chester once again, and the final leg from Sydney to Cairns sees marine biologist and zoologist Sandra Reimer be part of the expedition.

Guests will also enjoy being hosted for a special day in Longreach in the Queensland outback by Alan Smith of Aussie Outback Tours, as he shares his lifestyle and homestead with guests.

"The richness and depth of local knowledge from our experts about these landscapes and cultures are what set us apart," the cruise line's Chief Commercial Officer Jeff Gillies said.

Uniworld to up efficiency



UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises is implementing an energy efficiency training program for captains and crews on board its ships.

The cruise line is rolling out advanced data capture systems on each of its ships over the next few years to enable it to monitor and measure progress.

The new program follows a poor energy usage result for Uniworld in the recently released 2024 impact report for its parent The Travel Corporation (TTC).

Uniworld used 304,867GJ of energy last year, up from the 291,958GJ used in 2023.

The cruise line also used more water last year than the prior corresponding period, soaking up 85,158m³ in 2024, compared to 73,651m³ in 2023.

More positive news saw Uniworld operate fully on renewable electricity for the first time in 2024, following the completion of a five-year project, which saw the line move all four owned accommodation and half of its offices to 100% renewables.

The cruise line purchased renewable energy certificates for the remaining electricity use across its ships and other offices.

Other report highlights include almost three-quarters of Uniworld's itineraries featuring at least one 'Make Travel Matter' experience, curated by TTC, chosen based on the positive social or environmental impact they have on communities and those who experience them.

Uniworld is also exploring the use of HVO biofuels on

its ships passing through the Netherlands, where the cruise line has begun engaging with the city of Amsterdam on the topic of overtourism and the guests it brings to the destination.

The cruise line has also reduced food waste across its ships by 41% compared to its baseline, through its food waste reduction system Leanpath, while brochure printing has been lessened by 61% since 2019. MS

Pictured: Uniworld Chief Executive Officer Ellen Bettridge with the line's culinary team.

Swan's strong ties

SWAN Hellenic recently strengthened its Arctic connections, holding a stakeholder cruise aboard *Vega* with the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO).

The initiative brought together local stakeholders, tourism leaders, and environmental representatives from across Iceland to foster dialogue and collaboration.

The AECO Stakeholder Cruise program invited community representatives aboard to discuss opportunities, concerns, and visions for sustainable expeditions.

Vega made stops in Reykjavik, Isafjordur, Hrisey, and Husavik, before continuing to Jan Mayen and Svalbard.

CEO Andrea Zito expressed pride in *Vega* as a "symbol" of responsible tourism.



FOR SALE: two well-established Australian travel publications.

Signature Media is exploring the sale of two of its popular consumer travel titles in order to re-focus on our core publications. This offers a unique opportunity to acquire and further develop these highly respected publications, and we'd love to find them an excellent home.

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Ski & Snowboard

Operating for over 19 years: originally launched as Ski & Snowboard with Kids, expanded in 2025 to serve the wider snow travel market. Editorial focus: Global ski destinations, gear reviews and expert advice.



For confidential discussions and further information, please contact Tom Green.
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SOME cruise guests are taking 'room with a view' a little too literally, and have been hauling their mattresses onto their balcony.

Cruise lines have spoken out against the controversial trend, after a photo of a couple relaxing on a mattress on their cruise ship balcony recently went viral.

In response, Carnival Cruise Line ambassador John Heald explained in a recent social media post that moving the bed outside the cabin is "not allowed for safety reasons, cleanliness reasons, for all sorts of reasons".

Many cruise travellers also disapproved of the trend, with one social media user astutely pointing out: "You will [regret it] when your mattress is covered in salt and moist from the humid air and I bet the cruise company don't like that much either for those reasons."

Greenland's first turnaround



THE first-ever HX turnaround in Nuuk, the capital of Greenland, has marked a historic tourism milestone for the sparsely populated Danish island.

The turnaround took place late last week, with more than 500 HX guests flying with Air Greenland to Nuuk to board *Fridtjof Nansen*.

HX has a partnership with the flag carrier of Greenland, with the two helping to bring the most passengers through Nuuk International in one day since it opened less than six months ago.

The cruise line will offer nine itineraries visiting Greenland in 2025, three of which are new.

This year is set to be a record-

breaker for tourism in Greenland, with cruise visitation expected to grow 14%.

Ships such as Viking's *Viking Sky*, Costa Cruises' *Costa Favolosa*, and Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Silhouette* are all set to call.

The expansion of Nuuk International and the introduction of direct flights from cities such as New York City and Copenhagen have made the capital more accessible than ever.

The destination also implemented a new green tax of DKK50 per cruise passenger in Jan, with the aim to improve harbour infrastructure and support local communities. *MS*

Lindblad's science

NATIONAL Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions has announced its Arctic Visiting Scientist Program research projects for this year.

The cruise line's *National Geographic Explorer*, *National Geographic Endurance*, and *National Geographic Resolution* will serve as the home base for 10 projects led by visiting scientists.

"The Visiting Scientist Program is a cornerstone of how we turn expedition cruising into a platform for meaningful discovery, and we're proud to support these groundbreaking research initiatives," Chief Expedition Officer Trey Byus said.

MSC adds to sale

MSC Cruises has added European and Caribbean summer sailings for next year to its highly sought-after 'Seasational Sale'.

The sale now includes a number of departures from these regions from Apr to Nov 2026 - call 1300 028 502.

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EXPLORERS

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