

Cruise Weekly today

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

Explora some more

EXPLORA Journeys has unveiled its exclusive northern hemisphere summer special, with guests to receive up to either US\$1,000 or €1,000 journey experience credit.

The limited-time offer is available to all new bookings made between 23 Jun and 15 Jul, with the credit to be applied per suite booked.

Select cruises in the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, or the Caribbean are available as part of the offer - explorajourneys.com.

A Darr-ing move from CLIA



EXCLUSIVE

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) President & Chief Executive Officer Bud Darr (**pictured**) will present a keynote address at this year's expanded Cruise360 conference in Brisbane.

Darr will deliver the opening day keynote on the state of the global cruise sector this Aug, ahead of two days of discussions on the opportunities and challenges facing the industry.

The keynote will include a continued focus on responsible cruise tourism as part of CLIA's sustainability initiatives, ahead of what is set to be the biggest Cruise360 ever.

CLIA's local MD Joel Katz said this year's Cruise360 will offer more international speakers than ever before.

"Bud Darr is one of the most experienced and respected maritime leaders in our global community, and we're delighted to have him join us in Brisbane to share his insights," Katz said.

"Cruise360 Australasia has become the biggest annual event on this region's cruise calendar and a critical forum for our industry as we unite around our strengths and direction."

More than 800 CLIA members, including travel advisors, cruise line representatives, ports, destinations, travel industry suppliers, and other stakeholders will be in attendance.

The sold-out conference will have the theme 'Navigate, Innovate, Excel', giving delegates invaluable knowledge and direction within the global industry, including practical insight to help them evolve and thrive in the future.

Darr took CLIA's top job in Feb (**CW** 20 Dec), having previously held the post of Senior VP of Technical and Regulatory Affairs from 2010 to 2017.

Prior to his return to CLIA, he served as MSC Group's Executive Vice President, Maritime Policy and Government Affairs. **MS**

CruiseHQ EOFY

EARN your end of financial year bonus with CruiseHQ, with the wholesaler's latest campaign launched in partnership with some of the world's top lines.

The limited-time campaign runs from 23 Jun-31 Jul, and includes generous incentives across Azamara; Celebrity Cruises; Disney Cruise Line; MSC Cruises; Norwegian Cruise Line; Oceania Cruises; and Royal Caribbean.

Those booking with CruiseHQ's partner lines during the period can earn tailored rewards, ranging from an e-gift card to bonus commission.

The incentive is also combinable with a number of in-market offers - **CLICK HERE**.

Cunard's big leap

ENGLISH Olympian Katarina Johnson-Thompson will headline Cunard's maiden Wellness at Sea voyage.

The much-anticipated cruise, which will sail next year, will be headlined by the athlete, one of *Queen Anne's* godmothers, who won a silver medal in heptathlon at the Olympics (**CW** 04 Jun 2024).

Johnson-Thompson will host an exclusive Cunard Insights talk in the Royal Court Theatre, where she will share stories from her career, reflect on what wellness means to her, and why it matters.

She will also touch on her preparation for the upcoming 2026 Commonwealth Games.

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EURO SUMMER
CRUISING IN 2026

UP TO
\$1000
TO SPEND
ONBOARD*

KIDS CRUISE
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SAVE UP TO
25%*

PLUS MUCH MORE

BOOK NOW

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Carnival not affected by macro trends

CARNIVAL Corporation has posted a strong second quarter financial report, despite a volatile macroeconomic background for the travel industry, driven by a combination of better-than-expected yield and costs.

The company posted a second quarter adjusted EPS of US\$0.35, slightly better than its guidance of approximately US\$0.22, while adjusted EBITDA came in at US\$1.5 billion, also above the guidance of approximately US\$1.3 billion.

Carnival posted an unchanged second-half guidance, however Truist analysts noted this would likely have been even more positive if not for broader macroeconomic factors.

The relatively strong financial numbers were despite an unchanged occupancy rate of 104% from the prior corresponding period.

This can partly be attributed to



a higher passenger ticket revenue per passenger cruise day of US\$162, above the consensus of US\$159; while also positive was Carnival's onboard revenue per passenger cruise day, which came in at US\$88, above the consensus of US\$86.50.

Initial trends for next year are encouraging, with Carnival revealing its 2026 booked position thus far is in line with this year's record levels, and at historical high prices.

The company's cumulative advanced booked position for the remainder of 2025 remains strong

with occupancy the second-highest on record and pricing at historical highs.

Carnival's full year adjusted EBITDA guide was raised to US\$6.9 billion from approximately US\$6.7 billion, while adjusted EPS is approximately US\$1.97 from approximately US\$1.83.

Chief Executive Officer John Weinstein (**pictured**) said Carnival's strong results, booked position, and outlook are a testament to the success of the company's ongoing strategy to deliver same-ship, high margin revenue growth.

"We also remain on track for a strong 4% net yield growth in the second half, consistent with what we forecasted back in Dec, which was before the complex macroeconomic and geopolitical backdrop we have all experienced in the last few months," Weinstein said. *MS*

You Scot to see this

HEBRIDEAN Island Cruises has launched the full Scottish isles season next year for its *Hebridean Princess*.

The 48-guest ship will sail on 70 cruises next year, ranging from four to nine nights, from the Scottish ports of Greenock, Oban, and Invergordon.

The 2026 season will sail between Mar and Nov, and visit the Scottish Highlands, the country's coast, and the islands around the Hebrides, Orkneys, Shetlands, and the Isle of Man, as well as Northern Ireland.

The season will also include an array of themed cruises, encompassing golf; lighthouses; nature; wildlife; and more.

Passengers can currently save 15% if they book by the end of next month - call Cruise Traveller on 1800 507 777.



EXPLORERS

HX Explorers Sale

There has never been a better time to book your clients' first expedition with HX. These additional savings can be **combinable** with current offers, including our **130th Anniversary offers**.

Book by 30 June

New members will receive

5% OFF

Level 2 members will receive

10% OFF

all new HX bookings*

Call 1300 159 127, email apac@travelhx.com or visit the agent portal to find out more

*Offer valid on new bookings made between 02 June 2025 and 30 June 2025 and is valid on departures between 30 June 2025 - 31 March 2027, excluding tour code SBGRE2608. Level 1 members are entitled to a 5% discount during this offer period on HX only. Level 2 members are entitled to a 10% discount during this offer period on HX only. Combinable with all other offers. See website for full T&Cs.



TIMES are tough at the moment, and one woman is beating it all by paying \$300 per week to live on board a cruise ship.

Laura Butler said she gave up the corporate grind in her mid-50s to live full-time on a cruise ship, as reported on realestate.com.au.

Butler said on her YouTube account she has taken advantage of a little-known gambling points-program system many cruise lines offer.

The self-proclaimed budget and loyalty program strategist said she was introduced to the concept after playing blackjack on a 14-night cruise to the Baltics on board Holland America Line's *Rotterdam*.

While celebrating her birthday, she spent many hours buying in on A\$40 minimum-bet tables.

However before the end of the cruise, Holland America invited her back on board, after noticing her proclivity for playing cards.

She gambled on the next cruise too, this time on the slots, where she was able to amass enough points for another seven-night sailing.

The woman said the key to the strategy - which is clearly not foolproof - is to lose as little money as possible, saying she has lost as much as \$2,300 on one sailing.

Ponant hits the road



PONANT Explorations, Journey Beyond, and Bunnik Tours launched a rural 'The World to You' roadshow, which ended earlier this month.

The three companies joined forces over a fortnight to connect with agents and travellers across rural New South Wales/ACT, delivering a series of trade and consumer events.

The events provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen rural trade relationships, showcase the brands' unique offerings, and inspire future travel.

Week one focused on northern NSW, with the team travelling to Coffs Harbour, Armidale and Inverell from 27-29 May.

Windsong Travel Inverell went the extra mile for the event, promoting it through radio advertising, in-store signage, and personalised invites, securing an impressive 63 RSVPs.

The roadshow then continued to southern NSW from 03-05 Jun, with events in Canberra, Temora, and Griffith.

The team partnered with seven trade agencies for three events, with a morning tea in Temora one of the highlights, organised by Temora Travel.

Guests were treated to a delicious spread in the Temora Town Hall Theatre, catered by local talent Dimi, who is a former contestant on *The Great Australian Bake Off*. MS

Croisi Xmas cruise

CROISIEUROPE has launched a new hotel barge cruise, taking in the Christmas markets of Belgium.

The four-day voyage, which launches in Dec, will sail between Bruges and Ghent, and includes a visit to the markets in both destinations.

Passengers will have the opportunity to visit both of Bruges' two markets.

There is a larger one, which is known for its traditional chalets, ice skating rink, and festive decorations; and a smaller market, which focuses more on crafts.

Other highlights include a guided tour of Bruges, and a tasting of traditional Flemish beer at the Bourgogne des Flandres brewery; a tour of Ghent with a tasting of local specialities; and onboard tastings of hot chocolate.



A tribute from the Kimberley

I'M CURRENTLY on board *Seabourn Pursuit*, exploring the Kimberley as part of an APT charter.

It feels fitting to acknowledge the recent passing of APT founder Geoff McGeary, a true visionary who shaped how countless people have experienced this country and the world - vale Geoff.

His legacy lives on in APT's deep commitment to creating enriching travel moments that connect people to places and communities, both on land and at sea.

For decades, APT has pioneered seamless ways to link its touring products, from immersive land-based adventures and iconic rail journeys to expedition cruising.

Today, that heritage shines as APT blends rail, land and sea into memorable itineraries that appeal to every kind of traveller.

As a long-standing and highly valued member of the ACA, APT has also played a pivotal role in strengthening the connections between the cruise sector and rural destinations across Australia.

Here in the Kimberley, that experience is more meaningful by the special bond *Pursuit* has with the Wunambal Gaambera people, her godparents, along with APT's connections with the Dambimangari traditional owners.

Their roles as custodians of this spectacular land adds a deeper significance to every voyage, reminding us of the profound responsibility we have to respect, learn from and protect the environments and cultures we visit.

As I stand on the deck and watch the Kimberley's rugged beauty glide past, I'm reminded of the countless ways travel shapes us.