



# CRUISE

## WEEKLY

delivered daily!



cruiseweekly.com.au  
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Monday 24th Mar 2025

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Navigator leaving

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises' *Seven Seas Navigator* will leave the fleet Oct 2026 under an agreement with new residence-at-sea operator Crescent Seas.

*Navigator's* last sailing will be a 12-night Mediterranean cruise from Istanbul to Alexandria, departing 02 Oct.

"While we are truly grateful for her years of service, with our two new Prestige-Class ships being delivered in 2026 and 2030 - offering ultra-luxury travelers even more opportunities to see the world - we have never been more excited about the future of the Regent Seven Seas Cruises brand," a spokesperson said.

## Prima running hot & cold

BOOKINGS for Iceland sailings aboard *Norwegian Prima* are performing very strongly in the Australian market, according to Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) Senior Director Sales, Strategy, and Operations Asia Pacific Damian Borg.

Speaking at a press conference during *Norwegian Aqua's* debut voyage in Europe, Borg said the spike in Aussie interest for Prima class sailings in Northern Europe had been achieved despite the ships being more suited to warmer climate destinations.

"Strangely, this class of ship, when you look at it, is built for warmer weather, so it is a little at odds taking it all the way up to Iceland...but people love the fact they can take a new ship up there," Borg said.

He added that fellow Prima class vessel *Norwegian Viva* had also performed really well in the Mediterranean, and the challenge

now is to convince Aussies to book cruises in the Caribbean aboard *Aqua* when she arrives at Port Canaveral in Apr.

"We want to find a way to make the Caribbean more attractive to Australians because it's not really a top 10 destination of choice at the moment," he conceded.

"Perception-wise, it has been seen as [being] just too far, but we know there's a lot to offer.

"The family market can dip in and out of that, there's the Disney World experience, air is now starting to open up as well with Fiji Airways hubbing through Texas making it a little bit easier to get to that part of the world - there's a lot to offer, albeit a little bit farther away," Borg concluded.

VP & MD of the Asia Pacific region Ben Angell added that a shift in perception around cruise holidays will also help boost bookings aboard Prima ships like *Aqua* in the Caribbean.

He said NCL is starting to see distribution patterns in Australia that show people are realising the benefit of extending holidays with a seven-night cruise.

"It used to be you either wanted a cruise holiday or you didn't," Angell said, adding that Aussies going on a cruise for seven nights are now asking what else they can do on land to supplement the holiday experience.

Norwegian took delivery of *Aqua* in Europe earlier this month (CW 14 Mar). AB

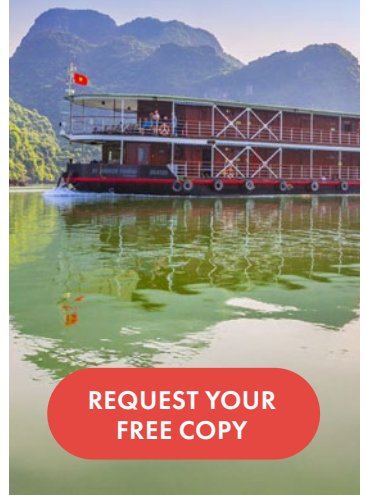
### Viking's world sale

VIKING'S Longitudinal World Cruise VI from Buenos Aires to Milwaukee in 2026 is on sale from \$80,195 per person, with includes business class airfares and transfers - call the cruise line 138 747.

Wendy Wu Tours

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\*Conditions apply. \*Kids sail at reduced rate when booked as 3rd and 4th guests on eligible sailings. Additional kids sail at full price.




## CRUISE WEEKLY

On location on board  
*Norwegian Aqua*

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line, which is hosting us aboard *Norwegian Aqua* for her inaugural cruise.

### UNFORTUNATELY

wild weather delayed our departure from Lisbon, and in the interests of safety, our scheduled call to Rotterdam was dropped.

However the big swells failed to dampen the spirits of everyone on board, who have spent the last 24 hours enjoying speciality dining at venues like Cagney's Steakhouse, the newly introduced Thai eatery Sukhothai, and the classic Japanese favourite Hasuki.

NCL executives for APAC Ben Angell, Damian Borg, and Angela Middleton also took time out to offer the latest updates about the cruise line and the new *Aqua* during a fascinating panel session.

## Could Prima-class come to Aus?



**THE** proactive approach Asia is taking to cultivate strong cruise partnerships could one day precipitate a Prima class ship being deployed in Australia.

Speaking aboard the inaugural sailing of *Norwegian Aqua* over the weekend, Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) VP & MD for Asia Pacific Ben Angell said that while there are no firm plans to base one of NCL's Prima class vessels Down Under, the emergence of Asia as a major cruise player could attract a larger number of newer ships to the region.

"I don't think there's anywhere in the world right now that is more proactive for cruise than Asia," Angell said.

"If you look at the port development, at the tourism bodies and what they're willing to do to form close partnerships with cruise, as well as the variety, preferable exchange rates, however you look at it, Asia is so well-suited for cruising."

Angell added that Asian cruisers typically seek out the very best, biggest, and newest hardware,

which may one day incentivise newer ships to be deployed.

"Hopefully at some point we can marry [Asia and Australia] together," Angell said.

The NCL executive also noted the plethora of new ships in the pipeline and the natural flexibility cruise companies have to redirect assets could see changes made in Australia's favour around future deployment decisions.

"The beautiful thing about cruise is that you can move assets around the world as you need, and right now I think we are all aware that America's doing very well and a lot of cruise deployment has consolidated back into the United States to service the Caribbean and Alaska," Angell explained.

"But there's a very solid pipeline of new builds - we alone have got another seven coming between now and 2036 and they have to go somewhere...so there's always an opportunity [for Australia]." *AB*

**Pictured:** NCL Director Field Sales ANZ Angela Middleton flanked by Borg and Angell.

## Carnival's record

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has reported a record-setting first quarter, with revenues of US\$5.8 billion, up over US\$400m, compared to the prior year, outperforming its Dec guidance.

The company reported a record first quarter operating income of US\$543 million, nearly double the prior year, due to strong close-in demand and continued strength in onboard revenue.

The record results saw Carnival raise its full-year guidance, with adjusted net income for the year expected to be up over 30% compared to 2024.

"Our first quarter was truly characterised by outperformance," Chief Executive Officer Josh Weinstein commented.

"This was across the board and led by incredibly strong demand throughout our portfolio including exceptional close-in demand that exceeded expectations for both ticket prices and onboard spending," he said.

"While we are not completely immune from the heightened macroeconomic and geopolitical volatility since providing our Dec guidance, we are still taking up our earnings expectations for the year and we remain on track to have another stellar year."

## Crystal savings offer

**CRYSTAL'S** new 'Sensational Savings' offer provides up to \$6,000 per suite savings.

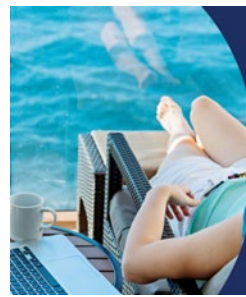
Those booking select cruises by the end of next month can also receive onboard credit of US\$500 - [CLICK HERE](#).



## CARNIVAL ADVENTURE & CARNIVAL ENCOUNTER JOIN THE FAMILY

29 MARCH 2025

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on the latest cruise news

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**LAST** year's "water pistol gate", which saw cruisers in Barcelona sprayed by locals, has come back to bite the destination, as authorities grapple with the prospect of a downturn in tourism this year.

The city is worried cruisers may not feel welcome out of fear they may also cop a watery blast (**CW** 29 Jul 2024), as it continues to balance the need for tourism as a vital cog in its economic wheel with its housing issues and the needs of its residents.

Barcelona Deputy Mayor Jordi Valls said the current situation is untenable, with one choke point being Basílica de la Sagrada Família, which sees its resident population of 50,000 double as people are eager to see the unfinished church.

Assembly of Neighborhoods for Tourism Degrowth member Daniel Pardo said there will likely be more protests this year.

## Stone rocks up at Regent lunch



**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) treated a number of its top-performing travel advisors to its '24 Hours of Luxury' incentive this week, at the opening of the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival (**CW** 21 Mar).

Advisors were flown to the Victorian capital for Fri's 'World's Longest Lunch', where they joined thousands of other diners at a 600-metre table for a three-course meal created by celebrity chef Curtis Stone.

They also enjoyed a sip of one

of RSSC's most popular onboard cocktails, 'The Navigator', at the Regent Lounge, with the line being a key event partner.

Stone (**pictured** with Vice President Sales & General Manager Lisa Pile) also took some time out of his busy day to say hello to Regent Lounge revellers, and snap some photos.

The night before saw the group enjoy a dinner at Grill Americano Italian restaurant with Pile and Senior Business Development Manager Scott Graham. *MS*

## Built for awe offer

**SAVINGS** of up to 20% on more than 35 itineraries departing in 2025 are on offer from National Geographic - Lindblad Expeditions.

The 'Built for Awe' offer allows travellers to save up to \$12,857 across Lindblad's 21-ship fleet, with eligible voyages including Iceland, Galapagos Islands and Antarctica.

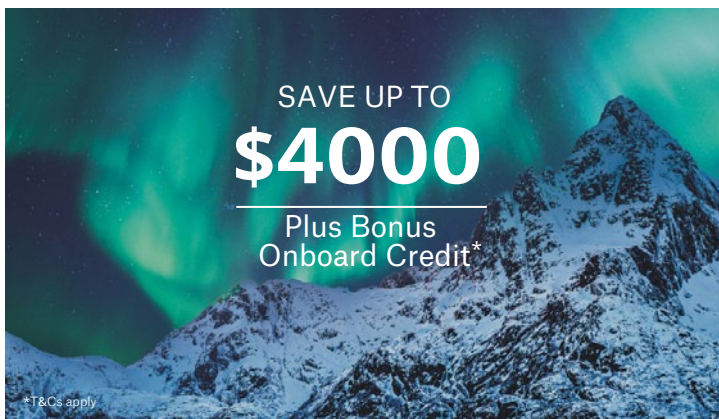
The offer is available for new bookings made by 15 Apr.

## Pandaw capacity

**UNPRECEDENTED** demand for Mekong River itineraries has led Pandaw to increase its capacity in the region to three ships for the 2025/26 season.

The company has deployed the *Tonle Pandaw* on its flagship Classic Mekong sailing between Nov 2025 and Apr 2026 and will now offer three weekly departures between Ho Chi Minh City & Siem Reap.

*Tonle Pandaw* has recently completed a full renovation, converting eight standard cabins to four 40m<sup>2</sup> suites to meet premium demand.



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# FINAL DAYS

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