

Cruise Weekly today

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

Borealis' refresh

FRED. Olsen Cruise Lines' *Borealis* has returned to service after her successful dry dock refurbishment.

The ship underwent a comprehensive rejuvenation of both her interiors and exteriors, focusing on technical upgrades, as well as guest-centric enhancements.

Public areas such as The Observatory and The View have been refreshed, while the onboard Atlantis Spa has also been enhanced with upgraded salon equipment.

A new *Star* ascends to the sky



PRINCESS Cruises' new ship *Star Princess* has been christened by her godparents, celebrity wife-and-husband duo Camila Alves and Matthew McConaughey, in a ceremony in Fort Lauderdale late last week (pictured).

The couple christened the ship during a ceremonial maritime tradition, breaking a bottle of Pantalones Organic Tequila, the brand they co-founded, to wish *Star*, her guests, and her crew good fortune on the seas.

Hosted by TV personality Dawn McCoy, the star-studded naming ceremony took place in the ship's Princess Arena, where guests enjoyed an evening of tributes from the cruise line's President Gus Antorcha and Captain Gennaro Arma.

The celebration continued with a special performance by singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow, which was capped off with a shimmering drone show, paying tribute to *Star's* upcoming season in Alaska.

"It's an honour to follow in the footsteps of past godparents and welcome *Star Princess* into the Princess fleet," Alves and McConaughey said.

"We are excited to share this moment with the guests who step aboard - coming together with family and friends, making new memories, and sharing a

Pantalones cocktail or two."

Antorcha said the naming ceremony was a milestone filled with pride and joy for everyone at the cruise line.

"*Star Princess* is a stunning reflection of our legacy and our future - bringing together incredible design, exceptional experiences, and the spirit of discovery our guests love.

"We're grateful to Matthew and Camila McConaughey for joining the Princess family and know their warmth and infectious spirit will always be felt throughout *Star Princess*."

The ship has now begun her inaugural Caribbean season, which will continue through to the summer.

She will then sail through the Panama Canal to Seattle for a debut season of seven-day Alaska Inside Passage itineraries, which will make her the newest cruise ship in the region.

Star carries 4,300 guests and includes more than 1,500 balcony staterooms, offering guests panoramic views.

This includes Princess' exclusive Sanctuary Collection suites, its ship-within-a-ship concept, which features mini-suites and balcony staterooms; an exclusive restaurant; a tranquil, adults-only pool deck called the Sanctuary Club; and more. *MS*

New NCL cruisetours

NEW cruisetours are available with Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) across 11 European ports, including Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Portugal, and Turkey.

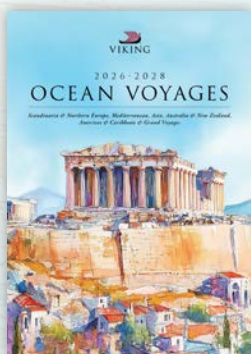
The new Timeless Finland program includes three nights' accommodation and multiple guided tours around some of the region's most distinctive attractions, including the city's combination of classic and contemporary architecture and the serene wilderness of Nuukio National Park.

There is also a new program in Venice: a four-day cruisetour which takes travellers into the destination's icons and its hidden passageways.



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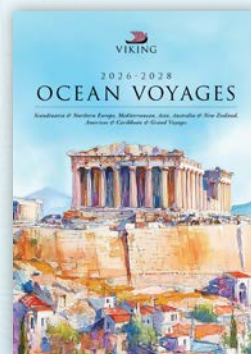


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NCLH's shorter strategy paying dividends

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) saw strong demand for shorter sailings in Q3, as its namesake NCL brand focuses more on families.

President & Chief Exec Harry Sommer told media on NCLH's earnings call the company's strategy of more short cruises allows it to continue to build brand familiarity with families.

Sommer's sentiments echo what NCL Vice President & Managing Director Ben Angell told *Cruise Weekly* last month (*CW* 22 Oct), as the line also adds shorter sailings to future Aussie programs, creating a more effective on-ramp for its brand.

"In the fourth quarter of this year, we will have the highest mix of short sailings since 2019, reflecting our deliberate move to rebalance Norwegian's deployment towards closer-to-home itineraries," Sommer told



media assembled on the call.

Short sailing capacity is increasing more than 80% versus the prior year next quarter, followed by another 40% increase in Q1 2026.

"This approach expands our reach, appealing to a broader mix of guests, particularly premium families and new-to-cruise travellers," Sommer said.

"That exposure helps build loyalty and creates a pipeline of

repeat guests for the future."

Q3 bookings were the strongest for this particular quarter in NCLH history, Sommer said.

Bookings were up 20% from last year, with the NCLH head also attributing this positive result to the effect of more shorter cruises.

NCLH achieved a quarterly record, with total revenue of US\$2.9 billion in the third quarter, an increase of 5% versus third quarter of 2024. *MS*

Newcastle canx

VIKING has cancelled the remainder of its Newcastle calls for this year, due to a planned anti-coal protest at the port by climate change activists Rising Tide.

A spokesperson for Viking said the calls were cancelled out of the utmost caution.

"There was a possibility that the planned activities at the Port of Newcastle could impact our scheduled shore excursion program and our guests' experience," the cruise line spokesperson said.

"Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, we made the decision to cancel our two scheduled calls; our guests will instead spend an extra day exploring Sydney.

"We look forward to returning to Newcastle in the new year, with four currently planned calls in 2026."



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For more information on Award Criteria and how to nominate, please visit cruising.org.au.
Nominations are open to all CLIA Travel Agent members and close Friday, 21 November 2025.



SOME may have scoffed at the term 'coolcation' when it entered the travel industry lexicon last year, but it has now been immortalised in the Collins Dictionary's Word of the Year shortlist.

From Unforgettable Croatia's seven-night cruises along the Dalmatian Coast in Croatia and 50 Degrees North's offerings in the Nordic regions to Norwegian Cruise Line's sailings to Alaska, the travel and cruise industries have embraced the growing consumer trend for swapping flop-and-drop beach holidays with frostier getaways.

Other interesting travel-related words that also made the list include HENRY (high earner, not rich yet) and micro-retirements (career breaks between periods of employment to pursue personal interests such as taking bucket-list holidays).

HX goes "deeper" in 2027/28

HX HAS officially launched its 2027/28 season (**CW** 31 Oct), featuring voyages to Antarctica, Greenland, the Arctic Archipelago, Iceland, Patagonia, the Outer Hebrides, and more.

A highlight of the season will see HX collaborate even closer with Greenlandic locals, particularly in the culinary realm.

HX will expand its food and beverage offerings, with guests to dine on traditional dishes prepared by local chefs, while learning about the rich history and culture of the region.

This follows the success of HX partnering with Greenlandic chefs this season, and introducing local menus on board *Fridtjof Nansen* (**CW** 22 Apr).

"At HX, our strategy has always been about creating lasting connections with the places and people we visit," Chief Executive Officer Gebhard Rainer said.

"For our 2027/28 season, we're not just adding new pins to our map - we're going deeper: the



ultimate in slow and mindful travel," he added.

"Whether it's exploring the untouched wilderness of Greenland with local Greenlandic chefs or designing community-led experiences with Inuit Elders in Arctic Canada, we're focused on offering our guests the chance to see the world differently."

HX will also be the latest cruise line to introduce additional shorter voyages, as the company attempts to entice more travellers onto its expedition ships.

The 2027-28 program will include more voyages that last just over a week, including cruises of eight, nine, and 10 days in destinations such as Greenland, Alaska, Svalbard, and Iceland. *MS*

Royal unveils 27-28

ROYAL Caribbean has revealed its new 2027-28 Caribbean adventures, with cruisers able to choose from three- to eight-night getaways.

Eastern and western Caribbean itineraries will feature as part of the season, including seven-night adventures on the new *Star of the Seas* (pictured), and the refitted *Harmony of the Seas* (**CW** 19 Aug), as well as short getaways on *Utopia of the Seas* and *Wonder of the Seas*.

Vacationers will also be able to visit Royal Caribbean's expanding collection of ultimate destinations including Royal Beach Club Paradise Island in Nassau, Royal Beach Club Cozumel in Mexico, and Perfect Day at CocoCay.

Cruises are available to book now - **CLICK HERE**.



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