



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Friday 19th September 2025

Cruise Weekly today

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

Murray solo savings

MURRAY River Paddlesteamers is offering half-price solo surcharge for new bookings for three-night sailings on *Emmylou* from now until Dec, unless sold out. Find out more [HERE](#).



VIKING

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Expedition key to TM success

THE rising expedition sector will be key to TravelManagers achieving its aggressive growth target for the cruise industry, GM Cruise Jeff Leckey has told **CW**.

TravelManagers is targeting an 18% expansion in cruise sales this year, tabbing it as one of three key sectors for growth.

Leckey believes the room for growth in expedition is crucial to realising TravelManagers' "audacious" target.

"We're really getting into expedition...that's a huge growth area for us...that's opened up a whole new client base," the TravelManagers cruise head said.

"They're not traditionally cruise passengers, they're often guests who've done a safari... an expedition is often the only solution to get to places like Galapagos or the Poles.

"Even though those ships are smaller, there's a huge opportunity there...we've done quite a lot of training around that," he added.

Leckey said TravelManagers has been working with its expedition cruise partners to help bring

the sector to life for its PTMs, and help them feel comfortable selling the sector.

"We've got pretty big goals, but I'm confident we can get there with the commitment we've got within the organisation to learning and development."

"[In terms of] technology...we've got to make the booking process easier for the PTMs, and then in our product area, making sure we've got the right deals and the right packages in market."

Particularly valuable for advisors is the higher per diem involved in an expedition.

River cruisers are also proving to be a fruitful source of expedition passengers, Leckey said.

"The amount of river cruise passengers that are on an expedition, but they'd never considered an ocean cruise...I'm not sure that's an area most agents would think would cross over," he said.

"If you look at river cruise, it's very inclusive, it includes all your shore excursions, usually your drinks with dinner, that it's very similar to expedition." *MS*

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Ponant Discovery

PONANT Explorations is inviting agents and their clients to the final edition of its 2025 Discovery Sessions this Oct, with events across Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth.

Attendees will learn about the cruise line's 2026 and 2027 journeys, and can save an extra 5% on staterooms and suites - register interest [HERE](#).



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AMA WATERWAYS



Margaritaville at Sea's agent portal

MARGARITAVILLE at Sea has launched a new platform dedicated to travel agents.

Located within the cruise line's TradeWins Resource Hub, the Trade Management Portal is designed to make it easier for advisors to book, manage and enhance their clients' experiences.

The platform allows advisors to view, confirm, and modify reservations; add onboard enhancements and upgrade staterooms; make payments directly or send secure payment links to clients; and download client and advisor sailing documents.

"This portal is the direct result of listening to our travel partners and investing in the tools they need most," commented Ron Gulaskey, Senior Vice President of Sales & Trade Relations at Margaritaville at Sea.

"As we grow our fleet... we are equally focused on enhancing the resources that empower our advisors.

"This new system is an important milestone in our ongoing commitment to the trade," Gulaskey added.

Advisors can **CLICK HERE** to become a registered Margaritaville at Sea agent or to join a live information session about the new Trade Management Portal.

Regional WA to enjoy cruise visitor boom

SOUTHERN WA is set to enjoy a healthy economic boost during the upcoming cruise season, which has the potential to bring more than 22,500 visitors to Albany and Esperance.

The Port of Albany will host 13 cruise visits across eight vessels over the six-month season, which kicks off on 15 Oct.

"Every cruise season is an opportunity to showcase our regions to visitors, remembering that each visit provides a raft of benefits to our regional economies," commented Southern Ports CEO Keith Wilks.

"While we're seeing a rebalancing of cruise visits across the country following a record high last year, excitement remains especially for visits aligning with the Albany 2026 bicentennial celebrations," he added.

The season includes two visits by the 3,600-pax *Crown*



Princess (pictured) for the second consecutive year, as well as a visit by the 2,600-pax *Norwegian Spirit*, which will be one of seven cruise ships making their maiden call to the Port of Albany during the coming season.

Passengers will be welcomed by a new Aboriginal culture artwork placed prominently at the Port of Albany, created by Menang artist Shandell Cummings, and funded through a Southern Ports and Tourism WA partnership.

"There is a deep and lasting connection between the land and waters of our Port of Albany and

the Menang people - Shandell's piece will be a fitting recognition of that connection," Wilks said.

"It will offer a vibrant lasting welcome for cruise passengers for years to come and we're excited to be in a position to unveil it during the upcoming cruise season."

Meanwhile, five cruise ships of varying capacity between 530-900 pax are scheduled to visit Esperance between Nov and Apr.

"Bookings in Esperance remain consistent with previous years schedules, although we know that these can shift and change during the season," Wilks said. *JM*

Unforgettable expands executive team

UNFORGETTABLE Travel Company has announced the appointment of Charlotte Wells (pictured) as Global Director of Product and Operations, effective immediately.

Wells will lead strategic product expansion, integration of a new reservations system, and best-in-class operational delivery across all brands, including Unforgettable Travel, Unforgettable Croatia and



Unforgettable Greece.

She joins the company from Abercrombie & Kent, where she spent 18 years in senior product and sales roles.

Princess promotes

PRINCESS Cruises has announce the promotion of Carmen Roig to Senior Vice President of Sales.

Roig first joined the cruise line in 2022 as Vice President of Sales, and has successfully led North America trade sales, trade marketing, inside sales and service.

She has also spearheaded international sales across Europe and South America.

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YOU may recall that **CW** covered a heartwarming story last month about a mother and son who were gifted a cruise holiday by generous strangers (**CW** 28 Aug).

Well, Nichol MacNeil and her 16-year-old son Devon, who was born with cerebral palsy, have now returned home to Cape Breton after their vacation, with Nichol declaring the trip “unforgettable”.

“It was amazing,” she told *CTV News*.

“There was just so much for [Devon] to see”.

The duo received the VIP treatment from the crew, who had seen the news story.

“They were made aware before we boarded, who we were,” MacNeil said.

At the beginning of the voyage, the MacNeils reunited with the couple who gifted them the cruise - Frank and Sharon Williams - of Maryland.

The couple went above and beyond, driving down to New York City to pick up the MacNeils, as well as ensuring they were allocated a fully wheelchair-accessible room and welcomed them home with gifts at the Port of Halifax.

The mother-and-son duo enjoyed a week of luxury sailing up the East Coast, getting to see the Statue of Liberty and hanging out in the captain’s quarters.

Alaska achieves an *Encore*



SEABOURN Cruise Line will deploy a new ship to Alaska next year, with *Seabourn Encore* (pictured) set to deliver the line’s expedition program in 2026.

The 600-passenger ship has scheduled 17 week-long one-way sailings and one eight-day adventure between May and Sep next year, replacing *Seabourn Quest* in the frozen US state.

Travellers with more time can opt to combine any two of these sailings to make a more in-depth 14- or 15-day voyage.

In addition to marquee port calls in Juneau and Ketchikan, *Encore* will weave its way into smaller inlets to dock in towns not available to larger ships such as Alert Bay, the Inian Islands and remote stretches of the Alaskan and Canadian Inside Passage.

Every voyage will also include a glacier experience, with Seabourn saying the season will feature more entries into Glacier Bay than any other luxury line.

The 2026 offering will feature celestial and seasonal events, with the 19 Jun sailing coinciding with the longest days of the

year, when Alaska enjoys nearly endless daylight.

In addition, the 07 Aug departure will also give travellers a chance to witness the Perseid meteor shower on 12-13 Aug, with other voyages also offering a chance to see the northern lights.

Seabourn President Mark Tamis said Alaska continued to be one of the most sought-after destinations for its guests.

“From exploring remote waterways to authentic coastal towns rich with culture and history, our 2026 season offers experiences beyond the expected, bringing guests closer to Alaska’s wildlife and communities with the comfort of an ultra-luxury, all-suite ship.”

Optional activities available to guests via the Ventures by Seabourn will include an expert-led adventure by kayak or Zodiac to get up close to glaciers, spot whales and visit secluded coves.

Every traveller booked to sail Alaska with Seabourn next year will receive a custom Helly Hansen all-weather jacket as a take-home keepsake. *ML*

Journeys to Hawaii

CARNIVAL Cruise Line is launching its first-ever dedicated series of Hawaii cruises, with *Carnival Legend* to homeport in Long Beach from Oct 2027-Apr 2028.

The 14-day Carnival Journeys voyages from Long Beach will include calls in Honolulu, Maui, Kauai, Hilo and Kona, plus a stop in Ensenada, Mexico.

Carnival Legend will also offer six- and eight-day Mexican Riviera cruises, visiting Mazatlan, Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta, and more.

The 2027/28 season will see *Carnival Freedom* reposition from Port Canaveral to Norfolk in May 2027 with a special 15-day Carnival Journeys itinerary across the Southern Caribbean.

The voyage will visit Aruba, Curacao, Grenada, Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua, St. Maarten and St. Thomas.

Additionally, the Conquest-class ship will offer six-day Bahamas cruises, as well as six-day Bermuda cruises.

SH takes action

SWAN Hellenic has launched a lionfish initiative in Chania - a city in Crete, Greece - to help control and raise awareness of Mediterranean invasive species.

Adopting the ‘Control by Consumption’ strategy recommended by the United Nations, the cruise line will catch lionfish - which threaten local biodiversity - and serve them as a delicacy to guests.