

Cruise Weekly today

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

Scenic Europe 2019

SCENIC has released its 2019 Europe River Cruising brochure and is offering free flights to Europe on all departures of 11 day or longer.

A collection of fresh itineraries make their debut in the program, including the 25-day Jewels of Europe & Beautiful Bordeaux and 23-day Unforgettable Duoro & South of France.

Also new is the 15-day Sensational Seine & Bordeaux Sojourn and 16-day Enchanting Rhone & Delightful Duoro.

The flight deal ends 31 Aug, and an early payment discount is available until 31 Oct.

CLICK HERE to view the brox.

P&O commits to Papua New Guinea

P&O Cruises has revealed it will offer six cruises dedicated to Papua New Guinea in its just-released 2019/20 program.

The season will see one cruise to Papua New Guinea on *Pacific Aria* departing from Sydney in mid-Nov 2019 and five 10-night New Guinea Island Encounter cruises sailing from Brisbane.

The PNG cruises will take guests to Alotau, Kitava Island, Rabaul, Kiriwina Island & the Conflict Islands (**pictured**).

"The Conflict Islands continue to prove extremely popular two years on from our first voyage and we're pleased to offer this stunning corner of the world up to guests with a new itinerary from Sydney," said P&O Cruises President Sture Myrmell.

P&O Cruises will also offer six one-way cruises to or from Singapore, with *Pacific Explorer* and *Pacific Dawn* to head to the



destination for dry dock.

The new 2019/20 program packs in a total of 136 cruises including 64 SeaBreak cruises of two, three and four nights in duration departing Sydney, Brisbane and Auckland.

In addition, there will be seven P&O main event cruises themed around the Australian Open, Christmas and the New Year, plus a fresh four-night Australia Day voyage from Brisbane departing

24 Jan 2020.

P&O will also offer 38 cruises to the South Pacific Islands between seven & 12 nights in length from Sydney, Brisbane and Auckland.

"In our latest program we continue to offer cruises from more Australian home ports than any other cruise line in the market with round trip itineraries from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Auckland," Myrmell said.

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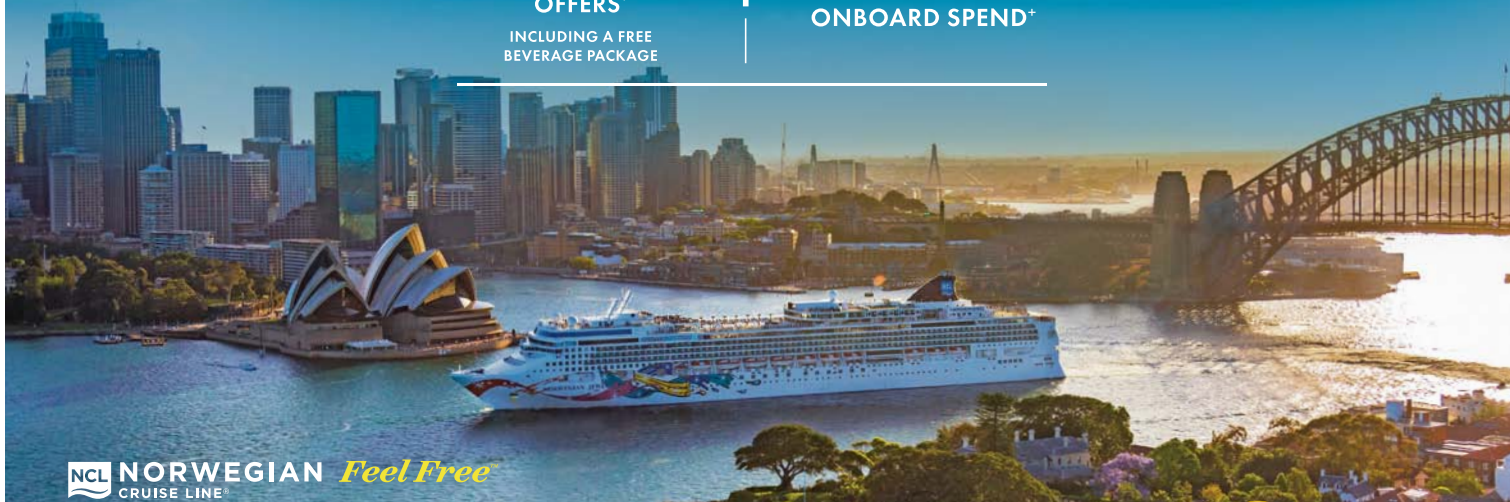
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Discover the latest river ships setting sail in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

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Crystal's expert panel

AN AUSTRALIAN has been named as one of 13 foundation members of the Crystal Partner Advisory Council (CPAC).

David Brandon, md of Savenio, has been appointed to the council which will meet regarding travel partner programs and advancements, future new builds, and client demand for specific luxury experiences.

"Crystal will benefit from David's insights that have been garnered throughout his 35+ years' tenure in the Australian travel industry," said Karen Christensen, Crystal's svp and managing director, Australia and New Zealand.

The council will take part in quarterly meetings to review Crystal's strategic plan, provide insight on market shifts and pass on client feedback.

CPAC will be led by Carmen Roig, Crystal's svp of marketing & sales, and its first meeting will take place in Los Angeles in Jun.

"As we continue to change the landscape of luxury travel with the expansion of the Crystal brand, it is more imperative than ever that we engage our expert partners for their invaluable



insights and feedback," Roig said.

All 13 members have been appointed for a two-year term.

The other 12 members are: Oded Battat, Traveland; Leah Bergner, Coastline Travel; Deborah Deming, Frosch Travel; Michelle Fee, Cruise Planners; Susan Gannon, Ensemble Travel; Jason Jenkins, Cruise Vacations Inc.; Edwina Lonsdale, Mundy Cruising; Eric Maryanov, All-Travel.com; Craig Pavlus, Pavlus Travel; Gary Pollard, Ambassador Tours; Mary Jean Tully, Tully Luxury Travel; and Ruth Turpin, Cruises Etc.

Brandon is pictured above with Christensen last month.

Ovation handed over

SEABOURN took delivery of *Seabourn Ovation* on Fri during a handover ceremony held at the Fincantieri shipyard in Genoa, Italy.

The all-suite ship is the fifth in the cruise line's fleet and a sister ship to *Seabourn Encore*, which was christened in Jan last year (*CW* 10 Jan 17).

"It is with much pride that we hand over a ship that sets the new standard in ultra-luxury cruising, and it is exciting that Seabourn guests from around the world will soon be enjoying wonderful cruise holidays on this magnificent luxury vessel," said Fincantieri chief executive officer Giuseppe Bono.

Seabourn Ovation will kick off



her maiden season with an 11-day inaugural voyage departing 05 May from Venice, Italy, sailing to Barcelona, Spain.

The vessel's naming ceremony will take place on 11 May in Valletta, Malta, with actress and singer Elaine Paige to serve as godmother.

Seabourn Ovation will spend most of its maiden season sailing in Northern Europe.

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Viking Ocean Cruises 2019/20 brochure

VIKING Cruises' 2019/20 ocean brochure is now available, featuring 15 new itineraries.

Four of the fresh additions visit Australia, including the 29-day Far East Explorations, which ventures from Beijing to Tokyo and v.v. and the 29-day Southeast Asia Horizons from Tokyo-Bangkok or v.v.

Viking has also revealed a 2019/20 Viking Ultimate World Cruise, visiting a whopping 113 ports in 245 days, as well as a 128-day 2019 Viking World Cruise.

Clients can choose from six new options in the Mediterranean, such as the 24-day Mediterranean Explorer & Crossing.

To view the brochure online, **CLICK HERE**.

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Crystal 2020 details



CRYSTAL Cruises has released details of its 2020 ocean vessel deployment and opened the season for sale.

The collection features 64 Crystal Cruises sailings and 44 Crystal Yacht Expedition Cruises departures, with maiden calls in Mooloolaba & Airlie Beach.

Highlights of the Crystal Cruises sailings include *Crystal Serenity* staying overnight in Auckland and Sydney, itineraries focusing on the Middle East & India and a new transatlantic crossing route stopping at Barcelona, Spain, St. Anthony, Newfoundland and

Saguenay, Quebec.

The Crystal Yacht Expedition Cruises program features a return to the Seychelles from late Jan through Mar, new itineraries exploring the Rose City of Petra, Egypt, and the region of the Middle East known as the Holy Land on a nine- or 11-day journey.

There are also 24 combinable seven-day voyages along the Dalmatian Coast, Aegean and Adriatic on offer.

Itineraries for newbuild *Crystal Endeavor*, which will debut in 2020, will be announced later.

RCL profit boost

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises Limited has reported record results for the three months to 31 Mar, with first quarter earnings of US\$1.02 per share due to stronger revenue.

Gross yields rose 3.1%, and the company said that overall its bookings remained at record levels, ahead of last year in both rate and volume.

CEO Richard Fain said 2018 was "proving to be another strong year, with all our brands firing on all cylinders".

He said the arrival of new ships this year including *Symphony of the Seas*, *Mein Schiff 1*, *Celebrity Edge* and *Azamara Pursuit* "positions us nicely for 2019 as well".

Coral charters

CORAL Expeditions has announced the availability of private charters of its four vessels which can provide personalised itineraries across Australia and the South Pacific.

The company has hosted private voyages across the globe since 1984 for special interest groups, major corporations and events, taking in significant historic or maritime sites or observing phenomena such as whale migrations or eclipses.

Charters range from 46 to 120 guests, with rates available at 1800 079 545.



WHAT happens when a famous rapper/actress takes on a professional NFL player in a floating Lip Sync battle?

The honest truth is the experiment has never been carried out before, but we will soon find out because Super Bowl champion and "kicker" for Philadelphia, Jake Elliott, has just been named to take on *Carnival Horizon* Godmother Queen Latifah as part of the ship's naming ceremony.

The ship's special onboard edition of TV show *Lip Sync Battle* - a reality phenomenon where passengers pretend to sing a pop song and have their stirring performances rated by the audience - will take place in New York City on May 23.

"Not only do I get to square off against a true legend like Queen Latifah, we're also helping some very special kids from [hospital charity] St. Jude," Elliott said.

Clearly, this is one NFL player who needs to work a bit harder on his trash talk.



NCLH breaks ground at PortMiami

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings has celebrated breaking ground on the new terminal at PortMiami to be dedicated to Norwegian Cruise Line.

The facility will spread across nearly 15,500m², accommodate ships of up to 5,000 passengers.

It is scheduled for completion by the northern Autumn 2019, in time for the debut of *Norwegian Encore* in Miami to operate seasonal cruises to the Caribbean.



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Princess Alaska

PRINCESS Cruises has kicked off its 2018 Alaska cruise season, which will this year see seven of the line's ships sailing in the region.

Cruise Calendar

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia.

SYDNEY

<i>Sea Princess</i>	1 May
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	3 May
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	4 May
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	7 May

BRISBANE

<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	1 May
<i>Sea Princess</i>	3 May
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	4 May
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	5 May
<i>Insignia</i>	7 May

CAIRNS

<i>Sun Princess</i>	3 May
<i>Insignia</i>	4 May
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	7 May

DARWIN

<i>Sun Princess</i>	6 May
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Meraviglia maiden

MARKING the start of MSC Cruises "most accessible season ever" in Northern Europe, *MSC Meraviglia* has made her maiden call at the port of Hamburg.

The arrival kicks off the brand's European Summer season, which will offer a total of four MSC ships, 36 itineraries and six possible embarkation ports across Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Denmark.

The line also revealed it would christen the first of the Meraviglia-Plus ships to come into service, *MSC Grandiosa*, in Hamburg on 02 Nov 2019.

Carnival appoints

LARS Ljoen has stepped into the role of executive vp of marine operations at Carnival Cruise Line, following a tenure as managing director of Carnival Maritime, the marine service unit of Germany's Costa Group.

Ljoen succeeds Martin Landtman, who will be retiring from the business in Jun.

Hurtigruten 2019/20



HURTIGRUTEN has declared war on plastic, pledging to ban all unnecessary single use plastic in its business & supply chain by Jul.

The company is striving to become the world's first plastic free shipping company and by 02 Jul will remove from its ships all plastic straws, drink mixers, plastic glasses, coffee lids & plastic bags.

"There is a lot of talk about the impact plastic has on our oceans, but it's time to take action," said Hurtigruten ceo Daniel Skjeldam.

"By getting rid of single use plastic on board all ships already by this [northern] summer, we will hopefully get others to follow," Skjeldam said.

MEANWHILE, Bentours has

published Hurtigruten's local 2019/20 Explorer brochure, which detailed a collection of itineraries revealed in Dec (**CW** 21 Dec).

The program includes new destinations such as Alaska, Franz Josef Land, Murmansk in high Russia, Europe and Atlantic Canada, along with the regular locations of Antarctica, Svalbard, Greenland, Iceland and Norway.

Itineraries on the new hybrid vessels, including *MS Fridtjof Nansen* also feature.

Last month Bentours also opened bookings for Hurtigruten's 2019/20 Norwegian coastal voyages, with departures available up until 31 May 2020.

Skjeldam is pictured.

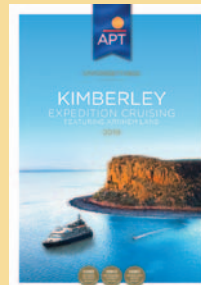
APT releases 2019 Kimberley

THE 2019 Kimberley Coast Cruising featuring Arnhem Land brochure from APT is out now.

A highlight of the program is the 11-day Kimberley Coast Cruise tour, which is priced from \$11,795 per person twin share.

A companion fly free deal is available on the itinerary until 31 Jul.

To view the new brochure, **CLICK HERE**.



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