

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### A&K goes northwest

LUXURY travel operator Abercrombie & Kent has announced a fourth expedition in 2019 traversing the majority of the Northwest Passage.

The charter will explore the coast of Greenland, the Canadian Arctic & the Bering Sea before finishing in Alaska.

It sails 26 Aug to 18 Sep 2019 aboard the *Le Boreal*, with earlybird discounts of US\$3,000 per person available on stateroom categories 1-3 for a reduced total price of US\$29,995ppts.

The voyage includes unlimited house drinks, on-board meals, all Zodiac rides and excursions.

## Crystal celebrates *Debussy* entrance

CRYSTAL River Cruises has officially welcomed *Crystal Debussy* to its fleet this week via a lavish christening ceremony in Amsterdam.

The event took place during its 10-day Splendours of the Rhine voyage, with guests aboard the vessel participating in the traditional festivities.

Broadway star Rachel York, who has been appointed the vessel's godmother, was on hand to belt out a few tunes before breaking a champagne bottle against the ship's hull.

"*Crystal Debussy* is an exquisitely designed ship and her crew are so warm and welcoming," York said.

"I am truly honoured to be the godmother of this beautiful ship," she added.

*Debussy's* arrival marks another step for Crystal River Cruises' push to "redefine the boundaries



of luxury river cruising."

"Crystal River Cruises has raised the bar of excellence with each new ship," said Crystal's chief executive Tom Wolber.

"At the heart of this achievement are the crew and officers...who ensure every detail of our guests' experience is seamless, from ship to shore."

She will now embark on sailings of seven and 10 days between Amsterdam and Basel along the Rhine and Moselle rivers, visiting Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands and Belgium throughout 2018 & 2019.

**Pictured:** Singer Rachel York christening *Crystal Debussy* in Amsterdam this week.

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# CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Hear about the careers of some of the pioneers of the industry in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK** to read **travelBulletin**

## Making Mekong memories



**SCENIC** recently hosted an intensive nine-day family in Cambodia, offering a group of lucky travel agents the chance to experience its Luxury Mekong and Temple Discovery Cruise.

The tour kicked off in Phnom Penh on 13 May, with the adventurous travellers hopping on board the *Scenic Spirit* for five nights of cruising down the “mighty” Mekong river.

The tour wrapped up in Siem Reap, where the weary wanderers enjoyed three nights at the Park Hyatt before heading

home on 21 May.

The group included agents from a range of travel companies, including Flight Centre Vaucluse, Panorama Cruise and Travel, Helloworld Travel (Lilydale, Shellharbour, Wodonga, Horsham and Mt Pleasant), Broadway Travel and Cruise, italktravel East Doncaster, You Travel Mt Maunganui, Naracoorte Travel ‘n’ Cruise, Noller and Turner Travel Associates, and Travellers Choice.

**Pictured** is the “cruisey” group enjoying the stunning Angkor Wat in Siem Reap.

## Fridtjof Nansen fails to make 2019 launch

**THE** debut of Hurtigruten’s expedition cruise ship *Fridtjof Nansen* has been delayed, forcing the cruise line to issue full refunds to passengers booked on affected cruises for 2019.

The push back was attributed to a hold up in construction of sister ship *Roald Amundsen*.

No new delivery dates were announced by time of press.

## Adventures north

**ADVENTURE** Canada is offering free return flights and one nights’ accommodation pre- and post-cruise to the Northwest Passage for bookings made before 31 Jul.

The 18-night Out of the Northwest Passage voyage is priced from US\$15,340ppts and includes shore excursions and charter flights to and from the ship in Canada and Greenland.

Free flights under the deal apply from Sydney, Brisbane, or Melbourne to Edmonton, and ex Toronto on return.

Highlights of the cruise include spotting polar bears in the Peel Sound and Parry Channel, whale watching in the Lancaster Sound, and sailing fjords along the west coast of Greenland

For more info **CLICK HERE**.

## Oceania Atlas brox

**THE** latest Atlas brochure from Oceania Cruises has landed, with a range of special offers set to entice bookings.

“Featuring more than 350 voyages from all over the world, our exquisite new Atlas showcases the full range of port-intensive itineraries featuring overnight visits,” said Steve McLaughlin, vp of Sales for Oceania Cruises.

For a limited time, customers can either receive 50% off booking deposits, or access to OLife Choice, which offers free internet plus a choice of free shore excursions, beverage packages or shipboard credit.

Agents also have the chance to win a \$200 dinner for two by writing their interpretation of the brochure’s cover.

To order the new Atlas brochure **CLICK HERE**.

## Luxury cruises added to Traveltek platform

**UNIWORLD** and U by Uniworld’s luxury river cruise itineraries have been made available on Traveltek’s booking site in Australia.

The cruise options are now enabled on Traveltek’s iSell and iTour platforms and are available for both B2B and B2C sites.

The tie-up sees live booking and dynamic packaging capabilities offered for both the Uniworld and U by Uniworld brands, with Traveltek seeking to capitalise on the fast growing river cruise sector.



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## Indigenous Coral

**CORAL** Expeditions has been appointed presenting partner of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair's (CIAF) 2018 Collectors and Curators' Program.

The art event believes the Coral Expeditions brand aligns well with its values, especially in light of the many itineraries the cruise line offers that highlight Indigenous culture.

"This is an extremely exciting partnership and one that we look forward to expanding into the future with opportunities... throughout the year," said CIAF gm Vanessa Gillen.

## Agents shoot the *Breeze*



**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line recently invited 12 Aussie agents aboard *Carnival Breeze* to experience a seven-day cruise from Texas to the Western Caribbean.

The group was able to participate in a host of fun activities during the trip such as the Carnival SkyCourse, a ropes challenge high above the ship, as well as take in a 4D movie inside the ship's Thrill Theatre.

*Breeze's* Captain Stefano Battinelli led the agents on a tour of the vessel before they enjoyed a VIP meal at Fahrenheit 555.

But all the fun wasn't confined to the ocean, with shore excursions to sunny Mahogany Bay and investigations of the Mayan ruins in Tulum in Mexico also part of the journey.

The agents scored their spot on the fam'l by achieving excellent Carnival sales results.

**Pictured:** Russell Cameron, Kathryn Gregg, Jasmin Abrahams, Rebecca Foster, Dayel Drost, Breeanna Perezze, Jenni Wood, Angela Wilson, Sarah Miller, Lisa Thomas, Sally Paull, Michael Moore & Jared Voss.

## Seattle welcomes *Bliss* for christening

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's newest ship *Norwegian Bliss* was formally christened y'day in Seattle after a preview sailing (**CW** Tue).

The ship was welcomed to its northern summer homeport with a traditional water-canon salute by the Seattle Fire Department and took up position at the recently renovated and expanded Bell Street Cruise Terminal at Pier 66.

The terminal's capacity has been expanded by 300% in a public-private partnership with Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings.

"The Port of Seattle is thrilled to host the magnificent Norwegian Bliss and her passengers for many Alaska cruise seasons to come," said Port of Seattle Commission president Courtney Gregoire.



**THE** perception that elderly people love a good cruise is bang on, believes former vp of expedition development at Lindblad Expeditions Marc Cappelletti, who was recently interviewed by *Reader's Digest*.

"I've gone step for step with a 90-year-old woman on a hike in the Galapagos, held the limbo stick for an octogenarian who raised his arms like Rocky Balboa in celebration afterwards," Cappelletti said.

"I also kayaked in Alaska with a grandmother of 10 who had broken her hip a year earlier".

