

Travel Daily  
presents



# Sustainability SUMMIT

30th April 2019  
Primus Hotel, Sydney

The Sustainability Summit is a one-day event providing the opportunity for the Australian travel and tourism sector to share best practice, discuss initiatives and encourage one another to ensure future generations can continue to enjoy exploring the globe.

**Register now to attend**  
*Earlybird tickets on sale until 15 March*

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## Speakers include:



**Giles Hawke**  
Global Lead - Sustainability,  
CEO UK,  
Cosmos Tours &  
Avalon Waterways



**Daniel Skjeldam**  
CEO,  
Hurtigruten

More speakers to be announced soon

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### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news, a photo page from **CLIA Australasia** plus a front cover wrap from **Sustainability Summit**.

### Summit earlybird

**DON'T** forget to book your spot at sister publication **Travel Daily's** Sustainability Summit, which is set to take place on 30 Apr at the Primus Hotel in Sydney.

The special one-day event will showcase a range of initiatives and best practices that can contribute to sustainable travel, and includes special guest speakers Giles Hawke from Cosmos/Avalon Waterways and Daniel Skjeldam from Hurtigruten.

Earlybird rates apply, see the **cover page** for more info.

## Seabourn returns to Europe in 2020

**LUXURY** cruise line Seabourn has announced it will be heading back to Europe in 2020 offering a range of itineraries that stop off at popular tourist spots.

The season will include cruises of seven to 28 days around Europe, visiting more than 200 destinations, including sailings from the Canary Islands and Morocco, through Iberia and Italy to the Adriatic, and Croatia, Greece, Turkey and more.

"We have such an exciting year planned for our ultra-luxury vessels headed to the harbours and coasts of Europe," said Richard Meadows, President of Seabourn.

"Each of our four vessels bound for Europe in 2020 will offer desirable overnight stays, new and notable ports of call, and selected itineraries enhanced by popular programming, including 'Seabourn Conversations',



'Shopping with the Chef', and, on *Seabourn Ovation* and *Seabourn Quest* in Northern Europe, guide-led, optional and for-charge 'Ventures by Seabourn' expeditions in select ports to give guests more enjoyable choices."

Seabourn's 2020 European season will offer more than a dozen new destinations for the cruise line, including Alta, Farsund, and Sortland in Norway, as well as Viareggio in Italy.

Highlights of the new program include a 14-day Greek Isles Odyssey on board *Seabourn Odyssey*, the 14-day Spanish & Moroccan Sunsets sailing with *Seabourn Ovation*, and the seven-day Romance of the Rivas, which will take place on board *Seabourn Encore*.

For more info on the new journeys, call 13 24 02.

**Pictured:** One of Seabourn's European sailings.

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# CRUISE

WEEKLY

Wednesday 27th February 2019

## Nassau's new Port

A CONSORTIUM of companies have won a deal to redevelop and run the Prince George Wharf, **pictured**, in the Bahamas capital of Nassau in a move that will increase the number of cruise berths from six to eight.

The US\$250m plan will include the construction of a new terminal building, investment into improving retail, and the design and construction of new food and beverage facilities, and is expected to be a catalyst for the wider development of downtown Nassau.

The winning consortium will have a 25-year concession at the wharf.



## Amundsen at sea

**HURTIGRUTEN'S MS Roald Amundsen** is being put through her final paces at the Kleven Yard, recently completing her first sea trials in the fjords along the western coast of Norway.

The hybrid-powered cruise ship is custom designed for remote destinations and is currently undergoing final outfitting alongside her sister ship *MS Fridtjof Nansen*.

"I am very pleased with the results of the sea trial," said Kleven CEO Olav Nakken.

"The Kleven employees, along with our sub-contractors, have done a great job leading up to the successful sea trial," he added.

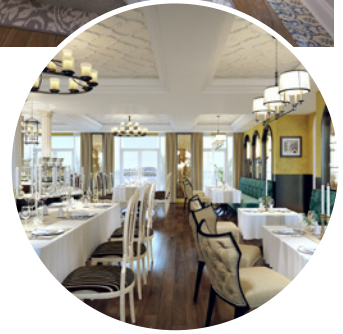
The 530-passenger *MS Roald Amundsen* will join Hurtigruten's fleet in May and boasts electric sailing powered by battery packs.

## Mekong's newest Jewel



**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Collection has offered up a sneak peek into its newest ship, the *S.S. Mekong Jewel*, which is set to make its debut on 03 Jan 2020 (**CW** 22 Feb).

Lucky guests who book a Grand Suite will be sure to enjoy a comfortable night's sleep in the openly opulent space (**pictured**), while those booking a Royal Suite can enjoy



five-star treatment with their very own luxe private bathroom (**pictured** below left).

The ship also boasts an intricately designed dining room, **inset**, where guests can gather to enjoy a range of food options in a luxurious environment.

To view more renders from the upcoming *S.S. Mekong Jewel*, visit our Facebook page **HERE**.



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## Splendor's Asian showcase



**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has revealed more details on *Carnival Splendor's* "most unique sailing yet", which is set to depart Singapore on 25 Nov.

The ship will undertake a 15-night cruise bound for Sydney, stopping over at Bali, Komodo, Darwin, Airlie Beach, and Moreton Island before arriving in the Harbour City.

Guests on board the newly renovated ship will be among the first to try the new green and gold waterpark, a "bigger and better island-inspired Red Frog Pub" and an extra-spacious Adults Only Serenity Retreat.

Also featured on the refreshed

ship is the famous Guy's Burger Joint, as well as the Cloud 9 spa.

Shore excursion highlights of the cruise include a visit to Singapore's Night Safari, the chance to enjoy Bali's art markets and the Taman Ayun Temple, viewing the Wangi Falls at the Lichfield National Park in Darwin, as well as the opportunity to snorkel around the shipwrecks of the Tangalooma Resort in Moreton Island.

Carnival is offering free upgrades to an Ocean View guarantee cabin on select bookings for *Splendor's* Singapore to Sydney sailing, for more info [CLICK HERE](#) or call 13 31 94.

## American Countess joins fleet at AQSC

**THE** American Queen Steamboat Company (AQSC) has welcomed the addition of *American Countess* to its fleet of vessels.

Scheduled to make its inaugural voyage in Apr 2020, the paddlewheeler will offer a variety of seven-night voyages that traverse the Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee Rivers.

The ship features a total of 123 staterooms that "blend modern design with the company's signature Americana ambience", along with four passenger decks including a Sun Deck, plus a range of casual and fine dining options.

Find out which cruise lines have your coffee fix covered in the March issue of *travelBulletin*.

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



## Ponant cleans up

**PONANT** has signed on to become the main sponsor of the Aldabra Clean Up Project, an initiative aimed at combating plastic pollution and preserving the Aldabra atoll in the Seychelles.

The Aldabra atoll is a UNESCO World Heritage site and the world's second largest coral atoll, home to a range of endemic species including 150,000 Aldabra giant tortoises.

The clean-up program was originally launched in May 2018 in an effort to raise environmental awareness among the Seychelles community, with this year's program kicking off last Fri 22 Feb.

## Le Boat river update

**FRENCH** boating holiday provider Le Boat has confirmed that its Canal du Midi services will be fully operational for the 2019 tourist season, which begins mid-Mar.

The Canal du Midi was badly affected by floods last Oct, with French waterways company Voies Navigables de France investing over €4 million to rehabilitate the area, which accounts for 30% of French river traffic.

From 2019, Le Boat will be investing €3 million into the region to improve the facilities for customers and staff, in addition to upgrades and refurbishments.

Le Boat's Canal du Midi fleet ranges from budget boats, to premier cruisers.

For more information on the fleet, [CLICK HERE](#).

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# 18th Annual Cruise Industry Awards

**MORE** than 500 members of the cruise industry gathered in Sydney at The Star last Sat night for the 18th Annual Cruise Industry Awards, dressed to impress and ready to help celebrate the cruise industry's 'night of nights.'

Popular television star and entertainer Tim Campbell opened up the night before proceedings got underway with an address from Joel Katz, Managing Director, CLIA Australasia & Asia.

"With more than 500 nominations this year, 71 finalists and 20 winners, I'm proud to make the claim that the Australasia cruise industry awards are now the biggest CLIA cruise industry awards across the globe," Katz told the audience.

Then it was onto the awards spanning 19 categories with all the winners enjoying their time in the spotlight up on stage. As the awards concluded, attendees mingled over drinks into the early hours of the morning.



**TIM** Campbell, MC of the CLIA's.



**CLIA** Chairman Sture Myrmell welcomes guests.

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's Nicole Costantin with Cruise Champion Australasia Tim Faircloth of I Love Cruising.



**RISING** Star Australia winner Peter Fotinis of Clean Cruising with Anton Loeb of Carnival Cruise Lines.



**CLIA** Managing Director Joel Katz with newly inducted CLIA Hall of Fame member Karen Christensen of Crystal Cruises.



**ALL** the winners take to the stage in CLIA's 18th annual Cruise Industry Awards.

**THE** night's mid-show entertainment, Boys in the Band.



**EMIRATES** Regional Manager Tim Harrowell with Dubai Tourism Manager of International Operations for Australia & New Zealand Emily McDonald.



**ACCEPTING** the award for Australia's Large Cruise Agency of the Year was Michelle Ashcroft from Phil Hoffmann Travel, centre, presented by Brigita Devries of Dream Cruises.



**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises' Susan Bonner with Jean Summers of Australia's Online Cruise Agency of the Year, Clean Cruising.



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## Evergreen's last chance savings

**THERE** is still time to save up to \$3,900 per couple on a range of Evergreen Cruises and Tours global itineraries.

Travellers who book by tomorrow can enjoy savings of up to \$2,500 per couple on the 13-day Majestic Mekong Discoverer River Cruise, as well as the 21-day Grand Tour of Vietnam & Cambodia.

More information on the offers can be viewed online **HERE**.

## FACE-2-FACE: Karyn Blenkiron

Senior Sales Development  
Manager NZ, Scenic Group.

### 1. What motivates you in your career?

Seeing a customer book the trip of a lifetime or hearing all about what the trip with Scenic meant to them. We are selling dreams, and it doesn't matter whether it's the first level cabin or the owners suite, that trip is still a dream come true to the passenger.

### 2. Most common assumption people make about your job?

That I am a travel agent, or from a kids' perspective, that I either fly on planes or drive cars a lot and talk to people all day, and sometimes I take them away and give them lots of food, drink and activities (that's pretty much accurate!)

### 3. What is the key to building great relationships with travel agents?

Being there for the agents, not just when we want to tell them something or give them our brochures, but also be



there to help them out with any difficulties that come up. Be honest and respectful and you will get that same back.

### 4. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

2/1 offers— consumers are losing confidence in booking in advance in case it becomes cheaper later. With Scenic NZ it won't, but the consumers don't believe that (and then when it does they blame you for not insisting they book at pre-release stage).

### 5. Advice for up-and-comers?

Listen to what the agents want, don't ever assume. Ask questions and be guided by their answers - no question is a silly question.

### 6. What was your best fam trip?

Canada - Calgary to Victoria in Apr 2018. Wow. What Scenic and our other amazing suppliers deliver, is everything & more than what we promise.



**WELL** it seems whale watching cruises may need to broaden their itineraries a little after a deceased humpback calf was discovered more than 15 metres inland from a Brazilian river.

Mystery still surrounds just how the whale managed to make it so far inland, however locals theorise the calf became entangled in mangroves before being washed ashore by high waves during a storm.

Whales typically enter the Amazon Basin when saltwater penetrates its system of rivers, a point making this poor whale's fate all the more vexing as it was freshwater season.



## Spectrum of the Seas switches gear

**ROYAL** Caribbean International's *Spectrum of the Seas* departed from Meyer Werft's building dock II on Mon in preparation for the next stage of its construction.

The Quantum Ultra Class vessel, which was purpose-built for the Chinese market will continue to be outfitted at Papenburg until mid-Mar, before setting sail for the north sea.

Final additions include installation of the ship's funnel cladding, plus the North Star viewing capsule.



## CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz  
MD, CLIA Australasia

### Success from education

CLIA'S 18th annual Cruise Industry Awards, held on the weekend were among the most successful we've ever hosted, attracting a record turnout of highly successful travel agents as well as a record number of entries.

If there's one thing that stands out when you look at the winners, it's that a commitment to education and professional development is a common theme among all the most successful agents in Australia and NZ.

In virtually every category, the stand-out submissions that were chosen as finalists involved a strong focus on education and training. It's no coincidence that the most creative and innovative agents are also those who have a close engagement with CLIA and a regular involvement in the training opportunities that come with CLIA membership.

CLIA Australasia's education programs are the most extensive of all the regions we operate, and that's something we're very proud of. They're one of the key benefits of CLIA membership and will give agents a genuine selling advantage over others.

When next year's CLIA's come around, I've no doubt the industry's top achievers will again come from a strong education background, so make sure you check out all the available benefits at [www.cruising.org.au](http://www.cruising.org.au).

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