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Your Summer of Consultant Rewards starts here with Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises' all-new retail consultant incentive.

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\*Terms and Conditions Apply. Incentive period is 11 December to 31 March 2019. Visit the website for further information.

### Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from RCL, Celebrity, and Azamara Club Cruises.

### The final countdown

ROYAL Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises, and Azamara Club Cruises are reminding agents that there is only a matter of days left to participate in the Summer of Consultant Rewards incentive.

See cover page for more info.

### Panama tender

THE Government of Panama has issued a tender for the ongoing operation of the new Panama Cruise Terminal which is currently under construction near the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal.

## Viking rescues passengers by chopper

ALL passengers and crew on board Viking Cruises' *Viking Sky* are safe, following a weekend of high drama which saw them airlifted from the vessel off the coast of western Norway.

The company's founder and CEO, Torstein Hagen, has flown to the remote Norwegian village of Molde to personally comfort the passengers after the rescue, which took more than 15 hours.

At least four helicopters were mobilised to airlift those on board to shore, after the ship's engines failed during high seas and it began drifting towards the land.

"Our first priority was for the safety and wellbeing of our passengers and our crew, and in close cooperation with the Norwegian Coast Guard, the captain decided to evacuate all guests from the vessel by helicopter," according to an official statement from Viking.



The "brutal conditions" forced two Norwegian Society for Sea Rescue vessels to turn back, while air evacuations were also undertaken for a nearby cargo ship which was also in trouble.

*Viking Sky* was just over half way through its current "In Search of the Northern Lights" itinerary between Bergen and Tilbury in the UK.

The crew managed to drop the anchor and eventually restart

the engines, and the ship has proceeded to safety under its own power with tugboats also in attendance.

Viking said its next sailing, "Scandinavia & the Kiel Canal" which was scheduled to embark on 27 Mar, had been cancelled, with impacted guests and travel agents currently being contacted.

"We do not anticipate any additional cancellations at this time," the company said.

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# CRUISE

WEEKLY

Monday 25th March 2019

Hear from:  
**Leigh Barnes**  
Chief Purpose Officer,  
Intrepid Group



**Sustainability SUMMIT**  
30 April 2019  
Primus Hotel, Sydney

**Register quick!**  
Earlybird ends 29 Mar

## Star Clippers deals

**STAR** Clippers has announced a range of new discounts across Asia in 2019.

Promo packages include cruises for solo travellers in Thailand with no single supplement applied throughout Mar and Apr.

The sailing departs from Phuket and visits the Pearl of the Orient Penang, exploring the limestone karsts of Phang Nga bay, and kayaking through caves and snorkelling at various marine attractions.

Also on offer is a 30% discount on Indonesia sailings departing between Jun and Sep when bookings are made by 31 Mar.

Call 1300 295 161 for more.

## Cheaper at the top

**SAVINGS** of 30% is currently available for a one-off exploration cruise of the Kimberley with National Geographic and Ponant.

The discount offer is available through Cruise Express for the 13-night sailing that is scheduled to depart Broome for Darwin in Aug 2020.

The trip is priced at \$13,990 per person, twin-share and includes visits to King George Falls, Mitchell Falls, and Montgomery Reef.

Call Cruise Express on 1300 766 537 for more information.

## Auckland's beach party



**TRAVEL** agents and cruise line suppliers from across Australia wrapped up last weekend's Cruiseco conference with a Royal Caribbean-sponsored beach party near Auckland's cruise port last Fri night.

**Pictured** above from left are Alex Acosta, Royal



Caribbean's Global Charter Sales and International MICE manager with Marius Els from Choose Your Cruise and Cruiseco Chairman Kevin Dale.

**Above** is APT Travel Holdings CEO Chris Hall with Sharon Hando of Travel the World, while the **third**



**picture** shows Jenny Reeves, Christa Kinnear and Phil Hoffmann of Phil Hoffmann Travel.

The 2020 Cruiseco conference will take place on Royal Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas* in Feb next year, cruising from Sydney to Hobart.

Lots more pics from Cruiseco at [facebook.com/traveldaily](https://www.facebook.com/traveldaily).

## NCL training centre

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line has announced plans to develop a new shipboard team member training facility near Manila in the Philippines.

The 18,580m<sup>2</sup> facility will serve both new and existing shipboard team members and provide realistic work and living cruise environments such as staterooms, a shipboard galley, a casino, a full-service bar, and a safety and security training area.

NCL currently sources approximately 65% of its ship talent from southeast Asia.

Training for as many as 8,000 staff is expected to be conducted annually with starting date slated for 2020.

## Cruising 'n' biking

**ASIAN** bike tour specialist Grasshopper Adventures has announced three new cruise/bike adventures for 2019/20.

The new tours combine sailings of the Mekong river in Cambodia/Vietnam, the Brahmaputra in India or the River Kwai in Thailand with land activities such as off-the-beaten track cycling trips and local foodie experiences.

Trips lead in at US\$3,950 per person twin share (A\$5,560).

For further information on the cruise/bike tours available, **CLICK HERE**.



**LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!**

**EXPLORER SALE ENDS 31 MARCH**

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# CRUISE

WEEKLY

Monday 25th March 2019

## Adding a touch of Tihany

### APT Nth America brox



APT has launched its latest 2020 Canada & Alaska brochure featuring cruises of both east and west sides of Canada and Alaska's Inside Passage.

A returning favourite is the Rockies Odyssey & Alaska Cruise package featuring a sailing through the Inside Passage and Glacier Bay, as well as a rail trip on Canada's iconic Rocky Mountaineer train service.

Prices for the adventure lead in at \$12,795ppts on Holland America Line's *MS Konigsdam*.

To celebrate the launch of the North American brochure, APT is offering a range of deals on select itineraries when bookings are made by 24 May.

Promotions include a companion fly free offer, and a bonus earlybird discount of \$600 per couple.



LUXURY cruise line Seabourn has revealed it has contracted hospitality designer Adam D. Tihany to create the indoor and outdoor guest areas of its two new expedition ships due to launch in Jun 2021 and May 2022.

The news follows a successful collaboration between the designer and the cruise line when Tihany helped design the interiors of Seabourn's latest ships *Encore* and *Ovation*.

"Adam's creative and artistic talents have proven to be a wonderful match for the Seabourn brand and guests have

praised his work on our two newest ships," said Seabourn President Richard Meadows.

"Expedition travel stirs a passion to venture to remote locales first encountered by explorers and the adventurous, and the guest interiors need to feel like they are connected to these destinations through its design and materials," he added.

Tihany will be tasked with conceptualising multiple expedition spaces and lounges, all categories of suite, multiple dining venues, the spa & wellness area, and outdoor deck areas.

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SEABOURN®



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

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



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### Cruise Calendar

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

<b>SYDNEY</b>	
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	25 Mar
<i>Europa 2</i>	25 Mar
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	25 Mar
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	26 Mar
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	27 Mar
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	27 Mar
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	29 Mar
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	29 Mar
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	30 Mar
<i>Noordam</i>	31 Mar
<b>MELBOURNE</b>	
<i>Noordam</i>	27 Mar
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	30 Mar
<b>BRISBANE</b>	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	26 Mar
<i>Europa 2</i>	27 Mar
<i>Maasdam</i>	28 Mar
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	28 Mar
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	29 Mar
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	30 Mar
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	31 Mar
<b>CAIRNS</b>	
<i>Europa 2</i>	30 Mar
<b>DARWIN</b>	
<i>Coral Expeditions 1</i>	28 Mar
<i>Sea Princess</i>	30 Mar
<b>FREMANTLE</b>	
<i>MSC Magnifica</i>	25 Mar
<i>Viking Sun</i>	27 Mar
<b>HOBART</b>	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	25 Mar
<b>EDEN</b>	
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	26 Mar
<i>Noordam</i>	29 Mar
<b>AUCKLAND</b>	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	27 Mar
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	29 Mar

## Bahamas cruise growth



**THE** Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation has revealed last year was a "record-breaking" year for cruise ship arrivals to the popular Caribbean destination.

By the end of 2018, foreign air and sea arrivals had totalled more than 6.6 million visitors, a significant increase on the 6.1 million visitors recorded in the previous corresponding period.

Cruise visitors alone in 2018 surged by 49%.

The pleasing numbers follow

news that the country will be expanding its port in the capital Nassau, increasing the number of cruise berths from six to eight (**CW** 27 Feb 2019).

"We look forward to building upon the success of our progressive plans and continuing the momentum in 2019 as we forge ahead with exciting new initiatives," said Bahamas Tourism and Aviation Minister Dionisio D'aguilar.

**Pictured:** Nassau Bahamas port.

## Royal Caribbean sued after ride accident

**ROYAL** Caribbean is facing a lawsuit after a man broke his pelvis while riding the Sky Pad bungee aboard *Mariner of the Seas* last month.

Casey Holladay filed a claim against the cruise line and is suing for \$A14m after falling six metres to the deck after his harness snapped.

When approached for comment, the cruise line said: "We do not comment on pending litigation. We operate all our ships safely, professionally and responsibly".

The Sky Pad bungee is found on board Royal Caribbean's *Mariner of the Seas* & *Independence of the Seas* which don't sail to Australia.



## Evergreen deals

**EVERGREEN** Cruises and Tours is currently offering earlybird discounts on select 2020 sailings.

Savings of up to \$2,700 per couple is available, including on the company's 19-day Best of East and New England Discovery Cruise package, as well as its 24-day Grand Canada and Alaska voyage.



**A RACCOON** that found itself lost and alone at sea was recently plucked from the ocean in a daring rescue by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Naturally, in 2019 the whole rescue was captured on video and posted on social media, with one woman in the background heard commenting: "Oh my god, he's adorable!"

Okay, so the rescue wasn't so daring as it turns out, but the cute little guy was snaffled in a net and released onto dry land.

The biggest mystery still surrounds how the North American mammal found itself trying to swim from Florida to Cuba - perhaps he wanted to be the next Susie Maroney?

