



APT new Aussie small ship cruises

APT has released all-new Australian small ship cruises for 2021/22, with expedition ship *Caledonian Sky* (pictured) embarking on a full season of domestic cruising.

Coming in response to overwhelming demand for its Kimberley Coastal Cruising program, APT has planned eight new departures around Australia, covering the Great Barrier Reef, Kangaroo Island, King Island, the Houtman Abrolhos, and East Coast Tasmania.

Caledonian Sky will depart with no more than 99 passengers, as well as strict hygiene policies, including pre-departure health screenings and enhanced sanitation protocols.

Bookings made prior to 31 Mar will save up to \$2,000 per couple, with APT embarking on five different itineraries, including an eight-day Tasmania



Exploration from Hobart to Melbourne, a 12-day Tasmania & South Australia Expedition from Adelaide to Perth, a 15-day East Coast Discovery from Cairns to Melbourne, a 15-day Great Bight Coastal Discovery from Adelaide to Perth, and a 15-day Colours of the Coral Coast from Perth to Broome.

APT has also included its

Domestic Peace of Mind Deposit Cover on all bookings, with guests able to pay an upfront fee of \$95 per person to postpone their holiday up to 100 days prior to departure.

All monies paid can be used toward a new booking within three years.

"We've seen significant demand for domestic voyages in 2021, for example our 2021 Kimberley Coastal Cruises sold out in record time, and the Apr and May 2021 departures for our recently launched Cape York and Great Barrier Reef Expedition cruise was so popular we've added an additional departure for Oct," General Manager Product Mladen Vukic explained.

"This has led us to expanding our small ship expedition cruising range to include even more diverse and isolated destinations across Australia."

Celebrity 2022-23

CELEBRITY Cruises will sail its 2022-2023 Caribbean season with eight ships, including its newest Edge Series ships, *Celebrity Apex* and *Celebrity Edge*.

The pair will be joined by four recently renovated ships, *Celebrity Equinox*, *Celebrity Millennium*, *Celebrity Silhouette* and *Celebrity Summit*, with the fleet to offer seven-night Perfect Week in Paradise itineraries and a Panama Canal exploration.

Departure points include Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Tampa and San Juan, with itineraries ranging from 4 to 11 nights - call 1800 754 500.

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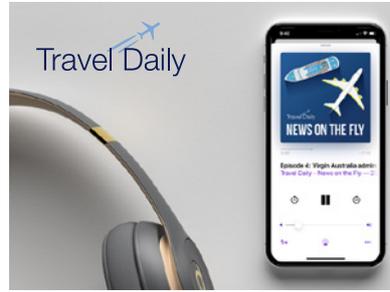
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PORTHOLE

A COOLER is almost essential on a fishing trip, but for four fishermen off the coast of Nelson Bay, it was life-saving. The men were spearfishing off Broughton Island when they got into trouble in a 1.5 metre swell, which capsized their boat. The men activated their emergency beacon and clung to the coolers they had brought as their vessel sank (pictured).

The EPIRB was received by the rescue coordination centre in Canberra, who got in contact with the NSW Marine Area Command and the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter Service. The men were down to their last flare as they bobbed in the ocean, before a boat arrived on the horizon and spotted them.



Encountering a new badge



THE former *Star Princess*, soon to become P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Encounter* (CW 26 Nov 2019) has received her new name badge (pictured).

The ship arrived in Singapore, where she was greeted by P&O Australia's design and technical team, and presented with her name badge, following which she will continue to be readied for her entry to the fleet.

The P&O branding is 20 metres long, eight metres high and weighs three tonnes, and will be displayed in the traditional position on the ship's funnel.

"This is also a sign of P&O's resilience and strength as we look forward to the restart of cruising and the rebuilding of cruising in our region," said Carnival Australia and P&O Australia President Sture Myrmell.

"It is also a tribute to P&O's many loyal guests who have stuck by us through these challenging times."

The works are part of P&O Australia's fleet transformation, in which *Pacific Encounter* and *Pacific Adventure* will join *Pacific Explorer* in coming months, replacing *Aria* and *Dawn*.

Grand return

MSC Cruises' *MSC Grandiosa* will return to the sea from 24 Jan, with the Government of Italy confirming cruises can return under its unique health and safety protocol.

Grandiosa will resume scheduled weekly cruises in the Western Mediterranean leaving every Sun, following the forced pause of operations over the Christmas season.

The cruises call on Genoa, Civitavecchia, Naples, Palermo and Valetta in Malta, with embarkation available from each of the Italian ports.

Viking survey

A TRADE survey conducted by Viking has highlighted the need for industry flexibility.

More than 94% of respondents in Australia stated Viking's Risk-Free Guarantee was a major factor in helping secure bookings through 2020 and into 2021.

A further 91% of Australian agents recognised the Risk-Free Guarantee as the best policy in the market.

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