



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### AIDA is plugged in

AIDA Cruises has expanded its use of shorepower, with AIDAsof connected to the shoreside plants in nearly all ports during a voyage.

The ship was connected to the facilities in four out of five ports during its voyage from 16 to 21 Apr, plugging in at Aarhus, Kristiansand, and Hamburg.

AIDAsof also connected in Warnemunde alongside fleetmate AIDamar, which saw the first time two cruise ships were supplied with green energy simultaneously on the same day in a German port.

President Felix Eichhorn said AIDA's goal is to be able to use shorepower at all ports.

## RCG releases Seastainability Report

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) will reduce its carbon intensity by double digits by 2025, when compared to 2019, the company announced in its 15th annual *Seastainability Report*.

Providing an annual update on RCG's corporate responsibility strategy and performance, the report also highlighted the company's partnership with Mærsk McKinney Moller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, to develop technologies and solutions to decarbonise.

Last year saw RCG commit an additional USD\$5 million to its partnership with the World Wildlife Fund to preserve ocean health, while other highlights include the completion of the company's first renewable diesel pilot in the United States, aboard Royal Caribbean International's (RCI) *Navigator of the Seas*.

RCG also launched the Royal



Caribbean Kickstarter Program, supporting tourism-related entrepreneurs in The Bahamas with training and seed-funding, and introduced the world's first net-zero cruise terminal in Texas (CW 14 Oct 2022).

"As we advance on our sustainability journey, our strategic priorities remain rooted in creating business value and

uplifting our employees, guests and the communities we visit," President Jason Liberty said.

"Through collaboration and innovation, we continue to make great strides on our commitment of delivering great vacation experiences responsibly."

**Pictured:** A render of RCI's first Royal Beach Club destination in the Bahamas.

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Travel Daily



## McTavish on Avalon

**AVALON** Waterways has expanded its celebrity-hosted Storyteller Series, with Scottish actor Graham McTavish to cruise on board next year.

'Kilt'n' It: Facts, Fiction & Fairytale Settings on the Rhine with Graham McTavish' will transport cruisers to Switzerland, France, Germany, and the Netherlands across eight days in Oct 2024.

McTavish is known for his role as Dwalin in *The Hobbit* film trilogy, and for starring opposite Sylvester Stallone in *Rambo*.

The Storyteller cruise with McTavish is the second to be announced for next year, with Avalon previously unveiling its third sailing with Diana Gabaldon, best-selling author of the *Outlander* series.

For more information on the 'Kilt'n' It' cruise, [CLICK HERE](#).

## MSC takes a bite out of the Big Apple

**MSC** Cruises has sailed into New York City, as the line launches year-round cruises on *MSC Meraviglia* (CW 23 Mar).

The ship (pictured) docked at the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal on Fri morning, and began sailing the next day.

*Meraviglia* will cruise to the Bahamas, Florida, Canada, New England, and Bermuda.

Itineraries will be available year-round, with *Meraviglia* billed as 'The Ship for All Seasons', thanks to her expansive indoor and outdoor public spaces, and a pool deck with a roof that opens and closes depending on the weather.

MSC is deploying *Meraviglia* to NYC as part of an ongoing pledge to bring its largest, most modern ships to the United States, as it continues to grow in the region.

NYC has become MSC's third home port in the United States, joining Miami and Port Canaveral.



"When we chose New York as the next step in our North American expansion, we knew that *MSC Meraviglia* would be the perfect ship, given her versatility and offerings for a wide variety of climates," President US Ruben Rodriguez said.

"She's big and innovative, she offers something for everyone, and now she's more accessible than ever for our guests in and around New York.

"We're thrilled to give guests from the Northeast [United States] a direct link to our private destination - Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve - which is part of our fantastic itineraries to The Bahamas."

Rodriguez said as the year goes on, cruisers will have other options, such as spending several days exploring Bermuda, or heading north for the fall foliage in Canada and New England.

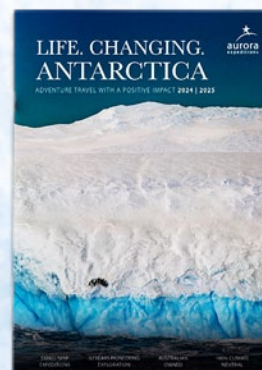


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## Viking food gong

**AMERICA'S Food & Wine** magazine has named Viking as Best Cruise Line in its inaugural Global Tastemaker Awards.

The publisher cited Viking for its "inventive culinary programs across its river, ocean and expedition voyages".



**SEABIRDS** can sometimes be a bit of a pest for cruise ships, so perhaps an initiative announced by the UK's Blackpool Zoo may be of interest to operators.

The attraction has announced a recruitment drive for so-called "human seagull deterrents" - people who will be paid to dress up in giant bird costumes to frighten away the nuisance creatures.

Officials said the birds were persistently stealing food from visitors as well as animal enclosures, with successful candidates to join the zoo's visitor services team.

The job ad notes that those who take on the roles would need an outgoing personality and also "be comfortable wearing a bird costume".



## Cruise honours Ramsgate



**SYDNEY'S** Ramsgate Travel Service last week celebrated 40 years in business, and the cruise sector was out in force to mark the milestone of one of Australia's long-standing sellers of luxury cruise product.

Founded in 1983 by the late legendary Rosemary Peart, the business is now owned by Justine Sealey who recounted the highs and lows over the decades.

Ramsgate was a founding member of the Cruiseco consortium, and Sealey was in the first group of consultants accredited by the fledgling International Cruise Council of Australia (now CLIA) when it was formed in the 1990s.

The agency was also one of the first Australian travel outlets to host cruise expos when it booked out Sharks Leagues Club for events in 1996 and 1998.

The birthday celebration on the shores of the Georges River saw about 100 of Ramsgate's top clients treated to a special lunch along with presentations from a host of key partners including Oceania, Regent, Viking, Silversea, Abercrombie &

Kent, APT, Back-Roads Touring, Uniworld and Crystal.

Sealey is **pictured** above with Crystal Cruises VP Tony Archbold and Abercrombie & Kent's Debra Fox and Beth Ellicott.

More in today's **Travel Daily**.



**CHRIS** Hall from Ponant with Ramsgate's Justine Sealey.



**VIKING'S** Ramon Drew was one of the day's presenters.

## Coral all at sea over solar eclipse

**CORAL** Expeditions was in prime position for optimal viewing of last week's solar eclipse, with three of the line's vessels placing themselves to experience it at sea.

A total of 320 guests from around the world experienced the hybrid eclipse along the "line of totality" in the North West Coast, enjoying the view from the remote Scott and Seringapatam Reefs, as well as the opportunity to come ashore at Sandy Island.

*Coral Adventurer's* 120 guests were all loyal past passengers of the brand's Xplorer's Club, with the voyage delivered in partnership with *Australian Geographic*.

*Coral Discovery* was in position at Ah Chong Island in Montebello Islands Marine Park off the northwest coast of WA, with 70 guests on board as part of a charter organised in conjunction with NASA.

Meanwhile *Coral Geographer* hosted 120 American charter guests for the eclipse as part of a 14-night Wilderness Travel expedition.

## Anderson on leave

**CRYSTAL** Cruises CEO Jack Anderson is taking leave for personal reasons, but is expected to be aboard the inaugural post-pandemic voyages of *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony* later this year, according to a report in *Seatrade Cruise News*.