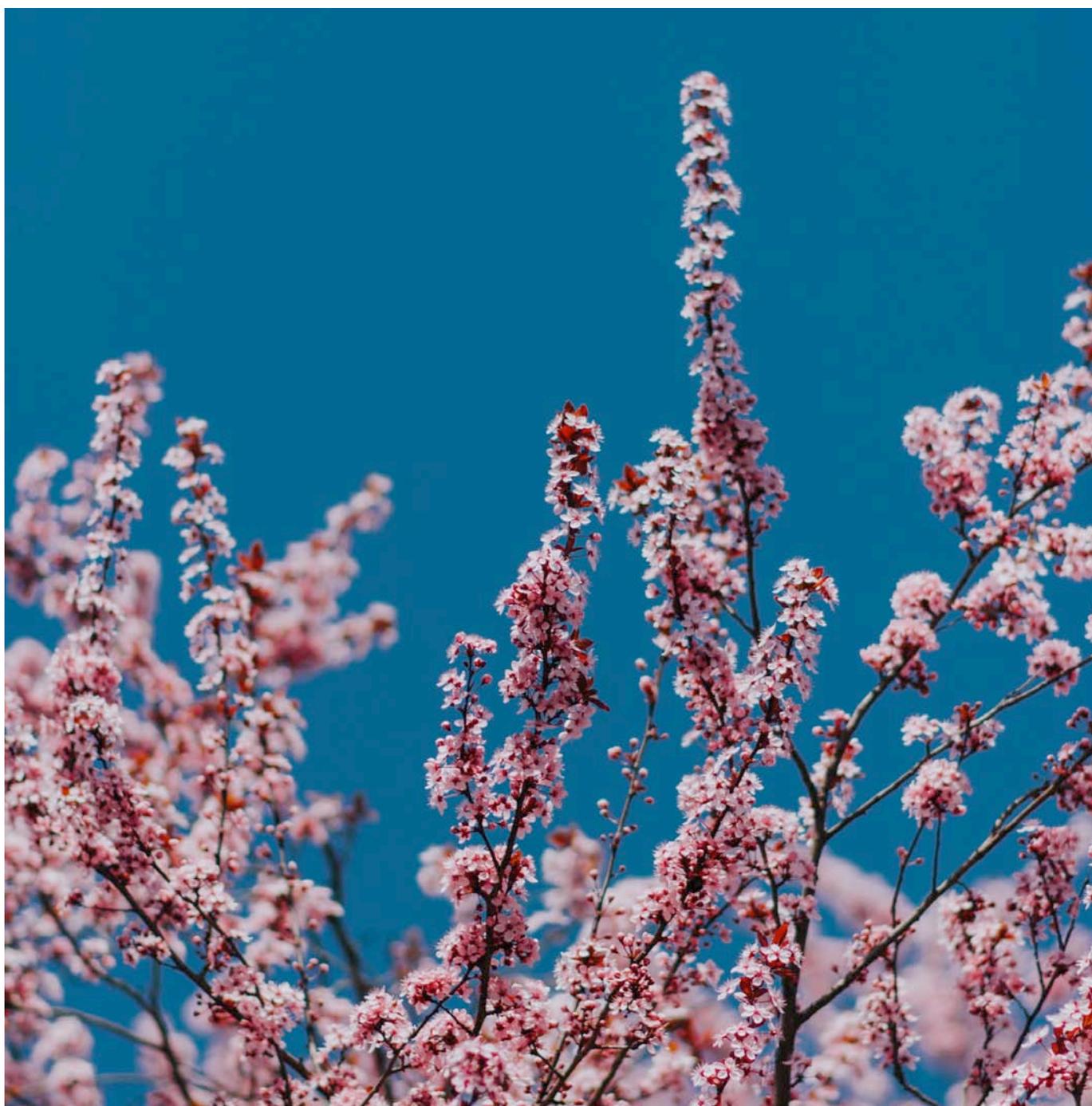


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Weekly

Spring Magazine 2019





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From the Publisher Jenny Piper

In 2004 my husband and I bought a small little publishing business that produced an email newsletter for the travel trade called *Travel Daily*. Fifteen years later we now publish more than five different business to business titles. It has been my dream over the last few years to produce a consumer focused travel e-magazine to share some of our insights into the travel and cruise industry, but also share some great travel stories we publish in our trade focused magazine, written by some of Australia's best travel writers.

This Spring edition will see us publishing for a year. In this issue our features have an North America theme – with

stories about Canada and the USA. Plus all the latest travel and cruise news.

I have been lucky enough to go on two brand new ships in the last few months. We take a look at these, Royal Caribbean International's *Spectrum of the Seas*, which is ported out of Shanghai, and the worlds first hybrid powered expedition ship Hurtigruten's *Roald Amundsen* sailing around Greenland and Iceland. The vessel will then be heading south for an Antarctic season later this year.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and it inspires you to book a trip with your travel agent. If you want more inspiration why not follow us on **FACEBOOK** and **INSTAGRAM**.



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Travel & Cruise Weekly

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Yellowstone National Park, USA

The oldest National Park in the US, Yellowstone is full of natural wonders. Its geysers, most notably Old Faithful, are probably the first thing you think of when someone mentions the park and for good reason – half the world's known geysers are located here. But Yellowstone is also home to dramatic canyons, alpine rivers, lush forests and hot springs (like these at Midway Geyser Basin) plus wolves, bison, bears and more.



In the News



Highly anticipated *Eclipse* debuts

Scenic Luxury Cruises and Tours' ship *Scenic Eclipse* began her inaugural season last month, sailing from Reykjavik to Quebec.

The ship's delivery had been delayed a number of times due to unrest at the Croatian shipyard where it was being built, but now is

fully completed.

The luxury vessel features 114 all-verandah suites, 10 different dining options, a spa with gym and yoga and pilates studio, two helicopters and a submarine, plus indoor and outdoor plunge pools and butler service for all guests.

Eclipse is rated Polar Class 6 and will sail around the world including the Arctic and Antarctic, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands, along with Northern Europe, the Mediterranean and the Americas, offering its maximum 228 guests six-star luxury all the way.

Aranui adds new itineraries

Tahitian cargo cruise line Aranui Cruises has added three new itineraries to its 2021 program.

The cruises take travellers to 11 new destinations, and highlights include the line's maiden voyage to the Cook Islands and the first dedicated Society Island cruise.

In 2021 there are 21

scheduled cruises for guests to choose from, exploring the South Pacific on the cruise line's mixed freight and passenger vessel, *Aranui 5*.

The ship's inaugural Cook Islands itinerary departs on 4 September 2021 and over 13 days will cruise from Papeete to Aitutaki and Raratonga before

visiting Rurutu, Rapa and Raivave in the Australs, and Tuamotu atoll Anaa.

The majority of the *Aranui 5*'s 2021 cruises will be its original 13-day roundtrip itinerary from Papeete to the Marquesas Islands, with cargo stops at remote island communities and complimentary excursions like local feasts and hikes.



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Top: A zodiac taking passengers ashore with Roald Amundsen in the background

Left: The Sauna with a view

Top right: Aune, the main dining restaurant

Bottom right: The Science Centre

Hurtigruten's newest takes to the sea

Hurtigruten's brand new expedition ship *Roald Amundsen* launched in July 2019 and is revolutionary with its environmentally sustainable hybrid technology, claiming reduced fuel consumption and 20 percent less CO₂ emissions.

Not only is it good for the environment but it looks good as well. With fresh Scandinavian interior design, cabins are light and comfortable. An array of dining options are also available – Aune the main dining room offers buffet breakfast and lunch daily,

with dinner alternating between buffet and 4-course set menu. Fredheim is a casual dining area with street food style menu, and there is also fine dining at Lindstrom (though additional charges apply). The Explorer Lounge and Bar with its enormous panoramic windows is a great place to relax any time of the day and look out for wildlife.

As for the expedition part – getting aboard the inflatables for shore landings or kayaking in amazing places is all part of the adventure of expedition cruising.



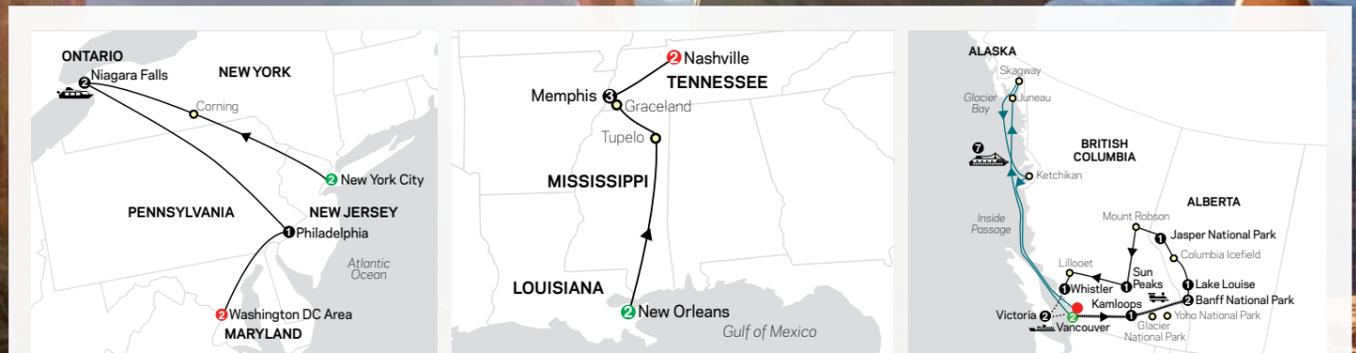
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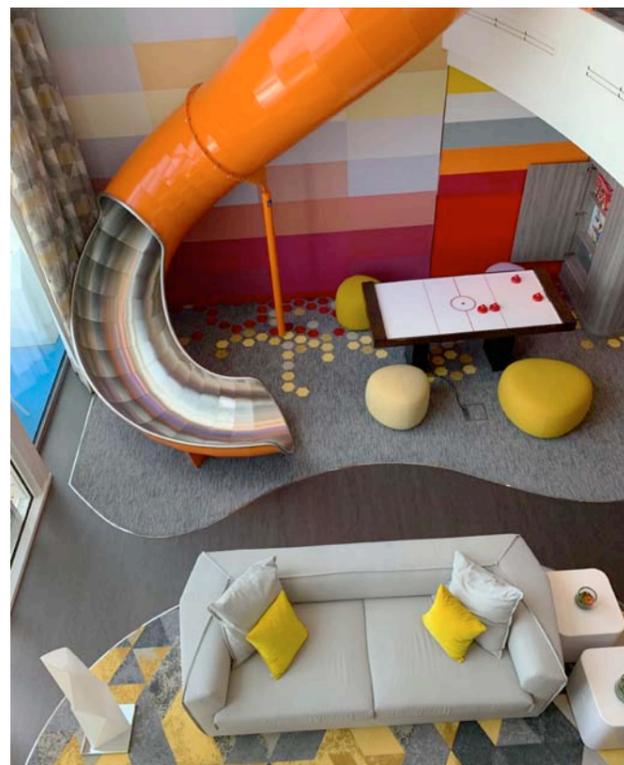
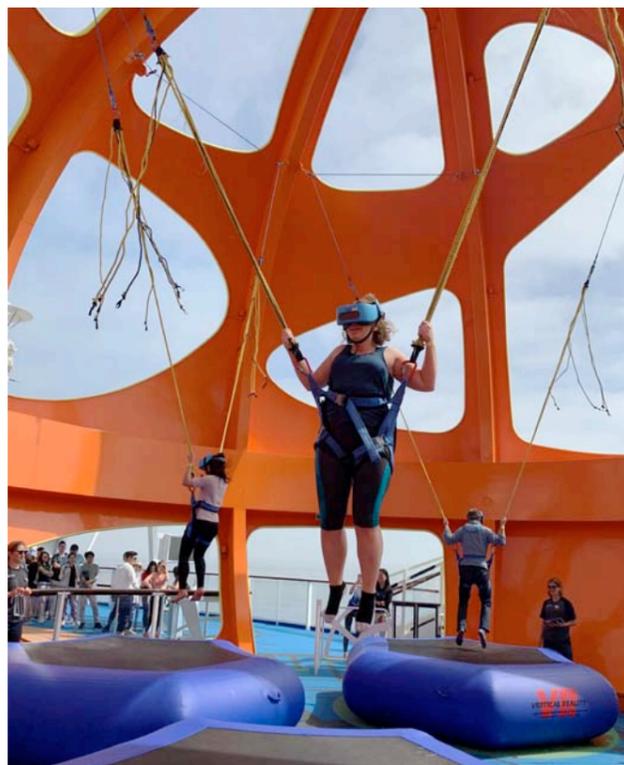
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Wake up to wildlife at Taronga

Taronga Zoo in Sydney has revealed details of its new Wildlife Retreat at Taronga, due to open in October.

The eco-retreat will allow guests to stay overnight and wake up to the sounds of Australia's iconic wildlife.

Travellers have the option to join a guided tour or just enjoy the unique Australian wildlife living outside their room in their own time.

There are 62 rooms and suites that overlook the wildlife habitat, many with



Wildlife View room at Wildlife Retreat at Taronga

views of Sydney Harbour.

In addition, the Me-Gal restaurant offers guests at the lodge a uniquely Australian menu with a focus on fresh local produce and native ingredients.

The Wildlife Retreat at Taronga opens to guests

from 10 October 2019. Rates start at \$790 per night for two adults and includes two-course dinner, buffet breakfast, immersive and exclusive Australian animal experiences and complimentary general admission to Taronga Zoo.

Royal Caribbean's new *Spectrum*

The new Royal Caribbean International Quantum Ultra class ship *Spectrum of the Seas* sees the introduction of the 'Suite Club', a private enclave encompassing Silver and Gold category suites, and other lavish suites such as the Ultimate Family Suite

with its own slide between levels, along with exclusive dining and its own private pool and outdoor area called 'The Balcony'.

The ship also features some fabulous Royal Caribbean activities such as RipCord by iFly, a skydiving simulator,

FlowRider, as well as the new Sky Pad – a bungee trampoline experience where users wear virtual reality headsets to have a virtual adventure while jumping on a trampoline!

Spectrum is currently sailing Asia departing from China.

Ski Zermatt with Ikon

Holders of the Ikon Pass now have seven-day access to skiing in Zermatt and the Matterhorn, with the destinations the first in Europe to be added to the pass.

The Ikon Pass gives holders access to skiing and snowboarding in 41 destinations across the world including Mt Buller, Steamboat, Deer Valley, Jackson Hole, Aspen, Niseko, Coronet Peak and many more.

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The Matterhorn seen from Canton Valais

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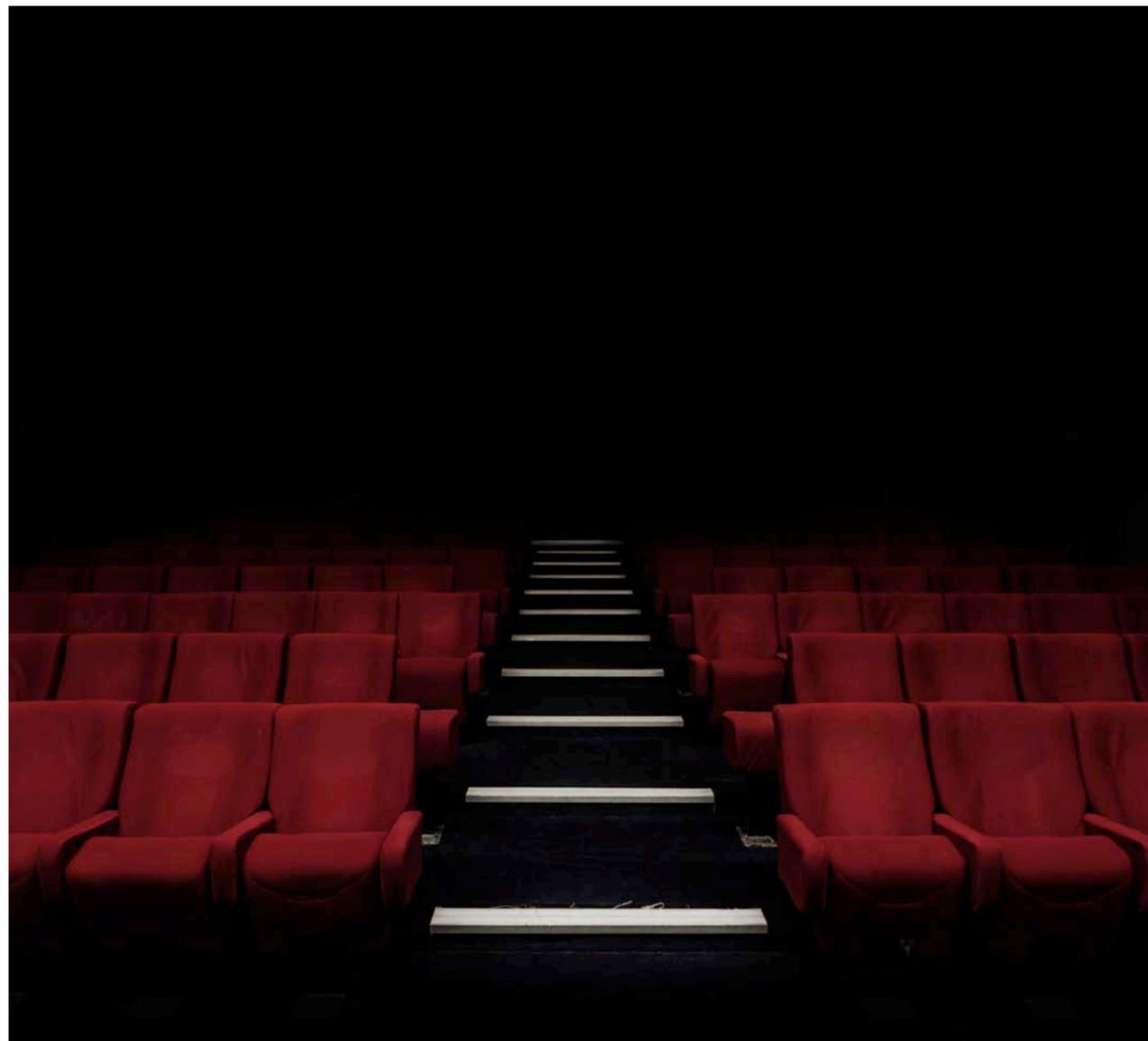
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Entertainment takes to the sea

Is it a Broadway musical? Is it a gravity defying acrobatic feat? Is it light show? No, it's your cruise line's entertainment line-up, and it's redefining the meaning of showbiz on the sea. *Travel & Cruise Weekly* rounds up the latest in entertainment at sea.

Carnival Cruise Line

Carnival Cruise Line offers its on-stage adaptation of the Spike TV series, Lip Sync Battle: Carnival. The entertainment offering is included in the cruise fare and allows guests to live out their dreams of being a music star, without the need to hit the right notes. The series of shows throughout an itinerary pits passengers against each other as they showcase their performance skills. In the final round, the cruise line provides the props, music, lighting, choreographers and even backup dancers. The Lip Sync Battle is available across the entire Carnival fleet on all itineraries seven days or longer.



Celebrity Cruises

Celebrity Cruises' new ship *Celebrity Edge* hosts the line's "most technologically advanced main theatre and the most production shows of any ship in the fleet". The Theatre has four stage areas and three moving projection screens, a main stage which extends into the audience, a rotating platform which raises almost two metres above the stage, two rotating spiral staircases, 10 synchronised panoramic

projection screens, 16 video mapping laser projectors and aerial performance rigging. *Celebrity Edge* offers five new production shows, including the Shakespeare-inspired *A Hot Summer Night's Dream* and the *Jewelry Box*, with its jaw-dropping technological feats. There's also *Kaleidoscope*, a high-energy music and dance extravaganza, *Get Up*, a pop concert and *The Purpose*, an uplifting production.



MSC Cruises

Brand new ships require brand new shows – and thanks to MSC Cruises' latest partnership with Cirque du Soleil, guests are in for a range of eye-popping performances.

A total of eight Cirque shows have been tailor-made for the cruise line for its Cirque du Soleil at Sea series, which is already giving guests on board *MSC Meraviglia* the chance to experience the ground-breaking entertainment while enjoying dinner and cocktails.

MSC Bellissima (which debuted in March this year) and *MSC Grandiosa* (launching in November) will both feature two shows, *Sonor* and *Viaggio*, for guests to choose from for an additional fee. The shows are available to book six nights a week.

Norwegian Cruise Line

Guests on board *Norwegian Jewel* this season will have their senses heightened with the award-winning show *Velvet*, which channels the original Studio 54 nightclub and is based on a concept created by Marcia Hines.

Offering an intoxicating mix of cabaret, burlesque and circus, *Velvet* features performances by muscle men, singers, hula-hoopers, acrobats and aerialists in an eclectic combination of glitz and glamour. The disco soundtrack includes a range of popular tunes including "Boogie Wonderland", "Le Freak" and "Stayin' Alive".

Guests on board *Jewel* can also enjoy productions *Rock You Tonight*, featuring the music of Queen, Journey and the Who, and *Le Cirque Bijou* with death-defying acts soaring through the air about your head.



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P&O Cruises

The risqué cabaret-style production show *Love Riot* is P&O Cruises' signature show on *Pacific Explorer*. The explosive act includes a world-class line up of elite artists and contortionists that dangle from silk sheets and trapezes, unicycle through the audience and perform awe-inspiring acts. *Love Riot* weaves in dance, comedy, circus and acrobatics and was created by Australian director Scott Maiment, the brains behind Madonna's Rebel Heart Tour. The show is performed in the ship's supper club, Black Circus, for audiences 18 years and over. It is \$15 for general entry, including a welcome cocktail, or \$39 for a VIP ticket, which includes a five-course dinner in Waterfront and priority seating.



Royal Caribbean International

Australia's largest megaliner, Royal Caribbean International's *Ovation of the Seas*, blends live performances, experimental cinematography and fresh tunes in its original production, *Pixels*. The art-meets-technology showcase is included in the cruise fare and takes place in Two70, an immersive, multimedia entertainment venue complete with dancing

"roboscreens". The venue is a casual lounge with expansive ocean views by day and at night transitions into a display of video projection, robotics and human artistry. It features 18 projectors which combine to create a 30m wide screen which wraps around the space. A reservation to the show is required but is included in the cost of your cruise.



Princess Cruises

Don't miss *Fantastic Journey*, the colourful, convivial and computer and drone-driven concert that's currently wowing guests on board Princess Cruises' *Majestic Princess*. Dubbed "the most technologically advanced show at sea", *Fantastic Journey* has it all – from the high-tech display screens and electric strobe lights, to the foot-tapping, singalong pop music floorshow. *Majestic Princess* is the first ship to utilise drone technology in a performance, which forms part of the inclusive entertainment across all itineraries over the 2019/2020 Australian summer cruising season. No booking is required once on board, however seating is limited – but never fear, the unique "hanging" design of the Princess Theatre means that every seat is in perfect sight line to the stage, so all guests need to do is sit back and enjoy.

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The Other Sunshine Coast

Canada's Sunshine Coast stretches north from Vancouver, offering an easy getaway into national parks, ancient cedar forests, islands and indented bays, discovers Brian Johnston.

I know I'm happy when I start talking to seals. How can I resist: they loll on the rocks, fat bellies distended, and indolently wave their flippers as if saying hello. Their whiskers bristle like a sergeant major's when I veer to close to their pups. But I'm only inspecting giant starfish on the rocks, and summer dragonflies with iridescent wings. Above me, cedars tower and eagles flap in their nests.

This piece of British Columbian coast north of Vancouver is called the Sunshine Coast, which fits my sunny mood. I'm kayaking on the cold blue waters. I pull up on a stony island

and eat salads and wild blackberries popping with flavour. Later, plenty of late summer light remains to sit in a waterfront restaurant and eat prawns and Pacific salmon. The sun doesn't slump behind the islands until eleven o'clock.

Taking to a kayak – or any sort of boat – is the best way to appreciate the Sunshine Coast. Dozens of companies offer kayak

I'm kayaking on the cold blue waters. I pull up on a stony island and eat salads and wild blackberries popping with flavour.



rentals, or take you out with an instructor for a lazy paddle. You can join larger vessels for whale-spotting trips. The bays are haunted by killer whales, carving their way gracefully through the water.

Just getting to the Sunshine Coast involves a car ferry at Horseshoe Bay, 20 minutes' drive out of Vancouver. I wake up in the city with rain at the hotel windows, but once I'm onto the water magic happens. Suddenly the mist breaks open, the sun pushes through, and the bay fizzes blue at the ferry's wake. Passengers emerge from the ferry's interior, unfolding from their cocoons of clothes

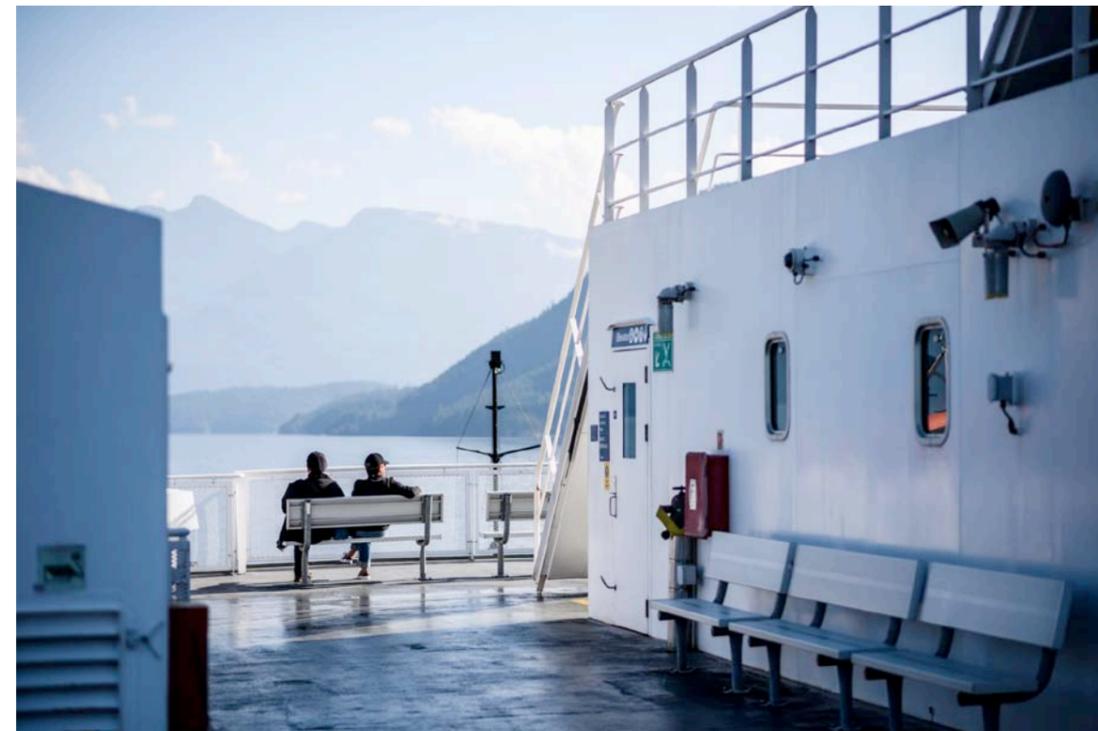
and turning their faces up to the warmth.

The Sunshine Coast lies in a rain shadow, protected by the mountains of Vancouver Island which provide such a pretty backdrop across the water. This short stretch of happiness has the longest frost-free season in Canada. You could visit the 180km coast on a day trip, just about, but there are dozens of inlets and indentations to explore. To really appreciate the region, spend at least two or three days, and stay in a secluded lodge or B&B off the main road.

The road is Highway 101, which twists and turns as it skirts inlets and peninsulas,

and twice takes to ferries at Horseshoe Bay and Earls Cove. The highway finishes at the township of Powell River, from which you can backtrack to Vancouver or – highly recommended – take another ferry across to Vancouver Island, which is well worth a visit, especially for Victoria, the marvellous little capital of British Columbia. Another highly scenic car-ferry ride will take you back to Vancouver.

There are only three small towns of consequence along the Sunshine Coast. The first is Gibsons, a quiet seaside community where the morning catch is unloaded from fishing smacks. It's a



Left: Ferry is the only way to access the Sunshine Coast ©Destination BC/Andrew Strain

Top right: Passengers relax in the sunshine on the Island Sky ferry ©Destination BC/Andrew Strain

Bottom right: Boats in a small harbour along the Sunshine Coast ©Destination BC/Local Wanderer



good place to charter a boat for salmon and trout fishing. 30km on, Sechelt is twice as big. I find an interesting museum devoted to the Sechelt Indian Nation, and a salmon hatchery that gives an insight into the life cycle of Canada's famous fish. The town is lively with cafés and art galleries. In contrast, Powell River at highway's end

is a lumber milling centre with few cultural pretensions and little appeal beyond a harbour for diving and kayaking trips.

Don't stick just to the highway and towns though. Venture down side roads. I find the Sunshine Coast is a place to breathe deep, smell the pine trees, gaze across the water, hike, kayak

or (one morning when I'm feeling frisky) brave a chilly swim. There are hundreds of small islands, some linked by passenger ferries like Gambier Island near Gibsons, a tranquil retreat for writers and artists.

You can also hike some of the 180km of Sunshine Coast Trail through alpine meadows and ancient



forests of cedar and Douglas fir, inhabited by coyotes, racoons and eagles. Sargeant Bay is a magnet for birdwatchers, home to redwings, mallards, Canada geese, kingfishers and herons. Princess Louisa Marine Park has a spectacular fjord with roaring waterfalls and pristine wilderness, best seen by boat or seaplane. You'll also find excellent cold-water diving: check out the sunken warship off Porpoise Bay Provincial Park, now transformed into an artificial reef.

Skookumchuk Narrows Provincial Park has a tide that flows back and forwards through the narrow inlet so fiercely you hear the sea roar. The whirlpools are big enough to swallow a ship. There are people kayaking here too: mad Canadians who surf the tidal waves, hurtling seawards with impressive skill, paddles flying. I'm just happy to kayak the bays and enjoy the sun and seals. Somewhere under my boat, I like to think that whales are singing, happy like me to be here.

Top and middle: You can hike the Sunshine Coast Trail which extends for 180km through forests and mountains ©Destination BC/Andrew Strain

Bottom: Highway 101 finishes at the township of Powell River ©Destination BC/Andrew Strain



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Capital attractions

Thriving cultural life, delicious dining and unmissable landmarks make Washington DC a destination worth visiting. If the historical landmarks don't do it for you, the food will, as Kristie Kellahan writes.

As the power capital of the United States, Washington DC has, at times, been unfairly lumped with a reputation as a conservative town of politicians. The truth is a city far more dynamic and appealing to visitors. Located on the east coast of the United States, about

a four-hour drive southwest of New York City, the District of Columbia has a resident population of about 630,000 people – roughly twice the size of Canberra.

Sure, the political and historic landmarks must be seen. No visit to Washington DC is complete without a

selfie taken in front of the White House, or a moment with the imposing statue of Abraham Lincoln. At almost six metres, the former president's seated marble statue dominates the Lincoln Memorial.

A wander along the National Mall – the name

given to the tree-lined space between the White House and the US Capitol Building – turns up a dozen free museums that rank among the world's best in the fields of art, science and history.

But dig a little deeper and you'll discover a thriving food-truck scene with tasty cuisine from every corner of the globe served hot and fresh from mobile kitchens whose whereabouts are avidly followed on Twitter and Instagram.

Look beyond the modern art galleries and natural history exhibits and be wowed by the Newseum, an unmissable museum dedicated to international news media and the defence of the freedoms of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Get a taste of the undercover life at the International Spy Museum, an interactive attraction

that will please kids and grown-ups alike with its role play and fascinating insider intel.

Cheering on the hometown sports teams with a cold beer in hand is a great way to meet the locals. On the baseball field it's all about the Washington Nationals, while in the National Football League, the Washington Redskins are considered the one of the most valuable professional sports team in the United States.

Explore the city's open spaces and well-designed CBD on a rented bicycle, or stand to attention and see the sights from a motorised Segway. With many of the war memorials and historic buildings spread out around the city, it's handy to zip around on two wheels.

Befitting a city that attracts legions of visitors from the worlds of

Below: The National Mall stretches from the US Capitol Building to the White House and includes the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial

Right top: The Spy Museum is sure to please young and old

Right below: Bicycle is a popular form of transportation around the city



diplomacy, politics and business, DC is home to many top-notch luxury hotels. You can stay at the Watergate Hotel – part of the Watergate complex forever linked to the scandal which cost Richard Nixon his presidency, while the Embassy Row Hotel features 231 guest rooms. Formerly the Hilton Washington Embassy Row, the hotel is located in one of the city's finest locales: historic Dupont Circle. Surrounded by embassies and within walking distance to dozens of restaurants and galleries, the hotel has one of the city's few rooftop pools. With DC summers guaranteed to be hot and sticky, the combination of a pool and bar will be welcomed by many visitors to the area.

The hotel's Station Kitchen & Cocktails restaurant is just one address in DC's burgeoning food scene. Fuelled by local innovators and entrepreneurs, the culinary melting pot is heating up. *The New York Times* reported that a new restaurant opens in Washington DC "every week". Celebrity chefs including Momofuku's David Chang, French



wonder Daniel Boulud and Wolfgang Puck all have restaurants in DC.

You can eat anywhere from Michelin-starred chef's restaurants, such as Officina, opened by Nicholas Stefanelli to the low key outdoor pizza bar at No Kisses and sister restaurant Sonny's, with its old school vibes and rectangular pizza pies.

Time your visit to coincide with Washington DC Restaurant Week, when more than 200 of the city's best restaurants slash prices to offer 3-course brunches and lunches for US\$22 and 3-course dinners for US\$35. The event is held twice a year – in the winter and summer – and includes French, American, Pan-Asian, Southern cuisine and much more.

Perhaps the best time of all to visit the capital is in April when warm springtime weather ushers in cherry blossom season. A wildly popular festival is held each year to celebrate the beautiful blossoming of more than 3,000 cherry trees that Japan gifted to the US. Photography enthusiasts and nature lovers aren't the only ones to go weak-kneed for the glorious explosion of pink and white blossoms all over the city; visitors come from around the world to see the spectacle.

No matter which season you visit Washington DC, there's so much waiting to be discovered.



Top: No visit to Washington is complete without seeing the White House

Middle: Ana at District Winery is just one of the city's restaurant scene
©Destination DC

Below: Visitors in spring will get the chance to see the city full of cherry blossoms



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