





Travel Daily First with the news

www.traveldaily.com.au Friday 18th December 2020

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a full page from Broome, Kimberley & Beyond.

NSW travel changes

WA HAS put new restrictions in place for visitors coming from NSW following a COVID-19 outbreak on Syd's Nthn Beaches.

From 12.01am (AWST) today, travellers from NSW will need to quarantine for 14 days and have a COVID test on day 11 of their stay, while Qld stated anyone entering the state from the cluster area must be tested and self-isolate for two weeks.

Poems are flow'n!

MIKAELA Toze from Topdeck has taken out *Travel Daily's* festive Christmas poem comp.

To view the winning entry, & the creative runners up, see **page six**.

Flight Centre + Hotelbeds

HOTELBEDS has signed a deal with Flight Centre to increase its global distribution reach.

The deal will see Hotelbeds increase its retail distribution in Australia, as well as Canada, Dubai, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Hotelbeds' 180,000 properties, available through its retail channel Bedsonline, will be available to Flight Centre's clients, with the bedbank keen to access the travel agency's long-haul guests, who book top-rated, higher-value properties further in advance.

Flight Centre's guests also stay for longer, have lower cancellation rates and spend more, Hotelbeds noted.

As part of the partnership, Flight Centre will connect to Hotelbeds' product portfolio via the bedbank's API solutions.

Flight Centre will also now

offer its clients ancillary services from Hotelbeds' Beyond The Bed portfolio, which comprises 25,000 transfer routes and 18,000 activities in more than 680 destinations, and 30,000 pick-up locations in 170 countries.

BA slashes Sydney

BRITISH Airways has cut more than 15 long-haul routes due to the pandemic, indicating it will not resume its Sydney services until late Oct 2021 at the earliest.

Other destinations BA will no longer fly to next year include Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, KL & Seoul.

The decision follows BA's parent company, International Airlines Group, announcing a pre-tax loss of €6.2 billion for the nine months to Sep.

In a grim forecast, passenger numbers are not expected to return to 2019 levels until at least 2023, BA noted.

Swan Hellenic appoints local

RELAUNCHED cruise line Swan Hellenic has announced Travel the World (TTW) as a preferred Australian partner to promote and sell its voyages.

Swan Hellenic Senior Vice President Global Sales and Marketing Alfredo Spadon said the line was pleased to partner with TTW to unlock the immense potential of the Australian market, with its passion for adventure and exploration.

Final issue of *Travel Daily* for 2020

SO-LONG 2020, don't let the door hit you on the way out!

Today's *Travel Daily* is our last edition of the year - a 12 months that has challenged and changed the industry in so many ways.

We will be back on deck with all the latest news from 04 Jan 2021.



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Unlucky 13 agents ex ATAS

THE travel industry rescue package has come too late for several members of the AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS), which has confirmed multiple withdrawals in the last few weeks due to business closures and insolvencies.

An update on the AFTA website notes the ATAS "voluntary withdrawal due to closure" of businesses such as Gate 1 Travel Australia (ABN 74 169 034 575), and Webjet's Cruise Sale Finder (ABN 46 169 712 814).

Also closing in the last month has been Victorian agencies St Arnaud Travel & Cruise (ABN 89 139 383 016) and Your World@Glenelg (ABN 88 071 743 907).

The list of voluntary withdrawals includes school group specialist Educational World Travel (ABN 22 006 888 179) which was placed into voluntary liquidation in early Dec, and Personalised Travel (ABN 12 294 890 196).

Altitude Travel (ABN 58 078 735 789) in Tea Gardens, NSW has closed, along with Broad Horizons Travel in Yamba, NSW (ABN 57 126 073 265).

AFTA has also confirmed the cancellation of ATAS participation of Sydney-based Travel Design Group (ABN 87 624 451 458) which had liquidators appointed earlier this month.

Three other agencies - United Global Travels, Freedom Travel and Passport Travel - are listed as having closed but are believed to have actually just hibernated their ATAS accreditation.

Oceania EOTY deals

OCEANIA Cruises has launched its Year-End Upgrade Sale offering major price reductions and the option of selecting a four category stateroom upgrade at no extra cost when booking select itineraries by the end of the year.



from Fontelunga Hotel & Villas, Tuscany





WEX completes eNett acquisition

IT SERVICE management company WEX has completed its acquisition of travel payment solutions firm eNett (*TD* 28 Jan).

WEX paid a total consideration of approximately US\$577.5 million for eNett, as well as fellow B2B transactions company Optal.

Qantas adds seven regional routes

QANTAS will add seven new routes across NSW, SA and Vic starting from Feb, bringing its total local routes to 62 - five more than pre-COVID levels.

New services include Syd/ Griffith, Mel/Newcastle, Mel/ Mt Gambier, Mel/Wagga Wagga, Mel/Albury & Adel/Mt Gambier.

The expansion has prompted Regional Express to call for the Fed Govt to cease all funding to Qantas, claiming it is trying to "eliminate weaker competitors".



CHRISTMAS time can be an emotional time for most people, so it's probably an apt window to let you all know about QT Gold Coast's upcoming Heartbreak Hotel, a pop-up museum highlighting love and disappointment, scheduled to operate from 01-21 Feb.

Unusual relics on display in this painful extravaganza of the broken-hearted include wedding dresses that prospective brides never got to wear, and a PlayStation stolen by a jilted lover when her relationship busted up.

"You broke my heart so I stole your PlayStation, how are you going to play FIFA now?", the accompanying message reads.

Tickets are available to purchase now **HERE**.





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Challenge to travel ban

LIBERTARIAN thinktank LibertyWorks has initiated a challenge to Australia's overseas travel ban in the Federal Court. arguing Section 96 of the Biosecurity Act does not give the Federal Government the right to enact a blanket ban.

The group contends the section only prevents an "individual" from leaving Australia for a period of less than 28 days.

"Minister Greg Hunt has overstepped his legislative powers in preventing Australians from going overseas," argues LibertyWorks President Andrew

"It's an illiberal and draconian restriction on the free movement of Australian citizens, many of whom want to see family and loved ones or attend urgent business in other countries.

"Preventing people from going overseas does nothing to make Australia safer," he added.

Cooper adds that invalidating the ban on overseas travel would not diminish the country's ability to impose quarantine restrictions on returning Australians.

The Federal Government recently extended the prohibition on Australian citizens being able to travel outside the country until mid-Mar 2021, representing a three-month extension of its emergency powers (TD 09 Dec).

This is not the first court challenge launched against the Federal Govt by LibertyWorks, with the group also arguing against Australia's foreign influence transparency scheme, contending it breaches freedom of political communication.

MEANWHILE Flight Centre MD Graham Turner has called for international travel to resume with or without a vaccine, "with the right protocols, there should be very little risk," he told The Courier-Mail this week.

World Exp backs NZ

WITH news of a possible travel bubble with NZ in Q1 next year (TD 15 Dec), World Expeditions is offering a \$0 deposit for travel across the Tasman from 01 Mar, in addition to other global destinations from 01 Sep.





Travellers Choice rejuvenates



MEMBERS of the Travellers Choice team recently gathered in Sydney's Barangaroo precinct to enjoy some long overdue human contact and celebrate the highly anticipated holiday season.

Pictured on their well-deserved break were: Belinda Di Guglielmo, St George Travel; Susie Potter, Sutherland Shire Cruise & Travel; Lynn Bradley, Compass Travel & Cruising; Karen Magee, Tertiary

Travel; Gareth Coakley, Journey Beyond; Deb Long, Weston Cruise & Travel; Chris Watson, Chris Watson Travel; Dave Long, Weston Cruise & Travel and Paula Moylan, Travellers Choice **Business Development Manager** ACT/New South Wales.

Parkroyal Monash Melbourne

PAN Pacific Hotels Group has flagged plans to further grow its footprint in Australia, signing the Parkroyal Monash Melbourne (pictured below).

Scheduled to open its doors in Apr next year, the property will form part of M-City Monash, Melbourne's largest mixed-use development dubbed a "mini city", with features of the 250room hotel including a 24-hour fitness centre, meeting and event spaces which boasts a 375m² ballroom with seating for up to 210 people, as well as an outdoor swimming pool surrounded by landscaped gardens.





CORPORATE UPDATE

CTC connects in person!



THERE was no "you're on mute" or "sorry my connection is dodgy" at end-of-year gatherings by the Corporate Travel Connections team this week, with the company welcoming key suppliers and clients for in-person celebrations across the country.

Events included get-togethers in Perth (above) and Brisbane (below), with attendees taking a well-earned opportunity to kick their heels up and swap their 2020 outfits of tracky dacks and leisurewear for fabulous frocks and spruce suits.



Biz travel vital

TOURISM Accommodation Australia (TAA) has highlighted the massive impact of the downturn in corporate travel on Australia's hospitality sector.

A national TAA Board meeting this week - the first in-person gathering since Mar - aired concerns about what the future of business travel will look like, with members canvassing options to increase conferencing and events in state capitals.

CAPA on demand

LAST week's Dec sessions from CAPA Live are available on demand, including key features on the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in 2021 and what it means for the aviation sector.

CAPA Live will return on 13 Jan 2021 and continue on a monthly basis throughout the year as a regular "virtual summit", with limited free passes available via an expression of interest which is available by **CLICKING HERE**.



Singapore open for business

SINGAPORE'S Government has announced a new initiative which will allow a "limited number of business, official and high economic value travellers" to enter the country for short-term stays of up to 14 days.

Dubbed Connect@Singapore, the program is part of the city-state's efforts to reopen its borders in a controlled and safe manner, according to Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry, Chan Chun Sing.

"This will facilitate essential global business exchanges and support the revival of Singapore's air hub status and hospitality sector," Minister Chan said.

Strict health and testing protocols will apply, with travellers under the initiative housed in a "bubble" with dedicated facilities.

They will undergo regular testing and strictly observe all safety measures in place, and will be able to conduct meetings with local visitors and other traveller groups while in the facilities.

Travellers will have to present a negative COVID-19 PCR test prior to leaving their home country, obtain a PCR test on arrival in Singapore and undertake Antigen Rapid Tests on days three, five, seven and 11 of their stay.

Within the appointed facilities travellers will have to stay within their pre-declared group of up to

GBTA expects surge

THE Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) has released details of its latest member poll, revealing a majority of respondents are optimistic that the industry will begin to rebound in mid to late 2021.

75% of respondents said the vaccine rollout meant they expect employees to attend in-person meetings & events in the second or third quarter of the year.

However 90% said their business travel spend in 2021 would be lower than in 2019. five travellers.

The Government is seeking expressions of interest from hotels interested in participating in the initiative, and has been working with Changi Airport and The Ascott Limited about the possible use of specially designed self-service meeting rooms at the airport as part of the program.

Applications for travel to Singapore under the initiative will open in mid-Jan, with the first travellers likely to be welcomed later in the month.

Connect@Singapore will be open to visitors from any country, complementing other travel lanes that have already been established with particular nations under the Reciprocal Green Lane initiative.

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Another Melbourne liberation



AFTER more than 110 days in lockdown, a group of Helloworld Travel and Magellan agents gathered to share a Christmas lunch at Vincoteca restaurant in Port Melbourne this week.

Pictured above from left are Sue Corvasce, Helloworld Travel

Lower Templestowe; Emma Whiting, Emma Whiting Travel; Kay Franklin, The Travel Agency; Lisa Myers, Emerald Travel; Kate Dalton, Cathay Pacific; Lisa Harrison, Magellan Travel GM; and Kris Rowe, Helloworld Travel Lower Templestowe.

Brushing up on travel



THE Travel Industry Hub hosted a Rose and Renoir night earlier this week courtesy of Suzie Goumas of Globus, who also has a not-so-secret life as an artist.

The sold-out session introduced participants to some deep artistic insights, with the outcome being some artworks (pictured) which look set to adorn the walls of some of the world's great art museums some day in the not too distant future.

Goumas is a NSW BDM for the Globus Family of Brands, and

has more than 30 years industry experience - along with an impressive resume as a locally exhibited artist on the Central Coast.

"This year I have started sharing my passion with others in the form of 'paint and sip' classes," she said, with the sessions normally costing \$59 but offered as free therapy to her colleagues in the Travel Industry Hub session on Tue this week.

More pics of the creative action at facebook.com/traveldaily.

Contiki hits the NSW road



CONTIKI Head of Sales Andrew Young has just wrapped up a Christmas tour of NSW and Victoria, visiting regional agents with a full batch of new brochures to help celebrate the lifting of border closures.

The festive trip started in Albury and Wodonga, and saw him heading north to Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Temora, Cootamundra, Cowra, Orange, Dubbo, Tamworth, Armidale and Coffs Harbour, returning back along the cost via Port Macquarie, Newcastle and the Hunter, the Central Coast, Wollongong and finally Canberra.

The new brochure highlights Contiki's new Australian journeys, with Young saying the response from the agents he visited had been overwhelming.

"The excitement and support Contiki is seeing in bookings for our new itineraries from agents all across Australia has been inspiring," he said.

"It's amazing to see the look on agents' faces when they saw me as their first supplier, since Mar in many cases," he added.

Contiki recently conducted research finding 64% of young people are ready to travel again as soon as possible.

"Despite the year we've had and travel being brought to a standstill, with the help of agents we're keen to be encouraging millennials and Gen Z to keep dreaming big and plan out their next adventure, but this time keeping it close to home."

Happy Whitsundays Xmas!



THE team from Tourism Whitsundays has released a special Christmas video, playing pass the parcel with a gift while dancing around the tree.

The all singing, all dancing performance can now be viewed at traveldaily.com.au/videos, along with festive greetings and excitement about a better 2021.

ATG counts down

THE APT Travel Group trade sales team has joined the holiday celebrations with the release of a new video in which Scott Ellis and his crew count down to Christmas and thank the trade for their ongoing support in 2020.

Check out the 12 Days of ATG at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

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Haigh's Christmas comp

WINNER AND HONOURABLE MENTIONS

THANKS to everyone who entered our Christmas poem competition.

We've had so many entries and it's been great to see the positivity of those reflecting on the year, despite the incredibly difficult challenges faced by the travel industry.

Unfortunately there can only be one winner, and so the Haigh's chocolate hamper is going to **Mikaela Toze** from **Topdeck**.

His eye twitched and arms tensed, his breathing came fast As the grandchild upon his knee Asked in a small voice for stories of years past "Grandad, tell me about 2020"

The old man stopped and thought for a while Surely it was about time he knew He let out a breath and said with a smile "My boy, let me tell you"

"There were fires and protests and red-hatted fools
And a virus that took over the world
There were lockdowns and closures and a lot more new rules
And we watched on as chaos unfurled"

"But despite all the heartache and ruin and stress There were blessings to be found in disguise People everywhere made the most of the mess Looking not at the lows but the highs"

"A resilient lot that bonded together Looking out for all of their mates Managing to stay chipper in all forms of weather Ready to tackle whatever awaits"

The old man smiled again as he thought of that year For how could he ever forget He looked at his grandson and swigged from his beer "2020 sucked, but 2021 was the best year yet".

Honourable mention goes to **Mandi Forrester-Jones** from **Travel with Viva**.

2020 was the year that kept on giving It was the year we focussed on living Was it a year we need to forget? Or the lead up to the best one yet? Our travel network blew me away Support and encouragement – every day Facebook groups sprung up everywhere Just needed to vent? We all do, and care Sometimes we need adversity to grow Working butts off and heads down low Needed help on an issue, a question or task? Whoever you worked for, you just had to ask Seeking advice from someone more clever Friendships gained, they are hopefully forever We have learned a lot, and come a long way We ARE in it together – we are gonna be okay! Honourable mention goes to **Chris Holliday-Smith** from **Travel Muse**.

2020 has been an interesting year, All held together by spirits, wine and beer. Our resilience has been tested as we've weathered this storm,

Patiently waiting for the new travel "norm".

I explore the streets of Rome on my screen's google maps, Wondering why someone would ever eat bats.

But then again, I've eaten some interesting things,
Like that brownie in Amsterdam that made everything sing.

And what was that street food I so graciously scoffed?,
"That was bull balls", my tour leader coughed.

I munched on some crickets that were like broken glass,
And that deep-fried rattlesnake.. hm, I think I'll pass...

Our businesses have gone through a new transformation, As we become kings and queens of trip cancellation. Innovate, renovate, facilitate, participate, All these things ahead of us that we know still await. But among all these challenges that loom in the darkness, It's good to know that we're beyond most of the hardness. For 2020, this year, this bastard, this ultimate villain, Is on its last legs as COVID cases reach 60 million. 'OK Karen', it's time to sit down, For 2021 is coming around.

And one thing that we all can surely be certain, Is that travel has not seen its last closing curtain.

Honourable mention goes to **Krystal Brazel** from **Everything Travel**.

When a nasty virus hit our shores one night, It gave us all a horrid fright. But when the travel restrictions arrived, We wondered how we would all survive. Travel agents rallied together once more, To save an industry worth fighting for. With suppliers joining in the cause, We were able to do this without pause. Now with silver linings around, We are all making an amazing sound. A sound that brings us agents' joy, The sounds of the real McCoy. Bookings flowing through our stores, For our country – people are willing to explore. Now we say that was worth the fight, These events have made our industry become super tight. We have built more relationships than ever before, Ones that we will treasure for ever more. So now as we say good night, We thank you all for joining our fight!



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Whose flag is this?

THIS flag was officially adopted in 1957 and its colours are the same in the country's coat of arms.

The white represents the country's rivers, the green symbolises the mountains and the red is for the blood shed in the many battles which have taken place in the nation.

The colours were mentioned in a coronation ceremony in 1608, but even earlier, they were associated with the monarchs.

The country has been ruled by many other nations and had different flags under each, but the colours and coat of arms have remained constant.

Do you know whose flag this is?

Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the TD Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 16 May 2014:

BORDER crossings are never usually this fun.

A new service in the Spanish town of Sanlucar de Guadiana allows travellers to quickly transit into Portugal - by riding an exhilarating zip line.

The 'Limite Zero' ride costs just €15, and is much faster than the alternative, which is a ferry service into Alcoutim, Portugal across the Guadiana river.

The 800m ride lasts about a minute, but also crosses a time zone, meaning riders technically arrive in Portugal just over an hour after they set off.

TRAVELLERS needing to "spend a penny" while visiting the Chinese city of Chongqing have several rather unusual options.

The city is nurturing a reputation within China for bizarre public toilets, with the Jiulongpo district now featuring conveniences in the shape of toy tanks, gigantic digital cameras and zoo animals.

Authorities have confirmed plans to erect 22 of the creative WCs across Chongqing, at least half of which are expected to be in place this year.

The dunnies appear to be themed according to their location, with one toilet near an electronics market in the form of a huge personal computer.

NEED A DISTRACTION AMID THE DOOM AND GLOOM?



Check out our daily puzzle page.



Pub quiz

- 1. Which of the seven wonders of the ancient world is yet to be definitively located?
- 2. New Zealand's Lake Wakatipu is shaped like which letter?
- 3. Which city's musicians have produced the most number one hit singles?
 - a) Nashville
 - b) Liverpool
 - c) London
 - d) Los Angeles
- 4. Titanic's one and only voyage departed from where?
- 5. Once valued by some to be worth more than all the real estate in California combined is what attraction in Japan?
- 6. What is the busiest railway station in the world?
- 7. Boykambil and Santa Barbara are towns in which Australian city?
- 8. What is Thailand's second-largest island after Phuket?
- 9. Guanabara Bay is found in which country?
- 10. The Castro District in California is one of the most prominent destinations of what kind of tourism?
- 11. What city is this picture spelling out?



Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.



Good - 18 words Very good - 27 words Excellent – 35 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

ANSWERS 17 DEC

Where in the world: Kistefos Gallery, Norway

Know your brands: 1 Fitness First, 2 David Jones, 3 Princess Cruises, 4 Triple J

Whose animal is this: Flamingo - Bahamas

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Cunard safety

CUNARD Line has made a number of updates to its health and safety protocols, mainly affecting guests with pre-exisiting medical conditions.

The cruise line will no longer accept guests who require supplementary oxygen (including via an oxygen concentrator), dialysis, or mechanical ventilatory support (except for overnight CPAP for sleep apnoea).

The line will also deny ship access to those who have been unwell with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 in the 14 days prior to embarkation, or have been in close contact with someone with confirmed or suspected COVID cases.

Call 13 24 41 for more details.

Boeing in-house

WITH its troubled 737 Max aircraft due to enter service around the world soon, Boeing has reportedly hired 160 pilots in-house to help create a smooth transition back to full operation.

The new "Global Engagement Pilots" will act as instructors and cockpit observers on 35day assignments, part of an international strategy which also includes 24/7 surveillance of 737 Max flights to reassure the sector.

Pullman Manila

ACCOR has flagged the opening of the Pullman Manila at Primex Tower in 2023 in the Philippines, a 200-room upscale property featuring a gym and pool.

Can-uck believe this?



FAKE it until vou make it! The team at iTravel The Junction have managed to keep their their own store.

The pane features a blown-up postcard of the Fairmont Banff Springs covered in snow, along with a cut-out of a Mountie for passers by to take a "Canadian white Christmas photo".

"We have many clients who are Director Andrew Minto.

"It has been a crazy, laugh or you cry kind of year and we

sense of humour this Christmas, decorating an Xmas window in

so disappointed to be missing their dream white Christmas, so we thought we would have some fun with our display," said

decided to bring some happiness

Bunnik Japan deals

BUNNIK Tours is offering travellers extra incentive to take a trip to Japan, offering a selection of its Japan Discovery tours throughout 2021 and 2022 at 2020 prices.

The operator will run 14- and 16-day Japan Discovery Tour departures in 2022, including the Japan Discovery Tour which leaves Tokyo and explores the mountain city of Matsumoto, the temple city of Nagano and hops on a bullet train to Kyoto.

Prices start from \$10,895ppts.

this Christmas." he added.

Minto is pictured with the team at iTravel The Junction, Megan O'Sullivan, Georgette Southam and Darienne Hunter.

Splendor delayed

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has extended its suspension in operations for Carnival Splendor through until 19 Apr 2021.

The cruise line has confirmed all agent commissions for bookings paid in full will be protected as a result of the delay.

16 aircraft added

ALLIANCE Airlines has announced it will significantly grow its fleet, purchasing 16 Embraer E190 aircraft for \$85m.

The 100-seat jets were previously operated by American Airlines and will be delivered over an 11-month period, with five joining from this month.

WA camping area

THE RAC Karri Valley Resort in Western Australia has added a new caravan and camping area which opens to the public today.

Features of the new area include camp kitchens, recreation rooms, a nature playground, as well as a number of pet-friendly areas for families to enjoy.

charter bookings with European Waterways. Deals are valid for bookings before o8 Jan, with immersive cruises in Burgundy and the South of France, including daily cooking classes, gourmet dining, and wine & food excursions - see www.europeanwaterways.com.

TRAVEL SPECIALS

feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the

industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au

Savings of up to 10% are available on individual cabins and whole barge

WELCOME to Travel Specials, Travel Daily's Friday

Accor has unveiled its Boxing Day Sale offer, allowing travellers to bag a bargain for 2021. With savings of up to 20% at more than 100 hotels, all Boxing Day Sale bookings are eligible for Accor Live Limitless loyalty points. Call 9280 9888 for more information.

Book a 2021 or 2022 cruise with Celestyal Cruises, with special earlybird rates from \$699 per person and 50% off for a second quest. Valid for bookings taken by the end of Feb 21, a reduced solo supplement and free coronavirus travel insurance is also available. For more info, CLICK HERE.

Norwegian Cruise Line is providing five free cruise offers, including a free beverage package, a free speciality dining package, free shore excursions credit, a free wi-fi package and a third and fourth guest sailing at a reduced rate. CLICK HERE for more details.

Got a confidential tip? Contact Travel Daily via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click HERE



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