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*Terms & Conditions apply. Valid on select ship voyages only and select cabin categories. Offer is valid on new bookings only aboard the *Greg Mortimer* or *Sylvia Earle* which must be booked and deposited by March 31st 2020, or until sold out, whichever comes first. Promotion is subject to availability at the time of booking and capacity controlled. The promotion is not available in conjunction with any other offer, can be withdrawn at any time and is not redeemable for cash. Prices and offers correct at time of printing and subject to change. Normal booking terms and conditions apply. Additional terms and conditions may apply - please visit www.auroraexpeditions.com.au/terms-and-conditions for full terms and conditions. ¹ Weather permitting, excludes sea days. ² Compared to old tier 1 engines.

Aurora 2021/22

AURORA Expeditions is highlighting this week's release of its 2021/22 Antarctic and 2021 Global voyages (**TD 14 Jan**).

To celebrate the launch, the cruise line is running an earlybird sale with up to 30% off.

See the **cover page** for more.

New Release
Cruise & Rail
departures

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Holidays of Australia & the World

Shanghai to Perth lands

THE first direct flight linking Western Australia and Shanghai touched down at Perth Airport yesterday morning.

The inaugural China Eastern flight from Shanghai Pudong Int'l Airport to Perth marked the beginning of a seasonal trial service and China Eastern Airlines' first direct flight to Perth.

It will operate thrice weekly (Mon, Wed & Fri) until 17 Feb and has been timed with the peak of the Chinese New Year season, with an average load factor of over 80% across the five weeks and a number of flights nearly at 100% capacity.

The service utilises Airbus A330 aircraft, offering 3,480 seats between Perth and Shanghai across the trial with Economy

airfares leading in at \$698 return.

Perth Airport CEO Kevin Brown said the trial non-stop service between Shanghai and Perth gave Western Australians an opportunity to experience Chinese New Year in Shanghai and would hopefully result in a year-round service for WA.

"If the trial is successful and leads to the introduction of three weekly services year-round, it could mean an additional \$40m in tourism spend for the WA economy," Brown said.

"If we can continue to grow the number of visitors to WA, the flow-on benefits for tourism operators, hotels, hospitality and retail outlets could be enormous."

Prior to the flight, WA Tourism Minister Paul Papalia led a delegation in Shanghai, where he presented China Eastern Airlines with an offer for a regular ongoing direct service to Perth (**TD 13 Jan**) - more on **page four**.

Tauck'n itineraries

TAUCK is today promoting three itineraries, which it says offer "the best of everything".

One highlighted option includes the 12-day Canadian Rockies, Whistler & Victoria, featuring the two nights at the Swarovski Sparkling Hill Resort, priced from \$10,140ppts - see **page seven**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news and photos, a front cover wrap for **Aurora Expeditions**, plus full pages from:

- Tauck
- AA Appointments jobs

Travel Daily on location in Los Angeles

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you courtesy of **Viking Cruises**, which will later this week reveal full details of its new expedition cruise product at the Beverly Hilton.

ANTICIPATION is now at fever pitch at the Beverly Hilton, with about 300 key industry partners here for tonight's unveiling of the new Viking Cruises expedition product.

Viking Founder Torstein Hagen is here along with senior Viking executives, while the Australian contingent includes MD Michelle Black and PR Manager Anna Bathgate plus consumer and trade media.

Tomorrow's **TD** will have a full wrap-up of the launch, along with renderings, product details and pricing.

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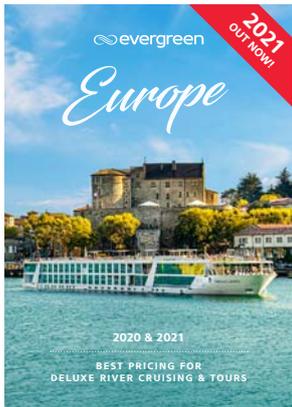
Trafalgar \$799 air

TRAFALGAR has launched a new air deal, offering \$799 return Economy airfares to Europe when booking one of its Europe & Britain trips of 11 days or more.

Bookings must be made by 27 Feb to take advantage of the Europe deal - [CLICK HERE](#) for further information.



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oneworld ups Africa in Apr

THE oneworld airline alliance will significantly increase its presence in northern Africa effective 01 Apr, with the formal addition of Moroccan flag carrier Royal Air Maroc.

The airline has been undergoing a 15-month implementation program since it became a member-elect (*TD* 06 Dec 2018).

Royal Air Maroc will add 39 new destinations in 23 countries to the oneworld network, with its Casablanca hub connected to over 100 destinations including oneworld hubs at Amman, Doha, London Heathrow, Madrid, Miami, Moscow and New York.

From the start of Apr oneworld frequent flyers will enjoy the full range of alliance benefits and services when flying Royal Air Maroc, while the one million-plus members of the carrier's Safar loyalty program will be able to earn and redeem awards on all oneworld members.

Oneworld Chief Executive Officer Rob Gurney said the "quality, service and global network offered by Royal Air Maroc will position oneworld as

Cambodia AirAsia

AIRASIA'S Group President Bo Lingam has flagged plans for the carrier to establish a new low-cost airline in Cambodia.

The intention was revealed during a meeting with Cambodian leaders earlier this week, the *Khmer Times* reports.

the preferred alliance in Africa, where Casablanca is a leading global financial centre".

Royal Air Maroc, which already codeshares with several oneworld member carriers including American Airlines, Iberia, Qatar Airways, Royal Jordanian and S7 Airlines, is the first new full member of the alliance to be added since 2014.

The airline's regional subsidiary, Royal Air Maroc Express, will also become a oneworld affiliate, and flights operated by the carrier will be available as part of the oneworld Explorer and Global Explorer fares from 01 Apr.

Other recent oneworld developments include the announcement of an alliance-branded lounge in Moscow (*TD* 20 Dec 2019), as well as the launch of a "fresh brand positioning".

QR, MH codeshare

QATAR Airways has expanded its codeshare agreement with Malaysia Airlines, providing pax with access to Sibu & Alor Setar in Malaysia, as well as Medan & Surabaya in Indonesia, while MH guests will be able to book travel to 20 new QR gateways across Europe, America and Africa.

The expanded partnership becomes active from 27 Jan.

MEANWHILE QR has added eight new cities across Kazakhstan, Philippines, Turkey, Angola, Ghana, France, and Cambodia.

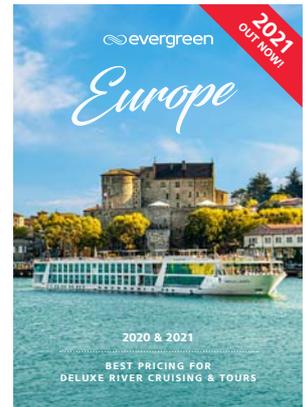
Brett joins CTM

JON Brett has been appointed to Corporate Travel Management's (CTM) board as a non-executive Director.

Effective from 31 Jan, the appointment is part of CTM's ongoing board and governance renewal process - more appointments on [page six](#).



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Fires drive down stays

PRELIMINARY accommodation data for Dec 2019 shows the Sydney drive regional market has been significantly impacted by the ongoing bushfire crisis, according to real estate analytics company STR.

The sub-market, defined as the two-hour drive radius from Greater Sydney, showed year-on-year, double-digit declines in three key performance metrics, including a 14.7% drop in room nights sold, a 14.5% decline in occupancy rates to 52.2%, and an 18.4% slump in the average daily rate to \$194.74.

Hotels in city metropolitan areas have not suffered the same sharp decline, which STR believes is attributable to the regional location of most bushfires.

“Because the physical impact of the bushfires has been predominantly across the Great Dividing Range of New South

Wales and Victoria, we’ve not yet seen significant demand decreases in the major city areas of Australia,” said STR Regional Manager - Pacific Matthew Burke.

“However, these regional locations are popular tourist spots for family holidays in vacation homes, hotels and holiday parks, and the post-Christmas period to the end of Jan is peak season,” he added.

Hotel occupancy in South Australia is also expected to be hit hard by the fires, STR has indicated, with the destruction to property on Kangaroo Island expected to have a direct impact on tourism in the short-term.

“The focus is on the wellbeing of those dealing with incredible devastation around the country...but we also want to do our part to keep the industry informed of hotel performance developments,” Burke said.

Bushfire donations

THE outpouring of support from the travel sector for victims of the bushfire crisis continues, with Qantas and its subsidiary Jetstar announcing a donation of \$1 million to the Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund.

The airlines have also set up a special funding page to donate to the Red Cross **HERE**.

Meanwhile the same charity has received a \$30,000 donation from Wyndham Destinations Asia Pacific, with the resort company also revealing it will be giving free holidays to Mt Hotham – Dinner Plain CFA volunteer firefighters who have been fighting fires in the Victorian High Country.

Another hospitality group doing its bit is Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, which is preparing to host a special fundraising event on 26 Jan at the Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort in Hawaii.

The company has also pledged \$7,270 to wildlife charity WIRES.



Window Seat

SOME people prefer to stay in lavish hotels with luxurious amenities and large open spaces, while others prefer a slightly cosier feel.

Indian Railways’ new “capsule-style” hotel at Mumbai’s Central Railway Station is definitely not one for the claustrophobes, boasting 30 small pods converted from a waiting room.

Opening at the end of the year, the somewhat confined accommodation offering has two categories - Classic and Suite, with the latter featuring a space for two people - for those who want to stretch out a bit.



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Plane fuel dump

DELTA Air Lines is being investigated by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) after a Shanghai-bound flight dumped fuel over several schools as it was returning to LAX after experiencing "an engine issue" on Tue.

A spokesperson for the airline told a press conference 13 cleaning crews had been dispatched to the schools after the incident, and they had reopened on Wed.

China A380 Melb

CHINA Southern will increase capacity on its Melbourne-Guangzhou route between 11 Jan and 14 Feb, using an Airbus A380 on the route during the summer peak season for the first time.

The A380 will offer eight First class, 70 Business class and 428 Economy class seats on the route, which is usually serviced by A330 aircraft.

EbixCash expansion

AMADEUS has announced a strategic travel technology partnership with EbixCash to deliver more personalised experiences across travel touchpoints in the Asia Pacific and UAE.

Ebix CEO Robin Raina said the expansion of EbixCash to the Amadeus Travel Platform would "empower travel agents and travellers alike".

Contiki's vegan trip

CONTIKI has launched a new eight-day vegan-friendly food odyssey from Berlin to Budapest.

The Vegan Food European Explorer tour will include a vegan cooking class in Budapest, a dinner cruise along the Danube and interactive food tour in Berlin.

The tour departs Berlin on 16 Aug, with bookings made by 27 Feb starting from \$2,264 under Contiki's Global Sale.



THE first direct flight from Shanghai to Perth arrived to much fanfare yesterday morning.

China Eastern's trial thrice-weekly service will operate for five weeks (see **page one**) arriving into Perth at 9.50am and departing at 11.50am until Mon 17 Feb.

The seasonal trial is a partnership between the State Govt, through Tourism WA, Perth Airport, Tourism Australia and China Eastern Airlines.

The WA Government will work with the airline to secure the route as a regular service.

Tourism Minister Paul Papalia welcomed the arrival, highlighting



the potential impact of ongoing direct flights.

"Shanghai has a population of more than 26m people, which is more than the number of people who live in Australia," he said.

"Ongoing direct flights between Shanghai and Perth would open up a massive new visitor market and the interest in the trial flights has been encouraging."

Papalia is **pictured** second from right with other dignitaries welcoming the plane.

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Sun Island support

SUN Island Tours is offering agents affected by the Excite Holidays collapse (**TD** 13 Jan) "all the assistance or support they may require" with Mediterranean bookings.

The travel wholesaler said it could assist with re-booking Greek ferry services in addition to providing ground support and advice on Greece and Mediterranean products.

Sun Island Tours can be reached on 1300 665 673 and via info@sunislandtours.com.au.

PM on US warning

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Scott Morrison has thanked US President Donald Trump for de-escalating travel advice issued to Americans heading down under (**TD** 14 Jan).

"That's one that particularly needed my intervention and I was very happy to do that...there's a bit of a misconception overseas that the entire continent has been affected," Morrison told reporters on Tue.

"You can still go swimming on the reef, still be visiting Kakadu."

NT Tourism conf

THE Tourism: Towards 2030 Conference is set to return to Darwin on 25 Mar and Alice Springs on 27 Mar under the theme "Tourism Excellence".

More information and tickets for the Darwin event can be found **HERE** and Alice Springs **HERE**.

Etihad targets zero

ETIHAD Airways is aiming to achieve zero net carbon emissions by 2050 and halve its 2019 net emission levels by 2035, it announced yesterday at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week.

"Etihad...is taking an active role in reducing the impact of aviation on the environment through initiatives ranging from optimised fuel management to sustainable financing practices," Etihad Aviation Group Chief Executive Officer Tony Douglas said.

Club Med 2020 out

CLUB Med has released its 2020 Sun & Snow Resort brochure, featuring new resorts such as Club Med Seychelles, as well as those that have undergone renovations.

The brochure also includes new Club Med services, such as the New Amazing Family Program.

CLICK HERE to see the brochure.

Oceania world '22

OCEANIA Cruises has released the details of its 2022 Around the World in 180 Days voyage, which will set off on 16 Jan 2022 aboard the recently refurbished *Insignia*.

The cruise will visit 44 countries, including destinations in the South Pacific, New Zealand, Australia, Asia, Africa and Northern Europe, making 91 port calls and offering 19 overnight stays.

Guests will receive a number of inclusions, such as onboard medical care, shoreside events and US\$1,000 credit per room.

Tokyo refreshes for games



TOKYO Tourism has revealed details of numerous "revitalising" redevelopments for the capital city in the lead-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, taking place 25 Aug to 06 Sep.

Last year saw the refresh of Shibuya Station and its surrounds, while this year, Tokyo's waterfront, Nihonbashi, Toranomon, and Shinjuku areas and more will all undergo makeovers.

Noteworthy projects include the new Toranomon Hills Station on the Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line, which will begin operations right before the start of the Olympic Games, and Toranomon Hills

Station Tower, which will be integrated with the station and reach completion in 2023.

As part of the Nihonbashi Revitalisation Plan, construction will begin this year to take the Metropolitan Expressway underground, while the now covered up Nihonbashi Bridge will "once again be a centrepiece" for the area's waterfront.

Additionally, Shinjuku is set to receive "another spectacular tower", the 48-storey Kabukicho 1-chome Project (**pictured**), which will house a hotel, a cinema and restaurants, and is due for completion in 2022.



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Hodgman homage

OUTGOING Tas Premier Will Hodgman paid homage to the state's tourism industry in his resignation speech (**TD** 15 Jan). "Our mighty tourism industry... has been at the centre of my government's plan", he said, highlighting the increased investment into events, festivals, and eco-tourism attractions. "We've had the highest rate of growth in international tourists in the country, and we've doubled the number of international visitors to the state over the last five years...supporting local businesses and employing more Tasmanians".

Hyatt Headspace

HYATT Hotels Corporation and Headspace, a meditation and mindfulness app with nearly 60 million users in 190 countries, have linked up to launch a global wellbeing collaboration.

The collaboration will bring mindfulness exercises, guided meditations and sleep content to Hyatt corporate customers, who will be able to purchase Headspace meeting packages, and guests, who will get free access to Headspace via in-room content.

The program is set to launch in Hyatt hotels around the world "in the coming months".

New vision for Scamander



VISION Hotels is celebrating its first month as the new owners of the formerly known Scamander Beach Hotel/Motel, by renaming it as Scamander Beach Resort (**pictured**).

The property, located on the East Coast of Tasmania and just minute's walk from Scamander Beach, is undergoing a full refurbishment, which began earlier this month.

The resort features Ocean View and River View rooms with individual balconies overlooking the Scamander River and ocean, as well as Garden View rooms that provide direct access to fenced children's play areas.

"Our operating plan includes initiatives that redefine Scamander Beach Resort's identity, streamlines operations,

and aligns our team members to deliver on friendliness, every single time," said Director of Vision Hotels and Owner of Scamander Beach Resort Brendon Deeley.

The resort is open for business - **CLICK HERE** to visit the website.

APPOINTMENTS



WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Luxury safari travel brand **Singita** has appointed **Christine Cheng** as Sales Manager for South-East Asia. Cheng brings 15 years of experience in the luxury hotel industry to the role, and has represented brands such as Aman, Baglioni and Shangri-La.

Karl Peterson has been elected as Chairman of the board for **Sabre Corporation** after Larry Kellner stepped down from the position on Tue. Peterson has been a member of the board for more than a decade and is also a Managing Partner of TPG Pace Group. He has also been appointed to replace Kellner as Chairman of the Board's Governance and Nominating Committee and Executive Committee at Sabre.

Alaska Airlines has promoted several of its leaders, including **Sangita Woerner** to SVP of Marketing and Guest Experience and **Charu Jain** to a new role as Senior Vice President of Merchandising and Innovation Guest Experience. **Vikram Baskaran** will succeed Jain as the Vice President of Information Technology Services and **Kyle Levine** has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Legal and General Counsel.

Travel and event management company **TAG** has announced the appointment of **Justine Liddelow** as Director of Commercial, USA. Liddelow has over 25 years' experience in the travel industry, including several previous leadership roles.

Aurora Expeditions has welcomed **Annabel Carroll** to its team as PR Manager. Carroll joins from Polkadot PR, where she worked on accounts such as The Mulia, Hostelworld and The Empire State Building.

Vingroup scraps

VIETNAM'S largest listed firm Vingroup JSC has scrapped its plan to launch an airline in 2020 and will instead "focus on technology development and industrial production".

Chief Executive Nguyen Viet Quang said Vietnam's aviation market had been developing rapidly and if the group launched another airline, it would lead to oversupply.

The company last year applied for a licence to launch an airline in 2020 but had not yet ordered any planes and will now withdraw from the aviation transport services sector.



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- Multi-night stays in iconic resorts that celebrate their picturesque settings in Banff National Park, Whistler, Victoria, and British Columbia
- Two nights at the unique Swarovski crystal-infused Sparkling Hill Resort
- Take a private whale watching cruise and a visit to Butchart Gardens in Victoria Island
- Flightseeing by floatplane from Victoria to Vancouver (weather permitting)



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New Orleans & Mississippi River Plantation Country

8 Days from New Orleans return

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- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – A private culinary demonstration & lunch at the New Orleans School of Cooking
- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – A private mint julep reception and mansion house dinner at Nottoway Plantation & Resort
- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – Private streetcar tour with New Orleans resident along Canal Street and St. Charles Avenue
- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – Private presentation by expert Nellie Watson who shares insights on the unique environment of the New Orleans' basin



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Yosemite and Sequoia: John Muir's California

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- Visit the Presidio, a former army base that was the home of the Buffalo Soldiers, African-American cavalymen who played a key role in the history of the national parks
- Discover the night sky over Sequoia National Park



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