2023 ITINERARIES NOW AVAILABLE!

The Mediterranean, Atlantic Coast & Northern Europe

SEE DEPARTURES











Travel Daily First with the news

www.traveldaily.com.au Thursday 9th December 2021

Ponant 2023 on sale

PONANT'S 2023 itineraries to the Mediterranean, the Atlantic Coast and Northern Europe are now available to book.

New guests can receive \$800 off their first voyage - visit the cover page for more information.

Go and Get Local

CALLING all group travel specialists - Get Local 2022 will take place on 15 and 16 Feb at ICC Sydney.

If you organise group travel conferences, Get Local will showcase destinations, products, and more than 150 suppliers across the region.

Based off the award-wining formula of Get Global, Get Local will feature education sessions, and more - visit page eight.



Domestic in good shape

DOMESTIC tourism is anticipated to recover to prepandemic levels during the next financial year, a new report released by Tourism Research Australia suggests.

The Domestic Tourism Forecasts 2021-22 to 2025-26 study also forecasts that domestic tourism volumes will surpass peak 2018/19 levels during the 2023/24 period, while a more moderate growth trajectory is predicted to take place between 2023/24 and 2025/26.

Primary economic factors driving the optimistic outlook include a declining risk of lockdowns and border closures, a pent-up demand for travel, an accumulating disposable income built up by many Aussies during lockdown, as well as a higher than average accrual of work

Carnival cancels

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has extended its pause in operations for Australian sailings.

The cruise line has cut voyages through to and including 08 Apr on board Carnival Splendor, as well as through to and including 10 Apr on board Carnival Spirit.

Travellers booked on any impacted sailings will be contacted for details on the flexible alternative options Carnival is offering.

The cruise line said it would resume "when the time is right." leave available.

However, some of the boost for the domestic economy is likely to come at the expense of international travel, the report claims, with Aussies still anxious about complexity and cost when planning trips overseas.

The number of domestic trips have already troughed in 2020/21, with a forecast to rise sharply in both 2021/22 and 2022/23, while the number of day trips is also predicted to increase by 14% in the 2021/22 and by 15% in the 2022/23 year.

"We know there is massive pent-up demand from Australians who want to travel interstate, so we expect 2022 to be a bumper year for domestic tourism and this report shows this," Federal Minister Dan Tehan enthused.

EY's Green loyalty

ETIHAD Airways has launched a new green loyalty rewards program called Conscious Choices by Etihad Guest.

Rewarding members for reducing their carbon footprint, Conscious Choices allows members to earn miles and other rewards for offsetting flights, flying lighter and choosing the environmentally friendly option.

Conscious Choices is the latest initiative in Etihad's sustainability mission to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and halve its 2019 emissions by 2035.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including a photo page from CAPA - Centre for Aviation, a cover page from Ponant, Business Events News, and full pages from:

- Viking Cruises
- Get Local

Viking's latest show

VIKING is today showcasing its new ships and itineraries.

New cruises include the 15day Iceland & Norway's Arctic Explorer, the 15-day Great Lakes Collection, and the Greenland, Iceland, Norway & Beyond.

Viking itineraries are always inclusive, with travellers receiving deluxe accommodation with a king-sized bed, choice of multiple dining options, and more - p7.

RAILEUROPE

Inspiring connections







Meet travel's new Roamies

EXCLUSIVE

G ADVENTURES has partnered with hostel management platform Hostelworld to create a new offering for 18 to 35 year-old travellers.

Available to book from today, the new Roamies collection departs for the first time on 08 May 2022, and features 38 tours in 15 countries staying across more than 50 hostels.

The collaboration aims to rethink the traditional hostel experience by placing a greater emphasis on community engagement, an area younger travellers feel particularly passionate about, with the packages investing heavily in local and small businesses.

G Adventures founder Bruce Poon Tip told *Travel Daily* the motivation for launching the new style of youth travel was born from listening to the needs of the segment and adapting product to suit their changing appetites over the last 24 months.

"Younger travellers don't want traditional tours," he said.

"We've been forced into a start-

up mode here at G Adventures; just before the pandemic we were one of the largest operators in the world and during this forced pause we've had to rethink everything that we're doing, so linking up with a partner like Hostelworld was an exciting opportunity to put a new idea in front of a segment of travellers who I believe will be one of the first groups to come back," Poon Tip added.

Prices for Roamies trips start from \$249 per person, with the initial batch of tours available in countries like Costa Rica, Cambodia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Thailand and Vietnam.

Experiences in SE Asia for example sees travellers food-crawling through Ho Chi Minh City, zipping around Phnom Penh on a cyclo tour, biking along the Mekong, and staying at the Lub d Cambodia Siem Reap hostel.

Poon Tip added the collaboration with Hostelworld allows the operator to engage with smaller hostels at scale, & to redefine hostels by shedding light on some "rock star" properties.





Luxury with a purpose



WHILE the pandemic has sadly seen so many travel agencies either hibernate or close down, one operation decided 2020 was the perfect time to launch to the Aussie market.

Opened in Dec 2020 by Yvonne Verstandig, Y Travel's mission is to to shift the collective luxury travel mentality towards empowering people to travel more holistically.

"I have always been an enthusiastic and immersive traveller who lives and breathes each destination I travel to, each hotel I stay in, each experience I embark on, and each community I visit," Verstandig said.

The agency advises clients on how to build trips that positively impact the environment and local community, as well as tweaking itineraries to suit each traveller's quirks and preferences.

Not long after launching, the company acquired boutique Virtuoso agency Trans World

Takeover unopposed

THE proposed purchase of Sydney Airport by Sydney Aviation Alliance will not be opposed by the ACCC.

In a release delivered this morning, the consumer watchdog said the acquisition "would be unlikely to substantially lessen competition in a market that already has such little competition".

Travel, creating a successful team of 10.

Pictured: The Y Travel team ready for a purposeful future.



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VA enhances distribution

VIRGIN Australia has partnered with Ireland-based airline retail technology company Datalex, as part of the carrier's broader strategy to enhance its digital content distribution.

The tie-up will see Datalex charged with upgrading VA's internal and external digital interfaces, as well as commercial tools and platforms, with the Datalex Direct and Datalex NDC products to be deployed as part of its undertaking.

Commenting on the partnership, VA CEO Jayne Hrdlicka said it was important that the airline steps up its pace of content distribution with customers and B2B partners.

"As a business we were probably a decade behind in many respects in big advances in digital technologies for our guests and in digital technologies for our people and in leveraging next

generation technology for making better and smarter business decisions more quickly," she conceded.

"[The deal] will enable us to move into next generation retailing and work in a much more efficient and effective way across both our direct channels and with our indirect partners and do a much better job distributing content."

COMO in Laucala

COMO Group will open a new private island resort experience on Fiji's Laucala Island on 15 Dec, offering 25 residences themed on various aspects of Fijian culture.

Resort facilities include a fitness centre, a leisure centre to host meetings, a kids' club and dining experiences, while each residence is equipped with a private swimming pool - more info HERE.



ATE to Sydney in 22

THE International Convention Centre, Sydney (ICC Sydney) has been selected to host the next Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE) tourism event in 2022.

Australia's largest trade event, scheduled to take place from 15-18 May 2022, provides tourism operators with the chance to meet with travel wholesalers and agents from around Australia and the world, with next year's gathering to follow 2021's lead and again take the form of a hybrid format.

"The long-term benefits from ATE are substantial, the relationships and future business it establishes can help grow Australia's inbound tourism industry, which was worth \$45 billion annually pre-COVID-19, and will create jobs across the country," Federal Tourism Minister Dan Tehan said.

Around 1,700 delegates are expected to attend ATE.



Window Seat

IN PERHAPS one of the most profound signs that we all need to get travelling again, a US boss has reportedly fired 900 employees over Zoom.

While in-person activities like holidays have been limited over the last two years, most people agree that when you get the boot at work, the least an employer can do is invite you to do it in the office, but for the CEO of mortgage firm Better. com, this was clearly not a pertinent consideration.

"If you're on this call you're part of the unlucky group being laid off," Vishal Garg told the group, adding that cost-cutting was the reason.

Garg neglected to tell the unlucky group that his company received US\$750m in investment just last week.

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Silversea is the defining name in luxurious cruise travel by distinguishing itself in the ultra-luxury market with its elegant, all-suite ships, all-inclusive pricing, worldwide itineraries and genuine hospitality. With a strong growth trajectory for Asia Pacific we are seeking outstanding and passionate travel professionals who take personal pride in their work to join our team in our office based in Sydney.

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- Silversky Concierge, Asia Pacific (Air/Flights Specialist) who will be responsible for
 dealing with guests and agents to coordinate travel arrangements and issue airline tickets for
 Silversea's air guests. Fares and ticketing expertise and Amadeus GDS knowledge is essential.
- **Trade Reservations Consultant** that will be responsible for trade reservations and selling Silversea Cruises as well as any related add-on products.

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

businesseventsnews.com.au

AUSTRALIA LOSES 259 EVENTS

AUSTRALIA has endured 259 international business event cancellations since the Federal Government first closed Australia's international borders in Mar 2020, Forward Calendar data from the Association of Australian Convention Bureaux (AACB) shows.

The accumulated impact on the country's events industry has seen 100,000 international delegates withdraw from the schedule, resulting in the loss of 700,000 delegate days, and \$420 million in anticipated revenue.

And while Australia's events economy is on the verge of reopening to international visitors again, the rotational cycle of bids may mean a significant delay in restoring the country's calendar back to pre-pandemic levels.

"It has taken convention bureaux years of positive engagement to position Australia ahead of competing countries to secure these international business events," AACB President, Michael Matthews said.

"Global rotation of many of these opportunities means we are simply not able to host again



in the next year or two, and some may see five to 10 years until regional rotation allows us to contest and bid again," he added.

The AACB also believes that Australia's recent decision to delay the reopening of its borders by two weeks will likely adversely impact the future prospect of landing big ticket events.

"Event organisers around the world are watching - defining our global reputation - and impacting destination selection today for business events in future years," the organisation noted.

Destinations International's President and CEO Don Walsh also believes the delay to the borders will ultimately have an impact on the sector.

"In this difficult environment, reputation, certainty and trust are critical when the global competition for visitors has never been higher," Walsh said.

AACB stated that supply chain businesses will continue to run at a loss well into 2022, and that the retention of specialist industry skills is of particular concern for the events sector.

Melb Skyfarm

MELBOURNE Skyfarm has been revealed, a downtown public rooftop carpark that has been transformed into a bountiful urban farm.

Works on Skyfarm will continue over the next 12 months, and when complete, will feature business conference facilities & event spaces, sustainable & contemporary hospitality sites, and more.

Skyfarm is located in the Seafarer's precinct, and overlooks the Yarra River to the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre.

ITB partnership

THE Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International and ITB China have joined forces to promote education and professional development in the hospitality sector.

This year, China's leading B2B travel trade show will be held entirely digitally, on the ITB China virtual platform.

OzHarvest help

MELBOURNE Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) is proud to support OzHarvest to feed communities in need.

Over eight weeks, MCEC's will prepare nutritious cooked meals for OzHarvest to help address the ongoing need for food relief.

SITE goes local

THE Society for Incentive Travel Excellence's (SITE) ANZ inaugural conference will be held on 14 Feb at Shangri-La Sydney.

The organisation's first ever conference in the region can be registered for **HERE**.

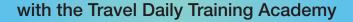
Winx stand opens

THE WINX Stand, named after the retired champion Australian Thoroughbred racehorse, has opened at Randwick Racecourse.

The new WINX Stand is a two-level \$46.6 million state-of-the-art venue, expected to play host to Sydney's top local events, and attract domestic and international meetings and events, including conferences, gala dinners, exhibitions, and other boutique to large-scale celebrations.

Professionals can download the WINX Stand brochure **HERE**.

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CAPA's Australia Pacific Aviation

Travel Daily Summit takes flight

MURRAY Warner, Serko; Ashley Awramenko, CTM;

Marc Gold, CTM.

Thu 9th December 2021



KIRSTY Dyer-Grose, Air New Zealand; Kay Shrimpton BCD Travel; Adam Kelly Singapore Airlines.

AFTER a 20-month hiatus, CAPA's Australia Pacific Aviation Summit was once again in the air this week as the travel industry converged on Randwick Racecourse to hear from the who's who of Australian aviation.

CAPA – Centre for Aviation hosted its first in-person event since the pandemic began, with the Summit being attended by 370+ aviation, tourism and corporate travel industry professionals across two full days of thought provoking discussions, as well as 165 tuning

into the live stream from around the

Key speakers included CEOs of Qantas Airways, Air New Zealand, Virgin Australia, REX Airlines, and Australia's newest aviation entrant. Bonza.

The event also included a Gala Dinner which honoured the international carriers that continued to serve Australia and its repatriation efforts during the pandemic.

CHRISTINA Werkstetter, Sydney Airport with Andrew Best, Hawaiian Airlines.



QANTAS CEO Alan Joyce in a Q&A Session with Peter Harbison, CAPA Chairman Emeritus.

GREG McCarthy, CTM; Bob Shaw, Serko; Simon Dodd,

SIMON

Elsegood, CAPA Centre for Aviation; Amanda Frack, Langham; Sophie Meng, Langham.

RACHEL Gatumia, Amadeus; Lisa Pisani-Dimech, Singapore Airlines.



LEADERS forum with University of NSW, Professor Epidemiology, Mary-Louise McLaws; Tourism Australia, Managing Director, Phillipa Harrison; Australian Capital Territory Government, Chief Minister, Minister for Tourism, Andrew Barr MLA; Peter Harbison Chairman Emeritus CAPA- Centre for Aviation; TTF, CEO, Margy Osmond; Federal Government, Federal Member for Wentworth, Dave Sharma MP.





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WINNIE Pham, Resolution Life; Jen Barclay, NARTA International; Penny Meakes, University of Sydney.





Budget carriers lead race

LOW-COST carriers are more effective in lowering the amount of carbon produced per passenger, according to a new report from CAPA - Centre for Aviation and Envest Global.

Based on 2019 data, the carbon emission intensity for each airline in the Airline Sustainability Benchmarking Report - 2021 was calculated based on tonnes of CO2 emitted per million revenue passenger kilometres, with Hungarian ultra budget carrier Wizz Air taking the top spot as the most carbon efficient brand.

Ryanair also performed well taking third spot, while Hainan Airlines and KLM performed the best of the full service airlines.

Qantas finished a little better than mid-field at about 89 tonnes per million passenger kilometres, with Envest Global Executive

Director David Wills stating bigger airlines face more hurdles to become carbon competitive.

"More traditional full-service airlines such as Japan Airlines and British Airways have higher emission intensities impacted by older fleets and low passenger load factors," he said.

Tourism icon reboots

THE Eureka Skydeck is about to relaunch to the market as Melbourne Skydeck on 15 Dec, featuring a new giant virtual reality theatre for 24 people.

The Journey Beyond-owned attraction now offers guests a special VR film zooming through the best features of Melbourne.

A new website has also been introduced and tickets are on sale now - call 03 9693 8888.

National Pastry Day



ALTHOUGH National Pastry Day is technically an American celebration, we think its fine to get in on the action celebrating these tasty treats on 09 Dec.

Pastry dates back as far as the ancient Egyptians, who served pastry dough made out of grain meal and sweetened it with honey, and the ancient Greeks and Romans who enjoyed sweets made out of paper-thin pastry dough.

In Europe in medieval times a key ingredient was added to pastry dough - butter.

Today pastries are found around the world and exist in both savoury and sweet forms, so whatever your inclination, you're sure to be able to find a pastry to celebrate the day with.

Collins gets facelift

SOFITEL Melbourne on Collins is set to unveil a \$15 million refurbishment of the hotel's 360 guestrooms in Mar.

Renowned architect I.M. Pei, who originally designed the hotel, has again influenced the approach of the rejuvenated interiors.

The refurbishment will bring a mixture of brand-new contemporary carpet & furniture, state-of-the-art modern room fixtures, and French-inspired photography, with an understated minimalist style.

Each refurbished room also boasts new beds and bed heads. new furniture throughout including a new television and TV cabinet, a working table and luggage rack, new carpet & repainted walls, and a blue armchair-footrest, the hotels' "statement furniture art piece".

Rockhampton tick

ALLIANCE Airlines' Rockhampton aircraft maintenance facility has been approved, following a two-year feasibility and planning process.

The \$60 million project will be built at Rockhampton Airport, and will involve the building of a three-bay, 10,000m2 facility to support Alliance's 74 Fokker and Embraer aircraft.

Sponsorship deal

MARRIOTT International's The Luxury Collection will mark its Australian debut with The Tasman, A Luxury Collection Hotel, through a partnership with the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

The Luxury Collection has become a Hobart Race Village Partner to the 2021 Race, ahead of the brand's first Australian hotel, which opens next Fri.



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.

Manager. Swart has more than 15 years of experience in the luxury hotel industry, including being part of the team at Siam@Siam Design Hotel Bangkok, Stay Resort, and Royal President. He will bring this experience to the Maldives' newest resort, situated in the Raa Atoll.

Crowne Plaza Sydney Coogee Beach, an IHG Hotel, has made two important leadership appointments, naming a new General Manager, Melinda Lampier, and Director of Sales and Marketing, Benjamin Ferry. Lampier has extensive hospitality experience, having worked for Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide and Accor, where Ferry also started his career, prior to a stint at Star Entertainment Group with The

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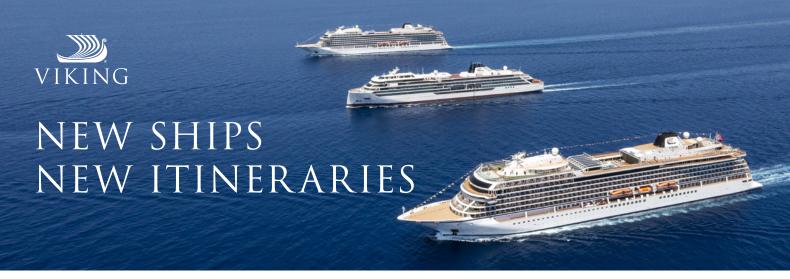
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15 DAYS | BERGEN - REYKJAVÍK or vice versa

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- · Complimentary shore excursions

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- Complimentary Viking Expedition Jacket for you to keep (Expedition – polar itineraries only)
- Enriching onboard learning programs led by the world-class Viking Expedition Team and Viking Resident Scientists (Expedition)
- The use of land and sea excursion gear, including boots, waterproof pants and binoculars (Expedition)

\$2,800 GREENI AND

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