



CRUISE
WHITSUNDAYS

Experience Counts



Only operator with a pontoon in the Whitsundays



The most diverse selection of Whitehaven Beach tours



Incredible accommodation on the Great Barrier Reef



Major sponsor of EcoBarge Clean Seas & community events

Here at Cruise Whitsundays, we know how lucky we are to call the region home. We've cruised the Whitsundays for longer than any other operator, with the largest fleet, and offer the most experiences in the region. Sharing the best of the Whitsundays with you and your clients, we know the tides better, the weather better, and most importantly, all the best spots.

Whether it's sleeping in the first underwater accommodation on the Great Barrier Reef, being dazzled by the beauty of Whitehaven Beach or transferring you between the region's magical islands, we look forward to showcasing the best of the Whitsundays with you and your clients in 2022 and beyond.

Thank you to our loyal trade partners for your continued support — we wish you and your clients a safe and happy festive season.

[CRUISEWHITSUNDAYS.COM](https://www.cruisewhitsundays.com)

JOURNEY BEYOND

Cruise Whitsundays

JOURNEY Beyond's Cruise Whitsundays says it looks forward to showcasing the stunning destination to customers in 2022, including its innovative ReefSleep experience, sailing adventures, island transfers and more - see the **cover page** for more info.

Bamboo to fly MEL-SGN

VIETNAMESE low cost carrier Bamboo Airways has confirmed plans to operate direct flights from Melbourne to Ho Chi Minh City, with the news coinciding with the airline's acceptance into Australian BSP (**TD** 15 Dec).

The plan is to commence twice weekly services on the new route in Apr 2022, using Boeing 787-9 aircraft, expanding to four weekly flights in due course.

The carrier said it would also look at Hanoi flights, with Bamboo Airways Deputy General Director, Nguyen Manh Quan, noting that Australia was a key international tourism market for Vietnam.

More than 300,000 Vietnamese people live and work in Australia,

and pre-pandemic both Vietnam Airlines and Jetstar flew to Ho Chi Minh City from Melbourne.

Nguyen said he expected the new Bamboo Airways flights "will help maximise passengers' benefits when travelling between the two countries while making a substantial contribution to the promotion of bilateral cooperation in economy, culture and people-to-people exchange".

MEANWHILE Vietnam Airlines will resume its Sydney services on 16 Jan, as part of the phased reintroduction approved by the Vietnamese Govt (**TD** 14 Dec).

Emerald excitement

THE Scenic Group is today highlighting its recent official brand launch for Emerald Cruises in Australia, in the lead up to the 2022 debut of superyacht *Emerald Azzurra*.

See photos from the event and more on **page six** of today's **TD**.

Save the Date
23/24 SEASON LAUNCH EVENT

Register your interest today for Quark Expeditions 23/24 launch events.

SYDNEY
JANUARY 19, 2022 | 6-9 PM
[REGISTER HERE](#)

MELBOURNE
FEBRUARY 1, 2022 | 6-9 PM
[REGISTER HERE](#)

BRISBANE
FEBRUARY 2, 2022 | 6-9 PM
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Santa flies with VA

SANTA Claus will make an appearance on all Virgin Australia flights this week in the lead up to Christmas Day, joining the VA crew ahead of taking his sleigh to the skies on Fri evening.

Festive young flyers will also receive a special "Santa Request Form" where they can share their last minute Christmas requests, with flight attendants collecting the documents and passing them onto Santa for review.

See traveldaily.com.au/videos.

AABH city packs

AUSTRALIA & Beyond Holidays (AABH) has released new Melbourne and Sydney "City Packs" combining quality accommodation with breakfast plus flights and activities.

AABH Managing Partner, Simon Bernardi, said the "great value" packages aimed to give customers a reason to travel.

"More importantly they provide travel agents full 10% commission on all components of the package, including the air.

"With suppliers cutting commissions and charging fees we are determined to make sure our agents receive proper remuneration for their sales," Bernardi said.

The packages are available for travel until 31 Mar 2022 - more details at aabh.com.au.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news, a cover page from *Journey Beyond* and a full page from *Scenic*.



Your BULA Bubble Awaits

Book with Marriott to Win your own Fiji Getaway

ENJOY TODAY
www.expedia.com.au/taap

telephone
1800 726 618

email
expedia-au@discovertheworld.com.au

ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP

CANADA READY TO EXPLORE

[BOOK NOW](#)

In partnership with **CANADA** FOR GLASSING HEARTS

PEACE OF MIND
ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP
BOOKING PLAN



Window Seat

THERE'S plenty of anxiety around travel these days, but the operators of the city rail system in Berlin, Germany have come up with a perfect solution to ease passenger angst.

The BVG public transport company is now offering customers the opportunity to purchase edible tickets impregnated with hemp oil, promising they will have a "calming effect" when eaten.

The special tickets, priced at about \$10 for a day pass, are made from edible paper and sprinkled with "no more than three drops" of hemp oil.

BVG says that because the oil was obtained from the seed of the cannabis plant, rather than the flower, it does not contain intoxicants such as THC.

The tickets (pictured) are "completely harmless to health and completely legal," the company added, saying "this way you can travel hassle-free around Berlin all day and then simply swallow your Christmas stress along with your ticket".



Zero Oct QF passengers

THE Qantas Group did not carry any international passengers at all in Oct, according to the latest figures from the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE).

Overall passenger traffic for the month was just over 46,000 travellers - down 33% on the

same month in 2020, with BITRE noting the severe impact of travel restrictions due to COVID-19.

For the 12 months ending 31 Oct overall traffic was 1.145 million, down 93% on the prior year and 97% less than the pre-pandemic period.

The overall international seat utilisation on Australian flights in Oct this year was just 8.7%.

Singapore Airlines had the largest market share, with 19.5% of the total, closely followed by Qatar Airways with 18.1%, Emirates with 16.4%, Etihad with 5.8% and Air NZ with 5.2%.

Interestingly, SIA offshoot Scoot accounted for 1.8% of total international passenger traffic to/from Australia in Oct.

A total of 42 international airlines operated scheduled services to and from Australia during the month, and while pax numbers were down, overall capacity was actually up 45.2%.

Excite DOCA done

THE liquidators of the collapsed Excite Holidays have confirmed that the Deed of Company Arrangement (DOCA) negotiated as part of the administration process has now been finalised.

KPMG partner Phil Quinlan advised creditors of various companies involved in the cataclysm including Excite Holidays (Australia), Global Travel Specialists, Events NG and Travel Serv Co, that the Deed Fund had now been distributed.

"Accordingly we retired as Deed Administrators of the Companies effective 30 Nov 2021, and the Companies are no longer subject to DOCA," he advised.

Under the DOCA (TD 18 Feb 2020) the Directors of Excite, George Papaioannou and Nick Stavropoulos, contributed \$100,000 to the administration of the company which collapsed in early 2020 owing about \$35 million to hundreds of creditors.

Now that the DOCA has been finalised, control of the various Excite Holidays entities returns to the Directors.

Keep goes Beyond

TRAVEL sector legend Lyn Keep has returned to the industry as Head of Supplier Relations at Travel Beyond Group.

The highly experienced Keep was with Helloworld's Show Group Enterprises for more than 25 years, leaving the company in Jul this year.

Travel Beyond CEO Tim Lane said the business had evolved, adding that "as we head into 2022 with a new direction we are looking for specific skills".

"Lyn has an impeccable reputation and her passion and drive to continue in the industry is remarkable...we are thrilled she is able to join our team across Australia & NZ," Lane added.

QR ACEs the test

QATAR Airways has become the first airline to make a carbon transaction on the International Air Transportation Association's Aviation Carbon Exchange (ACE).

The initiative is a centralised marketplace where airlines and other aviation stakeholders can trade carbon dioxide emission reduction units for compliance or voluntary offsetting purposes.

With a secure and easy-to-use trading environment, ACE offers the highest transparency in terms of price and availability of emission reduction units while simplifying the process for air carriers to access carbon markets.

The initiative is said to "open a new chapter in the promotion of environmental sustainability".

Kimpton opens Feb

THE newly branded Kimpton Margot Hotel Sydney will officially open on 01 Feb 2022, after transforming from its former identity as Primus Hotel Sydney.

The IHG property has 172 "deco inspired" rooms and suites, a rooftop pool and an array of public spaces including a majestic pillared lobby and the Luke's Kitchen eatery, headed up by celebrity chef Luke Mangan.

See kimptonmargotsydney.com.

HURRY, OFFER ENDS SOON!

NCL'S **MERRIEST DEAL** + UP TO **35% OFF** CRUISES*

free BEVERAGE PACKAGE & MORE*

LEARN MORE

NCL Feel Free

*Conditions apply.

EXCLUSIVE

CITY PACKS

Flights, Accommodation, Breakfast & Activities
From \$420 pp

AUSTRALIA & BEYOND HOLIDAYS

All Components 100% Commissionable

Find out More

Singapore switch

NEW procedures for travellers to Singapore who test positive for COVID-19 or are identified as a close contact have become effective from this week.

Travellers residing in hotels will now recover or isolate in their rooms by default, rather than being assessed by the Ministry of Health for either in-situ recovery or conveyance to a Government COVID-19 care facility.

Fully vaccinated travellers will be issued an Isolation Order to remain in their accommodation for 10 days, or 14 days for those who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated - after which they will be automatically discharged without further test requirements.

Guests who have a Singapore residence and wish to recover there may seek assistance from the Ministry to be conveyed to their homes, while those whose hotels are unsuitable for isolation will be transferred to an appropriate care facility.

NZ seeks innovators

AIR New Zealand has launched a call for traditional aviation manufactures as well as entrepreneurs from across the globe to help achieve its aspirational goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The carrier hopes to get a zero emissions aircraft in the air within five years, and has released a formal Product Requirements Document to help guide innovators with the building, launch or marketing of zero emission/novel propulsion aircraft in New Zealand.

Intended to kickstart discussion for ongoing collaboration, the paper suggests options on how to accelerate and deploy technologies such as hybrid, hydrogen or electric systems for new aircraft.

A timeline in the document suggests a firm order contract could be placed by 2023, with the full requirements available for download by **CLICKING HERE**.

Traveleague hosts 80 for lunch!



WHILE somewhat smaller than its pre-COVID incarnation, there was still plenty of bonhomie and travel industry spirit at the 2021 Traveleague Christmas Lunch hosted last week in Melbourne.

About 80 people were able to get together and celebrate the year that was, with organiser Craig Hunt saying he was encouraged by the turnout after

restriction changes allowed the lunch to go ahead.

“Next year will again be bigger and better,” he promised, adding that celebrating 94 years it was great to see the resilience of the industry on show.

The event saw many well known faces from the Victorian travel sector in attendance, including the group **pictured** above.



As we head towards 2022, telling COVID “This industry ain’t big enough for the both of us” couldn’t be more timely as we gear up for border openings and international travel resumption. And Colorado Tourism echoes this message in this fun illustration starring the local team and plenty of the state’s hidden gems that are waiting for Australians to rediscover them.

Colorado Tourism Office and partners, Aspen and Denver, are offering TD readers a little Christmas cheer with one \$100 Mastercard e-gift card up for grabs, as well as five bespoke Colorado puzzles.

To enter the prize draw, correctly answer the three questions below and send to comps@traveldaily.com.au

Can you spot Denver’s outdoor natural amphitheatre? What’s its name?

How many rocks can you count around the natural hot spring pool?

How many destination logos are in this Colorado scene?

Rex takes a slice of BNE-MEL



REX Airlines' Brisbane-Melbourne flights took off for the first time on Fri (pictured), in a further expansion of the carrier's domestic jet network.

The airline is operating double-daily Brisbane-Melbourne flights on weekdays, and a return service on both Sat and Sun.

The special \$79 launch fare is on sale for travel through to the end of Mar, with no Christmas holiday blackout dates.

Rex had previously indicated Queensland would play an increasingly important role in the growth of the airline's domestic network in 2022, with the carrier to base some of its Boeing 737-800NG fleet in Brisbane.

"This is a momentous day for Rex as we embark on the third leg of the golden triangle for the very first time," said Deputy Chair John Sharp.

"Once again Rex is the market leader with our launch fares of \$79...as other carriers scramble to follow our lead, the travelling public is the big winner with

airfares tumbling to record low levels.

"This also marks the restart of Rex's expansion into the domestic market after the hiatus brought about by the border shutdowns... we plan to more than double our domestic fleet over the next 12 months."

This fortnight has been an important one for Rex, with the carrier having launched Brisbane-Sydney flights, and also resumed services from the Gold Coast to both MEL and SYD (TD 20 Dec).

Brisbane Airport Corporation Chief Executive Officer Gert-Jan de Graaff said while Rex has been operating at BNE for years, the recent expansion of operations will give travellers more options than ever to travel across the eastern states.

"We know that Queensland is the place to be, and we are incredibly excited to see Rex commencing services between Brisbane and Melbourne today and Brisbane and Sydney on Mon," he said.



Ancient Bhutan trail to open

G ADVENTURES has been selected as the first group adventure operator for the Trans Bhutan Trail, which will open in Mar 2022 for the first time in 60 years after an extensive 24 month restoration.

The trail will be officially inaugurated by His Majesty the King of Bhutan, fulfilling his vision to restore the ancient route for tourism and adventure.

From Apr next year international visitors will be able to walk the trail for the first time, providing much-needed economic benefits to rural communities on the way.

The restoration of the trail

was led by the Bhutan Canada Foundation, with G Adventures now offering two active trekking itineraries: the 11-day "Camp the Trans Bhutan Trail" trip which features camping and homestays, and the 12-day "Highlights of the Trans Bhutan Trail" with accom in homestays, locally owned guest houses and hotels.

The millennia-old trail dates back to the ancient Silk Road, with official records traced back to the 16th century when it was the only route between the east and west of the country.

It gradually fell into disrepair in the 1960s when construction of the national highway across the country began, with the renovation project requiring the clearing of jungles, fording rivers and reconstructing bridges.

Training strategy

TOURISM Training Australia has developed a draft Tourism and Hospitality Workforce Development Strategy, detailing how the sector might start to address the loss of 310,000 staff over the last year or so.

Created in partnership with the Australian Chamber - Tourism, the strategy proposes labour solutions from both domestic and international sources, as well as upskilling for industry entrants and existing workers alike.

Chairman John Hart warned that "there is no silver bullet in solving this crisis... all ideas need to be embraced and supported".

He also confirmed that the organisation would once again bid for a role in coordinating industry advice for the sectors which are seeking to be designated as an industry cluster under the Government's revamp of vocational training (TD 05 Nov).

CLICK HERE to view the strategy.

Boundy out of QF


QANTAS Group Chief Marketing Officer, Jo Boundy, has taken a new role at the Commonwealth Bank where she will become the new Executive General Manager and Chief Marketing Officer.

Boundy has been with Qantas for more than 12 years, and will take on her new CBA position effective from Mar 2022.

Dubai terminal open

CARNIVAL Corporation has officially celebrated the opening of the Dubai Harbour Cruise Terminal, which Carnival developed jointly with Shamal Holding in a strategic partnership.

The new facility will serve as the key hub for cruise tourism in Dubai - more in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

 TRAVELPORT

HOW FAR DO YOU WANT TO GO?

DISCOVER MORE

Thailand may restart quarantine

THAI authorities are considering the suspension of the country's "Test and Go" program, which currently allows fully vaccinated travellers arriving from specified countries to enter Thailand without quarantine requirements. Officials cited the rise of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 for the possible move, which would see the reinstatement of the Sandbox and State Quarantine Schemes.

Battlefields website

MAT McLachlan Battlefield Tours has launched a new website including an online booking system which allows travel agents to directly book clients onto trips. The new site includes improved search facilities, complete pricing and itinerary details for all tours, as well as live chat, podcasts, tour videos and documentaries. "Our focus is to make booking our tours as easy as possible for travel agents," said Mat McLachlan, adding "we truly value our agent partnerships and understand how busy and time sensitive booking their clients' trips can be".

He said the company had been overwhelmed with the rebound in demand for battlefield tours in 2022, with the Western Front continuing to be the most popular destinations. However Pacific War trips were also gaining in demand due to the 80th anniversary of World War II in the Pacific. See battlefields.com.au.

France bans Brits

AN INCREASE in coronavirus infections in the UK has seen France ban tourists from Britain, with the move smashing the French ski sector which was just about to launch its peak season. Under the new arrangements only designated categories of travellers can now enter France from the UK, and anyone arriving must self-isolate. Exceptions are available for those attending funerals and essential workers - but not tourists or business travellers.

K	G	U	I	N	N	E	S	S	G	U	U	K	G	Y
Y	L	E	B	L	A	R	N	E	Y	S	T	O	N	E
M	A	R	E	H	O	M	F	O	S	F	F	I	L	C
J	S	D	Z	R	T	X	E	G	V	M	E	P	E	Z
M	J	K	S	P	I	V	F	G	A	L	A	H	X	T
B	T	J	K	K	M	N	R	J	S	E	O	Y	J	L
I	A	V	R	H	C	E	G	I	P	A	L	R	O	M
G	K	H	O	K	E	I	D	O	C	R	F	I	S	M
N	U	C	C	N	C	L	R	M	F	V	C	A	C	G
I	D	O	O	D	A	I	Z	T	J	K	X	T	G	A
L	P	T	G	R	Y	X	R	J	A	X	E	A	J	L
R	E	Z	E	I	M	U	L	E	N	P	E	R	Z	W
U	D	M	J	Q	L	A	C	T	M	N	T	Z	R	A
H	E	L	Z	N	I	S	H	R	A	I	T	S	Y	Y
N	A	N	I	L	B	U	D	S	H	T	L	E	J	G

SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

BLARNEYSTONE
CLIFFSOFMOHER
CORK
DUBLIN
EMERALDISLE
GAELIC
GALWAY
GREEN

GUINNESS
HURLING
LIMERICK
MAYO
RINGOFKERRY
SHAMROCK
SLIGO
STPATRICKSDAY



MONEY

WELCOME to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.709

THE Australian dollar fell to new lows overnight, as American shares faced their largest three-day fall since May. Global sentiment remains pressured by tightening moves by the US Federal Reserve and fears around the Omicron variant of COVID-19. The AUDUSD fell 0.2%, with the local currency also lower in most other major markets, down 0.5% against the Euro. Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.709
UK	£0.537
NZ	\$1.051
Euro	€0.629
Japan	¥80.72
Thailand	฿23.73
China	¥4.485
South Africa	11.16
Canada	\$0.914
Crude oil	US\$73.52

EU slot threshold

THE European Commission has increased the minimum slot usage for airlines operating at regulated EU airports to 64% - up from the previous 50% requirement, as part of a phased return to the pre-pandemic 80%. Prior to COVID-19 the EU's 80/20 slot rule required airlines to use their landing slots at least 80% of the time, or risk losing them for the following equivalent scheduling season. The move to 64% has been seen as a reasonable compromise by both airlines and airports as demand slowly starts to recover.

New Disney Flyer

GUESTS arriving at Orlando Airport to visit Walt Disney World Resorts can now access a new themed transport option, in the form of the new Sunshine Flyer. The transfers from Transportation Management Services (TMS) feature late model, premium motorcoaches themed on old-fashioned cars and train engines, with staff dressed as 1920s rail conductors. The operator said the Flyer would "allow guests to start the magic of their Disney vacation from the moment they step off the plane".

Got a confidential tip? Contact *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)

Travel Daily
www.traveldaily.com.au

Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

EDITORIAL
Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
Associate Editors– Adam Bishop, Myles Stedman
Contributors – Nicholas O’Donoghue, Jenny Piper
info@traveldaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING
Sean Harrigan and Hoda Alzubaidi
advertising@traveldaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER
Jenny Piper
accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

Travel Daily operates by paid subscription to people within the travel industry - sign up at www.traveldaily.com.au.

CRUISE WEEKLY
travelBulletin
business events news
Pharmacy Daily

Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of *Travel Daily* no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.



EMERALD CRUISES

Emerald Cruises launches in Australia!

Emerald Cruises celebrated its official brand launch throughout Australia, with a series of Agent events held across the country.

Anthony Laver, Group General Manager Sales & Marketing, Australasia said, "The Scenic Group is proud to officially launch the Emerald Cruises river and yacht cruising brand in Australia, with our valued trade and media partners. Emerald Cruises represents the ultimate in small ship cruising and the two innovative superyacht products will provide guests with intimate and unique experiences. We are pleased to be growing our global fleet and creating a new class of luxury yacht cruising."

Emerald Cruises inaugural superyacht, Emerald Azzurra, welcomes her first guests in early 2022 to cruise the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Red Seas. Emerald Sakara joins the fleet in 2023, adding the Black Sea and Indian Ocean itineraries to the collection.

Hosting these events was a great way to share the Emerald Cruises brand with our agent partners across Australia. We greatly appreciate the continued support of the brand now and into the future.



Agents and staff enjoying the Newcastle event



Carina, Creative Cruising, Emma, Scenic Group and Julie, First Class Travel in Sydney



Agents enjoying one of our fabulous Queensland events



Ashlee and Lisa from Lewis & Turner Travel Associates in Adelaide.



Jodi with Arlene, Cruise Focus and the Helloworld ladies in Adelaide



Zena, Lisa, Where2Travel Greenborough and Angus in Melbourne.



Roslyn & Gino, ATour Travel Cherrybrook