



GREAT SOUTHERN



THE GHAN



INDIAN PACIFIC



DARWIN HARBOUR CRUISES



THE OVERLAND



MELBOURNE SKYDECK



EUREKA 89



ROTTNEST EXPRESS



JOURNEY BEYOND
CRUISE SYDNEY



HORIZONTAL FALLS
SEAPLANE ADVENTURES



SAL SALIS
NINGALOO REEF



CRUISE WHITSUNDAYS

HAPPY *Holidays!*

As Australia's leading experiential tourism brand, we at Journey Beyond would like to thank all our valued trade partners for your ongoing support in 2021.

Through the toughest time our industry has ever experienced, we remain steadfast in our commitment to be at the forefront of Australian tourism, sharing special places and shaping lasting memories.

We wish you and your loved ones a safe and merry festive season, and look forward to Journey-ing Beyond with you in 2022.



Happy holidays from Journey Beyond

JOURNEY Beyond is today wrapping up the year by generously thanking its trade partners for their ongoing support during 2021.

“Through the toughest time our industry has ever experienced, we remain steadfast in our commitment to be at the forefront of Australian tourism, sharing special places and shaping lasting memories,” the company said, highlighting its wide-ranging portfolio across the country on the **cover page** of today’s *Travel Daily*.

New Skal president

INDUSTRY networking club Skal International has finally confirmed Atlanta-based Burcin Turkkan as its incoming World President, after technical glitches during the initial online voting session on 10 Dec led to the election being stopped.

Turkkan is joined by Juan Ignacio Steta from the Mexico City club as incoming Skal Vice President.

Voting this time was undertaken via Zoom as part of an Annual General Meeting for the organisation, with five out of six positions on the Skal Executive Committee filled.

Today’s issue of TD

Travel Daily today has four pages of the latest news plus a cover page from **Journey Beyond**.

Kiwi travel hearts broken

THE New Zealand Government has pushed back the planned easing of the country’s COVID-19 travel restrictions (**TD** 25 Nov), shattering the plans of thousands who were set to reunite with family and friends in early Jan.

The previously announced phased border opening is being pushed out until the end of Feb, while stays in the hard-pressed MIQ hotel quarantine system are being extended to 10 days, rather than having travellers spend their final three days of isolation at home as at present.

“There’s no doubt this is disappointing and will upset many holiday plans,” said Chris Hipkin, the Minister responsible for NZ’s COVID-19 response.

Thousands of Kiwis have already entered Australia in recent weeks in anticipation of the previously announced mid-Jan changes which would have allowed them to spend seven days isolating at home, rather than stuck in the unwieldy MIQ system.

They will now be required to enter the ballot for spots in the overwhelmed hotel quarantine system which will be under even more pressure with the new extended stay requirement.

In addition, Hipkin announced that pre-departure PCR test requirements to enter NZ were being reduced from 72 hours to 48 hours before travel, and that everyone on an international flight with a positive case will be treated as a close contact.

The Kiwi Government is also seeking advice on “implementing a requirement for all non-NZ citizens entering New Zealand to have had a booster dose before flying,” Hipkin added.

Air New Zealand CEO Greg Foran said the update would be “incredibly tough news” for many, with the cancellation of about 120 flights impacting around 27,000 passengers.

He noted that customers who still wish to travel to NZ will need to secure an MIQ allocation before being able to book on a quarantine flight, while customers with bookings who no longer wish to travel are being offered a fare credit.

Dreamworld accom plan on hold

ARDENT Leisure Group, the operators of the Dreamworld theme park, has ended negotiations with developer Evolution Group over a proposed resort-style hotel and tourist park adjacent to the Gold Coast attraction (**TD** 26 Apr).

Since announcing the move earlier in the year talks have been ongoing, however the parties “have been unable to reach agreement on key aspects of the proposal,” Ardent said yesterday.

The company’s Board said it remained committed to exploring on-site tourist accommodation at Dreamworld, and would now focus attention on other options.

Taking a TD break

THIS is the final edition of *Travel Daily* for 2021, as our team takes a much-needed break.

But don’t worry, we’ll be back soon, with our first 2022 issue scheduled for 04 Jan.

Until then, stay safe and thanks for all your support during 2021.

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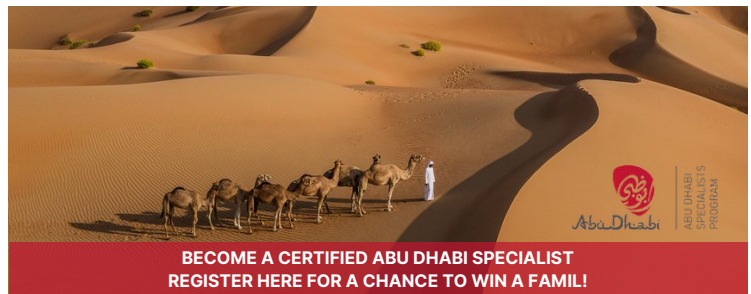
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QR, Airbus in court

QATAR Airways has issued legal proceedings against Airbus in the United Kingdom's High Court's Technology & Construction Court, after the airline "sadly failed" in all its attempts to reach a constructive solution in relation to the accelerated surface degradation condition adversely impacting 21 of its fleet of A350 aircraft (**TD** 06 Aug).

QR said it had been left with "no alternative" but to seek a rapid resolution of the dispute via the courts after talks proved fruitless.

"We strongly believe that Airbus must undertake a thorough investigation of this condition to conclusively establish its full root cause," Qatar said in a statement.

QR has grounded the aircraft over the issue, while Airbus recently issued a statement saying it was seeking an independent legal assessment due to an unnamed customer "attempting to misrepresent this specific topic as an airworthiness issue".

Qantas Delhi flights packed

QANTAS Airways has taken off from Melbourne to Delhi, with the carrier's first flight on the new route departing this morning.

QF69 was fully sold out, packed with passengers heading to India to reunite with their families and loved ones, the carrier said.

Flights from Delhi to Melbourne operate nonstop, while Melbourne to Delhi will initially operate via Adelaide.

The new route has sold very quickly, with almost all services this month fully booked across all cabins, and forward bookings well ahead of initial forecasts.

With borders re-opening, Qantas Domestic & International CEO Andrew David said QF was thrilled to be adding new destinations to its network once again, after last week connecting from Perth to Rome (**TD** 20 Dec).

"Usually it takes 12 months to sell out flights on a new international route, but these

flights sold out in a few hours," David enthused.

"It goes to show how much pent-up demand there is for travel, especially from people wanting to see family and friends.

"We're also seeing even more demand for flights from Delhi to Melbourne with international students and skilled migrants now able to return to Australia."

David said a big Indian expat community within Australia, and growing trade and investment ties to the country, made it an increasingly key market for QF.

MEANWHILE Qantas CEO Alan Joyce has also hinted at further additions to the carrier's route map next year as it takes delivery of additional Boeing 787-9 aircraft.

Prospective destinations are said to include Chicago, which had a planned Apr 2020 launch pulled due to the pandemic, as well as Seattle - the base of new oneworld member Alaska Airlines.

CCL domestic pivot

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) has implemented itinerary changes for its planned Australian voyages next year, converting its Apr-Jun international sailings to domestic voyages.

In recognising the likelihood of international travel restrictions, Carnival's new itineraries will visit the Great Barrier Reef, the beaches of the Whitsunday Islands, and the rainforests of Far North Queensland.

Booked guests and travel advisors are being notified directly of the itinerary changes.

Passengers are also encouraged to visit carnival.com.au for more information, or contact the Guest Services Department at 13 31 94 in the event their revised itinerary no longer meets their needs.

Carnival hopes to resume local cruising with enhanced health and safety measures developed in conjunction with government authorities, public health experts, local ports of call and CLIA.

Travel Daily

Wishing all our readers...

A VERY MERRY

Christmas

**AND A SAFE AND
ENJOYABLE NEW YEAR**

*We look forward to bringing you all the news
that matters from Tuesday Jan 4, 2022*

AFTA seeks \$150m package

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents has for the first time today confirmed details of its proposed "Travel Sector Skills Retention and Impaired Recovery Package," worth a total of \$150m and making use of the estimated \$60m which remains unallocated as part of the controversial COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program.

AFTA CEO Dean Long noted the additional \$109.6 million in funding announced for the aviation sector earlier this week (**TD** 20 Dec), on top of the \$5.3 billion already provided.

"This announcement without the extension of support to outbound tourism raises concerns, considering our sectors face the same challenges and our success is intrinsically linked," Long said.

He noted that more than 70% of all international travel out of Australia is still booked through a travel agent or business, as Australians continue to recognise the value of expertise when considering the complexities of international travel.

"Unfortunately the Federal Government's current inconsistent allocation of funds to the different sectors of the Australian travel market risks undermining the much-appreciated intention to support Australian businesses and jobs.

"The 30,000 Australians who continue to work in Australia's travel sector and the 3,000 agencies and businesses who employ them urgently need ongoing Government help so we can keep providing the expert support travellers need," he said.

Air Canada: I be-leaf I can fly...



YOU clearly couldn't wipe the smiles off the faces of the Air Canada team (**pictured**) in Sydney last week when they celebrated the arrival of an AC Boeing 777-200LR on a scheduled service for the first time since Apr 2020.

On Thu 16 Dec the thrice weekly AC33 flight from Vancouver to Sydney resumed, with the occasion seeing 40 trade partners treated to lunch with the Air Canada Australia team at Rydges Sydney Airport, along with an inspection of the aircraft.



The following morning the check-in counters at SYD were decorated with stunning floral arrangements, with each passenger given an exclusive Air Canada-branded Lindt Chocolate (**inset**) as they boarded the return AC34 service back to YVR.

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Colorado winners!

STACEY Baker from Braeside Travel in Vic is the lucky winner of some Christmas cash courtesy of Colorado Tourism and **Travel Daily**, after taking out the \$100 Mastercard e-gift card prize in this week's picture search competition (**TD** 20 Dec).

We were overwhelmed with entries for the Where's Wally?-style comp, with Stacey's response being the closest to the correct answers which were 1) Red Rocks Amphitheatre; 2) 36 (28 small rocks and 8 large); and 3) six logos - four for Colorado Tourism Office, one for Aspen and one for Denver.

Five runner-up prizes of bespoke Colorado puzzles went to Trish Park from Savenio; Ally Casey Greville of TravelManagers; Casey O'Connor, Egencia; Andrew Garrett from Clean Cruising; and Kaya Russell of Bunnik Tours.

HA signs Swissport

HAWAIIAN Airlines has signed a new ground services contract with Swissport, covering HA's Australian operations in Sydney and Brisbane.

The move comes as HA resumes flights from Sydney to Honolulu (**TD** 17 Dec), with Swissport MD Australasia Brad Moore saying "we are absolutely delighted to welcome Hawaiian Airlines as a new customer in Australia".

HA Regional Director, Andrew Stanbury, said the partnership with Swissport "will help our airline make a smooth and swift return to Australia".

Netherlands locked

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has confirmed details of the new lockdown in the Netherlands, where all non-essential shops and services are now closed until at least 14 Jan.

A Smartraveller update also details requirements for self-quarantine from 22 Dec for any arrivals from outside the European Union.



Window Seat

FACE coverings are definitely a good way to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, but unlike most people who opt for a clinical-grade mask, a US air traveller has decided to exercise his civil rights by wearing a pair of women's underpants over his face instead.

38-year-old Adam Jenne was removed from a United Airlines flight before it took off from Fort Lauderdale after flight attendants took issue with the red thong he was wearing as an anti-coronavirus measure.

The traveller was told he had to disembark because he was not in compliance with UA's mask requirements.

According to images posted on Twitter (**pictured**), he had a brief discussion with crew about whether there were official specifications for masks, before agreeing to deplane.

In a subsequent interview with a local TV station he said he was wearing the skimpy lingerie as a protest against the Biden administration's Federal mask mandate.

"Illustrating that absurdity by wearing women's underwear on my face sounds perfect," he said, contrasting his actions with that of famous civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks.

"Everything else that has sparked changed in this country has started from everyday people...Rosa Parks wasn't famous but she changed the course of history," he said.



FCM announces tech buy

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group today announced the acquisition of Compli.ai, a Texas-based business which has developed Shep, described as an “industry-first browser extension”.

The Shep software will allow FCTG’s corporate business, FCM Travel Solutions, to put its own content and augment the user experience on third party websites used by corporate customers, either as part of the FCM Platform’s flexible offering, or when booking or searching outside of a company’s recommended booking tools.

“This will provide customers with greater consistency across the globe, while also delivering better control, duty of care, sustainability and

communications benefits now and in the post-pandemic world,” a Flight Centre statement said.

Flight Centre Corporate CEO Chris Galanty added that the Shep tool would provide tangible benefits for customers in terms of health, safety, sustainability and policy guidance.

“For example it can detect if employees are trying to book outside of travel policy and push them back to an approved booking site, which is very important to companies as they reinitiate their travel programs with a greater emphasis on duty of care in the post-pandemic world,” Galanty said.

The price of the deal was not revealed, but is “not material” to FCTG’s results, the firm said.

Famous faces



THERE are three different faces that make up this picture.

They are a mixture of famous celebrities and travel names. Can you figure out who the

eyes, nose and mouth in this picture belong to?

And don’t worry if you can’t guess them all, two out of three ain’t bad!

Answer: Eyes - Chris Hall, APT Travel Group, Nose - Betty White, Mouth - Zac Efron

ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily’s* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Tribute Portfolio is celebrating its debut in Malaysia with the opening of **Palm Garden Hotel, Putrajaya, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel**. Located in the heart of the IOI Resort City, Putrajaya, and offering easy access to IOI City Mall, the 151-room hotel is set to showcase the hidden gem of Malaysia for travellers and locals who seek out independent experiences and enriching experiences from the community when traveling.



Home2 Suites by Hilton has debuted in Asia-Pacific with **Home2 Suites by Hilton Shenzhen Bao’an**. The first of 1,000 Home2 Suites by Hilton properties in China has opened in partnership with Funyard Hotels & Resorts, marking Hilton’s 12th brand in the region. Designed with a streamlined approach to storage and functionality, the hotel is located in the heart of the Bao’an district in Shenzhen, China, with convenient access to major transportation hubs.

NCL dishes the dirt in St Thomas

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line’s (NCL) Australian sales team has joined the “Great Cruise Comeback”, taking part earlier this month in NCL’s annual global sales conference aboard *Norwegian Encore* as she cruised to the Caribbean from Miami.

While cruising in Australia continues to be banned, the NCL crew showed that a holiday at sea can be safe, enjoyable and also help local communities, as they joined a clean-up initiative during a shore visit to St Thomas in the US Virgin Islands.

The *Encore* voyage was part of Norwegian’s gradual return to service, with 11 ships set to be sailing the world’s oceans by the end of this week.

Pictured gathering trash on Vessup Beach are, from left: NCL’s Jacinta Baker, BDM WA/NZ/home-based agents; Angela



Middleton, Senior Manager Sales; Vanessa Green, BDM NSW; Damien Borg, Director of Sales Australia/NZ; and VP and MD NCL APAC, Ben Angell.

NCL also donated US\$10,000 to the Virgin Islands Conservation Society as part of the clean-up.