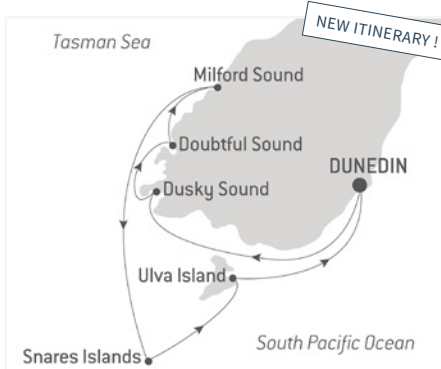
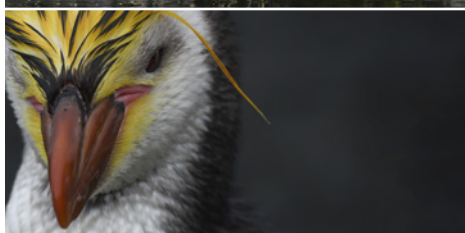


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New Zealand's South Island Expedition

Dunedin to Dunedin
Departs 6 January 2022
7 nights onboard *Le Soléal*
From \$5,720 per person*

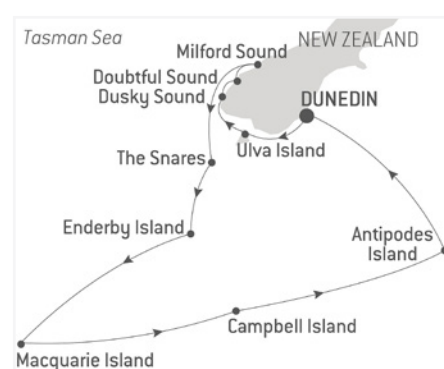
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New Zealand's Fiordland & the Snares

Wellington to Dunedin
Departs 21 & 30 November 2021*
9 nights aboard *Le Soléal*
From \$7,460 per person*

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Expedition to New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands

Dunedin to Dunedin
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From \$13,090 per person*

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Ponant NZ voyages

PONANT is today showcasing its new program of 14 New Zealand-based cruises (**TD** yesterday), with a full toolbox of resources available for travel agents to titillate their clients.

Offers include an \$800 discount for new guests as well as early booking savings of up to 30%.

The itineraries homeport in Dunedin and Wellington, with visits to NZ's Fjordland as well as the untamed subantarctic islands including Macquarie Island.

For details see the **cover page**.

Hotels - what's new?

NEXT week's NoVacancy event at ICC Sydney will showcase all that's new in hospitality and accommodation.

Free entry is available for **Travel Daily** readers who pre-register using the special code TDA when signing up at novacancy.com.au.

For more details see **page 7**.

TTC adds groups division

EXCLUSIVE

THE Travel Corporation (TTC) is set to launch a dedicated new operation servicing group business, with the company-wide initiative involving collaboration across the TTC family of brands including Trafalgar, Contiki, Uniworld, AAT Kings, Adventure World, Cost saver, Insight and Luxury Gold.

The new division aims to provide "enhanced opportunities for the agent community to kickstart their groups business and help rebuild international sales," according to TTC CEO Australia, David Hosking.

"This new groups initiative leverages TTC's strong range of capabilities, global network reach, buying power and expertise to benefit our partners' line of business and boost their earnings," he said.

Travel advisors can access a

whopping 450 existing trips across 70 countries to drive their scheduled groups business, while the initiative also allows for custom/special interest groups which can leverage TTC's global network of Destination Management Companies.

"TTC is the only company that can serve as a one-stop shop to deliver across a broad range of categories from youth, premium, contemporary, luxury, river cruising, to adventure in the group space, both internationally and here in Australia and New Zealand," Hosking added.

TTC Groups is led by Robyn Brown, who will coordinate custom and scheduled itineraries to allow agents to create their own "travel bubbles" and take advantage of the company's flexibility, buying power and global reach - for more info email groupsaustralia@ttc.com.

Sth Africa in focus

SOUTH African Tourism is currently highlighting the country's beautiful Eastern Cape region as part of its agent education training modules.

Comedian Urzila Carlson returns to provide agents with an expert insight into what the best attractions are, in addition to a glossy promotional video featuring all of the varied adventure activities that travellers can enjoy while in the area, such as kayaking, snorkelling, surfing and horse riding.

By participating in the modules, agents have the chance to score gifts and prizes including local wine or a South Africa coffee table book - register **HERE**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page, a front cover from **Ponant** plus a full page from **NoVacancy**.



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*T&C apply. Image: Destination NSW

Oceans to Outback

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Outback Queensland Adventure

14 days Brisbane > Cairns 10 Jun, 13 and 26 Aug, 8 Sep
14 days Cairns > Brisbane 8 Sep

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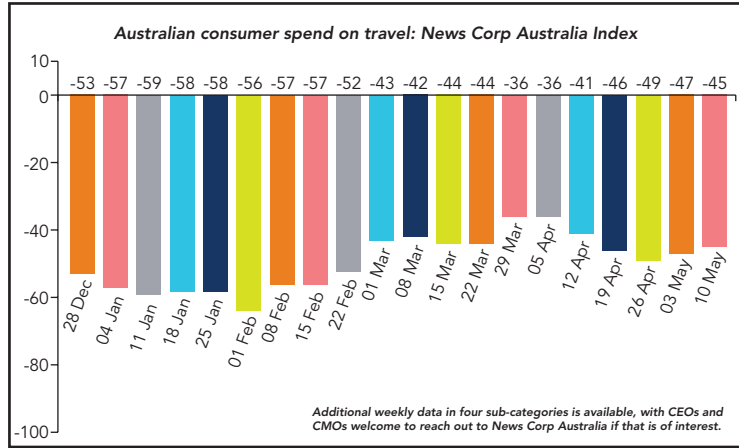


MTA Advisor Julie Evans

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Certainty drives spend



EXCLUSIVE

THE grim Federal Budget expectations about the mid-2022 reopening of international travel actually appear to have triggered consumers to make travel bookings, according to the latest tracking figures from News Corp Australia (pictured).

The improvement was marginal, jumping just two points to sit at -45%, but News Corp Head of Travel, Dwayne Birtles, said while the update was disappointing it appears prospective travellers actually reacted to the clarity provided by the Government.

He said consumers were now saying "now there's a date further away than I hoped, I'm going to spend the money I wanted to spend on a long-haul international trip and book a destination that has certainty around it, i.e. Australia or NZ."

The best performing category this week was cruise, which

jumped seven points compared to the reference period in 2019 to now be at -66% - but much of this came from additional sailing days announced by the Spirit of Tasmania prompting mainlanders to book trips to the Apple Isle and take their own vehicles due to a scarcity of hire cars.

Air spend decreased seven points, which Birtles said was a "normalising of the category" after a flurry of airline sales came to an end.

ACA to Townsville

THE Australian Cruise Association has confirmed it will hold its annual conference in-person this year, with the 08-10 Sep event in Townsville the first major industry gathering since the 2019 meeting in Geelong.

The main sessions will take place at The Ville Resort, with registrations for attendance to open early next month.

Win a trip to Fiji!

THE Treasures of the South Pacific is offering an opportunity to win two Fiji Airways return tickets to Fiji as part of a five week online training program.

Sessions will kick off next Tue 01 Jun, with the live webinars each week featuring two member destinations including Vanuatu, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Tahiti, Samoa, Norfolk Island, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and some of the region's "hidden treasures".

Free registration and more info is available by **CLICKING HERE**.

New LAX gates

LOS Angeles World Airports has celebrated the official opening of the US\$1.73 billion West Gates facility at Tom Bradley International Terminal.

The massive capital works program includes biometric boarding gates and a checked-bag storage system, with 15 gates serving both international and domestic flights.

Providing a modern experience for travellers, West Gates facilities include the latest technology for fast wi-fi, nursing rooms, art exhibitions, a quiet room, three kids' play areas and even a "service-animal relief area".

The West Gates at Tom Bradley are accessible via a pedestrian tunnel from the Tom Bradley International Terminal near gate 148, with moving walkways, courtesy passenger shuttles and 24 100-inch video screens.

NZ-Vic bubble off

QUARANTINE-FREE travel from Vic to NZ was paused for 72 hours from 6pm last night, due to the Melbourne outbreak of COVID-19.

As investigations continue, the initial three-day suspension is under "constant review," according to authorities in NZ.



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Qantas boosts domestic

DOMESTIC air capacity in Australia continues to grow sharply, with Qantas set to introduce seven new local routes over the “coming months” (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

The new services include Townsville to Adelaide/ Melbourne/Sydney, Adelaide to Cairns/Hobart, Sydney to Uluru and Perth to the Gold Coast - bringing the number of routes added by the Qantas and Jetstar brands since the start of the pandemic to 45.

Among the plan to boost domestic capacity will see Qantas deploy its 236-seat Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner to service up to nine flights between Sydney and Perth a week, an aircraft typically used for long-haul flight paths such as the Perth to London route.

Five of the new routes will be operated by Embraer E190 regional jets, sourced via a wet lease deal with Alliance Airlines

earlier this year (**TD** 04 Feb 2021), while Airbus A330-200s will be called in to operate additional flights into Darwin from Sydney and Brisbane, and into Perth from Sydney and Melbourne, bolstering the A330s already servicing east-west routes.

Qantas Domestic and International CEO Andrew David said the decision to significantly increase its domestic capacity followed a growing appetite for Australians to take a local holiday and the fact international travel remains closed off.

“As most international travel remains off limits for now, Australians are taking more regular holidays within the country and we expect these new direct flights to key tourism destinations will be popular with travellers,” David said.

Qantas said the new routes will mean the carrier has around 70% of the domestic market share.

Belarusian air links to be severed

FOLLOWING an audacious move by the Belarusian Government to intercept a Ryanair flight in order to arrest a dissident blogger earlier this week, the European Union has responded by calling on all European airlines to cease flying over Belarus.

The EU has also moved to prohibit Belarusian airlines from using the bloc’s airspace or landing at any of its airports as punishment, with Luxembourg PM Xavier Bettel labelling the disturbing air event “like something out of a bad movie”.

Ryanair has also released a statement condemning the Belarusian Govt, calling the diversion of its flight FE4978 as “unlawful” and “aviation piracy”.

IATA also blasted the Lukashenko regime, calling for a “full investigation by competent international authorities”.



Window Seat

A UNITED Airlines sweepstake is giving vaccinated customers a wonderful “shot” at winning free flights for a whole year.

The “Your Shot to Fly” sweepstake enters any new or existing MileagePlus member who uploads their vaccination records to United’s mobile application or website until 22 Jun into the draw to win a roundtrip flight for two, in any class of service, to anywhere in the world the airline flies.

United Airlines confirmed it will be giving away 30 pairs of tickets next month.

The carrier will also announce five randomly selected MileagePlus members on 01 Jul to progress into the grand prize of travel for a year for themselves and a companion.

STOP DREAMING ABOUT NEW ZEALAND AND GO

Wakey wakey, it’s time for a virtual journey and actual flights!

A new day has dawned, the Trans-Tasman Quarantine Free Travel Zone is now open and it’s time for us to get reacquainted. Join us for a virtual journey around each region of New Zealand with a chance to win flights during each session.

Register for your spot on the virtual journey and your chance to win flights to New Zealand.

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FCTG out in force at Virtuoso



THIS week's Virtuoso Forum Australia and NZ in Sydney (**TD 24** May) included a large contingent from Flight Centre's Travel Associates brand (**pictured**).

The two-day event, which wrapped up yesterday, was a key opportunity for Travel Associates members to meet other Virtuoso agents, after the luxury consortium announced the

addition of all Travel Associates branches in Australia and NZ last year (**TD 04** Dec 2020).

As well as Travel Associates advisors and franchisees, Virtuoso Forum delegates included Flight Centre's General Manager of Premium Brands, Danielle Galloway and Anna Burgdorf, Flight Centre Premium Brands GM of Product and Marketing.

UK travel scheme

VISITORS to the United Kingdom will be required to receive an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) prior to arrival, under a new proposal unveiled by British Home Secretary Priti Patel.

The program will be similar to the US ESTA scheme, as well as the proposed European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) which is expected to launch next year.

Patel said the UK ETA plan was designed to make the country's borders more secure, with plans for a trial of the scheme later this year in partnership with selected airlines which would need to check the validity of each passenger's ETA prior to boarding.

The system, which is targeted for a 2024 launch, would apply to all visitors including those from Europe, with the Home Office anticipating about 30 million ETA applications each year.

Amadeus highlights long stays

AMADEUS has released new data on Australian travel searches, indicating a big jump in extended travel plans as Aussies increasingly opt for a "flexible nomadic working life".

The GDS firm said this year it had seen a 71% increase in travel searches for 26-day stays, compared to 2019, supporting a global trend to "workcations".

The data also revealed the top 10 most searched destinations in Australia, in order, as Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Cairns, Gold Coast, Adelaide, Darwin, Hobart and Canberra.

Snow in Penrith!

A PROPOSED indoor snow park in Western Sydney moved a step closer yesterday after planning approval for the \$300m Winter Sports World, set to open in 2024, was granted by Penrith Council.

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Travel Daily

Pub quiz

1. What is the world's southernmost national capital city?
2. To the nearest hundred, how many stars are there currently on the Hollywood Walk of Fame?
 - a) 1,600
 - b) 2,100
 - c) 2,700
 - d) 3,000
3. Olympic Games host cities are selected usually how many years in advance?
4. Riverway is located in which North Queensland city?
5. Juneteenth celebrates what occasion in the United States?
6. Kaunas is the second-largest city in what country?
7. Raja Ampat, or the Four Kings, is an archipelago off the coast of what country?
8. The Aleutian Islands are a chain of volcanic islands located in what ocean?
9. Tijuana is the largest city in which Mexican state?
10. London's Marylebone Club is an integral institution for which sport?

Seen it at the movies



THE Glenfinnan viaduct is the largest concrete railway bridge in Scotland but that's not the reason that it has become a popular tourist attraction. The viaduct appears in four of

a series of magical movies that have shot it to stardom, though for many passengers of ScotRail, it is just part of a typical train trip. Can you name the franchise that this landmark appears in?

Sudoku

MEDIUM

THE aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Numbers can only be used once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

5	6	4						
	2	3		5		4		6
			4	3			8	
					5		2	4
		9	1		4	5		
4	7		2					
	5			1	9			
3		7		8		1	6	
						7	5	2

Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the **TD** Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 14 Aug 2014:

AUTHORITIES in Paris have issued a desperate plea to lovers, urging them to immortalise their romance with a selfie rather than a padlock.

A craze, which started in 2008, has seen thousands of love-struck couples pledge their eternal devotion by attaching a "love lock" with their names on it to the Pont des Arts bridge and then throwing the key into the Seine River.

Two months ago part of the bridge collapsed under the weight of the padlocks.

The locks are also proliferating on other bridges across the city.

To combat the problem notices have this week been erected encouraging people to take a selfie and upload them to a specially created website at lovewithoutlocks.paris.fr.

ANSWERS 25 MAY

Unscramble: ante, anti, attain, attune, aunt, auntie, fain, faint, fatten, faun, fauna, feint, fine, INFATUATE, naif, neat, taenia, taint, taunt, taunten, tent, tine, tinea, tint, titan, tuna, tune, unfit, unit, unite, untie

Celebrity faces: Michael Gazal, TravelManagers, Nose - Anne Hathaway, Mouth - George Clooney



COVID breathalyser

SINGAPORE has provisionally approved a 60-second coronavirus breathalyser test that could be used to expedite international travel.

The breath analysis produced by Breathonix, a spin-off company from the National University of Singapore, is being carried out alongside COVID antigen tests.

The system, which assesses the chemical compounds of the breath, uses disposable mouthpieces and is designed to ensure there is no contamination.

The breath test achieved more than a 90% accuracy in a Singapore-based pilot clinical trial, the company confirmed.

WA travel support

THE second round of Western Australia's Stay, Play and Save initiative will offer \$200 off midweek city hotel accommodation for WA residents, as well as meals & mystery tours.

Supported by Tourism WA, residents will be offered a voucher for a city-based tour or experience when they book a midweek staycation at a participating hotel.

MEANWHILE small businesses in Western Australia, including accommodation and sightseeing companies, can now apply for \$2,000 grants to compensate for the financial burden caused by ongoing lockdowns - apply [HERE](#).

A well-earned break



ALL good things must come to an end but at least the teams at Visit Sunshine Coast Corporate and Tourism Noosa know how to mark the moment in style.

After putting on a successful domestic roadshow which saw amazing engagement across four cities in only four days, the two tourism bodies sat down for a

well earned dinner (**pictured**).

"A big thank you to all of our amazing Sunshine Coast and Noosa products for your support and passion in selling our region and to all our trade and media partners who attended," enthused Visit Sunshine Coast's International Marketing Specialist Emily Zinowki.

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.



The **Kalesma Mykonos** opened to guests for the first time late last week, with the waterfront property boasting 25 suites and two villas, as well as a pool overlooking the Aegean Sea. Other amenities offered by the hotel include on-site spa treatment rooms and a gourmet restaurant serving up local delicacies.



Marriott Bonvoy has announced the debut of **Josun Palace, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Seoul Gangnam**. The 254-room South Korean property features a wellness club, heated indoor pool with deck area boasting panoramic views over the Gangnam skyline, a fully equipped fitness centre and five restaurants.



Buahan, a Banyan Tree Escape is poised to open its doors to the public in the unspoilt region of northern Ubud in Sep. The 16-villa resort features a menu that is more than 70% plant-based, with its architectural design based on the principles of sustainability. Other amenities include the restaurant Locavore and Nusantara restaurants, as well as the Night Rooster Cocktail Bar.

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