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Travel Daily First with the news

Tuesday 2nd November 2021 Two's A Crowd



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ABERCROMBIE & Kent's (A&K) Tailor-Made itineraries are seamlessly crafted for the individual traveller.

With more than 55 offices on almost every continent, A&K has the ability to deliver authentic, beyond-the guidebook experiences for the world's most discerning travellers.

Find out more about Abercrombie & Kent's Tailor-Made journeys on page seven of today's Travel Daily.

QF delays Brisbane

QANTAS has responded to the Queensland Government's sluggish vaccination rate which has been preventing quarantinefree travel, delaying key flights departing from Brisbane.

Services to New Zealand, Los Angeles and Singapore will not recommence until late Jan or early Feb, according to the latest flight schedule changes.

Qantas chief Alan Joyce has been vocal in his criticism of delayed border restrictions, with Old keeping protocols in place until it reaches 90% vaccinated.

CLIA is with you

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) is your partner on the path to recovery.

2022 memberships are open now for CLIA, with the opportunity to earn bonus commission and rewards.

See page eight for details.

TGA ticks more vaccines

THE COVID-19 vaccination status of millions more prospective inbound travellers to Australia will be valid, under a decision by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to recognise additional vaccines not currently registered in Australia.

Yesterday the TGA confirmed that it would formally accept the use of Covaxin, manufactured by India's Bharat Biotech, as well as China's Sinopharm BBIBP-CorV "for the purpose of establishing a traveller's vaccination status".

The recognition is valid for travellers aged 12 and over who have been vaccinated with Covaxin, and those aged 18-60 vaccinated with BBIBP-CorV.

"In recent weeks, the TGA has obtained additional information demonstrating these vaccines provide protection and potentially reduce the likelihood that an incoming traveller would transmit COVID-19 infection to others while in Australia, or become acutely unwell due to COVID-19," an update noted.

The supporting information had been provided to the TGA by the vaccine makers as well as the World Health Organization.

Sinovac's Coronavac and Covishield, made by AstraZeneca in India, have also been previously recognised by the TGA.

The move "means many citizens of China and India, as well as other countries in our region where these vaccines have been widely deployed will now be

considered fully vaccinated on entry to Australia," the TGA said.

"This will have significant impacts for the return of international students, and travel of skilled and unskilled workers to Australia," the update added.

The Government's key ATAGI immunisation advisory group has also determined that those who have received two doses of a TGA-recognised vaccine at least 14 days apart are regarded as fully vaxxed from seven days after the second dose, while for the Janssen jab full immunisation is valid a week after the single dose.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news plus a front cover page from Silversea, a product profile from Abercrombie & Kent and a full page from Cruise Lines International Association.

The world is opening

THE world is reopening, and so it is time to open up to the world. With more than 900 destinations to explore, check out all of the amazing product on offer overseas with Silversea.

Head to the cover page for more information.







Gold Coast boost

DESTINATION Gold Coast believes more than \$7 million will be injected into the city's economy following the sale of 60,000 Play Money Rewards youchers over the last two weeks.

"We've exceeded our \$6m target with the local initiative delivering over \$7m in voucher sales, which means more money in the pockets for mum 'n dad businesses and employees - well done Destination Gold Coast," Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate said.

Memphis webinar

BRAND USA will host a new webinar on Wed at 10am AEDT featuring Memphis Tourism, with new details to be revealed about the US city and what tools are available to agents to better sell Memphis to clients.

Memphis Tourism will be represented by Chris Ingram, with attendees at the session having the chance to score a \$200 Visa gift card by participating in an interactive quiz at the endregister **HERE** to attend.





"Early movers" key to travel

EXCLUSIVE

THE initial experiences of the first Australians to resume international travel this month will have a profound impact on shaping the behaviour of the general public, according to a new report from the Federal Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Behavioural factors impacting international travel demand report found that the ease of organising and carrying out trips in these early post-pandemic days will "frame public perception on the ease of travel, and inform opinions on whether travelling is worthwhile".

AFTA met with the Department's Behavioural Economics Team to discuss the report, which estimated that about 20% of the Australian population is "highly risk-averse individuals who would be particularly apprehensive embarking on international trips".

Key motivations for travel included family trips, after months of lockdowns and other restrictions gave Aussies the opportunity to reflect on their core values.

The study suggested adventure travel may also see a quick bounce-back as it attracts those with a higher risk profile, and noted suggestions that corporate travel may take longer to recover due to the normalisation of remote working.

Other factors included the "friction" around travel, with

the report noting that to get Australians travelling again, the process needs to be as simple as possible.

There are also concerns about price uncertainty and the perception of whether it is better to book travel as soon as possible, or to wait, with industry representatives urging a clear Government plan toward reopening to provide surety.

During the meeting AFTA also noted that travel agents have the potential to address these concerns, "using their expertise to do the heavy lifting for clients".

New Hilton for Syd

HILTON today announced the signing of Hilton Garden Inn Sydney Kingswood, marking the entry of the Hilton Garden Inn brand to Sydney.

The 140-room newbuild property in the city's west is the sixth Hilton Garden Inn hotel in the pipeline for Australasia.

\$8m NSW support

THE NSW Government this morning announced more than \$8 million in grant programs to accelerate the recovery of the state's visitor economy.

The schemes include a \$4.1m
Tourism Product Development
Fund, \$1.5m for Regional Events,
a \$750,000 Regional Business
Event Development Fund, and \$2
million for cooperative marketing
leveraging the Feel New campaign.



Discover the key consumer sentiments and trends shaping decision-making for travel intenders

VIEW HIGHLIGHTS

News Corp Australia





Globus ups digital

GLOBUS family of brands (GFOB) has recruited Kirra Loh to be its new Digital Performance and Content Marketing Manager, a newly created role that will see her charged with driving more online engagement and content for the business.

Loh brings with her eight years of experience in the travel space, having previously worked for Hurtigruten and YHA Australia.

"Kirra's experience and expertise in this sector will be a fantastic asset to the team, coming at a time when travellers have never been so digitally engaged," GFOB's Head of Marketing Australasia Chris Fundell said.

"As Aussies and Kiwis begin to plan travel again, we look forward to driving our digital and marketing engagement across our portfolio," he added.

Loh will be based in Sydney for the new position.

Intrepid's carbon guide

INTREPID Travel is urging industry-wide climate action at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference by releasing a comprehensive measurement guide to empower tour operators to decarbonise their operations.

With the world's leaders gathered at COP26 in Glasgow, Intrepid is championing industrywide decarbonisation efforts by releasing its open-source guide.

Intrepid will also empower any tour operator with the ability to start measuring the entirety of their carbon footprint.

The 25-page toolkit is authored by Intrepid's Environmental Impact Specialist, Susanne Etti, and produced in partnership with industry decarbonisation collective Tourism Declares.

Co-founder and Chair Darrell Wade is attending COP26 in his capacity as World Travel and Tourism Council Vice Chair, and Sustainability Committee Chair.

Wade has been instrumental in the development of the Glasgow Declaration, which aims to raise the climate ambition of tourism stakeholders, and secure strong support of the global commitment to halve emissions by 2030, and reach net zero as soon as possible before 2050.

The Declaration will be officially launched at COP26 on Thu, with Intrepid a signatory.

The company has been actively collaborating with partners, B Corporations and businesses over the past year to advocate for stronger government policies on climate change in the run up to the COP26 event.

Tourism contributed a significant industry-wide carbon footprint pre-pandemic, accounting for 8% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions, Intrepid said.



WHILE Turkey is full of amazing tourist attractions and friendly residents to make any holiday a roaring success, just beware of eating too many bananas on your next trip.

The warning comes after seven Syrian refugees were reportedly deported from the country after deluging Turkey's social media channels with "provocative banana eating".

The strange case began with a video of a Turkish man in Istanbul complaining that he could not afford to buy bananas, which resulted in a flurry of Syrian-born residents posting photos and videos of themselves eating bananas, with the alleged intention of mocking the Turkish citizen's original complaint.









QF1 is tops for Topping



PETER Topping from Cruise Factory was aboard Qantas flight 1 from Sydney to London yesterday, sending this photo on arrival at Heathrow after the carrier's historic first postpandemic departure on the Kangaroo route.

Topping described the journey as "the first flight for punters from prison island Australia," with his journey combining a long-postponed family visit with participation at World Travel Market which kicked off yesterday.

Topping is part of the original management team of Cruise Factory, which last year bought the brand back from Helloworld after its initial acquisition alongside Seven Oceans Cruising,

Bamboo to London

FLEDGLING Vietnamese carrier Bamboo Airways has announced plans for non-stop flights between Vietnam and the UK, with up to six weekly frequencies scheduled from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to London Heathrow.

Bamboo will utilise Boeing 787-9 aircraft for the services, which are expected to commence before the end of the year when restrictions on commercial flights between the countries ease.

The new services will be the first direct connections between the UK and Vietnam, with the 12-hour flight slashing existing travel time by about seven hours.

Cruise Abroad and Worldwide Cruise Centres (**TD** 15 Feb 2017).

The London visit is part of a relaunch which will see the Cruise Factory brand refreshed "with a focus on providing a low cost, high quality lead generation and cruise marketing tool to the travel industry" in core markets including Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the UK.

Topping **pictured** on board the aircraft with some of the friendly Qantas cabin crew.

SITA offers free declaration system

AVIATION IT specialists SITA has announced that its Digital Travel Declaration solution is available to govts globally at no cost.

The system allows passengers to share required health and travel documentation with destinations prior to departure, with SITA saying the move aims to help "address the global challenge of submitting and verifying health documentation, which remains a major impediment to the recovery of the global travel industry".

SITA's Digital Travel Declaration has been operational since Oct 2020 and is now already in use by several governments across the world, making it easy for travellers to complete health declarations quickly and easily. For more details see sita.aero.

Nov travelBulletin is out

THIS month's cracker issue of *travelBulletin* was released yesterday, featuring an exclusive first interview with newly appointed AFTA CEO, Dean Long.

The magazine's cover story details his vision for the Federation, with Long's initial agenda seeing him undertake a full review of the AFTA Constitution, operations, finances and activities.

travelBulletin for Nov also showcases the burgeoning range of intriguing stopover options in Qatar, as well as Celebrity Cruises' Celebrity Edge itineraries in Northern Europe for 2022.

There's also commentary from CATO and CLIA, our regular wrapup of some of the biggest travel, cruising and tourism industry stories from the last month, and



this month's feature on mental health from Tim Hoopmann.

The magazine is available for viewing and download now at travelbulletin.com.au.

Collette growth

COLLETTE has announced plans to recruit nine additional staff for its Australian operations, including five reservations consultants, a marketing specialist and three BDMs.

All of the roles are full-time, with the company's Senior VP of International Business, Christian Liebl-Cote saying "this is an exciting opportunity for travel professionals to get back to doing what they love and be part of rebuilding the market post-pandemic".

More at gocollette.com.

Israel opens up

AUTHORITIES in Israel have announced that travellers can once again enter the country, subject to a range of testing and quarantine requirements.

Foreign nationals who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 may enter via Ben Gurion Airport if they have not been in a designated "red country" for 14 days prior to entry, and having been vaccinated by a WHO-approved vaccine.

Visitors can also enter Israel if they can show proof of recovery from COVID-19 infection.

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It's time to build a bridge



G'DAY Group/Discovery Parks founder Grant Wilckens is calling on the Western Australian Government to construct a bridge across the King River (pictured) and improve tourism access to The Kimberley.

Wilckens believes the bridge would be a critical initiative for tourism in the region to survive.

"The limitations of crossing the King River are a major entry barrier to the region, it relies on a certain type of vehicle to ford the river and limits accessibility

QF makes Tassie first

QANTAS Airways' first flights between Brisbane and Launceston have taken off, to help meet increasing demand for travel to Tasmania.

The national carrier will operate three return services per week with QantasLink's Boeing 717 aircraft until at least the end of Mar 2022, offering more than 15,000 additional seats between the two cities

The airline will look to add more flights beyond this date if there is demand.

This is the eighth new Tasmanian route Qantas and Jetstar Airways have launched since the start of the pandemic.

MEANWHILE, Qantas Frequent Flyers have splurged 4 billion points in two weeks as Australia's borders begin reopening.

to remote tourist attractions," the G'day Group chief claims.

Benefits of construction include extending the tourism season for businesses through the wet season, enabling two-wheel driver access, and boosting tourism numbers year-round.

If a bridge were to go ahead, it would be in addition to \$330m in planned road upgrades through the Kimberley by the WA Govt.

Slow recovery ahead

TOURISM & Transport Forum Chief Executive Officer Margy Osmond has called the return of rural travel for New South Wales and Victoria a "momentous occasion," but has warned recovery may be uneven. attributable to states which still have closed borders.

"As many states are still closed to each other, with some not set to open for some months yet and others with no plans yet to do so at all, the tourism recovery will remain patchy and piecemeal for many months to come," Osmond warned.

"While [yesterday's] easing of travel restrictions is a major step forward, our industry won't have the chance to fully recover until the day that all domestic border restrictions are removed, and we return to a nation that can be visited by all Australians," she added.

Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called Keep Dreaming is specially designed for agents to send their clients.



AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION

OF TRAVEL AGENTS

FOR those of us working in travel, it was once one of our most used documents. For close to 600 days, since 20 Mar 2020.

our passports have been stored away, gathering dust. But it's time to start dusting off

those passports and encouraging our customers and clients to do the same.

During COVID, more than 1.3 million Australians let their passports expire while 600,000 held off applying for their first passport.

AFTA is working closely with the Australian Passport Office (APO) to help get more Australians checking the validity on their passports and renewing them in a timely way ahead of planning to

travel.

The APO has released a toolkit with key messages, collateral including posters and sample copy for agencies to

use in reminding consumers and clients to check the status of their passports.

Importantly the toolkit covers the three stages of return to international travel based on the national vaccination thresholds with material tailored to the needs of specific audiences during each stage.

AFTA encourages all member agencies to make the most of this very useful toolkit resource which is available at https:// www.passports.gov.au/passportrenewal-comms-toolkit.

EK A380 recycled

EMIRATES has signed a contract with UAE-based Falcon Aircraft Recycling on a new recycling initiative, which will see its first retired A380 aircraft upcycled, reducing the environmental impact of the business and decreasing landfill waste.

Rex fully jabbed

REX Airlines has announced that all of its frontline staff on duty have now been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Company-wide, 93% of all the airline's employees have either been double vaccinated or received their first dose, with Rex now preparing to resume domestic east coast flying on 15 Nov with the resumption of flights from Melbourne to Sydney and Canberra.

Meanwhile Melbourne to Adelaide flights will recommence on 26 Nov, while flights to the Gold Coast from Sydney and Melbourne begin on 17 Dec.

MSC Red Sea cruises

MSC Cruises has updated its itineraries for MSC Bellissima's season sailing out of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, with new sevennight cruises calling at the ports of King Abdullah Economic City, Yanbu, and Agaba in Jordan.

Sailings will commence on 06 Nov, with overnight stays in Yanbu scheduled so that guests can visit the ancient city of AlUla, one of the oldest cities in the Arabian Peninsula and home to the UNESCO site of Hegra.

China disruption

CHINA has cancelled hundreds of flights from Beijing as the country battles to contain the latest outbreak of COVID-19, which is currently affecting 14 provinces.

China announced 59 locally transmitted virus cases Sat - the highest number since mid-Sep and includes two cases in Beijing linked to a tourist group infected in the north of the country.

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Air Malta Italy pact

AIR Malta has signed a codeshare agreement with Italian carrier ITA Airways, with the airlines to apply each other's codes between Malta and Rome.

"Italy is one of Air Malta's most important markets and this agreement will enhance our reach in the Italian market," Air Malta's Chief Commercial Officer Roy Kinnear said.

Air Malta is represented by Aviation Online in the Australia and New Zealand markets.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.740

THE AUDUSD fell by 0.6% this week on the back of a resurgent greenback ahead of an important Federal Reserve meeting this week.

In other markets, the Aussie was stronger versus the Euro and British pound, but weaker against the Japanese yen.

Financial experts are expecting the Aussie to shift in value pending the result of a Federal Reserve meeting on Thu.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.740
UK	£0.563
NZ	\$1.085
Euro	€0.632
Japan	¥82.25
Thailand	ß24.66
China	¥5.049
South Africa	9.748
Canada	\$0.965
Crude oil	US\$68.69

More Remarkable details



IHG Hotels and Resorts has revealed more details about New Zealand's first new-build Holiday Inn hotel in a decade.

The 182-room Holiday Inn Queenstown Remarkables Park, first revealed two years ago (TD 01 May 2019), will open its doors for the first time in Dec, and will feature rooms equipped with mountain views and balconies, smart TVs and free wi-fi.

The property will also boast the Giants Restaurant, Bar and to-go Cafe, serving up refined rustic food & drinks with local flavours.

For corporate clients, the hotel will offer four flexible meeting rooms catering for small gatherings of up to 30 people, as well as larger gatherings of up to 200 people theatre style.

Prices for the Holiday Inn Queenstown Remarkables Park start from NZ\$160 per night. IHG already has three hotels

operating in Queenstown.

Pictured: The facade of the soon-to-open Holiday Inn Queenstown Remarkables Park.

Hilton Nagasaki

HILTON has recently opened the Hilton Nagasaki, marking the company's first hotel in the city and the second property in Japan's popular Kyushu region.

The new hotel is connected to the new Dejima Messe Nagasaki convention centre, and features 200 rooms, flexible banquet spaces, a wedding chapel, fitness centre, and wellness facilities.

Three restaurants are also on offer at the site, including Japanese cuisine at Tamatsurumi, a Chinese eatery and a mixed heritage all-day dining concept.

a Balcony stateroom on the Azamara Onward Pre-Inaugural Cruise!

> Azamara and Travel Daily are providing one travel agent and guest with the once-in-a-lifetime experience of sailing on the 5 Night Pre-Inaugural Cruise of Azamara Onward. Sailing from **Barcelona to Monte Carlo and staying** in a Balcony stateroom, this is a special sailing not to be missed.

Prize includes Balcony stateroom for 2 on the 5 night pre-inaugural cruise. Minor Prizes will be awarded each week of one x \$100 VISA e-gift card.

ruise in Europe? **Creativity counts! ENTER HERE**

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A&K Tailor-made seamlessly crafted for the individual traveller

The luxury travel experts at Abercrombie & Kent have been inspiring adventure for nearly 60 years and with more than 55 offices on all seven continents, have a unique ability to deliver authentic, beyond-the-guidebook experiences for the world's most discerning travellers.

An A&K Tailor-Made journey is a holiday jointly crafted by the traveller in collaboration with you, their travel specialist, perfectly designed with their interests, budget and time frame in mind. These are private adventures for your guest and their chosen travelling companions, not group tours.

A&K's Journey Designers take the time to understand your guest's ideal holiday. In collaboration with you, a journey is created with as much or as little direction as you want to provide, drawing on the

expertise of A&K's experts around the world. This isn't just about choosing hotels and arranging visits to museums — it's about giving the kinds of uniquely inspiring experiences your guests may not even know exist, local encounters made possible only by A&K's longstanding connections.

These local encounters could include a behind the scenes visit with an Egyptologist to the soon-to-be-opened Grand Egyptian Museum next to the Pyramids with privileged access to the subterranean preservation labs where important restoration work of ancient artefacts is conducted. Or, in Kenya, a lion tracking expedition with a conservationist; dinner in a stately Croatian villa harbourside with the owner. It could be a Tokyo master class in sake tasting with an expert or a captivating rock art tour accompanied by an indigenous

host. In every destination it travels to, A&K has access to intriguing individuals and rare opportunities that can be built into any Tailor-Made journey that are guaranteed to elevate your guest's experience.

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

A&K's flexible Book with Confidence policy allows new bookings made by 31 December 2021, for travel through to 31 December 2022, to be changed or postponed up to 15 days prior to departure for COVID-19-related reasons.



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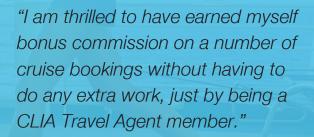












Stephanie Brown, Davis & James Travel Associates, NSW

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