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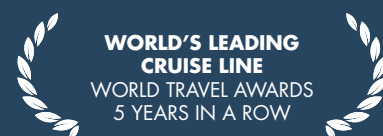
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NCL Black Friday

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is offering its best fare deals this year in a special Black Friday sale which launched yesterday.

Offers include up to 35% off a wide range of worldwide cruises including in Hawaii and Europe, along with the company's popular five "Free at Sea" add-ons.

Special pricing is available for new bookings made before 09 Dec - for more information see the **cover page** of today's **TD**.

TAFE free travel training

EXCLUSIVE

NSW TAFE has received special state government grant funding which will enable it to offer short courses at no cost to help address the burgeoning travel industry skills shortage.

The successful application under Training Services NSW's Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualifications (TPPPQ)

Program aims to support the changing needs of industry, with the funding secured thanks to submissions from a number of travel industry organisations.

The first course, which will commence on Tue 30 Nov, will be conducted over five weeks with a break over the holiday period, giving participants a "Statement of Attainment (SoA) in Essential Travel and Tourism Knowledge".

Participants, who will take part in facilitated instruction via Microsoft Teams two days per week between 9.30am and 3.30pm, will need a PC or laptop and internet access.

The courses are open to people aged over 15 who are not at school and live or work in NSW.

The introductory course promises to help students "discover if a career in travel and tourism is right for you," and will in turn lead directly into the short course "SoA in Computerised Travel Reservations (Amadeus)", with TAFE able to offer both courses fee-free.

The nationally accredited units may be credited towards further qualifications including a Certificate III in travel, Certificate IV in Travel & Tourism, Certificate IV in Guiding or a Diploma of Travel and Tourism Management.

Enrolments are now open by **CLICKING HERE**.

Silversea optimistic

SILVERSEA Cruises has deferred the start of its upcoming *Silver Muse* local season, but remains confident that it will be able to operate part of the deployment in Australian waters.

The first three departures of the ship, starting from Cairns on 21 Dec, have been cancelled, with Silversea MD APAC, Adam Radwanski, telling **TD** "while the government has made positive indications about cruise's return, including verbal commitments to end the cruise ban on 17 Dec, no concrete decision has been made".

With the lead time to bring a ship into Australia requiring at least 60-90 days, "Silversea has therefore scheduled to operate its first local voyage on 05 Feb, 2022," Radwanski confirmed.

"Silversea is committed to delivering a domestic season in Australia, and eagerly anticipates the green light from the relevant authorities in coming weeks."

More details in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

MEANWHILE Silversea continues to invite agents to partner with the cruise line to build their business - see **page 6**.

Sabre inks TUI

SABRE has signed a long-term partnership with TUI Group, which will see the tourism group list its 70 hotels globally through the SynXis Central Reservations and Channel Connect platforms.

"Sabre's technology will help enable us to fully automate our guest operations - including booking, setting up and amending guest offers - enabling staff to provide personalised stays," TUI CIO Martin Schreck said.

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Window Seat

ABU Dhabi is now home to the Middle East's largest water sanctuary, with The National Aquarium in Al Qana spanning more than 9,000m² and housing over 46,000 marine animals.

The new attraction is designed to rescue, rehabilitate and preserve native species in the United Arab Emirates, with the site recently signing a five-year partnership with The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi to work on a cutting-edge rehab program to rival any in the world.

One of the star attractions to call the aquarium home is the Super Snake, believed to be the longest reptile on display in the world.

Trip.com joins PATA

TRIP.COM Group has become a member of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA).

The OTA, which incorporates Ctrip, Skyscanner, and Qunar, will use its membership to increase its influence in the sector and deliver expert insights to its travel partners in the region.

Aussies' bula vision

FIJI has topped the list of most searched for international travel destinations by Aussies planning to take a holiday between Nov and Jan 2022, new data from Booking.com shows.

Singapore and Dubai were the next most popular travel targets, followed by London, Honolulu, Paris and Queenstown.

Domestically, the Gold Coast is the most sought after city to travel to, ahead of Sydney in second place, followed by Perth, Brisbane, Melbourne and Cairns.

More than four in five Aussies also indicated that seeing a body of water on their next trip was an important booking factor.

Border Force unveils DPD

THE Australian Border Force plans to deploy an initial version of its new Digital Passenger Declaration (DPD) as soon as next month, with a rollout of the platform's full functionality scheduled for Mar 2022.

The system was flagged last year (*TD* 19 Oct 2020), with the platform set to replace the cumbersome incoming passenger cards currently required to be completed in-flight before travellers arrive in Australia.

The system was previewed yesterday during an industry webinar organised by AFTA, with a Border Force presenter confirming that trial versions of the new platform had just been deployed in app stores.

DPD will be available both on the web as well as an app, and will be a voluntary system aiming to simplify the collection and dissemination of passenger data.

It will have the ability to automatically populate fields by reading the chip in ePassports, and will verify identity using a "liveness test" to ensure it's being used by a real person.

DPD will be integrated with OAG data to allow passengers to select their flight details, and travellers will also be able to provide mandatory quarantine planning information, with the new system replacing the current Australia Travel Declaration when it goes live in mid-Dec.

Adults will be able to add children to their DPD, and the app will allow identity and vaccination data to be stored in a passenger profile for reuse on later trips.

72 hours prior to departure, passengers will receive a push notification reminding them to complete the DPD, with the app also facilitating the uploading of test and vaccine results.

Border Force plans to deploy additional Airline Liaison Officers in a number of key overseas ports to support the rollout.

With the initial rollout next

month check-in staff will need to sight the approved DPD, but from Mar the system will be integrated with other platforms to automate the messaging of a passengers' health status into airline systems.

The Border Force spokesman confirmed that data collected on incoming passenger cards and now the DPD is shared with about 50 government agencies.

Upon arrival the DPD will be supported with a range of options such as printing on SmartGate tickets and QR Code readers to enable exit marshals at airports to function without the incoming passenger cards.

Come back, guides!

TOUR Guides Australia has announced the launch of a new membership level aiming to provide a "hassle-free pathway for experienced guides to return to the industry".

Tour guides who take up the new Registered Guide membership category will achieve national accreditation based on their previous work experience, with Tour Guides Australia President, Jim McInerney saying the association has traditionally catered for independent tour guides sourcing clients.

"However right now we are experiencing a once-in-a-generation nationwide skills shortage, so we must utilise our accreditation processes to link tour operators with experienced guides to protect the quality of Australia's visitor economy."

The new pathway to become a Registered Guide requires at least three years or 300 hours delivering services as a guide, a current First Aid Certificate including CPR, proof of identity & the ability to work in Australia.

In addition, individuals with all levels of guiding experience can join under the organisation's Associate Membership level which is free until 31 Dec 2021.

See www.tga.org.au.

Health policy change

JOURNEY Beyond will mandate all employees and guests need to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by 01 Jan 2022 under new health protocols announced by the company this week.

Proof of vaccination will be compulsory at check-in and must be sighted by Journey Beyond staff, while guests with a contraindication to any available COVID vaccine may be eligible for an exemption provided they can show a valid medical certificate and record a negative test no more than 72 hours prior to the time of departure.

"We will continue to diligently monitor this ever-evolving landscape and will make amendments to our policy as and when needed," CCO Peter Egglestone said.

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2021

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TOURISM
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Movenpick arrives in Melbourne



MOVENPICK Hotel Melbourne on Spencer has opened its doors today, with the 172-room property marking the second for the brand in Australia after Hobart in Jan.

The Melbourne location offers guests its iconic chocolate hour between 3:30 and 4:30pm every day, serving up a cavalcade of complimentary treats including chocolate petit fours, churros, mini ice cream cones and ice cream sandwiches.

The property also has a dedicated recreation floor

Bali yet to see gains

A RECENT study conducted by the Bali Tourism Board has revealed that not one international flight has landed on the island, despite reopening to select source markets on 14 Oct.

Fully vaccinated travellers from 19 nations including New Zealand are allowed to enter Bali, however, several tourism stakeholders believe incoming flight regulations, quarantine requirements and visa policies are major stumbling blocks.

The tourism body is now calling on the Indonesian Government to revise some entry policies, including relaxing the requirement for airlines to operate only direct flights between permitted countries and Bali, suggesting instead to allow airlines to transit at hub countries for no more than 12 hours.

featuring a 25-metre swimming pool, hot tubs, a sauna, as well as a gymnasium - open until 10pm.

Family incentives include unlimited ice cream for kids under 12 during their first stay at the hotel, as well as 25% off the price of family suites and children up to six years of age able to eat free when dining in-house from the kids menu.

Pictured: The Deluxe Suite on offer in Melbourne.

Abu Dhabi update

THE Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi will host a webinar on 23 Nov at 2pm (AEDT), providing agents with the chance to learn about the three diverse appeals of the emirate.

Speakers include Alan Glover from Etihad, Bridget Kroll from Marriott International Luxury Brands and Sarah Patrizia from Orient Tours in Abu Dhabi.

Register to attend **HERE**.

Jetstar Asia eyes PER

JETSTAR Asia has announced plans to relaunch services between Singapore and Perth from 12 Feb 2022.

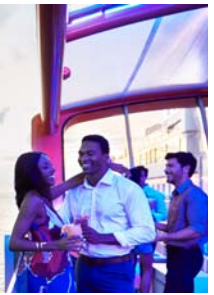
The carrier has flagged four weekly services to the WA capital pending formal approvals, to meet the pent-up demand for Singaporeans seeking to return.

Before the pandemic, travellers from Singapore were one of Perth's largest visitor markets.

Read about Celebrity Cruises' Northern Europe itineraries on board their stunning Edge Class ships. In the November issue of *travelBulletin*, Celebrity is asking Aussies "Isn't it time?"

travelBulletin

CLICK to read



Singapore campaign launch

TOURISM Australia has today formally unveiled its new "Yours to Explore" campaign targeting Singaporean travellers (**TD** 15 Nov), in the lead-up to the two-way travel bubble which comes into operation on 21 Nov.

Going live in Singapore tomorrow, the \$4m campaign aims to remind visitors of all the incredible experiences and destinations awaiting them on their next Australian holiday.

"As one of our largest inbound markets, we have long held strong tourism ties with Singapore, so we are really excited to be welcoming our friends from Singapore back to Australia," said Tourism Australia MD Phillipa Harrison.

"Quarantine-free travel between our two countries is also an important step in rebuilding international tourism to Australia, and also provides a framework for the resumption of inbound travel from other key international markets in time," she said.

All marketing activity will be amplified via partnerships with airlines, state and territory tourism organisations and key Singapore distribution partners.

Federal Tourism Minister Dan Tehan travelled to Singapore this week to promote Australian trade and tourism, saying "Australia wants to attract as many visitors as possible to support our local tourism jobs and businesses as part of our recovery from COVID-19".

Pre-COVID, Singapore was Australia's sixth largest source market, and seventh biggest in terms of visitor spending.

A new TVC as part of the promo is at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Blue Powder update

BLUE Powder Travel has followed up its announcement about PCR testing services (**TD** 16 Nov), noting that in the story published "there were references to Clinical Labs...to pricing and drive-through solutions which were incorrect and do not apply to Australian Clinical Labs."

"Australian Clinical Labs is a strong partner with the travel sector and continues to service the needs of the travel community...we apologise for any confusion this article has caused," the company added.

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VIC EVENT INSURANCE

THE Victorian State Government has launched a new \$230 million scheme to underwrite insurance coverage for creative, business, sporting and community events in the state which have to be cancelled, or run at reduced capacity, because of a State or Federal Government restriction due to COVID-19.

The Australian-first scheme, delivered by the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority, aims to “give Victoria’s event industry confidence to plan events in the future”.

Full details are not available at this stage, with the insurance set to become available for purchase next month and priced at an as-yet-unspecified percentage value of the event’s “declared value”.

In the event that a claim is made, organisers will receive

100% of the event’s declared value if the event is cancelled, or 50% if it goes ahead with reduced capacity - or if the organiser chooses to cancel because of the capacity restrictions.

Multi-day event payouts will be pro-rated for the part of the event impacted by the imposed restrictions.

The insurance will be available for events held within the state with an estimated revenue or cost between \$20,000 and \$10 million.

In the case of ticketed events, organisers must have a refund policy in place for purchased tickets.

The insurance is optional, and must be applied for and fully paid at least 14 days before the scheduled event start date.

More details at vmia.vic.gov.au.

New BEIA chair

NEW Zealand’s peak body Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA) has named Steve Armitage as its new Independent Chair.

Armitage, formerly GM - Destination at Auckland Unlimited, takes over as chair from Tony Gardner, who will step down after six years at the Association’s AGM which takes place next week.

Tassie summit sinks

A PUBLIC forum to highlight the crisis facing events in Tasmania was cancelled last weekend, because politicians invited were too busy to attend.

The Mercury reports that the planned Tasmanian Events Survival event will now proceed “in the form of a closed-door meeting between departmental bureaucrats and local events representatives” tomorrow.

Key issues include crowd caps, complex requirements and slow approvals of COVID-safe plans.

MCEC launches virtual solution

THE Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) has launched a new “end-to-end virtual and hybrid event offering,” with the platform complemented by a comprehensive suite of virtual and hybrid event planning and delivery services.

Showcased to more than 300 people at a formal launch titled “Defy All Conventions,” MCEC CEO Peter King said he was thrilled to see the venue “leading the charge with world class technology”.

“MCEC is a leader in the connected events space and the home of the unconventional, and it’s so exciting to launch our new platform to ensure we move with the times and keep our customers and their audiences as engaged as possible,” he enthused.

Sunshine Coast sets the scene in Brissy



BUSINESS Events Sunshine Coast recently staged a soiree in Brisbane to showcase the region’s conference and incentive appeal to more than 50 delegates about its new venues and attractions.

“For many of the delegates this was their first opportunity in over a year to attend such a function - it was great to reconnect with everyone and share optimism for the year

ahead,” Visit Sunshine Coast CEO Matt Stoeckel said.

Participating operators at the event include Accor, Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Australia Zoo, Creative Tours & Events, Event X, Kangaroo Bus Lines, the Kingfisher Bay Resort Group, to name just a few.

Pictured: Matt Stoeckel from Visit Sunshine Coast flanked by Katie Tomkins and Jodie Parker from Iceberg Events.

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Travel & Cruise Weekly

Seen it at the movies



PUZZLE

DESPITE being set in Africa, only aerial footage in this movie was filmed there.

Instead, most of the movie was filmed in Atlanta and South Korea, with this bridge in Busan, South Korea playing host to a big

car chase scene.

It was the first time that a Marvel Studios movie was made in Busan and there are two statues of the titular character set up in the city to commemorate it. Can you name the movie?

Answer: Black Panther

APPOINTMENTS



WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature 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.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has recruited Marie Owens Thomsen as its Chief Economist, effective 04 Jan 2022. Thomsen arrives in the role from private banking firm Banque Lombard Odie, where she was Head of Global Trends and Sustainability since 2020.

Howard Sherman has been chosen as the man to take over from Bob Binder as President of **Oceania Cruises**. Sherman will take charge of the company from Jan 2022, and was one of the founding members of the brand alongside Binder in 2002. "This is a brand that Howard knows and loves and he is so very proud to be leading us," the cruise line said.

The Island of Hawaii Visitors Bureau has appointed Rachel Kaiama to be its new Destination Manager, where she will be responsible for rebuilding, redefining and resetting the direction of the destination's tourism strategy over the next three years. Her previous experience has dealt with creating regenerative tourism models.

Shangri-La vouchers

SHANGRI-LA Sydney has introduced four new gift vouchers in time for Christmas, ranging from \$495 to \$995.

The new line offers a selection of inclusions such as sparkling wine, valet parking, breakfast, afternoon tea, and canapes in the exclusive Horizon Lounge.

A stay in the swanky Harbour Bridge Suite or Executive Sydney Harbour Suite is included on some of the vouchers, as is the option of a leisurely 4pm check out instead of late morning.

Call 02 9250 6000 for details.

Be there in the air

APT-OWNED Antarctica Flights has unveiled its itineraries on offer for flights departing in 2022/23, with services departing from all major Australia cities.

The first journey commences 06 Nov 2022 from Sydney, which flies over the icy continent on board a Qantas 787 Dreamliner, with experts on hand to narrate the amazing scenery below to passengers.

Prices start at \$1,199 per person for an Explorer Economy seat, and range up to \$7,999 for a Business Class Deluxe spot.

Win 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.

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Travel Daily

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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.

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CRUISE WEEKLY

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