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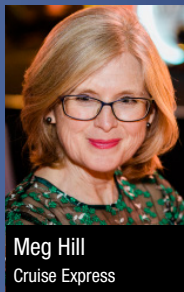
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Cruise Express

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## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has five pages of news plus a front cover page from Ponant.

## Ponant Europe '22

**PONANT** is offering savings of 10% on combined itineraries for its 2022 Europe sailing program.

Half-price deposits are also on offer for bookings confirmed by the end of Nov - for more details see the **cover page** of *TD* today.

## Qantas sells off Mascot properties

**QANTAS** says the \$802 million sale of 13.8 hectares of land near Sydney Airport (*TD* breaking news) will help it reduce debt and accelerate recovery.

The transaction with LOGOS Property Group comes alongside discussions with the acquirer about potential future development options, including the creation of a dedicated precinct for the airline which could see a new HQ combined with a training and distribution hub.

Qantas CEO Alan Joyce said the decision to sell followed a wide-ranging review of the carrier's property portfolio.

'We went into this process open-minded about whether we'd sell some, all or none of this land depending on the response from the market,' he said.

'That response was extremely strong and it has resulted in the sale of all the land.'

Joyce said the extended lockdowns and border closures of the past few months had been extremely tough, 'but this transaction adds to the growing momentum around our recovery'.

# NSW scraps the caps

**WITH** New South Wales flying toward its 80% double dose target, Premier Dominic Perrottet today announced the state government will remove quarantine requirements and caps for overseas arrivals from next month (*TD* breaking news).

Those who are double-dosed with a Therapeutic Goods Administration-approved vaccine will be able to enter Australia quarantine-free, with further advice about testing requirements for arrivals to be provided in the coming days.

Fully vaccinated travellers already in quarantine will still have to complete the old requirements beyond 01 Nov, and overseas arrivals who are not fully vaccinated will be capped at 210 per week.

They will also still be required to undergo a mandatory 14 days of hotel quarantine.

Travel between Greater Sydney (including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Shellharbour and Wollongong) and rural New South Wales will also be permitted from next month.

The announcement comes as Mon firms as the day the Reopening NSW Roadmap's 80% settings are expected to come into effect for fully vaccinated New South Welshmen.

Perrottet said he was also in discussions 'right now' with the Australian Government about relaunching the cruising industry - talks which his predecessor Gladys Berejiklian had already engaged Prime Minister Scott Morrison with, and that he was 'very on board with'.

The Premier said the return of

overseas travellers and easing of restrictions would help reunite families and significantly boost the economy.

'We have reached this vaccination milestone quicker than anyone thought we could, and that is a testament to the hard work of people across the state turning out to get vaccinated,' he said.

'Welcoming back fully vaccinated travellers will not only mean families and friends can be home in time for Christmas, it will also give our economy a major boost.'

Perrottet said there had been 'numerous discussions' with Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the Australian Government about the plan.

'Returning Australians will naturally be the first cab off the rank,' he said.

'Whether that's returning Australians from other states as well, if we can play a role in that, I'm very passionate about doing that.'

Deputy Premier Paul Toole said the tough decision had been made to delay travel between rural NSW and Greater Sydney, as by next month, it is expected more than 77% of rural areas will be fully vaccinated.

'Everyone has done a brilliant job of getting vaccinated and rates are rising fast,' he said.

'However we have looked at the health modelling and listened to feedback from regional communities who want more time to get their double dose vaccination rates up as high as possible before they welcome back visitors.'

## Intrepid announces NZ acquisition

**INTREPID** Travel has today announced the purchase of a majority share in New Zealand's Haka Tours and ANZ Nature Tours.

The deal is the first acquisition for Intrepid since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the two touring brands offering 'a range of culturally rich tourism experiences for both the local and international inbound markets'.

Intrepid said the deal bolstered its operational capability in NZ, and allowed it to leverage its global distribution capability to scale rapidly as the global tourism sector recovers.

Haka Tours has offices in Auckland and Wellington, and founder Ryan Sanders will remain a board member and shareholder in the business.

The agreement with Intrepid will also see the Haka team, led by GM Eve Lawrence, return to their regular hours, having worked reduced time for much of the pandemic.

'Travel is back - and we're excited to kick off our new phase of growth with this first announcement,' said Intrepid CEO James Thornton.

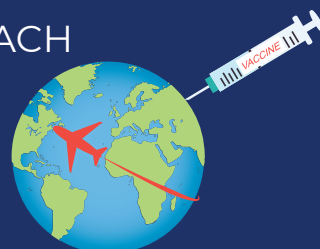
## SQ London A380s

**SINGAPORE** Airlines will deploy its Airbus A380 superjumbos on selected London Heathrow services from 18 Nov, following strong passenger demand for services after the inclusion of the UK in Singapore's Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL) arrangements.

The resumed services will include SQ322 from SIN to LHR and the return SQ317 flight.

AUSTRALIANS WILL BE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL WHEN WE REACH 80% OF THE POPULATION VACCINATED, SO LET'S

#givetravelashot  
#letsgetto80







## Window Seat

**FOR** those in the tourism industry who are looking for a new opportunity, there is currently an opening in the American market - literally.

A tiny Tennessee town is now for sale, listed for USD\$725,000 (AUD\$977,221).

The historic town of Water Valley, not far from the border with Alabama, includes a barn, and four general stores.

There is also a creekside home which was also built around the 1900s, which the listing suggests could be perfect for a bed & breakfast.

The listing has drawn comparisons to the Canadian hit sitcom *Schitt's Creek*, in which a formerly wealthy family is forced to settle in a small town it had previously purchased.

## QF auto ticket revalidation

**QANTAS** has announced an enhancement to its tech platform which will automatically revalidate a customer's ticket if a schedule change occurs to the timing of a QF flight.

A schedule change is defined as an involuntary change to a Qantas flight outside 72 hours prior to flight departure.

The innovation will minimise the time taken by agents servicing a booking impacted by a schedule change, and also "deliver a seamless experience for our customers prior to take-off," the carrier said.

Previously the automatic ticket revalidation process would only apply if an itinerary was impacted by a schedule change that resulted in a different QF flight number, with the enhancement now extending to changes impacting the timing of a service.

Travel agents will receive a UN/TK or TK status notification in



their GDS or technology partner queues, at which point they are then required to advise their clients of the new flight timing.

Tickets are then automatically revalidated to either reflect the new time and/or change to the Qantas flight number.

Automatic ticket revalidation also applies to Qantas Distribution Platform (QDP) bookings made via GDS or other technology partners.

## Beyond captain

**KATE** McCue, America's first female cruise ship captain, will take the helm of the brand new *Celebrity Beyond* when she debuts next year (**TD** 29 Apr).

McCue, who also has almost 3.5m social media followers, is currently captain of *Celebrity Edge* which in Jun became the first ship to sail with guests from a US port since the start of the pandemic.

## UK NHS health app outage chaos

**A FOUR** hour outage of a smartphone app from Britain's National Health Service (NHS) overnight caused widespread travel chaos, with passengers unable to board flights because they could not prove their vaccination status.

The NHS Covid Pass app normally provides details of proof of immunisations as well as current test results, with the Government agency blaming the outage on a "technical issue with a global service provider".

## Ovolo into Bali

**OVOLO** Hotels has announced the launch of Mamaka by Ovolo in Kuta, Bali, the brand's first property outside of Hong Kong and Australia.

The "urban resort" has 191 rooms and offers surf lessons via the Quiksilver Bali Surf Academy.

## TRAVEL AGENT INVITATION

Join the STB team on this virtual tour of Singapore on Thursday 4 Nov 21. Come and visit Chinatown and Kampong Gelam with us!

REGISTER NOW AS SPACES ARE LIMITED

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SINGAPOREIMAGINE





## Linkd links glasses to agents



**LINKD** Tourism and its partners Alamo Rent a Car, Colorado Tourism Office, Port of Seattle, Travel Oklahoma, and Visit Kyushu recently sent out some gift packs (*inset*) to a small number of Australian travel advisors who have shown their unfaltering support over the past two years.

Advisors from Boutique Travel Services, Helloworld Travel, MTA, Orbit World Travel, Travel Associates, and more were recognised, many of whom read every one of Linkd's partner newsletter updates, and attended multiple webinars the company conducted over the pandemic.

"We felt it was important to thank them for their efforts

in joining us on our virtual adventures to Colorado's Rocky Mountains, on a drive down Oklahoma's stretch of Route 66, through Kyushu's stunning onsen, and set sail for the Alaskan passage from the iconic Port of Seattle," Linkd said.

**Pictured**, Orbit advisor Linda Higgins is presented her gift pack by Linkd Account Manager Amanda McCoy.

*keep dreaming...*

Inspiration for your clients' next holiday

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Travel & Cruise Weekly

## ATG applications

**THE** application process for this year's APT Travel Group Graduate Program is currently in place, with submissions sought before the 22 Oct deadline.

Graduate roles at ATG offer the opportunity for participants to learn on the job, move across various teams, contribute to critical business projects and have access to coaching and support from senior leaders.

For more information and to apply **CLICK HERE**.

## Tradewinds cancels Australia 2022/23

**TRADEWIND** Voyages has today announced the cancellation of its 2022/23 summer season in Australia, with *Golden Horizon* to be deployed elsewhere.

The UK company, which had also previously planned a 2021/22 local season, said "persistent ambiguity surrounding the availability of Australian ports and Australian domestic and overseas borders due to the pandemic has forced Tradewind to make the difficult but unavoidable decision to cancel Golden Horizon's summer season in Australia for 2022/23 as well".

Long term-planning was needed to operate and market voyages in Australia, and "ongoing restrictive conditions and lack of clarity here for cruising and freedom of travel made the season unviable to operate," the company said, with hopes a 2023/24 local deployment might be possible.

## Hurtigruten freedom sale

**HURTIGRUTEN** Cruises has today launched a Freedom Sale, with offers up to 15% off global destinations ranging from Svalbard to Antarctica.

Also available are cruises to Alaska/Canada, the British Isles, Africa, South America and more -see [hurtigruten.com.au](https://hurtigruten.com.au).

To stopover or not stopover?



The Inspire Collective are looking to understand the awareness and considerations of different stopover options for Australians, as we look forward to travel through to the UK/Europe again.

Inviting all sectors of the industry to participate in this short survey, with four respondents winning a \$50 gift card for their effort.

To enter

**CLICK HERE**

the inspire collective

Follow the Northern Lights  
Up to \$1,400 Onboard Credit\*

\*Offer amount per cabin, twin share. T&Cs apply.

**HURTIGRUTEN**  
Norwegian Coastal Express

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## CORPORATE UPDATE

### Kudos integrates VariFlight

**BRISBANE-BASED** Kudos Travel Technology has announced a new partnership with aviation tech firm VariFlight to provide travel agencies and their clients with up-to-the-second flight tracking information.

The Kudos Travel Platform, developed by former World Travel Professionals/Orbit World Travel Head of Technology, Phil Rasmussen, is a fully mobile experience which can be branded and customised for TMCs to provide to their customers.

Partnering with VariFlight will see the system integrate real-time flight updates and status, including on-time departure, delays, cancellations, flight progress and diversions.

"The aviation industry is forging ahead with its recovery to meet the increased demand for travel, however it's not all blue skies," Rasmussen said.

"Flights can be delayed or diverted for any number of reasons, and pandemic-related issues continue to contribute to flight cancellations - even in countries open for travel.

"We see the VariFlight data as an invaluable tool that will help agencies rebuild traveller confidence," he said.

VariFlight information is collated from a myriad of data sources including airlines, airports, air traffic control centres as well as a global network of ADS-B surveillance technology receivers which track designated aircraft.

The information shared by the planes includes GPS-derived location, speed and altitude.

Rasmussen said by giving users access to the high quality data "we're putting them back in control of the travel experience at a time when contingency plans are the norm".

More details at [kudos.travel](https://kudos.travel).

### ITP feels it in Kenya

**INTERNATIONAL** Travel Partnership (ITP) has announced the addition of Fly High Agency in Kenya to its global network.

Nairobi-based Fly High is ITP's second partner in the African nation, focusing on corporate travel, MICE, events and groups.

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Travel Daily



### NCL walkers clock 64,000km



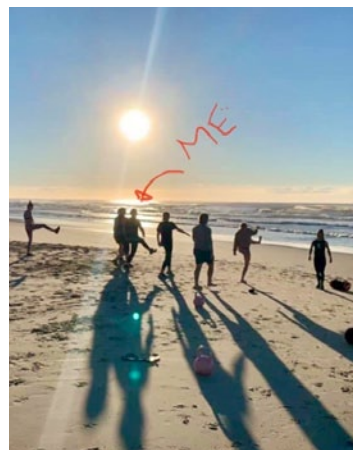
**THE** second week of Norwegian Cruise Line's 2021 Walk for Wellness has seen the travel industry really step it up, with a collective cumulative total of 64,000km - significantly more than half way to the 100,000km overall goal this year.

This week as well as putting their best foot forward, participants were also invited to a virtual yoga session, with 50 attendees now feeling the serenity after the Flow Athletic livestream - including NCL's resident Yogi, Tahlia Shaw from NCL Sales Support (**inset** at right).

This week's challenge saw walkers take a photo of themselves enjoying a new fitness activity, with winners including Todd McGeary from Helloworld Travel Ballina (**arrowed** at right) who said his new exercise at the moment is 7am Beach Bootcamp - stretching it out at Shelley Beach Ballina with some long step lunges.

Top steppers this week once again included Peter Manase from Manase Travel NZ, who managed an average count of 40,744 per day, followed by Joseph Toleman from Phil Hoffmann Travel Adelaide with a 30,369 average daily step count.

The six-strong **Travel Daily** Trekkers has also been enjoying stretching their legs, with our total combined distance travelled



so far an impressive 513km.

**Pictured** at top is a snap of a group walk on the coast near Brisbane's Moreton Bay Boat Club, from left: Mel Clout, Clout Travel; Brad Sward, Trendell & Turner Travel Associates; Lolo Trendell, Trendell & Turner Travel Associates; and Craig McLaurin from Norwegian Cruise Line.

### Show us your best New Years Eve Photo!

**Rediscover Australia and Unique Cruises** are partnering with **Travel Daily** this month to offer readers the chance to win a ticket on the **NYE Hits on the Harbour Cruise**, as well as offering \$100 and \$50 gift vouchers for 2nd and 3rd prize by providing your best picture of your past New Years Eve celebrations.

This ticket gives you access to:

- 6 Hours Sydney Harbour Cruise on Journey Beyond Cruise Sydney's *Spirit of Migloo*
- Continuous premium food
- Unlimited beverages including premium sparkling wines and beers - For more information on what is offered **CLICK HERE**

To enter send a picture of your best New Years Eve along with, in 25 words or less, what made it so memorable.

Entries to [competitions@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:competitions@traveldaily.com.au)



## Where in the world?



©Tourism Western Australia

PUZZLE

**LONG** known to the Aboriginal people of the area, this massive crater was only discovered by Europeans during an aerial survey of the area in 1947.

It was caused by the impact of a meteorite, thought to be travelling at speeds of 15km a second and weighing more than 50,000 tonnes when it crashed

around 300,000 years ago.

It is the second largest crater in the world and measures 880m across.

Today it is protected by its national park status and travellers can walk to the top of the crater's rim, or else take a scenic flight to check it out.

Do you know where this is?

Answer: Wolfe Creek Crater, Western Australia

### AF/KL SIN flights

**AIR** France and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines have announced designated Vaccinated Travel Lane flights to Singapore.

Effective 21 Oct AF will operate two weekly Singapore VTL flights from Paris, while on 01 Nov KLM will add two Singapore frequencies from Amsterdam.

Travellers from other VTL countries are also eligible to connect with the services.

### Pittsburgh terminal

**PITTSBURGH** International Airport in Pennsylvania, USA has officially broken ground on a major new terminal project.

The country's first airport development to be built from the ground up in a post-pandemic world, the US\$1.4b construction will facilitate clean air technology, more space for social distancing and 90,000 square feet of outdoor terrace space.

### Port Macquarie expansion

**WYNDHAM** Destinations has announced the completion of a significant expansion of the Club Wyndham Flynn's Beach Resort in Port Macquarie on the NSW north coast.

The development has added 53 one- to four-bedroom villas, with 20 designated as Deluxe, 25 as Grand and eight as Presidential.

The \$25 million project has expanded the property to 113 apartments and villas, and also includes a new cafe, games area, kids' pool, common area pavilions and car parking.

Mayor Peta Pinson said the project showed Wyndham's confidence in the region.

### BA recruiting crew

**BRITISH** Airways is seeking new cabin crew recruits to work from the northern spring of 2022 to help fly its summer schedule.

The carrier, which furloughed thousands of workers in the depths of the pandemic, said it had already contacted people in its existing talent pools, but also wanted to appeal to a broad range of people "to create the most diverse crew workforce in its 100-year history".

CEO Sean Doyle said applications were now open, and to incentivise new starters BA is also waiving its policy around the need to do six months at the airline before accessing staff travel - [careers.ba.com](https://careers.ba.com).

## TRAVEL SPECIALS

**WELCOME** to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to [specials@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:specials@traveldaily.com.au)

Next year's All Aboard promotion for **Rocky Mountaineer** has been extended. For next year's Canadian routes, the promo has been extended for bookings made until the end of next month, offering four free perks for packages of eight or more days, or a saving of CAD\$500 per person for packages of seven or more nights. For the Rockies to the Red Rocks itinerary, those who book by Mon will receive early bird pricing. For details, contact [APAC@rockymountaineer.com](mailto:APAC@rockymountaineer.com).

**APT's** 12-day Tasmania Complete tours departing 02 Nov and 21 Dec are priced from \$6,195 per person twin share, including a discount of \$600 per couple. This comprehensive journey from Hobart visits all the key Tasmanian destinations – Port Arthur, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Freycinet, Strahan, and Smithton. For bookings call the APT Travel Group on 1300 278 278.

Leave lockdown behind you with **Voyages Indigenous Tourism**, with the Lockdown to Outbound deal offering up to 45% off. Enjoy a minimum two-night stay at either Sails in the Desert, Emu Walk Apartments, or the newly refurbished Desert Gardens, with prices starting from \$257 per night. Book by 17 Nov for travel between 01 Dec-20 Mar, and for more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

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