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Today's issue of TD

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

Back on the harbour

JOURNEY Beyond Cruise operations on Sydney Harbour will reopen on 05 Nov, with regular lunch and dinner cruises as well as the option of private charters and on-board events. See the **cover page** for details.

Thailand on radar

AUSTRALIA has been added to a list of countries able to visit Thailand quarantine-free from the start of Nov.

Aussie travellers will be able to visit select locations in Thailand without the need for mandatory quarantine, so long as they arrive by air, are fully vaccinated, have medical insurance and can provide a negative COVID test.

IATA offers daily remittance

EXCLUSIVE

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) is set to allow travel agents who are unable to meet financial benchmarks the ability to be placed onto daily remittances of BSP payments, with the move still subject to ratification by next month's IATA Passenger Agency Conference (PAConf).

The move continues IATA's support for the industry, which last year included allowing certified accounts (rather than audited accounts) to be used for the IATA financial review process.

This year the deadline for IATA financials has also been extended by 30 days, with submissions now due this Wed 27 Oct.

The change for agencies who no longer satisfy the Local Financial Criteria was strongly supported in a recent mail vote by IATA airlines, with the PAConf confirmation expected mid-Nov.

IATA will review each agency's Annual Financial Return outcome, and approach them by 01 Dec to ask them to provide the required financial security or alternatively elect the daily remittance option.

"The COVID-19 crisis hit the entire travel value chain hard," said IATA South West Pacific Manager, Matteo Zanmarini.

He told **TD** that IATA had not seen a significant decrease in the number of accredited agents in Australia, with just 18 locations here having relinquished IATA accreditation since Mar 2020.

"Having different tiers of accreditation models available through NewGen ISS has allowed agents to choose the model that best fits their business," he said.

"This would not have been possible without the strong relationship that has been established for many years between IATA, the airlines and AFTA Agents," Zanmarini said.

QR goes daily on SYD and MEL

QATAR Airways has announced the return of daily flights from Sydney and Melbourne, with capacity ramping up on 01 Dec.

The carrier will deploy a 777-300ER on the Sydney route and an A350-1000 on Melbourne, while existing thrice weekly frequencies will remain in place for QR departures from Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

Hamamatsu in town

TOURISM Garden has been appointed as the Australian representative for Japan's Hamamatsu City and Lake Hamana Tourism Bureau.

The destination is located in the Shizuoka Prefecture between Tokyo and Osaka, with features including spectacular coastal scenery, a thriving motorbike and musical instrument-making industry and a rich food culture - see hamamatsu-japan.com.

AIRLINE OF THE YEAR SKYTRAX 2021

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qatarairways.com

QATAR AIRWAYS القطرية

NSW Feel New campaign

THE NSW Government has launched a new \$10 million tourism campaign designed to accelerate the recovery of the state's visitor economy following disasters such as the travel shutdown and bushfires.

The Feel New marketing push created in conjunction with Destination NSW forms a central pillar of NSW's Visitor Economy Strategy 2030, which aims for the state to become a powerhouse tourism economy in the Asia Pacific over the next 10 years.

Debuting yesterday via a number of TV spots, the ad campaign focuses on a range of tourism activities such as adventure tours in the Blue Mountains, road trips in the

outback, horseback riding in Jindabyne, and the water attractions of Sydney Harbour.

Phase one of the campaign will also incorporate digital media, including video on demand and subscription TV, media partnerships, public relations and trade activity.

A series of seven 'Feel' films will also be released as part of the campaign, each exploring some of the individual feelings a visit to NSW can provide to travellers, with phase two of the marketing push rollout from Feb 2022.

NSW Minister for Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said the time was right to position the state as the "feel-good" region to visit in the Asia Pacific.

"NSW offers dynamic and diverse destinations and visitor experiences like nowhere else," Ayres said.

Hawaii back to Syd

HAWAIIAN Airlines will restart Sydney-Honolulu services five times weekly from 15 Dec.

The route was suspended in Mar last year due to travel restrictions imposed at the onset of the pandemic.

"We are thrilled to reconnect Hawaii and Australia and have been encouraged by the public's response to Australia's national vaccination program, enabling the reopening of borders," said Regional Director for Australia & New Zealand Andrew Stanbury.

Rex restores routes

REX Airlines has announced its intention to increase capacity and reinstate suspended services on select NSW regional routes from 15 Nov.

Destinations to commence flying again include Albury, Armidale, Dubbo, Griffith, Orange, Merimbula, Moruya and Wagga Wagga, with capacity on the routes to also be beefed up on previous frequencies.

The airline has also revealed a range of sales with no Christmas holiday blackout periods.

The promotion will see fares for routes between Sydney and Port Macquarie & Sydney and Coffs Harbour discounted to \$99 each way, with the deal on sale now until 14 Nov for travel up to 30 Apr 2022.

Rex said its no blackout promo was a first for the airline.

Time to learn & earn

DIGITAL learning platform Learnt is now giving people the chance to study courses in travel and tourism and earn Qantas loyalty points at the same time.

The online training company has partnered with Qantas Business Rewards and Qantas Frequent Flyer to give members the option to earn up to 20 Qantas Points per \$1 spent on eligible courses.

The platform also allows users to aggregate their credentials in the one place to make plans for their professional future.

Subscription costs start from \$50 a month.

SQ Mel flights

SINGAPORE Airlines opened Singapore-Melbourne sales on Fri night.

The 14 weekly flights will resume from next Mon, the date on which Victoria's international borders will reopen to fully vaccinated Australians.



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Welcome Margot

CARRYING on the spirit of “heritage with a modern edge”, Sydney is set to welcome its first Kimpton, named Margot.

Each of the brand’s locations around the world is one-of-a-kind, with its own unique identity and visual representation.

The former Primus Sydney Hotel (**TD 05 May**) sees magnificent art deco architecture meeting modern Australian style.

Tassie open 15 Dec

TASMANIA’S border reopening plan has been released, with the state set to welcome all visitors when borders fully reopen on 15 Dec.

Tas Premier Peter Gutwein on Fri announced that from this date, all arrivals in the state from interstate and overseas will not be required to quarantine, so long as they have tested negative for COVID-19 72 hours before, and are fully vaccinated.

Rolling the travel sector forward



THREE ladies from itravel, Eliza Summerhayes, Natasha Dann and Megan Catterall, have become major sponsors of the Newport Bowling Club in Sydney’s Northern Beaches.

The club’s reputation is growing and is well known on the Peninsula, with Catterall stating that being the official sponsors allows their business the opportunity to build strong relationships with potential



customers and engage with the community.

“We look forward to growing our partnership,” she said.

The ladies have held two successful functions involving their close industry partners, with more to be held in 2022 in an effort to build travel confidence with service and support on the Northern Beaches.

Pictured: The trio of agents at the Newport Bowling Club.



Window Seat

HERE’S one very lofty reason to look forward to booking your next holiday to the United States, with news that the state of California will soon be home to the world’s tallest single-track roller coaster.

Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia has unveiled plans to construct the Wonder Woman Flight of Courage thrill ride, boasting speeds of up to 95km/h, with a terrifying 40-metre climb & 87° plummet.

“Everything is going to be more accentuated and allow us to come into the turns a little more aggressively,” the company charged with building the ride enthused.

Six Flags Magic Mountain already has 20 roller coasters - the most of any theme park in the world.

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The feeling of Just Wow!



ALFINA Maugeri from Flight Centre Baulkham Hills has scored herself a three-night stay at Sails in the Desert, the recently refurbished five-star hotel at Ayers Rock Resort, after winning

Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia's recently completed "Just Wow" trade incentive.

The winning prize package is valued at around \$4,900 and also includes a flight voucher, a Tali Wiru signature dining experience, tours and a gift card.

Meanwhile second prize was claimed by Patricia Marangos from Uluru Travel and third place went to Chris Ezzy from Travel Managers, both scoring free hotel accommodation and multiple tour experiences of varying value, including a Desert Awakening Tour for two people.

Pictured: Elena Grasso, Voyages Sales & Marketing Coordinator with prize winner Alfina Maugeri, Flight Centre Baulkham Hills.

FNQ back to life

FAR North Queensland is preparing for life after COVID with several recent accommodation announcements.

Firstly, Silky Oaks Lodge will reopen on 15 Dec after a \$15 million refurbishment, featuring 40 luxury treehouses with views of the Mossman River, while the newly rebadged Benson Hotel has also seen its reception area, bar, restaurant, and rooms all receive a stylish refresh.

Meanwhile Whiskey and Wine has opened on level two of the Crystalbrook Flynn, a new dining space for visitors to enjoy a drink and soak up Coral Sea views.

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Intrepid pushes into hotels

THE launch of the new "Drifter - an Intrepid Hotel" offering (**TD** breaking news) will see Intrepid Travel partner with Drifter Hospitality Group to establish an initial \$75 million fund to acquire and rebrand "sustainable owner-operated premium hybrid hotels".

The joint venture initiative has seen Intrepid MD APAC Sarah Clark step into a new role as head of a dedicated hotels division, while the company's Chief Sales Officer, Brett Mitchell, will now oversee the APAC region under his global role as part of the move.

"The group plans to take the concept globally, with targeted assets being a combination of repositioned hotels, hostels, re-purposed commercial sites and newbuilds," according to a statement from Intrepid today.

Hybrid hotels offer a range of room options including private suites and shared rooms, with the properties to be located in popular city neighbourhoods.

They'll also provide "exciting communal areas and unique cultural and dining offerings," the company said.

Clark said the hybrid hotel concept would offer guests a "new type of experiential hotel stay...with travel reopening, people looking to reconnect and the opportunity presented with city real estate, it's the perfect moment to embark on this expansion phase".

The properties will be carbon neutral and sustainable practices will be implemented across design, services, amenities, utilities and wider operational practices, the company promised.

The portfolio, which is envisioned to grow to \$500m, will initially feature properties in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland, set to open in 2022.

Royal for Aussies

ROYAL Caribbean has launched an interactive digital brochure to provide Aussies with a guide to what sailings are coming up in Europe and the United States.

The brochure includes videos, images and up-to-date pricing.

To view the latest online brochure, see [HERE](#).

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

Aurora solo deal

AURORA Expeditions is inviting travellers to go solo and save with no single supplements.

Cruisers are invited to explore Antarctica next year, with the promotion ending 24 Nov or until sold out.

Featured voyages include the Antarctic Explorer, from 06 Mar to 15 Mar, which allows travellers to reduce their time cruising the region's roughest seas by flying across the Drake Passage in one direction.

Explore all voyages on offer by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Crystal free flights

CRYSTAL Cruises has announced it will provide complimentary, non-stop chartered flights and a luxury hotel stay for *Crystal Endeavor's* inaugural Antarctic season.

The round-trip chartered air flights between Miami and Ushuaia will be complemented by hotel nights in both cities for guests on *Endeavor's* inaugural round-trip voyages in Antarctica.

The season will launch with eight voyages next month, and cruise through to Feb.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

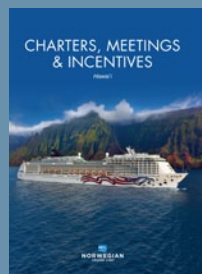
BROCHURES

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Brightwater Holidays - 2022/23 Capsule Collection
Brightwater Holidays has gone to press with its second edition of its 2022/23 brochure, featuring its Capsule Collection of new tours. The program includes brand new tours, savings of up to £200 per person for early bookers, and Brightwater's best-ever flexible booking policy. There are also a number of tours with zero single supplements to pay, which are ideal for solo travellers. The brochure comes just as the Government of

the United Kingdom lifts long-standing travel restrictions for many destinations worldwide.



Norwegian - Charters, Meetings & Incentives
Norwegian Cruise Line's new Charters, Meetings & Incentives brochures provide travel advisors and event planners with the help needed to take an event or conference to the next level. There are two new brochures, one showcasing the array of options for meetings, conferences and charters across Norwegian's entire fleet, and the other highlighting opportunities aboard *Pride of America*, sailing seven-day Hawaii inter-island voyages from

Honolulu year-round. The brochures detail Norwegian's unique meeting spaces, stunning destinations and superb dining.

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Travel & Cruise
Weekly

Feel New

Feel new in New South Wales

Brought to you by



Sea Cliff Bridge, Clifton

NSW is a uniquely diverse place. A juxtaposition of culture and nature. Of bustling city and wilderness. Of intimate communities and vast open expanses. That's what makes NSW so special.

Whether it's the pure joy of world-class events like Vivid Sydney (**pictured** below) or the welcoming relaxation and natural beauty of its regions, NSW has the ability to make visitors feel energised, like



nowhere else.

We've all spent months dreaming about our next holiday and it's almost time to make those dreams a reality.

It's time to feel again... to feel the exhilaration of road tripping along one of NSW's great coastal routes.

To reconnect with nature standing under thundering waterfalls in world heritage listed rainforests.

To discover local legends and ancient cultures.

To meet new people and reunite with old friends. And rekindle relationships making special moments that will last forever.

It's time to feel new.

Head to [visitnsw.com](https://www.visitnsw.com) for travel inspiration, itineraries, and ideas on how to #FeelNew in NSW.

Images: ©Destination NSW