



HURTIGRUTEN
Norwegian Coastal Express

Sea Zero

Our journey to zero emissions
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beautiful sea voyage.

See inside for details.



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of news plus a front page from **Hurtigruten**.

Hurtigruten plots emissions-free ship

HURTIGRUTEN Group MD Asia-Pacific, Damian Perry, says the company's major Sea Zero initiative (**TD** 01 Apr) to research and develop an emissions-free passenger cruise ship for the Norwegian coastal route is a key step towards Hurtigruten's ultimate goal of zero emission operations across all its brands. With these voyages calling at 34 ports between Bergen and Kirkenes there is potential for access to green energy, but a different approach will be required for Hurtigruten's expedition cruises, using technology that does not currently exist.

Hurtigruten's partnership with research organisation SINTEF is "real action...for us this is not just wishful thinking," Perry said.

At the same time as a feasibility study is being undertaken, targeting a 2030 launch of a zero emissions vessel, other upgrades across the existing seven ships operating the Norwegian Coastal Express will reduce CO2 emissions by about 20%, while NOx will be cut by 80% which is "one of the largest environmental upgrades in the history of European shipping".

Perry is happy to discuss the project on 1300 322 062 - see the **cover page** for more details.

Travel Associates is back!

EXCLUSIVE

THE travel booking pendulum has definitely swung over the last couple of months as COVID-19 restrictions lift, with Flight Centre Travel Group GM of Premium Leisure Brands, Danielle Galloway, this morning confirming that the luxury-focused Travel Associates brand has returned to profit about six months ahead of earlier expectations.

Speaking to delegates on the Gold Coast where Travel Associates business leaders from across Australia and New Zealand have gathered for a highly anticipated Reunion conference - the first such event in more than two years - Galloway noted that Mar booking trends included a large proportion of clients upgrading their trips to Business class, bookings being confirmed after just a single customer conversation, and consumers "revenge spending like there's no tomorrow".

"We are back!" she enthused, with many of the very busy attendees confirming a record month of activity.

Galloway challenged the Travel Associates team to continue their pursuit to be "the best of the best in the industry," urging managers to have bold aspirations.

"The current opportunity in the industry is huge," she said, suggesting businesses could achieve three times their pre-COVID performance in the current demand environment.

This morning's conference sessions also included a presentation from GM Brand & Marketing, Anna Burgdorf, who laid out a vision for Travel Associates to lead the way in luxury travel.

A comprehensive brand guide "distils everything we do as a business," Burgdorf said, noting that while Travel Associates was already strong in Australia and New Zealand "it deserves to be a global brand" with hopes for a rollout in other parts of the world.

More from Travel Associates on pages **two, three** and **seven**.

VA Biz class savings

VIRGIN Australia has cut the price of its one-way Business class fares, with seats leading in from \$299 on selected routes.

Ticket prices have been reduced by up to 60%, as VA's Chief Executive Officer Jayne Hrdlicka reaffirms the airline's ambition to reach a minimum 33% domestic market share.

Savings of \$500 on one-way fares are available on some routes, with sales targeted at business and leisure travellers.

Virgin is also offering a 45% bonus on Velocity Status Credits for all eligible Business class bookings for travel by 30 Jun.



Jul - Dec 2022

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Waldorf Astoria to Sydney

THE iconic Waldorf Astoria brand is coming to Australia, with parent company Hilton confirming the Waldorf Astoria Sydney will be part of the new One Circular Quay mixed-use development near the harbour.

The 28-floor, 220-key property is expected to open in early 2025, joining six other Waldorf Astoria hotels in the Asia-Pacific region.

There will be 179 guest rooms and 41 suites, with the new hotel's architecture overseen by Tokyo-based Kengo Kuma &

Associates and Sydney's Crone Architects.

Guy Phillips, Hilton's Senior VP Development for Asia and Australasia, said "the introduction of Waldorf Astoria to Sydney underscores our development strategy of organically bringing our world class brands to discerning travellers in key global markets".

As well as sumptuous guest accommodations, the new hotel will offer two original restaurant concepts as well as a rooftop bar with uninterrupted Sydney Harbour views.

Waldorf Astoria's signature Peacock Alley will serve as a central gathering place and feature the iconic Waldorf Astoria clock, while guest whims will be fulfilled by dedicated Personal Concierges, the company said.

The local Hilton portfolio now comprises 29 operating and 12 pipeline properties.

QDP on LinkedIn

QANTAS has launched a dedicated Qantas Distribution Platform page on social networking website LinkedIn.

Posts on the new page will provide all the latest news and updates including enhancements, developments, offers and more.

Follow the page at [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com/company/qantas).

Alliance addition

ALLIANCE Aviation Services has confirmed the acquisition of an additional Embraer E190 aircraft, boosting its overall E190 fleet to a total of 33 of the regional jets.

The aircraft, which will be based in Adelaide to support fleet expansion and base simplification, is a sister to two E190s acquired in mid-2021, having previously been operated in Switzerland by Helvetic Airways.

Tourism Ireland virtual expo

TOURISM Ireland has announced the latest instalment in its Virtual Expo series, with an outdoors and adventure-focused session planned for 4pm AEST on Thu 14 Apr.

Registrations for the event are now open, with participants able to connect with Irish operators specialising in cycling, hiking, sailing and more - [CLICK HERE](#) for further details.

Travel Daily on location on the Gold Coast

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Travel Associates, which is hosting its "Reunion" Business Leaders Conference at the Gold Coast's new Dorsett Hotel.

YESTERDAY senior business leaders from across Flight Centre's Travel Associates brand gathered on the Gold Coast for the first time in more than three years, celebrating not only survival but also the rapid resurgence of post-COVID travel.

The event at the Star Conference Centre is being sponsored by an array of key suppliers, with the agenda covering the future vision for Travel Associates as an iconic luxury brand - as well as plenty of opportunities for networking and making new connections.



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Window Seat

THIS week's Travel Associates conference (see **p1**) is all about being on-brand, with the opening event yesterday including a VIP "purple carpet," elderflower gin cocktails and even Travel Associates napkins.

But we'd particularly like to pay tribute to Wayne Ackerfield from Ackerfield & Goldberg Travel Associates in Vic (**below**) who went all out with a Gold Coast-themed outfit including Liberace-style rings, a gold bow tie and a giant golden dollar sign necklace.



WA cruises resume

THE WA Government has given the go-ahead for international cruise ships to operate in the state's waters once the Federal biosecurity ban lifts on 17 Apr, with an initial 350-person limit which will allow upcoming Kimberley seasons planned by Ponant and Silversea to go ahead.

Premier Mark McGowan made the announcement yesterday, with the WA plan also envisaging the resumption of visits from large ships from 01 Oct going to ports such as Fremantle, Esperance, Albany, Port Hedland, Busselton and Broome.

Cruise Lines International Association MD Joel Katz hailed the move, saying "confirmation that international expedition vessels will be able to return to WA in a carefully managed, phased manner, beginning with the upcoming Kimberley season, is a huge relief" - more details about the story in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Travel loses another star

THE travel industry is in shock after learning about the sudden death of CT Partners' Media Travel MD Tim Murphy (**pictured**).

Described by his colleagues as "always hands-on and a magnificent problem-solver", Murphy started his career in travel by becoming a tour leader with Transglobal in Egypt before returning to Australia to work for Malcolm Barnett at South Pacific Express, where he had a natural affinity for airline management, with many reflecting on his sense of humour and professionalism whilst managing GSAs for Air Zimbabwe and other airlines.

In 1992, a joint-venture was formed to service the needs of the first UN peace-keeping mission in Phnom Penh Cambodia, seeing Murphy charged with handling the travel-side of the office of Skylink in the country, and after six months of banging on the UN's door, he



managed to persuade the body to let Skylink handle a large group of returning Civilian Police to their home country.

In 1994 Tim returned to Sydney and formed Transglobal Aviation, successfully representing off-line airlines such as Kuwait Airlines, JAT Yugoslav Airlines and Royal Nepal, before establishing Felix Travel, which went on to become Media Travel in 2000.

A funeral will take place on Mon 11 Apr in Macquarie Park in the Magnolia Chapel at 11am.

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR CLIENTS TO WANDER OUT YONDER IN WA

To a place where they can explore the otherworldly landscapes of the Kimberley, swim with gentle whale sharks in Ningaloo Reef, explore the otherworldly landscapes of the Kimberley or sip their way through Australia's most premium wine country in the Margaret River Region.

FIND OUT MORE

HORIZONTAL FALLS / GARAANGADDIM

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Airtrain Uber deal

SOUTH East Queensland's Airtrain has linked with Uber to offer the first 200 bookings on Airtrain's site a \$20 Uber voucher via a promo kicking off today.

The voucher is redeemable until the end of Jun, and can be used for travel to or from any train station on the network.

This offer excludes AirtrainConnect, Airtrain and Interterminal transfers.

Canada easier, ey?

SMARTTRAVELLER is advising Australian travellers that Canada has eased its border measures as part of its transition to the pandemic response.

Pre-entry COVID-19 tests are no longer required for entry if you're fully vaccinated.

Cruise ships will also shortly be allowed back in Canadian waters with specific procedures.

Smartraveller still encourages a high degree of caution in Canada.

Qatar goes daily to Brisbane



QATAR Airways and Brisbane Airport have celebrated the launch of daily flights, reaffirming QR's commitment to Queensland.

The airline marked the milestone with a cocktail evening, joined by representatives from Brisbane Airport and a number of local partners, during which the airline also donated \$40,000 to the Premier's Flood Relief Appeal.

Pictured at the event is Qatar Tourism Regional Manager Richard Styles with the Qatar Airways team: Country Manager Bennet Stephens, Regional Manager Cassandra Kerr; Digital & Marketing Operations Coordinator Hamish Ho, Airport Services Manager Simon Risby, and Marketing Manager Amy Stainlay.

New EY aircraft

ETIHAD Airways has unveiled its new Sustainability50 Airbus A350 on an inaugural flight to Paris.

The aircraft is the first A350 to be operated by an Emirati airline, and the first of five A350s to join its fleet over the coming months.

The next-generation aircraft will be deployed to key North American and Indian destinations.

DL ups SYD/LAX

DELTA Air Lines has announced it will increase the frequency of its nonstop service between Sydney International Airport (SYD) and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to 10 flights a week from 16 Dec.

The services will operate using Airbus 350-900 aircraft, featuring Delta One suites, Delta Premium Select, Delta Comfort+ and Main Cabin services.

The move follows an increase in flights on the route to six times weekly from 08 Mar (**TD** 10 Feb).

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The key to a healthy event



A NEW nurse-led service called Event Health Hub promises to give reassurance to attendees at business meetings and conferences about their health and safety, with the initiative successfully used in Feb at the Get Local Expo at ICC Sydney. It's led by 30-year nursing veteran Jo Keough (pictured with colleague Jon McKinnon) who along with her team meets guests on arrival to conduct Rapid

Antigen Tests, check results and issue clearances. As well as providing COVID testing services, Event Health Hub can arrange for a registered nurse to travel with groups and be part of the on-site event team to ensure attendee health needs are met, with staff available all over Australia and New Zealand. For more details on the initiative see eventhealthhub.com.au or call 02 9922 5520.

keep dreaming...
Travel inspiration for your clients' next holiday!

Travel & Cruise Weekly

Click to read

Special Easter issue

VA Solomons tick

THE International Air Services Commission has issued a new determination allocating 360 seats of passenger capacity per week in each direction on the Solomon Islands route to Virgin Australia. The renewal is valid for five years from 10 Dec 2022.

Sri Lanka warning

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has issued an updated Smartraveller advice for Sri Lanka, confirming the declaration of a Public Emergency after protests erupted over the economic situation in the nation. DFAT is urging Australians to avoid demonstrations and events that attract large groups, saying "you may experience disruption to fuel supply and planned, lengthy power outages" while import delays may impact travellers' ability to access some medicines and food items.

Drive Four Seasons in one highway

FOUR Seasons Hotels & Resorts has unveiled an "Exclusive Driving Journey Through Tuscany," a week-long curated motoring experience showcasing the best of the Italian countryside by luxury car. Conducted in partnership with lifestyle driving events company Canossa Events, participants will use the Four Seasons Hotel Firenze as a home base while they drive either their own vehicle, a vintage classic vehicle or a luxury sports car. The itinerary will take in a range of exclusive events, with the road-based experience complementing other Four Seasons luxury lifestyle offerings such as its private jet, a growing collection of luxury villa and vacation home rentals, private residences and a line of curated home and travel goods. Details at fourseasons.com.



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Travel Daily



Over 1,300 are back

MORE than 1,300 businesses have resumed corporate travel trips with Flight Centre's B2B businesses since international borders reopened in Australia, new internal data from the company reveals.

The top five sectors making a return to business travel are the services industry, construction & information technology, manufacturing & arts, as well as entertainment & recreation.

"When we dig into the numbers, it's quite eye-opening, we now have 79% of our pre-COVID business travellers are flying again - that's an increase of 21% since the barriers came down," Flight Centre Managing Director Australia James Kavanagh said.

"To put that into context, we now have almost 6,500 customers flying with us across our corporate divisions again - it's fair to say Australia is very much open for business once again."

We're all sailing on a yellow submarine

FRED. Olsen Cruise Lines has unveiled the details of a yellow submarine tour of Australia's Great Barrier Reef as part of its upcoming world cruise in 2024.

The special Beatles-themed voyage aboard *Borealis* will offer guests the chance to stop off at various destinations around the world and see the many venues the British pop band played at during the height of their fame, as well as the chance to explore the reef aboard the line's yellow painted *SS Penny Lane*.

On board guests can enjoy the Cavern Club and dance to their favourite Beatles songs, and also check out the 'hill' out on deck where guests can sit and enjoy scenic sailings and sunsets.

"It will be a real honour to see our guests come together for this very special sailing out of Liverpool - money can't buy you love but it can buy you a holiday to remember," the line said.

Etihad's Australian celebration



LAST week Etihad Airways hosted an event at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art to commemorate the restart of daily Sydney and Melbourne flights along with the carrier's 15th anniversary in Australia.

Presiding over the gathering were Etihad SVP Global Sales and Cargo, Martin Drew, and VP Sales Australia and South Asia, Sarah Built (both pictured with EY cabin crew), who said "it has been an incredible journey for Etihad to get here today" as she thanked industry partners for their support during the dinner.

She showcased the EY journey in Australia which started on 27 Mar 2007 with the maiden A340-500 flight EY450 touching down at Sydney Airport.

At its peak Etihad was operating 42 weekly flights between Australia and Abu Dhabi to ports including Perth, Brisbane and Melbourne alongside Sydney, and also conducted a special fly-past above Sydney Harbour.

Participation in Australia's cultural life has included sponsorship of the IMG Mercedes Benz Australia Fashion Week, partnership with the Sydney Opera House for some years and a decade-long naming rights deal for Melbourne's Etihad stadium.

During the pandemic Etihad also carried medical supplies and aid, playing part of the Hope Consortium distributing vaccines throughout 2021 as well as helping repatriate refugees from

Afghanistan across the world.

"Whilst COVID might not be quite finished with us yet, and we know it's going to take time to recover to pre-pandemic levels, the good news is that there's huge pent-up demand and people are desperate to be able to travel again," Built said.

She noted that bookings surged as soon as borders opened "and we need to keep that momentum going in 2022".

Eurostar/Thalys merger completed

THE European Commission has approved a merger between high speed rail operators Eurostar and Thalys, which will combine into a single operator linking the UK, France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The pact was first announced in 2019, but has been on hold during the pandemic which saw booking volumes plummet and significantly impacted the finances of both companies.

The Commission said the merger did not raise significant concerns under EU competition rules, with the deal contemplating an increase in overall passenger numbers to 30 million a year by 2030.

Initial consumer benefits will include better scheduling and ticketing services as well as a combined loyalty program, with potential for services from London to Cologne or Frankfurt.

Travel Daily
Events

PRESENTS
**AN EXECUTIVE
INTERVIEW**

with publisher Bruce Piper and the Norwegian Cruise Line executive leadership and sales team

The Great Cruise Comeback

Join us for a chat with NCL. There'll be a Q&A panel discussing exactly what cruising looks like today, what's in the pipeline for the global cruise innovator as well how to maximise your selling potential now that local cruising is back on the agenda, plus more.



Eamonn Ferrin



Ben Angell



Damian Borg



Angela Middleton

**FRIDAY 8th APRIL
1.00pm (AEST)**

REGISTER

Travel Associates hits purple patch

LAST night about 100 of Flight Centre's Travel Associates business leaders and industry suppliers gathered at Gold Coast venue Miss Money Penny's for a very, very long lunch as the group celebrated

reconnection after 24 months of COVID-19-induced industry disruption.

The conference kicked into high gear this morning, with a series of high-powered business development sessions and sponsor presentations.



EDWARD Yee, Yee & Turner Travel Associates with Melinda Spain, Jones & Turner Travel Associates.



FLIGHT Centre Travel Group GM Premium Leisure Brands, Dani Galloway with Gemma Gannon, Gannon & Turner Travel Associates.



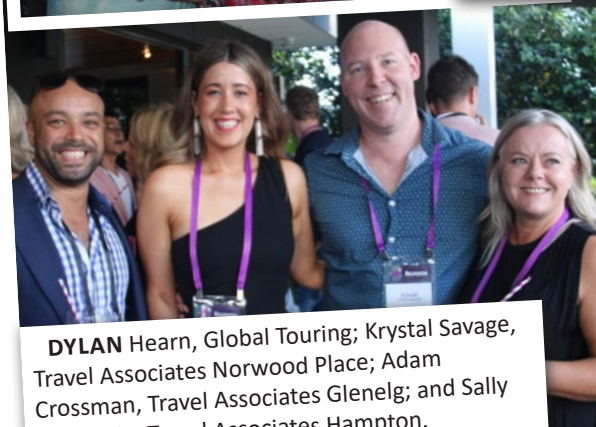
ROGER Condon, Star Clippers; Andrea Morgan; Adventure World; and Tomas Malmberg, TTC Tour Brands.

JENNI Triffitt, Perchalla & Turner; Kriston Chrisakis, Chrisakis & Turner; Amy Raats, Raats & Turner; and Jenni Davis, Davis & James Travel Associates.

KAREN Majsay, Low & Turner; Uniworld's Alice Ager; and Kate Kneipp, Noller & Turner Travel Associates.



DELEGATES were also treated to some fabulous caricatures via an on-site fashion illustrator.

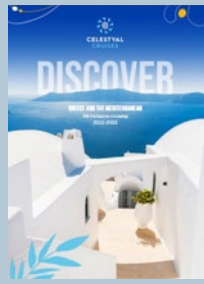


DYLAN Hearn, Global Touring; Krystal Savage, Travel Associates Norwood Place; Adam Crossman, Travel Associates Glenelg; and Sally Stockdale, Travel Associates Hampton.



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.



Celestyal Cruises - 2022-2023 Greece & the Med
Celestyal Cruises has gone to press with its 2022-2023 Greece & the Mediterranean brochure. The cruise line aims to show its passengers the best of the Islands of Greece, as well as destinations such as Thessaloniki, Istanbul, Cairo, Cyprus, Rhodes, Crete, Volos, Jerusalem, Limassol, and Mykonos. Celestyal's guests also cruise with confidence, with its medium-sized ships able to visit ports larger vessels cannot, allowing the cruise line to offer unique, smaller undiscovered destinations in its itineraries. On board, its ships also offer a more homely atmosphere, and a less-crowded affair.

Celestyal promo

CELESTYAL Cruises is inviting travellers to "dream big, dream blue" through its new sale.

Included in a Celestyal fare when booking by 14 May is onboard dining, unlimited classic drinks, select shore excursions, onboard entertainment, all gratuities, and the "Celestyal Promise", which assures free cancellation up to 90 days prior to departure, with the fare's full balance due 30 days prior to departure.

For booking and enquiries, [CLICK HERE](#).

Dest BC webinar

DESTINATION British Columbia and Tourism Vancouver are hosting a travel advisor webinar on Wed.

The gateway city of Vancouver will introduce what's in town, and share information on its updated Vancouver Specialist Program - [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

PNG marks 35 yrs

PNG Air has celebrated its 35th anniversary this year with a ceremony attended by many of the carrier's executives.

"The airline is fortunate to have many long-serving staff still with us and we will be highlighting their stories throughout the year of celebrations", said acting Chief Executive Officer Stanley Stevens.

PNG Air's history goes back to Milne Bay Airlines, which was established and started operations on 30 Jun 1987 by the late John Wild Snr, before it became PNG Air in 2015.

Keen travellers ahoj!

CROOKED Compass is after adventurous Aussies to help pioneer tourism in Bougainville in Papua New Guinea.

The five-night South Bougainville - Siwai Cultural Show tour travels on 11 Aug, and will see travellers become some of the first foreigners ever in the region.

Cross Collection adds two



FLIGHT Centre's Cross Hotels & Resorts is boosting its Balinese charm with a twin-deal, which will see Tanadewa Resort & Spa and Tanadewa Villas & Spa join its Cross Collection.

Situated in the tranquil

foothills of Bali, Tanadewa Resort & Spa offers a selection of modern suites and villas with contemporary designs and Balinese accents.

Meanwhile, Tanadewa Villas & Spa, located in Nusa Dua, is designed to embody sophisticated decor with Bali's rustic roots.

Together, the pair bring Cross' Balinese collection to a total of four properties, which also includes Away Bali Legian Camakila and Cross Bali Breakers. They join Cross' current portfolio of 24 hotels across Asia.

Volcano goes digital

THE Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is now offering visitors the chance to purchase a digital site pass online before arrival.

The pass is valid for a week and applies to private vehicles (US\$30), motorcycles (US\$25), and walking/cycling (US\$15) and can be bought up to six months in advance - more info [HERE](#).

CSA adds 142 jets

CHINA Southern Airlines (CSA) has revealed its ambition to purchase close to 150 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft by 2024, including an extra 39 in 2022 and 103 by the end of 2024.

The target was detailed in the airline's latest annual results report, which omitted any information around deployment, and will be welcome news to Boeing which still has 4,137 unfilled orders for the troubled model in the wake of two crashes and allegations of safety negligence.

New Silversea Dawn

SILVERSEA Cruises formally named its third ship in nine months last week, with the new *Silver Dawn* inaugurated in a ceremony in Lisbon, Portugal.

The event was attended by Royal Caribbean Group CEO Jason Liberty, while the vessel was christened by godmother Nilou Motamed, an New York-based Emmy-nominated food and travel TV personality.

Liberty said "*Silver Dawn* is a jewel in the Silversea fleet and speaks to Royal Caribbean Group's commitment to delivering the best vacation experiences in a responsible way".