

Australia's Original

HOME-BASED TRAVEL NETWORK SINCE 2000

MTA Advisor, Carine Boost & Linda Kiernander

Let's chat - 1300 682 000 | mtatravel.com.au/joinus

Celebrity Beyond inaugural voyage

THE launch overnight of Celebrity Cruises' new *Celebrity Beyond* is a clear indication that "cruising is back," according to Celebrity APAC MD Tim Jones.

The ship is undertaking a two-day voyage out of Southampton before her first revenue cruise, with Celebrity President and CEO, Lisa Lutoff-Perlo officiating at an event overnight to celebrate her much-anticipated debut.

Jones said he expected the excitement around the launch to add to the buzz around the Dec 2023 deployment of sister ship *Celebrity Edge* in Australasian waters, and in the meantime urged cruise sellers to encourage their clients to experience the product in the Mediterranean this year, where three Edge-class ships will be operating over the northern summer months.

More from Celebrity Cruises in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Wade to chair Travalyst

INTREPID Travel co-founder Darrell Wade has been announced as the Chair of global sustainable tourism organisation Travalyst, a non-profit group working to "identify systemic changes needed in order for sustainable travel to be taken out of the niche and into the mainstream".

Travalyst was formed in late 2019 in partnership with Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, with a mission to protect destinations, support and empower communities, and safeguard critical ecosystems and the people who depend on them.

Key partners in the organisation include Booking.com, Google, Trip.com, TripAdvisor, Skyscanner,

Expedia and Visa.

Wade said Travalyst was "changing travel supply chains to make them more sustainable, whilst allowing travellers to make better choices" with the group's manifesto noting that the number of people around the world taking international trips has more than doubled since 2000, and is set to double again by 2030.

"As more and more people travel, so too increases the impact on the environment and local communities - and the opportunities to do good with each trip we take."

New AA sales boss

MATTHEW Nicholas has been promoted within American Airlines to become Portfolio Manager, Sales Australia & NZ.

He'll be based in Sydney and report to AA Field Sales Leader Maxine Peng, based in Shanghai.

Travel Daily

on location in

Southampton, UK

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you courtesy of **Celebrity Cruises**, which today debuts its newest ship, the hotly anticipated **Celebrity Beyond**.

CELEBRITY Beyond is the third "Edge-class" ship in the Celebrity Cruises fleet, and sets forth on her inaugural voyage from the UK today with a complement of industry partners on board.

The ship has 1,646 staterooms and more than 1,400 crew, and is an enhanced design which is 20m longer and an additional deck higher than its sister ships, *Celebrity Edge* and *Celebrity Apex*.

Beyond also features an expanded two-storey sundeck, a huge variety of restaurants and bars, and a redesigned "The Retreat" area which creates an exclusive resort-within-a-resort.

JOURNEY BEYOND GREAT SOUTHERN

ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

YOUR SUMMER ADVENTURE

onboard the Great Southern

Kangaroo Island accommodation & touring

Barossa Valley wine tasting

SOUTHERN WINES & WILDLIFE

11 DAYS | BRISBANE - ADELAIDE

FOR TRAVEL: DEC 2022 - FEB 2023
BRAND NEW HOLIDAY PACKAGE

GOLD SERVICE	FROM \$6,695* PP
PLATINUM SERVICE	FROM \$8,370* PP

FIND OUT MORE

Travelling from Brisbane on the all-inclusive Great Southern, your clients will roll into Adelaide primed for further epicurean delights. From the natural, rugged beauty of Kangaroo Island to the vine-clad hills of the Barossa Valley, South Australia is theirs to discover on this wine and wildlife adventure.



UNESCO World Heritage Sites and their economic implications, cruise is coming back, travel's surprise win and more in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK
to read**

travelBulletin

Fiji refines agent training

TOURISM Fiji has relaunched its travel agent training program in a bid to keep the Australian trade up-to-date with the latest developments in the popular travel destination.

The refreshed Matai 2.0 portal pledges to be more interactive and visually stimulating than its predecessor, offering travel advisors enhanced functionality, as well as a higher frequency of training modules, including topics such as how to more effectively use social media channels to reach clients.

"We're excited about this brand-new course that will deliver updated and engaging content covering all our key pillars and niche tourism products across Fiji's twelve regions," Tourism Fiji CEO Brent Hill said.

New content also includes interactive maps, fact sheets and product videos, in addition to a range of potential rewards

to take part, such as free flights, exclusive invites, famil trips and invitations to marketing activities and events.

The site now offers a new three-tier system, allowing agents to reach silver and gold levels, unlocking additional benefits as they progress their education.

Registration to become a Matai agent can be accessed [HERE](#).

Thailand eases rules

INTERNATIONAL travellers to Thailand who are fully vaccinated will no longer need to undergo an arrival COVID-19 test from 01 May under the country's latest set of travel reforms.

Travellers are still required to register for a Thailand Pass with a Certificate of COVID-19 Vaccination and take out an insurance policy with coverage no less than US\$10,000, which has been reduced from US\$20,000.

Singapore slings test

ALL fully vaccinated travellers and non-fully vaccinated children aged 12 and below arriving in Singapore will no longer be required to take a pre-departure test from today.

Previously travellers were required to take a COVID test two days before departure.

Entry requirements for non-fully vaccinated travellers however remain the same.

See the full list of travel entry protocols to Singapore [HERE](#).

Quark rewards agent

QUARK Expeditions has announced the winner of its Explorers Wanted Live comp, with Belinda Ferguson from Savenio Travel, Brisbane claiming the prize of a seven-night itinerary sailing aboard *Ultramarine* exploring Spitzbergen from 03 May.

The amazing prize is valued at around \$20,000 and includes pre- and post-cruise activities.



Window Seat

THE perfect metaphor to describe the COVID travel shutdown is a car that has been parked at New Plymouth Airport in New Zealand for over two years, and somehow it is still yet to be towed!

Airport staff are putting out a fresh call for the registered owner of a 2018 blue Suzuki Swift to come forward or risk having the vehicle relocated.

But it could be a costly day for the owner if they do end up coming forward, with the calculated cost of the parking spot after two years currently totalling close to NZ\$8,000.



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



Canada eases again

AS OF yesterday, Canada is no longer mandating fully vaccinated travellers provide a quarantine plan upon entry, as part of a loosening of its risk-based approach to border controls.

The country has also scrapped requirements for unvaccinated kids aged between five and 11 who are accompanied by a fully vaccinated parent to complete a pre-entry COVID-19 test.

However, pre-entry tests will still be required for partially vaccinated or unvaccinated travellers 12 years and older.

TA's charm offensive

TOURISM Australia has launched its "Discover A Great Deal More" travel fair, offering Singaporeans access to deals on flights, hotels, tours, car rentals and experiences for travel to Australia before Mar 2023.

Singapore is Australia's sixth-largest market for int'l visitation.

Greece wants local voice

HIGH-LEVEL discussions have been held in Greece about how to establish closer travel and tourism ties with Australia, *The Greek Herald* reports.

Among the main agenda points covered was the feasibility of establishing an office of the Greek National Tourism Organisation in Melbourne, with The President of the Greek Community, Bill Papastergiadis, putting forward the case for a local presence to support "the strong cultural and economic ties between the two countries".

"The absence of such an office makes it difficult to work on coordinating the expansion of flights with new carriers such as Qantas, as well as highlighting the multiple attractions that Greece offers," he argued.

"Greece has a rich history and culture that should form part of the narrative of all persons who want to travel there, expanding

the image of Greece beyond the normal stereotypes of its beaches and warm summers is important."

Lending further weight to the prospect of stronger travel ties locally were comments made by Greece's Deputy Minister for Tourism Sofia Zacharakis, who indicated that bilateral cooperation in tourism is "of great importance this year", especially given the opening of Australia after two years.

"The ability of Australian citizens (expatriates and others) to travel to Greece is expected to contribute significantly to the overall tourism recovery of the country," she said.

The establishment of an office in Melbourne has reportedly been initiated, while the framework for the enhancement of business tourism investments and tourist ports were also discussed, as well as the strengthening of direct aviation connections.

VA goes with Sabre

VIRGIN Australia has opted to use Sabre's Revenue Optimizer solution, a tool designed to help businesses improve pricing decisions and drive revenue.

The product will provide the airline with real-time visibility into the total revenue of every flight, market and departure dates, and claims to rely less on historical data which has proven to be less reliable in the highly unstable COVID era.

HK opens after 2 yrs

HONG Kong will allow non-residents to enter the destination from 01 May, marking the first time international travellers can visit in more than two years.

However, arrivals will be required to undertake seven days of mandatory quarantine at a list of pre-designated hotels, as well as take a rapid antigen test and one RT-PCR test once they have landed at the airport.

HURRY, OFFER ENDS 29 APRIL

FEEL FREE TO STEP INTO A POSTCARD

From seaside to cliffside, your clients can get the best of both worlds when they explore the Mediterranean and Greek Isles with NCL.

UP TO
35% OFF
CRUISES*

+

FREE
BEVERAGE PACKAGE
& MORE*

+

DOUBLE
YOUR MONEY
WITH CRUISEFIRST*



Feel Free



*Offer correct as at 22 April 2022 and subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 29 April unless extended. For full terms and conditions visit ncl.com.

Book with an Aussie: AA

A FEDERAL Court decision to slug Trivago with a massive fine for misleading consumers (TD 22 Apr) vindicates the value of booking through Australian companies, the Accommodation Association (AA) believes.

"Australian travel consumers deserve access to the best available rates, and the only way to guarantee that outcome is to book directly with Australian accommodation operators or through your local travel business," AA stated.

Cruise another Thay?

THE former Chairman of the now bankrupt Genting Hong Kong business has reportedly registered a new company called Resorts World Cruises in Singapore, according to a recent report by *The Straits Times*.

The move by Malaysian businessman Lim Kok Thay to incorporate the new entity was completed on 09 Mar and held by shareholder Two Trees Family Holdings, an investment holding company in Singapore which lists Lim and his son Lim Keong Hui as its directors.

Kok Thay still owns a 75% stake of the troubled Genting Hong Kong, and it remains unclear, despite the name, if Resorts World Cruises will be involved in cruise ship operations.

"The Association is continually alerting the ACCC to exploitative practices and we now want them to cast their net wider and review price parity rules where overseas multi-nationals threaten Australian accommodation providers with exclusion if they offer a better rate online."

Ponant's big return

PONANT'S expedition ship *Le Laperouse* arrived in Darwin yesterday in preparation for its return to local cruising on Thu.

"I am personally thrilled that Ponant will be the first international line to return to operations in Australia and the first international expedition ship to commence the 2022 Kimberley season," Ponant Chair Asia Pacific Sarina Bratton said.

Beyond excited to be cruising



THIS seagoing group of Aussies could hardly contain their excitement on the dock at Southampton in the UK as they were about to board Celebrity Cruises' new *Celebrity Beyond* for her inaugural voyage this morning.

The two-day cruise to nowhere provides plenty of opportunity to experience the ship which is "in a class all her own as an engineering and design marvel," according to Celebrity President & CEO, Lisa Luttoff-Perlo who is also aboard this week's cruise.

She said *Beyond* "changes the definition of luxury travel...travel doesn't have to mean small".

"It can mean space, choice and personalised service - everything our guests have come to expect from the Celebrity brand and now *Celebrity Beyond* takes to a new level," Luttoff-Perlo said.

The ship features a whopping 32 distinct food and beverage

experiences, including eight specialty restaurants, 14 cafes, bars and lounges, four main dining restaurants, four casual dining venues and two private restaurants.

Wellness is also a key feature, with Celebrity partnering with the goop lifestyle brand created by movie star Gwyneth Paltrow who is the line's Well-being Advisor.

Australian fitness brand F45 Training is on board offering its innovative high-intensity group workouts, and to wind down there's a massive spa sanctuary offering a host of treatments including a salt room, LED light therapy, rain therapy and even a soothing Crystallarium.

Pictured ready to board are, from left: Casey and Anna Russell, Clean Cruising; Ryan Thomas, Ignite Travel Group; Celebrity's Cameron Mannix; and Michael Middleton, Ignite.



AAT Kings is growing quickly, and we would love to have you
Join us!

AATKings

Contact Centre Sales Agents

- Flexible working arrangements and locations around Australia
- Manage AAT Kings tour bookings from travel agents and/or direct consumers
- Develop strong working relationships with all internal and external customers
- Work a flexible 7 day roster with a dynamic team
- Career development opportunities available

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

REFRESH YOUR HAPPINESS WITH FIJI'S NEW MATAI PROGRAMME
START NEW TRAINING COURSES TODAY

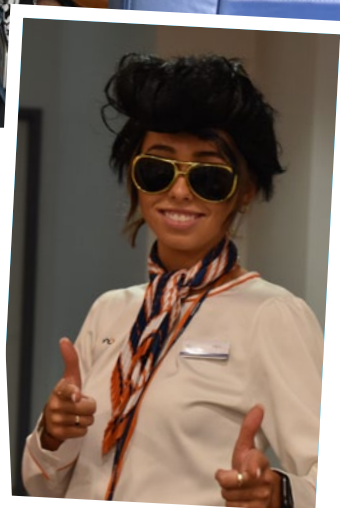
[LEARN MORE](#)

Rex Elvis Parkes flight is all shook up

THERE were glittery golden jumpsuits and blue suede shoes aplenty aboard a special Rex Airlines service to Parkes in western NSW last Thu, which carried a group of dedicated Elvis tragics to the Parkes Elvis Festival. The King himself (well actually Elvis impersonator Stuey V.) hosted lots of Elvises and Priscillas in the Sydney Rex lounge belting out some classics before departure, while the entire flight crew joined the fun with luscious hair pieces, 50s and 60s outfits and lots of retro gear.

The Parkes Elvis Festival attracts thousands of aficionados each year, and is estimated to inject as much as \$15 million in highly valued economic activity for the local community.

These pics were taken during the Rex Hound Dog Express service.





EK will continue

WHILE many travel brands are pulling out of the Russian market to apply pressure to President Vladimir Putin, Emirates has confirmed it has no intentions to follow suit "unless [the carrier] is told otherwise".

Speaking to the BBC last week, the airline's CEO Tim Clarke said it was not his call to cease flights and was a decision for the UAE Govt, adding the airline also transports humanitarian goods such as food and medical supplies to Ukraine.

Emirates currently flies between Dubai and Moscow twice daily using A380-800 aircraft.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.716

THE Australian dollar has tumbled over the long weekend, as a number of American shares also fell.

A major sell-off in the United States caused the Australian dollar to fall over the long weekend with the AUDUSD hitting two-month lows.

The Dow Jones fell 2.9% on Fri, before a late rally driven by Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.716
UK	£0.562
NZ	\$1.077
Euro	€0.668
Japan	¥91.81
Thailand	฿24.31
China	¥4.661
South Africa	11.18
Canada	\$0.908
Crude oil	US\$102.3

The sky's not the limit

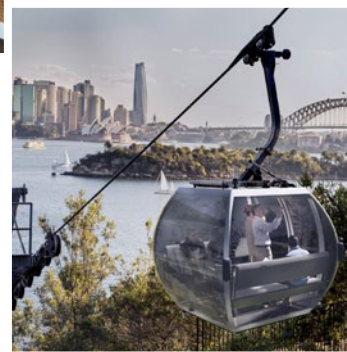


THE NSW Government has agreed to bankroll an \$81.3 million upgrade to Taronga Zoo's Sky Safari attraction in a bid to strengthen the state's battered visitor economy.

The upgrade will see guests able to access a larger number of gondolas, which will also be more spacious inside (renders **pictured**) and travel on an expanded route at the popular Sydney-based wildlife tourist attraction.

"There is no view more iconic than the animals of Taronga Zoo set against the backdrop of Sydney Harbour, and the reimagined Sky Safari will provide a completely new way for tourists and locals alike to experience it," NSW Environment Minister James Griffin enthused.

Money spent by guests taking a ride on the revamped Sky Safari will also help fund Taronga's ongoing conservation work to protect Koalas, Platypus, Corroboree Frogs and other iconic Australia species.



"This project is about reinvigorating Sydney and will provide a significant boost to the Sydney visitor economy, all while supporting wildlife and conservation," NSW Treasurer Matt Kean said.

"Taronga Zoo is known around the world as the 'Zoo with a View' and the exciting new development takes advantage of the zoo's topography to provide an unforgettable and inclusive tourism experience for guests."

Works to upgrade the Sky Safari will begin in 2023, ahead of a planned opening in 2025 to welcome back the returning international tourism market.

Coral under control

CORAL Expeditions confirmed to *TD* that it followed all health regulations when 10 passengers and two crew members tested positive for COVID on board *Coral Discoverer* while sailing from Darwin to Western Australia.

"WA Health was advised of the detection and management of cases on board...while affected pax were provided care by medical specialists," the line said.

Travel Daily Events

COMING EVENTS

TD Events is the new way to showcase your product or service to the travel industry.

Tue 03 May - Silversea Cruises - details coming soon

Thu 12 May - Livn Group - details coming soon

Tue 17 May - Amadeus - details coming soon

RECENT EVENTS

Missed an event? Don't worry, you can catch up at any time.

"The Tide Turns for Cruise" with CLIA MD Joel Katz and Jill Abel from the Australian Cruise Association - [CLICK HERE](#).

Norwegian Cruise Line "The Great Cruise Comeback" - [CLICK HERE](#).

Quark Expeditions showcase of *Ultramarine* - [CLICK HERE](#).

AFTA CEO Dean Long Executive Interview - [CLICK HERE](#).

Entire Travel Group with Brad McDonnell and Greg McCallum - [CLICK HERE](#).