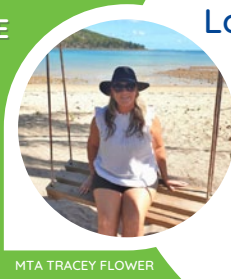


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Splendor adds day

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced its scheduled departure for *Carnival Splendor* from Sydney will be brought forward by one day to 01 Oct, providing guests with an extra day at sea, free of charge.

The previous three-day roundtrip cruise will now also incorporate a visit to Tangalooma Island Resort on Moreton Island in Qld as part of the itinerary.

The cruise line said the extra day and date change was “a thank you to our most dedicated guests”, however Carnival also acknowledged the changes might not suit the schedules of all guests, offering those impacted a 100% future cruise credit or a full refund if they wish to cancel.

Link partners with Virgin

LINK Airways this morning announced it is partnering with Virgin Australia and its Velocity Frequent Flyer program.

Effective 22 Aug, Link passengers will now be able to earn Velocity points when they travel on an eligible ticket.

The ‘Flexible’ (fare classes Y, B) & ‘Freedom’ (classes H, K) fare types will earn five points per dollar spent with Link, ‘Standard’ types (L, M) will earn two points, while (N, S, V) will also earn passengers two points per dollar.

Customers travelling on Flexible and Freedom fares will also receive complimentary pre-departure access to the Virgin Lounges in Sydney, Brisbane, and

Canberra.

MEANWHILE, Link Airways has also announced new direct flights between Brisbane and Bundaberg, commencing in Nov.

The flights will utilise Link’s 34-passenger Saab 340B Plus aircraft, and will fly from Brisbane to Bundaberg three times per weekday and twice on Sun.

BDB to BNE services will take off three times per day from Mon-Thu, four times on Fri, and once daily on Sun.

“These announcements reflect our ongoing commitment to enhance the Link Airways product and bring new benefits to our loyal and valued customers,” the airline’s Chief Executive Officer Andrew Major enthused.

He said studies conducted over a number of years have shown Link there is a strong demand for additional direct flights between the two regions, with the service to facilitate further leisure and business connections.

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news.

TA promotes marketing team

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has announced the appointment of Anna Burgdorf as the Global Brand & Marketing Leader for FCTG Leisure, reporting to recently promoted global MD Dani Galloway (*TD* 29 Jun).

The move has precipitated other changes, including the promotion of Maddison Done as National Marketing Manager for Travel Associates Australia.

Travel Associates Brand Manager Lisa Wright has also been named as National Events and LSM (Local Store Marketing) Manager for Travel Associates Australia, with Galloway’s elevation also seeing new roles within Flight Centre Independent for Astrid Richardson (*TD* 28 Jul) and Rachel Kingswell (*TD* 26 Jul).

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INDEPENDENT HOLIDAY PACKAGE EXPERTS

QF extends connections

QANTAS today advised travel agents of a decision to increase the minimum connecting time (MCT) between most of its Australian domestic and international flights in Sydney and Melbourne (**TD** breaking news).

The move, confirmed in an email from QF Executive Manager Global Sales & Distribution, Igor Kwiatkowski, is an acknowledgement of the widely reported service and reliability issues being suffered by the carrier and its passengers.

“Since we restarted operations in late 2021, we have been open about the challenges facing the aviation industry globally...increasing COVID-19 case numbers and a tight labour market have affected our ability to deliver the level of service our customers expect, and we acknowledge the impact this is having on you as our valued trade partner,” Kwiatkowski wrote.

He assured agents that “we are doing everything we can to make sure your customers get where they need to go, on time and with their bags”, including hiring more people and adjusting schedules to manage peak periods better.

Over the coming days Qantas will be rebooking some passengers’ Australian domestic flights to ensure they have at least 90 minutes to make their QF international connection.

The change will be undertaken in two phases, with the first commencing yesterday with the

90-minute update to the MCT.

Domestic flights are now being booked for customers travelling from 21 Aug to ensure they meet the new MCT in Sydney and Melbourne, with the changes anticipated to be completed by next Wed 17 Aug.

Customers booked to travel before 20 Aug will not have their domestic sectors proactively rebooked, but agents are able to make the changes if desired under a new commercial policy released today using endorsement code “428671”.

The MCT changes may see some pax required to now overnight in Sydney or Melbourne, and QF will cover the cost of the accommodation if necessary.

Qantas is also working with partner carriers to see whether similar MCT changes are required for passengers connecting from a QF domestic service through to another international airline.

Uniworld 2024 info

UNIWORLD Cruises has announced its earliest ever season launch, with full inventory on its 2024 river cruise portfolio available exclusively to Australian and NZ travellers with “the best launch pricing we have ever seen,” according to GM Alice Ager.

The company will host an upcoming series of free information sessions across Australia for agents and their clients - **CLICK HERE** to register.

**THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY’S
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I want to know

Amadeus appoints

JAVIER Laforgue has been named as Amadeus Executive VP Travel Unit and MD Asia-Pacific.

Laforgue, who has been with the technology firm for more than two decades, will be based in the Singapore office.

He was most recently Global Head of Air Distribution, where he was overseeing Amadeus’ NDC strategy and investment function, prior to which he headed up the Latin America region.

Vancouver cleared for take-off

FIJI Airways will tonight operate its inaugural direct flight from Nadi to Vancouver, with a special one-off departure celebrating the new non-stop scheduled service which will commence on 25 Nov.

FJ will operate the new route twice weekly, offering seamless flights for Canadians looking to holiday in Fiji, as well as giving Australians a new convenient connection option to Canada.

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Window Seat

THE 60th birthday celebrations for InterContinental Hotels Group (**TD** yesterday) were particularly sweet for guests at InterContinental Hayman Island in the Whitsundays.

Commemorations of the big moment included a special edition 60th Anniversary IHG Tim Tam Slice (**pictured**), created by the resort's culinary team as a nod to another Aussie icon born around the same time.

It looks delicious, but we hope it was eaten before it melted in Hayman's delightful tropical heat.



Jayride plots Euro growth

ASX-LISTED airport transfer tech firm Jayride today announced the launch of a new Europe Growth Hub, with MD Rod Bishop saying the continent has become the firm's largest and fastest growing market.

The initiative is being led by London-based Darren Carbine, appointed to the newly created role of Chief Growth Operator.

Carbine has held various senior roles in the technology space including at Travelocity and Lastminute.com, but is also well known to the Australian industry as Sales, Product and E-Commerce Director and then MD of the now defunct Best Flights when it was part of Helloworld's predecessor Stella Travel Services in the 2000s.

He was also Group Operations & Technology Director of STA Travel, and most recently Chief Travel Officer of UK-based small group adventure specialist Culture Trip.

Bishop said Carbine brings "a wealth of knowledge and track record in sales, marketing, operations and trading in high growth travel companies".

The new Europe Growth Hub will "enhance multiple capabilities in Jayride's go-to-market strategy" with sales & marketing to capture European market share as well as enabling follow-the-sun 24/7 operations, he promised.

It will be home to new teams including in revenue optimisation and retention, set the stage for future localisation and multilingual capability, and "allow Jayride to further tap into a global best-in-class talent pool," he said.

"This is a pivotal moment for Jayride...the hub will give us a stronger local presence, access to new partners and talent, and allow us to create a centre of excellence to improve European localisation and accelerate expansion in the region."

Swiss on the road

THE Switzerland Travel Experience will once again be back in Australia from 08-16 Sep (**CLICK HERE** for details).

With a focus on sustainable travel, this year's in-person events in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne will focus on Switzerland's sustainability strategy, "Swisstainable".

Nine key partners from Switzerland will join Switzerland Tourism's Livio Goetz and Brigit Weingartner for the series.

A&K small group '23

ABERCROMBIE & Kent (A&K) has released its new Luxury Small Group Journeys portfolio and brochure for next year.

Highlights of the Luxury Small Group Journeys feature icons of Egypt, the vast desert dunes of Jordan, the spiritual treasures of Israel, the rustic vineyards of Italy, the waters of Greece, and the vibrant splendours of Morocco.



Enhancing connectivity from Australia

We are pleased to announce the resumption of daily services to Canberra via Melbourne, starting 1 October 2022.

With this resumption we will operate two daily flights from Melbourne, enhancing our network from Australia to 45 weekly flights.

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GOING PLACES TOGETHER



Far East returns Down Under



HELLOWORLD Travel Armidale in NSW recently hosted representatives from Far East Hospitality, marking the second time Singapore's leading hospitality operator has visited Australia in as many months. Australia is one of the top five markets for Singapore, and is therefore critical to the recovery of Singapore's tourism industry.

Pictured at Helloworld Ardmadale: Michelle Teo, Marina Buenaventura, Santo Scidone, Shanice Chen, Fenny Tan, and Shuping Chen, and inset enjoying an Aussie lunch.

Hunting hurts South Africa

A **NEW** animal welfare report suggests that a majority of Australian travellers would be "put off" booking a holiday to South Africa if the country persisted in its support for the trophy hunting industry.

Research conducted by World Animal Protection polled close to 11,000 people, including a large portion from Australia, finding that 71% of Aussies would reconsider travelling to South Africa if trophy hunting continued to be "a key pillar of policy", while 84% of Australians also indicated they would like to see the South African Government divert money from hunting towards wildlife-friendly tourism options.

And the mood against trophy hunting is similar among local citizens, with the survey also finding that seven in 10 South Africans agree their country would be a more attractive tourist destination if the government

were to ban the sport entirely, while an even higher number (74%) view the controversial practice as damaging the country's travel reputation.

The results follow South Africa opening up consultation on its draft *Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity* white paper, which seeks to foster better ways for humans to live side-by-side with nature, however, according to World Animal Protection Global Head of Campaigns, Nick Stewart, the paper fails to clarify a commitment to end unethical wildlife practices such as trophy hunting and captive lion breeding.

"It's not too late for them to grasp the opportunity to make a clear stand, by fully embracing non-lethal wildlife-friendly alternatives, including responsible wildlife tourism, which is clearly what international tourists and local people are seeking," he said.

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Qld funds eco moves

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of recent eco investments made by the WA Govt (**TD** 13 May), Qld Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has revealed plans to hand out grants to tourism operators who can achieve either Ecotourism Australia or EarthCheck destination-level certification.

The program offers funding of up to \$150,000 for activities directly associated with achieving certification, with the initiative designed to make Queensland a more attractive destination for travellers seeking a lower carbon holiday and more sustainable experiences and amenities.

Grant incentives for tourism operators will also support broader plans for Qld to achieve a climate positive Olympics in 2032, as well as reach a net zero emissions target by 2050.

The policy has been shaped by a recent tourism sector report, which also suggested bringing in a tourism tax (**TD** 24 Jun).

Swapping sand for skies



AIR New Zealand is preparing to bring its first Victorville-based 777-300 aircraft (**pictured**) out of its Mojave Desert storage facility, where four of the aircraft have been parked since late 2020 due to COVID-19 (**TD** 10 Sep 2020).

Air NZ's COO Alex Marren said, "when the hard decision was made to park our 777 fleet we knew the desert was an ideal environment due to its warm and dry conditions".

"After being stored for almost two years in this climate, they are coming out of long term parking in good condition," he added.

Now that demand for flights has returned, the airline is readying the wide-body planes for service once again, with the first aircraft set to rejoin the 777-300 operating fleet from late Sep.

The airline plans to bring back the three remaining aircraft over the next year.

Dud floats sink 2022

CHARTER flights to resorts in Fiji normally operated by Pacific Island Air have been delayed until next year due to maintenance.

In a statement delivered this morning, the company said it would not be able to recommence services this year as it would need to source replacement parts for its seaplane floats, many of which have corroded during the COVID-induced shutdown period.

"While we are very disappointed with the delays, safety is paramount to our business, and we are grateful that our experienced engineering team were able to identify the issue of corrosion," a spokesperson for Pacific Island Air said.

When operating, the carrier typically facilitates daily charter-based transfers and scenic flights from Nadi International Airport to virtually any resort in Fiji, including Nanuku, Savu Savu, Tavenui, Suva, and Levuka.



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*Terms and conditions apply. \$11,341 price based on ME Expedition Suite aboard MS Fridtjof Nansen on 8 Dec 2022 Highlights of Antarctica departure and is subject to availability. Price correct as of 2 Aug 2022.

Corona's tourism on tap



MEXICAN beer brand Corona has announced plans to enter the tourism sphere from mid 2023, unveiling Corona Island (pictured) which will host tourists seeking a zero emissions experience.

Located off the coast of Colombia, the island has already achieved the highest level of sustainability verification by Oceanic Global's Blue Standard, and will be free of single-use plastics, while operators will also adopt rigorous sustainability standards throughout their energy production, food sourcing

and guest experiences.

Visitors can expect menus created by Chilean-born Chef and *MasterChef Colombia* judge Christopher Carpentier, a leisure program crafted by former Miss Universe Paulina Vega, and educational excursions hosted by Oceanic Global's 'Blue School'.

"We look forward to welcoming visitors, rekindling their relationship with nature and hopefully creating more advocates to protect our natural world," Corona Global VP Felipe Ambra said.

AFTA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



YESTERDAY we opened ticket sales for the 2022 National Travel Industry Awards.

It was great to see so many people purchasing tickets

already and wanting to celebrate our great sector for the evening.

We are expecting around 1,200 people at the 15 Oct event at Sydney's International Convention Centre - which will make it the largest gathering of travel professionals in Australia since the pandemic.

Currently, all nominations are being reviewed against the nomination requirements and whether they have been met.

Successful nominees will subsequently be contacted and requested to submit a video or written application.

These applications will then be assessed by two independent reviewers from one of Australia's leading universities to narrow each category down to a maximum of five finalists.

An industry judging panel consisting of over 20 judges from

all sections of the community have been appointed to further assess these applications.

For the individuals, finalists will be required to present to the industry panel, their application and allow the judges to seek additional information and present a final score.

For eight business categories, public voting will open in the coming weeks where we expect to see strong campaigns run showcasing each business's story over the last three years.

This ensures those people and businesses that win have been through a fair and rigorous process, to ensure the integrity of the awards.

The overall winner of the awards will be determined with the highest combined score.

It has been just over three years since the last NTIA and I know the AFTA team is looking forward to seeing everyone again and celebrating the finalists and winners.

If you didn't get a chance yesterday, you can still purchase, Gala Dinner tickets either individually or in tables of 10.

For further information about the travel sector's big night of nights, please **CLICK HERE**.

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Travel Daily

Perth's Dark Stry

SELF-GUIDED tour app Dark Stry has announced the release of its Perth Boom-and-Bust tour, developed with support from the City of Perth.

Using current-day and historical footage, each stop on the tour tells Perth's story decade-by-decade, such as its demolished buildings and 'scandalous' modernist art movement.

The tour is available at \$25 per download from Apple and Google app stores - [CLICK HERE](#) for info.

Cash for caravans

AS PART of the latest round of funding from the Victorian Government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund, three of the state's regional caravan parks are set to receive a collective \$4.6-million-dollar upgrade.

Wimmera Mallee Cabins' parks in Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack, as well as Edenhope Lakeside Caravan Park and Lilydale Pine Hill Caravan Park will receive new accommodation cabins and upgraded facilities.

First Mates enjoy Valiant Lady



A GROUP of 'First Mates' were recently hosted on board Virgin Voyages' *Valiant Lady* by Travel the World's Director of Sales Sharon Hando, and the line's Vice President of International Sales, Shane Lewis-Riley.

The 2,770-passenger *Valiant Lady* joined Virgin Voyages' fleet earlier this year (**TD** 09 Feb), offering itineraries through the Mediterranean in the summers and the Caribbean in the winters.

Sydney hotels dip

SYDNEY hotels experienced a decline in occupancy rates in Jul compared to the month prior.

Additionally, last month's occupancy rate was 16% below Jul 2019, however the average daily rate and revenue per available room were higher than the 2019 comparables.

Laos launches video

LAOSAFE has launched a new video showcasing the range of tourist experiences in Laos and highlighting the skills, knowledge, and hygiene practices of the tour guides, drivers, and service professionals who deliver them.

The English-language destination video aims to "build international confidence in Laos as a safe tourist destination".

Laosafe is a nationwide certification program led by the Ministry of Tourism, intended to create a world-class health and hygiene system within the tourism and hospitality industry.

View the video [HERE](#).

Back to school in NT

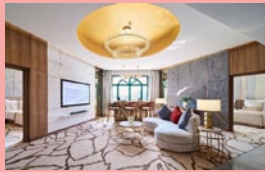
THE Government of the NT is making it easier for international students to live and study in the Territory, opening applications today for grants to help students move to the Top End.

The endowments cover the first six weeks of a student's accommodation at either UniLodge Darwin Student Accommodation at Casuarina or International House Darwin located on-campus at Charles Darwin University.

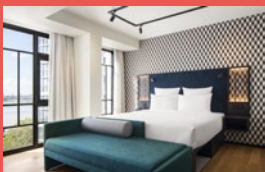
For more information on the updated scheme, [CLICK HERE](#).

ACCOMMODATION

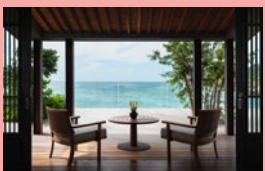
WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Sunway Resort in Kuala Lumpur has unveiled eight brand-new rooms and suites as part of its US\$60 million transformation, including the Deluxe Room, featuring a marble bathroom and 50-inch TV. The hotel also introduced the larger Grand Deluxe Room with bathtub, as well as the Club Room and Wellness, Business, Executive, Premier, and Sunway Grand suites, the latter of which features two bedrooms and separate dining, living and bar areas.



Located along the Mekong riverfront promenade in Cambodia's capital city, the **TRIBE Phnom Penh Post Office Square** has officially opened its doors to guests. In addition to its 260 rooms across six categories, the hotel also provides a social destination and collaborative space, featuring a spacious lobby lounge, flexible co-working space, and the 24-hour **TRIBE EXPRESS**, which serves coffee and healthy snacks.



Amanoi Resort has announced the arrival of five new Residences and four new Villas. Positioned on Vietnam's coastline, the private standalone dwellings feature airy living and dining spaces, large infinity swimming pools surrounded by expansive decks, and the services of a personal butler. The five new Residences feature one to four bedrooms with ocean views, while the Villas range from one to two bedrooms with floor-to-ceiling windows.