

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news plus a full page from CAPA.

Last day to win!

FINAL entries in this month's Star Alliance competition must be lodged by midnight tonight, with 25 lucky *Travel Daily* readers to share in a total \$5,000 prize pool as part of the promotion.

Answer the last five questions at traveldaily.com.au/star-alliance.

THE PLACE TO BE

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New era for Canada GSA

DESTINATION Canada's appointment of Julie King & Associates (JKA) as its General Sales Agent (GSA) for Australia (*TD* breaking news) is hoped to further boost Aussie engagement with the destination, continuing the performance of the retiring Donna Campbell, head of DC & Associates which has represented Canada here for more than 12 years (*TD* 02 Aug).

JKA is well known to the market, with CATO Board member King having worked with a range of destinations, most notably Dubai, as well as the Seychelles, the Catalan Tourist Board, Japan National Tourism Organization and Korea Tourism Organization.

There will be strong continuity for Canada under the new arrangements, with long-time DC & Associates staffers Nathan McLoughlin and Pip Macken to join the JKA team.

Destination Canada VP International, Maureen Riley, said "we are seeing strong demand from Australians for Canada's

iconic, memorable and authentic experiences".

"While momentum is building, the global tourism market is ferociously competitive and we must be ready to capture the enormous opportunity ahead.

"We're looking forward to working with Julie and her team who bring deep market knowledge and expertise that will bolster our efforts in Australia and elevate Canada as the go-to destination amongst our target travellers," Riley added.

King said her organisation was excited to work alongside the Destination Canada team and "build on their tremendous success to educate, inspire and drive bookings to Canada".

"Canada undoubtedly has what the world needs in this new era, and we're honoured to be a part of the team to market this wonderful destination in Australia," she added.

Destination Canada paid tribute to the work of Donna Campbell who has worked alongside and within the organisation over the last 25 years.

CAPA's must-attend

CAPA Centre for Aviation is inviting the industry to take part in next month's CAPA Australia Pacific Aviation Summit 2022.

High-profile speakers will include Virgin Australia CEO Jayne Hrdlicka, Bonza Founder & CEO Tim Jordan, Fiji Airways chief Andrew Viljoen and Rex Airlines Executive Director Chris Hines.

Tickets are now on sale for the event taking place 13-14 Sep in Adelaide - more details on the **last page** of today's *Travel Daily*.

VA Italy, France switch approved

THE International Air Services Commission has agreed to a request from Virgin Australia to switch its capacity allocations on the Italy and France routes to be used for codeshare services with Qatar Airways (*TD* 13 Jul).

Previously designated for operations with Etihad Airways and Singapore Airlines, the determination allocates 150 QR codeshare one-way seats per week on average on the Australia-France route, as well as 1,200 on the Australia-Italy route.

A&K offers big prize

ATTENDEES at next week's 'Rediscover the World of A&K' trade roadshows in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne will be in the running to win an Abercrombie & Kent international trip, incl Qatar Airways flights.

In partnership with Qatar Tourism, Qatar Airways and Discover Qatar, the trip will also include a luxury three-night Discover Qatar stopover.

Registrations for the free industry events are still open by **CLICKING HERE**.

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Domestic well short of '19

DOMESTIC tourism is still 30% short of where it was before the pandemic struck, a new report released by Tourism and Events Queensland this week showed.

Australia saw just over 82 million interstate and intrastate domestic overnight visitors for the 12 months to 31 Mar 2022, with the bulk of travel comprised of holidaymakers.

Leisure travel during the period accounted for 30.6 million overnight visits, while visiting friends and family represented 26.9 million, and business travel contributed 14.65 million.

While all modes of travel showed solid gains on the previous year, the side-by-side comparison with 2019 numbers laid bare the growth still needed for domestic tourism to get back to where it was prior to the travel shutdown.

Compared to the previous 12-month period, domestic

tourism managed to recover 54.3% of overnight volumes to 17.9 million, however the average length of domestic trips contracted slightly during the same time, down 0.3 to 5.8 days.

A similar picture was painted for domestic spend, which improved by 38.7% to \$63.32 million when compared to the 12 months to 31 Mar 2021, but was still down by 21% on 2019 numbers.

In Qld, the destination closest to achieving parity with 2019 is the Sunshine Coast, which is only 8.4% shy of reaching pre-COVID overnight visitation with 3.7 million visits, however the upcoming host of the 2032 Olympics, Brisbane, is still well down on 2019 levels.

The Qld capital attracted 5.2 million travellers for 12 months to Mar 2022, down 36.2% on 2019, but up moderately (12.6%) on the previous year.

Read the full report [HERE](#).



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INDEPENDENT HOLIDAY PACKAGE EXPERTS

NZ hires offshore specialist



TOURISM New Zealand is preparing to ramp up its marketing activity in offshore markets and aviation via the appointment of a new specialist to help sell the country as must-see tourism destination.

Angela Blair (**pictured**) has come on board this week in the role of General Manager International, and central to her new position will be ensuring the country stands out from the crowd when it comes to attracting air investment and visitors.

"There is intense global competition for visitors and Tourism New Zealand is working hard to build brand preference for destination New Zealand in our core international markets," Tourism New Zealand Chief Executive Rene de Monchy said. "Angela's skills and experience

will help us achieve this."

Prior to joining Tourism New Zealand, Blair was a member of Restaurants Brands New Zealand Executive team, having previously worked for organisations such as Vodafone and APN to develop creative marketing programs.

Rail trail boost

A **CHANGE** in NSW to the *Transport Administration Act 1988* is set to precipitate the creation of a range of new tourism trails in the state.

The Rail Trails Bill has passed through Parliament, laying down the tracks for new rail trail or tourism proposals regarding disused rail tracks to be examined without the need for an Act of Parliament to approve each individual plan.



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Cruise in the frame for Ardern



NEW Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was among the throngs on Auckland's Queen's Wharf this morning to welcome the first international passenger cruise ship into New Zealand in more than two years.

Ardern, who's **pictured** being photographed alongside Carnival Australia President, Marguerite Fitzgerald, noted the significant economic contribution of cruise.

According to local media reports pre-pandemic, about 20% of spending in the Auckland CBD was due to international tourists, with the ship's arrival set to benefit retailers, hospitality and accommodation operators, as well as a host of local suppliers and tour operators.

Despite that, the ship's arrival was also met by a small group of protestors including a sailboat displaying a "Cruising 2 Extinction" banner.

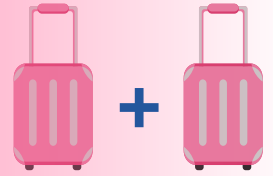
Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia MD Joel Katz said the arrival of *Explorer* meant the NZ cruise community could now begin rebuilding an industry previously worth more than half a billion dollars annually to the economy.

"New Zealand has now joined the rest of the world in a careful resumption of cruise operations.

"We now have an opportunity to revive a sector that previously supported many thousands of jobs in communities right around the NZ coast," he said.

The ship's current itinerary will also take her to a maiden post-pandemic call in Fiji, while Carnival chief Fitzgerald said "we look forward to our ships also being able to return to beautiful destinations in New Caledonia and Vanuatu, & to the progressive return to NZ ports of ships from our other cruise lines".

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CI's Sapporo return

AUSSIE ski lovers will be able to access Japan's Sapporo via China Airlines' twice-weekly services to the destination which resume 23 Aug, flying via Taipei as part of the ongoing expansion of CI's local operations (**TD** 09 Aug).

Flights CI58/57 will operate from Melbourne to Sapporo Chitose Airport, while CI52/51 will fly from Sydney making the same connections each Tue and Thu between Oct and Dec.

VA priority lanes

VIRGIN Australia has confirmed the reopening of its Premium Entry and Priority Lanes.

Earlier this week the VA Priority Lane at Brisbane Airport commenced operating 5am-10am each weekday, while Virgin Australia Premium Entry access will be available from 0500-1000 on weekdays effective 22 Aug.

A reopening date for the Sydney Premium Entry facility is set to be confirmed soon, the carrier said.

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Window Seat

AN AUSTRALIAN tourist has been caught riding a moped around Pompeii in Italy.

Coming just weeks after travellers were caught driving and hurling scooters down the Spanish Steps, the offender was immediately apprehended by site security and police, and claimed to have not known the world-famous archaeological park was off limits.

Fortunately, the maniac did not damage any part of the ancient city - or at least any more so than the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD did.



Insure against headaches

EXCLUSIVE

ONE of the best ways for travellers to insulate themselves against last-minute changes to travel plans currently plaguing the sector is to take out comprehensive travel insurance, Intrepid Managing Director Sarah Clark believes.

Speaking to TD this morning, Clark said Aussies should consider taking out travel insurance for all trips in the current climate - even domestic journeys which still carry a level of risk.

"We strongly recommend all travellers have a policy that also covers COVID-19, personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage or personal effects," Clark said.

"While Australians travelling within Australia are not required to be covered for hospital care due to being covered by Medicare, a comprehensive domestic travel insurance policy

should cover you for expenses resulting from - among other things - COVID-19-related changes including an outbreak in your destination or on your departure necessitating changes to your travel plans that incur additional costs."

Intrepid's local chief also revealed the operator was still in a "rebuild phase" in terms of sales, but that bookings had increased month-on-month this year, with Aussies showing particular interest for markets such as South East Asia, Europe, as well as Morocco and Egypt in North Africa.

Closer to home, Intrepid has seen growth for the Northern Territory, the Kimberly in WA, and Tasmania, and while domestic numbers are still "lagging" compared to pre-pandemic volumes, Clark said improved air connectivity would be the main driver of any rebound.

Matt blasts off

VIRGIN Galactic has appointed Matt Boguradzki as Vice President Sales & Strategy.

He will lead Virgin Galactic's sales team, supporting the company's commercial growth and developing its customers.

Boguradzki will oversee all sales efforts including strategy, sourcing, negotiation, and more.

Tahiti drops rules

TAHITI has dropped all restrictions for Australian travellers.

The destination is now open to both vaccinated and unvaccinated travellers with no restrictions.

SIA phone outage

SINGAPORE Airlines' sales operations is currently experiencing a phone outage.

Calls to 1300 308 168 can temporarily not be attended to - for urgent enquiries, call 02 7209 4388.



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Issy joins Intrepid team

INTREPID has announced the appointment of Key Partnerships Manager Issy Limn, arriving with six years of experience in the travel sector, most recently holding down the role of Business Development Manager with the Globus Family of Brands.



Limn (**pictured**) will report to General Manager of Sales & Partnerships, Yvette Thompson, and will be charged with supporting the operator's objective of growing sales through partners such as agents.

Her career has also involved stints in the sales & reservations teams at Insight Vacations, Contiki Holidays and STA Travel.

China resumes UK

COMMERCIAL travel might be finally thawing in China, with direct flights linking its mainland and the UK set to resume, according to a tweet from the British Embassy in China.

1837 Barossa \$20 million upgrade

1837 Barossa Luxury Vineyard Cottages has completed a multimillion dollar upgrade in a bid to attract more visitation.

The hotel now offers a newly added gourmet restaurant, as well as a revamped cellar door area, joining a range of visitor facilities including on-site accommodation, a seminar centre, and a helipad.

DETAILS of Hobart Airport's 20-year *Master Plan* show Tasmania's largest air hub is preparing to double the size of its terminal in a bid to accommodate millions of additional travellers each year.

Unveiled at a business forum yesterday, the plan is asking for construction to start in the next two to four years, with the design for the much larger facility to boast a number of pax enhancements, including significantly more food and beverage outlets.

The plan will now begin a period of community consultation, and arrives alongside Federal Government funding to upgrade the airport's runway so that Tassie can pursue more domestic and international flight

opportunities, as well as better connectivity with Antarctica.

Passenger traffic at Hobart International is predicted to grow to 5.5 million by 2042.

Pictured: A render of the expanded terminal.

Walk Tech Central

AUSTRALIAN startup FreeGuides has inked an agreement with the Tech Central business development in Sydney, a deal that will see the app host a number of self-guided walking tours through the precinct.

'Places to Eat Around Tech Central' is the first experience to go live on the app, giving visitors the best advice about where to eat and drink in the bustling new commercial precinct.



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CORPORATE UPDATE

Messinis out in BCD shuffle

EXCLUSIVE

LONGSTANDING BCD Travel Australia MD Tass Messinis (pictured) has left the business “to pursue new opportunities” in a reshuffle which the company claims will “streamline our business operations and support continued alignment in the areas of technology, reporting and resource allocation”.

Messinis had led BCD locally for over eight years, with his high profile career also including roles as GM of Travelport Locomote and as VP Australia for American Express Global Business Travel, seeing him on the AFTA Board from 2010 until 2012.

He was also recently named as Chair of the Association of Travel Management Companies (TD 20 May) and is a nominee in the current the AFTA Board elections (TD 01 Jul), the results of which are expected to be made public at the AFTA AGM next week.

His BCD position has been made redundant after the creation of a new MD Australia and Singapore role, to be filled by Singapore-based Andrew Yeo.

Yeo, who has previously worked with the TMC for over a decade,



was formerly BCD VP Strategic Initiatives Asia-Pacific, and from 01 Sep will take on responsibility for the firm’s local operations.

The two-country role “brings together two key markets with natural synergies, where we see opportunities to streamline the way we work to maximise commercial, process and technology efficiencies,” BCD said.

MEANWHILE BCD Travel has also announced an extension of its partnership with FairFly to power Air Price Assurance across its global customer base.

The tech predicts when fare changes will occur and automatically cancels and rebooks tickets at lower rates.

Sabre Conferma buy

AUSSIE technology executive Martin Cowley has been named as the interim CEO of British payments business Conferma Pay, which has now been acquired by Sabre Corporation.

Launched in 2005, Conferma Pay allows issuers to communicate with over 700 TMCs in addition to key global distribution network partners and more than 100 online booking platforms.

Cowley, who formerly headed up Sabre in Australia, and is also chairman of local tech startups eRoam and Travica, was cited as saying the acquisition of Conferma Pay will “help advance virtual card payments in travel and lay the foundations to develop technologies that enable the future B2B travel payments.”

Travel prices rising

BUSINESS travellers will see global travel prices rise during the rest of 2022, and throughout 2023, according to the 2023 Global Business Travel Forecast, published recently by CWT and the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA).

Driven by rising fuel prices, higher raw material costs, and labour shortages across the travel & hospitality industry, the report predicts that air fares will rise by 8.4% , hotel rates by 8.2% and car rental charges by 6.8% next year.

However, due to two years of minimal travel, CWT found that business travellers are likely to be willing to spend more - **CLICK HERE** to see the full report.



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Corp travel needed to retain talent

THE recovery of business travel is key for talent attraction and retention, according to findings from SAP Concur, which surveyed 3,850 global business travellers across 25 markets and 700 global travel managers across seven markets.

Three in five business travellers (61%) report that their current travel schedule is falling short of their expectations, and one in four (23%) who are not travelling as much as they would like said they intend to look for a new position if their travel schedule doesn’t improve, with Gen Z the most likely to take action.

The survey also found that business travellers at small and medium-sized businesses (less than 1,000 employees) were more likely to be travelling less than they’d prefer at 39%, versus business travellers from larger companies at 32%.

Biz traveller advice

CORPORATE Traveller Global Managing Director Tom Walley has shared six ways businesses can minimise travel disruptions as COVID and flu cases rise.

Walley said businesses should shop around to find a travel insurance policy that offers the most extensive domestic and international cover.

Companies can also reduce infection risks by flying executives who have recently recovered from COVID or the flu or are up-to-date on their vaccinations, and have “back-up travellers” on standby in case of issues related to last-minute illness.

Walley also highlights the importance of boosting travel confidence among employees, suggesting regular surveys to identify questions and concerns.

Keeping up-to-date on destination requirements and restrictions and planning for luggage-related risks were among other tips provided by Walley.



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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

Savings have been released for one of **On Foot Holidays'** most popular walks, the Dordogne Valley hike in France. On Foot Holidays is offering a saving of £100 per couple on the cost of the walk when also purchasing a three-course "Decouverte Accord mets et vins" gourmet meal for two for the end of the hike, dining at the Michelin-starred Le Pont de l'Ouyse - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

Enjoy a free night at **Moskito Island** in the British Virgin Islands when staying at either The Point Estate or The Branson Estate for four nights. Those who stay for longer can double their free nights - to check availability, contact the reservations team **HERE**.

Save 30% on a Hunter Valley winter escape to **Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort**. The saving is available for those travelling before the end of Sep for stays booked by the end of the month. Full details available **HERE**.

Centara Hotels & Resorts has announced a partnership with airasia rewards, offering the airline's members 40% off all-inclusive packages at Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives, and more - **CLICK HERE**.

Agents spaced out

A DIVISION of global luxury travel agent collection, Internova Travel Group, has inked a deal with Space Perspective to sell tickets to US travellers wanting a seat aboard Spaceship Neptune.

Global Travel Collection (GTC) are now sanctioned to book seats on a six-hour ride in Earth's orbit inside a sophisticated, low emissions space balloon.

"Until now, this historic opportunity has been available only to a select few, I know that many of our clients will want to sign up, and we are thrilled to offer this adventure to them through our partnership with Space Perspective," GTC President Angie Licea said.

A ticket will cost people US\$125,000 each, with rides taking off in 2025.

SIXT's revenue high

SIXT has seen its strongest-ever half-year revenue results, recording a 59% year-on-year increase in consolidated revenue for the first half of 2022, exceeding its half-year figure in pre-COVID 2019 by 16.9%.

The international mobility services provider reached a record level of €223.2 million consolidated earnings before taxes (EBT) in the first six months, versus €64.2 million in the first half of 2021, and expects to reach the upper range of €380 to 480 million in consolidated EBT for the full-year of 2022.

SIXT attributes the strong results to its significant growth in all foreign markets, particularly in Europe, which made up 40% of its consolidated revenue, and the United States (30%).

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Crooked Compass VIP treatment



BOUTIQUE tour operator Crooked Compass took to the skies yesterday for its first flight to the autonomous region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

The group of VIP guests, who included Council of Australian Tour Operators MD Brett Jardine, escorted by founder Lisa Pagotto, was met by the local Member of Parliament upon touchdown in Buka, South Bougainville, and surprised with an exclusive charter plane that flew them to witness the Siwai Cultural Show. "It is such a privilege and honour to be given the exclusivity

to be the first international guests to ever witness the show," Pagotto enthused.

"To be met by a government official as we stepped off the plane was humbling, but to then be ushered towards our own private aircraft - wow, that was something else!"

Summit tix open

REGISTRATIONS for the World Indigenous Tourism Summit registrations are now open, with the event to take place from 13-16 Mar 2023 at Crown Perth.

Attendees will discover the role Indigenous values in the tourism industry - **CLICK HERE** to register.

Air Tahiti cancels

AIR Tahiti will cancel seven flights from Auckland to Papeete over the Oct-Nov period for "operational schedule adjustment reasons" - pax will be transferred to the equivalent flight two days later, or can apply for a refund.

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