



The first TD Event!

THERE'S been huge interest in our newly launched **TD** Events offering in partnership with Richard Taylor from The Travel Community Hub (**TD** 03 Feb) and we are today thrilled to announce that the first session will be held on Thu 03 Mar at 12 noon AEDT.

The launch event will feature an interview with Entire Travel Group executives Brad McDonnell and Greg McCallum, looking at the transformation undergone by their business over the last two years, and how the process led to the creation of Entire's new proprietary booking platform and Peace of Mind Booking Plan which protects both clients and agents from cancellation costs.

TD publisher Bruce Piper and Richard Taylor will also delve into the Entire team's view of the broader outlook for land supply and their vision for taking travel advisor support to a new level.

Free registrations are now open - sign up by **CLICKING HERE**.

Earn as travellers spend

EXCLUSIVE

DIGITAL travel money start-up Pelikin has teamed up with Evolution Travel Collective (ETC) to promote a new affiliate program that allows agents to earn commission when travellers spend money overseas.

The free, 100% digital affiliate program provides advisors with the opportunity to promote Pelikin's range of travel products to their client base through branded marketing materials, custom landing pages and a customised QR code, alongside an attractive commission structure which includes added incentives and bonuses.

Registrations to join the new program can be approved within 24 hours of applying online, with new members able to share their affiliate QR code or add a Pelikin sign-up widget to their website.

Pelikin CEO Sam Brown said the COVID travel shutdown had

allowed the brand the time to tailor a program specifically to the needs of the Australian market.

"The timing has coincided perfectly with travel returning and it allows travel agents to add more products to their offerings during their recovery, plus, we are constantly improving means and distribution for agents," Brown said.

Reflecting on the new partnership to drive the affiliate initiative's awareness, ETC's CEO and Managing Director Pete Rawley said he was thrilled to be able to help Pelikin leverage the strong relationships it had formed in the APAC travel industry.

The Pelikin app is billed as a safe, secure, and market-leading travel money service, backed by blue chip partners such as Nium, Apple Pay and Google Pay.

Email info@evolutiontc.com.au for further details.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news.

Ponfoort departs

EXCLUSIVE

AURORA'S CEO Monique Ponfoort has announced she will be stepping down from her role at the line to pursue a yet-to-be-revealed new career challenge.

"I am excited and ready for a new challenge and I wish the Aurora team every success for the future...I am confident that the company is well positioned to continue its growth," she said.

"I will very much miss working with such a talented and passionate team and highly valued trade partners."

Ponfoort joined Aurora in Oct 2020 at the height of the pandemic (**TD** 14 Jul 2020), joining the cruise line from Ponant, where she was VP & GM of the Asia Pacific region.

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Travel Daily

Wednesday 23rd February 2022

Intrepid \$1 promo

ONE-DOLLAR deposits are back for Intrepid Travel.

With international borders reopening and travel back on the cards, Australians can now plan their next holiday with a sense of security, with a deposit of just \$1 applying to all domestic and international trips.

“Our \$1 deposits are designed to give people the peace of mind to lock in a trip of their dreams,” said Managing Director Brett Mitchell.

“We have noticed more travellers craving adventure after a tough two years.”

Travellers can book for only a \$1 deposit until Apr for departures before the end of the year, with the local range being 100% carbon-offset and designed to have a low environmental footprint while having a positive impact on local communities. For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

Still time to sing!

OKLAHOMA Tourism has extended its competition entry deadline until next week, inviting agents to sing to win, and be part of the organisation’s musical talent showcase (**TD** 18 Feb).

The entry deadline has been extended from Fri to Mon, giving travel advisors the weekend to warm up their vocal chords.

Learn more about the competition and enter [HERE](#).

P&O cancels Kiwis

P&O Cruises is advising its New Zealand guests of the cancellation of its 2022 Auckland season.

The announcement follows the absence of progress toward an agreed restart plan for cruising in the country, P&O said.

The cancellation affects 21 cruises that were scheduled to depart from Auckland from 05 Jul to 27 Nov this year.



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One role is working normal office hours and is based in our office in Robina on QLD’s Gold Coast. The second role is to cover After-Hours and can be worked from home and based anywhere in Australia. Ticketing knowledge of all 3 GDS’ mentioned is preferred but not essential for the office based role, but is essential for the successful applicant of the After-Hours position.

If you have a minimum of 2 years’ experience in a similar role, please send your resume to [Kym Ryan](mailto:kym@mtatravel.com.au)
kym@mtatravel.com.au



Explore links with TTC

EXCLUSIVE

EXPLORE Worldwide has extended its representation in the Australian market through The Travel Corporation’s (TTC) Adventure World Travel division.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* about the move this week, Explore Worldwide Managing Director Michael Edwards said the decision to renew the agreement was an easy one, citing Adventure World as an “extremely good fit” to promote the brand moving forward.

“Our small group experience compliments Adventure World’s line up of product and it’s also a great fit demographically with us being the leading brand in the 40-60 age category,” Edwards said, adding that the mature demographic is projected to grow more than any other post-COVID.

Speaking specifically about the Australian market, Edwards also revealed the Explore brand is resonating “extremely well” with Aussie travellers, stating that sales were up more than 30% in 2019 and that he anticipates that growth to continue in the months and years ahead.

“Post-COVID, we think pent-up demand, our style of travel, such as the safety, security and community of being in a small group, will flourish,” he said.

“We know Aussies love to travel and are adventurous by nature so the demand - particularly for bucket-list type destinations which are predicted to be high.

“For us that means ensuring we having pricing done for 2023 so people can start planning ahead and we’re already seeing some

of that demand and expect it to be of significant volume as things open up,” he added.

Edwards also revealed that having an effective trade strategy in country’s like Australia was “hugely important” to its brand success, hinting that agent families and educational are in the pipeline, with more details to be released soon.

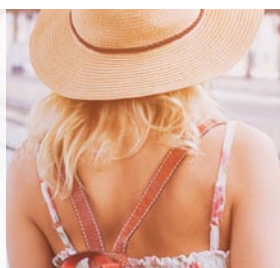
MEANWHILE Explore has also expanded its range of new UK small group journeys, with the four new adventures available through Adventure World featuring a walking holiday in West Cornwall, a coast-to-coast cycle trip in Devon, walks through Yorkshire Dales, as well Dartmoor and Devon’s southwest coast.

The new suite of five-night trips are expected to suit ex-pats who are leading the return in international travel to see family members and loved ones, who then opt to include travel during their active short breaks.

WA eyes east coast

TOURISM Western Australia has appointed the Walshe Group as its new East Coast trade representatives for the next two years, just in time for the state to finally open up to the rest of the country (**TD** 21 Feb).

“Tourism WA is delighted to have the Walshe Group on the ground on the east coast for us, providing in-market support through trade engagement and PR strategies that bolster our domestic marketing efforts to increase visitation, yield and dispersal,” Tourism WA Managing Director Carolyn Turnbull said.



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Europe advised to open

TRAVEL restrictions for int'l arrivals may soon be eased across all European Union member states, with the European Council overnight recommending the lifting of restrictions for all non-essential travel from 01 Mar.

The Council's advisory includes a call to accept all fully vaccinated travellers with EU/WHO approved vaccines without any restrictions or conditions, as well as travellers who have recovered from COVID, applying instead the need for a negative pre-departure PCR test.

European Union member states were also asked to fully accept vaccinated travellers not holding a valid EU Digital COVID Certificate, subject to a negative pre-departure PCR test.

Reflecting on the EU Council's recommendations today, the Airports Council International Europe Director General Olivier Jankovec said there was no doubt the travel model across the entire

European bloc needed to evolve from a blanket country approach to one analysing the personal health status of individual travellers.

"As the safe resumption of air connectivity gathers pace, it is vital that member states implement this recommendation, bringing structure, predictability and harmonisation to the benefit of all," Jankovec said.

"We now know beyond any doubt that a regime based on travellers' personal health status is right for individuals, for economies and for societies - a vaccinated traveller from outside the EU should be treated no differently to one inside the EU."

While the travel policy advice is non-binding and member states can choose their own entry requirements, many countries followed suit when the Council recommend gradually lifting restrictions in Jun.

IHG bounces back

IHG Hotels & Resorts has recorded significant improvement in trading during the last fiscal year, with REVPAR recovering to 70% of 2019 levels.

The company noticed particularly strong recovery in the United States, resulting in an Americas REVPAR down just 20% versus 2019.

IHG opened 44,000 rooms across 291 hotels over the year, which was up 12% versus 2020, meaning the company's global estate now stands at 880,000 rooms across 5,991 hotels.

Added to the pipeline were 68,900 rooms across 437 hotels in total in for last year, up 23% versus 2020, creating an international pipeline of more than 270,000 rooms across 1,797 properties.

Chief Executive Officer Keith Barr noted profitability and cash flow also rebounded strongly, and signings accelerated in Q4.



Window Seat

MANY have played Wordle, the game which exploded in popularity in Dec, but have you played Worldle?

One of the many clones of the original web-based word game, Worldle involves the player attempting to guess a country via its silhouette.

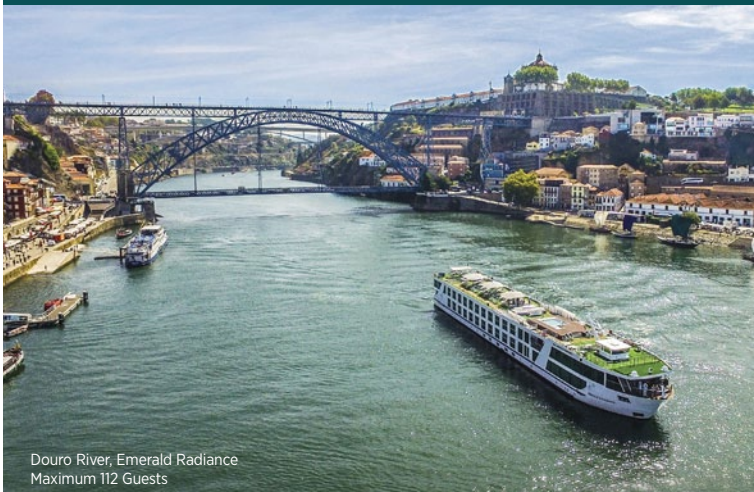
Instead of clues relating to correct letters and correct positioning, players are offered the distance they are from the correct country, in which direction the correct country is, and how close they are, expressed as a percentage.



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EY new Crete flight

ETIHAD Airways has announced its northern summer routes, with new flights to Crete, Greece's largest island, set to commence on 15 Jun.

EY will launch the seasonal, twice-per-week service to Crete with an Airbus A320, connecting from Abu Dhabi to Heraklion.

Other popular routes, such as Malaga, Santorini, and Zanzibar, will also return from mid-Jun, in time for the northern summer.

Radisson adds 137

RADISSON Hotel Group (RHG) ramped up Asia Pacific expansion last year, with 137 new hotels added to the portfolio, including 15 in Australia.

RHG's master brand development agreements in China are playing a pivotal role in expediting the company's global growth strategy, with 122 new hotels and resorts signed last year, covering four brands.

Airport stoush concludes

A PROTRACTED legal conflict between Qantas and Perth Airport regarding outstanding payments has finally been resolved, with the Western Australian Supreme Court recently handing down its verdict.

The court's decision appeared to strike a middle ground between the two stakeholders, with Qantas ordered to pay Perth Airport around \$9 million in air fees covering the time elapsed since the airline's previous agreement signed in mid-2018, a judgement that was \$16 million shy of what the Perth aviation hub was demanding, but still more than Qantas believed it was entitled to fork out.

Interestingly, the outcome had both Qantas and Perth Airport racing to claim victory.

"We are glad to have received a judgement and that the outcome has recognised the fairness of the open and transparent

consultative manner in which Perth Airport negotiates prices with its airline partners," Perth Airport CEO Kevin Brown said.

Meanwhile Qantas welcomed the decision as upholding the established formula for determining aeronautical pricing, but also expressed its concerns that an assumed return on investment of almost 10% for Perth Airport could "put significant upward pressure on fares" and prevent it from moving to PER's proposed new terminal.

"The [return on investment percentage] is higher than comparable rates used by airports overseas and well above most rates set by regulators for other Australian monopolies," Qantas argued, adding the weighted average cost of capital would have reduced significantly in line with interest rates since the start of the legal action launched back in Dec 2018.

We can fit the brief

GLOBAL Work & Travel (GWT) is urging tourism and hospitality businesses to get in touch so it can help fill chronic labour shortages that are plaguing the sector in the wake of COVID.

GWT said it can do all the work in setting up working holidaymakers and businesses at no cost for a limited time, while the industry gets back on its feet.

The online youth travel marketplace added that demand for jobs from working holidaymakers is at an all-time high.

GWT CEO Jurgen Himmelmann said hospitality and tourism businesses around the world should be aware that travellers need at least several months to organise themselves ahead of an overseas move.

"We've been getting more than 1.5 million site visits a month, over the last few months, from working holiday travellers looking to be connected with jobs," Himmelmann said.



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Pegasus flies Pass

PEGASUS Airlines has become one of the first airlines to launch and offer IATA's Travel Pass, following a successful trial period.

The carrier is among the first of the IATA member airlines to go live on international routes, with the platform allowing passengers to digitally store and manage their health-related documents required for international travel, including their COVID-19 test results and vaccine/booster certificates.

That's Peak Emirates

PACKAGING & distribution connectivity specialist Peakwork has launched direct NDC connectivity to Emirates.

Tour operators and distributors in the Peakwork partner network can now instantly access the live NDC portfolio, in addition to high performing cache data.

The Emirates Gateway also enables the airline's trade partners to enhance a traveller's journey with customised products and services.

Merlin welcomes Wheelchair Day



MERLIN Entertainments is observing next Tue's International Wheelchair Day with free entry to every one of its attractions in the country for mobility aid users and their carers.

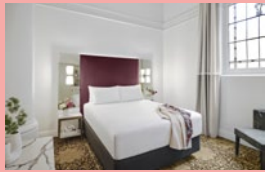
"Over recent years we have been working hard to make all of Merlin Entertainments' attractions as accessible as possible as we believe everyone, including people with diverse needs, should be able to enjoy magical moments," said Regional Director Australia & New Zealand Ian Wood.

"Some of the ways we strive to achieve this is by ensuring our staff have the right training, by continuing to look at how we provide the most accessible environments and making information available to guests ahead of their visit."

Included in the offer is entry to Illawarra Fly, LEGOLAND Discovery Centre, Madame Tussauds Sydney, Otway Fly, Sydney Tower Eye, and WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo.

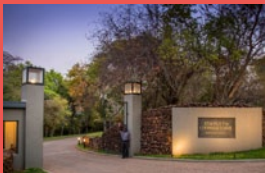
ACCOMMODATION

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.



Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne is bringing romance back to the city thanks to a modern make over, that has combined old world grandeur and new world charm in one of the Victorian capital's finest historic hotels. Natural lighting and local

photography feature in Rendezvous Melbourne's rooms, which are designed to exude elegance, and the decadence of bygone times, with plush, quilted headboards of velvet, custom-designed desks, and more.



Victoria Falls' only boutique hotel, **Stanley & Livingstone Boutique Hotel**, will re-open fully refurbished in just over a month. The reopening will be timed perfectly for guests to see the waterfall when it is at its most impressive. The hotel

will reopen with a completely fresh, yet "quintessentially historic" look, following an extensive refurbishment to the tune of US\$6 million. The new look aims to respect the exquisite natural surroundings of the Falls.



Softel Melbourne on Collins has launched a new Coco Chanel-inspired cocktail menu. While the fashion designer herself said "the best things in life are free", she also added "the second best things are very, very expensive", and Softel on Collins is bringing

the latter mantra to life, with the launch of a \$400 libation. The lineup is available until 26 Apr at the hotel's signature bar, The Atrium, located on level 35. Never fear, however, as not every drink is \$400!

Israel opens to all

ISRAEL will open its borders to unvaccinated tourists from Tue.

All incoming travellers will need a negative PCR test result both before take-off and after landing, except Israeli nationals.

It will be the first time unvaccinated visitors will be allowed into the country since Mar 2020.

Travel event back

THE Holiday & Travel Show will be back in Oct, as the first consumer-facing exhibition put on by the industry since the pandemic.

Taking place across Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, exhibitors will come from all areas of travel, and from across Australia & all around the world.

The Holiday & Travel Show is free for all in attendance.