

## Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has four pages of the latest news.

## CroisiEurope unveils Aussie first

**CROISIEUROPE** is gearing up to host its first ever webinar for the Australian market, a session designed to provide local agents and trade partners with greater insight into the brand's features and destinations in 2022.

Attendees will also have a chance to win a famil trip/cruise in Europe for six nights, with eligible candidates also needing to complete a pre-webinar survey which is available [HERE](#).

Register for the session, which takes place 13 Jan at 3.30pm AEDT, by [CLICKING HERE](#).



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## Singapore freezes bubble

**SINGAPORE** Airlines has ceased taking new bookings for all new Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL) services into Singapore until at least 20 Jan.

The decision follows a directive by the Singapore Government to suspend all new ticket sales on VTL flights to the state from previously accepted countries, including Australia, as the spread of Omicron cases continues to rise, and arrives only a month after Australia and Singapore formed a bilateral travel bubble.

A statement from the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore has also confirmed that from 21 Jan, tickets sales for designated VTL flights into Singapore will be capped at half of the current allocated amount.

Singapore Airlines has confirmed that transit passengers are not affected by the latest decision, while existing VTL

bookings will not be impacted by the new directive either.

The airline is scheduled to operate VTL flights from Adelaide and Brisbane from 15 Jan, while bookings are expected to open for Melbourne, Perth and Sydney on 05 Feb.

Singapore has previously made moves to reduce the risk of Omicron, including deferring the launch of some planned VTL services, as well as implementing tighter testing protocols for existing VTL travellers.

## More cruise hurdles

**THE** long-awaited restart of cruising in Australia will have to jump through more hoops than initially thought, with **Cruise Weekly** today revealing the passing of a key bill in parliament will also be required.

While the sector is already reeling from a two-month extension of the human biosecurity emergency declaration until 17 Feb, a letter from Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt's office confirms a Bill will also need to be considered in the Senate - more details in **CW**.

## Celestyal savings

**CELESTYAL** Cruises is offering up to 30% off select sailings in 2022 as part of its Escape Back to the Blue wave season campaign.

Bookings must be made by 31 Mar - for details [CLICK HERE](#).

## Cathay cuts down Oz

**CATHAY** Pacific has decided to temporarily cut a significant volume of flights between Australia and Hong Kong from the start of this month, a move the carrier said was mainly attributable to increased restrictions on its flight crews.

Jan will see the carrier operate just two flights a week to Sydney, down from twice daily frequencies offered previously.

"The further tightening of crew quarantine restrictions continues to constrain our ability to operate flights as planned. In light of this, we are making further changes to our flight schedule, including the cancellation of some passenger flights to and from Hong Kong," the airline told **Travel Daily**.

## Walk in NZ luxury

**WALK** Into Luxury has announced a new signature walk in New Zealand as part of its exclusive range in the country.

Based out of Blanket Bay, Walk into Luxury's new four-day walk includes exclusive heli-hiking experiences at Mount Earnslaw glacier and Milford Sound, a Dart River scenic jet boat cruise into Mt Aspiring National Park, and day hikes on the Milford and Routeburn Tracks.

Guests return each day to the luxury comforts of world-renowned Blanket Bay, where they will spend three nights enjoying fine dining with New Zealand wines.

## The right RAT pack

**THE** NSW Government has advised returning travellers to make sure they use only Therapeutic Goods Administration-approved Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) when they re-enter the country.

The state mandates that arrivals from overseas self-isolate at home or in their accommodation until they get a negative COVID result from a RAT, and again on day six, however NSW only recognises results from the TGA-approved list, [CLICK HERE](#) to view the full list of sanctioned brands.

## VA/UA file c'share

**UNITED** Airlines and Virgin Australia have this week formally applied to the US Department of Transportation for codeshare approval on a plan announced in Dec last year (**TD** 14 Dec 2021).

If approved, the deal will see UA offer VA travellers more nonstop flights from Australia, and 92 one-stop connections across the US.

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How has the pandemic impacted the way the travel sector operates, and what will remain in the emerging post-covid world? We investigate taking travel back to the future in the latest *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read

travelBulletin

## Big data key to rebound

**BIG** data can play a pivotal role in the recovery of the tourism industry in the Asia Pacific region, a new report compiled by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Asian Development Bank suggests.

The report argues that as the sector looks to recover from the impact of the pandemic, data and market intelligence will prove critical to private businesses and governments in being better prepared in what will likely be a rapidly changing landscape.

Making big data even more critical to the tourism industry has been the rapid digitalisation of the sector, driven by the necessity of operating during the COVID-19 crisis, which the study suggests will highlight the need for reliable data and intelligence to manage tourism in the future.

UNWTO's report also advocates for a comprehensive big data global agenda to pave the way for a more resilient sector, citing several barriers to realising the full potential of market intelligence initiatives.

These include concerns over privacy, skills gaps, data reliability, inadequate governance and infrastructure, the digital divide, and accessibility barriers.

"Addressing these challenges... requires prioritising investments in big data systems to remove these shortcomings, partnering with private and public sector big data providers, adopting proven measurement systems based on international standards for

sustainable tourism planning and management, and cooperating across the region on tourism-related policies," the report contends.

Despite the sharp digital transition traversed during the pandemic, the study warns that due to the economic toll on the tourism sector, there have been many strong incentives put in place to return to "business as normal", an approach the report claims could see the industry miss out on important long-term growth opportunities.

"Long-term strategic investments in big data would allow better measurement, planning, and management of sustainable tourism.

"Therefore, if - and it remains an if - the sector is to truly rebuild smartly post-pandemic, thoughtful policy interventions will be needed that correctly harness the positive momentum of digitalisation and the potential of big data while addressing the extreme near-term challenges of business continuity," the report concluded.

## Virgin Atlantic status match offer

**VIRGIN** Atlantic has expanded its status match offer to several more loyalty programs, including sister airline Virgin Australia and Qantas Airways.

The airline is matching to either its Gold or Silver status, depending on the elite status travellers have with other airlines.

In order to action the offer, travellers will need to submit proof of loyalty membership, and already have a revenue flight booked with Virgin Atlantic in Premium or Upper Class for Gold, or any cabin for Silver.

Other carriers on the list now include Air New Zealand, American Airlines, British Airways, Emirates, Etihad Airways, and Hawaiian Airlines.

## Tourism icon passes



**THE** tourism industry is this week mourning the death of one of the Solomon Islands' pioneering figures, with Titiru Eco Lodge visionary Kilo Paza passing away suddenly.

Paza is credited with creating a tourism blueprint for the Pacific Island nation when he introduced the Titiru Eco Lodge with just four hand-built bungalows on Rendova Island in the Western Province in 2014, a property that today boasts an expanded range of accommodation, including over-water honeymoon bungalows, and a host of environmentally-oriented activities for its guests.

Paying tribute to Paza's contribution to the tourism sector, Tourism Solomons' Head of Sales and Marketing Fiona Teama said he paved the way for a unique brand of responsible tourism product in the nation.

"Key to everything he did was conserving the Solomon Islands pristine environment while at the

same time, doing everything to help improve the welfare of the local people," she said.

"Thanks to Kilo and his family, eco-tourism has become a by-word for an ever-increasing number of resorts and tourism-based activities across our entire country and we have much to be grateful for his wonderful legacy.

"The Solomon Islands tourism industry honours his memory not only as a true trailblazer, but someone who set an amazing example which many of our tourism operators follow today," Teama added.

Paza also played a pivotal role, along with the late Tourism Solomons Marketing Officer Stella Lucas, in creating village visits with local Rendova Islanders, which are considered some of the most immersive cultural programs to be experienced in the Solomon Islands.

Paza is **pictured** third from the right with his resort team.

## Korean goes digital

**PASSENGERS** flying with Korean Air can now fill out 23 types of documents on their digital devices, including pet transportation declaration and health condition declaration forms, via a newly launched e-Document system.

The airline is claiming the new digital launch as a world-first in the aviation sector.

Be. Okinawa

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## Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients.



## Window Seat

WITH Aussies welcoming more furry friends into their households during lockdown than ever before, many are looking for ways to take their four-legged canines with them on their next holiday.

The Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges in Victoria is one region taking proactive paw prints towards offering pet owners dog-friendly itineraries, including pup-approved accommodation options, wineries, cafes and a host of special events and activities like Puffing Billy's Dog Express.

Other options include Matilda Bay Brewery's mutts and mates tour, Wiggley Bottom Farm pet packages, as well as Warrantina Lavender Farm's Dog Day.



## The Maldives goes global



**DESTINATION** management company Addicted to Maldives has announced plans to expand its reach to the United States and Europe.

The Australian-based Maldives resort specialist said that now was the perfect time to branch out as the tropical destination is currently experiencing "unprecedented interest" from travellers all over the world.

"Like all destinations, the island nation felt the negative impacts of COVID and its flow-on effect on the tourism industry," co-founder Di Lechner (pictured) said.

"Safety and hygiene standards

and the country's...relative isolation however, has allowed it to resume its primary source of economy.

"The Maldives is the hot new destination for Australians - and international travellers alike - due to its signature one island, one resort concept," she added.

## Traveller class action

**A GROUP** of travellers allege they were left stranded at airports across Australia by a COVID testing company which failed to deliver the results of a rapid PCR test on arrival.

The aggrieved group are launching a class action against Histopath Diagnostic Specialists, who they claim promised a 90-minute return result for \$120, however the travellers, which number in the hundreds, allege they were turned away from their scheduled appointments without warning.

The case is being represented by Margalit Injury Lawyers, with Managing Principal Michel Margalit telling *Sunrise* that the failed promise led to a loss of money on both flights and accommodation.

"There was absolutely no forewarning that the testing would not be completed on that day...people arrived and were turned away by security guards, it was appalling and unsatisfactory," Margalit said.

## NT removes PCR

**A PCR** test is no longer required prior to arrival in the Top End, the Northern Territory Government has announced today.

Anyone who is double vaccinated is able to enter the NT, and may take a rapid antigen test (RAT) within two hours of entry.

Travellers are also required to have a RAT within three days after arriving in the NT and another test on day six.

"You are not required to isolate after these tests; instead, you will be required to take a photo of the test results, the...batch number and a document identifying yourself, and submit an approved online declaration, no later than day eight after arriving," the NT Government said.

## G'day to South Africa

**QANTAS** Airways returned to South Africa yesterday for the first time in almost two years.

QF63 departed Sydney for Johannesburg, with Qantas to operate three weekly flights on Wed, Fri and Sun.

Qantas' restart coincides with Australia easing its restrictions on South African travellers.

The carrier had initially hoped to resume its flights between Sydney and Johannesburg in Jul, but plans were delayed.

## SIA return flights

**SINGAPORE** Airlines will operate a further two repatriation flights in collaboration with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from Singapore to Darwin on 15 and 24 Jan.

The flights will run in addition to the country's existing entry caps and repatriate Australian citizens, permanent residents, and the immediate families of Australian citizens.

All eligible passengers will be required to quarantine for 14 days at the Howard Springs Quarantine Facility in Darwin at their own cost.

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## Rusty Qantas pilots

**AN INTERNAL** Qantas memo obtained by *The Age* has revealed some pilots who have not flown for a long period of time are making basic control errors.

The report noted mistakes such as commencing take-off with the park brake on and misidentifying altitude as airspeed.

“Routine items that used to be completed with a minimum of effort now occupy more time and divert attention away from flying the aircraft,” the memo stated.

## Tas orders isolation

**TASMANIAN** health authorities have ordered 90 passengers and crew that were aboard *Coral Discoverer* into a minimum of seven days’ isolation after two people on board tested positive for COVID-19.

The state’s health department said that the Coral Expeditions ship had a proper COVID safety plan in place, but that due to the nature of its operation, there was a significant risk of exposure of passengers to the cases.

## 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](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



Conrad Hotels & Resorts has made its debut in Shanghai with a soaring tower in the heart of the city, **Conrad Shanghai**. Located in the heart of People’s Square, the hotel joins more than 30 of Hilton’s luxury hotels in Asia Pacific. Conrad Shanghai is set across 66 floors of the tower, and marks another significant milestone in Hilton’s expanding luxury portfolio in the region, with views over Nanjing Road East, the Bund, and Pudong’s skyline.



A new hotel brand for Africa, **voco**, has opened in Rosebank, Johannesburg, at the mixed-used Bank development. **voco Johannesburg Rosebank, an IHG Hotel**, will launch from next month, with bookings now open. A two-minute walk from the Gautrain, the hotel aims to take space, sophistication and artistry to the next level, with a range of beautifully appointed rooms and suites featuring voco’s thoughtful, relaxed and unstuffy design.



H10 Hotels has opened its exclusive **Ocean Eden Bay - Adults Only** in Jamaica. Located on the seafront, the newly built establishment has 444 rooms and a wide range of services. H10’s second hotel in Jamaica, Ocean Eden Bay is adjacent to the Ocean Coral Spring resort that the chain opened in late 2019. The hotel has modern facilities, including six restaurants, four exclusive bars, a private beach area with sun lounges, and a large designer pool.

## Morocco word search

V	A	L	V	Z	Y	M	A	R	R	A	K	E	C	H
V	N	W	F	O	M	N	Q	H	W	L	T	X	U	G
H	F	G	X	W	L	E	T	K	M	O	S	X	A	W
D	L	C	P	P	U	U	J	A	D	V	Y	L	J	S
S	E	R	H	V	T	I	B	R	B	Z	E	F	G	D
H	A	H	Z	E	Q	P	A	I	Z	A	Y	H	Y	O
R	A	Q	E	P	F	G	C	K	L	N	R	A	S	W
Z	M	H	N	F	O	C	V	O	C	I	I	R	A	D
K	E	V	I	R	X	B	H	S	U	V	S	I	H	H
U	J	O	G	S	H	S	H	A	X	S	Q	R	A	B
Q	D	E	A	A	R	G	P	S	O	S	C	A	R	G
X	O	P	T	M	E	K	N	E	S	U	O	O	A	F
A	C	N	A	L	B	A	S	A	C	K	E	U	U	A
B	C	V	S	N	T	M	S	A	L	T	A	N	Q	S
P	J	J	T	W	R	E	B	R	E	B	I	B	P	Y

**SEE** if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

ATLASMTNS  
BERBER  
CASABLANCA  
CHEFCHAOUEN  
COUSCOUS  
DJEMAAELFNA  
FEZ  
HARIRA

MARRAKECH  
MEKNES  
RABAT  
SAHARA  
SOUQ  
TAGINE  
TODRAGORGE  
VOLUBILIS



## Tradewind 2022/23

**TRADEWIND** Voyages has launched its full 2022/23 Mediterranean and Caribbean schedule.

*Golden Horizon* will make her inaugural journey in the Caribbean in Barbados next Nov, complementing her debut in the Mediterranean in May 2022.

The Caribbean season offers an extensive selection of voyages that span the Grenadines, St Vincent, St Lucia, Guadeloupe, British Virgin Islands, St Kitts, St Barts, Antigua and more.

Running from Apr to Sep 2023, voyages for the new Mediterranean season include Spain, France and Italy.

## SK leads busy routes

**DOMESTIC** flights dominated the list of the busiest air routes in the world in 2021, with South Korean leisure leading the way.

Flights between Jeju International Airport and Seoul’s Gimpo International Airport topped the busiest route list last year, followed by services between Seoul and Busan.

The Melbourne to Sydney route was ranked the 19th busiest route globally, the only Aussie service to make the top 50.

Eleven of the 50 busiest routes were in China, while India, Indonesia, Japan, and the United States each had four domestic routes in the list.