

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has four pages of news and a full page from Viking Cruises.

BA back to Sydney

BRITISH Airways is gearing up to return to Sydney, with daily flights set to resume from London to Sydney via Singapore by the end of Mar.

BA will deploy the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft on the route offering a capacity of 216 passengers, joining Qantas and Singapore Airlines on the service.

MEANWHILE Qantas resumes scheduled A380 flights three times a week between Sydney and Los Angeles from tomorrow.

The recommencement follows the spotting of an Airbus A380 landing in Sydney today after being grounded at LAX in storage for more than 670 days.

Hawaii hotel deals

HILTON Hawaii Hotels is currently offering travellers the chance to save up to 40% on stays at two of its properties, the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort ([CLICK HERE](#) for details) on the island of Oahu and Hilton Waikoloa Village on the island of Hawaii ([CLICK HERE](#) for details).

The promotion is available to book between 07-26 Jan for stays through to 16 Dec, and reservation changes & cancellations can be made up to 24 hours prior to arrival without incurring any penalty.

Parker Travel Collection shut

THE COVID-19 pandemic has claimed yet another Australian travel industry victim, with confirmation that the Parker Travel Collection (PTC) is ceasing operations after 27 years.

Todd Parker established the Cairns-based business in 1988, offering a way for Australian tourism businesses to collectively promote their wares to both domestic and international travellers.

The company represented a wide range of tourism products, and developed strong partnerships with major chains including Flight Centre and Helloworld Travel, over the years producing dedicated brochures for HLO's Sunlover Holidays.

Parker Travel Collection was a major driver of inbound business, with international offices in Guangzhou, Shanghai, Los Angeles, London, Beijing and Seoul as well as on the Gold Coast and in Melbourne.

The company was a member of a range of industry organisations

Sao Paulo Marriott

MARRIOTT International has announced an agreement to bring the upmarket JW Marriott brand to Sao Paulo in Brazil.

The property will be part of a mixed-used complex called Parque da Cidade, as a conversion from an existing luxury property with an expected opening in the second quarter of 2022.

including the Australian Tourism Export Council, and the Outback Queensland Tourism Association while Todd Parker also achieved significant personal recognition, including the 2014 award for Outstanding Contribution by an individual in Tourism from Tourism Tropical North Queensland, where he was a board member for some years.

The Parker Travel Collection website also notes that he had attended more than 30 Australian Tourism Exchange events.

Sadly the once thriving operation has been slammed by the pandemic, with Parker advising of its closure via a post on LinkedIn.

"My sincere thanks to all that have supported PTC and our team members from around the world," he wrote.

"It was great while it lasted, but the impacts of the last couple of years and the pandemic has brought the business to an end."

Blue Lagoon special

BLUE Lagoon Cruises is inviting Australian travellers to make the most of the reopening of Fiji's borders, with a 50% off flash sale valid for one week only.

Available on departure dates from 11 Feb-25 Apr on three, four and seven-night voyages in the Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands, fares start at just \$802 including meals, some beverages and activities - 1800 007 129.

Viking awaits you

AS THE world awaits its return, Viking Cruises is inviting travellers to be even more curious.

The cruise line offers a comprehensive suite of marketing materials to support travel advisors, which are available from its marketing centre.

Customisable flyers, a catalogue, and more are available - [page 5](#).

We're on track: FC

FLIGHT Centre has pushed back on analysis compiled by Morningstar's Brian Han that the business will see its leisure travel profits eroded by online bookings over the next 10 years.

"We believe leisure travel will continue to play a crucial role in our future and we were already transforming the business pre-COVID to prepare it for its next growth phase," a spokesperson told *Travel Daily*.

"While we made some changes during the pandemic, we have maintained a very strong leisure network that incorporates multiple channels for customers, this network is underpinned by an extensive retail shop footprint that remains highly accessible and it also includes websites, call centres and a growing stable of independent contractors."

While acknowledging Flight Centre's solid track record of sales over the past two decades, Han's Morningstar report has forecasted the Flight Centre retail business to face a sales decline in the longer-term.

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Travel Daily

Cruise legislation update

EXCLUSIVE

THE fate of the Australian cruise sector hangs on the passing of an amendment to the Biosecurity Act, which requires hearings in both the Federal Senate and House of Representatives.

The *Biosecurity Amendment (Enhanced Risk Management Bill) 2021* has been developed in response to several reports into the *Ruby Princess* incident early in the pandemic, which found the cruise operator had complied with all of the relevant requirements in place.

The new legislation gives the Commonwealth additional powers to handle disease outbreaks, including the ability to impose a delay of up to 12 hours on disembarkation so that individuals can undergo examinations, including giving body samples.

While Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt had previously indicated that the Government hoped to allow a resumption of cruising prior to last Christmas (*CW* 16 Nov 2021), it now appears that with limited sitting days in Parliament planned for the coming months and a pending Federal election, a potential resumption of cruising may be even further off than previously indicated.

Government officials have confirmed that the passing of the new laws are an additional step required for a return to cruising, on top of the lifting of the

current Biosecurity Emergency Declaration which at this stage is in place until 17 Feb.

It's also been confirmed that when the ban is lifted, cruises will restart in two phases, initially domestic voyages with passengers boarding in Australia, followed by a second stage of ships arriving in Australia with international passengers on board.

More details in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

More terminations from ATAS scheme

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents has confirmed the withdrawal of an additional 10 participants in the AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS), with most of them failing to renew their membership.

As well as Swagman Tours, which was placed into voluntary administration just before Christmas (*TD* 20 Dec 2021), the agencies which have not renewed their participation include Helloworld Travel Keilor (ABN 46 167 567 188), Helloworld Travel Innisfail (ABN 56 602 040 595), Helloworld Travel Mandurah (ABN 56 123 590 616), Three Sixty Travel (ABN 43 604 967 553), Mantra Wild Adventures (ABN 24 145 490 400), A&J Customization Group (ABN 90 955 196 687), New Horizons Travel & Cruise (ABN 52 620 891 367) and Womens Own Adventure (ABN 32 632 654 481).

Hanging Rock development plan



THE Victorian Government has released a draft blueprint to develop areas around the state's Hanging Rock in the Macedon Ranges, which includes plans to create and upgrade a host of tourism infrastructure.

If approved, the tourism strategy would see walks around Hanging Rock extended, new picnic areas created, an upgrade of existing tourism facilities, more car parks added, as well as the creation of an indigenous ceremonial area.

"Hanging Rock is renowned for its importance to our First Peoples, its dramatic geological form and its wider landscape setting within the Macedon Ranges...activities around the Rock will reflect its historical uses centred on recreation and education, and its state and national significance," the government said.

Residents, community

groups and visitors have now been invited by the Victorian Government to share their views on the draft, with major considerations being given to minimising the environmental and cultural impact, while also increasing future visitation numbers.

Feedback from Aussies will also help fine-tune the nature of tourism assets developed, with surveys canvassing opinions about possible sporting facilities and concerts venues, as well as wildlife, botany, and children's playgrounds attractions.

Cultural awareness of the site also features prominently in the survey, including whether prospective tourists would like more education about Hanging Rock's traditional owners, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung) and Taungurung.

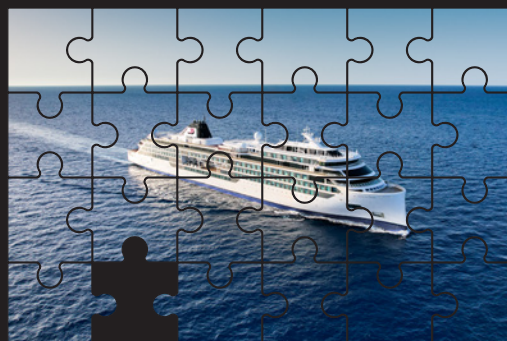
Pictured: Hanging Rock.

REWARDS by VIKING

Curious how you can earn 50 rewards points for completing a puzzle?

Simply solve our new virtual puzzle of the week on rewardsbyviking.com and you will receive 50 rewards points. It's that simple.

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VIKING





Ownership change

LONG-STANDING API Travel employee Carmen Patterson has become the new owner of the business - transitioning the agency to a home-based operation in the process.

The purchase was settled on 20 Dec, with Patterson confirming the company would remain a member of the Independent Travel Group, AFTA, and be fully accredited with the Australian Travel Agents Accreditation Scheme (ATAS).

"I am committed to ensuring that my clients, old and new, feel confident that their investment in travel is secure, whether it be the credits held over from 2020/21 or any future plans," Patterson said.

"I am so excited to continue my journey in travel and as I turned 60, I started a new chapter in my career with a travel business of my own, a company to which I had dedicated my entire working life," she added.

Royal opens Cyprus

ROYAL Caribbean International has confirmed two more seasons have been added in Cyprus for 2022 and 2023.

Rhapsody of the Seas will homeport in Cyprus and visit destinations such as Israel, Greece, Egypt and Turkey.

More Thai options

THREE islands in Thailand's Surat Thani province have been added to the country's travel sandbox program.

Koh Samui, Koh Phangan and Koh Tao are now accessible to tourists to visit without the need for quarantine, with travellers also having the option of exploring other parts of Thailand after staying at least seven days on one of the islands.

The provinces of Krabi and Phang-Nga have also been granted provisional approval to join the sandbox initiative, however no start dates have yet been revealed.

Vale Caroline Davis



WILLIAMSTOWN Travel co-owner Caroline Davis has passed away after a brave battle against cervical cancer.

She first came to Williamstown in Aug 2012 from the Jetset Training College as part of her work experience module.

In Jan 2018, she became a partner in the business, which said it "owed a great debt to Caroline", who was instrumental in getting its very successful small groups program off the ground.

Davis is remembered as the "go-to" person for luxury travel, and was a "walking encyclopedia" for first-class experiences.

Davis died at the on Mon in the arms of her husband Paul.

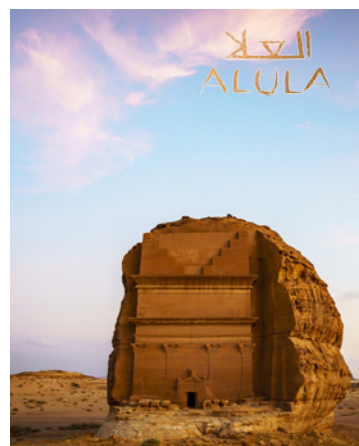
France & Holland require boosters

PROOF of COVID-19 booster vaccinations will soon be required to travel to France and the Netherlands.

Beginning Sat, all travellers to France aged 18 and older must show proof of a COVID-19 booster within five to seven months after receiving their previous dose, in order to obtain a French Health Pass.

The certificate allows entry into museums, bars and more.

Similar rules regarding COVID-19 boosters were recently announced in Holland, which from next month will only accept vaccine certificates showing a traveller has received a booster.



Window Seat

WITH vaccinations required for many types of travel, it's important to note what kinds of incentives are needed to get most people on board.

In Canada's Quebec province, the answer appears to be getting drunk or stoned, with jabs quadrupling after the local government mandated vaccine passports were needed to buy alcohol and marijuana.

In the space of one day, first dose vaccination appointments jumped from 1,500 to 6,000.



IMPROVE YOUR TRAVEL KNOWLEDGE

The Travel Daily Training Academy has education programs for these destinations to help sharpen your skills.

[Click here to find out more.](#)

Brazil boat tragedy

AT LEAST seven tourists have died at Furnas Lake in Brazil after their boats were struck by a falling rock structure.

Three more people remain missing and local rescue authorities are currently attempting a recovery mission, while 23 other tourists were also injured during the accident.

Heavy rain in recent weeks is believed to have caused large chunks of the cliff face on the lake to fall away in an area located between the towns of Sao Jose da Barra and Capitolio.

Regent delays two

OMICRON has delayed the resumption of two Regent Seven Seas Cruises ships, with *Seven Seas Navigator* and *Seven Seas Voyager* both bumping their dates back by a month.

Voyager had initially been scheduled to depart from Barcelona in Feb but is now postponed to 26 Mar, while *Navigator* will resume in Miami from 09 Mar instead of its planned date later this month.

All passengers affected by the changes will be eligible for 100% refunds, the cruise line said.



DESPITE having their memories of each other and their relationship erased, the two main characters still manage to find one another and reunite, with this beautiful piece of coastline

playing backdrop to both their first meeting and their reunion.

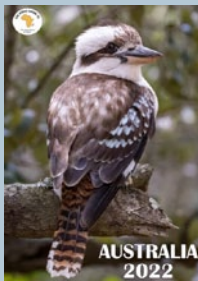
Much of the film is set in New York, but these important scenes were filmed in Montauk.

Can you name the movie?

Answer: Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

BROCHURES

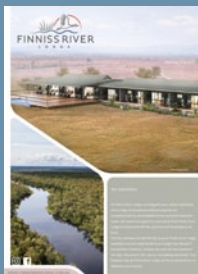
WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Africa Safari Co - Australia 2022

Australia by The Africa Safari Co has released its 2022 brochure filled with a range of small group local tours. The 20-page brochure offers several touring options to suit the tastes and budgets of all travellers, with highlights including the Southern Lights in Tasmania tour on board *Kimberley Quest* in Sep. Travellers can also read about safaris in Australia at the luxurious Bamurru Plains, as well as Margaret River and Rottneest Island tours perfect for

foodies and winelovers. Journey Beyond's rail services are also featured as part of the operator's collection of adventures in 2022.



Finniss River Lodge - Opening May 2022

Finniss River Lodge, located in Rakula in NT, is set to open in May, has released a brochure detailing its list of personalised services. With just six suites, Finniss River Lodge said it wants every guest to come away from a stay having reconnected with nature, storytelling and family. The location offers a range of guided experiences for children and adults, including wildlife spotting, bush survival, hiking, air-boating, fishing, and heli-flights. The

Lodge is also a working cattle station, meaning guests can connect with the owners and workers.

Tourist attraction to be extinguished

ONE of Turkmenistan's most popular tourist attractions is set to be eliminated for environmental and economic purposes.

The Darvaza crater in the Karakum Desert, dubbed "The Gateway to Hell", will be extinguished following a mandate from the country's President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov.

The Turkmenistan leader stated the fire crater, which has been burning for decades, is costing the country natural resources and contributing to air pollution.

The crater is a major driver for tourism in the country which only welcomes around 15,000 tourists from 50 countries each year.



Singapore green tourism push

RESORTS World Sentosa (RWS) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) have joined forces to help make Sentosa a carbon-neutral tourist destination by 2030.

The two organisations have created a collaborative laboratory with the backing of S\$10 million in funding, flagging research about how the Singaporean island can embrace more biodiversity conversation, decarbonisation and nature-based solutions.

RWS CEO Tan Hee Teck said the project would enhance Singapore's commitment to creating a world-class sustainable tourism location.

"We look forward to working alongside NUS to expand research and develop innovative solutions that bring us closer to our sustainability goals and reinforces Singapore's position as a sustainable tourism destination," Teck said.

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Viking offers a comprehensive suite of marketing materials to support you, which are available from our Marketing Centre.

Customisable Flyers

Personalise our itinerary flyers for river, ocean & expedition cruising with your own call to action.



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Our new catalogue featuring our latest campaign offers in one easy location can be viewed online.



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Video For Social Media

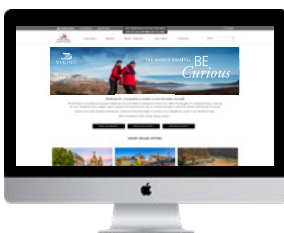
Video is a powerful tool on social media and we have a selection of videos perfect for your Facebook or Instagram page.



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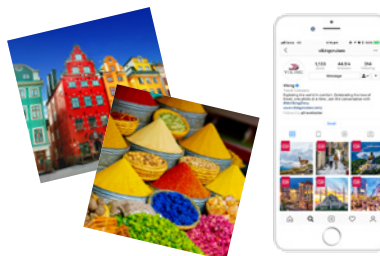
Select from a range of digital banners to be used as eDM headers or on your website.



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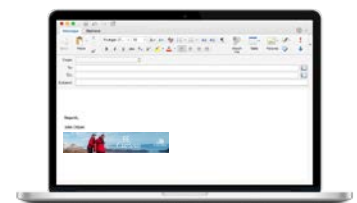
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