

JOURNEY BEYOND



2023 ADVENTURES ON SALE

2023 SHOWCASE

EXPERIENCE GUIDE



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has four pages of the latest industry news plus a cover page from **Journey Beyond** and a full page from **Entire Travel Group**.

Journey Beyond '23

THE release of Journey Beyond's full 2023 season (**TD** 21 Jan) is being celebrated on the **cover page** of today's *Travel Daily*.

Chief Commercial Officer, Peter Egglestone, said the earlier than ever launch reflected strong interest in planning ahead by guests, after two years of severely limited travel options.

"We've seen increased demand for our...Australian experiences, leaving many of our brands with limited inventory for the remainder of the year," he said.

He also confirmed that Outback Spirit is now fully integrated into the Journey Beyond portfolio as a commissionable offering, with the program including new packages combining rail journeys with destination-based experiences.

Crystal hangs up

CRYSTAL Cruises has confirmed that its call centre operations are paused until further notice, with an update on the line's Australian website crystalcruises.com.au now listing email addresses for agents needing to get in touch.

The suspension comes as an arrest warrant was issued for *Crystal Symphony* over unpaid fuel bills - more in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

US group's Sportsnet stake

MELBOURNE-BASED Sportsnet Holidays has announced an agreement with Charlotte, North Carolina USA-based QuintEvents, which is expanding its global footprint via a "significant investment" in the firm founded in 1998 by Rob & Daniel Ceconi.

QuintEvents currently has a portfolio of more than 20 major sporting partnerships, while Sportsnet has built its own long-term relationships with major events including Rugby World Cup France 2023, Supercars, The Australian Open & Isle of Man TT.

The combined forces of the businesses will expand access to a "world-class breadth of international sporting events, travel packages and experiences," said QuintEvents CEO Brian Learst.

"Not only will the Sportsnet management team and staff add tremendous value to our global team, but QuintEvents' technology capabilities and world-class delivery offer new opportunities to Sportsnet's market-leading business," he said.

Sportsnet CEO Rob Ceconi said the company's mission was to make it easy for fans to witness the greatest events in the world, creating once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

"We believe that QuintEvents does this better than any other business...our partnership is a breathtaking proposition for our clients and suppliers alike, instantly increasing the depth and breadth of our product offering."

Sportsnet Holidays is part of the Travica Group, which also incorporates travel technology innovator eRoam.

Australia red light

AUTHORITIES in Europe have designated Australia, Canada and Argentina as COVID "danger zones," advising member states to adopt tougher restrictions on arrivals such as new testing and/or isolation requirements, regardless of vaccination status.

Cyprus, Greece and Italy were quick to disregard the directive, confirming no changes would be made, however, Belgium has placed Australia on its "red list", meaning visitors must present a negative test less than 72 hours before departure and get a PCR test on the first and seventh day after arrival.

Industry plight alert

THE travel industry crisis is garnering significant mainstream media attention, with an opinion piece by Belle Goldie from itravel Penrith featuring prominently in today's *Sydney Daily Telegraph* newspaper - **CLICK HERE** to view.

Goldie is one of the organisers of tomorrow's national industry Day of Action which will see travel agents, suppliers and cruise stakeholders gather at MP offices across the country - to be part of it join the now 1500-strong action group at [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

Perth/London doubts

QANTAS has confirmed a decision on the fate of its planned Perth to London route in Mar will be made in "the next few weeks", as the carrier is left scrambling to readjust from Western Australia's decision to close its borders indefinitely (**TD** 21 Jan).

Qantas said it was now in discussions with the Northern Territory Government about extending the operation of the alternative Darwin-London route, and has also been forced to cancel its increased flight numbers to Perth through to the end of Apr, reducing its domestic capacity by a further 10%.

Just 15 weekly passenger flights will be maintained to Perth from five capital cities to support essential workers and freight.

Commenting on the WA border decision, Qantas CEO Alan Joyce labelled the move "deeply concerning", especially the state's unwillingness to provide a reopening date which he said was "real blow" to Australian travel.

"The rest of the country is focused on getting through this but WA is still playing for time... the question is, what will it take for them to open - it's very hard, as a business, to deal with this level of uncertainty," Joyce said.

QF said its Perth to Rome services will go ahead as planned in late Jun, subject to further border decisions.

Analysts at Macquarie Bank have estimated that the overall impact of the Omicron variant on Qantas will amount to \$1.4 billion.

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Window Seat

BEFORE hitting the road for your next domestic holiday, you might want to consult where the country's most picturesque toilet stops are so that the trip can be flush with excitement.

Travel author Marion Halliday has put together a book called *Aussie Loos with Views*, which catalogues some of the more impressive toilet facilities travellers can visit while on a domestic holiday.

One of the more scenic toilets is located at Kata Tjuta in the NT near a picnic area, Halliday said.

"I came out of the loo and there are these beautiful red rock domes and outback greenery," she enthused.

Another is in Point Quobba WA, overlooking the ocean squall from a vast sandy plain

Return travel made easier

IT WILL now be smoother for Australian travellers to return home after the Federal Government announced an easing of COVID testing protocols over the weekend.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, the government has replaced the requirement for a negative PCR test result to be shown three days prior to departure, with a negative rapid antigen test (RAT) result within 24 hours of a return flight implemented instead.

The government has also confirmed the time between receiving a positive test result and being cleared for travel back to Australia will be reduced from 14 to seven days, minimising the wait times for travellers who contract COVID-19 overseas to return to Australia.

The changes formally took effect at 1am yesterday and are designed to align closer to domestic travel policies.



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The government also flagged that pre-departure testing requirements will continue to be reviewed regularly as travel risk factors associated with COVID evolve over time.

While the changes were welcomed by AFTA, the industry body noted that more support was still needed for the embattled travel sector.

"[The changes] will further encourage those Australians looking to travel internationally to do so and, with 70%-plus of international bookings made by Australians happening through travel agents, that's a very welcome development," AFTA CEO Dean Long said.

"But it's an exhaustingly long runway to recovery for Australia... with int'l travel not returning to normal until well after mid-2022 and revenue only flowing to our members well after that when travel has actually taken place."

Sleep in a palace

A NEW group launched by Saudi Arabia's crown prince Mohammad Bin Salman Al Saud has announced it will conduct a series of palace conversions into ultra-luxury hotel accommodation.

Boutique Group will focus initially on three sites, preparing the Al Hamra Palace in Jeddah, as well as the Tuwaiq Palace and Red Palace in Riyadh, to cater for commercial travellers.

Al Hamra Palace will offer guests 33 luxury palace suites and 44 luxury villas, while Tuwaiq Palace will provide 40 luxury palace suites and 56 luxury villas, and the Red Palace will offer 71 rooms, including 46 luxury suites and 25 luxury rooms.

In addition to accommodation, each of the palaces-turned-luxury hotels will offer high-end experiences, such as dining and wellness packages.

No dates have yet been set for when the trio of hotels will open.

We've got something new

COMING SOON

Travel Daily

Penguins suit agents from the air



ANTARCTICA Flights' inaugural Canberra flight to the icy continent saw a group of agents take off on the weekend to take in some of the most breathtaking scenery on the planet.

Travelling on board a Qantas 787 Dreamliner, advisors were able to experience first-hand the White Continent from the air, all the while having expert Antarctic expeditioners narrate what passengers were seeing far above the polar environment.

The next Canberra flight to Antarctica is scheduled to depart on 04 Dec.

Pictured eagerly awaiting their very chilled adventure at Canberra Airport are: Danielle Newham, Queanbeyan City Travel & Cruise; Vanessa Solomon, Reis & James Travel Associates; Pintip Suthayakhom, Reis & James Travel Associates; Wendy Jack,

Helloworld Travel Belconnen; Margie Colbeck, Antarctica Flights Manager; Ann Williams, Travelmakers; Janelle Anderson, Queanbeyan City Travel & Cruise; Aree Hardy, Travelmakers; and Cathy Schroder, Southlands Travel & Cruise.

Zero hotel stigma

HOTELS that participated in the Federal Government's quarantine program are viewed by Aussie travellers as "good corporate citizens", a new study conducted by the University of Queensland has found.

Despite fears by some brands that housing quarantined travellers could cause a negative stigma, the results showed that hotels that didn't volunteer to participate in the program received less favourable ratings.

The University's Associate Professor Sarah Kelly said the findings could help accelerate the post-pandemic recovery of the hospitality industry.

"Hotels that signed up voluntarily for quarantine could emphasise the 'greater good' of their contribution during the pandemic while toning down the possible stigma effects," she said.

"Meanwhile, our study found that hotels that did not volunteer could benefit from engaging in a good cause, such as a donation to charity, to foster positive brand evaluations," she added.

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Travel & Cruise Weekly

Losses reach \$48.5 billion

THE cumulative loss in interstate domestic overnight travel reached \$48.5 billion between the start of the pandemic and Oct last year, new figures from Tourism Research Australia has indicated.

While the Oct results show a moderate improvement on the previous month, overnight trips and spend were still a far cry from what they were during the same period before the pandemic.

Overnight spend for Oct 2021 was calculated at \$3.8 billion, down 51% on Oct 2019, while the number of overnight trips came in at just 5.3 million, a plummet of 48% on Oct 2019.

The number of total nights spent on a domestic trip was also down by a similar percentage (-46%), recording 19.8 million nights taken during the period.

On a positive note, Oct saw the number of trips rise by 1.8

million from the previous month, driven largely by the easing of restrictions in NSW, with preliminary data for Nov and early Dec suggesting the numbers will continue to improve.

The report showed that spend declined the most sharply in NSW when compared to pre-pandemic volumes, down 79% to \$443 million, while Victoria also saw a major drop of \$265 million in spend, a decrease of 84%.

The states faring better were Queensland and Western Australia, both of which contributed the most to national overnight spend, recording 40% and 23% of the total respectively.

Strong results in Qld, SA, WA and Tasmania saw intrastate travel impacted less, however, intrastate overnight figures were still down by 24% on pre-COVID levels, whilst overnight spend of \$3.1 billion was on par with 2019.



SINGAPORE



TOKYO

WA border doubts

WA'S Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson has conceded the state can't eliminate Omicron, casting doubts on how long Premier Mark McGowan can sustain a closed border policy.

"I think it's clear that we're not going to eliminate Omicron, it's now about how we suppress and manage Omicron," she said.

The admission arrives in the wake of a COVID-19 breach at Perth hospital and a sharp rise in positive cases in the state.



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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.



Adventure Canada Small Ship Cruises 2023
Sailings to destinations such as Scotland, Iceland, Greenland, the Faroe Islands and the Canadian Arctic are all on offer in Adventure Canada's latest brochure for 2023. Highlights include an 11-night Slowly Scotland voyage taking in the picturesque shorelines of the country, visits to the Neolithic Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a deep dive into what life is like in the amazing Shetland Islands. Bookings made before 31 May will also earn your clients a 15% discount as part of the brand's Early Booking Bonus.

We're back on board baby!



IT WAS a rare sight to see Aussies enjoying a tropical cruise during the COVID era, but that's just what Travel Managers' PTM Rose Febo enjoyed recently when she boarded APT's *MS Caledonian Sky* for a 13-day Qld Reef and Island Discovery cruise in Dec.

The cruise itinerary included stops at Cooktown, Lady Musgrave Island, the Whitsundays and K'Gari (Fraser Island), with Zodiacs provided to guests allowing access to the harder to reach spots.

Febo said that hopping aboard a cruise ship during the health crisis with APT was made seamless via the company's clear and thorough safety protocols.

"Pre-departure communication was very comprehensive, we were sent several emails beforehand, with clear, three-step instructions that needed to be complied with, or risk being denied boarding," she said.

Pictured: Febo celebrates her first cruise holiday in more than two years with fellow passengers.

Arctic word search

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

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

ALASKA
CANADA
FINLAND
GREENLAND
ICEBURG
IGLOO
MOOSE
NARWHAL
POLARBEAR

REINDEER
SEAL
SIBERIA
SVALBARD
TUNDRA
WALRUS
WOLF

PUZZLE

New French player

A NEW expedition cruise line is preparing to launch operations in France next year, with the Exploris brand to be headquartered in Nantes and led by Ponant co-founder Philippe Videau.

Key to its initial success will be the recent purchase of *Silver Explorer*, which will transition across from Silversea Cruises in late 2023 to conduct Exploris itineraries under a new name which is yet to be revealed.

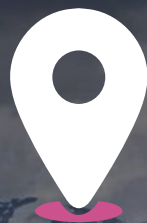
The 118-passenger vessel is tipped to operate itineraries through South American and Antarctic waters for Exploris' debut expedition season.

Fitzroy revamped

FITZROY Island Resort, located off the coast of North Queensland, has revealed details of a multimillion dollar refurbishment that will see the property boast a range of new and upgraded facilities.

Work is underway to install remodelled decor, extended balconies, and new furniture inside the resort's Beach cabins, while wi-fi speed will be boosted significantly by a new satellite being installed next month.

Other enhancements include a \$270,000 redevelopment of the pool and pool bar area in May, as well as a remodelling of all bathrooms at the resort.



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