



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news plus a full page from TAFE NSW.

Enrol now for travel

TAFE NSW is inviting applications for Semester 2 courses in travel and tourism, with a variety of options available including Certificate III and IV, Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualifications.

For details see the **last page**.

Fiji is smashing it

Fiji has recorded more than 62,000 visitor arrivals during Jun, with the latest figures confirming a six month total of 205,529 tourists entering the country.

Top source markets included Australia, NZ & the USA, with the numbers a staggering turnaround from the last two years when just a few hundred people entered Fiji in Jun 2020 and 2021.

JB seals Aeronology deal

EXCLUSIVE

JOURNEY Beyond (JB) has signed a new agreement with Australian travel technology provider Aeronology, which has been selected to power the Journey Beyond in-house air reservations platform.

The deal will also see Journey Beyond's experiential product range available to the wider industry through the Aeronology system, with the partnership hailed by Aeronology co-founder Russell Carstensen.

"This is a wonderful connection point for two Australian companies," Carstensen said, with Journey Beyond's brands such as The Ghan and Indian Pacific, Sal Salis and Outback Spirit Tours adding a new element to the Aeronology offering.

"We're delighted to bring these amazing brands and experiences into our booking platform."

Journey Beyond Chief Revenue Officer, Peter Egglestone, said the company had been looking for a point of sale booking tool for its Travel Centre teams in Adelaide and Albury, and took notice when Qantas cited Aeronology as a Preferred Technology Partner.

"Our search has ended in our own backyard with Aeronology... like many companies at the moment we are being impacted by a shortage of travel experts.

"Aeronology's simple-to-use booking system allows our team to be at least four times more productive when booking air segments," Egglestone said.

He added that the platform would enable Journey Beyond's consultants to service all air ancillaries and Special Service Requests without any special training.

"This will fundamentally change the way Journey Beyond provides air services to our customers."

Ponant 2023/24

PONANT has released its 2023/24 season, comprising a total of 69 voyages across the globe including several brand new Southern Hemisphere itineraries across the Asia-Pacific region.

Trips include the seven-night New Zealand's North Island & Chatham Islands voyage aboard *Le Laperouse* operating out of Wellington and Auckland, an intriguing 16-night cruise from New Caledonia to Micronesia aboard *Le Soleal*, and a 15-night Indian Ocean voyage from the Seychelles to Sri Lanka on *Le Jacques-Cartier*.

There are also new cruises in the far north, including the 10-night Nordic Discoveries & Traditions aboard *Le Bellot* exploring the Norwegian coast out of Tromso.

Itineraries are now open for booking, with full details now available at au.ponant.com.

More cruise news in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

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Bonza code is AB

FLEDGLING Australian domestic carrier Bonza has secured "AB" as its official IATA airline designation.

CEO Tim Jordan described the move as a "major win", reflecting the startup's mission to simply fly passengers from A to B with no C. "C is all about a connection which means cost, complexity and confusion," he quipped.

Jordan confirmed a projected Sep launch for the carrier, with the first of eight Boeing 737 aircraft set to arrive shortly after being snapped by plane spotter @thegreatplanes in Bonza livery near Seattle in the USA (**below**).



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Rex bidding for Cobham

REGIONAL Express today confirmed it was one of the interested parties bidding for the fly-in fly-out operations of Cobham Aviation, with the company's shares temporarily suspended from trading on the ASX pending a further announcement.

The move was revealed by the *Australian Financial Review* last night, with Rex said to be "one of the last parties standing" in the sale process of Cobham by its UK-based private equity owners.

Cobham's sale is being managed by Macquarie Capital, which began soliciting interest back in Feb pitching the operator with an expected \$170 million revenue in 2021/22, mostly from running FIFO flights to resources projects with 430 employees and 19 operational aircraft.

A separate offer proposes the sale of Cobham's "mission-critical" government services on behalf of the Australian Border

Bluey's funeral

THE funeral of the late Brian "Bluey" Deeson, who died last week (**TD** 07 Jul) will take place at St Michael's Anglican Church in Vacluse, Sydney tomorrow, Wed 13 Jul at 2pm.

Deeson was one of Australia's best known hoteliers, appointed as GM of the Hyatt Kingsgate in his mid-20s and went on to launch his own hotel management company across the Asia-Pacific region.

Road to a million

THE Caravan Industry Association of Australia (CIAA) is giving campers the chance to win \$1 million cash when they book a stay at participating Discovery Parks between 01 Jun and 31 Oct, and submit their booking details on the Let's Go Caravan Camping and Competition page - **CLICK HERE** for details.

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Foran ups stake

AIR New Zealand CEO Greg Foran is putting his money where his mouth is, with the Australian Securities Exchange this morning confirming he spent about \$1.5 million on 2.6 million shares in the carrier.

Two on-market trades just before the end of the financial year boosted his holding to 4,128,000 shares worth \$2.29 million, along with 2,322,333 rights convertible to Ordinary Shares in AIZ.

Skal regos open

REGISTRATIONS for the 106th National Assembly of Skal International Australia are now open, with the gathering set to take place in Launceston, Tasmania from 02-04 Sep.

The local club has organised a packed schedule of events including the National Executive Meeting, a Members & Local; Supplier Expo at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, group workshops and plenty of networking opportunities across the weekend.

Registrations are also available for the World Congress taking place in Oct this year in Rijeka and Opatija in Croatia.

To register for Launceston **CLICK HERE**, and for info on Croatia see skalworldcongress2022.com.

Force, with 14 planes and a projected \$180 million annual revenue figure.

An ASX update from Rex this morning noted that it is "one of the interested parties involved in the acquisition process," adding that no agreement had been reached at this stage.

"Rex will make further announcements if the acquisition proceeds," the company said.

The move would significantly boost Rex's market presence in charter operations, with Cobham's major competitor currently being Alliance Airlines which operates services on behalf of Virgin Australia but is also subject to a takeover by Qantas.

Greek rules easing

AUTHORITIES in Greece have removed quarantine rules which previously required any travellers who tested positive to COVID-19 to self-isolate for five days at a designated quarantine hotel.

Infected tourists will also now be able to travel by public transport, including planes and ferries, as long as they wear a suitable face mask.

All COVID-19 entry requirements for visitors to Greece were removed on 01 May.



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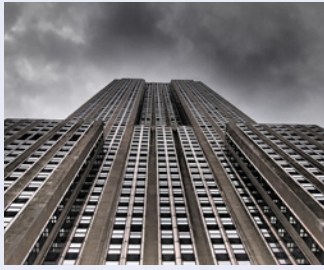
Window Seat

THE Empire State Building Run-Up is returning in Oct.

Approximately 150 runners will race up the 1,576 stairs to the 86th floor in the 44th annual tower run event.

Participants will be divided into designated heats, such as elite runners, celebrities, adaptive athletes, media, and the general public.

The record time of nine minutes and 33 seconds was set by Australian Paul Crake in 2003.



NZ top May destination

ALMOST 50,000 Aussies crossed the ditch to New Zealand during May, with the latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicating the steady recovery of the trans-Tasman travel market.

That was just over half of the figure for May 2019 but a month-on-month increase of about 30% compared to Apr this year.

The second most popular destination for Aussies in May was India, with 39,760 trips - a number which was about 25% higher than pre-pandemic levels.

There were 36,780 trips to the USA in May, about 40% of the levels in 2019, while outbound travel to Indonesia was in fourth position with 29,180 trips - still significantly lower than pre-pandemic figures of 113,280.

Other destinations in the top 10 included the UK (26,480 trips), Fiji (25,800 trips), Thailand (16,850 trips), Singapore (14,760 trips),

the Philippines (10,600 trips) and Vietnam with 9,190 trips.

In terms of visitor arrivals into Australia, New Zealand was the largest source market with 46,670 trips, followed by India with 31,570 and then Singapore with 26,900 overseas travellers.

Other source markets included the USA with 19,210 visitors to Australia, followed by the UK with 16,420, Indonesia with 5,410, Canada with 5,080 and then Malaysia, Vietnam and China each with just over 4,200 visitors.

TNZ webinar

TOURISM New Zealand will tomorrow host a special Auckland & Northland webinar, as part of its ongoing Virtual Road Trips series.

Participants will also be able to register for a range of prizes including flight vouchers and more - to register to take part in the free event **CLICK HERE**.

Sabre + Finnair pact

SABRE and Finnair are planning to distribute the airline's new distribution capability offers through the software company's GDS.

Starting later this year, Sabre-connected travel advisors will be able to shop, book, and manage Finnair's NDC offers through the Offer & Order APIs, the point-of-sale tool 'Sabre Red 360', as well as the corporate booking solution 'GetThere'.

"Today's travellers demand customised services and personalized experiences - which is why NDC is one of the cornerstones of Finnair commercial strategy", said Finnair Vice President Channel Management & Payments Jenni Suomela.

"With NDC we are looking to optimise our approach to product distribution and elevate our customers' booking experience," she added.

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Rockies to the Red Rocks



THE Rocky Mountaineer recently welcomed three personal travel managers (PTMs) aboard to experience the new 'Rockies to the Red Rocks' itinerary, including Tanya Tyler from Riverview and Vicki Odea from Lane Cove NSW, as well as Joanne Haines from Berwick, Victoria.

The TravelManagers' representatives spent a day exploring Arches National Park before embarking on the two-day rail journey, which began in Moab, Utah and concluded in Denver, Colorado.

The travel agents had the opportunity to take in some amazing scenery, including Ruby Canyon, Mount Garfield and Glenfield Springs, and were served with delicious meals.

"The rail journey itself was packed with more spectacular scenery, and there were plenty of staff onboard to make sure we enjoyed a truly five-star experience," Tyler said.

After disembarking in Denver, the PTMs had the opportunity to enjoy a Colorado Rockies baseball game and indulge in some retail therapy amid the 2km expanse of the city's 16th Street Mall.

"This was my first post-pandemic famil, and it was such a great feeling to be out in the world again, doing what I love," Haines enthused.

Pictured: PTMs Joanne Haines (left) and Tanya Tyler ready to embark on Rocky Mountaineer's newest journey from Utah to Colorado.

BAV adds Gatwick

BAMBOO Airways has announced the launch of a new weekly non-stop service from Hanoi, Vietnam to Gatwick Airport in London, from 29 Oct. The 12-hour flight will operate every Sat via its flagship aircraft, a wide-body Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, with tickets available for purchase now.

The Hanoi-London route follows a series of European services introduced by the carrier this year, including Frankfurt, Germany, and Heathrow, UK.

Additionally, Bamboo Airways is in the process of finalising procedures to soon commence its second regular non-stop service to Gatwick connecting Ho Chi Minh City.

The Vietnam-based airline revealed plans to continue the expansion of its international network this year, with a focus on European gateway airports.

Croatia remains safe for travellers

SMARTTRAVELLER has advised the public to exercise normal safety precautions in Croatia, after reviewing its advice level for the region.

However, the travel advice authority states travellers should be aware that COVID-19 remains a risk in Croatia, and reminds dual nationals that they are not automatically covered by Croatian health insurance.

Travel Daily Events

COMING EVENTS

TD Events is the new way to showcase your product or service to the travel industry.

Thu 14 Jul 1pm - Amadeus - the latest travel technology trends with Kaylene Shuttlewood and Lance Batty - [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Thu 21 Jul 1pm - Livn Group - details coming soon

Missed an event? Don't worry, you can catch up at any time.

RECENT EVENTS

Switzerland Tourism "Winter Magic Tour" with Livio Goetz and Lisa Maroun - [CLICK HERE](#).

"The Tide Turns for Cruise" with CLIA MD Joel Katz and Jill Abel from the Australian Cruise Association - [CLICK HERE](#).

Norwegian Cruise Line "The Great Cruise Comeback" - [CLICK HERE](#).

Quark Expeditions showcase of *Ultramarine* - [CLICK HERE](#).

AFTA CEO Dean Long Executive Interview - [CLICK HERE](#).

Entire Travel Group with Brad McDonnell and Greg McCallum - [CLICK HERE](#).

To organise an event for your company, enquire at traveldaily.com.au/events

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Key Account Managers (SYD, MEL, PER)
Responsible for providing in field sales representation and achieving agreed revenue targets & objectives on behalf of the GSA airlines within the assigned territory.

- Min 2 years in field sales/account management experience, ideally within the airlines
- Strong business development and account management skills
- Strong knowledge of the Australian & New Zealand travel industry

Agency & Customer Support Officers (SYD x 2)
Responsible for providing Reservations, Ticketing and Inside Sales Support to the trade, customers and the commercial sales team on behalf of the GSA Airlines.

- Minimum 2 years experience in an airline or travel agency
- CRS/GDS knowledge in Reservations & Ticketing - minimum 1 GDS
- Thorough knowledge of pricing, airfare construction, airline terminology and procedures

If you wish to apply, send your CV with a cover letter to cv@airlinerepservices.com
Applications close **Friday 15 July 2022**.

Rocky-Globus move

ROCKY Mountaineer marketing chief Ainsley Ericksen has taken a new role as Senior Director of Marketing at Globus Family of Brands in North America.

Coral Princess deals with COVID-19

PRINCESS Cruises has been responding to media queries about an outbreak of COVID-19 aboard its *Coral Princess* this week, with mild cases of COVID-19 being experienced by some passengers and crew.

Passengers due to embark on a south-bound coastal voyage from Brisbane were advised that some crew had tested positive, and given the option of changing their travel plans.

Princess noted that arrangements put in place for the resumption of cruising were working well, and thanked Qld Health and NSW Health for their commitment to the protocols.

Ritz-Carlton + ESPA

RITZ-CARLTON Hotels has launched a new "Meaningful Wellness Journeys" concept in collaboration with ESPA skincare, offering a range of tailor-made wellness experiences centred on guests' mind, body and skin.

A range of treatments will be on offer, while select Ritz-Carlton spas will offer full-day wellness retreats including a healthy lunch and ESPA take-home gift.

The initiative will initially roll out at properties in Turks & Caicos, Abama, Mexico City, Rancho Mirage and New York NoMad.

AFTA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



LAST week the NZ and Australian dialogue recommenced following the COVID enforced break and it

provided a great opportunity for the leaders in both countries to reconnect.

Tourism Australia and Tourism NZ held an industry event in Sydney where the NZ Prime Minister and the newly appointed Australian Tourism Minister spoke about the importance of working together to promote both countries.

Encouragingly, there was good discussion and agreement about the importance of two-way travel and how it underpins both countries' tourism performance.

At the same time, TAAZ and AFTA continued our ongoing partnership and collaboration with a meeting in New Zealand between AFTA Chair Tom Manwaring and TAAZ CEO Greg Hamilton.

Both AFTA and TAAZ have agreed to work together on rebuilding consumer confidence

and awareness of the value and security of accredited travel businesses.

Also last week, we saw the re-emergence of foot and mouth disease across Indonesia.

As both the Indonesian and Australian Governments deploy numerous strategies to mitigate this threat, we as travel professionals also have an important role.

With over 70% of travel being booked through ATAS travel businesses, we must reinforce to our clients the need to do the right thing when returning to Australia.

Soon AFTA will be releasing resources for ATAS travel businesses to include in your clients' travel kits.

As travel professionals, a central part of our role is to keep clients informed of the challenges when travelling, including how they can keep themselves & Australia safe.

AFTA continues to support you, to do this critical work as we educate alongside DFAT, Austrade, Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry on the role of ATAS businesses in keeping Australia safe.

Travel Daily
Events

PRESENTS

AN EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW



with publisher Bruce Piper and Kaylene Shuttlewood & Lance Batty of Amadeus, as they discuss technology's role in travel recovery and how it is assisting in building a stronger industry.

THURSDAY 14 JULY

1pm (AEST)

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Travel Daily



MONEY

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.674

AFTER reaching a two-year low this month, concerns surrounding the growth of the Australian dollar continue to linger, despite the Reserve Bank's interest rate hike last week.

Overall, the Aussie dollar has dropped around 6% this year, and could continue to fall as recession fears maintain its grip on major economies around the world.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.674
UK	£0.567
NZ	\$1.102
Euro	€0.671
Japan	¥92.55
Thailand	฿24.44
China	¥4.529
South Africa	11.51
Canada	\$0.876
Crude oil	US\$104.79

99 ways to Noosa

TOURISM Noosa has launched its winter campaign, "99 Ways to Noosa" promoting the destination's well-known icons as well as hidden regional gems.

The campaign features a 20-page brochure feature that was inserted into *The Weekend Australian* on Sat, showcasing 99 enticing ways to holiday in Noosa to a readership of 594,000 potential visitors.

The liftout features bite-sized information to cover a variety of travel styles, and shows the wealth of things to do, places to stay, and villages to visit in Noosa.

IHG Sydney to relaunch in Sep



INTERCONTINENTAL Sydney, an IHG Hotel, is relaunching in Sep following its \$110 million renovation.

The iconic heritage hotel will welcome guests back with newly imagined luxury rooms, enhanced public spaces, and two new bars.

Local architecture studio Woods Bagot has redesigned the iconic hotel, with external restoration work to enhance elements of its facade, as "a contemporary interpretation of the building's historical significance and evolution".

Meanwhile, the internal upgrade incorporates all 509 guest rooms and suites and public areas.

"The reimagining of Sydney's most iconic heritage hotel redefines the contemporary luxury hotel experience whilst paying homage to the building's rich past and its many unique stories," said General Manager Jennifer Brown.

Together with our owners, Mulpha, we are proud to have elevated this very special place.

"This is the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the hotel."

Pictured: An Eastern Harbour King room.

MEL doubles pax #s

THE number of passengers who used Melbourne Airport last fiscal year was more than double the year before, as an increasing number of travellers returned to the skies.

A total of 12,936,947 people passed through Melbourne in the 12 months to 30 Jun, compared to 6,169,823 travellers in the previous fiscal year.

The number of passengers heading overseas continues to grow steadily also, with 464,926 people passing through the international terminal last month, up 26% on the 367,681 recorded in May.

MEL Chief Executive Lorie Argus said the Airport is continuing to take a long-term view on infrastructure investment, such as a third runway.



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