



MTA RENEE MCLENNAN

NCL's big savings

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is offering travellers five free bonus offers, in addition to savings of up to 40% on sailings.

The promotion is available on NCL's worldwide range of voyages departing between 2022 and 2024 - for further information on the deal, call 1300 255 200.

QF flight efficiency push

QANTAS is set to implement a new digital flight operations tool which promises to "identify and quantify airspace inefficiencies to reduce overall flight time, fuel burn and carbon emissions".

GE Digital's 'Airspace Insight' platform collates data from Air Traffic Control systems, airports

and airlines to help carriers better understand what is happening in their airspace from a safety and efficiency perspective.

"This information enhances Qantas' already industry-leading safety program with data they can use to collaborate with air traffic control organisations around the world," according to a statement from GE Digital.

Greenhouse gas emissions may also be reduced, with estimates that a typical flight emits up to one tonne of excess carbon due to inefficient airspace design and air traffic control practices.

Expected outcomes include "eliminating circling, side-step and non-precision procedures," reducing pilot and controller workload and minimising aircraft noise footprints.

"Passengers will also benefit from decreased flight times and reduced carbon emissions," the company promised.

A&K events back

TRAVEL advisors are being invited to rediscover the world of Abercrombie & Kent (A&K).

See **page 7** for more info on the company's upcoming events, which feature luxury tailor-made, small group journeys, luxury expedition cruising, and 'Wings Over the World'.

EK lounges reopen

EMIRATES will reopen two more of its Australian airport lounges by the end of the month.

The airline's Melbourne Airport lounge will reboot on 21 Jul, while its lounge area at Perth Airport will reopen on 28 Jul, with both following yesterday's relaunch of the EK Sydney lounge.

Openings in Australia have been timed to coincide with an uptick in travel volumes on its routes over the next couple of weeks.

MEANWHILE Emirates will be holding more cabin crew recruitment open days in Brisbane, Cairns and Perth, starting this weekend.

Sessions in Brisbane will take place Sat 23 Jul at Sofitel Brisbane Central, while a recruitment drive in Cairns will be held 25 Jul at Hilton Cairns and DoubleTree by Hilton Cairns, and a Perth day on 30 Jul at Four Points by Sheraton.

The trio of sessions follow a "significant demand for all cabins from Australia", including its Premium Economy cabin, which will be deployed on the Sydney-Dubai route from 01 Aug.

VN, TK plot pact

VIETNAM Airlines and Turkish Airlines have announced plans for a bilateral codeshare deal, signing a MoU to cover flights between Vietnam and Turkey.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news, plus a full page from:

- Express Travel Group
- Abercrombie & Kent

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Window Seat

IF YOU thought the lost bag situation was bad in Australia, then spare a thought for travellers flying in and out of Heathrow in London, who have been gazumped for a seat on a plane by misplaced luggage.

A Delta Air Lines flight recently departed the under siege British aviation hub with no paying passengers on board, that's because all of the space was taken up by 1,000 lost bags.

The airline claimed the move to be a "creative solution" to help solve the ongoing problem of lost luggage on flights globally, with the airline assuring travellers the bags flew in the aircraft's designated baggage bins, and not the regular passenger cabin.



Vic improves access

THE Victorian Government has announced plans to invest \$5.4 million to build 30 new fully accessible changing places facilities for disabled travellers at tourist sites across the state.

More than 325,000 Victorians rely on disabled facilities when accessing popular destinations, parks and events.

Cert IV in travel proposed

SKILLS IQ has launched a public consultation on the training requirements for the Tourism, Travel & Hospitality sector, including a proposed new Certificate IV in Travel qualification "to meet skill needs for supervisory staff in the travel sector".

The formal 'Industry Summary' document has been guided by the sector's Industry Reference Committee, comprising stakeholders from various industry organisations such as Restaurant Catering Australia, the Caravan Industry Association, training bodies, tourism groups and Rick Myatt from the Australian Travel Careers Council.

The draft summary gives an overview of the interconnected nature of travel, tourism and hospitality, as well as the crippling effect of COVID-19 and the expected industry recovery supported by the Government's THRIVE 2030 strategy targeting \$230 billion in visitor spending.

"The Tourism, Travel and Hospitality Training Package plays a vital role in ensuring workers are equipped with the right skills and knowledge...skilled workers will not only support sectors to achieve potential growth, but they can also ensure they remain innovative and continue to make important contributions to Australia's economy," it stated.

The document cites estimates that there are 9,000 travel agency and tour arrangement service

businesses which employ roughly 34,600 workers, with an overall revenue value of \$6.8 billion, which is forecast to grow strongly at 9.4% per annum over the next five years.

With the sectors collectively experiencing significant workforce supply and skills shortages, key challenges must be addressed, with the document noting both job-specific and technical skills, as well as "soft skills" like teamwork, customer service and problem solving.

The paper is at skillsiq.com.au, with feedback sought by 29 Jul.

Bonza's MAX arrivals "imminent"

BONZA has confirmed the arrival of its first 737 MAX aircraft on Australian soil is "imminent", with more fleet details to be revealed in the coming weeks.

The news follows the announcement that Bonza's aircraft lessor, 777 Partners, has purchased an additional 66 MAX planes from Boeing this week.

The latest order brings 777's total number of MAX jets to 134, with 777 MD, Josh Wander, stating the planes will be vital in providing flexibility for its diverse network of airline clients.

"777 Partners has had tremendous success establishing new carriers worldwide with [Max jets] allowing for continued growth as an even more efficient addition to its portfolio," he said.

Amadeus appoints

AMADEUS has appointed Robert Clark as its new Director of Search & Online for the Pacific, where he will be responsible for commercial activities related to all OTAs and digital travel players.

Clark has previously worked for Travelport, Traveltek, Carnival Australia and Qantas Vacations.



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Tourism needs urgent plan

EXCLUSIVE

AUSTRALIA'S tourism industry urgently needs a "clear, intense and demonstrable" plan for environmental recovery from governments, Ecotourism Australia's Chief Executive Officer Elissa Keenen has warned.

The grave assessment was made in light of the grim findings released by the Federal Government this week in its latest *State of the Environment Report*, which found that climate change, habitat loss, invasive species and pollution have devastated Australia's natural environment over the last five years.

"While it is heartening to see the new Federal Government looking seriously to mitigate the impact, we cannot delay action any further," Keenen stressed.

"Australia's natural environment is a key attraction for people around the world, tourists come to [our country] for its

environment, its wildlife, and to enjoy national parks, reefs, rainforests and deserts.

"If our wildlife and natural environment are in trouble so too is Australia's overall outlook."

Keenan also said that the latest impact report, which indicated that 19 ecosystems are on the brink of collapse and Australia has lost more wildlife to extinction over the last 10 years than any other continent, should be a major wake-up call for tourism operators and travel sellers.

"There is a growing demand for nature-based tourism and experiences...and without urgent action...there will be a clear and direct impact on the tourism industry," she said.

"Tourism operators...are directly impacted by significant weather events resulting from climate change and as these events happen with more frequency...the impact is more significant."

Tauck's Aussie focus

AMERICAN luxury travel brand Tauck has announced that Australia will be the subject of a renewed sales focus, revealing local sales and marketing teams have been expanded.

"We continue our strong commitment to Australian travellers and travel partners, by offering our wide range of exclusive tours," Tauck MD Australia David Clark said.

To contact the local team call 1800 962 043 or email [HERE](#).

Azamara cuts testing

AZAMARA has announced the removal of its embarkation COVID-19 testing requirements from next week, although it will still require proof of COVID vaccination prior to embarkation.

Despite the loosening of the health policy, the cruise line is still recommending that all guests departing from any cruise port get tested prior to travel.

Preferred welcomes

PREFERRED Hotels & Resorts has welcomed 19 new member properties to its global portfolio in the second quarter of the year.

New hotels include Hotel Per La in Los Angeles, Garza Blanca Resort & Spa Cancun - a Tafer Resort in Cancun, Iniala Harbour House in Valletta, Grand Hotel San Pietro in Sicily, and Aurora Anguilla Resort & Golf Club.

Sweet WA savings

SAVINGS of up to \$1,000 per couple on Kimberley and Pilbara tours are on offer for travellers via a new promotion launched by AAT Kings and Tourism WA.

Discounts can be accessed on selected departures through to Mar 2024, with bookings needing to be made by Tue 26 Jul.

Tours include a 21-day adventure through the Kimberley and west coast from \$13,982pp.

For more information on the deals on offer, [CLICK HERE](#).

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Tourism is a roller coaster



IRISH musician and former Boyzone heartthrob Ronan Keating is combining with Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) to help promote the destination to overseas travellers in the United Kingdom & Ireland.

The two crucial markets accounted for 72,000 visitors a year to the region before the pandemic, with TTNQ CEO Mark Olsen stating Keating and his family would be the perfect ambassadors to put North Qld back on the travel map.

“Ronan hosts a popular breakfast show on Magic Radio and British television chat show, *The One Show*, and has an extensive social media following,” Olsen said, adding the family will be posting online about their North Queensland experiences when they visit the region in Dec.

Included in Keating’s activities will be a stay at a luxury Executive

Retreats home in the Port Douglas hinterland, exploring the Great Barrier Reef on an exclusive charter with sailing catamaran Indigo, discovering Kuku Yalanji country with Walkabout Cultural Adventures, as well as playing in the Survivor Golf Grand Finale at the Mirage Country Club.

Pictured: Ronan Keating (centre) & his wife Storm with Ben Sciberras from TaylorMade, Storm’s dad Gordon Uechritz and Survivor Golf CEO David Cameron.

MEANWHILE the Qld Government has awarded \$300,000 in agri-tourism grants to foster the state’s fishing industry.

Funding will go towards propping up Queensland’s Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme, which will improve recreational fishing experiences and support jobs in many ways including boat sales and tourism opportunities.



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DL buys 12 A220s

DELTA Air Lines has ordered 12 Airbus A220-300 aircraft, only a day after purchasing 100 Boeing 737 Max jets (**TD** 19 Jul).

The new planes bring the carrier’s US fleet total of Airbus 220 commitments to 107 planes.

DL said the order was motivated by the need to inject more efficiency into its business, and will be “fundamental as we work toward a more sustainable future for air travel”.

What’s new in WA?

AGENTS are being encouraged to join Tourism Western Australia to learn more about WA and the details of a new trade incentive.

Two \$100 gift cards are on offer for those who attend the sessions, scheduled to take place on 28 Jul at 9am or 12pm (AEST).

Workshops will focus on Margaret River, Broome and Esperance, among other regions, and be led by Tourism WA’s Christine Poole - register **HERE**.



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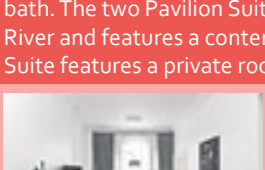
WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Designed with solo travellers in mind, Melbourne's boutique designer hotel, **Ovolo South Yarra**, has introduced a 'micro room' concept with its Go Snug rooms. Featuring all the signature Ovolo perks including a free in-room mini bar, complimentary breakfast options, high-speed wi-fi, social hour, and guest goodie ('Loot') bags, the on-the-go rooms are ideal for individuals who want to enjoy luxury on a budget.



The Tasman, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Hobart has revealed its revamped signature suites, including The St. David's Park Suite, which features an original 18,40s lofty ceiling, a heritage fireplace, and a handcrafted Tasmanian blackwood timber bath. The two Pavilion Suites offer panoramic views of the Derwent River and features a contemporary design, while the rooftop's Aurora Suite features a private rooftop terrace, fire pit and island bath.



Located in London's Mayfair neighbourhood opposite Hyde Park, **COMO Metropolitan London** has unveiled its new Hertford Street Residences. The two- and three-bedroom apartments feature open plan living and dining areas, separate kitchens with marble countertops, natural wood floors, spacious bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, and a private patio. Just a short walk away, guests can also access the facilities at COMO Metropolitan London.

Wyndham Garden

WYNDHAM Destinations Japan has announced the signing of an agreement to manage Wyndham Garden Sapporo Odori, which will make it the second Wyndham Garden hotel to open in the country.

The 130-key property opened its doors on 30 Jun, has its own restaurant and cocktail bar on the ground floor, and is located within walking distances of many of the city's attractions, nightlife and restaurants.

New Japanese airline chooses Sabre

ALL Nippon Airways' (ANA) new airline brand, AirJapan, has selected Sabre company Radixx to support its business model, as it gears up to launch its first flight in the first half of 2023 (**TD** 09 Mar).

AirJapan will adopt the full suite of Radixx solutions, including the passenger services system (PSS), mobile check-in capabilities, an integrated e-commerce and mobile solution, and an analytics & revenue optimisation platform.

Jetstar flies to Japan

JETSTAR flights between Tokyo and Cairns took off for the first time in 30 months today, with services to operate at a frequency of five times weekly.

While restrictions are still in place for individual travellers to Japan, the route will see up to 1,600 Japanese citizens arrive in Australia from Japan every week.

Group travel options to Japan from Aussies is currently on offer.

Bora Bora webinar

TAHITI Tourisme is inviting travel partners to a webinar to discover Bora Bora with Bora Bora Holiday's Lodge & Villa and Bora Bora Cultural & Lagoon Tours.

The 30-minute online session will take place on 27 Jul at 10am AEST, with travel advisors able to register for the event **HERE**.

Boeing plots new path to net zero

BOEING has announced a research project with the University of Cambridge to further advance the Aviation Impact Accelerator (AIA), an international group of practitioners and academics convened by the school.

The partnership will focus on accelerating sustainable aviation technology insights, with the commitment further advancing an original association between the two organisations, for which Boeing helped develop technology maturity assessments for AIA's modelling efforts.

With these simulations, the two will help decision-makers and the wider public visualise the pathways to net zero flight using scenario-based analysis.



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