



Celebrate with A&K!

ABERCROMBIE & Kent is inviting travel agents to help celebrate its big 60-year anniversary at a series of special events to be held in Aug at locations across Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide.

There will also be exciting announcements and prizes for attendees to be won.

See the **back page** for further details about how to attend.

Cleared for landing

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has given Rex a pre-assessment clearance to purchase the regional services arm of Cobham Aviation Services, National Jet Express (**TD** 15 Jul), & focus more on the FIFO market.

Rex lodged an application to the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) last week, and expects to proceed with the purchase over the next couple of months after receiving approval from FIRB.

Australia so hot in Asia

NEW data from accommodation aggregator Agoda has highlighted strong prospective interest in travel to Australia from across Asia, with particularly high levels of engagement in South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The company, which is currently working to boost its visibility within the Australian inbound market, said Singapore and the USA were also strong source markets, with search data indicating the number of international travellers looking for an Australian getaway has surged by 300% over the last six months.

Agoda's Oceania Director Zsuzsanna Janos said Aussie hoteliers had the opportunity to tap into the growth without impacting their domestic yields.

"Not all Asian markets are the same...we are seeing differences in how they search and book their holidays and what they are seeking when they come to

Australia," she said.

"For example travellers from South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia are looking for more than just a hotel - they want to experience local culture, food, wine, nature and wildlife, and engage in activities that allow them to get more from their trip."

Janos noted that international travellers have a much longer lead time, double the length of stay and a much higher booking value than domestic bookers, with Agoda currently offering an exclusive "international rate channel" initiative for Aussie hotels at partnerhub.agoda.com.

Inbound guests are also more likely to use hotel facilities such as restaurants and spas.

She noted investment in targeted offers was worthwhile for accommodation partners, helping reach international guests they might never have been able to acquire on their own.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news, plus a full page from **Abercrombie & Kent**.

Tokyo/GC rebooted

JETSTAR will become the first Australian carrier to relaunch flights between Japan and Australia, after announcing it will reinstate its Tokyo Narita service to the Gold Coast next month.

The direct Japan route is expected to deliver 350,701 inbound international seats to the Gold Coast over three years, generating \$275 million in overnight visitor spending.

The route was secured as a result of the Queensland Government's \$200 million Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, which saw the Palaszczuk Government partner with the Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Cairns international airports.



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Rex blasts QF pullouts

REGIONAL Express is loudly proclaiming “I told you so” to anyone who will listen, after Qantas last week announced its intention to cease flying on the Melbourne-Wagga Wagga and Melbourne-Mt Gambier routes.

A Rex spokesperson said the moves “clearly demonstrate Qantas’ true intentions when it entered into these and other uneconomical regional routes to compete with Rex”.

The regional operator said in the face of increased competition it had to decide whether it would retreat from services which were no longer commercially viable due to Qantas’ actions.

“The Rex Board decided to meet Qantas’ predatory actions with resolute determination...instead of retreating, Rex increased services significantly on regional routes with larger passenger numbers in competition with Qantas,” the spokesperson said.

“Seeing that its predatory behaviour was not having the desired effect, Qantas now realises that its massive losses, compounded by startling operational incompetence, make it no longer sustainable to continue bleeding cash on these marginal regional routes.”

Rex is predicting QF will also pull out from other routes, claiming it had entered them purely with the intention of destabilising Rex in its traditional markets as a punishment for its entrance onto mainline capital city routes with its new Boeing 737 jet operation.

The regional airline is calling on the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to step up efforts to ensure a level aviation playing field (**TD** 17 Sep 2020).

The move is the latest salvo in the long-running war of words being waged by Rex, which has now been calling out QF for over a decade (**TD** 14 Dec 2009).

Adult-only Hayman

INTERCONTINENTAL Hayman Island Resort has announced the addition of 12 new Beachfront Pavilion Suites, delivering an exclusive ultra-luxury “adults-only” experience.

The expansion is scheduled to open in Sep, with guests offered My Concierge Service along with all that the resort has to offer including the Hayman Spa, gym, two swimming pools, a golf simulator, activities and a diverse range of bars and restaurants.

GM Arpad Romany said the new absolute beachfront pavilions with private plunge pools would help cater to increased demand for premium suites and elevated luxury experiences.

“We expect the Pavilions to be very popular with couples and guests seeking privacy in a more secluded area of the resort.”

The Pavilions are now open for booking, with prices starting from \$2,750 per night - for more details **CLICK HERE**.

Fullerton Preferred

PREFERRED Hotels & Resorts has expanded its partnership with The Fullerton, adding the Fullerton Ocean Park Hotel Hong Kong to the portfolio which also includes Sydney’s The Fullerton Hotel and The Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore.

The new Fullerton Hong Kong property, which soft launched last week, offers 425 rooms, a luxury spa, ballroom and more, adjacent to Water World Ocean Park.

Club Med is hot

CLUB Med has today launched an Earlybird 2023 Sun sale, offering up to 30% off prices for its summer resorts for travel dates between 01 May and 16 Dec next year.

Agents can secure the brand’s best price guarantee on Sun resorts in the Mediterranean, Asia, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean via the new Club Med Travel Agent Portal - **CLICK HERE**.



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INDEPENDENT HOLIDAY PACKAGE EXPERTS



Travel tops savings

TRAVEL has been listed as the main savings goal of Australians in a new report compiled by ANZ.

The survey showed that 43% of respondents were targeting a holiday as their primary savings ambition, ahead of other big purchases such as buying a house (40%) or a car (27%).

Women are more likely to be saving up for a holiday, with 47% of females and only 40% of males setting money aside for a trip, with men preferring buying a car as the top of their wish list.

The findings were released on the same day as a Finder report which found that almost three in five Aussies are planning a getaway in the next 12 months.

Of those, 32% are planning a domestic trip, while 12% are wanting to travel internationally and 13% will embark on both.

Finder noted that impediments to travel sentiment have been the risk of cancellations, long wait times and cost, citing recent Kayak data which found the price of air tickets issued between 01 Jul and 18 Jul from Australia had risen by 15% when compared to the same period in May.

Peppers rebranded

PEPPERS Kings Square in Perth is set to be rebranded to Rydges Kings Square, after being recently acquired by Singapore investment and asset management company, High Street Holdings (HSH), for around \$26 million.

Renovation works will be carried out on the 120-key property, located directly opposite Perth Arena at 621 Wellington Street, which will see its ground level and meeting spaces reconfigured, along with the addition of a multipurpose venue on the rooftop.

Peppers Kings Square represents the third Australian hotel acquired by HSH in 12 months, following Rydges North Sydney and the Kennigo Hotel Brisbane, with all three properties to be managed by Event Hospitality & Entertainment.

Rydges North Sydney is also set to be rebranded under the name The Miller Hotel, and will undergo a full refurbishment of its rooms, conference facilities, bar and restaurant, while the Kennigo Hotel, which is located in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley, was originally the Mantra Richmond.

737 MAX/320neo rival nears



CHINA'S plan to produce its own narrow-body jets to rival the Boeing 737 MAX and Airbus 320neo is closer to launching, after the model completed its final testing phase this week.

The state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) said that the six test C919 planes (one of the jets **pictured**) have finished all testing tasks and have entered the final stage of certification with Civil Aviation Administration of China.

The launch customer for the plane will be Qantas partner carrier China Eastern Airlines, which has placed an order for five

C919 jets and is scheduled to take the first delivery in Aug, according to local media reports.

The aircraft, which has been delayed several times due to technical and supply issues, can carry between 156 and 168 passengers, with an average range of around 5,500km.

Apart from China Eastern, the COMAC aircraft has received 815 purchase orders from 28 customers, with the vast majority being Chinese carriers.

Airbus enters sustainability project

AIRBUS has announced a partnership with seven major airline groups to trial direct air carbon capture and storage (DACCS), a technology that removes CO2 emissions from the air using high-powered fans and then securely stores them in underground saline formations.

Airbus will work with Air Canada, Air France-KLM, easyJet, International Airlines Group (IAG), LATAM Airlines Group, Lufthansa Group and Virgin Atlantic to negotiate the pre-purchase of carbon-removal credits, covering 400,000 tonnes of DACCS emissions reductions from 2025 to 2028.

The announcement comes after Airbus teamed up with 1PointFive, which is aiming to recycle the captured carbon and in turn convert it into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

Airbus plans to become carbon neutral across all its aircraft production facilities by 2030.

India to be number one by 2030

INDIA will likely become Australia's largest tourist market by 2030, according to Tourism Australia's Regional General Manager for Southeast Asia, Brent Anderson.

India is currently the second-biggest source market for Australia after New Zealand, with the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup to be held in Australia in Oct tipped to be a major driver for future Indian visitation.

Australia has its eyes on fostering the Indian tourism market more aggressively than in the past, especially with former top source market China still curtailing overseas travel to control COVID-19 outbreaks.

Anderson added that Tourism Australia is expecting to reach around 400,000 Indian visitors to our shores by Jun next year.



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Cooking up a sustainable future



HYATT has its sights set on sustainability, as highlighted at a lunch for industry representatives last Fri at Park Hyatt Sydney.

Guests enjoyed a delicious meal by Park Hyatt Sydney's new Culinary Director, James Viles, who shared his passion for sustainable food with the group.

"I think it is very important to take a step back and think about what we're eating...it's about educating a very savvy market," Viles said.

He also spoke of the value of including invasive and under-utilised species in food, with guests enjoying a meal featuring freshwater crocodile katsu, a roo ragu jaffle, Fraser Island spanner crab, and many more treats.

Additionally, the Hyatt Hotels team also shared about

the group's broader global sustainability initiatives, including the environmental focus of the Alila brand with its 'Alila Zero Waste to Landfill' project, as well as its dedicated sustainability lab at Alila Villas Uluwatu.

Pictured: James Viles sharing his passion with the group.

APAC air surges

THE number of international air passengers on Asia Pacific airlines last month increased by 567% when compared to the same period last year, according to Jun 2022 results from The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines.

The healthy swing towards air travel significantly outpaced the 139% expansion in available seat capacity cited in the same report.



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SYD makes black list

SYDNEY Airport has been named the sixth worst hub in the world for flight cancellations, according to new figures released by tracking platform FlightAware.

The 5.9% of cancelled flights over the last two months saw SYD make the list, while it also landed ninth for delays with 34.2%.

Toronto Pearson International Airport in Canada was ranked the worst for delays with over half of all flights impacted, followed by Frankfurt Airport (45.4%), Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (43%), Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (41.5%) & London Gatwick (41%).

NSW opens funding

THE NSW Government will soon open the second round of funding for its Regional Tourism Activation Fund, offering \$150 million in cash grants for "high-impact projects" that will increase visitor numbers to regional NSW.

The first round supported 30 projects via \$30 million, which included upgrades to the Royal Flying Doctor Service's Outback Visitor Centre in Broken Hill.

Applications will open 02 Aug.



Window Seat

JAPANESE snow monkeys are typically a major tourist attraction for Aussies, with the primates renowned for slumming around in the country's various hot springs, but travellers are being warned of a possible tribe of bad apples.

According to local news reports, the last few weeks have seen a rise in attacks on people in Yamaguchi city, with authorities at this stage unsure if the assaults are the work of a single rogue monkey or several.

Scary stories have included a girl being scratched during an apartment break-in, while another case saw a monkey storm a kindergarten classroom.



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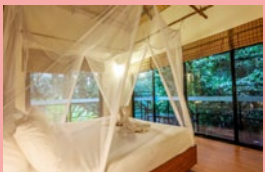
WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Hilton Melbourne Little Queen Street has unveiled its new Queen Adelaide lounge, located in the hotel's recently restored Equity Chambers building. The area was designed with 1930s glamour in mind, featuring timber panelling, mirrors and curved wall lights, and is divided into three areas - buffet, central and end space, with guests served tea, coffee and snacks during the day and drinks and canapes in the evening.



PARKROYAL on Beach Road, Singapore is inviting guests back after the property received a face-lift. The lobby is the focal point of the refresh, and has been reconfigured to serve multiple functions, including the concierge, check-in area and a working space, as well as couches and a selection of palms and tropical plants. The property's 346 rooms were also refreshed, now featuring soothing warm tones and art from local artists.



Following two years of closure due to the pandemic, **Anurak Community Lodge** in southern Thailand is once again welcoming travellers from 01 Aug. The property, which provides views of Khao Sok National Park, has enhanced its 19 rooms, updated its food and beverage menu, and introduced new guest activities, including hiking the Anurak Trail, cycling, and guest participation in the ecolodge's 'Rainforest Rising' reforestation project.

Yosemite wildfires

UNDETERRED by the raging Californian wildfires, travellers are still flocking to Yosemite National Park despite the area being encased in a thick smoky haze and the air quality index reaching "very unhealthy" levels.

A Yosemite spokesperson said the park would only close if the air quality becomes "consistently dangerous", and that visitors are expected to "make up their own minds" with the information and options provided by the park.

MGallery Philippines

ACCOR has introduced Admiral Hotel Manila - MGallery as its first MGallery property in the Philippines, set on Roxas Boulevard and offering views of Manila Bay.

The hotel's design was inspired by Manila's golden era, and features 123 guest rooms with premium amenities, six uniquely themed floors inspired by the local culture, four dining spaces, a modern rooftop bar, day spa, gym, and function rooms.

Perisher Manor up for sale

THE Perisher Manor ski hotel has been listed for sale by Forbes Stynes Prestige Property Sales, after being owned and operated by the same family for 45 years.

Located on a 5,376m² site within the Perisher Ski Resort in the Australian Snowy Mountains, the hotel is marketed not only to skiing and snowboarding enthusiasts, but also to families who are seeking a winter retreat.

Guest staying at the property are ideally positioned adjacent to the "Village 8 Express" eight-seat chairlift, with convenient access to a number of groomed cross-country ski and snowshoe trails.

Perisher Manor offers 59 rooms, including staff quarters, each featuring bathrooms, heating, carpeted floors, and tea and



coffee making facilities, with some rooms also featuring a flat-screen TV, and a lounge area or a desk.

The ground floor comprises of the High Ground Cafe, which is ski-in ski-out, as well as another entrance foyer and drying room, and spaces that can cater for small conference groups.

The tender for the property closes on 26 Aug.

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