

## CATO into events

**THE** Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) is seeking sponsorship for an upcoming "Travel Trivia Masters" event to take place in Sydney on 04 Aug. "As the peak industry body representing the land-supply sector, CATO is keen to re-engage industry-wide relationships through this inaugural event on the travel industry calendar," said CATO MD Brett Jardine.

"The industry has endured a challenging two years and as we enter this recovery phase it is time to bring back some interactive social events."

Retail travel agents, CATO members and other travel industry partners are being invited to take part, with the event themed around your favourite culture or country.

Teams of eight will compete in the trivia along with a two-course sit-down meal, with tickets costing \$143 or \$1,144 for a full table - see [cato.travel](http://cato.travel) for details.

## ACCC probes QF, Alliance

**THE** Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has launched an "informal merger review" into the proposed acquisition of Alliance Airlines by Qantas (**TD** 05 May).

The ACCC noted that Qantas and Alliance overlap in the supply of charter services, as well as regular passenger transport.

Qantas controversially acquired 19.9% of Alliance in early 2019 (**TD** 01 Feb 2019) at a time when Alliance was a key supplier to rival Virgin Australia.

Having cemented an ongoing agreement for the wet lease of a now 18-strong fleet of Embraer E190 regional jets with Alliance, Qantas this month announced an agreement to acquire the remaining shares in Alliance.

The Commission is now seeking input from interested parties regarding the takeover, seeking views from stakeholders on how closely Qantas and Alliance

compete, and whether there are sufficient alternative suppliers to maintain competition.

In particular the ACCC wants to evaluate the impact of the proposed deal on price, quality or service levels for charter and/or RPT services, and the impact if Alliance were to cease providing aircraft leasing or associated aviation services to other airlines after it becomes owned by QF.

Submissions can be made until 03 Jun, with a timeline indicating the ACCC's findings will be announced in early Aug.

## YHA appoints PR

**YHA** Australia CEO Paul McGrath has announced that PEPR Agency will manage its PR account for both Australian and inbound markets, with a focus on YHA's new branding and concepts such as the Y-jobs platform and Y-Hive co-working.

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features eight pages of news, including a special feature from **Aurora Expeditions**.

## German EVT stoush

**EVENT** Hospitality and Entertainment has filed a formal Request for Arbitration in Europe, in relation to the sale of the group's Cinestar cinema operation in Germany.

EVT, which alongside its Event Cinema business operates QT Hotels & Resorts, Rydges, Atura and the Thredbo ski resort in NSW, had hoped to sell Cinestar to a Dutch company called Vue.

Event Hospitality is alleging that Vue failed to take certain steps under a formal Sale & Purchase Agreement which were necessary to meet a condition imposed by the German Federal Cartel Office, which meant the proposed deal became a "prohibited transaction".



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## Airbnb leaves China

AIRBNB is set to quit operations in China from 30 Jul due to extended lockdowns and strong local competition.

Stays within China for the accommodation sharing business made up only 1% of its revenue over the last few years, the BBC reports, with the company expected to maintain an office and focus on outbound sales in the country instead.

## GC sings new tune

THE Gold Coast is seeking to broaden its appeal to travellers via a new musical TVC push, communicating that the destination offers far more than just beaches and warm weather.

The new 'Play The Day Away' campaign focuses on the region's natural hinterlands and emerging restaurant scene, depicting families, couples and friends dancing in sync across a number of iconic venues.

Watch the full video [HERE](#).

## Dubai and Abu Dhabi hit the road



DUBAI and Abu Dhabi are working together in the Australian market for the first time ever, last night kicking off a national roadshow with a Sydney event featuring the event series' airline partner Emirates.

Attendees heard from EK about its restart around the world and

in the Australian market, as well as from a range of partners, such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi's destination management organisations.

Travel advisors also heard from Emirates Dubai Experience (recently rebranded from the Dubai Stop Over program), and the different ways travellers can explore the United Arab Emirates' most populous city.

"It's not lost upon us the complex difficulties that we've all been through for these last couple of years," Emirates Special Markets Manager Commercial Operations Lincoln Bache said.

"We did everything we possibly could to pass back those refunds to you and your customers to ensure that things were as smooth as they possibly could be," he enthused.

## Fuel hits ANA flights

ALL Nippon Airways has advised travel partners higher fuel surcharge will be added to ticket prices from next month on Australian routes.

One-way surcharges will jump from US\$157 to US\$329, while levies on return services will increase from US\$314 to US\$658.

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## CLIA adds new Chair

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia's Chairman Gavin Smith is set to be replaced by NCL's Ben Angell, following the association's AGM in Sydney yesterday.

The current Vice President & Managing Director for NCL said he was ready to take on the role at a critical recovery period.

"Cruising injects significant investment into our local economies while supporting communities and jobs, and I look forward to working closely with CLIA and our partners in the industry as we drive towards a future that's brighter than ever," Angell said.

Smith concluded a two-year stint in the role and is also the local VP & MD for Royal Caribbean Cruises.

## Become a Bonza legend

**BONZA** is calling on Australians to share their travel tips via video for a chance to become one of the airline's "legends", scoring successful applicants a VIP seat on its first Melbourne flight.

The prize will also allow three mates to join each legend on the maiden Melbourne jaunt, as well as elicit help from Bonza to put the respective winners' towns on the tourism map.

This morning the carrier, which conceded earlier this month its debut in the market will be slightly delayed (**TD 18 May**), said it intends to work with the appointed legend's hometown to identify respected members of the community who also deserve to be on the inaugural flight.

Bonza added each legend would



also be invited to join the taste testing team for its all Aussie menu, as well as road test the airline's first ever uniform (we're not sure if this includes the budgy smugglers?).

"If you're a legend, larrikin, personality about town - come forward, we're looking for big hearts, welcoming arms and people who aren't shy to give it a go and promote their slice of 'Allstralia'," Chief Commercial Officer Carly Povey said.

"We're an airline for teachers, tradies, kids and carers and we want to reflect that in the way we spotlight the many incredible destinations on our route map."

To participate, prospective legends can share a 30-second or less video to Facebook or Instagram tagging @FlyBonza with #BonzaLocalLegends.

For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).



## Window Seat

**DANISH** traveller Thor Pedersen has departed Australia for New Zealand on the final leg of his 'Once Upon a Saga' project, in which he is aiming to journey to every country in the world without the use of air travel.

Pedersen said he never expected his ambitious round-the-world trip would take him the better part of a decade when he embarked from his native Denmark, but 196 countries and one pandemic later, he is almost there.

The adventurer arrived in Far North Qld on a cargo ship from Hong Kong last month (**TD 06 Apr**), and is about to set sail for NZ, after visits to Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, and Tasmania.



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## CX commits to sustainability

CATHAY Pacific has released its *Sustainable Development Report 2021*, detailing “the many initiatives that we continue to take to protect the planet and our people,” according to CX CEO Augustus Tang.

Key achievements over the year included development of a dedicated cold chain solution to make vaccines available to global communities, with CX delivering more than 165 million COVID-19 vaccine doses along with life-saving medical supplies - including the first vaccines for use in Hong Kong in Feb 2021.

Other activities included progress towards carbon-neutrality, including a commitment to target 10% Sustainable Aviation Fuel

## New Four Seasons Sydney GM

FOUR Seasons Hotel Sydney has announced the appointment of Uday Rao as its new General Manager.

Rao has been part of the Four Seasons group since 1991, starting in Chicago and then ascending through various roles in Tokyo, Singapore, Dallas and the Maldives before opening Four Seasons Hotel Mumbai in 2006.

His most recent position was managing the two Four Seasons resorts in Bali, with Rao saying he is “excited to be part of the team in Sydney and immerse myself in the Australian culture”.

(SAF) use for flights operated by Cathay Pacific by 2030.

CX is also a member of the Aviation Climate Taskforce, and alongside other oneworld carriers has joined a commitment to purchasing over 350 million gallons of SAF from 2024.

Diversity is also a key goal for CX, which is part of IATA’s “25 by 2025” initiative aiming to increase female representation at senior levels of the aviation industry.

The full report is available for download by **CLICKING HERE**.

## Retro RV+Camplify

MOTORHOME, campervan and caravan peer-to-peer rental platform Camplify has announced an agreement with Retro RV which will see its 25-strong fleet of vans exclusively listed on the Camplify network.

Retro RV is a franchise group in which owners rent out revamped and fully restored VW Combis, with the unreliable engines in the iconic vehicles swapped out for fuel-injected Subaru powerplants, providing great fuel economy.

Franchisees can earn up to \$1,900 per week, the companies said, with the opportunity for operators to exclusively list with Camplify allowing them to reach a larger pool of customers.

Camplify CEO Justin Hales said the Retro RVs looks, price and location make them “an attractive option to many Camplify hirers”.

## Canadian tourism rendezvous

DESTINATION Canada’s international tourism marketplace, Rendez-vous Canada, kicks off today in Toronto, with the gathering taking place in person for the first time in three years.

Organisers say the event is already surpassing expectations, with more than 1,000 attendees registered to convene for the live event, along with others registered for the virtual component.

Over 300 international buyers from key Destination Canada markets will meet with about 750 delegates from 450 Canadian tourism suppliers, with 48,000 appointments scheduled.

## QDP addition

QANTAS has announced that Europe-based flight retailing specialist Aaron Group has been named as an Approved Technology Partner to the Qantas Distribution Platform (QDP).

Other NDC connections offered by Aaron Group include Avianca, Westjet, Copa Airlines, British Airways, Hawaiian Airlines, Etihad, Lufthansa, Qatar Airways, Finnair & more - [aarongroup.com](https://aarongroup.com).

## New Boise route

US REGIONAL carrier Avelo Airlines has announced a new non-stop route to Boise, Idaho.

One-way introductory fares from Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR) to Boise start at US\$69, with the new route to operate twice weekly using 189-seat Boeing 737-800NG aircraft.

Avelo Airlines serves 27 destinations across the US from bases at BUR, Orlando International Airport (MCO) and Tweed-New Haven Airport (HVN) in southern Connecticut.

## Nobu to Madrid

NOBU Hospitality has announced its fifth property in Spain, with Nobu Hotel Madrid to be part of a transformed office building in the Cortes District.

The hotel will offer a three-level Nobu restaurant and bar, and is being designed by the same architect behind Nobu Malibu and Nobu Hotel San Sebastian, scheduled to open next year.

The Nobu portfolio in Europe is set to comprise 11 properties, including hotels in London, Ibiza, Barcelona, Marbella and Warsaw plus Rome, San Sebastian, Santorini and Hamburg which are all under development.

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Hurtigruten Group is not your average travel company. With big ambitions and major local, innovative initiatives taking us into 2023, 2024, 2025 and beyond, we are seeking the best in our field to join us on this journey.

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We are now hiring for multiple roles in Sales and Marketing.

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With more major players in Australian aviation than ever before, the competition to fill seats is heating up. Plus more industry news in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

**travelBulletin**

**CLICK to read**

## VA cuts through int'l barrier



**VIRGIN** Australia and United Airlines cut the ribbon on their new codeshare pricing arrangement (*TD* 12 May) with a launch party at Sydney International Airport yesterday.

The deal enables VA to offer its customers a raft of new North American flight options.

best partner for Virgin Australia to service the Americas.

"They've got the biggest network and they are very focused on customer experience and really ensuring every day we work hard to lift and do better, so it's a great alignment of our two wonderful airlines coming together," she added.



Celebrations were marked by dancing cheerleaders (above), Aussie surfers, as well as free donuts and pretzels, with the event co-hosted by Virgin Australia Group CEO Jayne Hrdlicka and United Airlines' Managing Director of Int'l Sales, Marcel Fuchs.

"Today is another fantastic day for Virgin Australia, we are opening up nearly 100 one-stop destinations from Australia and hundreds more destinations beyond that into the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean, and effectively tripling our reach into the US," Hrdlicka enthused.

The tie-up also sees members of Virgin Australia's Velocity Frequent Flyer loyalty program able to earn points, status credits and receive tier benefits when travelling on United Airline's services, while both airlines have also agreed to allow reciprocal lounge access.

The move marks a key rebirth for VA, which was forced to pause the sale of codeshare flights on its website at the height of the pandemic.

**Pictured top:** Hrdlicka and Fuchs celebrate the partnership in style, while **below** VA cabin crew take an all-smiles selfie to remember the occasion.



## The kids are angry!

**NAUGHTY** kids are calling "b\*llsh\*t" on Virgin Voyages' "no kids" policy in the cruise line's newest satirical campaign.

The 1980s-style sentimental ballad in the ad is inspired by parents who need a break and deserve a little fun, with their kids bitterly complaining about Virgin's adults-only positioning.

To view the ad, **CLICK HERE**.



## Rotty offers promos

**THE** Rottneest Island Authority (RIA) is inviting travellers to see its "other side for less", with a huge range of specials for travellers available before 18 Sep.

RIA's new winter campaign aims to incentivise travel by shining a light on the range of unique experiences and attractions on offer on the Island during the cooler months.

Discounts of up to 30% off ferry travel, accommodation, and tours are available for bookings made by Sat - for more information, **CLICK HERE**.

## Introducing The Little Lady

**VISITORS** to the Mudgee wine region can now enjoy a tiny house getaway at The Little Lady in Rylstone, a new addition to Tiny Away's rural portfolio.

The 155-square-foot studio space is positioned near the scenic Naked Lady Wines winery and offers views over the Capertee Valley.

Guests can make use of the kitchenette, queen-sized bed, en suite bathroom with sustainable bathroom facilities, air-conditioning, and heating.



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**We are now hiring for multiple roles in Sales and Marketing.**

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## Aussies head to Austria



**MORE** than 1,200 participants gathered in Vienna last week to take part in Austrian Tourism Days, an event said to be “one of the first post-pandemic international tourism conferences of this scale worldwide”.

Under the motto ReDesign Tourism, delegates included 390 international buyers and media from 45 countries, meeting with 260 local exhibitors.

The event also included presentations from 27 keynote speakers, discussing Austria’s perspectives as a green tourism destination, the recovery of city tourism, future mobility concepts and solutions for data pooling.

Aussie delegates (pictured)

included Lynda Schmitt from APT; Priscilla Aster from Bunnik Tours; writer Peter Needham; ANTO Australia director Astrid Gruchmann-Licht; and Intrepid’s Anicka Banik & Frank Cheshire.

### SIA ops address

**SINGAPORE** Airlines has advised that from 6pm AEST on 27 May the new email address for trade partner enquiries will be [SQUA\\_SalesOps@singaporeair.com.sg](mailto:SQUA_SalesOps@singaporeair.com.sg), adding “emails sent to the old address will not be responded to”.

SIA is strongly urging agents to register for the AGENT360 portal at [agent360.singaporeair.com](https://agent360.singaporeair.com).



### E-Commerce Lead - Asia Pacific

We are looking for an E-commerce Lead APAC that would like to join us on our journey.

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You’ll be responsible for maximising the sales potential within your designated specialty and carry the responsibility of cultivating strong relationships with existing and new digital customers, driving brand awareness, and identifying new revenue opportunities. Our team members strive for the successful execution of their remit and achievement of the objectives in a timely fashion aligned with our commercial strategy.

The APAC head office is in Melbourne and this role is best placed in Melbourne or within an agreed territory.

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### NDC: A key for travel sellers to unlock new sources of value for their customers

**THROUGH** all the disruption over the past two years, the pandemic has shone a light on the integral role that travel sellers play in our industry. Whether it has meant getting assistance with changes and cancellations, or seeking expert advice on navigating changing travel requirements, many travellers have relied on travel agents for support. Corporations, too, have recognised the important role that travel management companies (TMCs) play in helping them fulfil their duty of care to their employees.

As the industry recovers and the trend towards greater digitalisation of travel continues, travel sellers need to think about how they can unlock new sources of value for their customers. NDC (short for New Distribution Capability) is one area that holds a lot of promise. NDC can help travel agencies deliver new, richer, and more relevant content in a simple and more tailored way – so travellers can get more information about what they are buying and receive more relevant offers based on their preferences. Among other benefits, it can help travel sellers boost operational efficiency through a simplified, intuitive graphical flow that helps to search, book, and manage content seamlessly.

Airlines around the world – including many in Asia Pacific such as Qantas, Singapore Airlines and Cathay Pacific – are already beginning to innovate with NDC. We continue to unlock new opportunities and most recently, have strengthened our [partnership with Malaysia Airlines](#), with travel

sellers soon being able to access the airlines’ full range of NDC-enabled content with full servicing functionalities.

At Amadeus, we don’t view NDC as the end-game. We see it as part of a broader vision, together with other initiatives like ONE Order, to advance the travel industry forward with new retailing capabilities. Different players in the travel ecosystem will adopt NDC at their own pace, based on their different needs and priorities.

With the Amadeus Travel Platform, it’s possible for travel sellers and buyers to consume content sourced through NDC and EDIFACT, alongside LCC content delivered via APIs, in a single application with NDC delivering an improved booking experience. For example, it takes a single click to add an airline ancillary to a booking using a graphical user interface, compared to around five cryptic commands. Similarly, now that servicing capabilities have matured, a booking can be cancelled, voided or refunded with a single click rather than multiple commands.

We are excited about the benefits that NDC will bring in terms of content, efficiency and delivering real-time, relevant information to travellers. The foundations of NDC have been laid and that opens the door to a whole new world of possibilities for modern digital retailing in the travel industry.

Download our paper [NDC 2021 and the path to industrialization](#) to find out more.

**Kaylene Shuttlewood, Managing Director, Travel Sellers, Pacific, Amadeus**

# AMADEUS

Content produced in collaboration with Aurora Expeditions

**AURORA** Expeditions' new, purpose-built expedition ship, the *Sylvia Earle*, will be making her debut on the **SUBANTARCTIC SAFARI** in Nov 2022.

The 17-day maiden voyage will explore the bird lovers' paradise of the Falklands Malvinas, before continuing to the wildlife haven of South Georgia, famous for its king penguin colonies and Shackleton heritage.

"We are thrilled to confirm the inaugural season of the *Sylvia Earle*, and to be debuting this highly anticipated vessel on such a magnificent voyage whose destinations are so representative of Aurora's spirit



of exploration, discovery and education," commented Hayley Peacock-Gower, CMO of Aurora Expeditions.

Like Aurora's *Greg Mortimer*, the *Sylvia Earle* features the

revolutionary Ulstein X-BOW®.

Accommodating 130-140 expeditioners per voyage, every cabin has an ocean view and most have balconies.

Amongst the ship's features are a unique two-level glass atrium lounge, modern lecture lounge, observation areas, Zodiac launching platforms, two

restaurants, gym and wellness centre, swimming pool, jacuzzis, and a mudroom.

Following her maiden voyage, the ship will continue its inaugural season in Antarctica, followed by Costa Rica, the Arctic and the British Isles.

Discover more about *Sylvia Earle* and her inaugural season [HERE](#).

## Aurora explores deeper

**AURORA'S** active adventure focus will continue to play a major part in the expedition experience on both the *Greg Mortimer* and *Sylvia Earle*.

Their comprehensive offering gives adventurous expeditioners the chance to deepen their exploration with unique programs dedicated

to sea-kayaking, scuba diving, polar snorkelling, alpine trekking and much more.

In 2022, the company will also introduce a brand-new activity – paddling, giving less experienced passengers the chance to try out a 'lighter' version of sea-kayaking on select voyages. More [HERE](#).



## Conservation a major focus

**AURORA** Expeditions' new ship, the *Sylvia Earle*, continues the Australian adventure company's longstanding commitment to responsible and respectful travel.

On debut the ship will be christened by its namesake, renowned marine biologist, oceanographer and explorer Dr. Sylvia Earle.

"This highly anticipated vessel is intended to be a floating ambassador for the conservation of the planet, with a large focus on marine education and

conservation in line with Dr Earle's own longstanding efforts," commented Hayley Peacock-Gower, Aurora Expeditions' CMO.

Certified 100% Carbon Neutral, outfitted with a dedicated, fully equipped Citizen Science Centre to complement Aurora's participative programs, the ship also pays tribute to six pioneering female conservationists from around the world, who are honoured on each of the ship's public decks alongside Dr Earle.

Click [HERE](#) for more on Aurora's Sustainability in Action program.

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## DL frequent AF

AIR France and Delta Air Lines have partnered up to provide shuttle services between New York City and Paris.

Nine daily flights will run every couple of hours between NYC's John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and Paris' Charles de Gaulle International Airport (CDG) and Orly International Airport.

Delta will use its A330s, while Air France will use its Boeing 777-300s and Airbus A350s.

## Fleet of nine tales

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) has announced that it will redeploy *Norwegian Sun* from Asia to the Canary Islands, bringing its European fleet to a total of nine ships this year.

The decision, made due to the "challenging and developing regulations" surrounding international cruising in Asia, resulted in the cancellation of all *Norwegian Sun Asia* sailings from 11 Oct 2022 to 25 Apr 2023.

## ACCOMMODATION

**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](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



Guests can now enjoy a new beachfront experience at **Mercure Samui Chaweng Beach Tana**. The resort's new extension offers direct access to beach and 81 new rooms and villas, including two Poolside Villas and one Beachfront Villa with a private pool. Guests can also enjoy three new dining options, including a beach bar, al-fresco rooftop bar, and an all-day dining restaurant.



**ACE Sydney Hotel** opened its doors last week in Surry Hills, featuring guest rooms and public spaces, a lobby with cocktail bar and lounge space, a ground-floor restaurant, laneway cafe and bar, rooftop restaurant and bar, and three multifunctional event spaces. The property will host a wine program and artist-in-residence program alongside an interior art collection. Guest rooms feature an in-room vinyl collection, turntables, guitars and radios, with some rooms being pet-friendly.



Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas has announced it will expand its Thailand portfolio with the addition of **Anantara Koh Yao Yai Resort**, slated to open in Dec. The 148-key island property offers one- and two-bedroom beachfront pool villas that sit right on the beach, spacious suites with ocean views, and eight Seaview Pool Penthouses complete with a large outdoor entertainment area. There are also family suites featuring a playground for kids to enjoy.

## New jets and a new look



**JETSTAR** has celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> birthday today by revealing a sneak-peek at its updated livery for its new fleet of Airbus NEOs, the first of which is due to touch down in Melbourne over the coming months.

The brand's new look features an orange tail and underbelly alongside freshly branded wing tips, in a special paint system that claims to be longer lasting and reduces paint weight by up to 30%, resulting in a fuel saving of up to 108 tonnes per year across the entire A321LR fleet.

Jetstar Group CEO Gareth Evans said, "today we're excited to

not only be celebrating our 18th birthday but also unveiling a new look for our incoming fleet of NEOs, representing a new era of flying for Jetstar."

All 18 of the A321LR aircraft are expected to arrive by mid-2024, with an additional 20 A321XLR aircraft set to arrive between 2024 and 2029.



### Marketing Executive - Trade

#### Are you stepping up in your career and delivering best-in-class initiatives?

It's time to get out of your comfort zone, be inspired and empowered. Become part of an innovative global business with a strong and proud Norwegian heritage based on genuine values of trust, respect, ownership and transparency. We are a global travel and expedition cruise company committed to taking care of our guests, wildlife, nature, the communities we visit, and we're setting a new standard of sustainability for the travel industry.

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