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Travel Daily First with the news

www.traveldaily.com.au Monday 7th Nov 2022

Beyond rail launch

JOURNEY Beyond has opened its 2024 rail season for bookings, with strong pent-up demand driving the company's earliest ever program release.

Iconic rail journeys aboard the Ghan, Indian Pacific and Great Southern are all on offer, alongside innovations such as a "Scenic Sip & Sail" extension which includes a day on Rottnest Island and a seaplane flight to the Margaret River region for a day of wine tastings and exploration.

Journey Beyond Chief Revenue Officer, Peter Egglestone, said "with demand so high across 2023, we are launching some of our rail journeys and holiday packages for 2024 earlier than ever before, giving guests the opportunity to secure their preferred travel date and service level".

The program also includes new investment in Off Train Experiences, with trips on offer now available for viewing online at journeybeyondrail.com.au.

Aeronology offers Scoot

MELBOURNE-BASED

Aeronology has expanded its travel tech offering by becoming Scoot's first New Distribution Capability (NDC) aggregator, the Australian company has revealed.

The deal means all of the budget carrier's fare content is now available through Aeronology's portal applications and APIs, thanks to a direct connection created by Amadeus-owned distribution company, Navitaire.

As a result, travel advisors who use the Aeronology platform via Express Tickets in Australia or New Zealand can now book and ticket off the same screen as their GDS through Direct Connect.

Agents will also have access to Scoot flights across 56 active destinations at Scoot's web prices - in some cases about \$200 less than GDS fares - and down to last seat availability, as well as the ability to add their own agency mark up and logo on the Scoot

flight itinerary.

"Aeronology CEO Russell Carstensen said the company was "extremely proud" of its relationship with Scoot, the low-cost arm of Singapore Airlines Group, with the move seeing Aeronology grow its portfolio of GDS and NDC carriers to offer agents "the best point of sale systems in the world".

"It is critical that we continue to provide our customers and travel advisors with the ability to sell Scoot flights off our platform and be able to bundle packages together in key leisure markets as the travel market evolves, rebuilds, and expands," he said.

Additionally, travel advisors will easily be able to charge a service fee, Carstensen highlighted, which was "nearly impossible" to do before.

Scoot follows low-cost carrier Jetstar linking with Aeronology back in May (*TD* 19 May).

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news, a cover wrap from Tourism New Zealand plus a full page for our Still "Still Standing" event.

It's time to seek

IF YOU seek reality, it's time to earn your place on the ultimate New Zealand famil.

To those curious enough to seek it, New Zealand gives everything - find out more on the **cover page**.

Sheila gets the nod

THE results of Bonza's latest Instagram naming poll are in, and the moniker of Sheila has emerged victorious over Bruce as the name of its third plane.

Sheila will join Shazza and Bazza in the growing fleet of iconically Aussie names, with the final regulatory approvals still pending for the challenger airline to kick start its operations.





Take a Gander at this!



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EK reboots key flights

EMIRATES has announced the resumption of its four-times weekly flight from Dubai to Rio de Janeiro with onwards service to Buenos Aires, operated with a Boeing 777 aircraft.

suspended due to the pandemic.



OCEANIA Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises yesterday hosted industry partners at a special performance of the hit musical Come From Away, which has just kicked off a new season at Sydney's Theatre Royal.

The performance traces the selfless actions of the remote Newfoundland community of Gander, where hundreds of aircraft were diverted when

airspace was closed after the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

Some of the participants are pictured, from left: Jason Worth, Oceania Cruises; Justine Sealey, Ramsgate Travel; Matt Halloran from Travel Central; Rania Paras and Stephanie Andreolas from Time 2 Travel; Oceania Business **Development Executive Anjelica** Balbin; and Kim Scurr from PlanetDwellers.

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HR expert sought

IKARA Wilpena Enterprises is currently on the lookout for a new Human Resource Manager to join the team at Wilpena Pound Resort in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park.

CLICK HERE to view the full job description.







Travel Daily **SHARPEN YOUR** KNOWLEDGE ON ITALY WITH
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Window

THE age-old debate of style vs comfort has taken hold of the aviation industry thanks to Eurowings' "Sneaker Flydays", which sees crew members ditch the heels in favour of allwhite sneakers on the first Fri of every month.

Last Fri, the Lufthansa Group airline marked its 1,000th "Sneaker Flyday", and revealed it may hold them more regularly in the new year if the comfy footwear continues to receive positive feedback.



Indo flags e-visa on arrival

A NEW electronic visa on arrival system will be introduced for arrivals to Indonesia shortly, following a period of successful testing, the country's Immigration Department has confirmed.

The new system will seek to alleviate long queues at airports for tourists by allowing travellers to use a payment gateway before arriving in the country.

Eligible travellers under the system, which includes Aussies, will need to pay around A\$50 to obtain the electronic visa, sanctioning arrivals to stay in Indonesia for up to 30 days, which can be extended once for an additional 30 days at the Immigration Office.

Similar to eVisa, eVoA can be used no later than 90 days after a payment is made, with the transaction available via a payment gateway using credit cards or debit cards in the Visa or Mastercard network.

"This system will not only affect the tourism sector, but also the closing-deals in multinational business meetings that can encourage investment and create new job opportunities," Acting **Director General of Immigration** Widodo Ekatjahjana said.

"We are trying all efforts and coordination related to this system as best and as quickly as possible to support the G20 Summit and answer the needs of the world community who want to have a vacation or hold business meetings," he added.

Purposes of the visit valid for the new e-visa on arrival system includes tourism, government visits, business meetings, goods purchasing, and transit.

The initial trial has been in action for select arrivals to Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta Airport, with government authorities indicating the system could be rolled out wider from this week.

Rex pilot progress

REX has put to bed its longrunning industrial dispute with its regional Saab 340 turboprop pilots, with 86% agreeing to a new four-year agreement.

The dispute escalated in Jun (TD 23 Jun), when Rex pilots voted in favour of taking protected industrial action after failing to reach an agreement regarding a new Enterprise Agreement.

"The vote follows over four years of protracted and arduous negotiations during which the pandemic has wreaked huge economic misery on both the company and the pilot group," Rex HR Manager Paula Tran said.

"At the end, a fair and reasonable outcome was reached that enabled the company to rebuild itself and provide a good future for all its staff," she added.

The Regional Pilots Saab Agreement will now go to the Fair Work Commission, which is expected to be formally ratified in the next few weeks.





SIA enjoys record profit

A STRONG return in demand has seen Singapore Airlines' parent group record the highest half-year profit in its history.

SIA Group posted a record \$1.23 billion six-month result. an impressive swing back to the black from the \$620 million loss made in the previous corresponding period.

The result was helped along by a strong surge in revenue, which rose by almost 200% from \$2.82

CATO sponsorship

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) has announced Qatar Tourism as its major sponsor for its Christmas lunch.

To be held on 08 Dec at the ivy ballroom in Sydney, the event is open to all in the travel industry.

The organisation's Managing **Director Brett Jardine said CATO** had already sold more than 250 tickets to the event.

billion to \$8.14 billion.

SIA also managed to achieve the milestone result despite a sizable increase in expenditure, which rose by 108% from \$3.73 billion to \$7.18 billion.

This consisted of a \$1.87 billion jump in net fuel cost, a \$1.77 billion increase in non-fuel expenditure, and the absence of the \$79 million gain that was recorded last year for fair value changes on fuel derivatives.

However, SIA also noted that it expects demand to be weaker in the third quarter of FY2022/23 in the face of significant headwinds, which includes lower consumer demand, higher fuel prices, inflationary pressures across the supply chain, geopolitical issues, as well as the risk of a global recession.

During the latest quarter, SIA added two Airbus A350-900 wide-body jets to its fleet, and two Boeing 737-8 aircraft.



LA spends up big

A NEW "Now Playing" Los Angeles Tourism advertising campaign launched in Australia today, with the promotion seeing the largest spend in any international market ever by the Los Angeles Tourism Board.

The \$2.2 million media buy, in conjunction with Visit California, will run through until Mar 2023, and includes concurrent campaigns in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane which all now offer direct US air services via Los Angeles International Airport.

In 2019, Los Angeles welcomed 421,000 Aussies, making Australia the city's second biggest market apart from China, with the largescale campaign launch supporting predictions that numbers will rebound by 2024 (410,000) or 2025 at the latest (440,000).

The campaign TVC, developed by LA Tourism's Sydney office which remained in place through the pandemic, is now live at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Sabre THAI Smile

SABRE and THAI Smile Airways have implemented a distribution agreement which will see travel advisors able to shop, book, and service international content from the airline.

Joining Sabre's global marketplace will also enable THAI Smile to enhance its geographic reach, and target new leisure and corporate traveller segments.

Qatar Avios offer

QATAR Airways has launched a special Avios promotion for Privilege Club members in select countries, to celebrate the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Members who book via the Qatar website or mobile app using the code AVIOS and pay with a Visa card by 22 Dec can collect 6,000 Avios for Economy class travel or 12,000 Avios in Business or First class travel between 15 Jan - 31 Mar 2023.

For further details on the offer. CLICK HERE.





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Travellers not prepared for illness

MANY Australian travellers are "tempting fate" when it comes to being properly prepared for the threat of contracting diseases overseas, the Travel Medicine Alliance Group warns.

"A consultation with a doctor at least six weeks before travelling could be the difference between lying on a beach or lying on a hospital bed in a foreign country," Medical Director Deb Mills said.

"Last-minute vaccinations do not give the immune system long enough to do its job, timing is an incredibly important factor for good travel health," she added.

The call follows the result of a recent study of 1,000 Aussies which showed only one in seven people planning to travel overseas fully understand the health recommendations relevant to their destination, while a third do not plan to seek medical advice prior to their departure.

LHW restarts bellissimo famils



THE Leading Hotels of the World (LHW) has rebooted its Australian & New Zealand Leading Famils program, with two groups enjoying all of the iconic experiences of northern Italy.

Managing Director, APAC Craig Adamson hosted the trip following a three-year hiatus, with the group touring through the Villa d'Este and II Sereno Lago di Como, before travelling to Venice to stay at San Clemente Palace Kempinski and a visit to Baglioni Hotel Luna, ending at the Tuscan Hills at Castel Monastero.

Pictured on the famil are: Craig Adamson, LHW; Rebecca Tempelhof, FBI Travel; Pietro Grillo, Castel Monastero; Evelyn Cassar, Mosman Travel; Leith Sisson, North Shore Business Travel; Jodie Everett, MTA Travel; Maddy Lehrer, Tribe Travel & Events; and Sarah Manche, Travel Associates Paddington.

Scenic appoints

SCENIC Group has appointed leading digital agency dentsu X as its global digital media partner to manage the brand's media strategy, planning, and buying requirements.

Dentsu X will aim to support the global transformation and growth of Scenic Group's online presence, and bring a streamlined experience to its digital media.

Lizzy in Fremantle

CUNARD Line's *Queen Elizabeth* has returned to Fremantle in Western Australia after a nearly three-year absence.

The ship's 121-day Australian residence will be a record, as she will visit eight ports in WA, and contribute \$6.8 million to the state's economy.

After arriving in Fremantle following a sailing from Barcelona, *Queen Elizabeth's* first voyage will be a seven-day cruise to Sydney.

Human Resource Manager

Ikara Wilpena Enterprises (IWE) is a unique property and is the only accommodation located within the Ikara- Flinders Ranges National Park, 430km north of Adelaide. A haven of outback hospitality, Wilpena Pound Resort offers a swag of accommodation, dining and touring options. This extraordinary landscape includes 800-million-year-old fossils unique in the world and has been home to the Adnyamathanha people for tens of thousands of years.

IWE have an exciting opportunity for an experienced, highly motivated, and enthusiastic individual to join their team as a <u>Human Resource Manager</u> at this stunning property. This newly created role will be responsible for all human resources activities and projects, including implementing contemporary HR policies and processes across the Ikara Wilpena Resort. This role will be integral to developing a resilient and capable workforce with a strong Adnyamathanha Yura presence.

You will develop a genuine connection with the region and community as you assist with the recruitment, development and succession of the local Adnyamathanha Yura and other First Nations People. This role is ideal for someone who is aligned with the strong cultural and spiritual significance of the First Nations People.

You must have the ability to balance strategic and operational focus, with a hands-on approach together with the flexibility and maturity needed to live in a remote location. An attractive package including accommodation and meals will be offered to secure the best talent for this role. Confidential enquiries can be directed to Delinda Kalic or Jedda Gito at Morton Philips on (08) 8210 8510.





Morton Philips

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Feel New Sydney

AN EXTENSION of the 'Feel New Sydney' campaign will promote the east coast city as Australia's premier sports and cultural events capital.

The New South Wales Government launched the reignited campaign today through Destination NSW, alongside The Sydney Side films.

They include snapshots of the sports and cultural experiences Sydney will offer visitors over the summer, against compelling footage of the city's famed landmarks and natural beauty.

NSW Minister for Tourism Ben Franklin said the films will build the Feel New Sydney brand and Sydney's reputation as one of the world's great event destinations.

Top End attractions

TRAVELLERS to the Top End will be able to enjoy new evening experiences at Adelaide River Inn, Daly Waters Pub, Katherine Outback Experiences and Red Centre Adventures NT by the end of Apr 2023, thanks to the second round of the Tourism Evening Experience grant program, which will see the four operators receive \$7,000 each.

Rocket blasts Spain

FALLING debris from a Chinese rocket caused air travel chaos last Fri, resulting in the delay of hundreds of flights across four regions in Spain and the closure of Catalonia's airspace.

Spanish airport operator Aena announced delays to 300 flights across its 46 airports in the country, while Spanish carrier Vueling cancelled numerous domestic and international flights.

First look at Atlantis the Royal



THE first images of Dubai's soon-to-launch luxury resort, Atlantis the Royal, have been released, alongside bookings opening up for 2023.

The 43-storey, new-build offers 795 rooms, including 44 suites and penthouses with private infinity pools, as well as an elite butler service.

Dining options include 17 bars and restaurants, while an outdoor entertainment experience called Cloud 22 offers VIP cabanas with private plunge pools, a swim-up

HKairport Rewards

THE Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) has launched HKairport Rewards, its new loyalty program offering members the ability to earn one Reward Point for every HK\$1 spent at the hub's shops, restaurants, and online store.

From now until 31 Dec, new members will receive a complimentary HK\$100 Airport Coupon and will earn double points for all eligible spending -CLICK HERE for details. bar and DJ booth.

Atlantis The Royal will also be home to Heston Blumenthal's inaugural cocktail bar, which will feature a 6.5-metre-high jellyfish aquarium.

Completing the picture of luxury are a vast array of fountains and water installations, including the first permanent fire & water performance fountain.

Jimmy brings eco

A NEW \$5 million premium ecocabin precinct officially opened at Jimmys Beach Holiday and Caravan Park in Hawks Nest, New South Wales yesterday.

The Reflections park now offers eight new solar-powered cabins for families of five, an easy access cabin for up to four people, a luxury salt water pool and high-speed wi-fi, as well as two new glamping safari tents.

Reflections Holiday Parks CEO Nick Baker believes the new accommodation will attract more tourism and see the area's visitor spend grow from \$2.2 million annually to around \$3.5 million.

Iceland hotel plans

ICELAND'S hotel sector is about to receive a shake-up, with a new player announcing plans to construct, purchase, and rebrand a portfolio of 12 hotels over the next two years.

The newly-formed Legendary Hotels and Resorts has confirmed its first site has already been acquired in the south of the country, with a full rebrand to kick off early next year.

Features of the soon-to-launch brand include flexible checkin and check-out times, free high-speed wireless internet as standard, seamless airport transfers, and premium coffee, wine, and meals.

While Iceland will be the initial focus, the company has already flagged intentions to expand on mainland Europe as well.

"Now that the worst of the COVID pandemic is behind us, we're optimistic about the growth of the travel industry in the next 5 to 10 years, and have identified a wide range of exciting opportunities for growth within Europe," the company's founder Dmitrijs Stals said.

Beyond Godmother

CELEBRITY Cruises' newest ship, *Celebrity Beyond*, has set sail from Fort Lauderdale to begin her inaugural Caribbean season, following an official naming ceremony led by her Godmother, Simone Biles.

The 19-time World Champion, seven-time Olympic Medallist and most decorated American gymnast in history, Biles' was chosen as Godmother for her "empowered attitude, and grace in the face of challenges".



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BROCHURES

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily*'s Monday feature. brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Viking - 2023/24 River Cruises

Viking is showcasing three new European itineraries in its latest brochure, which encompasses a range of destinations from Central Europe and Southeast Asia to Egypt and America. The new 15-day Lyon, Provence & the Rhineland itinerary from Amsterdam to Avignon explores the diverse cultures and landscapes of the Rhine River and France's Rhone River, and gives guests the opportunity to see grand cathedrals, historic cities

and medieval towns across four countries. The brochure also includes two new Christmas-themed itineraries, including the 12-day Christmas on the Main & Moselle from Paris to Prague, and the 12-day Christmas on the Rhine & Moselle from Paris to Zurich.



Trafalgar - The World Unlocked: Asia

Trafalgar is highlighting the best of Asia in its a focus on unique and authentic experiences, Trafalgar invites travellers to journey by river and road in small groups under the guidance of experienced, multi-lingual travel directors. stay at a Ryokan house, tour China's Tiananmen

Square and Forbidden City, enjoy a private market tour and cooking lesson with a local chef in Vietnam, and travel by rickshaw to be the invited guests for lunch at a family Hutong home in Beijing.



The Skal Club dresses to impress



THE newly crowned International Skal Club of the Year, Skal Club of Melbourne celebrated the Melbourne Cup in style at the Kennedy Oaks Day Extravaganza last week.

The group enjoyed live entertainment, giveaways, fashion shows and a tasty twocourse luncheon.

"We are so thrilled to have welcomed three new members to our Club," President Tara Strickland said.

"Our Oaks Day lunches have become a traditional celebration of the famous 'Ladies Day' of the Melbourne Cup Carnival, and

Melbournians sure do love to get dressed up," she added.

Pictured riding high on the day are: Rebecca Day, Stuba; Ingrid Berthelsen, ETC; Liz Anderson, Sundowners; and Ezio Russa.

Brazil warning

AUSTRALIAN travellers are being warned to exercise a high degree of caution in Brazil, due to an ongoing risk of violent protests ahead of the presidential inauguration on 01 Jan.

Travellers to Brazil should monitor the media and follow the instructions of local authorities.





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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher - Bruce Piper Associate Publisher - Anna Piper Senior Associate Editor - Adam Bishop, Associate Editor – Myles Stedman Contributors - Janie Medbury, Nicholas O'Donoghue, Anna Piper, Jenny Piper info@traveldaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi and Nicki Harford

advertising@traveldaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper accounts@traveldaily.com.au Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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