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Travel Daily on location in Antarctica

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Viking Cruises, which is hosting key industry partners on a voyage aboard its *Viking Polaris* in Antarctica.

AFTER navigating in surprising comfort through heavy seas overnight, today *Viking Polaris* is sitting off the Antarctic headland of Damoy Point, where a British mission was established in 1973 as a transit station for scientific personnel - more on **page four**.

Guests were given the opportunity of a Zodiac visit to the site, while one of the ship's Special Operations Boats has also been deployed here for some spectacular scenic cruising among the towering icebergs and surrounding mountainous terrain.

On board there's also plenty of opportunity to take in the scenery, including from the panoramic windows in the onboard spa, which is freely accessible and features a pool and full thermal suite.

LE opens first pop-up store

LUXURY Escapes is dipping its toes in the bricks and mortar space for the first time, revealing the opening of a special pop-up retail space in Chadstone, Victoria this week.

Luxury Escapes CEO, Adam Schwab, said the new pop-up experience will provide its customers with access to in-person guidance from its team of travel experts on how to build a personalised itinerary and discover elevated experiences.

"For the overwhelming majority of Australians, travel is top of

the spend list in 2023, and with life now well and truly back to 'normal' and cost of living front-of-mind, consumers are looking for the best...expert advice to help them plan the trip of their dreams and find seamless ways to maximise the whole experience," Schwab said.

Customers who enter the pop-up Luxury Experience store will also be eligible to take advantage of a range of exclusive in-person offers and promotions.

When asked if the pop-up was part of a longer-term ambition to enter the retail shop-front space, a spokesperson for the luxury online retailer said that "Luxury Escapes is launching the pop-up for now, but plans to explore an even more immersive in-store experience in 2023".

Queues can also be avoided by booking online in advance.

Brand USA webinar

AGENTS are invited to learn more about Native American experiences across the United States in Brand USA's webinar run in conjunction with the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA).

Coinciding with Native American History Month, the one-hour update will feature a detailed destination and product overview from the AIANTA, and will run on 30 Nov at 10am AEDT - **CLICK HERE** to register.

Earn an A&K cruise

AGENTS who book three staterooms on any A&K Luxury Expedition Cruise between 17 Oct 2022 - 31 Jan 2023 can earn a free cruise for you and a guest on your choice of eligible Luxury Expedition Cruises, which now sail to all seven continents - to find out more, see **page seven**.

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features six pages of news including our **Sustainability** page, a front cover wrap from **Qatar Tourism**, plus full pages from:

- Abercrombie & Kent
- CLIA
- Uniworld

Stop in Qatar twice

DISCOVER Qatar is offering a range of accommodation packages to turn one holiday into two with the world's best value stopover in Qatar.

Starting from \$19 per person per night, packages include four- or five-star accommodation of your choice, 24-hour check-in and check-out, as well as breakfast included for the luxury option.

For further details, see the **front cover** page.



Travel Daily On Board: *Viking Polaris* Explorers Lounge

The two-level Explorers Lounge at the front of the ship is where guests can gather for conviviality, conversation and cocktails while taking in the stunning panoramas of the Antarctic Peninsula. With a variety of lounges and seating arrangements, groups can sit & enjoy impeccable service from the bar, play some cards, or curl up with a good book at any time of the day or night.



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Build it and they will come

A **SPEAKER** at the Australian Tourism Export Council's (ATEC) upcoming Meeting Place conference in Cairns believes the country's strong tourism growth prospects are in danger of being derailed if worker shortage issues are not urgently addressed effectively by the sector.

Director of The Demographics Group, Simon Kuestenmacher, said that despite Australia's export tourism industry having a strong future based on demand trends, the critical component is how tourism operators plan to make the most of this growth.

"How do you offer a service to meet this demand without workers - that's the biggest issue for the tourism industry," Kuestenmacher noted.

The demographics expert added that given many people working in the industry are overwhelmingly young, one of the challenges is ensuring they

can afford to live and work in Australia given the rising cost of living since borders reopened.

"The reality is that workers and housing affordability are interconnected and the free market is simply not interested in providing low-income housing at scale, leaving employers with the option to look at providing that housing themselves or face a continuing struggle to find staff," Kuestenmacher observed.

Building more staff accommodation is "not a bad investment", he added, declaring it an area that both tourism regions and tourism businesses should collaborate on via a 'Titans of Industry' approach.

Meanwhile Kuestenmacher also pointed out Australia stands to benefit greatly from attracting a growing number of middle class Indian nationals to our shores.

Australia currently has a migrant skills shortage of around 270,000.

You're the SkyBoss

VIETJET Air has launched its SkyBoss Business, the carrier's most upscale ticket class which offers flyers the best flight experience on the wide-body A330 aircraft with private cabin, soft leather seats and in-flight premium services.

SkyBoss Business guests can enjoy numerous benefits, including priority check-in privileges, 18kg of hand luggage and one small bag not exceeding 2kg, up to 60kg of checked luggage and one set of golf equipment.

The service also offers private car transfers to the aircraft from the boarding gate; business lounge access; travel insurance; free change of dates, times, flights routes; as well as a premium menu featuring both Vietnamese and global cuisines.

SkyBoss Business tickets can be reserved now on the Vietjet website, mobile app or at official ticket agents and offices around the world.

Uniworld Black Fri

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection has launched a new Black Fri promotion.

Live now, travellers can score savings on select European spring sailings next year, and can access a waived solo supplement on a range of different cruises - see **p9**.

MH bonus points

MALAYSIA Airlines is celebrating 35 years of its frequent flyer program Enrich by rewarding members with three times the elite and bonus points until 03 Dec.

Travellers who book a stay via enrichhotels.com for travel before 12 Apr at any of its 400,000 properties worldwide can score bonus points.

Members can also choose to redeem any additional Enrich points earned on flights or an extensive range of experiences available on Enrich's redemption catalogue.



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Window Seat

WITH so much chatter about the FIFA World Cup currently taking place in Qatar, it's important to note that some of the hype has not been coming from human fans.

A psychic ferret called Kenny has also weighed in on one of the world's biggest sporting tournaments, predicting England would not fare well in their opening match against Iran - a prediction the cocky little mammal got wrong.

He resides at Tweddle Children's Animal Farm in Hartlepool, County Durham, and is choosing team predictions at the World Cup based on what food bowl he chooses to scrounge from.

Despite the first incorrect forecast, staff at the farm insist Kenny knows best.

A 2023 Renaissance

RENAISSANCE Tours has unveiled its pipeline of global itineraries, including around 80 individual tours, with departures starting in Jan 2023.

The launch marks the first time the Sydney-based tour operator has been able to offer a full international tours program since the start of the pandemic.

The new program offers a mix of tours and cruises themed along areas of special interest, including arts and culture, music, ballet and opera, gardens, and gourmet.

Highlights include the 10-day New York Spring Rhapsody led by music expert Phillip Sametz, which gives guests the best seats at seven performances in three iconic New York City Venues.

Also on offer is the Spring Gardens of Japan, where guests can see thousands of cherry trees at Shinjuku Gyoen and visit the Ashikaga Wisteria Park.

CLICK HERE to view the full Renaissance collection.



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Cosying up in Viking's Antarctica



THE Australian travel industry contingent on board *Viking Polaris* in Antarctica this week have been able to catch up with other Aussies on board - including famed polar expert David McGonigal, who is part of the onboard team as the voyage's resident historian.


McGonigal (**pictured**), who is currently in the middle of three back-to-back *Polaris* voyages, was

today on shore during a Zodiac excursion to Damoy Point, where authorities allowed guests to take a peek inside the fully-equipped historic hut, which previously supported aviation operations at a former British ice airstrip.

McGonigal has also been conducting lectures on various topics of interest, while back in Australia he is a regular presenter at Viking's popular info sessions.

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Iger mercy dash

THE Walt Disney Company has announced the return of its former CEO Robert Iger, who has agreed to lead the company again as it battles falling revenues and a diminishing share price.

The Disney stalwart takes over from Bob Chapek, who has stepped down from his position after less than three years in the role (**TD** 26 Feb 2020).

Before retiring as Chairman last Dec, Iger had clocked up more than four decades at the entertainment conglomerate, which operates theme parks and cruises around the world.

Vail jumps early

DUE to heavy snowfall, fourteen of Vail Resorts sites in the northern hemisphere have opened early this season, including Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Heavenly, Northstar, Kirkwood, Park City and Vail.

Plaza opens in LHR

PLAZA Premium Group (PPG) has announced the opening of the new Blush Lounge at London Heathrow Airport, located at Terminal 4.

The new lounge caters for up to 105 passengers, and features a spacious entry lobby and cosy spaces with several seats overlooking the runway.

Guests can also enjoy a buffet spread with a selection of food and drinks, as well as a wine menu and kosher meals which are available upon request.

The Blush Lounge is open to all travellers, regardless of airline or class of travel, between 3-5pm daily (except Fri), with guests able to save 20% on lounge packages for walk-in and online bookings when they sign up to the Smart Traveller membership.

Heathrow Airport Chief Executive Officer Ross Baker welcomed the new facility, declaring it "an exciting new hospitality option for passengers".

AFTA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



THIS weekend, Victorian citizens will head to the polls for first time since the state was so heavily impacted by

COVID-19.

While many issues have come to forefront during this election campaign, the values of both honesty and trust have been front and centre.

Both parties have put forward plans to kick start events and support regional tourism.

There isn't however a focus on attracting aviation back to Victoria which is critical to get workers back to Australia and bring back vibrancy to our cities which bore the brunt of the impacts of COVID.

Once this election is complete, the Federal Government through National Cabinet must honour its commitment to learn the lessons from various governments' COVID policies and immediately start the independent review process.

With three elections in our three most populous states in less than 12 months it was always

going to be challenge to kick off reviews which will have political consequences. However with the current spike of COVID in the community, some governments seem to not want to put away their emergency powers.

An initial review funded by the Ramsey Foundation and Minderoo Foundation engaged Peter Shergold AC to review Australia's response to COVID.

This review had over 200 consultations, 160 submissions and 3000 hours of data analysis and it identified four areas where we should have done better.

Economic support should have been provided in a fairer manner, borders should have been closed less, schools should have been kept open and older Australians should have been protected better.

The longer this independent review by Government for Government takes, the greater the potential for the lessons that need to be learnt to be lost. As businesses we were told by Government regularly to review and adapt our operations to survive.

Now we are asking Governments around Australia to do no more than they asked of us.



AUSSIE SPECIALIST Christmas TRIVIA EVENING

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Join the Aussie Specialist team for your chance to win some EPIC prizes with our fun, online trivia evening, just in time for Christmas!

We're giving away gift cards, grocery vouchers, Australian wine, gin, picnic hampers and much more!

MORE DETAIL:

Thursday 1 December, 7pm-8pm AEDT

[Register here](#)



UK falling behind

THE United Kingdom is in danger of “falling behind” on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production, Virgin Atlantic Chief Executive Shai Weiss has warned.

The Virgin head urged local government authorities to offer more support and incentives to encourage a greater number of companies to invest in SAF production sites within the country as part of plans to decarbonise aviation.

Weiss also told the Airlines 2022 conference that the US Government is offering more financial incentives for the production of SAF when compared to the United Kingdom, which is planning to introduce a mandate on the use of the fuel.

“There will be no domestic production [in the UK] before 2025 and UK airlines will be forced to meet their obligations abroad,” he said.

AIDA bamboo cycle

AIDA Cruises will use bicycles made from renewable raw materials such as bamboo on all of its ships in the future.

The cruise line has purchased a total of 1,155 e-bikes and bicycles for its 12 ships from My Boo, a German-based business which manufactures the products with a social project in Ghana.

12 GOLDEN PEARLS FOR WORLD EUROPA

BUREAU Veritas has awarded MSC World Europa the honourable 12 Golden Pearl environmental certification.

In presenting the award to World Europa’s Captain Marco Massa (pictured) last week, a representative of the Bureau congratulated the cruise line on “this highest notation and certification in terms of quality, health, safety and environment for a cruise vessel”.

“This recognition of MSC World Europa, is the adoption of an integrated voluntary scheme for the highest international standard for marine environment, for health and safety, for food safety, for energy efficiencies, and on top of that, very particular notations [of] the vessel...to prevent the potential pollution of air, water and to reduce waste”, the Bureau continued.

Collecting the award, Massa shared, “we are the biggest LNG



cruise ship in the world and we’re very proud of that”.

The vessel’s trailblazing environmental technology includes being powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), utilising solid oxide fuel cells, a selective catalytic reduction system, and enhanced shore-to-ship power capability, and more.

MSC Cruises notes that the “ground-breaking design with optimal efficiency and environmental benefits, [is]

bringing MSC Cruises one step further to its goal, to build zero emissions ships”.

World Europa’s sustainability was also celebrated by MSC Cruises Executive Chairman Pierfrancesco Vago at last week’s Naming Ceremony.

“MSC World Europa is our first LNG-powered vessel, with the lowest carbon footprint per passenger in the entire cruise industry...this is an incredible achievement,” Vago said.

BCD Travel adds VP of Sustainability

BCD Travel has added a new Vice President of Sustainability, Olivia Ruggles-Brise.

Ruggles-Brise will be responsible for aligning and driving initiatives for BCD’s sustainability focus areas, which include procurement, service performance, workplace practices, charity & community support,

environment & governance, ethics, and compliance, in addition to collaborating with industry stakeholders.

Her appointment is part of BCD’s over-arching aim to take “broader accountability across our entire sustainability program,” President & Chief Executive Officer John Snyder said in a statement.

Ampaire maiden

AMPAIRE has flown its Eco Caravan for the first time, its pioneering hybrid-electric regional aircraft.

The nine-seater reduces fuel consumption and emissions, and successfully completed a flight from CA.

Ampaire expects it to be the first electrified regional aircraft to fly commercially.

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MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.660

THE Australian dollar tumbled for the fourth consecutive day after news that the latest China COVID-19 outbreak caused three deaths over the weekend.

There is a fear among investors that the rising COVID cases in China could spark a resurgence of lockdowns, which would continue to have a negative impact on the Australian currency thanks to its strong trade ties with China.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.660
UK	£0.559
NZ	\$1.083
Euro	€0.645
Japan	¥93.84
Thailand	฿23.97
China	¥4.731
South Africa	11.44
Canada	\$0.888
Crude oil	US\$80.08

Quest gets moving with TEMI



QUEST Apartment Hotels has signed a new five-year partnership with the Australasian talent mobility industry professional development body, The Employee Mobility Institute (TEMI), an organisation that delivers training, networking and educational resources for workforce professionals.

Quest has supported the institute since 2012, and is also the presenting partner of TEMI's Australasian Workforce Management Awards Program, with the extension reaffirming Quest's commitment to supporting APAC professionals.

"In supporting TEMI we are supporting the wider corporate travel industry, which supports the livelihoods of Quest business owners at over 130 properties across suburban, CBD and regional Australia," GM Sales & Marketing Anthea Dimitrakopoulos said.

Pictured: The Quest team at the TEMI 2022 Australasian Workforce Management Awards.

Finnair dumps flights

FINNAIR has cancelled around 100 flights that were scheduled to depart Helsinki Airport between Sun and Mon, due to a cabin crew walk-out organised by the Finnish Cabin Crew Association, part of the Finnish Transport Workers' Union (AKT).

On Sat, AKT accused Finnair of poor management and "openly extorting its own employees to be able to slash wages".

The state-owned carrier said it will offer affected passengers a full refund, and added, "it is sad that the labour union has chosen the path of an illegal strike instead of negotiations".

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The role is based in Macquarie Park, Sydney with WFH on Fridays.

Qualifications:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills

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AC goes live on TV

AIR Canada announced it has become the only Canadian carrier to offer customers the ability to watch global sporting events and national news in real time on board its flights.

The airline has launched Live TV on select aircraft and domestic routes, featuring six Canadian English and French channels that are available as part of its complimentary in-flight entertainment programming.

Air Canada expects 50% of domestic flights operated by mainline aircraft to offer Air Live TV by the second of quarter 2023.



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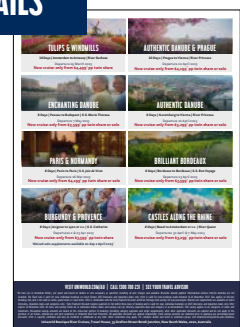
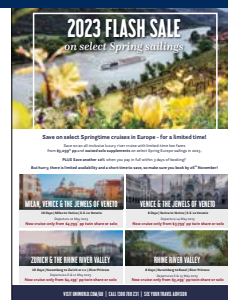
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