





Travel Daily First with the news

www.traveldaily.com.au Friday 25th Nov 2022

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.

USHUAIA, the "city at the end of the world" on the tip of South America, has welcomed Viking Polaris quests after their Antarctic sojourn, with an afternoon arrival the day prior to disembarkation providing an opportunity to explore the city.

The city is nestled between the Beagle Channel and the southernmost slopes of the Andes mountain range which divides South America, providing a spectacular setting for ship operations to and from the White Continent.

Ushuaia is also the capital of Argentina's picturesque and remote Tierra del Fuego island province.

About 90 ships will operate in Antarctica this season, most of them deployed from Ushuaia which is enjoying a post-COVID renaissance after two very lean cruise seasons.

Operations in Antarctica are coordinated by IAATO - the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators - which cooperatively manages landing sites and access to remote destinations to minimise impact.

Int'l traffic 70% shy of '19

INTERNATIONAL air passenger traffic in Australia for the 12 months to Sep was around 70% short of pre-pandemic levels, according to the latest update from The Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE).

The number of passengers on board international flights for the yearly period was 12.379 million, a far cry from the 42.279 million recorded for the 12 months to Sep 2019.

Total air seats available on international scheduled flights to and from Australia during Sep were 2.399 million, representing a decrease of 44.3% when compared to Sep 2019, while on the plus side, the overall seat utilisation percentage has increased to 88.9% from the 83% noted in Sep 2019.

Travellers Choice prepares to meet

THE 2022 Travellers Choice conference kicks off with a welcome party tonight in Melbourne before a full day plenary session on Sat.

This year the theme is "Never Normal" and will be held at the Crown Conference Centre, featuring keynote addresses, various presentations and member workshops.

Full details of the event will be covered in Mon's issue of TD.

The latest BITRE report also showed that Qantas Airways had the largest share of the market for the month with 17.6%, ahead of Singapore Airlines (12.3%). subsidiary Jetstar (11.9%). Air New Zealand (9.7%) and Emirates. which secured an 8% share.

Budget carriers Cebu Pacific Air, Indonesia AirAsia, Jetstar and Scoot Tigerair collectively accounted for 17.7% of the total international passenger traffic in Sep, ahead of pre-pandemic volumes in 2019, which was just shy of 15%.

Uber Travel lands

A LOCAL eblast from Uber has suggested its Uber Travel platform is preparing to land in Australia.

The service allows users to reserve rides and organise reservations for each leg of their travel itinerary in one fell swoop.

To access the service, users need to connect their Gmail account to the Uber app, allowing the ride sharing company to organise hotel, flight, and restaurant reservations all in one place, at the same time earning 10% back in Uber Cash for each reserve ride a user books with Uber Travel.

The pilot phase was the service launch in various cities across the US - for details. CLICK HERE.

Travel Junction sale

THE Travel Junction is offering up to 15% commission on thousands of its hotels worldwide until 30 Nov, as well as savings for your clients including three nights at Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort from \$426pp - see back page.

Win a trip to the NT

AGENTS can go in the running to win one of three trips to the Northern Territory by joining Tourism NT's live webinar on Tue 06 Dec at 11am or Wed 07 Dec at 1pm AEDT - see page eight for further details.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news including a photo page from AAT Kings, plus full pages from:

- CLIA
- Tourism NT
- The Travel Junction

CATO lunch sellout

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) upcoming Christmas Lunch event (TD 07 Nov) is now fully subscribed, with the 08 Dec gathering at Sydney's Ivy Ballroom expected to see more than 300 attendees.

CATO MD Brett Jardine said he was thrilled with the level of support from the industry for "what promises to be a sought-after annual event in our calendar".



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On Board: Viking Polaris The Living Room

One of the plethora of public spaces aboard Viking Polaris, The Living Room is a lounge area described as "the ideal setting for relaxation and conversation". Located on Deck five adjacent to the Explorers Lounge, The Living Room offers spectacular views through floor-to-ceiling windows. It's a comfortable space to watch the world go by - complete with attentive service from the staff who are keen to cater to every whim.

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Exxy airfares deter Aussies

RISING airfares and an overall increase in travel costs have put off more than a third of Australians from travelling, new research from Finder has revealed.

According to the national survey of 1,057 respondents, 31% of Australians think travel is "too expensive" and a further 5% have cancelled a holiday.

Despite the soaring expenses associated with travel, 35% of Aussies are biting the bullet and giving in to their travel cravings - the stats reflect this sustained travel demand, with ABS recording a monthly increase of 98,340 departures for Sep.

More than one in three plan to travel during the Christmas period, including 14% who plan to travel within their own state, a further 14% who plan to go interstate, and 8% who plan to head overseas - leaving 66% for whom travel isn't on the (Christmas) cards this festive season.

"With all the price hikes we're seeing at the moment, it's no surprise many Australians are thinking twice about their travel plans," Finder travel expert Stephanie Yip said.

"Pent-up demand, limited capacity and high fuel prices are driving up the cost of airfares as the travel industry attempts to recover from the pandemic."

The current flurry of Black Friday sales presents a great opportunity for Aussies to save on a holiday, Yip added, pointing out that some flights, hotels, car hire, experiences and activities have been marked down by up to 75%.

Yip also recommended that cash-strapped travellers set up a price alert for their favourite destinations and book as early as possible, avoid travel during school holidays and peak seasons, and fly on a weekday instead of on weekends.

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Coral Kimberley

CORAL Expeditions has announced 11 additional voyages on board Coral Geographer between May and Aug 2024 in the Kimberley region.

The new sailings will be the 10-night 'Original Kimberley Cruise' operating between Darwin and Broome, with highlights of the journey including Montgomery Reef and the Horizontal Falls, King George and the Mitchell Rivers, wildlife sanctuaries of the Lacepedes, and more.

Big day for Intrepid

INTREPID Travel recorded its biggest day of global sales in its 33-year history on Tue this week, which coincided with the brand's annual Cyber Sale.

The top-selling destinations booked by Australians during the Cyber Sale, which offers up to 25% off 2023 trips until 02 Dec, included Vietnam, Morocco, and Egypt.

CZ in talks with oneworld alliance

CHINA Southern Airlines is reportedly in talks with the oneworld alliance about becoming a member.

The Chinese carrier has been active in creating partnerships with various oneworld members in recent years, following its departure from rival group SkyTeam in 2019.

Wright Canuckiwi

CANUCKIWI has announced the appointment of Hannah Wright as its new Account Director Australia, a role which will focus on driving direction and awareness for its clients with the Australian travel trade industry.

Based in Melbourne, Wright brings over 20 years of industry experience to the role, including her most recent position at the APT Travel Group as North American Product Manager.





\$50 million of dreaming

ARDENT Leisure's Dreamworld theme park on the Gold Coast is preparing to invest more than \$50 million on the second phase of its future growth plan.

The cash will be used to significantly improve its appeal with new rides and worlds following a challenging period which has included the COVID shutdown and the Thunder River Rapids Ride tragedy in 2016.

New attractions will include the Wave Swinger (render **pictured**), which is due to open to guests in the middle of next year.

The ride is a family friendly option, seeing guests soaring over the iconic Dreamworld Globe.

Another new installation will be Circus at Dreamworld, launching this summer, and featuring free daily shows in the Big Top such as globe riders, aerial acts, comedy acts and hydro stunts.

A new immersive land called Rivertown will also be introduced, replacing the zone currently



occupied by ABC KIDS and The Wiggles Worlds, with a completely rejigged Vintage Cars Adventure and world-class family rollercoaster Jungle Rush to be the centrepiece of the new area.

The \$35 million rollercoaster will be designed by manufacturer, Vekoma and be suitable for kids and adults, boasting 'the world's first inclined turntable', as well as 12 different airtime elements.

"Despite the challenges faced, we have reached the milestone of helping guests...make memories for over 40 years, and this series of announcements will help us to ensure we make them for many more," CEO Greg Yong said.

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Uniworld ROTW '24

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection has announced a new 'Rivers of the World' cruise for 2024, a 55-night voyage taking travellers from Lima to Saigon.

Cruising aboard four Uniworld 'Super Ships', the voyage will depart 03 Oct 2024, taking travellers to three continents & 10 countries, in a combination of both cruise and land.

The voyage is limited to only 68 travellers, and will include a range of exclusive experiences and special surprises throughout the journey.

Starting at \$91,099 per person twin share, **CLICK HERE** for more.

ICC Sydney menu

SUSTAINABILITY is at the core of ICC Sydney's new 2023 Menu Collection.

Developed by its in-house team of culinary experts, ICC has developed low-carbon menu options using high quality fresh produce, across six core menus.



Window Seat

YOU might not have ever dreamt of sleeping in a closet under the stairs like Harry Potter, but Airbnb is now offering you the chance to spend a night in a wardrobe.

You can now stay in American musician DJ Khaled's sneaker closet (**pictured**), with a re-creation of the wardrobe listed for booking from \$16.

Located in Miami, the accommodation is only available on Airbnb, with guests also scoring an autographed pair of Air Jordan 5 sneakers.

The stay will be bookable from Wed - **CLICK HERE** to reserve your spot.





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CORPORATE UPDATE

Travel peaking, says FCM

THE third quarter of 2022 saw the highest peak in travel for many years, according to FCM Consulting's latest *Global Trend Report*, with the Australian market expected to be back to 84% of pre-COVID capacity in Q4.

The quarter also saw the highest seat capacity available for the year, with global volume down just 13% on pre-COVID numbers.

Forecasts indicate the Asia region will be leading the charge next quarter, with hopes it will return to 94% of 2019 seat volume by next month.

General Manager Felicity Burke said in Australia, domestic flights have provided the strongest fightback, now offering more than nine out of 10 of pre-COVID flights.

"Advanced booking days globally averaged 25 days in Q3 2022, but the biggest change we saw came in the form of longhaul, with international advance booking days jumping to 40 days - representing a 10 day increase on 2019 - a sign that corporate travellers are needing to travel and are booking early to get a seat." she said.

"Corporate travellers are incredibly savvy and would have studied the market to know that better ticket prices are booked further out - and with confidence that travel will not be interrupted with the lifting of restrictions - the extended booking period is now more than viable.

"The other interesting stat showed that the percentage of international trips versus domestic rose by +4 points in Q3 2022 - that's an increase of five per cent versus 2019."

FCM said the major stumbling block which remains is the continued closure of borders in China.

Once this changes, FCM expects capacity to truly take off.

It's all BlueSky for Concur TripLink

SAP Concur is growing in Asia-Pacific, with a new partnership integrating BlueSky with Concur TripLink to bring an end-to-end travel & entertainment experience to the China market.

The new integration to Concur TripLink's network of corporate booking portal integrations will allow companies to book air and hotel travel via BlueSky within China, and have those bookings automatically sync with their SAP Concur solution.

This integration provides an end-to-end solution for clients with business travel who need to streamline travel requests, bookings, and expenses, while maintaining the other benefits of their SAP Concur platform.

BlueSky owns all domestic air content in China with over 400,000 domestic hotels and 100,000 foreign hotels in its inventory.

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Merger rolls up its sleeves



THE Accommodation Association and Tourism Accommodation Australia are planning for a successful amalgamation, after a meeting of the planned inaugural directors of the combined organisation, 'Accommodation Australia' (pictured).

The future board came together recently to determine the priorities for the merged entity, which will become the sector's single national voice.

"Every day is another day closer to completion of the amalgamation process and we all welcomed the opportunity to get together and progress our thinking on meeting the big ticket items that continue to challenge our sector," the proposed

NT cruise boom

IT'S been a big week for Darwin's tourism industry with the arrival of three cruise ships within three days, starting with Holland America Line's *Noordam*, which arrived yesterday with 2,500 pax and crew onboard.

Cunard's Queen Elizabeth also called in to the Top End this morning, bringing 1,500 pax and nearly 800 crew, with a further 930 pax and crew to arrive in Darwin tomorrow onboard Viking Orion.

An additional 14 cruise liners and numerous other cruise ships are scheduled to dock in Darwin across the Oct to Apr season, delivering nearly 50,000 passengers during the city's quieter season.

President of Accommodation Australia, Leanne Harwood, said. "Workforce and skills shortages are...at the top of that list.

"Next year is going to be a landmark year as we unlock the power of a unified national voice in Accommodation Australia".

Listen up Canada!

DESTINATION Canada has partnered with Spotify to launch a new campaign that aims to inspire Australians to visit the Great White North.

From today, Aussies can listen to 'The Sounds of Canada' on Spotify **HERE**, featuring the 'Turn it Up' option, which recommends a Canadian city to users based on their music taste, and shares a personalised playlist with the music of that city.

The second option, 'Take a Breath', matches users with relaxing nature getaway sites in Canada and features a series of guided meditation walks.

WC fans stranded

FOOTBALL fans attending the Fifa World Cup in Doha, Qatar have been left stranded without accommodation, due to official fan villages being unfinished.

Supporters arrived at the Rawdat al Jahhaniya site only to find large areas still under construction, with wash basins and toilets not yet installed.

Those affected have been offered full refunds by the Qatari govt's Supreme Committee.

"Bleisure" on the up

WITH business travellers rounding out their last work trips of the year, Corporate Traveller Global Managing Director Tom Walley is encouraging road warriors to leverage discounts for long-term hotel stays, for a pre-Christmas bleisure getaway.

It is one of a number of essential tips Walley is offering the industry, to help business travellers get the most out of their work trip.

Walley said he has already seen more travellers choosing to blend their corporate trips with leisure this year.

"Executives are eager to travel again by lengthening their stays to spend time with family, sightsee or relax and reset," he said.

"In fact, our own booking data shows more business travellers have been taking extended trips this year: domestic trips have increased to 3.09 days".

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AAT Kings celebrates 'Our Country'

AAT Kings Group hosted a trade partner event this week in celebration of their partnership with the Australian Geographic: Our Country Immersive Experience with TEG and Tourism Australia.

The event included keynotes from Ben Hall, CEO of AAT Kings Group and Sharon Wilson, MD of Australian Geographic, with an exclusive showing of the awe-inspiring exhibition of Australia's magnificent and diverse

landscapes, running at the ICC until February 2023.

AAT Kings CEO Ben Hall said, "AAT Kings is delighted to partner with Australian Geographic in the remarkable event - Our Country. As an iconic travel brand with more than 120 experiences across beautiful Australian country, we welcome the opportunity to showcase both the celebrated and hidden destinations in a spectacular format."

See more about the experience **HERE**.



BEN Hall, AAT Kings CEO; Christine Poole, The Walshe Group (Tourism WA); Kate Shilling and Beatrice Rodriguez, Ultimate Winery Experiences Australia; Nicole Boyer and Matt Masson, CT Partners.





AWATEA Rikirangi-Thomas and Sarah Harrison, Tourism New Zealand.



TANYA Bacic, AAT Kings; Brett Jardine, CATO; Lisa Maroun, Enspired Plus.



REBECCA Setchell, AAT Kings NSW & ACT Sales Manager; Troy Ackerman, AAT Kings Head of Sales and Revenue; Emily Kadinski, itravel Carlingford and NTIA Travel Agent of the Year.



GRAEME Thomas, Igloo Media; Angela Cowley, Eight Communications, and Dianne Morgan, AAT Kings.



AAT Kings staff – Di Morgan, Tanya Bacic, Paulina Rozbicki, Celia Ho.



BEN Hall with Julia Zaetta, Zaetta Media

Company and Brett Jardine, MD CATO.

BEN Hall, AAT Kings CEO and Sharon Wilson, MD Australian Geographic.



CHARLIE Leong, Tourism Australia with Mitch Fitzpatrick.

TRENT Jolly, Flight Centre, and Sarah Pierson, AAT Kings.



TRAVEL SPECIALS



WELCOME to Travel Specials, Travel Daily's Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au

Royal Davui Island Resort in Fiji is offering complimentary couples' massages, snorkelling excursions and beverage credits until o1 Dec, with a travel period of o7 Jan - 30 Apr. Visit royaldavuifiji.com to book.

Cruise Traveller is inviting guests to save up to \$2,405pp on the new 25-night 'Grand Baltic, Scotland and Norway' fly, stay & cruise package with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines. Call 1800 507 777 to book by 31 Dec.

Travellers can snap up discounted fares to various destinations in Europe and Asia from Sydney or Melbourne, thanks to Etihad Airways' Black Friday Sale. Go to etihad.com to see the latest sale fares.

Explore Worldwide is offering up to 20% off hundreds of its bestselling tours for 2023. Sale runs until midnight tonight. Head to exploreworldwide.com.au for details.

Over 500,000 sale fares have been released by Virgin Australia for its epic Black Friday sale, with fares from as low as \$55 one-way for travel on select dates from Jan to Jun 2023 - see virginaustralia.com.

Eurail has announced 20% off its Global Passes, for travel between 24 Nov 2022 through to 01 May 2023. Discounted Passes start from \$414, representing a saving of \$104. Purchase before 29 Nov at eurail.com.

Cruisers can enjoy up to 25% off on select departures with Lindblad **Expeditions** for new bookings made by 28 Feb 2023, with agents offered \$1,250pp in bonus commissions - contact 1300 361 012.

Aussies can fly to Mauritius with Air Mauritius at the discounted rate of \$795 return, for travel between 05 Feb - 30 Jun 2023. Book by 02 Dec to take advantage. Head to airmauritius.com for further details.

P&O Cruises is putting on its biggest Black Friday sale ever, with over 40 itineraries departing Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide going on sale at midnight tonight. Visit pocruises.com.au to check it out.

Adventurers can save up to 25% off **Intrepid** trips departing between o1 Dec 2022 - 31 Aug 2023, including Trek Patagonia and Ultimate Galapagos: Central Islands. Sale ends o2 Dec - intrepidtravel.com.

Accor is offering summer stays from \$159 per night across its Australian and New Zealand properties, including Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort. Book before 31 Jan 2023. Head to all.accor.com to find out more.

Travellers can now save \$100 off Economy, \$200 off Premium Economy and \$400 off Business class on Cathay Pacific flights to Japan and Korea, with carbon emissions offset free of charge - cathaypacific.com.

Guests who book direct with Ovolo Hotels before 28 Nov will receive 40% off on selected Suites or Premium Rooms at all Ovolo properties in Australia, Hong Kong and Bali. See ovolohotels.com for T&Cs.

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Tiny Houses adds

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TINY Away has expanded its Queensland portfolio with the addition of several new selfsufficient, sustainably-designed 'tiny house' rural getaways.

The Golden Hill Farmstay is nestled on 168 acres of green pastures in the Bundaberg region, complete with farm animals.

Other additions include Rainforest Sunsets, a secluded and quiet retreat near Cairns, and Nomad Nation in the North Burnett Area, which is close to bushwalking trails, creeks and Mount Walsh National Park.

Air NZ adds 200,000

AIR New Zealand took delivery of its second specially configured A321neo on Wed. which combined with its first A321neo that arrived two weeks ago, adds 200,000 more seats per year to its domestic network.

Featuring one-of-a-kind jetblack Star Alliance livery, the new aircraft will take off on its first flight on 03 Dec from Auckland to Queenstown.

The Kiwi flag carrier is expecting to receive three more A321neos next year, with the final two scheduled for 2026.

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