



WIN a Tassie famil

TOURISM Tasmania is inviting travel advisors to build their knowledge of the destination by participating in a livestream webinar from Hobart.

Tassie Specialist agents who join the webinar and successfully complete a quiz at the end will go into a draw to win a spot on an “amazing famil to Tasmania”.

For more details on the Tassie Specialist training program and the upcoming famil see the **last page** of today’s *Travel Daily*.

SIA air fares rise

SINGAPORE Airlines has announced market fares on bookings from Australia to UK/ Europe and North Asia will increase for all new bookings made on/after today.

Bookings made up to 13 Oct will be honoured if confirmed by 2359 AEDT on Fri 28 Oct by using the AUEURNA1022 authority code in the endorsements box.

Just one sleep until NTIA

THE industry is set for a restless sleep tonight, as anticipation of the Australian travel sector’s first post-pandemic celebratory night of nights builds to fever pitch.

The 2022 National Travel Industry Awards will kick off from 5.30pm tomorrow at Sydney’s International Convention Centre, with the sold-out gathering set to celebrate excellence across 31 traditional and new categories.

Emceed by TV personality Richard Reid, the event will feature a live band, an aerialist and even a fireworks display to mark the resurgence of the Australian travel industry.

“The AFTA team are so excited to welcome everyone to a well-deserved celebration of our industry at the NTIAs tomorrow night,” said AFTA CEO Dean Long.

“While there can only be one winner in each category, it’s important to remember the Australian travel industry

has more than survived, we’re thriving post-COVID...this is a testament to the ongoing work of every travel business and every travel professional,” he said.

AFTA has also confirmed that the 1,200-plus NTIA guests will be welcomed by “arrival sponsors” Qatar Airways, Qatar Tourism and Discover Qatar, who together will showcase the destination as it prepares to host the upcoming FIFA World Cup.

As well as the formal award categories, attendees will have the opportunity to win big prizes courtesy of major sponsor Singapore Airlines as well as other key supporters including IHG Hotels & Resorts, which is backing the “Best Dressed” award.

As major media sponsor of the event, the *Travel Daily* team will be out in force at the NTIAs and you can track all the action online on our social media channels via the event hashtag at #NTIA2022.

AC Brisbane boost

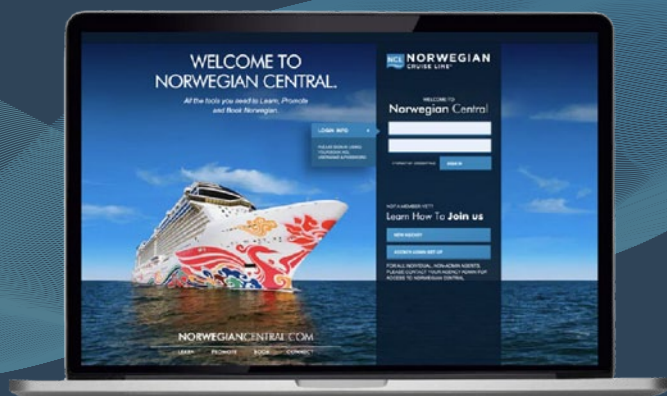
AIR Canada has confirmed it will lift frequencies on its freshly launched four weekly Vancouver-Brisbane flights to a daily operation from Jun 2023, with the announcement coming just three months after the route’s post-pandemic relaunch.

“This will mean Air Canada’s capacity into Brisbane is greater than pre-COVID...this is a great sign of the recovery and firmly places Queensland as a destination of choice for the North American market in time for their summer period,” said BNE CEO Gert-Jan de Graff.

Air Canada will also use larger Boeing 787-9s on the flights, an upgauge from the 787-8 variants which it utilised for its Queensland services in 2019.

Today’s issue of TD
Travel Daily today features five pages of news plus a full page from **Tourism Tasmania**.

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QF links east to Coral

VICTORIANS will soon be able to fly direct to Western Australia's Coral Coast, home of the World Heritage-listed Ningaloo Reef, for the first time thanks to a new Qantas service.

The Melbourne-Exmouth route will operate twice weekly return on Boeing 737 aircraft during Exmouth's peak season, from 30 Apr until 26 Oct 2023, shaving three hours off the existing indirect flight via Perth.

The new service is set to boost the region's economy, making it easier for Victorians to achieve the bucket-list experience of swimming with Ningaloo Reef's unique whale sharks and providing Coral Coast residents with direct access to the east coast.

Andrew David, Qantas Domestic

and International CEO, said the new route was a response to an increased demand among Aussies to "explore their own backyard".

"Home to Ningaloo & the Cape Range National Park, the Coral Coast is an unforgettable holiday and now we'll be able to fly Victorians there direct," he said.

To mark the launch of the new service, Qantas will make 2,500 seats available for the special fare of \$399 one-way when booked at least 45 days in advance, with the support of the WA Government.

Tourism Minister Roger Cook described the announcement as a major "win" for tourism operators and local businesses in the region, opening up the region to both interstate and international arrivals.

Radisson names MD

RADISSON Hotel Group has announced the appointment of Lachlan Hoswell as its new Managing Director Australasia.

He arrives in the position from Minor Hotels Australia where he held the role of Company Director, General Counsel and Commercial Officer, with Radisson confident Hoswell can manage a bold expansion plan for the Asia Pacific region.

"I look forward to working with the team to leverage my extensive industry experience to provide the guidance and leadership needed to facilitate the Group's ambitious expansion plans," Hoswell said.

His areas of expertise include negotiating hotel management agreements, hotel leases and franchise agreements.

Sabre renews UA

SABRE Corporation has renewed its distribution agreement with United Airlines on a multi-year basis, with the companies to continue NDC-enabled capabilities that support the airline's retail strategy.

Scenic Pristine NZ

SCENIC is showcasing the "pristine wonders" of New Zealand in its new 2023/24 collection, which features eight luxury land journeys including a new itinerary.

The 22-day 'New Zealand Revealed' journey from Auckland to Christchurch takes travellers to iconic movie backdrops in Matamata, the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua, the mountainous region of New Plymouth, and more.

Highlights include an overnight stay on the *Milford Mariner*, a traditional Maori Hangi dinner, and a sailing on an authentic America's Cup yacht in Auckland.

Departures are available in Oct 2023 & Jan to Feb 2024, with early bird prices starting from \$11,595pp - [CLICK HERE](#).



Window Seat

WE SURMISE there are probably thousands of Australian travellers out there absolutely pining for a merger between an airline's in-flight safety video and the smash-hit TV show *Glee*.

Well, yes you guessed it, Malaysia Airlines is the first carrier prepared to take that fabulous step, recently introducing a funky collection of tunes jam-packed with important air safety tips.

Being told what to do in the case of a nontraditional landing and how to correctly put on the oxygen mask is far less anxiety-inducing when set to the catchy backdrop of a toe-taping harmony.

We insist you check this one out **HERE**, and please, enjoy your head bobbing with Malaysian Airlines.



Checks not so funny

AMERICAN comedians Eric Andre and Clayton English are suing the Clayton County Police Department after claims they were racially profiled at Atlanta Airport last year.

The two men were stopped by officers and asked if they were carrying drugs, each on different dates, with the lawsuit arguing the checks violated their fourth and 14th Amendment rights.

"I didn't see any other black people boarding at the time, it's hard to believe I was selected at 'random' for questioning - it was a humiliating and degrading experience," Andre said in a statement this week.

Club Med

Club Med operates 70+ Premium to Luxury all-Inclusive beach and snow resorts worldwide.

Business Development Manager WA/SA

"The purpose of life is to be happy..the time to be happy is now and the place to be happy is here"

Club Med Founder Gerard Blitz 1950

Club Med Pacific is looking for their next superstar to join their dynamic team as Business Development Manager WA/SA.

- The successful applicant will be responsible for driving revenue and sales activities for the region through our strategic partnerships, whilst also exploring new opportunities to increase our brand positioning and awareness.
- Based in WA or SA, and reporting directly to the Head of Sales – Trade and MICE, the successful applicant will need to be highly self-motivated with the ability to work autonomously.
- As part of a wider sales team, the successful applicant will also need to be a team player and represent Club Med's premium upscale positioning.

All potential applicants must be a permanent resident of Australia.

If this sounds like you? Contact us at hr.australia@clubmed.com

Applications close 28 October 2022



South Africa drops

AUSTRALIAN travellers are no longer required to show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 or present a negative PCR test to enter South Africa.

However, due to increased crime, DFAT is advising visitors to Numbi Gate at Kruger National Park to exercise "situational awareness" and stop only at designated areas.

Tourism WA appoints

TWO new members on the Tourism WA Board of Commissioners have been named, with Cherie Sibosado and Michael Lloyd joining this week.

Cherie Sibosado is a Nyikin a and Bardi woman from the West Kimberley who arrives with more than 20 years of experience in community leadership, management, governance and development.

Meanwhile, Lloyd brings with him 16 years of professional experience in the events industry, with Tourism WA stating he "brings creative and entrepreneurial vision, and experience in brand strategy".

O'Callaghan's star rises again



DESTINATION Gold Coast Chief Executive Patricia O'Callaghan has been announced as the new head of Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ).

The well-known Qld tourism executive has been leading the Gold Coast's peak tourism board since Nov 2020 through the challenging period of the pandemic, with today's news to see her replace the outgoing TEQ boss Leanne Coddington, who will retire from the position after almost 10 years at the helm.

Crowing over the news was Qld

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, who said O'Callaghan would consolidate the state's strategy to become the most sought-after destination in Australia in the lead up to the 2032 Olympic Games in Brisbane.

"Patricia will head up our state's lead tourism marketing organisation and lead it through the post-COVID-19 tourism landscape, where we are well positioned to cement our reputation as Australia's best holiday destination," she said.

"It's also a really exciting time as we race towards the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics which is expected to bring a \$4.6 billion boost to trade and tourism for our state," she added.

O'Callaghan's appointment follows a shuffling of the decks in Qld tourism, with Queensland Tourism Industry Council CEO Daniel Gschwind stepping down from his role in Apr (*TD* 23 Mar).

No replacement at Destination Gold Coast has been named, with 600 applicants expected to apply.

PAL back to Bangkok

PHILIPPINE Airlines announced it will resume twice weekly direct flights between Cebu City and Bangkok from 09 Dec, to be operated with Airbus A321ceo aircraft on Mon and Fri.

The carrier previously operated a Cebu-Bangkok service from Dec 2017 to Mar 2020.

WTTC inks sustainability MoU

THE World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sustainable Hospitality Alliance, in a commitment to improve the environmental and social impact of the global hospitality industry.

The agreement will see both organisations work together to champion new initiatives and collaborate on new research projects with the overarching ambition of better "understanding the latest in sustainability innovation".

Indian air merger?

DISCUSSIONS have been initiated between Indian carriers Vistara and Air India about a possible merger, with Singapore Airlines Group, which holds 49% equity in Vistara, confirming talks are currently taking place.

If the deal goes ahead, the merged entity would create stronger competition for IndiGo and Middle Eastern carriers that carry a large volume of India's international traffic.

Indian air traffic is expected to double over the next 10 years.

Student backlogs

AUSTRALIA'S backlog of student visa applications, particularly those seeking entry from India, will be solved "by the end of the year", according to India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar.

Jaishankar said the situation had "improved already", with around 77,000 Indian students now back in Australia.

Discover Bora Bora

TAHITI Tourisme is inviting agents to complete a 30-minute webinar exploring Bora Bora and Conrad Bora Bora Nui.

The webinar will take place on Wed 19 Oct at 10am AEDT - to register, **CLICK HERE**.

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A fortnightly e-magazine to connect with your clients, featuring dreamy destinations and travel inspiration.

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CORPORATE UPDATE

BCD showcases 2023 trends

BCD Meetings & Events (M&E) has released its sixth annual trends report, revealing “meetings and events are back in a big way”.

The report says despite global inflation and workforce shortages, “the overall outlook for the industry is incredibly optimistic”.

In Asia-Pacific there’s a strong trend towards increasingly shorter event lead-times amid scarce hotel availability, “pushing planners towards quick decision-making” according to BCD M&E MD APAC, Sanjay Seth.

“This is challenging organisations at large to move fast through necessary internal approvals and pay down payments promptly to secure desired spaces,” he said.

Seth also noted that sustainability was a growing consideration when sourcing venues and suppliers, “but not a top decision maker yet”.

Virginia joins CAPA

AUSTRALIAN corporate travel veteran Virginia Fitzpatrick has been named as Key Ambassador for CAPA and its Corporate Travel Community (CTC).

The partnership will see Fitzpatrick help the organisation develop “discussions, events and programs that really reflect the needs of the corporate travel industry”.

Fitzpatrick said her new role included helping introduce CAPA/CTC to new people in the sector, identifying mutually beneficial opportunities and informing CTC how it can effectively support the industry moving forward.

“I hope to provide valuable insights into the planning of travel procurement workshops and events, including reaching out to the travel procurement industry to understand more deeply what they would like to see reflected as keynote CTC events or discussions,” she said - more at corporatetravelcommunity.com.

BCD M&E Global President, Scott Graf, said “we have quickly turned a corner and leave behind a long trail of restrictions and uncertainty...finding ourselves in a time of extreme change”.

“COVID has revolutionised the way we meet and the way we collaborate both internally and externally,” he said.

“It has shown us that experiencing human-to-human connections is not only essential for business, but for us all, as individuals.”

The report notes that forecasting spend for events in 2022-23 is very challenging, as costs have risen significantly.

“Cost-effective planning means booking venues far in advance and getting creative with budget-eating line items such as travel and food & beverage,” it says, noting that some planners are moving meetings to closer destinations and shrinking programs by a day or two in response to rising prices.

Interestingly, despite global economic uncertainty BCD is seeing strong demand from the life sciences sector which is “full speed ahead”.

The report notes that hot destinations for events currently include Edinburgh, Nashville, Reykjavik, Singapore and Lima.

Amazon CWT deal

GLOBAL retailing giant Amazon has selected CWT’s RoomIt hotel division to provide “comprehensive hotel category services support”.

The deal, which is an expansion of CWT’s longstanding business travel partnership with Amazon, includes sourcing, booking and rate reshopping for accommodation, “whilst helping to increase compliance to hotel policy and optimise Amazon traveller satisfaction”.

CWT also manages Amazon’s global air, rail and meetings & events solutions.



AFTA getting pumped for NTIA



NATIONAL Travel Industry Awards MC Richard Reid dropped in at the AFTA offices earlier this week to meet the team, as part of preparations for tomorrow night’s gala event (see p1).

Reid’s appearance is being sponsored by Gow-Gates Group,

with the team pictured including AFTA CEO Dean Long, Nina Hedges, Amanda Rixon, Jenny Le, Gina Dounis, LJ Loch and the outgoing Head of Compliance and Operations Naomi Menon, who this weekend wraps up her time with AFTA after 6.5 years.

SAVE THE DATE



Destination
STILL “STILL STANDING”
- A CELEBRATION FOR THE INDUSTRY

Seat
Four Seasons Hotel Sydney

Date
Wed 7 Dec 2022, 6pm til late

More information to come





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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

Travellers can fly direct from Sydney or Brisbane to Noumea from only \$599 return, with **Aircalin's** latest special. The discounted airfares are available to book by 28 Oct, for travel dates between now and 31 Aug 2023, with some blackout periods applying. To make a booking, visit www.aircalin.com.

Cruise Traveller is offering couples savings of up to \$350pp, and solo travellers savings of up to \$455pp, on its 12-night, all-inclusive Mekong Majesty cruise tour package from Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City. Call 1800 507 777 to book before 14 Jul 2023.

Cruise lovers can save up to \$1,400 per couple on **Viking's** 13-day In Search of the Northern Lights voyage from Bergen to London or vice versa, with the discounted price starting from \$6,995 ppts. Phone Viking on 138 747 to book before 31 Oct.

Outrigger Resorts & Hotels has announced between 25% and 50% off bookings at its resorts across the Asia Pacific region and Hawaii, as well as complimentary food and beverage packages. Included in the sale are Outrigger's premium vacation condos on O'ahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawai'i Island. For further details, visit www.outrigger.com.

QF gets push-back

QANTAS has dismissed claims of outsourcing and fatigue concerns after the carrier's domestic cabin crew applied to take protected action with The Flight Attendants' Association of Australia (FAAA).

The FAA said Qantas management "have threatened employees that they will not have access to work on new aircraft unless they sign onto new enterprise agreements that dramatically cut conditions", which include longer shifts for crew on the new Airbus A321XLRs and shortened rest breaks.

The earliest date for any proposed industrial action would be 15 Nov if the union's application is successful.

Wi-fi out of this world

HURTIGRUTEN Expeditions is set to become the latest cruise line to ever implement Starlink, SpaceX's broadband service, across its entire fleet.

Via a partnership with Speedcast, the high-speed, low-latency connectivity is expected to be available across all Hurtigruten ships by the end of this month, following a period of testing and integration which began earlier this year.

Hurtigruten said the "ground-breaking" wi-fi solution, which uses a network of low-orbit satellites to offer faster service, "puts [it] ahead of the rest of the cruise industry", with maritime coverage in Antarctica to be available by the end of the year.

New dawn for The Georgian



BLVD Hospitality is gearing up to reopen the iconic Georgian hotel located in Santa Monica, Southern California, in Jan 2023.

The historic hotel has been undergoing restoration works since the LA-based property developer acquired it in Aug 2020, with the goal of restoring the property to its "former glory".

The 84 guest rooms and 28 suites will be re-energised, alongside new and refreshed offerings, including the ocean-view sunset terrace, dining room, and sunset bar.

The landmark hotel also houses The Library and gymnasium, as well as two private meeting and dining spaces, The Writer's Room and The Gallery - the latter of which will showcase a revolving curation of work by international artists on a quarterly basis.

Details such as fully custom Art Deco furniture, ornate lighting, rare imported Italian marble, and the Sunset Bar's Havana Deco-inspired floor pattern ensure the

property retains its golden-age heritage.

Located on Ocean Avenue overlooking the Santa Monica waterfront, the Georgian first opened in 1933, and has hosted a number of famous guests, ranging from Hollywood stars Charlie Chaplin, Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe to First Mother Rose Kennedy.

Wine tourism help

WINE Australia, in partnership with the Australian Tourism Export Council, is offering free online training for wineries that wish to establish new tourism experiences, as well as businesses with established product.

The self-paced six-module 'Wine Tourism Ready' course will cover the topics on how to promote wine tourism experiences globally, while navigating the different industry stakeholders.

For more details and to register for the course, **CLICK HERE**.

Got a confidential tip? Contact *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click **HERE**

WIN A FAMIL TO TASMANIA TO MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

Join our livestream webinar from Hobart, meeting Tasmanian tourism operators as we take a walk around the waterfront precinct. Build your knowledge on Tassie during this interactive experience, and have your questions answered by local experts.

Tassie Specialists who register and attend the webinar and successfully complete a quiz at the end will be entered into the draw to win an amazing famil to Tasmania.

Not yet a Tassie Specialist? Complete our learning modules, attend the webinar and complete the quiz by 25 October 2022 to be in the running.

For more information and full terms and conditions, visit our Tassie Trade website.

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