Travel Daily First with the news

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Wednesday 12th Apr 2023

JQ Bali/Thai deals

JETSTAR Airways has launched a sale on its Bali and Phuket holiday packages.

Travel dates span from early next month to late Feb 2024, and holiday packages include return starter fares and accommodation - to view the full promotional details, **CLICK HERE**.



SAVE #\$1000pp ON SELECTED 2023 DEPARTURES

Explore more

AFTA board noms open

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) has today issued a call for nominations for an election of six directors, as part of the organisation's Annual General Meeting process.

Under the current AFTA Constitution each year half of the AFTA Board is up for re-election, with incumbents for 2023 including Vice Chair Christian Hunter from Travellers Choice, Corporate Travel Management's Laura Ruffles, Shelley Beasley of Webjet, and Helloworld Travel's Executive Director Cinzia Burnes.

Also up for election is Danielle Russom from American Express Global Business Travel who last month took over the board position held by Jo Sully, having already been her designated alternative on the AFTA Board.

A sixth currently vacant position on the Board is also available as part of this year's process. AFTA has published a fact sheet

Disney video wrap

DISNEY Destinations has released a video summary of its recent famil which saw 100 travel advisors from Australia and NZ experience the Disney 100 magic - see traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news including our *Luxury* feature page, plus a full page from **Oceania Cruises**. detailing the process, as well as the definition of Full Members and Concessional Members and how many votes to which they are entitled - **CLICK HERE**.

Prospective nominees must be either a Full Member of AFTA, or a Director or full-time employee of a Full Member, and have been engaged or employed in the travel industry on a full-time basis for at least six months.

There is a two-week nomination window, with forms required to be submitted before 5pm AEST on 26 Apr, along with any relevant biographical details.

FJ plots non-stop Canberra services?

CANBERRA Airport is set to once again become an international gateway for the first time since the pandemic, with Fiji Airways expected to later this week confirm new direct flights from Nadi to the national capital.

The move was flagged by the *Canberra Times* this morning, which noted concerted efforts by ACT and airport officials to get CBR back on the international map after the pullout of Qatar Airways and Singapore Airlines in 2020, neither of which have returned at this stage.

With FJ's burgeoning network now also including flights to LA, San Francisco and shortly Vancouver, the prospective CBR route would also provide a new trans-Pacific option.

Oceania discounts

OCEANIA Cruises is offering savings of up to 45% as well as reduced 50% deposits and OLife Choice benefits.

The generous deal can be applied to itineraries such as the 15-day Fjords and Cities of Norway voyage departing 23 Jul for details, see the **back page**.



Get Excited

The Lufthansa Group in partnership with Switzerland Tourism and The National Austrian Tourist Office will be taking 4 lucky agents on a famil to Switzerland and Austria in 2023.

More information coming soon

Sign up for updates lufthansaexperts.com

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Travel Daily



EY daily Canada

ETIHAD Airways is preparing to launch an additional weekly flight between Abu Dhabi and Toronto from 30 May, offering travellers a daily connection.

The carrier currently runs six weekly services on the route, and matches a similar decision made by rival Emirates (TD 11 Apr).

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO PLAN THE PERFECT QUEENSLAND HOLIDA

LEARN MORE



FLIGHT Centre's fast-growing luxury and Independent division is upping the ante with a new Travel Associates event showcasing "the very best one-ofa-kind luxury holidays and travel experiences".

With capacity restricted to 600 ticketholders, the event is scheduled to take place on Sun 30 Apr at Sydney's Hyatt Regency Hotel, with a \$30 cover charge per person.

Travel Associates said the event would be an opportunity for luxury travel aficionados to connect face-to-face with 40 travel partners including cruise lines, tour operators, airlines specialising in premium cabins as well as a curated selection of luxury hotels.

Although the Sydney event is a first for the brand, it's understood that Travel Associates is likely to expand the concept to other markets in the future, as it continues to reinforce its

Visit USA and win!

THE Visit USA webinar is set to return on 18 Apr with two live sessions to choose from, including an 8.30am session or a 12pm AEST time slot.

Agents can hear the latest news direct from Visit California, Handlery Hotels, Citadel Outlets and Karmel Shuttle Service, along with the chance to win some great prizes, including a \$100 gift card - CLICK HERE to register.



presence in the premium travel sector.

Regent Seven Seas, Lindblad Expeditions, Abercrombie & Kent, Explora Journeys, Luxury Gold, Virgin Voyages, Cunard, Switzerland Tourism, Viking, Silversea Cruises, Tourism Western Australia, Bench Africa, Etihad Airlines, Scenic, and COMO Hotels and Resorts are among the many brands set to be showcased at the massive event.

The event will also treat guests to wellness massages by Chiva Som and COMO Shambala.

ATEC in Adelaide

THE Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) has selected Adelaide as the host city for its annual Meeting Place event, which is expected to attract up to 500 tourism industry leaders to South Australia in Oct.

Run in partnership with South Australian Tourism Commission and supported by Adelaide Airport and the Adelaide Economic Development Agency, the three-day inbound tourism industry event will help showcase the state, helping drive it towards its 2030 target of \$3.3 billion in international visitor expenditure.

Don't Swiss this!

RAIL Europe has announced more Swiss panoramic trains on its b2b platforms and via its API.

The addition of Glacier Express and Bernina Express holds many promises, Rail Europe Chief Executive Officer Bjorn Bender said, with Switzerland one of the company's top destinations.

Referred to as "the slowest express train in the world", the Glacier Express connects the two major mountain resorts of Zermatt and St. Moritz across eight hours, via Andermatt in the central Swiss Alps.

Meanwhile, the Bernina Express crosses the Alps to connect Chur to Poschiavo in Switzerland and Tirano in Italy.

Access the new product HERE.

IHG expands in Bali

IHG Hotels & Resorts has expanded its strategic partnership with Indonesian conglomerate Mayapada Group, which will see its premium brand, voco hotels, debut in Indonesia.

The two-property agreement includes the 2024 opening of voco Bali Seminyak, a 162-key hotel located 20 minutes from Ngurah Rai International Airport, featuring a range of guests amenities including a restaurant and bar, meeting rooms, a health club and a swimming pool.

The collaboration also includes a second Holiday Inn Express property on the popular tourist island, the 72-room Holiday Inn Express Bali Sunset Road.

Dynasty Flyer Members can redeem Qantas Reward Ticket



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FCTG Independent on the small screen

A VIDEO wrap-up of all the fun from last month's Flight Centre Travel Group Independent conference in Singapore has been released, showcasing the SOARthemed action, presentations, break-out sessions, networking, gala dinner and more.

Check out the excitement at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Trimble takes reins

RENAE Trimble has commenced her new role as the new head of Accor Plus Asia Pacific, Accor's loyalty subscription program.

Trimble was appointed to the position in a shake-up of Accor's executive ranks last month (TD 06 Mar), taking on the division which provides benefits and experiences for around 360,000 members across the region.

She said she aims to make Accor Plus "the most competitive paid loyalty program in Asia Pacific".

Raise PMC at own risk

AUSTRALIAN travellers and visitors to our shores are paying some of the highest passenger charges in the world and should not be raised any further, AFTA CEO Dean Long has stressed.

The industry body's chief issued the warning in the lead up to the Federal Budget, arguing that "some" within government ranks would like to hike the Passenger Movement Charge (PMC) as an "easy form of revenue".

However, Long warned that any raising of the PMC in the Federal Budget would risk stunting the recovery of the travel sector by creating unhelpful disincentives.

"Increasing the PMC in our period of recovery would be extremely damaging not simply to overall demand but also Australia's competitiveness as a destination," Long said.

"Since its introduction, the cost of the PMC is now 122% higher than in 1995 (now \$60 per passenger) and is the second highest departure tax in the world after the United Kingdom's Air Passenger Duty.

"In 2019 it collected over \$1.2 billion, and critically, none of these funds go to the facilitation of pax or the processing of visas, as a result Australians and visitors pay at least twice through the highest visa fees in the world and increased airport charges".

Long added that according to IATA modelling, the PMC currently reduces passenger traffic to Australia by 4.2% a year. More from Long on page four.

Final Aman Jet Exp

SEATS are running out on Aman Jet Expeditions' itineraries for 2023, trips that will fly travellers across Asia, the Middle East and northern Africa.

Departures are schedules for Sep and Oct - CLICK HERE for info.



LEARN MORE ABOUT SWITZERLAND WITH TRAVEL DAILY

TRAINING ACADEMY

Trave Dai

COLLABORATIONS are all the rage for celebrities and upmarket brands - but it appears Tauck has long been well ahead of the curve.

The Travel Daily team was very excited last week to receive a gift-wrapped box from none other than New York's famed Tiffany & Co.

Opening it revealed an exquisite World Discovery



"trinket box" (pictured), which according to the inscription on the bottom (below), was exclusively designed in



no one

partnership with Tauck two decades ago - very classy indeed!

"I love paying booking fees on train tickets"



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Boating purchase

CAIRNS Adventure Group has acquired local marine tourism operators Bad Fishy Jet Boating and Cairns River Cruises.

The company already runs whitewater rafting, tubing, and waterfall adventures in the area, and is looking to expand and diversify its offering through the latest acquisition.

"Cairns Adventure Group is all about offering adventures for everyone, so this was a natural fit for us," the company's Director Roderic Rees told The Daily Telegraph.

"While the tourism industry is still rebuilding post-COVID, the opportunity to bring more water-based adventures into our exciting product range was one not to be missed.

"You'd be hard pressed to find anyone that hasn't enjoyed seeing Bad Fishy zooming up Trinity Inlet and if you've been lucky enough to go for a spin, you know what a buzz it is," he added.

Wednesday 12th Apr 2023

Rent out all of Mysa

THE owners of the MYSA Motel in the Gold Coast has announced the property is now available for exclusive hire for guests seeking private accommodation.

The seven-room resort can accommodate up to 16 guests, and features a magnesium pool and easy self-service check-in, and is located within walking distance to Palm Beach's busy district - email hello@mysamotel. com to find out more.

P&O brews up comp

THE Annual Coffee Championships at Sea has returned aboard three of P&O Cruises' Pacific Adventure, Pacific Explorer and Pacific Encounter.

The competition was co-hosted by Nestle Professional, with six baristas competing from the staff ranks who serve on the ships. Gilbert Mapa, Michelle Crandang and Glenn Kurt were

declared the winners.

AFTA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



managed to have something of a break over Easter after what has been an exceptionally busy few months. We are now

four weeks out from this year's Federal Budget, and frankly it's a relief not to be asking for another round of grants in support of travel businesses this time around.

This will be the second budget from this government, while the first largely focused on delivering on the promises of the election, this year's will no doubt seek significant 'budget repair' - code for reducing government spending and/or increasing taxes.

Some in government will be looking at the Passenger Movement Charge (PMC), Australia's departure tax, as an easy form of revenue.

The PMC was introduced in 1995 to replace the Departure Tax, to recover the cost of customs, immigration and quarantine processing of travellers and to fully offset the cost of issuing Australian short-term visitor visas.

Since its introduction the cost of the PMC is now 122% higher

than in 1995 (now \$60 per pax) and is the second highest departure tax in the world after the United Kingdom's 'Air Passenger Duty'.

In 2019 it collected over \$1.2 billion, and critically none of these funds go to the facilitation of passengers or the processing of visas.

As a result of this, Australians and its visitors pay at least twice through the highest visa fees in the world and increased airport charges.

AFTA has already made a number of representations to Government including to the Federal Trade Minister Farrell, Agriculture Minister Wyatt and Treasurer Chalmers, stating that increasing the PMC in our period of recovery would be extremely damaging not simply to overall demand but also Australia's competitiveness as a destination.

According to IATA modelling, the PMC currently reduces pax traffic to Oz by around 4.2% per annum.

Following nearly three years of closed borders, now is not the time to increase taxes on clients and our sector.

The government must allow us to recover and rebuild, and for this to occur we need to see impediments to increasing supply removed, not more barriers.

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OTA appoints local chief

BOOKING.COM has bolstered its strategic growth plans in Australia by appointing a new Regional Manager for Oceania this month.

Todd Lacey, who has been with the brand for eight years, will be charged with helping to spur on further growth in the region for the OTA, capitalising on the accelerated rate of travel bookings witnessed in the region over the last 12 months.



Schiphol appeal

THE Netherlands' Government will appeal a court decision preventing Amsterdam Airport Schiphol's proposed flight cap during 2023/2024.

The court ruling stated that Amsterdam Schiphol will not be able to reduce flights from Nov 2023 to Oct 2024, as KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and other carriers claimed they were not consulted as per European Union regulations (*TD* 06 Mar).

The "experimental" directive would see Amsterdam's flight limit cut from 500,000 to 460,000, with Minister for Infrastructure Mark Harbers saying the government will appeal the decision.

IATA Director General Willie Walsh said the Dutch court's ruling gives "vital stability for this year to the airlines using Schiphol Airport and maintains the choice and connectivity passengers value", adding the threat of wider flight cuts "remain real".

EU law states airports must conduct "a careful review" and demonstrate alternative measures are not capable of achieving the same impact. "Despite being one of the last markets to open following the pandemic, Oceania has accelerated rapidly and is now at the forefront of Asia-Pacific travel recovery," Lacey said.

"Many of the latest trends in travel, from alternative accommodations, innovations in sustainability and technology are led by our region ... we've been encouraged by the continued strength of demand from travellers last year and into the new year with major global events being hosted in Oceania, attracting travellers back to our shores and partners' properties." In addition to Australia, Lacey will also look after the New Zealand and Pacific Island markets, and was most recently interim Area Manager for South Korea for the past nine months.

Airbus struggling

AIRBUS has confirmed a worrying 11% drop in first quarter aircraft deliveries.

The aerospace company said it had delivered 127 aircraft in the quarter, down from 142 in the same period last year.

Industry sources told Reuters that deliveries fell short of an informal target in the high 130s, paving the way for a 12-week sprint for Airbus to steady its trajectory by mid-year, when it is expected to either confirm or review its annual target of 720.

DCL MagicBand+

DISNEY Cruise Line (DCL) will soon bring its DisneyBand+ MagicBand technology to its cruise ships.

Widely used at Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort, a preview opportunity on select *Disney Wish* cruises will be available before the DisneyBand+ officially debuts.

DCL said passengers will be able to unlock their stateroom door and charge room purchases.

The LA hills are alive



LOS Angeles Tourism & Convention Board recently teamed up with The Travel Junction and American Airlines to host the winning agents of the 'Ultimate LA 2.0 fam trip' on a whirlwind getaway to the City of Angels.

Over five days, attendees experienced the newest and most popular attractions the city has to offer, including a guided tour of filming locations in the San Fernando Valley.

Other highlights included a visit to the all-new Academy Museum

APAC sharp growth

TRIP.COM data has revealed soaring demand for travel to Asia-Pacific destinations this year.

The volume of inbound travellers to the region is expected to grow throughout 2023 and 2024, rising by 94% compared to the previous year.

Popular destinations include Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong, where Trip.com has noted the highest performance figures.

Japan has consistently been ranked among the top five destinations globally in terms of bookings and search volumes since entry restrictions were eased in Q4 2022.

Retreats by Raffles

RAFFLES Hotels & Resorts has introduced new well-being retreats under a new concept, Retreats by Raffles.

Debuting at Raffles Singapore and Raffles Bali, the concept will be available in select locations across the brand.

Personalised and co-created with wellness partners, each Retreat by Raffles will feature spa treatments, rejuvenation, wellness cuisine, and more. of Motion Picture, a visit to Grand Central Market, and witnessing the NBA team the LA Clippers take on the Chicago Bulls at the Crypto.com Arena in Downtown Los Angeles.

Pictured: Kathleen Brown, Los Angeles Tourism; Maddison Petersen, Helloworld Swan Hill; Marnie Lowe, TravelManagers; Renee Markwick, Signature Travel Orange; Chantelle Emerton, Helloworld Lake Haven.

IHG Nepal signings

IHG Hotels & Resorts has strengthened its presence in Nepal with four new luxury location signings.

Three InterContinental hotels and one Hotel Indigo have been signed across a number of diverse locations, including InterContinental Kathmandu Lazimpat, Hotel Indigo Pokhara Gharipatan, InterContinental Resort Pokhara Begnas Lake, and InterContinental Resort Chitwan, Meghauli, adding close to 500 rooms to the Asian nation.

Thredbo experiences

THREDBO has launched premium on-mountain experiences for its upcoming winter season.

Available to book now, skiers can watch the sun rise at Australia's highest lift point, enjoy special dining experiences at Kareela Hutte, and partake in the famous G.H. Mumm Long Lunch, as well as favourites such as Dead Horse Gap tours and Discovery tours.

Kicking off on 10 Jun and running through to 02 Oct, Thredbo has increased the number of bookings available for these on-mountain experiences.



luxury@traveldaily.com.au Wednesday 12th Apr 2023

Extraordinary Bentley

BENTLEY Motors has launched its Extraordinary Journeys offering, a travel series providing exclusive access to the most "inspirational" locations around the world.

Travellers embarking on the once-in-a-lifetime road trips will enjoy unforgettable driving experiences, including the opportunity to try a range of Bentley models, along with the finest seasonal cuisine, sustainable luxury accommodation, wellness experiences, and much more.

The series is bookable now in Scandinavia, New Mexico, and the UK, with more destinations to follow.

Silversea gets salty

SILVERSEA Cruises has partnered with the three Michelin-starred restaurant Mirazur to offer an immersive new culinary experience on the French Riviera.

Part of the ultra-luxury cruise line's S.A.L.T. culinary program, the bespoke shore experience is led by the restaurant's chefs, bakers and gardeners, and will be available during calls to Menton and Monte Carlo during summer 2023 and 2024 - **CLICK HERE** for further details.

DAYAWAY EXCLUSIVE MEMBERS-ONLY

DAYAWAY has announced its evolution into an exclusive membership marketplace for curated luxury experiences.

The Singapore-based hotel day experience booking platform launched in 2021 to offer guests access to special experiences at some of the world's most prestigious hotels and resorts, including Rosewood Hong Kong (pictured).

The platform has now introduced the Fine Hotels + Resorts collection of daytime experiences and benefits for members to use at their favourite hotels via its membership app. For US\$500 a year, members

can enjoy benefits such as access to exclusively designed daytime



experiences, up to 20% discounts at the hotel spa, up to 20% savings on all of the property's F&B, and up to 30% discount off the price of same day bookings.

The DayAway platform also allows hotels and lifestyle partners to sell experiences to their guests, and offers a seamless B2C Front End as well as a B2B Back End with inventory management software, revenue optimisation tools, data analytics and white label solutions.

The development comes after DayAway launched to the Australian market last year in partnership with four Aussie hotels, including the Park Hyatt Sydney (**TD** 22 May 2022).

COMO Journeys

GUESTS staying at COMO Maldives can now learn a new skill or improve an existing practice via one-off retreats and events offered as part of the new 2023 COMO Journeys collection.

The new offerings include an underwater photography class with award-winning photographers, a kitesurfing residency with a two-time world champion, and a wellness experience which focuses on movement, mindfulness and meditation techniques.

Travel & Cruise

Weekly

Heritage Line targets Australian cruise market

BOUTIQUE luxury cruise line Heritage Line has appointed Anne Wild & Associates (AWA) to represent it in the Australian and New Zealand market.

AWA is tasked with increasing brand awareness and driving sales in both consumer and reseller segments, and overseeing media relations, exclusive partnerships, agent and media famil trips, creative ideation and special projects.

With Asia and the Mekong River trending with Australian and New Zealand travellers during 2023, AWA's Managing



Director, Anne Wild, said now is the ideal time to showcase the cruise line's offerings.

Heritage Line Director of Sales & Marketing Andreas Schroetter added "our unique positioning as a niche luxoperator offering one-of-akind artisan on- and offshore experiences will be of high interest to the discerning Australian cruise traveller."

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Wednesday 12th 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.



The Ascott Limited's **Quest Watergardens** is officially opening on 17 Apr in Melbourne's north-west. The five-storey hotel offers 86 serviced apartments with a mix of studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments with fully furnished kitchens available. The resort also carries car parking space and a combination of conference

facilities to accommodate both corporate and leisure travellers.



Accor is expanding its portfolio in Malaysia with the new Mercure Miri City Centre set to become the brand's regional flagship. The 172-key property is conveniently located next to popular local attractions, shopping malls and the heritage centre. It is

home to an all-day dinning restaurant, a rooftop restaurant and bar, a cafe, as well as a rooftop infinity pool & a fitness centre. The new hotel also provides corporate guests with generous conference and meeting space spread across two floors.



Set to open in Q4 2023, Minor Hotels is preparing its guests a luxurious stay at the Anantara Jaipur Hotel. The property will feature 150 guest rooms and suites, an Indian specialty fine dinning restaurant, a rooftop restaurant & bar, a spa with five treatment rooms and a beauty salon. The hotel has also been designed

to meet the demand for weddings with a collection of indoor and outdoor venues available for up to 2,500 guests.

Ha Long heli crash

ALL helicopter sightseeing services are suspended in Vietnam after a deadly crash killed five people on Wed near Ha Long Bay in Vietnam.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam has confirmed the suspension after the crash of the five-seat Bell-505 helicopter, owned by Vietnam Helicopter Corporation, that killed the pilot and all of its passengers.

No flying will take place until an investigation is completed.

WA content push

TOURISM Western Australia (TWA) has partnered up with Urban List, a lifestyle publisher, to launch Live in Western Australia. a user-generated content campaign.

To break knowledge barriers and persuade Australians on the east coast and Kiwis to visit the state, TWA has launch the campaign to incorporate over 2,000 travel tips and experiences gathered by WA Urban List readers for travellers to curate their ultimate trips.

Travel Daily SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON TOKYO WITH TRAINING ACADEMY



Aussie agents see Sri Lanka



A GROUP of Australian travel agents recently participated in a travel agent familiarisation tour in Sri Lanka, organised by the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau.

Participants were able to explore iconic locations across the country last month, including heritage sites, wildlife adventures, boutique hotels, beaches, and Sri Lanka's famous hill country.

Highlights included a cooking demonstration in Habarana, with agents enjoying the traditional village cuisine, as well as a visit to UNESCO heritage site, the Sigiriya rock fortress, and the Dambulla cave temple.

UK airport cans rule

TRAVELLERS can now carry up to two litres of liquid through security at the London City Airport, courtesy of the new hightech security scanners.

The scanners will be introduced in Australia with an end of 2025 deadline, which also allows electronics to not be taken out.

Australia is a key source market for Sri Lanka. with over 10.000 Aussies visiting the South Asian destination during the first quarter of 2023 - representing a considerable increase in numbers.

Aton floats out

VIKING has announced its newest ship, the 82-guest Viking Aton will debut in Aug this year on the Nile River, with the ship floated out for the first time over the weekend.

The new vessel will join the group's growing fleet of state-ofthe-art ships which aim to match the strong demand of the voyages on the popular African river.

Featuring unique Viking aspects, guests will enjoy the indoor & outdoor Aquavit Terrace on board the vessel.

"We are pleased with the continued strong interest for our Nile River voyages... with the float out of the Viking Aton, we look forward to welcoming more guests to experience this region," Viking Chair Torstein Hagen said.

Travel Daily

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