

# VIKING EXPLORER SESSIONS









# THE VIKING EXPLORER SESSIONS ARE COMING TO SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, BRISBANE, ADELAIDE, PERTH AND THE GOLD COAST IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

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- There's an exclusive offer available to clients who attend
- Viking experts will be there to answer any questions you and your clients have and place bookings back to your agency
- Back-to-back sessions cover everything you need to know about Viking

To invite your clients to attend, download the flyer relevant to your city: SYDNEY | MELBOURNE | BRISBANE | ADELAIDE | PERTH | GOLD COAST

# Travel Daily First with the news

Monday 6th Feb 2023



#### **Explore with Viking**

VIKING Cruises is inviting travel advisors to bring their clients to a national series of Explorer Sessions, which are scheduled for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and the Gold Coast over the next two months.

All clients who attend will be able to access an exclusive offer, and agents will earn commission on all bookings their customers make on the day - even if the consultant doesn't attend.

Special flyers have been created for agents to download and forward to their customers - for more details see the cover page of today's Travel Daily.

### Flying appetite on the rise

MORE than a third of Aussies are expecting to fly more for leisure travel than they did before the pandemic, a new survey by Airservices Australia suggests.

The study of 1.000 people also found that 37% of travellers believe air travel is now essential to their wellbeing, with younger demographics placing the highest premium on air travel's relationship to mental health.

Around 45% of those aged 18-29 and 49% between 30-39 claimed air travel to be essential to wellbeing, while the same report also showed that close

to 60% of Aussies plan on flying internationally over the next 12 months, and 68% said they are intending to take a flight for leisure in Australia.

Airservices Australia CEO Jason Harfield said a period of suppressed air travel opportunities is one of the crucial factors driving the appetite rise.

"These findings really confirm for us how essential that air service is to the wellbeing of so many Australians," he said.

The report also noted that 5% of Aussies will fly less than in 2019.

#### Meet Collette!

**COLLETTE** is introducing its ever-growing sales team to the industry today in a special feature on page six - including contact details and a new role for a BDM in Victoria

The brand is also offering 10% discounts on small-group tours booked until 28 Feb.

#### Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today features five pages of the latest news, plus a front cover wrap from Viking and full pages from:

- Collette
- The Travel Junction

#### QBR points bonus **QANTAS** Business Rewards is

offering corporate customers the opportunity to earn 1,000 bonus Qantas Points on eligible bookings for travel until 31 May. Clients must register for the offer by **CLICKING HERE**, with the uncapped bonus points offer also

coming along with a promotion offering 20 businesses the chance to win a million QF points each. Travel agents are also sharing in the bounty, with an

opportunity to win one of five prizes of 100,000 Qantas Points by completing the Qantas for Business course on the QF industry Learning Hub.

For more details and to register, see qantasagencyconnect.com.

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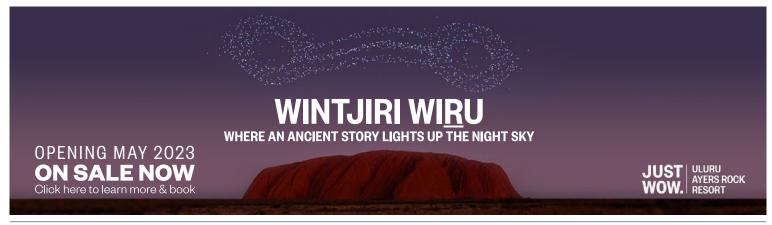
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PASSENGERS are rarely happy about paying for excess baggage, but a couple boarding a Ryanair flight at Tel Aviv International Airport really took things to some rather unpalatable extremes.

Arriving late to check-in for a flight to Brussels, they realised they hadn't bought an infant ticket for their baby - so reportedly then abandoned the infant in a baby carrier and rushed for the gate.

Airport staff contacted police who detained the parents for questioning, later reuniting them with the child.

Ryanair charges €27 for a baby to sit on an adult's lap, with the carrier confirming that infants can be included in flight reservations during the online booking process.

### Accessibility issues named

WORKSHOPS held during the Disability Royal Commission have uncovered a number of concerns about the poor accessibility of airports and airlines for travellers with disabilities in Australia.

The Chair of the Commission, Ronald Sackville, has revealed that a number of suggestions have now been put directly to major stakeholders in air travel, including airlines and airports, to help avoid future instances of harmful travel outcomes.

Criticisms emerging from the workshops, which included input from Paralympian Karni Liddell, pointed to a need for improved access to safe ramps, fewer damaged wheelchairs, and better policies to accommodate people who rely on assistance dogs.

In his letter to aviation stakeholders, Sackville said it was important to note the summaries are not findings or authoritative statements, however they are indicative that "people with disability often experience avoidable challenges when travelling by air and that more can be done by airlines and domestic airports to address those challenges".

When contacted for comment, Qantas said it was currently "considering the matters raised" by the Commission, restating its commitment to "carrying all passengers in a safe, dignified and non-discriminatory manner".

"Qantas and Jetstar are working hard to improve the experience for customers with accessibility needs, this includes undertaking ongoing sessions with customers and stakeholder groups representing people with disabilities to better understand their experiences and concerns," the carrier told *Travel Daily*.

The Commission hopes the responses will help shape better future disability travel policies.

# Vandekreeke bags new position

FORMER Carnival Cruise Line VP Australasia, Jennifer Vandekreeke, has taken a new role as Chief Commercial Officer at fashion house Oroton.

Since departing Carnival 18 months ago (*TD* 18 Jun 2021) Vandekreeke has been Head of Commercial and Guest Experience at NRMA Expeditions.

#### **GA** boosts flights

GARUDA Indonesia will expand its Australian capacity over the coming months, with newly filed schedules indicating Melbourne-Bali A330 flights will move to thrice weekly effective 02 Jul.

GA's Sydney-Bali frequencies will move to four times a week from 07 Jul, while Melbourne-Jakarta A330 services will increase to thrice a week effective 03 Apr.

Finally Sydney-Jakarta will increase from three to four per week effective 02 Jul.



# WIN 100,000 Qantas Points

We're giving away 100,000 Qantas Points to five lucky agents.\* To enter, complete the Qantas for Business course on the Qantas Learning Hub, fill in a short survey and answer a question in 25 words or less. Entries close 31 March 2023. Visit qantas.com/agencyconnect

Enter now

\*To enter, Eligible Entrants must during the Promotion Period complete the 'Qantas for Business' learning course on the Qantas Learning Hub, answer a short survey, and detail in 25 words or less 'How will you use your refreshed understanding of Qantas' SME products to unlock more value for your customers when flying Qantas' between 1 February and 31 March 2023. 5 winners will each receive 100,000 Qantas Points each. Entrants must be members of the Qantas Frequent Flyer program and provide their unique Qantas Frequent Flyer member identification number to be in the running. Visit qantas.com/agencyconnect for full T&Cs.



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#### **DL to Buenos Aires**

**DELTA** Air Lines is set to launch daily flights between New York JFK and Buenos Aires.

GDS screens confirm reservations are now open for the new route, which is scheduled to commence on 28 Oct using a Boeing 767-400ER.

#### India tourism in "mission mode"

**THE** Indian Government has announced a new approach to tourism, launching a competitive program for funding of up to 50 destinations across the country.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the move last week as part of her new budget, saying "there is large potential to be tapped in tourism".

"Promotion of tourism will be taken on mission mode with the active participation of states, the convergence of government programs and public-private partnerships," she said.

India has also flagged a shake-up of its international promotional arrangements, with the establishment of a new National Tourism Board to manage all overseas marketing.

**Tourism Minister Arvind Singh** told stakeholders at a PATA meeting last month that rather than having dedicated overseas offices, any physical work to be done in international markets will be done by existing government missions where the Ministry "has already appointed officers in 20 major markets".

#### Hong Kong opens

**THE** administration of Hong Kong has confirmed that all restrictions on cross-border travel from China into the city have been lifted.

COVID-19 tests are no longer required, and a previous 50,000 daily cap on traveller numbers has also been removed effective from today.

The reopening comes among several initiatives to restart Hong Kong's faltering visitor economy, including the unprecedented offer of 500,000 free air tickets announced last week (TD 03 Feb).

It's understood that similar restrictions which impacted travel from mainland China to Macao have also been lifted, with PCR tests only required for incoming travellers if they have travelled abroad in the previous seven days of arrival in either city.

#### Globus incentive

**GLOBUS** Family of Brands is inviting travel advisors to brush up on their knowledge of Globus, Cosmos and Avalon Waterways, courtesy of helpful tips and tricks from the "Globus Geni-us", who features in a series of videos.

The campaign showcases the portfolio of the group's more than 450 tours and 66 river cruises, with fortnightly videos to be released during Feb and Mar.

Prizes up for grabs for participants include Beats noise cancelling headphones, wine, gift vouchers, GoPro cameras and UNICEF donations - CLICK HERE.



### Get some of Sumba!



**THE** new Indonesian property represented by Craig Farrell and Lea Seguier's La Collection (TD 01 Feb) has been revealed to be Cap Koroso, a brand new luxury retreat on the island of Sumba.

The hotel features 47 rooms and 20 villas, and has been established by Fabrice and Eve Ivara, two "globe-trotting ethically-minded French adventurers" who are confident it will appeal to Aussies and Kiwis.

Guests will be able to discover the intriguing local culture and traditions by day, or enjoy water activities, hiking or biking, while the resort will feature a "lively and sophisticated vibe after sunset," according to the Ivaras.

La Collection Director, Craig Farrell, said he was excited at the addition to the portfolio, particularly given his background in luxury expeditions.

"I was familiar with Sumba and the unique traditions of the local people," he said.

"Cap Koroso is a place for true explorers, the ultimate launchpad to discover the island... and travellers who prefer to completely switch off and spend their days by an idyllic turquoise lagoon and nights meeting likeminded travellers while enjoying world-class cuisine will be just as much at home at Cap Koroso."

Sumba Island is about an hour's plane flight from Bali, and then a 40-minute drive from Tambaloka Airport, while a new direct flight from Tambaloka to Labuan Baio (Flores) also allows travellers to explore both islands in one trip.

See capkaroso.com.

#### Rex appointment

**HAYLEY** Freeman has been promoted within Rex Airlines to become National Sales Manager - Corporate, with her career also including former roles with Etihad, Cathay Pacific and Platinum Travel Corporation.

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#### Best Dec result ever

**REGIONAL** South Australia experienced its best Dec on record for accommodation in 2022, new data from global hotel analytics firm STR has revealed.

Representing the seventh month in a row of record-breaking occupancy, Dec 2022 saw average occupancy reach 62% across regional South Australia, generating 125,000 room nights and \$22.9 million revenue.

The wine regions of Adelaide Hills, Barossa and Clare Valley attracted the highest occupancy levels at 65% - significantly above the 54% pre-COVID Dec average.

For the year ending Sep 2022, new figures from Tourism Research Australia also showed visitor expenditure in the Adelaide Hills hit \$217 million - the region's highest-ever tourism spend over a 12-month period.

Adelaide Hills will enjoy another boost when the Wellness Wander event - which made its successful debut last year - returns in Apr.

#### Lost items auction

MORE than 3.000 unclaimed items went under the hammer yesterday at Sydney Airport's first annual Lost Property Auction in over two years, with bids starting from just \$5.

The money raised from the auction, which runs online until Sun 12 Feb, will be donated to Bayside Women's Shelter, which will use the proceeds to develop and fund a new social enterprise hub to help break the cycle of domestic and family violence.

Among the items up for grabs are laptops, headphones, phones and tablets, cameras, Bluetooth speakers, jewellery items, sunglasses, handbags, bottles of wine, a violin, an air fryer, a record player and even an outdoor sun lounge.

The auctions have raised more than \$1.4 million for various charities over the last decade.

To see the full catalogue of items, CLICK HERE.

### TA, Intrepid form RING

**TOURISM** Australia and Intrepid Travel have teamed up to form a Tourism Reconciliation Industry Networking Group (RING), which aims to support reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The informal industry-led group allows travel and tourism businesses with a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to "share challenges and opportunities, identify best practice in reconciliation and listen to... Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples...on topics relevant to reconciliation, culture and tourism".

The RING, which is backed by Reconciliation Australia, is made up of 16 blue chip brands, including Qantas, Flight Centre Travel Group, Expedia Group, Virgin Australia, Airbnb, Experience Co, Tourism Western Australia, VisitCanberra, South Australian Tourism Commission, Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, and Merlin Entertainments.

"Through tourism people can engage, listen and connect with the richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures in every corner on this

#### TOGA housing proj

**THE** Central Project housing initiative has launched in Sydney, set in motion by hotel developer TOGA Group, in partnership with Atlassian and Dexus.

The three companies have joined forces with not-for-profit organisation My Foundations Youth Housing to launch The Central Project.

Previously operating as the TFE Hotels' Adina Apartment Hotel Sydney Central, The Central Project has the capacity to house up to 50 people while they transition to more permanent accommodation.

The Central Project is located in Henry Deane Plaza in Haymarket, next to Central Station.

country," Tourism Australia's Head of Indigenous Affairs Phil Lockyer explained.

"As RAPs grow across the industry, being able to come together and to support and learn from each other and listen to diverse Indigenous voices will help us to build on our RAPs and challenges or ambitions."

The Tourism RING held its inaugural meeting on 30 Nov 2022, and will now continue to meet quarterly.

#### Daydream package

**DAYDREAM** Island Resort & Living Reef, located on Queensland's Whitsundays Islands, has launched a new Daydream Your Way package.

The offer includes a 25% discount at the bar, complimentary breakfast for each guest, 25% off ferry transfers, and a custom package of inclusions, such as a \$100 gift store credit.

Travellers can take advantage of the deal until 30 Apr for minimum four-night stays until 30 Jun.

For bookings, CLICK HERE.

#### Qantas seeks Pacific

**QANTAS** has applied to the International Air Services Commission (IASC) seeking the renewal of allocations to five different countries in the Pacific.

Among the applications are almost 18,000 seats to Indonesia per week, 700 seats per week to Fiji, around 200 per week to Cook Islands, 150 per week to the Philippines, and 100 seats on the New Caledonian route.

#### Big Red Everything

**AUSTRALIA** and New Zealand experience marketplace Big Red Group has announced a new partnership with Everything Travel Group's online tour agent, Everything New Zealand.

The partnership will see Big Red Group supply its Local Agent concierge booking platform to Everything Travel Group, allowing it to scale its direct B2B markets in New 7ealand.

The technology means that Everything New Zealand resellers, including airlines and tourism bodies, will now have the ability to offer easy experience booking solutions for their customers.





### **BROCHURES**

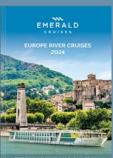
**WELCOME** to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily*'s Monday feature. aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and brochures@traveldaily.com.au.





MW Tours - Express & Signature Tours MW Tours has released a new mini brochure available in both print and digital formats, featuring highlights from all of its destinations. Among the pages, readers will find ranges of Express and Signature tours, as well as favourites chosen by Managing Director Navy Wang. Destinations include Africa, India, China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and more. The 11-day Southern Tanzania Sky Safari and Beach Stay is just one of the Signature tours on offer, which explores

some of the best national parks in the East African country.



Emerald Cruises - Europe River Cruises 2024 Emerald Cruises' new 2024 brochure showcases the return of classic cruises on the Rhine, Main, Danube, Rhone and Douro Rivers, as well itineraries. The 23-day Discover the Rhine, Main & Danube is an epic voyage from Amsterdam to Bucharest, and includes 19 excursions such as the EmeraldACTIVE guided bike tour to Waterland, around Belgrade, and to the Lepenski Vir archeological site and museum. New cruises for 2024 include the 10-day Danube

Explorer & Highlights of Budapest itinerary, which features an extended Castles & Moselle Vineyards river cruise from Amsterdam to Zurich.



#### AirAsia X adds Busan

AIRASIA X has recommenced services to Busan in South Korea. with fares from \$372 on sale now. Direct flights from Kuala Lumpur

to Busan are available for Aussies. with connections from either Sydney or Melbourne.

The inaugural flight departed from Kuala Lumpur International on Fri and becomes AirAsia X's 15th destination.

#### Pakistan warning

**SMARTRAVELLER** is advising Australians that terrorist groups in Pakistan, which are hostile to foreign interests, continue to operate within the country.

The threat of attack in Pakistan remains "very high", with Aussies advised not to travel to some areas, including Balochistan.

#### **UA** aircraft collision

TWO United Airlines aircraft reportedly clipped wings at **Newark Liberty International** late last week, with a Boeing 787 being tugged colliding with an Orlando-bound flight at the gate.

No injuries were reported in the accident, with the FAA now investigating how the two planes came into contact on the runway.

#### **UK China returns**

**BRITISH** Airways and Virgin Atlantic have both mapped out their return to China, with the two airlines to resume their networks to the country before the second half of the year.

BA is restoring its two prepandemic routes to China, starting with flights from London to Shanghai, which will resume on 23 Apr, operating daily using a Boeing 787-9 aircraft.

A second route from London to Beijing will recommence on 03 Jun, running four times per week using 777-200ERs.

Meanwhile VS will return to the Chinese market from 01 May, with a daily service between London and Shanghai.

#### Now Simply the best

**ACCOR** Pacific has this week signed on to become an official partner of TINA - The Tina Turner Musical touring Australia, produced by TEG Dainty.

To mark the deal, travellers can stay at Sofitel Sydney Wentworth from \$549 a night as part of a package which includes a Luxury Superior Room, welcome drinks, buffet breakfast, as well as two tickets to the big show.

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# Meet the Collette Sales Team!

The Collette team is here to support you in growing your retail and group business.

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1 x Los Angeles hotel booking from the collection of eligible hotels

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(min 3 night booking, through The Travel Junction)

...and go into a draw with a chance to win a place on our fully hosted 5 day/4 nights Ultimate LA 2.0. Agent Fam Trip with LA Tourism flying SYD – LAX return in the comfort of American Airlines Premium Economy.

Fam Trip will depart Sydney only, travel dates mid to late March 2023, to be confirmed. Terms and Conditions apply.

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