

Travel Daily

on location in
Christchurch, NZ

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Ponant, which is hosting guests on board *Le Commandant Charcot* as she docks in New Zealand.

LAST night, guests on board Ponant's *Le Commandant Charcot* enjoyed an extravagant cocktail party and gala dinner, celebrating the ship's inaugural visit to New Zealand.

Staying overnight, guests experienced the luxurious staterooms on board, which range from 20m² to 42m² in size, and are complete with a private balcony to enjoy.

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Fiji Airways flies your way

Fiji Airways is gearing up to introduce a new fare structure for its Economy class passengers, with the aim of significantly increasing its flexibility appeal.

Launching to the Australian and New Zealand markets from 03 Mar, the new 'Fly Your Way' concept will offer four categories: Lite, Value, Comfort, and Plus, all of which will offer the minimum of in-flight meals & beverages, entertainment, the accrual and use of frequent flyer points and at least one carry-on bag.

Rex bolsters fleet

REX Airlines has today signed a Letter of Intent to lease two more Boeing 737-800NG jets, with the pair of aircraft expected to arrive in Australia in Jun and Jul.

The latest announcement brings Rex's fleet of 737-800NG servicing the Golden Triangle on the east coast to nine, with Deputy Chair John Sharp stating its domestic services have performed "very strongly" since Nov last year.

Which routes the extra planes will service is still to be decided.

The Lite category is the cheapest entry option, sitting underneath the Value ticket, which allows for one additional checked-in bag and the ability to change tickets with fees.

Meanwhile Comfort fares offer two checked-in pieces of luggage, the added selection of a standard seat, as well as the option of cancelling for a fee.

The most expensive fully refundable Plus ticket will get pax priority boarding, check-in and baggage services, as well as the selection of a favourite seat.

The new structure is being supported by a new campaign (view [HERE](#)), and has been driven by new research from Fiji Airways which suggests 29% of Aussies want the flexibility to adjust a booking, closely followed by being able to refund a ticket.

One in five Aussies were forced to cancel a flight last year, the research also found, with CEO Andre Viljoen stating the new Economy structure will create added reassurance for Aussies when flying to Fiji.

For full details, [CLICK HERE](#).

AFTA secures Air NZ

AFTA has announced that Air New Zealand is now a major sponsor for its Women in Travel Summit on 13 Mar (*TD* 23 Jan).

"Thanks to the generous support of Air NZ as a major sponsor, AFTA can kick off our face-to-face events calendar with a bang and I'm pleased that this is only the beginning of our enhanced member engagement program," CEO Dean Long said.

Purchase Summit tickets [HERE](#).

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features eight pages of news including our **Sustainability** feature and a photo page from **AIME**, plus a product update from **Bench Africa** and a full page from **The Travel Junction**.

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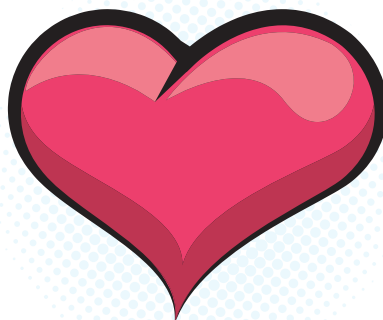
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Today's issue of *Travel Daily* is coming to you from the 2023 Asia Pacific Incentives and Meetings Event.

LAST night the traditional AIME welcome event took place at Melbourne's Marvel Stadium, and showcased exactly what the Vic capital can do to create a spectacular business event.

Delegates were treated to delectable tastes of local cuisine and beverages, enjoyed the talents of a host of entertainers and made the most of the opportunity to network.

Today the trade show kicks off in earnest at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, with thousands of appointments and plenty of business likely to be booked.

See **page seven** for more.

CATO counters crises

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) has announced it will host a special Crisis, Risk and Resilience conference at the Novotel Sydney Central on Mon 15 May.

The event, which is expected to draw in participants from across the travel and tourism sector, will highlight the importance of recognising and preparing for those challenging occasions when things go wrong.

Panel discussions and keynote presentations will cover a number of topics, including Australian Consumer Law, airport operations & disaster preparation, cyber security, and crisis leadership.

One CATO member will also share details of their Chaos to Calm case study, recounting the details of a major evacuation at the onset of COVID.

CATO Board Member and Travel Law Specialist, Aaron Zoanetti, will also deliver the keynote

address, drawing on his expertise to discuss the opportunities and risks associated with bypassing an Australian-based tour operator, and dealing directly with DMCs and offshore suppliers.

"We have curated an insightful program which will include topics critical to travel businesses such as legal matters, crisis communications, cyber security, insurance risk and crisis leadership, as well as sector-specific discussions delivered by a number of prominent experts," CATO Managing Director Brett Jardine said.

Tickets are priced at \$180 +GST for CATO members and \$220 +GST for non-members, with the price including the conference, morning and afternoon tea, buffet lunch, and a networking drinks - to register, **CLICK HERE**.

The full program will be made available over the coming weeks at www.cato.travel/events.

QF, partners tweak ACCC applications

QANTAS and its airline partners involved with three applications for authorisation of anti-competitive conduct with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) (**TD 07 Dec 2022**) have lodged addendae to their submissions, stating they are now comfortable with section 47 of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* not being included within the scope of any ACCC determinations.

The applications include QF alongside Emirates, China Eastern Airlines and Jetstar, with AFTA lodging submissions on all three of the proposals late last month (**TD 30 Jan**) as part of a public consultation process.

It's unclear what the implications of the latest additions to the QF requests are, with Section 47 of the Act relating to "exclusive dealing".

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Travel Daily

Travel Daily on location aboard Oceania Regatta

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of Oceania Cruises, aboard *Regatta* on her current trans-Tasman sailing.

OCEANIA Cruises *Regatta* left Sydney yesterday afternoon, with guests enjoying a spectacular sailaway underneath the Sydney Harbour Bridge before transiting the harbour to the open sea.

Our itinerary now takes us to Hobart for a day of activity tomorrow, followed by three days at sea including a Tasman transit and then cruising the spectacular fjords of New Zealand's South Island.

On board guests hail from many parts of the world, with local Aussies and Kiwis joined by Americans and Europeans.

Ponant enjoys record year



PONANT sales for the Asia Pacific region this month have already exceeded sales for the region in 2019, Chairman Asia Pacific Sarina Bratton shared last night at a celebration on board *Le Commandant Charcot*.

"All of us here in APAC have worked tirelessly over the past three years...and we've already doubled the 2019 turnover of Asia Pacific in the second month of 2023," she enthused.

"Whilst many in our industry have struggled, we returned to profitability last year, and 2023

will be a record year."

Bratton thanked Ponant's industry partners, saying "our company couldn't be a success without you."

"You know the contribution that you've made to our success and we want you to understand how much we value that."

Pictured: Rachel Kingswell, GM Travel Associates Australia and Danielle Galloway, Global MD Luxury and Independent brands at Flight Centre, enjoying a refreshing cocktail in the Observation Lounge.

Window Seat

BRITISH Airways is bringing romance back to the skies for Valentine's Day, offering guests a range of special touches and sweet treats to snuggle up to.

BA has launched a dedicated 'love is in the air' in-flight channel, featuring a range of romantic content.

For those planning a surprise getaway, there is also a range of British Airways' Holidays last-minute packages available, with passengers able to purchase Valentine's Day-themed gifts through British's Highlife Shop, and extra Avios points from specific retailers through the airline's Executive Club eStore.

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VisitBritain campaign

VISITBRITAIN has partnered with The Travel Junction on a new trade campaign that allows travel advisors to earn rewards via The Travel Junction's HELiO platform on itineraries to Great Britain.

The top-selling agent of the selection of self-drive itineraries available to book will earn a London City Break, featuring three nights at the Radisson Blu Edwardian Bloomsbury and a Go City Pass for two people.

Agents are also able to enjoy up to 15% commission on Great Britain packages through to 31 Dec for bookings made exclusively on the HELiO platform until 10 Mar.

MEANWHILE The Travel Junction is also offering agents the chance of winning a place on its Ultimate LA 2.0 Fam Trip.

To be in the running, bookings must be made for either four AA tickets from Sydney to LAX, or one eligible LA hotel booking - see **page nine** for more details.

Fukuoka relaunched

FUKUOKA Prefecture Tourism Association has relaunched its online training program, with prizes on offer for advisors who watch the three new modules added to the mix.

Four bottles of Fukuoka sake can be won, with the training covering outdoor adventures in the Japanese destination, as well as regions and highlights - **CLICK HERE** to start learning.

VA cuts MEL-TSV

VIRGIN Australia has confirmed the axing of its Melbourne-Townsville route, telling *Travel Daily* the service was "no longer commercially viable in the current environment".

The airline said guests who had booked to travel on impacted services are being proactively contacted by VA or their travel provider to provide alternative arrangements, with full refunds on offer when none can be found.

AFTA UPDATE

from Nina Hedges, Compliance Manager



THERE is no doubt that anyone working in the travel industry is acutely aware of, and feeling

the effects of, the high demand for travel and the stretch on resources.

We also appreciate that working in such an environment is not always conducive with an efficient working space.

Often, we become so bogged down that we do not take advantage of solutions and resources that are available.

Given this is the case, AFTA began the month of Feb with a webinar exclusively for our members to remind them of all of the incredible benefits and support that their membership provides.

• Have a tricky complaint to deal with? Don't spend days or weeks dwelling on how to resolve the matter, give AFTA a call and we will provide you with on-the-spot guidance to manage the matter productively and

amicably.

• Have HR Issues with staff and are unsure of the current guidelines? Give AFTA a call and we will provide you, at no cost, an Industrial Relations specialist to speak to directly.

• Want to promote your business on the radio or other media at no cost to you? Give AFTA a call and we will add you to our media roster.

These are just a snapshot of the numerous benefits we discussed on the webinar this month and we invite all of our members to please reach out any time for assistance.

AFTA is committed to industry excellence, and we understand that delivering benefits to members that allow them to be more productive is paramount in the current environment.

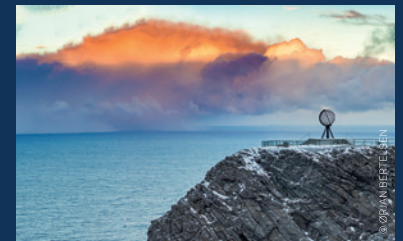
As we have done so many times in the past, AFTA wishes to acknowledge the resilience of all involved in our incredible industry - both members and non-members - and we wanted to take this opportunity to assure you all that AFTA will be here through this chapter and beyond championing for you and our industry.



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JQ cooks up seats

JETSTAR will commence its first non-stop flight from Sydney to the Cook Islands on 29 Jun, as well as increase year-round non-stop services from two to three times a week to cater for increased peak travel demand.

One-way fares for the service, which will be operated by Jetstar's newest aircraft, the A321neo LR, will start from \$369 for travel between 29 Jun and 31 Oct.

The third flight was announced in response to increased demand for travel to the Cook Islands, with the carrier revealing strong booking sentiment ahead of the inaugural flight.

Bonza in Mackay

NEW Australian airline Bonza has launched its first direct flight from the Sunshine Coast to Mackay today, with flights now on sale via the Fly Bonza app from \$59pp one-way.

The budget carrier, which sold over 10,000 seats in three days after its launch, has also released tickets for the Mackay to Cairns route, which starts 29 Mar.

Travellers flying with the airline will also soon be able to purchase air tickets for services from Bonza's big metro base of Melbourne, which will include a twice-weekly flight between Melbourne and Mackay.

RSSC cruises in golden style



THERE could be no better way to conclude proceedings at the Travel Associates Product Showcase update in Brisbane than painting the place gold.

The farewell Under a Lemon Tree in Capri dinner event over the weekend was brought to attendees by Gold Sponsor Regent Seven Seas Cruises, with the luxury cruise line giving away a sailing on the night to lucky winner Magda Kordysz from Travel Associates Norwood.

She was presented her prize by a glamorous-looking Lisa Pile, RSSC's VP Sales & GM, APAC.

Healy climbs aboard

JEREMY Healy has been announced as the new General Manager for Hilton Melbourne Little Queen Street, bringing 35 years of experience to the role.

FCTG winners named

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) Independent has announced the first two winners of its new agent incentive program, which it is running in conjunction with Adventure World Travel, G Adventures and Intrepid (**TD** 13 Jan).

Melissa Goodwin and Mark O'Neill, who were the top sellers of Intrepid trips for the month of Jan, will be able to pick from a range of 21 Intrepid trips, including Japan Express, Best of Morocco and Highlights of Italy.

There are still a bunch of prizes on offer before the incentive period wraps up on 31 Mar, including four \$3,000 G Adventures travel credits, three Adventure World Animals Asia travel packages and five Intrepid itineraries.



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LH goes green

THE Lufthansa Group is preparing to launch 'Green Fares' tomorrow, providing travellers with a way to fly more sustainably.

The new fares include the offsetting of flight-related CO2 emissions, achieved through the use of 20% Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and 80% by contributions to climate protection projects, as well as offering extra status miles and a free rebooking option.

The eco-friendly fares will be offered by the German-based Lufthansa, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, SWISS, Edelweiss, Eurowings Discover and Air Dolomiti on more than 730,000 flights per year.

AIR NZ REVEALS NEXT GEN MISSION

AIR New Zealand has announced several new long-term partners to help achieve its goal of replacing its Q300 domestic fleet with a more sustainable option from 2030.

Universal Hydrogen, Embraer and Heart Aerospace join Airbus and ATR to work with Air New Zealand to fast-track the development and introduction of zero-emissions aircraft technology for the regional fleet in New Zealand.

The partners are currently developing green hydrogen and battery hybrid aircraft with between 30-200 seats.

"Through our partnerships with Airbus and ATR, we've been able to deepen our understanding of the impact green hydrogen and



battery hybrid aircraft may have on our network, operations and infrastructure," Air New Zealand Chief Sustainability Officer Kiri Hannifin said.

"Adding Universal Hydrogen, Embraer and Heart Aerospace will broaden our knowledge of the technologies being developed for potential future aircraft."

"These partners were selected because they are taking action now to progress decarbonising the aviation industry," she added.

Air New Zealand has also teamed up with the Victoria University of Wellington's Robinson Research Institute to explore aircraft propulsion tech as concepts develop and mature.

Travel Daily On Board: Oceania Regatta



Vero Water service

Part of Oceania's Sail & Sustain program, the Vero Water Service on board Oceania vessels sees all suites and staterooms stocked with refillable and reusable Vero Water decanters, which are also used in all restaurants and bars.

Guests can refill their own bottles, and are also able to take them ashore as keepsakes, with the program eliminating millions of plastic bottles from the environment each year.

Sail & Sustain initiatives also include commitments to reduce Oceania's carbon footprint, work to preserve wildlife and much more.

NCL takes huge delivery of marine biofuel

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings has announced a new partnership with PRIO, which will see it supplied with the new B30 marine biofuel.

The new fuel is a 30% blend of advanced biofuel from waste feedstocks, produced at PRIO's biodiesel plant and blended at PRIO's tank terminal in Aveiro, Portugal.

With the support of World Fuel Services, two Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings ships were supplied with a total of 400 tons of ECO Bunkers B30.

Norwegian Star was loaded up with 200 tonnes of the fuel during a stopover in Lisbon Portugal, while *Norwegian Epic* received 200 tonnes of B30 the following week.

According to Luis Nunes, member of the executive committee of PRIO, advanced biofuels are "the solution of the present and that allow us to immediately face the growing needs of our customers".

For further information on the exciting development, see today's **Cruise Weekly**.

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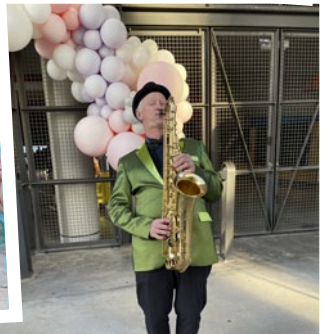
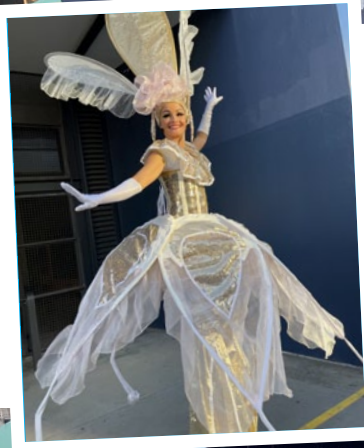
[CLICK HERE](#)

AIME celebrates turning 30 in style

AIME has celebrated its big 30th anniversary at Marvel Stadium in Melbourne, with the night starting off with a traditional Aboriginal Welcome to Country ceremony.

Attendees from all over the Asia Pacific region gathered to form a human "30" picture at the stadium field to capture AIME's iconic 30th moment.

The night was also celebrated with a DJ counting down the last 30 years of major hits.



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MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.697

THE Australian dollar fell last week as a result of tensions between the US and China, however it quickly recovered after the RBA announced its intention to push ahead with more interest rate increases.

Australia's job figures due to be released this week will also influence the AUD if employment growth is weak, possibly resulting in exchange rates taking a nosedive.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.697
UK	£0.574
NZ	\$1.095
Euro	€0.649
Japan	¥92.16
Thailand	฿23.56
China	¥4.754
South Africa	12.44
Canada	\$0.929
Crude oil	US\$79.72

AirAsia launches 7

SERVICES to seven cities in China will recommence for AirAsia as it targets the country as a primary market for strong post-pandemic growth.

AirAsia Malaysia will operate 10 services weekly from two hubs, Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu to Macao, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Kunming starting from 10 Feb to/from Guangzhou, and is aiming to increase this to 27 flights weekly in Mar.

AirAsia X will also see services flying to Shanghai, Hangzhou and Chengdu with 10 flights a week commencing on 01 Mar.

A snow-load of fun!



CANUCKIWI recently took five winning agents on a whirlwind visit to Alaska for the fifth and final 'Sell Your Way to the USA' 2022 incentive trip.

The winners included Alice Fisher from Flight Centre Broadway; Alfina Maugeri from Flight Centre Baulkham Hills; Cory Edmondson from Ecrusing; plus Tia Froehle and Katy Ouellette from Visit Anchorage.

The itinerary, which kicked off on 01 Feb with the group enjoying American Airlines' Premium Economy on their way to Anchorage, Alaska, was jam-packed with winter wonderland activities and adventures.

The agents participated in snowshoeing with Go Hike Alaska, tried ice fishing with The Bait Shack, piloted their own sled dog team with Alaska Sled Dog Tours, and went fat-tire biking with Alaska Trail Guides.

They also embarked on a snowmobile tour with Alaska Backcountry Adventure and had the option of skiing, snowboarding or visiting the

Nordic Spa at the Alyeska Resort.

The cohort also enjoyed a memorable train journey from Anchorage to Talkeeta on the iconic Alaska Railroad, which at the time was celebrating its 100-year anniversary.

Other highlights for the group included a brewery tour to three of Anchorage's best breweries with Big Swig Tours, dinner at 49th State Brewing Co, and a stay at Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage.

Pictured: Alfina and Alice enjoying puppy hugs.

Bring a client to Uniworld events

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has announced the details of its latest consumer event series, Aperitivo with Uniworld, in Australia and New Zealand.

The roadshow will help launch the cruise line's 2024 season, and is designed for agents to bring along a client to learn about the product, and also enjoy a tasty Aperitivo at the same time.

Uniworld is asking agents to reach out to luxury clients using its toolkit **HERE**, leaving the rest with Uniworld to organise.

Hatay Airport back

TURKISH Airlines and budget carrier Pegasus Airlines are among the first carriers to depart once again from Hatay Airport in Turkey after devastating earthquakes struck the area.

Hatay Airport is located 25km from Antakya in southern Turkey, close to some of the most impacted areas from the quake.

The airport's runway was damaged by the disaster, but this has since been repaired and has allowed for humanitarian flights.

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In Tanzania, visit Lake Manyara, the spectacular Serengeti National Park, and Ngorongoro Crater, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the world's largest intact volcanic caldera, home to

an abundance of Africa's wildlife.

Kenya's highlights include Amboseli, standing in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro and the acclaimed Masai Mara, home to the 'Big Five'. July through November, travellers may even witness the awe-inspiring Great Migration, an annual event of millions (yes, millions!) of wildebeests and zebras roaming the savannah in search of food and water. Lake Nakuru is another spectacle for rhino sightings and bird watching, including the magnificent pink flamingo.

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