



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of the latest industry news, including our heartwarming **Disney Moments** page and our **Corporate Update**, plus a full page from **Ponant**.



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1000MTG plots int'l growth

FOLLOWING its acquisition by Corporate Travel Management in Jul last year (*TD* 01 Jul 2022), 1000 Mile Travel Group (1000MTG) has this morning announced several new appointments designed to bolster its global expansion plans.

The three major markets identified for growth include the United Kingdom, the United States, as well as continued opportunities here at home in Australia, with the four new leaders entering the business charged with solidifying its goals.

Heading up the list of appointees is a new General Manager, Australia, Lauren Gray, a corporate travel specialist in the SME market, who stated she was very enthusiastic about 1000MTG's international growth opportunities.

"With the backing of CTM's proprietary technology and global buying power, it's a really exciting time to join the network," Gray enthused, adding she was

enamoured with the company's "entrepreneurial spirit".

Also joining is Global Chief Operating Officer Craig Constable, SVP and General Manager, North America Christy Shafer, and General Manager, UK Alex Locke.

"Under this leadership team, we'll be introducing standardised platforms...for corporate travel business owners across all regions, creating seamless access to worldwide travel content, and developing regionally relevant partnerships," 1000MTG CEO Ben Ross said.

More corporate updates on **p5**.

Scenic II on the way

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has announced *Scenic Eclipse II* is on schedule to make her inaugural voyage in Apr.

The ship will depart on her debut sailing on 13 Apr, the 11-day Incredible Iberian Discovery, cruising from Lisbon to Barcelona.

The inaugural season will also see *Eclipse II* explore the Mediterranean, Scotland, the Arctic and the Americas, before heading to Australia, the South Pacific and East Antarctica & the Ross Sea next year.

New enhancements include a Sky Deck featuring 270° views, and a brand-new Sky Bar.



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VA seeks Vanuatu

VIRGIN Australia is seeking to renew 900 seats a week on the Vanuatu route via a codeshare with Singapore Airlines, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways.

The move follows a similar request made last year which saw VA seek permission to codeshare with Qatar Airways and Singapore Airlines on flights to and from Bali (*TD* 29 Nov 2022).



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Cathay cracks one million

CATHAY Pacific carried more than 1 million passengers last month, a first for the carrier since the start of the pandemic.

The airline said it is seeing positive signs as it continues to rebuild and restore connectivity at its hub at Hong Kong International.

Cathay Pacific carried a total of 1,031,893 passengers last

month, an increase of over 4,000% compared with Jan last year, while the month's revenue passenger kilometres also increased by a whopping 3,807.3% year-on-year.

Passenger load factor also grew by 46.4 percentage points to 86.8%, and capacity, measured in available seat kilometres, also rose by 1,717.1% year-on-year.

"We carried on average more than 33,000 pax per day, up from about 26,000 in Dec 2022, and operated at 18% more capacity than we did in Dec," CX said.

FC NZ MD named

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group New Zealand has appointed Victoria Courtney to the role of MD, formally starting in the position in the coming weeks.

"Victoria is well respected, both internally by the teams and externally with her peers, and she has led teams across NZ, Australia and England, climbing to the station of Chief Financial Officer before taking up her current post," CEO Graham Turner said.

VietJet to SYD

SYDNEY Airport has confirmed that VietJet will launch its Sydney-Ho Chi Minh City service three-times weekly from 13 Apr.

The flights will be operated by an Airbus A330 fleet, with promotional fares on sale now from \$200 one-way.

This is for you Malc

IN SOME bittersweet news for Bonza this week, the new Aussie airline will soon be joined by its fourth passenger jet, but the naming of the aircraft will be in honour of a member of its team who recently passed away.

The fourth plane will be named "Malc", in recognition of the efforts of Malcolm Handley, who was the brand's Head of Network Operations and Planning.

"Malcolm Handley will forever be in the aviation history books and embodied passion, loyalty and leadership, we send love and condolences to his family and friends," Bonza said.

"This aircraft will soon take to the skies to help Aussies make new memories and we know that this would have made Malc beyond happy."

Handley had also spent close to 12 years with Virgin Australia.

Bonza's fourth plane will be based out of Melbourne, joining Shazza, Bazza and Sheila.

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.

AFTER another day crossing from Australia to New Zealand, tomorrow we are set for some spectacular scenic cruising through the fjords of New Zealand's South Island.

Milford Sound, Doubtful Sound and Dusky Sound are all on the agenda, with a packed program of commentary on the beautiful vistas, rich wildlife and spectacular landscapes of these beautiful remote places.

A cruise aboard *Regatta* provides the ideal vantage point, while guests can at the same time enjoy the huge array of culinary options, entertainment and activity on board.

Career opportunities



We are on the hunt for superstars to join our team in the following roles:

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- Business Development Manager - Victoria
- Contracting Manager - North America
- Head of Commercial

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We are always interested in talent, so if you are thinking of your next career - express your interest in a future role [here](#)

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Jetstar to resume CNS/NTL flights

JETSTAR is bringing back its direct seasonal services between Cairns and Newcastle from 24 Jun to 28 Oct (TD 22 Apr 2021).

The service will operate three-times weekly using Airbus A320s, and is expected to carry around 6,000 passengers per month, with one-way fares leading in from \$119 per person.

Intrepid is very cool

INTREPID Travel has launched its Antarctica incentive, with a trip on board *Ocean Endeavour* up for grabs for two lucky agents.

The winners will score a space in a shared cabin on the 11-day Best of Antarctica: Pristine Wilderness voyage, departing 02 Nov, as well as a \$3,000 voucher for flights.

Simply watch the Antarctica training webinar on Intrepid's Agent Hub and email the Learn and Earn answers to partners@intrepidtravel.com before 31 Mar.

Riding the rails in Africa



AFRICA Safari Co. CEO Susie Potter has recently completed a journey from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe on luxury train, Rovos Rail, as part of the Ultimate African Luxury Rail Experience.

The journey covers a distance of 5,530km over 15 days and 14 nights, with guests able to enjoy off-train activities including a game drive in the Selous National

Park, a stay at the Victoria Falls Hotel, a trip to the capital city of South Africa, Pretoria, the Madikwe Game Reserve, & a tour of the Kimberley Diamond Mine.

The journey wraps up in Cape Town, with views of Table Mountain and the Atlantic Ocean.

Pictured: Rovos Rail owner Rohan Vos was on hand to farewell Susie personally on her journey from Dar es Salam.



Window Seat

BRITISH writer and podcast host Emily Turner chose a rather unusual way to celebrate her 35th birthday, by riding a "bunch of buses" from London to Scotland with the aim of keeping the total cost to under £35.

Turner's epic 6,500km journey gathered the support of thousands of people on Twitter, who followed along as she caught 16 buses over three days, travelling only on those that fell under the UK Govt's £2 local bus program.

Turner, who also hosts the *Roundel Round We Go* podcast about the London Underground in her downtime, shared updates on Twitter throughout the journey, including photos and even a bus-themed playlist.



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Magic is in the air

THE high-pitched, joyous tones of Mickey Mouse are getting even louder this week, with two more travel advisors earning themselves a coveted spot on the highly anticipated Disney100 mega famil to the Disneyland Resort California next month.

The opportunity for agents to regale **Travel Daily** readers with their 'Magical Moments' of professionalism has been made possible through a partnership between **TD** and Disney, which this week made its fourth batch of selections (**see right**) for the Disney100 famil.

These agents showcase why agents have no peer when it comes to going and above and beyond for clients.

Those who want to join the famil can enter by submitting their Magical Moment **HERE**, or through the trade incentive **HERE**.

To qualify, agents must book any Disneyland Resort Park ticket and flights on United to the US.

Two more to enjoy Mickey's Magic!

TWO more travel advisors have been selected to join the upcoming Disney100 mega famil in Disneyland next month.

The dedication of Josie Allen from Warrnambool Travel (**inset below**), whose efforts made the difference on her clients' Californian honeymoon, has earned the Victorian-based advisor a spot on the big trip.



Allen's newlyweds had booked a trip to Los Angeles, with four days in Disneyland, and the bride had never travelled overseas before, and was naturally a little anxious. With how excited she was

by the opportunity to visit Disneyland, Allen and her team wanted to make sure the honeymooners had a stress-free, and ultimately "magical" time while at the theme park.

Allen had been able to undertake all of Disney's training models, and armed with this knowledge, she created an info sheet to help make their time at Disneyland as fun as possible.

"We think it is only fair that our clients have access to all the knowledge we have learnt so we have made up for all our clients travelling to Disneyland a Disney information sheet, which covers all information from - how to download Disney genie, how to make a booking at your favourite Disney restaurant, as well as all the new updates at the parks," Allen added.

"Our lovely honeymooners have had the time of their life and said that our Disney information was

like heaven on earth to ensure they had the most magical and stress free time."

Also joining the Disney100 mega famil will be Nikki Melvin from Flight Centre, who as a remotely based travel advisor, has been able to not only create a better-work life balance for herself, but help clients in their time of need.

Melvin was recently able to assist a customer who was trying to book flights for her brother and sister-in-law to travel the day of their father's funeral overseas.

"Nothing was working online, flights were available then they weren't, pricing kept changing and she didn't know who to trust," Melvin recalled.

"I happened to be online and saw her enquiry come through and within 30 minutes a flight was booked and the travellers were on their way to Heathrow to catch their flight within a few hours," she added.

Disney 100 | Disneyland Resort California

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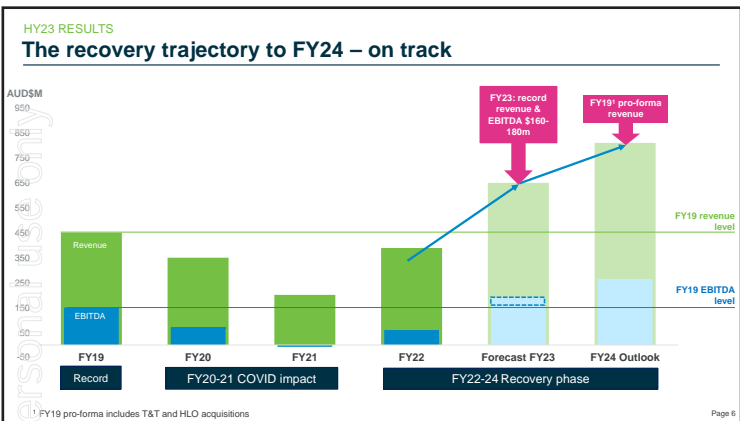
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CORPORATE UPDATE

CTM forecasts "strong momentum"



CORPORATE Travel Management is expecting a full recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2023/24 financial year, "well in advance of IATA's projections for travel activity", according to a presentation on the company's H1 results this week (**TD** 15 Feb).

CEO Jamie Pherous cited continued client wins and retention as well as "significant known large account wins" that will start trading with CTM in the coming months.

He said the company is monitoring potential recession impacts closely, but at this stage "travel demand remains strong with no signs of macroeconomic factors impacting the recovery".

CTM's North America operations were impacted by a stalling of corporate travel recovery driven by poor airport experiences and schedule unreliability, but activity has since "reignited" with Jan bookings the highest since COVID. In Asia, the reopening of China

is the "last piece of the puzzle for a full CTM recovery", Pherous said, while in Australia the acquisition of Helloworld Corporate had propelled the business to beyond 100% of pre-pandemic levels, albeit with an impact on the firm's revenue/TTV margin.

The HLO deal saw CTM take on the Whole of Australian Government TMC contract, which is currently the subject of a Request for Tender (**TD** 16 Nov 2022), with the results set to be revealed as soon as next month ahead of a May implementation.

German flight chaos

WIDESPREAD strike action at Germany's airports has seen Lufthansa cancel all flights out of Frankfurt and Munich today.

Pay talks with the union representing airport workers have failed, with the one-day shutdown also impacting airports in Hamburg, Bremen, Dortmund, Hanover and Stuttgart.



GBT re-signs with Amadeus

AMERICAN Express Global Business Travel (GBT) has renewed its strategic long-term technology agreement with Amadeus.

Under the ongoing pact Amex GBT will use a broad range of Amadeus solutions to deliver servicing and support for customers, as well as providing state-of-the-art disruption management solutions, the companies said.

Amex GBT Executive VP of Global Supplier Partnerships, Rajiv Ahluwalia, said "having the most valuable marketplace in travel means delivering the best-in-class air, hotel and ground content, along with a full suite of servicing products and capabilities for our clients".

"As a key partner, Amadeus is ideally placed to help us deliver value for customers and suppliers

and continue to bring innovation into the marketplace."

Amadeus Chief Commercial Officer, Travel, Americas, Rajiv Rajian said the technology company looked forward to continuing to work with Amex GBT to support its growth for many years to come.

"Our reach across the travel ecosystem means we can connect the dots in ways that help overcome content fragmentation," Rajian said.

Sabre cites pick-up in corporate travel

SABRE Corporation CEO Sean Menke says a hiccup in corporate travel demand in late Nov and Dec appears to have been momentary, with Sabre's TMC business now running about 9% above Dec levels.

Commenting on the company's results for the fourth quarter of 2022, Menke cited key trends including increasing air capacity which is likely to unlock "robust consumer and corporate demand", with Sabre optimistic over the long-term with regards to the travel recovery.

Sabre's overall result for the full year was a US\$457m loss on US\$2.5 billion in revenue, which was a 50% increase on 2021.

The company said it had exceeded its 2022 technology transformation targets, including moving 66% of its total compute capacity to Google Cloud.

Skyteam Sao Paulo lounge opening

THE Skyteam alliance has opened a new 180-guest lounge at Brazil's Sao Paulo-Guarulhos International Airport.

The lounge is open 24/7 and available to Skyteam Elite Plus members as well as premium passengers flying with Air Europa and Aeromexico.

It's been developed in partnership with Global Lounge Network, which also partners with Skyteam for lounges in Vancouver, Istanbul and Santiago de Chile.



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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

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is offering a 53-night fly, stay and cruise package exclusive to Australians starting from \$18,695, with savings up to \$1,275pp when booked before 31 Mar. The package includes a half-world voyage to cruise from Sydney on 27 Feb to Southampton through 20 destinations. Call 1800 507 777 for more details.

Stay at the **Novotel Sydney Darling Square** for \$399 per night and receive two complimentary Pride cocktails and \$30 food & beverage credit to use in the Pride themed PS Wine Cafe. On-site bar Pumphouse Sydney will also be featuring colourful beverages to celebrate Pride Month, with DJ performances every Fri & Sat. View the Pride Month celebration promotion details [HERE](#).

Book now and save up to \$3,400 per couple on selected deals of the week from **Viking**. Discounted prices start from \$2,995 per person on an eight-day voyage from Barcelona to Rome, \$5,995 per person to Athens from Venice on a 10-day voyage, and a 13-day voyage from Barcelona to Venice from \$7,795 per person. Call Viking on 138 747 to find out more.

VR gaming in PER

TRAVEL Point Group will introduce a Gaming Point VR lounge at Perth Airport from May.

The first for any Aussie airport, it will be located at Terminal 1 International and offer travellers a VR escape room with eight different scenarios for up to five people per session lasting 45 minutes, as well as individual gaming settings for both solo and online gaming with streaming internet.

Perth Airport's Acting Chief Commercial Officer Rebecca Cook welcomed the news, stating "we are excited to offer our pax increased entertainment options and look forward to partnering with Point Group as they deliver this new offer".

Travel Point Group is a JV of Gaming-Point and Luggage-Point.

Dest NSW appoints

DESTINATION NSW has appointed Samar Chokshi as its new Country Manager, India.

Chokshi was previously with Tourism Australia based in India, where he helped run initiatives to boost Australia's appeal.

MH assists Auckland

MALAYSIA Airlines is providing two additional flights between Auckland and Kuala Lumpur today and tomorrow to assist pax who have been impacted by the recent flight cancellations at AKL due to Cyclone Gabrielle.

The carrier is currently re-booking tickets for affected pax onto new additional flights and issuing new tickets where required; alternatively, pax can request a full refund or a change of departure date.

Tour De Vines pedals ahead



AUSTRALIAN cycling tour operator Tour De Vines has recorded its biggest month of bookings ever for Jan, eclipsing sales of any prior month in its 15 years of operation.

The tour company said it had noticed an increase in bookings for cycling tours from travel agents as bike sales also continued to boom during and after the pandemic, which has now positively impacted the broader cycling tourism market.

The most popular locations for Aussie cycling travellers have been the east coast of Tasmania, the wine regions of South Australia, coastal NSW, adventure trails in Queensland and the 'rail trails' in Victoria.

Tour De Vines founder Damian Cerini said his business also offers turnkey solutions for other tour operators who are looking to tap into this current rising demand for cycling tours, with options across the country.

Travel Daily On Board: Oceania Regatta

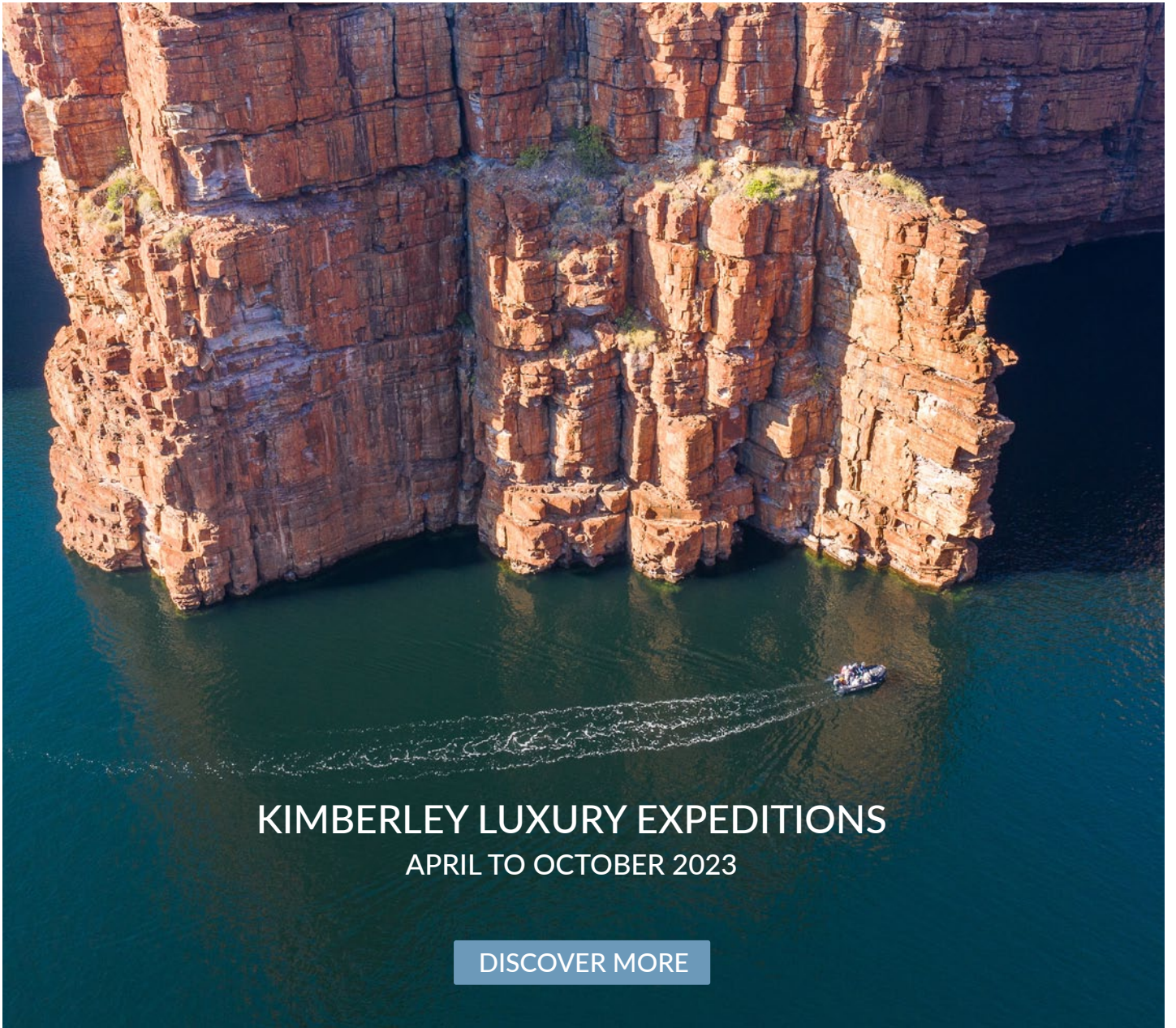


Regatta Lounge

Lots of the onboard action occurs in the Regatta Lounge, which can accommodate hundreds of guests for nightly entertainment, including musical performances, dancing or comedy.

During the day guests can also while away the time enjoying bingo, trivia and brain teasers, earning "Big O" points along the way which can be redeemed for Oceania merchandise at the cruise's end.

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



KIMBERLEY LUXURY EXPEDITIONS
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