

HAL Hockey pact

HOLLAND America Line has announced a new partnership with Hockey Australia, under which it will become the exclusive cruise line and Official Partner of the organisation, as well as a Major Supporting Partner of the national teams, the Kookaburras and Hockeyroos.

The pact will open up a new awareness of cruising among the hockey community, according to HAL VP of Sales, Ryan Taibel, with the cruise line's logo to feature prominently on uniforms among a range of other partner benefits.

Taibel said the agreement was also an extension of HAL's Dutch heritage, with field hockey being one of the most popular sports in the Netherlands.

Lots more of the latest cruise news in today's *Cruise Weekly*.



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Trans Otway shuts down

EXCLUSIVE

GEELONG-BASED Magellan Travel Group member Trans Otway Travel Pty Ltd (ABN 40 006 527 788) has had administrators appointed, after being placed into liquidation by some of its creditors.

The business has ceased trading, although its website remains active and still showcases its membership of Magellan, AFTA, ATAS and Cruisecco.

Two employees have voluntarily provided \$16,500 to cover the fees and outgoings for liquidator Scott Andersen from accounting firm Worrells Solvency & Forensic Accountants, in the event that the assets available to meet his remuneration from the liquidation are insufficient.

Proofs of debt are being sought from any creditors, with a deadline of 5pm on 18 Jan.

Creditors are also being asked to vote on various resolutions, including the option of objecting to the proposals being resolved without a meeting of creditors.

The initial report confirms the liquidator was appointed on 06 Dec after a series of meetings with former employees and Director, Kevin Roache, initiated in Nov to discuss potential insolvency options and the implications for the staff.

A list of creditors notes \$55,346 owed to American Express, \$700 for Travelport and sundry other suppliers, as well as about

Regent upgrades

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has announced an "Upgrade Your Horizon" initiative, including a free two-category suite upgrade to a penthouse suite and reduced 7.5% deposits.

The offer is valid for bookings confirmed from today until 31 Mar, across more than 400 voyages departing through until May 2025 - for more information call 1300 455 200.

\$60,000 in total owed to a range of individuals who are presumed to be clients of the travel agency.

AFTA has confirmed that Trans Otway surrendered its ATAS accreditation in Nov last year.

According to its listing on the Cruisecco website, Trans Otway Travel Geelong has been "offering great value and memorable holidays for over 60 years".

MEANWHILE, Philip Osborn, the owner of Melbourne-based Trans Otway Travel Melbourne (ABN 33 051 668 636), has confirmed that it was a completely distinct operation which has traded successfully under his separate ownership since 1990.

Osborn retired earlier this year and stressed that the business was "fully financially sound".

Glover joins News

SILVERSEA Cruises Asia-Pacific Marketing Director, Liz Glover, has left the cruise line to take up a new role with News Corp Australia where she will be GM of Travel Industry Product and Partnerships.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news including our **Sustainability page** and a full page from **Viking Cruises**.

Batik Air sets record

BOEING has congratulated Batik Air Malaysia for operating the world's longest scheduled narrow-body route.

The record was set on Batik's Melbourne-Kuala Lumpur service which utilises 738-8 aircraft (OD174/176) to travel 6,306km in just over eight hours.

MEANWHILE sister carrier Batik Air Indonesia has announced a new route between Jakarta and Hong Kong, with daily 737-800 flights to commence on 10 Feb.

NZ doubles Niue

AIR New Zealand will operate a second weekly seasonal service from Auckland to Niue over the 24 Jun-28 Oct winter period, with Airbus A320neo flights operating each Sat and Tue.

The expanded capacity coincides with the destination's popular humpback whale season.

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Window Seat

FUTURE international travellers may not need the services of a translator or even a tour guide, thanks to a new gadget revealed at the giant Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

The RayNeo X2 AR glasses from Chinese technology company TCL (**pictured**) promise to translate conversations in real time, among other features which also include smart navigation.

Inbuilt mapping “showcases nearby landmarks as you move, turning your leisurely strolls and bike rides into joyful city explorations” the company said, while the translation feature simply inserts subtitles into any conversation, displaying them on a tiny screen.

And holiday snaps are also a breeze, with a microscopic camera integrated allowing wearers to “create stills, videos and time-lapse from a distinctive first-person view”.

TCL RayNeo X2



INSPIRE GREATNESS

Bali tops Aussie travel search

FLIGHTS to Bali were the most popular travel search term on Google by Australians during Dec, making Indonesia the top prospective destination for Aussie travellers last month.

The latest Google flight search data also saw the US in second place, followed by New Zealand and then India, with the UK coming in fifth position, just ahead of Thailand and Fiji.

However when individual cities were taken into account the second most popular search after Denpasar was for flights to London, followed by Auckland, then New Delhi, with Nadi coming in fifth place ahead of Honolulu and Los Angeles.

Google’s search trends for Dec also highlighted the most strongly growing destinations, with Canada in top spot, up as much

as 50% and particularly high demand for flights to Vancouver.

There was also a big jump in searches for flights to China focusing on Guangzhou, while Dallas, Beijing, Manila and Apia also saw interest grow.

Looking at international inbound searches for flights over the same period, visitors from the UK topped the Google figures, followed by the USA, India, New Zealand and then Singapore.

Sydney was the most searched Australian city for international Google users during Dec 2022, followed by Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane and then the Gold Coast - but intriguingly when looking at growth, Rockhampton in Qld saw the biggest surge in interest from international Google searchers.

Viking sessions

VIKING Cruises has announced eight new upcoming free information sessions, with agents and their clients invited to register by **CLICKING HERE**.

The cruise line is also today continuing to showcase its Explorer Sale - see **page seven**.

VA loyalty bonus

SHOPPERS who have accrued Flybuys loyalty points are being encouraged to transfer them to Virgin Australia’s Velocity loyalty program, with bonus points on offer if movements occur in Jan.

Members will score 500 bonus Flybuys points plus 1,000 extra Velocity points for manual transfers of a minimum of 20,000 Flybuys points to Velocity in a single transaction.

Qatar Airways sale

QATAR Airways has released special New Year sale fares, with deals on offer in multiple cabin classes to destinations including the UK, Europe, Africa and USA.

Prices lead in at \$1,689 return from Sydney to Rome in economy and \$8,149 in business class, with other offers including a \$2,219 Perth-New York economy fare and departures available from MEL, SYD, BNE, PER and ADL.

The fares are valid for travel from 16 Jan-30 Nov and are on sale until this Fri 13 Jan.

SALES MANAGER - AUSTRALIA

Rocky Mountaineer is seeking an experienced travel sales professional to join their global sales team as their Sales Manager - Australia.

The successful candidate will be responsible for driving and maximizing revenue potential for retail, wholesale, custom groups, and group tour block accounts.

This role is open to applicants in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane.



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

For more details and to apply please click [here](#)
Applications close 20 January, 2023.

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You will lead a team of Key Account Managers/Sales Managers to maximise all sales opportunities, proactively create new opportunities and achieve sales targets. A strong focus will be on developing and managing relationships with industry partners and working with them on business growth opportunities beneficial to all parties.

How to Apply

Applications close Monday 30 January 2023

Apply on the Web at <https://kelsian.expr3s.com>



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Strong air traffic recovery

GLOBAL air traffic has now reached 75% of pre-pandemic levels, according to the latest figures from The International Air Transport Association (IATA). The statistics for Nov 2022 show that international air traffic rose 85% compared to Nov 2021, reaching 74% of pre-pandemic levels for the same period.

Global domestic air traffic was up just 3.4% on the same period in 2021, with travel restrictions in China impeding recovery, and hit 78% of the Nov 2019 level.

Asia-Pacific airlines reaped the strongest year-over-year rate among the regions, with a 374% upshot in Nov traffic compared to Nov 2021, followed by Middle Eastern airlines, which saw an increase of 85%.

Australia almost doubled its domestic traffic in Nov compared to the same period last year, with passenger traffic now sitting at just 17.5% below the 2019 pre-

pandemic level.

Industry-wide revenue passenger-kilometres (RPKs) grew by 41% year-on-year in Nov, climbing to 75% of 2019 levels, while seat capacity upheld a strong positive trend.

Despite the promising upward trend, IATA Director General Willie Walsh believes the reintroduction of testing for travellers from China may impede recovery (**TD 05 Jan**).

He said the encouraging Nov traffic results "reinforce that consumers are thoroughly enjoying the freedom to travel".

EY on sale today

ETIHAD Airways has launched a global sale, with fares from Australia leading in at \$1,664 from Sydney to Rome.

Business class starts at \$7,572 from Melbourne to Paris, with prices valid for sale until 17 Jan.

Cunard NZ changes

CUNARD Line has adjusted *Queen Elizabeth's* itinerary, cancelling a port call in Dunedin, New Zealand and a scenic sailing in Fiordland in order to carry out cleaning of the vessel's underwater hull.

However the ship's calls to Wellington, Lyttleton, Tauranga, and the Bay of Islands will go ahead as planned.

It is the fourth cruise ship to cancel port calls in NZ - see today's **Cruise Weekly** for more.

The new Address

ADDRESS Grand Creek Harbour has officially opened as the first five-star luxury property in Dubai's latest waterfront destination, Creek Harbour.

The 223-room hotel offers Executive, Panoramic and Skyline Suite options with balconies plus three-bedroom Presidential Suites, as well as a spa, infinity pool, and several dining options.

Visa free Mongolia

AUSTRALIANS, along with travellers from 31 other developed countries including New Zealand, will now be able to travel without a visa to Mongolia.

More flight options via Hong Kong, China and South Korea are also becoming available, with daily flight options to Mongolia expected from Apr, according to an update from Crooked Compass.

Despite reopening almost a year ago, the East Asian country has been relatively closed off to Australians due to the cumbersome visa processes in place and lack of flight options.

Cendyn's new CEO

JACK Blaha has been named as the new CEO for hospitality software company Cendyn, which recently acquired digitalhotelier.

Blaha is based in Austin, Texas and has led several technology companies, including Khoros and Lone Wolf Technologies.

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Seabourn's suite life

SEABOURN Cruise Line has launched a "Suite Life" sales event offering savings of up to 25% on all suite categories for select sailings through 2024.

The sale, which will be running through to 28 Feb, includes departures on board *Seabourn Pursuit*, the cruise line's second expedition ship which is launching later this year - [CLICK HERE](#).

Sunshine flyer MCO

FLORIDA'S Sunshine Flyer transfer service has launched a direct, private transportation service for guests travelling from Orlando International Airport to Walt Disney World's resorts.

The new 'Sunshine Flyer Direct' service will pick up guests at any of Orlando's terminals' baggage claims at their specified time, with passengers able to choose from a sedan, a luxury SUV, or a sprinter van.

See sunshineflyer.com.

TTJ launches new LA campaign

THE Travel Junction is partnering with American Airlines and Los Angeles Tourism to offer travel advisors the opportunity to win a place on "the ultimate LA 2.0 Fam Trip" later in the year.

Five agents will be fully hosted in Premium Economy on AA's recently resumed SYD-LAX flights as they experience the latest attractions in the city.

The incentive period runs until 17 Feb, and to qualify advisors must book four AA LAX return flights from Australia and a three night Los Angeles hotel booking.

Bonus commission of up to 15% is on offer for agents who book via the HELIO platform, which is currently showcasing curated Los Angeles city break packages alongside competitive wholesale AA airfares, leading in at \$3,509 per person twin share including flights, four nights accom and a tour - thetraveljunction.com.au.

Government buys Mexicana

THE federal government of Mexico has closed a deal for discontinued airline Mexicana de Aviacion, and is mulling the resumption of the country's oldest carrier.

Mexicana ceased operations in 2010 (*TD* 30 Aug 2010), but the government has now purchased the brands which make up the airline, according to reports, including its training centre and real estate, which are part of the company's remaining assets.

The government intends to create a new state-owned airline under the Mexicana brand, which will start operations later this year with a 10-strong fleet operated by the Ministry of National Defense.

The total value of the purchase is MXN817 million (\$62 million), which will be used to compensate around 8,000 of Mexicana's workers, who have been waiting for a payout since the airline's

closure over a decade ago.

Reports claim President of Mexico Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is unhappy with the country's existing private airlines, including flag carrier Aeromexico.

He intends for the reborn Mexicana to take as much as 11% of Mexico's air travel market.

At the time of its cessation, Mexicana was one of the oldest continuously branded airlines in the world, after KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Qantas, and Avianca.

UA winds back AKL

UNITED Airlines is reducing the frequency of its San Francisco-Auckland route for the upcoming southern winter season.

UA will reduce services from seven to three weekly from 26 Mar to 22 Jun, according to travel agent GDS screens.

The route will continue to be operated by a Boeing 777.



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*Terms and conditions apply. Book by 13 January for travel between 16 January - 30 November 2023. The fare shown (AUD 1,759 return) is applicable to travel between Melbourne and Barcelona for departure between 16 January - 31 May and 1 August - 30 November 2023. Full terms and conditions are available on the Trade Portal.



GOING PLACES TOGETHER



LH uses sharkskin



LUFTHANSA Group (LH) has become the first airline group in the world to equip its aircraft with aerodynamic sharkskin film.

The AeroSHARK surface technology, developed by Lufthansa Technik and BASF, cuts aircraft drag, resulting in better fuel efficiency and reduced CO2 emissions.

The airline group plans to equip more than 20 of its long-haul aircraft with the new sharkskin film.

GSTC, SHA TEAM UP FOR SUSTAINABILITY

THE Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) and Sustainable Hospitality Alliance (SHA) have announced an agreement to consolidate best practices in sustainable hospitality & tourism.

The new partnership will combine SHA's hospitality industry reach and measurement expertise with GSTC's prowess in sustainability standards and assurance to strengthen the industry's understanding of sustainability criteria.

Specifically, the collaboration will combine the GSTC Criteria, accreditation program and training opportunities with SHA's industry leadership and arsenal of tools and initiatives, such as the Pathway to Net Positive Hospitality, which guides hotels to work towards net positive environment impact.

GSTC CEO Randy Durband believes that SHA's work on



sustainable measurement in hospitality is "critical" to supporting the development of universal measurement tools for sustainability to help tourism businesses assess, benchmark, and improve performance within the GSTC Criteria.

SHA CEO Glenn Mandziuk said "now is the time to unite our expertise, embedding

sustainability criteria across the industry and ensuring every hotel has the tools and guidance needed to become a more regenerative business, that gives back more than it takes".

Pictured: Glenn Mandziuk, SHA CEO with Randy Durband, GSTC CEO and Wolfgang M. Neumann, SHA Chair and Non-Executive Director Hospitality.

New propeller tech

A NEW ship propeller technology which has been developed by Oscar Propulsion Limited and the University of Strathclyde is said to substantially reduce underwater radiated noise.

The patented PressurePores system features pressure-relieving holes in the propeller blades to allow ships to operate with a quieter propeller, thereby bringing down noise levels which disorientate marine wildlife and cause irreversible damage.

Biodiversity tourism impact study in Spain

HUAWEI and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have joined forces to run a new Tech4Nature project at Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac Natural Park in Barcelona Province.

The project will look at the impact of tourism on the park's ecosystem, with a focus on the Bonelli's eagle, a vulnerable species that nests in the park and has begun to alter its

behavioural patterns following the increase of visitors since the pandemic.

The study will begin in Feb, using cameras and GPS receivers to observe and monitor the mobility of the eagle and determine the factors that impede its reproductive success.

The results of the project will be used to help manage environmental risks and educate the public on conservation.

Eco travel choices

GOOGLE has shared its top five updates in 2022 that make sustainable travel choices easier, including a fuel-efficient route option in Google Maps and a search filter which allows travellers to find lower-emission flights.

Google users can also now browse sustainable hotel options via [google.com/travel](https://www.google.com/travel), thanks to the new 'Eco-certified' search filter.

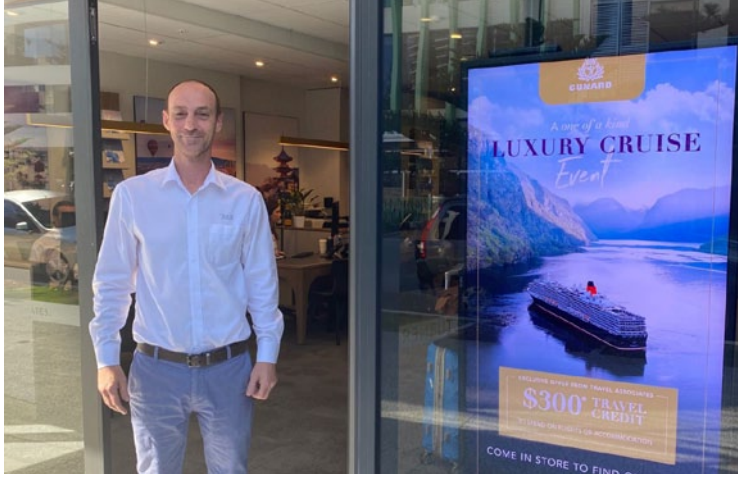
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TA Dares to be different...



TRAVEL Associates Australia has announced the opening of its new office in Broadbeach, Queensland, with Nathan Dare (pictured) at the helm.

Sharing images of the new location on LinkedIn, Travel Associates described the team at Dare & Turner Travel Associates as "exceptional as they are experienced".

G Adv's new sale

G ADVENTURES' Great Adventure Sale is back, with savings of up to 25% launched for this year's itineraries, with 2023 "set to be the year of full recovery for travel".

Running until the end of the month, the Great Adventure Sale features hundreds of trips split into two departure windows to incorporate the best travel months for each destination: from now up until 30 Jun, and then from 01 Jul to 15 Dec.

The sale runs across a range of G Adventures travel styles, including 18-to-Thirtysomethings, Active, Classic, Local Living and Marine - more details [HERE](#).

Silversea RTW

SILVERSEA Cruises has today departed on a 139-day "South Side Story" world cruise ex Sydney - the first time a Silversea World Cruise has originated in the Southern Hemisphere.

The cruise is being operated aboard *Silver Shadow*, with about 12% of passengers originating from Australia and New Zealand.

International pax travelled on included business class Qantas flights to Sydney, with an "industry first" welcome message for World Cruise guests from Qantas CEO Alan Joyce and ex Silversea CEO Roberto Martinolo.

Canada youth push

THE International Experience Canada season officially opened today, with the country extending invitations to almost 90,000 international youth via registrations at [canada.ca](#).

The initiative targets those interested in gaining work and travel experience in Canada, while also helping Canadian employers fill labour shortages.

Travel Daily

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On your (water) bike

VISITORS to Melbourne for the Australian Open Tennis can get there on a new service launched by Waterbikes Australia, which is offering a guided short tour from Crown Casino to Melbourne Park.

From 19 Jan for \$45pp, the Australian Open Waterbike Service will allow visitors to ride with a guide upon one of the tandem waterbikes, taking in the city's landmarks on their way - see [waterbikesaustralia.com.au](#).

WTM Africa regos

REGISTRATIONS are now open for World Travel Market (WTM) Africa 2023, which takes place from 03-05 Apr at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

Entry is free and includes access to Africa Travel Week's bolt-on events running concurrently - travel trade can register [HERE](#).

Dutch testing move

TRAVELLERS over the age of 11 arriving to the Netherlands from China will need to show negative COVID-19 PCR test results, taken within 48 hours of departure.

The new rule applies from 10 Jan, with those travellers also required to wear a mask onboard the flight, according to the latest Smartraveller update.

Hyatt talks Turkey

HYATT'S sixth property has arrived in Turkey, with the opening of Hyatt Regency Izmir IstinyePark in Balcova.

The 160-room hotel offers views over the Gulf of Izmir, as well as meetings and event spaces, a spa, fitness centre, outdoor pool, and an all-day dining restaurant.

Grand Mercure Bali

ACCOR has announced the opening of Grand Mercure Bali Seminyak, marking the midscale brand's debut on Indonesia's "Island of the Gods".

Positioned 100 metres from the beach, the hotel offers 269 rooms featuring traditional Balinese decor, contemporary furnishings and state-of-the-art amenities, including a large LED TV, complimentary wi-fi, and a rain shower with separate bathtub.

Guests can use the property's three swimming pools, fitness centre and kids' club, with a spa to launch soon.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.691

THE reopening of China coupled with a falling US currency has given the Aussie dollar a healthy boost, with the positive effects expected to continue for the near future.

Most Asian currencies have shot up this week, with the Chinese yuan hitting a four-month high and strongest level against the dollar since late-Aug, after the country reopened its international borders

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.691
UK	£0.567
NZ	\$1.085
Euro	€0.644
Japan	¥91.10
Thailand	฿23.13
China	¥4.683
South Africa	11.72
Canada	\$0.926
Crude oil	US\$73.77



EXPLORER SALE



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Discover the industry's leading cruise-only offers in the new Viking Explorer Sale. With savings up to \$9,000 per couple, no kids, no casinos, and everything your client needs included in their fare, there has never been a better time to book a Viking river, ocean, and expedition voyage.

Plus, the Explorer Sale Flexible Deposit Offer adds a new level of assurance and peace-of-mind. For the campaign period, your clients only need a \$1,000 per person* deposit to secure their booking and take advantage of the Explorer Sale offers. Should your clients wish to cancel their travel plans, we will refund their deposit in the form of a future cruise voucher.

Hurry, some of our most popular 2023 itineraries have already sold out and new 2024-2025 sailings are filling fast.



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*When booking airfares through Viking standard airline deposits and non-refundable conditions apply. Deposits are refundable in the form of a future cruise voucher up until 120 days before departure or final payment. After final payment has been made standard cancellation fees apply.