

NZ kicks yet another cruise out

REGENT Seven Seas Cruise's *Explorer* has been ordered to leave New Zealand waters to undertake yet another hull cleaning operation.

The move comes despite the near new ultra-luxury ship being cleaned just over a week ago by a diving firm recognised by the NZ Ministry for Primary Industries.

Yesterday the ship's maiden NZ arrival was welcomed into Auckland with a water cannon salute - but the elation quickly turned to disappointment when an inspection resulted in the additional cleaning order - similar to ructions also experienced recently by Viking, Cunard and Princess Cruises.

Regent is compensating pax for a missed port call today, with the company saying it expects to continue its originally planned itinerary once the additional cleaning operation is completed.

Explore to match status

EXCLUSIVE

EXPLORE Worldwide will launch its "loyalty switch" program in Australia, offering to match discounts offered to customers who have made multiple trips with a competitor, according to the company's new Regional Director Ben Ittenson.

Having this week announced the opening of its new local office (**TD** 09 Jan), Explore will directly target competitors by attempting to capture their customers with increasingly attractive discounts based on their loyalty level with another brand.

Travellers who have booked two or three trips with a competitor can book an Explore trip with a 5% discount, those who have booked four to eight trips will receive a 7% discount, and those who have booked nine or more will receive a 10% discount.

The program is even available

for former clients of rival small group adventure travel companies which are no longer trading.

The program first launched in the United Kingdom last year, and is now being pushed in Australia, following Explore's local launch.

"We hope to encourage adventure travellers to switch to Explore without losing their loyalty benefits held with other companies," Ittenson told **TD**.

"We know that other companies have downgraded their loyalty programs, or maybe even scrapped them altogether, and others might have gone out of business.

"We're confident travellers will love Explore, and we want to honour their loyalty that they might have with our competitors," he said.

More info about Loyalty Switch is now live on the new local Explore website at exploreworldwide.com.au.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news including our regular **Corporate Travel** feature.

Hong Kong warning

CANNABIDIOL (CBD) will be listed as a dangerous drug in Hong Kong effective from 01 Feb, with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) reissuing its Smartraveller advice for the destination this week warning that "the maximum penalty is life imprisonment".

Magnetic Is Selina

SELINA Hotels has opened its fourth Australian property, with the new Magnetic Island hotel complementing existing Selina Hotels in Brisbane & Melbourne.

Selina Magnetic Island offers 145 "bedspaces" including powered caravan sites and private room options - for more details see whatis.selina.com.

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CZ Australia boost

CHINA Southern Airlines has joined the frenzy of capacity resumptions between Australia and China, with GDS screens indicating an increase of its Guangzhou flights to both Sydney and Melbourne from daily to 10 per week effective from 26 Mar.

Both routes are operated using Airbus A350-900XWB aircraft.

Aircalin on sale

AIRCALIN has launched its "New Year, New Caledonia" sale today, which offers return flights from Sydney and Melbourne to Noumea from \$589.

The deal is available for bookings confirmed by 20 Jan and applies to travel from 13 Feb until 30 Nov, with some blackout dates.

Bonza gets green light

BONZA has achieved its licence to fly, with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) granting the independent low-cost carrier its Air Operator Certificate (AOC) yesterday (**TD** breaking news).

The Australian airline is now getting ready to go on sale with its first lot of flights out of its home base on the Sunshine Coast, which will then be followed by its Melbourne base.

Travellers will need to use the Fly Bonza app to book flights directly, which they can download now to be notified when the first flights are available; otherwise, customers can book via registered local travel agents.

There will also be a digital support centre to assist

customers with queries and offer booking support.

"This is an historic moment for Australian aviation as we get ready to launch the first high capacity airline in more than 15 years, and the country's only independent low cost carrier," Bonza CEO Tim Jordan said.

The timing of the airline's approval "couldn't be better", Jordan added.

"Demand for domestic travel is high and Aussies deserve for travel to be a basic right for many, not a luxury for the few.

"With the approval from CASA, 2023 is set to be the year of seeing more of your own backyard for less," he enthused.

Chief Commercial Officer, Carly Povey, has flagged expectations the current three-strong Bonza fleet will expand to eight Boeing 737-8s within 12 months - sparking hopes at **TD** that at least one of them will be named Bruce.

RTW in 180 days!

VIKING has revealed its World Cruise itineraries for 2024-25, including the new Viking World Voyage I, which will sail around the world in 180 days on 19 Dec, 2024 from Fort Lauderdale.

The new itinerary will see *Viking Sky* visit 37 countries and eight ports, with overnight stays in 13 cities, before wrapping up in New York on 17 Jun 2025.

The cruise line will also offer a shorter 163-day portion of the sailing, *Viking World Voyage II*, which departs Los Angeles on 05 Jan 2025, and visits 29 countries and 78 ports.

Guests can also choose the 138-day Viking World Cruise voyage from Fort Lauderdale to London, or the 121-day Viking World Journeys, which sets sail from LA and visits 23 countries before arriving in London.

Viking is offering special savings on its World Cruises, including credits, beverage packages and more for bookings before 31 Mar.



National Sales & Account Manager
Sydney Based – Full-time

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- Develop and maintain new business sales opportunities
- Extensive range of products within SeaLink Marine & Tourism

About the Role

Reporting to the General Manager, Global Sales & Distribution, this position will play a key role in the development and implementation of partnerships and providing input into strategic business sales growth. The National Sales & Account Manager (NSAM) is responsible for leading the growth of industry sales, maintaining and developing new business sales opportunities through partnerships with both trade and consumer direct initiatives for the full range of products within the SeaLink Marine & Tourism including SeaLink South Australia, Captain Cook Cruises, Sydney Harbour, Murray River and WA, SeaLink and Go West WA, SeaLink Queensland, Northern Territory, K'gari (Fraser Island) & South East Queensland and other entities as required.

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.expr3ss.com](https://kelsian.expr3ss.com)



Cruise Reservations & Guest Services Specialist

Australia's leading small ship specialist, Cruise Traveller, is looking to expand its Gold Coast based team.

We are seeking an experienced cruise Reservations Specialist who can also offer support to our Guest Services department.

This is a full-time position based in our Mermaid Beach office.

The role involves servicing enquiry from both direct guests and retail travel agents on our extensive range of small ship cruise product and packages as well as supporting our Guest Services team for booking package components and sending final e-documents.

You would be an important part of a successful, friendly, professional, family owned and operated industry leading business with a huge focus on exceptional customer service in keeping with the premium travel products we represent.

Please only apply for this position if you have a minimum of two years' experience in a retail or wholesale travel position and GDS/Sabre experience would be an advantage.



To apply, please email your cover letter and resume to
Craig, Managing Director:
craig@cruisetraveller.com.au



Travel Money ramps up

THE Travel Money shop network operated by Flight Centre Travel Group is set for significant expansion, with an update from the company this morning confirming a host of new outlets are on the drawing board.

“Now that we have most of our hibernating stores back open and trading, we are turning our sights on opening some amazing new shops all across the country,” according to the message from Head of Retail, Daniel Jackson, which also highlights a range of career opportunities.

Initial expansion includes outlets at MacArthur Square, Eastgardens, Charlestown South and George Street Sydney in NSW; Carindale in Queensland; Werribee, Camberwell and Dandenong in Vic; and Murray Street Mall, Garden City and Karinyup in Western Australia.

Cover-More Pride

AS THE official travel insurance partner of WorldPride 2023, Cover-More is giving travel agents the chance to win one of three trips up for grabs to Sydney WorldPrice 2023 next month.

Prizes includes two return flights to Sydney (from within Australia or New Zealand), two nights' accommodation and transfers, event tickets and more.

To be in the running, advisors need to describe in 50 words or less what Sydney WorldPride 2023 means to them - see covermore-experiences.com.

La Collection adds

CRAIG Farrell and Lea Segulier's La Collection representation business has confirmed its first local property, with the addition of The Old Clare Hotel near Sydney's Central Railway Station to the portfolio.

La Collection will oversee sales and trade marketing for the 69-room The Old Clare in Australia and New Zealand.

Full- and part-time vacancies are available in all areas, with Flight Centre aiming to have all of the additions up and running by Mar.

The update also highlights a new wage model where team members are able to nominate their preference for either a higher base pay without an incentive, or a “slightly lower base with an attractive tiered and uncapped incentive added”.

Universal plots new Vegas attraction

UNIVERSAL Parks & Resorts has announced a new year-round “Horror Experience” for Las Vegas, based on its popular global Halloween event.

The new Universal attraction will be the anchor tenant in a major expansion of Las Vegas' new AREA15 entertainment precinct which debuted in Sep 2020 and has since attracted more than four million visitors.

Universal's new venture will feature a variety of “unique, immersive, fantastic horror-centric experiences that surround high energy good and beverage spaces by day turned haunting bars and eateries by night”.

Aspen's taste of Oz

AUSTRALIA'S first Master of Wine, Michael Hill Smith, will return to Aspen, Colorado's ski destination, to host an Aussie-inspired menu paired with the best wines from Down Under.

The wine dinner will be hosted by Aussie favourite five-star ski-in/ski-out hotel at Ajax Tavern on 20 Jan at 6.30pm, and is priced from US\$150pp.

MEANWHILE The Little Nell also announced the return of the ASPENX Beach Club pop-up.

Located at the top of Aspen Mountain, the activation will offer music, food and drinks from 27 Jan until 16 Apr each Fri-Sun - see thelittlenell.com.

FC Independent launches incentive

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's Independent division is offer a range of exclusive agent incentives in partnership with Adventure World Travel, Intrepid and G Adventures.

A total of 14 holidays are up for grabs for advisors based on Jan-Mar sales via the Travel Partners, Travel Associates at Home, Travel Associates Franchise and Flight Centre Independent networks.

Seven Intrepid trips are up for grabs, along with four \$3,000 G Adventures trip credits and three Animals Asia Travel Packages with Adventure World.

FCTG Independent Australia Product Leader, Paul Murrell, said it was one of the biggest incentives the group had ever run - for more details email ind_enquiries@flightcentre.com.au.

Cruise PR changes

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has appointed Thinkerbell as its official PR agency, replacing BCW Global which has held the account for some years.

Thinkerbell will work alongside RCI's in-house APAC PR Manager Jess White to manage the brand's press office in Australia and NZ.

MEANWHILE FleishmanHillard also this morning confirmed it was no longer handling communications for P&O and Princess Cruises in Australia, but remains the main PR contact for Carnival Cruise Line.



Window Seat

TOURISM entrepreneurs are being invited to create a “contemporary tourist oasis” with an entire town in Tasmania being placed on the market this morning.

Expressions of interest are being sought for the 147-hectare Tarraleah Estate smack bang in the middle of the Apple Isle, with a guide price of \$12 million-plus.

The village offers “superb infrastructure, town water supply, a dam, electricity, sewerage, telecommunications infrastructure and road networks”, according to a listing on real estate agency Peterswald for Property.

There are four bush walks, a caravan park, a lake “brimming with stocked brown trout” and sizeable lakeside land primed for development.

There's also the nine-suite Lodge at Tarraleah, a restaurant and function centre, a church and conference venue for events, reception building, cottages and staff accommodation.

Offers are sought by 17 Feb, with a full information memorandum available to prospective purchasers including detailed plans - so be quick and check it out at peterswald.com.au.

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.

CORPORATE UPDATE

New corporate travel scrutiny

BUSINESS travel programs must be agile and responsive to new requirements in the post-COVID environment, with “heightened scrutiny of every trip to ensure it will provide a return on investment,” according to a new corporate travel white paper issued by US-based Travel Leaders.

The document, produced in partnership with consultancy Festive Road, suggests travel managers must develop new ways of measuring the impact of business trips, including considerations such as sustainability, new ways of working, price increases and changing appetites for travel.

The group conducted focus groups with key clients last year, with top objectives highlighted including ensuring that travel only takes place when necessary, and

is linked to “balanced corporate objectives around people, profit and planet”.

It was also important to enable travellers to add personal time to any business trip, and/or have family accompany them, while the expansion of virtual payments for convenience and reporting was also vital to reduce the burden on staff.

Other items included re-establishing online booking as the preferred method for domestic trips, and consideration of “carbon budgets” for teams or travellers.

Centurion lounge policy tightens

AMERICAN Express has confirmed new terms and conditions will apply for entry to its Centurion lounges in the USA, London Heathrow and Hong Kong, with free guest entry no longer on offer for holders of Platinum and Business cards unless they have an annual spend of over US\$75,000.

According to new terms and conditions for US cardholders, effective 01 Feb, it will cost US\$50 to bring a guest into the lounge, and US\$30 for children under 18, while children under two can still enter for free.

At this stage the document doesn’t mention any changes for the Australian Centurion lounges in Sydney and Melbourne - see americanexpress.com.

Traveltrust launches into Australia

LONDON-BASED TMC Traveltrust has expanded its operations Down Under with the opening of a new office led by former long-time International SOS executive James Evers.

Evers is GM of Traveltrust Australia, with the business originally established in the USA in 1983 and opening in London eight years ago.

As well as London and Sydney, the company also has offices in San Diego, St Petersburg Florida, Manchester, Dublin & Hong Kong.



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A true Fijian welcome



THE team at Fiji Tourism’s head office has welcomed the country’s newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, who has taken the role following the country’s recent elections.

“The ongoing support of our Government and industry partners will make for a strong 2023,” the tourism organisation said in a LinkedIn post today. “We look forward to what the

year will bring as we welcome visitors from around the globe.”

Pictured: The Tourism Fiji team, including CEO Brent Hill and FJ chief Andre Viljoen kicking off the new year in true Fiji style.

CWT ESG chief

CWT has announced the appointment of Richard Thompson as its new Global Head of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Employee Experience.

Thompson was formerly CWT’s VP of Global Internal Communication & Culture, with his comms responsibilities handed over to Chief Communications Officer, Julian Walker.

Travelport offers AF-KLM NDC fares

TRAVEL agents can now access Air France-KLM’s New Distribution Content (NDC) via the Travelport GDS.

Travelport+ connected travel agencies will have full NDC functionality, including shopping, booking, servicing and private fares, plus exclusive content such as continuous pricing, ancillaries, and personalisation.

Air France currently imposes a €13 one-way surcharge on traditional GDS leisure bookings, and has announced this will expand to corporate travel effective from 01 Apr this year.

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IHG's new digs in the UK



IHG Hotels & Resorts has officially opened its new global headquarters in Windsor.

The Windsor One office on Arthur Road, Berkshire was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by IHG CEO Keith Barr, alongside the company's executive committee members (pictured).

The new five-floor office is located close to key transport links to London and international airports, and features state-of-the-art technology, modern meeting rooms and event spaces, parking, a recording studio and views over Windsor Castle and Eton College.

"We are delighted to be moving back to Windsor, a world-famous and historic location," Barr said.

"It was important for us as a company to move to a space that empowered us to work collaboratively, flexibly and in a way that is truly reflective of today's evolving workforce."

Pandaw Bengal trip

PANDAW Cruises has introduced a shorter cruise exploring the key highlights of India's West Bengal.

The three- or four-night cruise from sails from Kolkata to Murshidabad, with visits to former European colonies, Hindu temples, rural villages and Hazarduari Palace.

CLICK HERE to learn more.

Thailand tourist fee

THE Thai Government has confirmed it will begin collecting a 300 baht (about A\$12) fee from all foreign tourists arriving into the country.

The move, which is still subject to approval by the country's cabinet, will be used to help support visitors involved in accidents as well as develop tourist destinations, and will not apply to those with work permits.

Air Canada shuffle

AIR Canada has announced some major changes to its senior management team, including the retirement of CEO and Executive Vice President, Lucie Guillemette, who will step down at the end of Apr after almost five decades with the Canadian flag carrier.

Coinciding with Guillemette's departure, Mark Nasr, Senior Vice President, Products, Marketing and eCommerce, will become Executive Vice President Marketing and Digital, and President of Aeroplan.

Additionally, Mark Galardo, Senior Vice President, Network Planning and Revenue Management, will become Executive Vice President, Revenue and Network Planning.

Hyatt Regency London opens

HYATT Regency London Albert Embankment is now welcoming guests, marking the city's eighth Hyatt-branded property.

The riverside hotel comprises of 142 rooms, many of which have floor-ceiling windows, and is located close to the capital's political epicentre, Westminster, which is home to landmarks such as the Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square and Big Ben.

The property features a rooftop restaurant, cocktail bar, and shisha terrace Mezemiso serving authentic Lebanese and Japanese cuisine with views overlooking the city, plus an onsite fitness centre and five meeting rooms.

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

Cruise Traveller is offering savings of \$3,380 per person on its Postcards from Papua package, which includes a 10-night round-trip expedition cruise from Cairns on 02 Nov. The cruise visits seven pristine destinations in Papua New Guinea aboard Ponant's *Le Soleal*. For details and to book, call 1800 507 777.

Travellers can experience the wonders of Australia's Red Centre with **BKB Holidays'** new package, The Ghan Expedition. The 10-day journey from Darwin to Adelaide offers two departure dates, 11 Apr and 03 Jun, and is priced from \$8,595ppts. Highlights include a sunset dinner cruise on Darwin Harbour, a full-day Barossa Valley and Hahndorf sightseeing tour, and much more. For bookings, phone 1300 357 057.

The Celebration Travel Company is promoting a five-night New Year romantic getaway package priced from \$2,169, which includes two nights at Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa and three-nights at Tropica Island Resort Fiji, with a variety of inclusions. Call 1300 880 571 to book before 28 Feb.

APT is offering savings of up to \$3,000 per couple on its 13-day Mediterranean Gems cruise, which sails from Athens to Venice aboard *Le Jacques Cartier*. For more details, visit aptouring.com.au.

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