



Travel Daily on location at Ayers Rock Resort

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia.

AYERS Rock Resort in Australia's Red Centre is beginning to welcome guests back as borders open and flights resume.

Currently Jetstar is operating services from Brisbane and Sydney, with the opening of the NT border to Vic and SA expected to see flights from Melbourne and Adelaide added in the coming weeks.

With inbound international travel constrained, Voyages is suggesting now is the ideal time for Australians to move a visit to Uluru from the "bucket list" to the "to-do list" with some fabulous deals on offer and a full range of activities allowing a fabulous Red Centre experience.

Carnival shakes things up

JAN Swartz has been appointed Group President of Holland America Group overnight, as part of an executive shake-up at parent Carnival Corporation.

Swartz will now be charged with looking after the Princess Cruises, Holland America Line (HAL), Seabourn and P&O Australia divisions, in addition to HAL's Princess Alaska Tours.

In 2016, Swartz was given the nod to be Group President of Princess Cruises and Carnival Australia, where she also had executive oversight of the P&O Cruises Australia brand.

The move will not see any major changes to Australia's local executive structure, Carnival confirmed, with Sture Myrmell to continue looking after the Carnival Australia and P&O Cruises brands in the region.

President and CEO of Carnival Corporation Arnold Donald heaped praise on Swartz as

someone who will bring a wealth of leadership experience to the new position.

"Jan is a highly respected executive and a role model...she is a champion of innovation and a proven leader," he said.

Meanwhile Carnival also announced some major changes to its Cunard operations in North America, appointing Jamie Paiko as its Vice President of Sales, Cunard North America and Nicole Knox to be the brand's new Director of Marketing in the important region.

Expanding his role as Director of Pricing and Demand for Cunard North America, Jeriel Lubaton will also be charged with adding management of the customer service team to his responsibilities.

The changes are made at a key time for Carnival, as the cruise sector prepares for a resumption of operations early next year.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a full page from Austrian National Tourist Office.

Club Med earlybird

CLUB Med is currently offering discounts of up to 30% on resort stays across Asia and the Maldives for travel between 01 Nov 2021 and 10 Jun 2022.

To take advantage of the deal, bookings need to be made before 31 May 2021.

Further promotions include teens at kids' prices offer, which effectively provides teenagers with 40% off the adult rate at select resorts when staying between 01 Nov and 10 Jun 2022.

Club Med is also offering the chance to upgrade to a deluxe room for only 10% more than the Superior room rate.

The deal is valid between 01 Nov and 30 Apr 2022.

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Stephen Carter
Group CEO
Informa

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WA lifts borders to NSW and Vic

THE Western Australian Government has announced it will lift its border restrictions with NSW and Victoria from 08 Dec in line with the latest advice from the its Chief Health Officer, who has now deemed both the eastern states "low risk".

The move will negate any need for travellers between the states to quarantine for 14 days.

MEANWHILE, WA's decision, along with Qld and Tasmania's recent move to drop hard borders, has prompted Crooked Compass to offer small-group tours in each of the states, including a discovery of WA's Pilbara and Coral Coast.

View the complete list of Aussie itineraries [HERE](#).

Rex SYD/MEL on sale

REGIONAL Express (Rex) is marking the introduction of its Sydney to Melbourne flights going on sale today by offering 100,000 tickets at discounted prices starting from \$79.

Taking to the air for the first time on 01 Mar, Rex's upcoming routes linking Australia's two busiest cities will offer "all the usual perks" of a full service airline, which will including eight Business class seats, checked baggage allowance, food service, pre-assigned seating and online check-in facilities.

Lounge access and on-board wi-fi will also be free for Business class passengers, whilst Economy customers will be able to access

these options for a "small fee".

"In short, we will be offering premium full service with our trademark country hospitality but at fares pegged at the budget carrier level," said Rex Deputy Chairman John Sharp.

In a cheeky dig at Qantas and the recently reborn Virgin Australia (*TD* 18 Nov), Sharp also declared Rex's expansion to the metropolitan east coast as an "historic new era for Australia's domestic air travel".

"Finally, Australians can look forward to not only a safe, reliable and affordable airline, but one they can count on for the long-term," he said.

Rex is eyeing plans to grow its fleet to 8-10 jets by late 2021.

MEANWHILE, Virgin Australia noted this week that it would be adding close to 80,000 additional seats to its east coast routes by Jan 2021.

Celebrity Alaska

CELEBRITY Cruises has introduced a range of new 2022 Alaska sailings.

Debuting its earliest ever start to a season in the US state, every Alaska sailing will include the glaciers of the Inside Passage.

Three ships will sail from early May in 2022, with a highlight being *Celebrity Eclipse's* round trip sailing from Vancouver on seven-night itineraries featuring the Hubbard Glacier.

Celebrity has also added a Pacific Coastal itinerary ex-Vancouver visiting Astoria, San Francisco, and Catalina Island, & LA aboard *Celebrity Millennium*.

Silversea early picks

SILVERSEA Cruises has today opened its recently unveiled 2022/23 sailings (*TD* 20 Nov) for sale to its Venetian Society.

"With shore excursions and roundtrip air included in the cruise fare for all 10 ships in our fleet - a first for our cruise line - our guests will discover the most remarkable experiences around the world with unprecedented convenience," he added.

View the collection [HERE](#).

UP FRONT

brought to you by Etihad

WITHOUT

question, 2020 has been a huge challenge for us all. However, as we start to reflect on this year, some positives have also come



out of it. The camaraderie and mutual support that has been evident across our great travel industry has been remarkable, as well as the resilience that has been shown.

No one could have predicted the enormous effect of COVID-19 worldwide, causing such a significant impact on travel globally. Looking back, we wouldn't be where we are now without the incredible strength of our teams and partners and for that we are very grateful.

We're proud that this year we launched our industry-first 'Wellness Program' which made health and hygiene a priority and we've been humbled by the loyalty and commitment of our incredible guests, who we've helped by reconnecting them with their homes and loved ones.

And lastly, it has been wonderful to see the amazing support from our valued partners across the travel industry. Thank you so much and here's to continuing to work together in 2021 and beyond.

We look forward to travelling with you all again,

Sarah Built – Etihad Airways, Vice President Sales, Australia and South Asia

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Intrastate winning Xmas

SUMMER travellers plan to stay close to home this season, new research from the Tourism & Transport Forum has revealed.

The association revealed three out of four Australians planning a summer holiday will travel within their own state, and one in four won't travel at all during Christmas due to continuing concerns about COVID-19.

The national survey of 2,300 Australians conducted by MI Associates revealed a quarter of respondents are choosing a road trip in lieu of flying and other modes of travel, with the report contending there is significant work needed to encourage Australians to take to the skies and speed up the recovery of the nation's visitor economy.

Tourism & Transport Forum Chief Executive Margy Osmond said while there was still some reluctance among respondents

to get on an airplane, low COVID figures over the last few weeks would hopefully aid confidence.

Osmond added there was also reason for optimism through rural areas experiencing record booking numbers, with over 70% of those who had been planning overseas travel saying they would spend domestically.

"This is great news for domestic operators and shows there is significant opportunity to capture the outbound spend of locals who were going abroad although it would still not fully compensate for the lack of international visitation," Osmond said.

"Anecdotal data from our airline members also shows bookings have ramped up since Queensland announced it would open its borders to Sydneysiders and Victorians...and with the South Australian/Victorian border reopening," she added.

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Traveleague rego

TICKETS are running out to attend the 2020 Christmas TraveLeague Luncheon at Crown Casino Melbourne on 16 Dec.

Seats are priced at \$165pp and strict health protocols will be in place - **CLICK HERE** for details.

Solomon extends

SOLOMON Airlines has announced a further suspension of its international passenger flights due to ongoing border restrictions, extending from 10 Jan to 27 Mar.

"With the promise of effective COVID-19 vaccines becoming more of a reality next year, we look to the day we can resume normal regular international scheduled services," said the airline's Commercial Manager Colin Sigimanu.

Tickets will be automatically held in credit for new fares until 01 Dec 2022.



Window Seat

FOR those of you dreaming of that trip to a far off escape, allow us to furnish you with some very cool inspiration for when international travel restrictions finally ease.

Small Luxury Hotels of the World is preparing to open its newest resort called Arctic Bath (**pictured**), a floating hotel located in Swedish Lapland.

The unusual property is ringed by three saunas, some hot baths and two spa treatment rooms.

If you want to head outside, you can go shoe hiking or fat biking on your way to some seriously cool wildlife photos.



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NSW plays a new song



DESTINATION NSW is hoping to play just the right tune to get travellers back on the road in the state over summer, recently launching a new campaign featuring a band of famous local musicians and entertainers.

The new six-part *The Long Road* web series forms part of the industry body's Great Escape campaign, aimed at driving the NSW visitor economy forward after a long and challenging period of shutdown.

Guy Sebastian, Amy Shark, Ash London and Ocean Alley's Baden Donegal are just some of the talent exploring the state in the latest marketing push, where they will showcase a selection of 28 refreshed road trip itineraries.

NSW Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said the

campaign would consolidate the already encouraging recovery numbers the state has recorded.

"It has been fantastic to hear that much of our accommodation was fully booked across the state in recent months as we embrace COVID-safe travel and domestic borders reopening," he said.

"We need to focus on the medium-term recovery, and start planning our next holiday in 2021, or take a mid-week break now - and why not make it a great escape with a road trip across regional NSW," Ayres added.

The campaign will run until Jun 2021 - view the first instalment of the star-studded series [HERE](#).

Pictured: Ocean Alley lead singer Baden Donegal and radio DJ Ash London prepare some bush tucker during the first instalment of the series.

Travel Daily

Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

THE effects of COVID-19 have been felt by all in the industry and the Federal Government has recognised the travel sector and its critical importance to the Australian economy and public by announcing a



Specific details of the support package, eligibility criteria and the distribution mechanics will be sent to members this week and will also be available [HERE](#). Yesterday's announcement is a result of the

financial support package of \$128 million in cash grants.

This is historic in its nature, size and the speed with which we are working with agencies across government to deliver the funds to the sector.

Under the scheme, eligible parties will receive a one-off cash grant. Grants will be scaled, starting with a minimum payment of \$1,500 for a business with a turnover of \$50,000 up to a maximum payment of \$100,000 for a business with a turnover of \$20 million.

You can read the official announcement [HERE](#).

AFTA is working with government to make available the web-based vehicle that eligible parties will use to access the grants.

The aim is to ensure intended recipients get paid this month.

tremendous and combined efforts of members who emailed, called and met with their federal parliamentarian to ensure that they understood the urgent need for tailored financial support.

Thank you and congratulations, this is democracy in its best and purest form.

AFTA would also like to recognise and thank the Morrison Government.

A special thanks also goes to Small Business Commissioner, Kate Carnell and her team for their valuable work, the work of CATO and CLIA and the wider travel and tourism sector.

AFTA CEO Darren Rudd is talking to The Travel Industry Hub this coming Mon, 07 Dec, about the grant.

You're invited to join the discussion hosted by **TD** Publisher Bruce Piper by registering [HERE](#).

ATIC backs WHM

PEAK Tourism body the Australian Tourism Industry Council (ATIC) has supported calls from a Parliamentary Report (**TD** 01 Dec) to make the Working Holiday Maker program more flexible for backpackers working in the tourism sector.

"This report delivers tangible outcomes and if adopted by Government can help address future seasonal work vacancies for many tourism businesses across our regions," said ATIC's Simon Westaway.

The cruise effect

THE chorus of local businesses calling for a resumption of large ship cruising in Australia has added Illawarra-based Kollaras & Co to its ranks, with the company featuring in CLIA's latest #WeAreCruise series episode.

MD John Kollaras said the wholesaler has had to cut staff and shrink operations since cruise ships stopped sailing in Mar.

"Clarity is what everybody requires - a plan, a framework, so that everyone can collaborate," Kollaras said - more info in **CW**.

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Travel Daily

Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the *TD* Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 12 Mar 2014:

THIS is why you should always count your passengers.

A woman in a tour group in Iceland who went "missing" ended up joining a search party looking for herself.

The coach travelling to the scenic Eldgja Canyon made a pit stop, and the woman went to the bathroom to freshen up and change her clothes.

When she returned, apparently her fellow tourists "didn't recognise her," and raised the alarm about a missing passenger.

The coast guard was alerted and the tour group joined emergency services in a search.

At about 3am someone finally realised the missing woman was actually in the search party, but wearing different clothes, and the search was called off.

Whose flag is this?



THE colours on this flag were widely used by the ancient people who lived in this country before the arrival of European conquerors.

Today the red is associated with the valour of the army, the yellow

stands for the richness of mineral resources and the green for the fertility of the land.

Previous versions of the flag had stars in the centre, but this has changed to the coat of arms.

Do you know whose flag it is?

ANSWERS 01 DEC

Where in the world: Canary Wharf Station, London, UK

Pub quiz: 1 West, 2 Denpasar, 3 Jazz, 4 c) In the 1930s, 5 Toowoomba, 6 Kangaroo Island, 7 Portsea Island, 8 10 years, 9 White, red, yellow and blue, 10 Missouri River

Unscramble: abort, bairn, bait, barn, baron, baton, biota, biotin, boar, boat, born, brain, bran, brant, brat, bravo, obtain, orbit, robin, tabor, tibia, vibrant, VIBRATION, vibrato

Sudoku

EASY

THE aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Numbers can only be used once in each row, column, and 3x3 box.

						6		9
	3				8		5	2
				4		3		7
6		3			9			5
8			3		7			6
2			6			1		3
9		2		7				
7	1		9				3	
3		5						

www.sudokuoftheday.com – visit them and get a new Sudoku every day!

Pub quiz

- Pacific Princess* was the ship which starred in the original *Love Boat* series, but which Princess Cruises vessel starred in the 1998 revival of the show?
- Which American city sits on Lake Union?
- In what year did Qantas' association with the Wallabies rugby team begin?
- The Sydney Harbour Bridge's design is based on bridges found in which two other cities?
- What animal appears on Malaysia's coat of arms?
- Which city was formerly known as Canton?
- The Oresund Bridge connects Copenhagen with which Swedish city?
- Despite it also being the city's chief rapid transport network, the Stockholm metro is also known as the longest what in the world?
- After New York City, which American city sees the most international visitors per year?
- Condado Beach is a popular tourist destination in which city?



HKDL shuts again

HONG Kong Disneyland (HKDL) has been forced to close again due to a fourth wave of COVID infections in the region.

Recording 76 new cases on 30 Nov, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam has announced a third closure, following the first early in the pandemic until mid-Jun, and then again from Jul until 25 Sep.

MEANWHILE, The Walt Disney Company also announced it will lay off more than 4,000 staff, mostly in its theme parks division.

ACT enlightened

ENLIGHTEN Festival will return to Canberra in 2021, to be held across 17 days beginning 26 Feb.

The Festival will offer five "hero" events, beginning with Enlighten Illuminations, which commences 26 Feb, Lights Canberra Action, beginning 05 Mar, Canberra Balloon Spectacular, starting 06 Mar, Symphony in the Park, kicking off 07 Mar, and Canberra Day, which is celebrated on 08 Mar - for more information, visit enlightencanberra.com.au.

TRAVELMANAGERS' Kerrin Poupos is hoping Australian holidays will fuel the recovery of her business, as state borders continue to ease (see **page two**).

Alongside her fellow Personal Travel Managers (PTMs), Poupos worked tirelessly through the first half of this year to bring clients home, as well as cancel or postpone future bookings and redress the chaos created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Poupos has since been training in local marketing and domestic sales development during the travel shutdown, which is now beginning to pay dividends through a wide range of new domestic sales opportunities.

She has shifted her business' focus to rebuilding with a mindset that's all about growth, as well as learning and reigniting her passion for the industry and career she has built for more than 16 years.

Poupos began by focusing on

product training, working her way through the steady stream of supplier emails, which in the past she admits had always been skimmed over.

She also worked with the TravelManagers' marketing team, learning how to improve her website, create her own e-newsletters, research product, work with suppliers and put together her own packages to offer to clients.

"My advertising on social media has resulted in two bookings to Uluru, two Contiki Australia bookings and a group on a Bay of Fires walking tour," Poupos said.

"I've also sold three cabins on a 43-night Cunard world cruise, seven cabins on a Cunard domestic cruise for 2022 and three cabins on a Ponant luxury small ship cruise to the Kimberly".

Pictured: Poupos hikes Tasmania's Bay of Fires in Mar during a famil, which finished in Launceston prior to lockdown.

ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



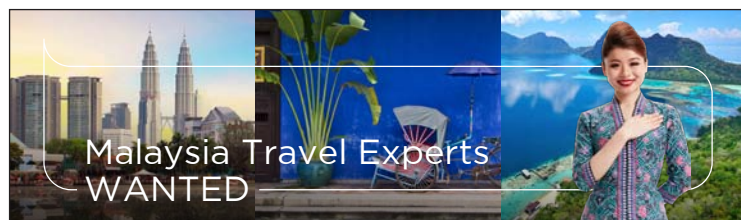
Delivering an underground film hangout slinging bespoke Four Pillars cocktails and gin-salt-flavoured popcorn, **QT Sydney** has unveiled QT Cinema Club. Located beneath the hotel via a hidden staircase is a 1930s theatre and speakeasy bar, with private screenings for up to 29 available. There is also a \$79 debut experience inclusive of one complimentary Four Pillars cocktail and bottomless gin-salt popcorn.



All-villa resort **New World Phu Quoc Resort**, located on nearly 60 hectares of tropical landscape facing Kem Beach, is set to open in 2021. Formerly the Sun Premier Village Kem Beach Resort, the new operation will be managed by New World Hotels & Resorts and Sun Group. Guests can select from 375 villas in seven configurations, starting from 124m² in size to the grand 414m² Sun Beach Front Villa.



Crowne Plaza Sydney Darling Harbour, which opened a little over a month ago, is opening the doors of its signature restaurant La Bella Trattoria & Bar exclusively for private lunches and events, just in time for the festive season. Offering modern Italian fare, the restaurant is being billed as the perfect backdrop for end of year celebrations, family get-togethers or reconnecting with friends, with groups to be treated to a six-course degustation or tasting menu of seasonally inspired dishes.



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