

Vaccine air impact

AGENTS keen to learn more about what the rollout of a vaccine will mean for the aviation sector in Australasia should join CAPA Live on 09 Dec at 2pm (AEDT), with limited free passes still available **HERE**.

Luxury Escapes returns

LUXURY Escapes has rejoined the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) and has become ATAS-accredited again, close to two and half years after voluntarily withdrawing from its membership (**TD** 02 Jul 2018).

The move follows an ongoing push from AFTA chief Darren Rudd to ensure the industry body broadens its tent to include companies like online travel agencies such as Webjet (**TD** 09 Sep), as well as wholesalers and operators for the first time.

"Now more than ever, we need unity and a unified front in order to maximise our impact," Rudd said when reflecting on Luxury Escapes' decision to rejoin.

"The addition of Luxury Escapes,

a significant and influential global platform, to the AFTA and ATAS community is important and very welcome," he added.

Luxury Escapes CEO Adam Schwab told **TD** his company's motivation to rejoin AFTA was driven by a desire to band together with other travel companies and get on board with the new leadership group.

"Under Darren and Tom's leadership, AFTA has been rejuvenated and is now a real force representing all agents in Australia - both Digital and Main Street," Schwab said.

"While we may have disagreed with how AFTA had been run previously, we can't wait to work with AFTA going forward and look forward to an exciting year in 2021 for the industry."

Luxury Escapes has more than 3.5 million members globally.

Travelmarvel NZ

TRAVELMARVEL has officially launched its New Zealand touring program to the market for 2021/2022, providing a range of earlybird deals that offer savings of up to \$1,200 per couple.

Adventures in the program include a 12-day New Zealand Discoverer package from Auckland to Christchurch priced from \$3,895 per person, as well as a five-day Bay of Islands tour, departing roundtrip from Auckland and leading in at \$1,395 per person.

All of the NZ trips come with flexible cancellation options and enhanced health protocols.

Alliance is upbeat

ALLIANCE Airlines has updated its financial forecast to reveal it is on track to deliver an underlying profit of \$26.5 million for the first six months ending 31 Dec, driven largely by its charter and resource sector operations.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a full page from CLIA.

Silversea Kimberley

SILVERSEA Cruises has added three new Kimberley voyages to its 2021 cruise collection, departing in late May and Jun.

Cruises will take place aboard the 144-pax *Silver Explorer* and is priced from \$13,410 per person.

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VIRTUAL TRAVEL
SHOWCASE

Scenic invites you and your clients to our final Virtual Travel Showcase on 8 December. Join us for an interactive session about Scenic Eclipse, the World's First Discovery Yachts™ with the Scenic Sales team.

CLICK here to register for our range of 2021 domestic or 2022 international sessions

EMERALD
YACHT CRUISES

VIRTUAL TRAVEL
SHOWCASE
Mediterranean
Super Yacht Cruising

We invite you and your clients to join the Emerald Yacht Cruises Virtual Travel Showcase on December 10th. Enjoy an interactive session with the Emerald Cruises Sales Team learning about Mediterranean super yacht cruising.

CLICK here for more information and to register for this session.



Wendy Wu pivots local

WENDY Wu Tours (WWT) has introduced its first Australia and New Zealand program to the market, with tours scheduled to depart from Feb 2021.

The operator's new Holiday in your own Backyard collection features four new tours focusing on iconic local sights, immersive experiences and generous comprehensive inclusions.

New adventures include the 11-day Treasures of the Northern Territory & South Australia tour which departs on 21 Apr and takes travellers to the Kakadu National Park, Katherine Gorge, Kings Canyon and Uluru, with highlights featuring an evening at the Field of Lights and Sounds.

The package will also tour some of the best vineyards of the Barossa Valley in SA, where guests can take part in an executive private cooking demonstration at Maggie Beer's iconic Farm Shop.

The trip is priced from \$7,999

per person, twin share and includes accommodation, all meals, sightseeing with expert guides, entrance fees plus selected internal flights.

Also on offer is the 12-day East Coast Gems package exploring New South Wales and Queensland, with a cruise on the Great Barrier Reef included, as well as a stay at National Geographic Unique Lodges.

Across the Tasman, WWT has also launched two new itineraries such as the 11-day Hidden Gold of the South adventure, which takes guests from the Otago Peninsula to the Fiordland National Park for a picturesque overnight cruise.

Further highlights include trips to Arrowtown and Lake Wanaka before heading up to Mt Cook for the Big Sky Experience, all priced from \$7,480ppts.

For more information, call 1300 727 998 or [CLICK HERE](#).

Cruise cancellations

ROYAL Caribbean Group has extended its suspension of cruises departing from Australia through to the end of Apr, joined by Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, which has outed all cruises through to the end of Feb.

Both companies are working toward requirements needed to resume sailing, with Royal Caribbean Group cancelling global sailings through to the end of Feb, with the exceptions of China and Singapore.

Gifu's gift to agents

IN A bid to assist Australian and New Zealand travel agents prepare for increased travel interest from consumers, the Gifu Prefecture has launched a new set of curated resources to help sell the Japanese destination.

The new tools include webinars, info updates, downloadable maps, brochures and flyers - [CLICK HERE](#) for more info.

WebBeds ups APAC

WEBJET'S bedbank subsidiary WebBeds has inked new distribution partnership agreements with a number of major hotel brands in Australia and New Zealand.

The new contracts include deals with Minor Hotels, StayWell Holdings, The Crystalbrook Collection, as well as The Rees Hotel, Luxury Apartments and Lakeside Residences, Queenstown, effectively bolstering WebBed's local network by more than 70 properties.

"These partnerships are significant for us in terms of their geographical coverage and popularity and will provide WebBeds' travel agent network with access to all inventory, year-round rates and tactical campaigns, dynamically delivered through the WebBeds trade platforms and customer APIs," said WebBeds Pacific Head of Commercial Grant Sumich.

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Digital passport

AN AUSTRALIAN technology company has developed a new digital COVID passport that it claims can expedite the reopening of Australia's borders.

GoPassport allows international visitors to record their COVID compliance, such as testing and immunisation, before they travel.

Currently open to a crowdsourcing campaign, which has been 70% funded within its first three days, goPassport Chairman Matt McKinley believes the product will be a "crucial part of reopening Australia and many other countries."

Qld \$74m boost

THE Queensland Budget 2020-21 is aiming to fast-track tourism's recovery, with a further \$74 million allocated to help speed up the restoration of jobs and the economic recovery of Queensland's tourism industry.

The cash injection will see Tourism and Events Queensland receive \$15 million for a national marketing campaign, a one-off investment of \$15 million to regional tourism organisations to help them identify a point of difference and target new visitors, as well as \$1.5 million to promote the Great Barrier Reef.

Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport Stirling Hinchliffe said the major investment would help "accelerate growth and restore jobs" in the state.

Courtyard triple threat Down Under

THE Courtyard by Marriott brand has announced three new hotels in Australia - two for Melbourne and one for Brisbane.

Expected to open in Dec of both 2023 and 2024, Mulgrave and Truganina will be the two locations planned for Melbourne respectively.

Meanwhile The Brisbane Courtyard will be located on Vulture St, nearby to the Gabba.

Qantas eyes recovery

DOMESTIC borders re-opening, cost-cutting measures and strong performance from its loyalty division are all factors listed by Qantas as driving its recovery from the travel shutdown.

In a statement about its recovery status released this morning, Australia's flag carrier said its group domestic capacity had now improved to 68% of pre-COVID levels this month, with forecasts suggesting that number will continue to rise to roughly 80% by Q3 2021.

Qantas also shed more light on its current state of liquidity, revealing that as of 30 Nov, the airline had \$3.6 billion at its disposal, comprised of \$2.6 billion in cash and \$1 billion in an undrawn revolving credit facility, which is tipped to be increased by \$500 million before 31 Dec to provide even more flexibility.

The carrier also released

VA lounge openings

VIRGIN Australia (VA) has announced it will reopen its airport lounges in Melbourne and Sydney on 15 Dec, with the Gold Coast to open "soon after".

The airline also confirmed it will launch 78,000 additional weekly seats between Victoria and New South Wales and Queensland by Jan 2021, in line with domestic border restrictions easing.

MEANWHILE, VA has reportedly asked an estimated 6,000 staff members to accept a wage freeze for 18-24 months as part of a newly proposed enterprise agreement.

Great Ocean body

A NEW era for The Great Ocean Road has begun with the introduction of The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.

The new body will aim to better protect the stretch of road, providing a single authority to manage its public land, beaches, national parks and more.

an update regarding its trade relationships (**TD** breaking news), claiming recently renegotiated multi-year agreements with 10 of the top 12 agencies would create "better selling opportunities" for travel agents across the country.

Meanwhile Qantas Loyalty was lauded in the recovery report as providing the company with "significant cash flow", listing financial services and retail partners as the two main earnings drivers, followed by Loyalty's own ventures.

Qantas added that a status match offer launched last week (**TD** 26 Nov) had already netted several thousand high-tier members applying to switch to Qantas' loyalty program.

"Overall, we're optimistic about the recovery but we're also cautious given the various unknowns," said Qantas Chief Executive Officer Alan Joyce.

"We also have a lot of repair work to do on our balance sheet from the extra debt we've taken on to get through the past nine months," he added.



Window Seat

AS THOUGH we needed even more incentive to leave 2020 in the rear vision mirror and gear up for 2021, Universal Studios Japan unveils Super Nintendo World will open next year!

The colourful gamer-themed attraction will boast a real life Mario Kart track, a massive version of Bowser's fortress walled in by a spike iron fence, and the challenge of collecting as many keys as you can inside Princess Peach's Castle.

The fun and vibrant world will smash its way open on 04 Feb before hastily sliding down a pipe shortcut and devouring a Super Mushroom - let's-a go!



Oh, what a year!
We need Christmas cheer,
It's a time to be witty
So send us your rhyme,
poem or ditty.
Gather your thoughts
and reflect,
But please don't object.
Look for the silver lining,
Let's see your creativity shining.
And the poem that
most rocks,
Will win a Haigh's
chocolate box.

Let your creative juices run wild and send us a poem or rhyme reflecting on 2020 or looking forward to 2021. The best will get a delicious Haigh's Chocolate gift box.

Send your entries to christmas@traveldaily.com.au
Entries close 16 Dec

Know your brands

LOGOS are the main way that companies distinguish themselves, and some logos are so famous that you don't even need to see the company's name to know who it is. See if you can identify these four logos.



2



4



Whose animal is this?



THIS small island nation has a number of national symbols, and the Hawksbill turtle is the country's national sea creature. The turtles are distinguished by their narrow pointed beak and often have jagged edges on both

sides of the shell. The Hawksbill lives throughout the tropics in open ocean, but prefers shallow lagoons and coral reefs. Do you know whose national sea animal this is?

ANSWERS 02 DEC

Pub quiz: 1 *Sun Princess*, 2 Seattle, 3 1990, 4 Newcastle and New York City, 5 Tigers, 6 Guangzhou, 7 Malmö, 8 Art gallery, 9 Miami, 10 San Juan

Whose flag is this: Bolivia

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

Where in the world?



THIS steel statue stands on the waterfront of one of the most northern capitals in the world. It was created by a local artist, Jon Gunnar Arnason, and resembles a long-ship.

Although many associate the Vikings with this sculpture, the original intention of the artist was not to depict this.

According to the artist, the

sculpture is a dream boat, and suggests the promise of undiscovered territory, hope, progress and freedom.

It was built in the late 1980s, after the design won a competition for an outdoor sculpture to celebrate the city where it is located's 200 year anniversary.

Where in the world is this?

Disneyland word search

D	Y	S	P	A	C	E	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N
N	R	E	S	I	U	R	C	E	L	G	N	U	J	D
A	T	A	I	N	R	O	F	I	L	A	C	K	D	I
L	N	B	I	G	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	B	X	S
Y	U	D	N	A	L	R	E	I	T	N	O	R	F	N
S	O	K	R	A	P	E	M	E	H	T	S	R	K	E
A	C	A	N	A	H	E	I	M	J	G	R	C	Q	Y
T	R	T	O	M	O	R	R	O	W	L	A	N	D	L
N	E	G	A	L	A	X	Y	S	E	D	G	E	U	A
A	T	L	R	L	Z	B	Q	P	U	J	T	Z	I	N
F	T	U	O	N	A	X	X	X	X	K	A	T	E	D
M	I	C	K	E	Y	S	T	O	O	N	T	O	W	N
E	R	A	U	Q	S	N	A	E	L	R	O	W	E	N
Q	C	A	S	U	T	E	E	R	T	S	N	I	A	M
A	D	V	E	N	T	U	R	E	L	A	N	D	R	A

SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

ADVENTURELAND
ANAHEIM
BIGTHUNDER
CALIFORNIA
CRITTERCOUNTRY
DISNEYLAND
FANTASYLAND
FRONTIERLAND

GALAXYSEDGE
JUNGLECRUISE
MAINSTREETUSA
MICKEYSTOONTOWN
NEWORLEANSQUARE
SPACEMOUNTAIN
THEMEPARK
TOMORROWLAND

McCaw-esome New Zealand



TOURISM New Zealand is playing to one of its greatest natural resources - the All Blacks - to help turn “2020 disappointment into hope”.

Announcing his ambassadorship for the destination management organisation, former All Blacks Captain Richie McCaw (**pictured**) recently jumped out of a plane over Mount Maunganui (**CLICK HERE**) to help encourage New Zealanders to “do something new”, highlighting the incredible experiences available around the country to encourage domestic visitation.

For travellers who perhaps prefer treading over more familiar ground rather than pushing themselves to the limits, a new interactive All Blacks Experience opened earlier this week at SkyCity Auckland.

The attraction is a full, 45-minute sensory experience for rugby fans showcasing New Zealand’s heritage, culture and achievements in the sport - **CLICK HERE** for more details.

Ultimately, international travellers and the tourism industry will be keen to say goodbye to 2020, and to help with this, Tourism New Zealand has partnered with Trees That Count to create a Forest of Hope.

Purchase a native tree this

month in order to “create new life”, and when int’l travel restarts, travellers are encouraged to visit their own “piece of hope”, which will be located in either Northland or Queenstown - see more information **HERE**.

MEANWHILE, Air New Zealand’s new safety video is highlighting the “8th wonder of the world”, with destinations across New Zealand campaigning for their submission for the title.

The video nods to the variety of destinations available to visit in New Zealand, from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island.

Watch the full in-flight safety video **HERE**.

New travel platform

TRAVELORIS, a new Australian travel planning platform, is set to take off this month.

Aiming to transcend all other travel websites and applications, Traveloris will allow the user to create personalised itineraries, which it claims replicates the quality of a travel agent, for free.

Highlighting destinations and local attractions and aided by the help of local guides and seasoned travellers, Traveloris also claims to allow consumers to see and experience “more than the traditional travel apps”.

CLICK HERE to visit the website.

TokyoTokyo

Old meets New

Become a Tokyo Expert

[Click here to register](#)



Carbon air incentive

AIRBUS Chief Executive Officer Guillaume Faury is calling for carbon-neutral aircraft incentives.

Favourable tax policies will help non-carbon-based technology gain traction, Faury believes, as hydrogen, Airbus’ favoured green solution, will cause fuel costs to increase for airlines.

Faury hopes the proliferation of hydrogen technology will lower costs in the future and that suitable rules may help uptake in the initial stages.

Thailand closed until Q2 2021

THAILAND won’t open to tourists until the second quarter of 2021, according to the country’s Minister of Tourism Pipat Ratchakitprakan.

The country’s authorities are currently accepting travellers with a 60-day tourist visa and “multiple” quarantines, which has reduced traveller flow to a minimum, and travel companies are continuing to campaign to Thai authorities to relent.

APPOINTMENTS



WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily’s* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Hilton Hotels & Resorts has named **Kruno Velican** as its Director of Operations of the soon-to-open **Hilton Melbourne Little Queen Street**. Also set to join the hotel are newly named Commercial Director **Dean Easton** and Director of Human Resources **Taronish Pardiwalla**.

The **Queensland Tourism Industry Council** has appointed **Mark Evans** and **Peter Woodward** to its two vacant board positions at its Annual General Meeting. Evans has 13 years of previous board experience with Tourism Tropical North Queensland, while Woodward and his family have owned and operated CaPTA Group for 40 years, of which he has been the Managing Director since 2016.

Jan Swartz has taken on a new Group President role with **Holland America Group**. She takes up the role, having been Carnival Australia & Princess Cruises Group President since 2016. Swartz will effectively replace Stein Kruse, previously Holland America Group & Carnival UK Group Chief Executive Officer, who has been named Senior Advisor to Carnival Corporation Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Arnold Donald. Other changes to Carnival Corporation’s North American operations include two new Cunard regional appointments, with Nicole Knox taking up the Director of Marketing role, and Jamie Paiko appointed Vice President Sales.

World Tourism Association for Culture & Heritage has appointed **Helena Egan**, **Florence Nkini** and **Shaun Vorster** to its executive board. Egan will join as Chief Marketing & Innovation Officer, Nkini has been appointed Director of Operations Africa, and Vorster as Chief Strategist.

For confidential tip offs, connect with *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click **HERE**



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