



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus full pages:

- Broome, Kimberley & Beyond
- Visit Monaco product profile

Aurora appoints

AURORA Expeditions yesterday announced the appointment of cruise industry veteran Steve Mclaughlin as its new Director of Sales Asia-Pacific.

He takes over from Dianna Schinella, who has been in the role since 2017 and is moving to a new position outside the travel industry, according to Aurora CEO Monique Ponfoort.

Ponfoort previously worked with Mclaughlin at Ponant, and said she was thrilled that he had returned to his "true passion of expedition cruising to join us".

"He is a true veteran of the trade, and I really look forward to working alongside him as the company continues to grow."

Mclaughlin's 30-year career has also spanned positions at Cruisecco, Orion, Cunard and Oceania.

QF offers NDC offset option

QANTAS is claiming a world first in third party distribution for its carbon offset program, allowing travel agents to offer their clients the ability to "Fly Carbon Neutral" through an extension of the NDC-enabled Qantas Distribution Platform (QDP).

Until now customers wanting to purchase carbon offsets had to do so by ticking a box during a direct flight booking on qantas.com, with QF saying it is "the first airline to offer customers the ability to purchase carbon offsets when booking flights in the indirect channel".

Qantas Executive Manager Sales & Distribution, Igor Kwiatkowski, said "many of our customers have told us how important it is for them to be able to offset their flight, and until now, those who booked through a travel agent weren't able to do so conveniently".

He said the new QDP carbon offset option was part of the airline's sustainability strategy, as well as "delivering on our commitment to better support the industry in selling and

servicing their bookings with Qantas".

"This is the first of a range of new types of offers we'll be making available to agents as we progress our NDC program over the coming months, all designed to more closely align the functionality of indirect agent channels with qantas.com," Kwiatkowski added.

The airline said additional carbon offset revenue from the enhancement would see QF support more conservation and environmental projects in Australia and around the world.

Qantas Frequent Flyer and Qantas Business Rewards customers can also earn 10 QF points for every dollar spent offsetting their emissions.

EK Premium Econ

EMIRATES has confirmed that the arrival of a new Airbus A380 into its fleet later this month will also see the unveiling of its long-awaited Premium Economy product offering.

EK continues to take delivery of new aircraft despite the pandemic downturn, with three A380s coming in Dec, one of which will feature the new cabin.

The carrier's President Tim Clark, said the superjumbo remained highly sought after by customers, confirming "we will continue to invest in our world-class A380 product experience".

Kimberley specials

BROOME, Kimberley and Beyond is inviting agents to get their clients to "wander out yonder" in Western Australia, with borders opening this week to NSW, Vic and hopefully SA.

See the special deals on [page 7](#).



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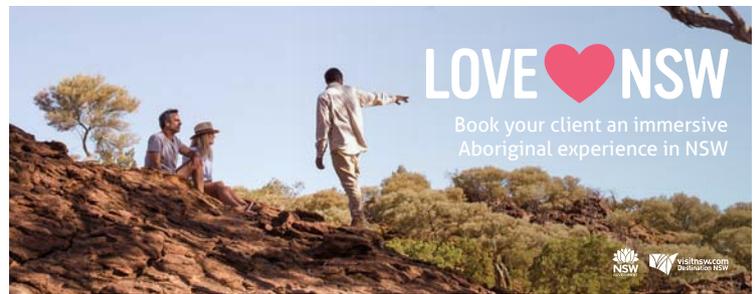
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Travel & Cruise Weekly





Expedia TAAP maintains tiers

EXPEDIA TAAP has announced the automatic 12-month extension of travel agents' Commission Tier status, as a way of continuing to support the industry through the pandemic.

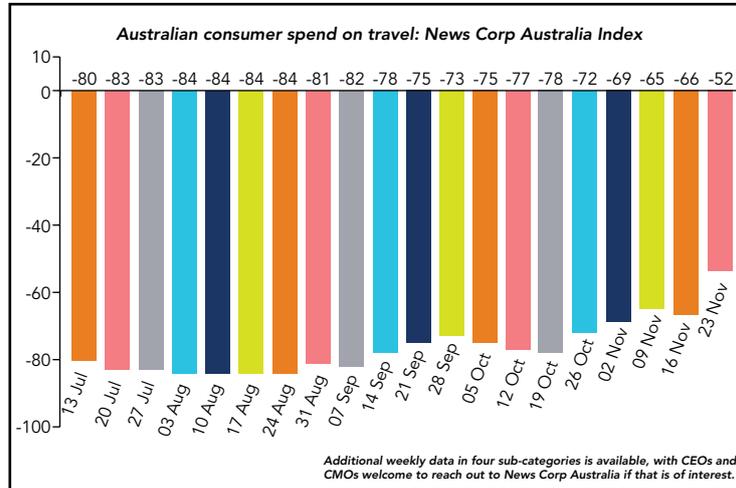
The company will use the Agency Tier each reseller started with in 2020 and extend it until the end of 2021, unless agents have reached the threshold to earn a better one in 2020.

New on IHG Board

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group overnight announced the appointment of Duriya Farooqui as an independent director.

Farooqui is a former COO for the City of Atlanta, was a Bain & Co principal, and is also on the board of the New York Stock Exchange.

Qld borders drive spend



EXCLUSIVE

THE announcement of the 01 Dec opening of the Queensland borders to residents from NSW and Vic created a significant jump in consumer travel spend,

according to the latest News Corp Australia data, with the overall index leaping 14 points - the biggest increase since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall spending volume is down about 52% year-on-year, with the increase this week showing "Australian travel is well and truly in recovery," said News Corp Head of Travel, Dwayne Birtles.

He said the immediate consumer behaviour was to book flights post the announcement, but there were also strong jumps in accommodation spending along with an increase of 7% in the travel agent and tour operator sector, indicating future bookings into 2021 as consumers are feeling more confident.

Cruise saw a small increase but is still languishing due to ongoing uncertainty about a restart.

JobMaker regos

THE Federal Government has opened registrations for the new JobMaker Hiring Credit scheme, with eligible employers able to access payments to support new jobs for people aged 16-35.

Companies can access the payment of up to \$200 per week for up to 12 months, for each eligible additional employee they hire between 07 Oct 2020 and 06 Oct 2021.

The scheme is being administered by the Australian Taxation Office, with employers encouraged to register now as a first step so they are ready to receive payments when the first quarterly claim period opens in Feb next year.

More details at ato.gov.au.

WA opens up today

WEST Australian Premier Mark McGowan has formally reclassified Vic and NSW as "very low risk" effective from 12.01am this morning, with borders to be adjusted to allow quarantine-free travel into WA from both states.

Travellers must complete a G2G Pass declaration, with all Perth Airport arrivals to undergo health screening and temperature tests.

All visitors will also receive an SMS health check reminder one week into their stay in WA.

Effective this Fri 11 Dec South Australia will also be classified as "very low risk" for WA as long as there are no further community outbreaks in the state.

Creativity flowing

WE ARE continuing to receive many entries to our Christmas competition.

We've decided to publish a few over the next week or so to inspire your entries.

A reminder that a Haigh's chocolate hamper is up for grabs to the best poem or rhyme reflecting on 2020 or looking forward to 2021.

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

Today's entry comes from Isabelle Tremblay from Flight Centre Buderim:

2020 was kinda cray-cray
Looking forward to a 2021 holiday.

Wondering who to take for a plane cuddle
Will hopefully be the only hurdle.

I could take Hugh Jackman
Holiday romance with this superman

Wouldn't that be bliss
If he gave me a kiss

I could take my best friend
BFF til the end
Partying, clubbing, dancing
This holiday would be amazing

I could take the kids
On the go, running on my feet

Up at dawn, making memories
Or they could spend time at the club for kiddies

I could take my gorgeous hubby
He is the most caring and funny
For a honeymoon we never had
'Cause your mum slept on the spare bed that night!

Or I could take mum
She would be great fun
A token of appreciation
I probably owe her a lifetime of vacation!

CAPALive

09 December 2020

RECENTLY CONFIRMED SPEAKERS FOR CAPA LIVE DIGITAL SERIES:



Jayne Hrdlicka
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Virgin Australia



Tony Fernandes
Group CEO
AirAsia



Olivia Wirth
CEO
Qantas Loyalty

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Travel Daily

Calls not to test air crew

GOVERNMENTS are being urged by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to follow global guidelines on the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Council Aviation Recovery Task Force's (CART) crew testing guidelines so they can be exempt from the testing applied to travellers.

IATA and the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) highlighted the significant cost of coronavirus testing for crews, with one airline estimating complying with current requirements for a "single daily flight" would add up to an additional US\$950,000 per year.

CART guidelines recommend crews should not be subject to restrictions applicable to other travellers, and health screening methods for crews should be as "non-invasive as possible", including providing proof of a negative test prior to departure.

"These measures not only contravene the recommended ICAO global guidance, they fail to take into account the fact that interactions with the local population are minimised," said IATA's Senior VP Safety & Flight Operations Gilberto Lopez Meyer.

"Crew on layover are often restricted to the hotel...such measures also ignore the fact that airlines already comply with the requirements of their home country health protection and monitoring programs to manage crew health, which typically includes measures to reduce the risk of infection."

"States should acknowledge that crew present a different risk profile than passengers".

However the call may ring hollow in Australia, where the most recent minor outbreak in NSW is believed to have originated from an airline crew member staying in a Sydney hotel.

Rex gets FIRB tick

THE \$150 million investment in Regional Express (Rex) by funds manager PAG (TD 22 Sep) has been approved by the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB).

The funding is being sought to facilitate the airline's new 737 services between Australia's major capital cities, with the transaction still subject to a number of other approvals including from CASA and Regional Express shareholders.

MEANWHILE the airline has also responded to an Australian Securities Exchange query over its soaring share price, which has jumped almost 50% this week to close at \$2.28 yesterday.

The Rex Board attributed the climbing value of the company to the launch and promotion of ticket sales on its new Sydney-Melbourne route (TD 01 Dec), a recognition by investors of Rex's lower cost structure versus its competitors, and positive aviation sentiment as borders open.



Window Seat

TYPICALLY man's best friend and not man's best man, dogs can now become the guest of honour at your next wedding, so long as you choose Mercure Canberra that is.

The hotel has teamed up with VIP pet company Guest of Honour Pet Chaperones to offer wedding organisers the option of having that special pooch pampered on their big day.

Dogs will enjoy transport, a walk in the park and dogsitting services - now that's a real dog and pony show!



Meet our Wellness Ambassadors



Because we want your customers to feel comfortable and cared for when they travel with us, we've introduced a specially trained team of Wellness Ambassadors who will be on hand at Abu Dhabi Airport and on board to answer questions and share advice on how to stay safe during the trip, so that you can relax knowing your customers are in good hands.

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A meeting of the minds



TWO independent Australian travel companies have decided to unite and strengthen their respective offerings, with Virtuoso member and luxury travel specialist Trans World Travel joining forces with the recently created Y Travel.

One of three co-founders of Executive Edge Travel, Yvonne Verstandig and her latest business Y Travel will bring a level of creative prowess and experience to Trans World Travel that the company hopes will steel it for the challenges of the future.

"Yvonne needs no introduction to our industry, she...brings to us a wealth of knowledge, experience, passion and creative energy, helping evolve our company for the next challenging and thrilling chapter," enthused Trans World Travel co-founder

Rob Mackie.

Reflecting on the decision to link up with another business, Verstandig said she was excited to start a new journey as the travel sector wakes up from the challenges of the pandemic.

"I strongly believe in the power of travel, be it locally or abroad," she said.

"I know first-hand the enrichment it can bring to our lives, our clients are so eager to explore again, and I cannot wait to introduce them to a more considered purpose to travel.

"I am ready and eager to embark on this new venture with the team and cannot wait to deliver this new vision," Verstandig said.

Pictured: Allan Verstandig, Karen Mackie, Rob Mackie and Yvonne Verstandig.



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Travel Daily



AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

AFTA is still working with Austrade and various other government agencies to finalise the specific details, and the delivery mechanism, for the \$128 million tailored travel sector support package.



agency, tour operator and wholesaler communities can make an application before Christmas. You may have read that the interview with The Travel Industry Hub and Bruce Piper scheduled for

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through the very extensive and complex process to have the web-based grant application process open before Christmas.

yesterday was postponed.

This is both intentional, to respect your valuable time, but also to ensure that we are only communicating the final and correct facts to you.

The legislative approval for the funding is underway, and the cross-agency implementation plan is well advanced, but some of the aspects related to the platform are not yet finalised.

As soon as we are confident that the detail is in a finalised state we will reschedule the interview.

We have received a lot of questions from members related to grant eligibility and timing, and so we want you to know that AFTA, and all the other parties involved, are working very hard towards the goal of optimising the grant eligibility for the sector, so that the travel

Additionally, we have scheduled an AFTA member-only webinar next week to go over the funding architecture, eligibility criteria and distribution framework.

The webinar is planned for Wednesday 16 Dec 2pm AEDT and you can register **HERE**.

Thank you for your stamina, it has been a long hard road to get to here and we are so very close. Stay tuned.

CX adds insurance

CATHAY Pacific has partnered with AXA General Insurance Hong Kong Limited to offer free COVID-19 coverage for all passengers.

The policy includes the cost of a PCR test and any required hospitalisation, covering up to US\$200,000 in medical expenses.

Customers will also receive an allowance of US\$100 per day per passenger for up to 14 days during any period of "unforeseen and mandatory quarantine".

The new CX insurance will be automatically applied to all bookings for travel until Feb 2021, covering travellers for 30 days from departure or until they return home.

Westin Surabaya

WESTIN Hotels & Resorts has opened a new property in Indonesia's second largest city, Surabaya in East Java.

The new Westin Surabaya is the country's fourth Westin property, as well as being the 57th Marriott International hotel in Indonesia.

NZ people person

AIR New Zealand this morning announced the promotion of Nikki Dines to become its Chief People Officer.

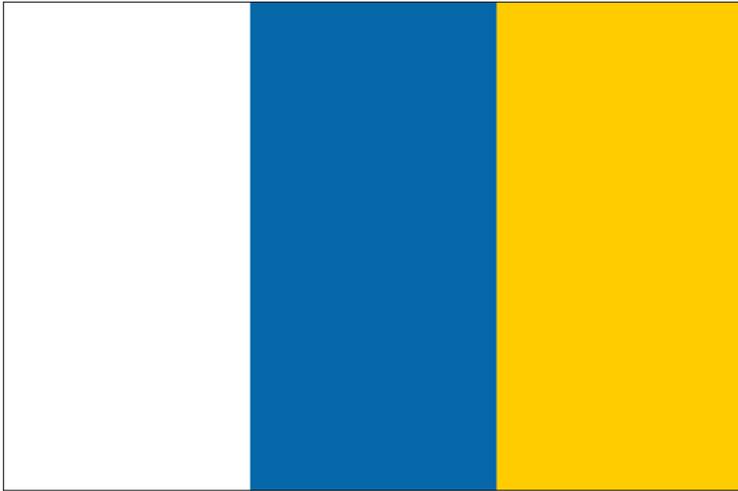
Dines has been with the carrier since 2013, and will take up her new position effective 01 Feb 2021, replacing Joe McCollum who will shortly finish up his fixed term appointment (**TD 25 May**).




Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

Whose flag is this?



THIS country has two versions of its flag - this one, used most of the time, and one with the nation's coat of arms in the middle of the blue, used by the government.

The flag became official in 1982, and combined the colours of

two of the main provinces of the country - the blue and white of the western islands and the blue and yellow of the eastern islands.

The islands are ruled autonomously, but are technically under the rule of Spain.

Do you know whose flag this is?

Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

C	R	I
A	T	G
I	R	E

Good – 19 words

Very good – 29 words

Excellent – 38 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

ANSWERS 07 DEC

Where in the world: Olympiastadion, Berlin, Germany

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

Pub quiz

1. Las Vegas is affectionately known as the "ninth island" by people from where?
2. The presence of Joshua trees means you are nearby to which desert?
3. AO was the IATA airline code of which short-lived carrier?
4. What is the most sparsely populated country in Europe?
5. 89% of Iceland's people are ethnically Icelandic, but what is the second most-represented ethnic group?
6. Is the population of San Francisco over or under 1 million?
7. Which continent has the highest average elevation?
8. What is considered to be the largest sand island in the world?
9. What is the easternmost point of mainland Australia?
10. The Mohammed Al-Amin Mosque, also known as the Blue Mosque due to its colourful dome, is located in which city?

Brownie Day



SOME argue that brownies are the best baked good you can enjoy - a combination of cake and cookie, it's a hard one to beat.

The dessert has its own day to celebrate, today 08 Dec.

As with many culinary histories, there are many who claim to have made the first brownie.

Its origins are said to have come from a chef accidentally adding melted chocolate to biscuit dough, or another who made a cake but didn't have enough flour, or a housewife in Maine who didn't add baking powder to her chocolate cake.

All these stories are well and good, but the first brownie supposedly was created by chefs at Palmer House Hotel in Chicago, who invented the treat for the World Columbian Exposition in 1893.

The wife of the owner of the hotel asked the chefs to come up with a dessert for the boxed lunches at the Women's Pavilion - the brief was that it needed to be easier to eat than a piece of pie and smaller than a layer cake, and so the brownie was born.

Celebrate its birth today at morning or afternoon tea!



Globus train trip

GLOBUS has added a new Indian Pacific rail itinerary to its collection of Australian tours, taking travellers from Adelaide to Perth with two nights aboard the iconic train.

The 10-day trip priced from \$6,325ppts also includes visits to Kangaroo Island, the Barossa Valley, Rottnest Island and Margaret River - globus.com.au.

Mardi Gras delayed

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has delayed the debut of its newest ship, *Mardi Gras*, until 24 Apr.

All other departures out of Galveston, Miami and Port Canaveral are canx through Feb, with Carnival due to take delivery of *Mardi Gras* later this month.

Khiri climate care

ASIAN destination management organisation Khiri Travel is going carbon-neutral from next year, introducing an offsetting program in partnership with ClimateCare.

Khiri will offset carbon emissions generated by all of its Asian offices, as well as staff commuting and business travel.

Once travellers arrive in Southeast Asia, Khiri will offset carbon emissions for trips by charging US\$1.50 (A\$2.02) per person per day, with the aim of offsetting entire itineraries, including accommodation, activities & transport, while new low emissions slow travel options are also to be introduced.

Funds will go to ClimateCare's carbon reduction projects right across the region.

NT grant program

THE Government of the Northern Territory has announced the recipients of its tourism digital booking grants.

A total of 50 businesses will participate in the Book Now Digital Support Program, and will share in the associated \$400,000 grant, designed to create an easier way for consumers to book their holidays online.

EMERALD Cruises has celebrated the float out of new super yacht *Emerald Azzurra* (pictured), which occurred on the weekend at The Halong Shipbuilding Company in Vietnam.

With just over a year until guests will be able to sail on *Emerald Azzurra's* maiden eight-day Best of the Red Sea itinerary, Scenic Group founder and Chairman Glen Moroney said the next stage of the ship's build would be the completion of the interior.

Prices aboard *Emerald Azzurra's* maiden voyage start from \$4,778 per person for an Oceanview

LATAM shopping

SABRE Corporation has confirmed the implementation of its Select Shopping solutions via the website and call centre of LATAM Airlines.

The new platform allows LATAM to offer a variety of seat types via Sabre's Branded Fares solution, helping them compete with LCCs while also enabling the upsell of higher value seats and services.

Since the system was implemented LATAM said its website has seen a 3% increase in passenger booking conversions.

stateroom.

The Super Earlybird savings offer is also currently available, with Balcony staterooms on sale from \$5,903 per person - view a video of the float out [HERE](#).

Win Mark Carter's new book Add Value

To celebrate the launch of leadership development specialist Mark Carter's new book *Add Value*, each day this week Travel Daily is giving a lucky reader the chance to win an autographed copy.



The impact of COVID-19 has forced many of us to re-evaluate what really matters. In his second book, Mark takes a deep dive into the meaning of value and provides readers with a unique framework to help you tap into your core values and be prepared and skilled to manage the challenges of today and tomorrow.

To win, simply tell us what value you add at work or beyond to addvalue@traveldaily.com.au

More at markcarter.com.au

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.740

THE Australian dollar was lower overnight, as the United States looks to enter new lockdowns.

The Dow Jones fell 0.5% on reports New York State might follow California by imposing stricter lockdowns to try and control coronavirus.

The fears saw the AUD/USD fall to three-day lows, before recovering to end down 0.1%.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.740
UK	£0.553
NZ	\$1.046
Euro	€0.611
Japan	¥77.12
Thailand	฿22.21
China	¥4.776
South Africa	11.16
Canada	\$0.943
Crude oil	US\$49.25

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Inclusions:

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Kununurra Essentials

from \$529[^] per person, twin share

Inclusions:

- 4 nights at ibis Styles Kununurra in a Standard Room
BONUS[#] free upgrade to a Superior Room and late check-out till midday
- Return airport shuttle transfers
- Ord River Cruise with lunch

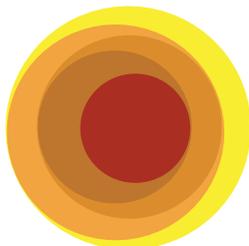
Why not extend your stay and explore the Gibb River Road or The Bungles?

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or contact your local travel agent

Terms & Conditions: [^]Advertised prices are per person, twin share, land only (excluding airfares) and based on a 'from' level. Travel dates vary for each package (A) Broome: 1 May - 31 Oct 21; (B) Kununurra 1 Apr - 30 Sep 21 and (C) Sal Salis 1 Aug - 30 Sep 21; other dates available, seasonal surcharges and close-out dates apply. [#]Bonus offers are subject to availability on check-in. ^{*}Sal Salis offer must be booked a minimum 6 months in advance, full payment due within 7 days. On sale until 28 Jan 21. Offer is subject to change and availability at time of booking and may be withdrawn without notice. Special conditions may apply to adhere to government COVID-19 regulations and border restrictions. Credit card surcharges may apply. Photo credit Tourism WA. V1-24112020. ATAS Accredited A14252. For full conditions please refer to our website www.broomekimberley.com.au.



MEMBER

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Monaco is getting ready for a Bright Sustainable Future of Travel

A Principality that is constantly reinventing itself, without renouncing the elements of its DNA, Monaco is guided by the values of excellence, experience, commitment, ethics, expertise, quality, renewal and success.

Whether you visit Monaco during racing season or beyond, you'll find a destination in which luxury goes hand in hand with sustainability - from green transport, organic food and sustainable stays at Monaco's luxury hotels.

And whilst international travel is still off the table for now, Monaco's future promises to be more than bright, thanks to a range of exciting developments set to impress even

the most demanding of luxury travelers. Here are some of the things to look forward to when next visiting this sustainable tourism luxury destination:

Luxury Transformations in the Heart of Monte-Carlo

The year 2020 revealed a new look of one of the Principality's most famous landmarks: The Casino Square. Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer completed 4 years of transformation works dedicated to Monaco's most iconic 5-star hotel, Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo, and the creation of a new district around the Casino Square. It includes One Monte-Carlo, an exclusive shopping promenade also featuring luxury accommodation, restaurants, and a conference centre. Learn more.

Embellishment of Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo

One of Monaco's most iconic 5-star

hotels, Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo, will write a new chapter in its history, with a forthcoming renovation project orchestrated by French interior architect Jacques Garcia. Visit website.

3 Monaco Grand Prix in 2021

The months of April and May 2021 will be exceptional since Monaco will hold 3 Grand Prix, inviting you to celebrate the past, the present and the future of motorsports. Visit Website.

Want to know more about this destination of excellence? Sign up to become a Monaco Tourism Expert. **CLICK HERE** to register.

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