

Oman COVID cover

OMAN Air will provide guests with free COVID-19 insurance coverage when they travel between now and 31 Mar 2021.

The insurance offering will cover any expenses incurred by medical treatment or quarantine costs related to COVID-19.

Aloha to you again!

HAWAII Tourism Oceania is back again to inspire that next trip to their beautiful destination, this time focusing on its nature-based attractions - see **back page**.

Cruise documentary

A **NEW** cruise doco is set to air this Sun at 7pm (AEDT) on Channel Seven featuring **Travel Daily's** Publisher Bruce Piper.

Cruising: The Biggest Storm looks at the plight of cruising through the COVID period, and also examines its future prospects as an industry.

Whitsundays targets trade

TOURISM Whitsundays has created a new Trade Manager role to spearhead its domestic marketing within the travel industry, appointing former Daydream Island Director of Sales Suzy Bohan to the position.

Bohan is also well known to the industry through her previous role with Delta Air Lines, with Tourism Whitsundays CEO Tash Wheeler saying "with the international borders closed for the foreseeable future, travel trade is now heavily focused on the domestic market which is why it is crucial to have a team member dedicated to this important piece of the travel puzzle".

"We also appreciate the importance of the domestic trade network and know that they are key to contributing to the Whitsundays' recovery," she said.

Bohan will be responsible for engaging with key travel agency

groups "including Flight Centre, Helloworld and the various mobile travel networks," Wheeler said, managing all trade activity and communication in an effort to increase the awareness of the Whitsundays region and sales for its tourism sector.

As well as increasing product knowledge of agents via training, identifying new opportunities for the Whitsundays with key trade partners, and product contracting, it is also anticipated the role will "help to enhance member engagement opportunities within the travel trade," she added.

Bohan said she had felt a sense of "coming home" since starting at Tourism Whitsundays.

"The domestic trade network is a key ingredient to the recovery of our tourism industry and I look forward to helping the region and members navigate this important market sector," she added.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page and a full page from **Hawaii Tourism Oceania**.

Resort jobs on offer

TRAVEL specialist recruitment firm AA Appointments has highlighted a "glimmer of hope" in the form of a number of roles currently available in regional and remote resorts, which are seeing strong demand as Australians undertake local holidays.

AA Appointments Managing Director Adriana D'Angelis said positions on offer included roles in management, hospitality and spa operations in regional Qld, Western Australia, South Australia and the NT.

The company is also continuing to support the industry with free career counselling for anyone affected by the decimation of the travel sector due to international border closures.

TRAVEL DAILY AWARDS Winner 2020

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"As an airline, we are proud to have consistently offered ongoing reliability for customers with our generous travel policies, our comprehensive safety procedures and our continued commitment to sustainable flying. Despite global challenges, we have always been there for our passengers and this resilience continues to inspire confidence that Qatar Airways remains a strong and reliable partner."

- His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker,
Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive.

Thank you for voting us the 'Most Supportive Airline' in the 2020 Travel Daily Awards.

To learn more about our Awards, please visit qatarairways.com/au

QATAR AIRWAYS القطرية
GOING PLACES TOGETHER

New Speaker Announcement

Jamie Pherous | Managing Director
Corporate Travel Management

Tickets start at USD49
REGISTER NOW!

AirAsia rebrand

AIRASIA has unveiled a new brand identity that it says will transform its business from an airline into a “comprehensive lifestyle platform”.

The company has launched the airasia.com super app, catering to 15 types of consumer need across travel, e-commerce and fintech.

In Australia, AirAsia will only introduce the travel component initially in preparation for when restrictions ease, a platform the business labels a “one-stop-shop for travellers to Asia”.

Services on the app will include flight/accommodation package options, flights, tours and experiences, medical treatment and wellness packages, as well as duty-free shopping.

“We pride ourselves in being a disruptive leader...now with airasia.com, we are enabling everyone to fly, to stay, to shop, to eat, all at the convenience of one super app,” said AirAsia Group CEO Tony Fernandes.

Lufthansa dynamic pricing

THE Lufthansa Group of airlines has announced the introduction of so-called “Continuous Pricing”, which promises agents booking via the carriers’ NDC Partner Program exclusive access to the most attractive offers.

To launch effective 20 Oct as part of the NDC Smart Offer from Lufthansa, Swiss and Austrian Airlines, the new fares are exclusively available via direct distribution channels.

“The traditional pricing of airlines is limited to 26 booking classes,” the carriers said in an update to agents yesterday.

“If a booking class is no longer available, the fare of the next higher booking class is automatically charged...this often results in price jumps that many customers are finding too high.

“Continuous Pricing enables a continuous price curve so that an almost unlimited number of additional fares can be offered

between two booking classes,” the update stated, meaning that agents always have access to the lowest price currently available.

Lufthansa’s Continuous Pricing will be introduced as a first step for Europe fares in Economy and Business Class (excluding group fares) booked via the group’s Direct NDC API, SPRK and on each carrier’s website.

More information is available on the lufthansaexperts.com website.

Kimberley webinars

SILVERSEA Cruises will host a free online session for travel agents to learn from experts about what the line has in store for the Kimberley region in 2021.

The webinar will be held next Wed 14 Oct at 12pm (AEDT), with attendees in the running to score one of five Silversea Indulgence Packs, including a \$250 restaurant voucher - **CLICK HERE** to register.

Flight transmission

SINCE the start of 2020, there have only been 44 cases of COVID-19 transmission on board flights out of 1.2 billion passengers, according to a new study compiled by The International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Those figures equate to one infected air traveller in every 27 million, incorporating cases that were either confirmed, probable or a potential transmission.

IATA conceded these numbers may not account for any unreported cases that slipped through the net, but suggests that even using conservative estimates, flying is a safe mode of travel during the pandemic.

“We recognise that this may be an underestimate but even if 90% of the cases were unreported, it would be one case for every 2.7m pax...furthermore, the vast majority of cases occurred before the wearing of face coverings became widespread,” IATA said.

WE’LL SHOW YOU FLAVOURS THAT ARE OUTTA OUR WORLD

An insider’s guide to eating and drinking in New Zealand

New Zealand is famed for extraordinarily fresh food and wine that’s original and world-class. Our inspirational cuisine’s freshness and vibrancy is only matched by the warmth of the welcome your clients will receive.

If your clients are looking forward to a holiday that incorporates freshness and innovation served with a smile, we can help you point them in the right direction.

SIGN UP AND WIN

**100% PURE
NEW ZEALAND**



SA budget boost

FURTHER details from the Federal Budget announcement this week have revealed that the \$150 million allocated to boost regional tourism will include funding packages for South Australia's Kangaroo Island and the Eyre Peninsula.

Cash injections will also see \$200 million set aside to upgrade facilities and access to the German settlement town of Hahndorf, as well as \$100 million for the Strzelecki Track Upgrade, an essential transport corridor used for outback tourism.

"South Australians can be confident that the Government's Economic Recovery Plan will create jobs, rebuild our economy and secure our state's future," Minister Birmingham said.



Terms & conditions apply

Let's rediscover the world together

Scenic unveils Canada

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has unveiled its 2021 Canada & Alaska program, for the first time launching alongside sister brand Evergreen Cruises & Tours.

The season will see Scenic offer two lodge stays as extensions to its Icons of Western Canada itinerary, with guests able to experience the Knight Inlet extension at a floating wilderness lodge, with boat or kayak grizzly bear viewings and a bear-tracking masterclass from a naturalist.

Also on offer is the Lodge Beach Resort extension for those looking for a relaxed coastal retreat, located a short seaplane flight from Vancouver to Vancouver Island.

Travellers will stay on a beach surrounded by groves of cedar and sitka spruce and quiet rainforest trails.

Evergreen Director Sales Marketing & Product Angus

Crichton told *Travel Daily* his brand's emphasis for the season is on giving guests more time in-destination, which saw the development of their extended 13-day Western Canada Highlights tour.

The itinerary explores the Canadian Rockies, and also travels to Victoria, Vancouver, Sun Peaks, and Banff, with a two day Rocky Mountaineer journey and a special stay at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise.

Also new is the 18-day Rockies Grandeur & the Best of the East tour from Victoria to Montreal, which adds to the 13-day version with trips to Ottawa, Quebec City, Montreal, Niagara Falls

The 2021 Canada marketing toolkit, will soon be available on the Scenic Agent Hub, along with the 2021 eBrochure.

AirAsia X debt plan

AIRASIA X has proposed a debt restructuring plan that would allow the cash-strapped carrier to increase its liquidity and pay down its mounting debts.

The airline has appointed Chartered Accountant Dato Lim Kian Onn to be its Deputy Chairman and lead the financial overhaul, with AirAsia X hoping the plan will avoid the prospect of defaulting on its debts and head off any chance of going into liquidation.

The Board's strategy will include a debt settlement and waiver involving unsecured creditors, a major reduction in its costs base by rationalising its route network and aircraft fleet, and the issuing of travel credits with extended validity for future travel to guests with valid bookings.

"We are in the right part of the market and many of our key markets are in green zones which are likely to reopen first," said CEO Benjamin Ismail.

Green light to cruise

SINGAPORE will gradually resume cruising next month, having developed a mandatory CruiseSafe certification.

Dream Cruises' *World Dream* will be the first to depart, followed by Royal Caribbean's *Quantum of the Seas* in Dec.

The CruiseSafe certification program sets out stringent hygiene measures to be enacted throughout the cruise, such as round-trips with no ports of call, and sailing at 50% capacity, frequent cleaning and more.



MOST travellers have a story about sitting next to someone famous on a flight, but now Air New Zealand is giving Kiwis the chance to guarantee the future anecdote, operating a flight where passengers can rub shoulders with the band SIX60.

The musicians are on board to mark the debut of a film about their rise to fame, *SIX60: Till the Lights Go Out*, with guests who buy tickets on the flight treated to the world premier of the film, thousands of feet in the air.

Taking to the skies on 14 Nov from Dunedin, the special celebrity flight is being heralded as a celebration of the country moving forward into a healthier tourism environment.

"The package is built around a one-way ticket to Dunedin, it's also a way of supporting tourism to the city and the region," said Air New Zealand's GM, Marketing Jeremy O'Brien.

"We hope most passengers will consider staying a night or two or exploring the region further once they get there."



* Terms and conditions apply.

For more information, visit tourismnt.com.au/summer-sale

Travel Daily

CORPORATE UPDATE

Best in small packages

CWT Meetings & Events has made it easier for business events organisers and attendees to host corporate events, introducing a new direct-booking platform for smaller meetings.

The newly-launched CWT easy meetings platform allows businesses to gain access to more than 250,000 meeting rooms in hotels, in addition to other types of venues and event spaces in more than 90 countries.

Many of the peripheral trimmings are also included, with business event organisers able to source aspects such as AV equipment and food and beverage packages at the same time as booking a suitable venue.

“Before the pandemic, many of our clients spent up to 70% of their meetings and events budget on small meetings,” said Senior Vice President & Managing Director CWT Meetings & Events Chris Bowen.

“As the desire for real engagement grows and face-to-face business meetings gradually resume, we expect this figure to increase due to restrictions on group sizes and safe distancing requirements.”

CAPA goes Live

CAPA - Centre for Aviation is preparing to launch a new information series called CAPA Live, a new digital platform featuring expert analysis of the aviation industry.

Billed as information sessions that will “reconnect and rewrite the rules of the industry”, upcoming topics are set to include the ongoing shrink of the sector, the winners and losers of the COVID period over the next 10 years, as well as a detailed business outlook for 2021.

The monthly sessions cost US\$49 for an individual pass or US\$99 for a three-month ticket.

14 Oct is when the series will kick off - more details [HERE](#).

“Surprisingly however, most organisations still don’t have any standardised processes or solutions to manage small meetings, the way they do for large events or transient business travel,” he added.

For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Biz travel boosted

AS PART of the Federal Government’s travel and tourism recovery package announced earlier in the week, Trade, Tourism and Investment Minister, Simon Birmingham revealed that new funding would be put in place to restore the domestic corporate travel space.

“As we shift to the next phase of our tourism recovery plan, new Budget measures will further support the sector and jobs by stimulating domestic visitation to our tourism regions and encouraging domestic business travel,” he said.

“Getting business events up and running again next year will encourage domestic travel and get people flowing through our airports, on planes, spending money in restaurants and shops as well as staying in hotels.”

Rex Business option

REGIONAL Express (Rex) is reportedly still weighing up how much its upcoming services between Sydney and Melbourne should cater for Australian business passengers.

The carrier, in the midst of making its first major charge on capital city routes, has leased eight former Virgin Australia-owned 737 jets, which were previously configured to offer eight Business class seats.

However, Rex is considering the option of a combining Premium Economy and Business class seating under a hybrid model.

Tickets for Rex’s new Sydney-Melbourne services will likely go on sale from Dec.

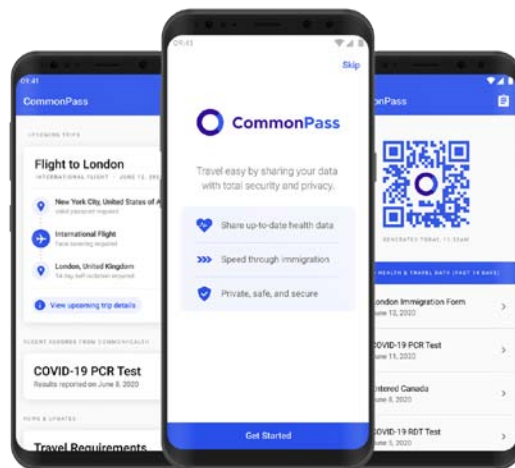
With five more ships leaving Carnival Corporation’s fleet, read more about how the company is coping with COVID-19 in the October issue of *travelBulletin*.



[CLICK to read](#)

[travelBulletin](#)

Airlines take COVID app test



A NEW digital platform which enables travellers to digitise their COVID-19 test results is currently being trialled by major carriers United Airlines and Cathay Pacific.

The CommonPass app is designed to make it easier for passengers boarding flights, expediting the time needed to check in and embark via a streamlined presentation of COVID tests results.

Travellers take a COVID-19 test at a certified lab, upload

the result to the app via a smart device and complete a questionnaire by the destination nation they are travelling to, and if all the criteria is matched, a QR code is generated which is able to be processed by airport staff and border control officers.

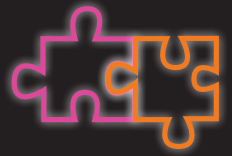
If the trial proves successful, the plan will be to roll out the new technology to more airlines in the hope of creating a global standard for COVID testing from the start to the finish of an air journey.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

NEW EPISODE AVAILABLE!

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)



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.

E	V	D
L	P	E
E	O	N

Good – 15 words
Very good – 22 words
Excellent – 29 words

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

Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the **TD** Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 30 Jan 2014:

IT APPEARS as though Justin Bieber's recent antics in Miami, which led to his arrest, were the final straw for some.

Online travel booking website AirFastTickets.com, keen to push themselves as the cheapest in the country, have offered Bieber free air tickets on the proviso he does not return to the USA.

The service doesn't end there, with the OTA sweetening the deal with the services of one of their agents to book more flights for the wayward star.

"We are also offering Mr Bieber a private AirFastTickets travel agent to ensure he is able to quickly and seamlessly travel to anywhere around the world, at any time...just not back to the US," the company said.

THE perks you get from airline loyalty clubs are very attractive, but some are making sure they get the most from their membership.

Phil Asker from The Captain's Choice has recalled an Ansett Golden Wing Club member from the 1980s who kicked up a stink when a free shuttle service from Melbourne Tullamarine Airport to the city CBD was canned.

Turns out the Global Rewards life-time member lived 3kms from MEL and would use the shuttle for his daily commute, not to mention the lounge for breakfast & after work drinks.

ANSWERS 08 OCT

Know your brands: 1 City of Adelaide, 2 Mitsubishi, 3 Microsoft, 4 Sydney Opera House

Where in the world: Gastown Steam Clock, Vancouver, Canada

Whose animal is this: Pine Marten - Croatia

Pub quiz

- Five states are recognised as possessing nuclear weapons, while three others claim to be armed as such, but which small state is suspected of harbouring nukes without having admitted to doing so?
- Princess Cruises' *Pacific Princess* featured in which television series?
- Qatar is located on which tiny peninsula?
- The island of Phuket is located in which sea?
- Founder of Norwegian Cruise Lines and Carnival Cruise Lines Ted Arison also helped found which sports team, which is still owned by his son today?
- The "City of Sails" refers to which city?
- Which of South Africa's 11 official languages is most commonly spoken within the country as a first language?
- Kashmir is a disputed region between which three countries?
- Which empire founded the city which would become London?
- The Icefields Parkway extends through a range of national parks in which country?

Whose flag is this?



THIS flag is only one of two in the world with four equal horizontal stripes.

It became the nation's flag in 1968, when it became independent from colonial rule, having been controlled by both Britain and France in the past.

The colours of the flag represent different symbolic aspects of the

country with the yellow standing for the light of freedom, red for the struggle for independence, blue for the nation's position as an island and green for the subtropical weather of the nation which results in a verdant covering of trees and plants.

Do you know whose flag this is? Check Mon for the answer.



Events scholarships

THE NSW Government has announced it will fund 12 Diploma of Event Management scholarships in a bid to support the business events sector and deliver more job opportunities for regional communities.

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said that programs such as these will be crucial in restoring the state's visitor economy to pre-pandemic levels.

"The business events sector presents a major opportunity for the visitor economy of regional NSW, particularly as we steer our path to recovery...we know that the best way forward is to help to create more jobs and these scholarships will do exactly that," Ayres said.

Go walking in Utah

AGENTS longing for an early taste of the United States can go for a virtual tour of Utah as part of the Utah Office of Tourism's latest trade incentive program.

To participate, agents must download Visit Utah's "Walker Tracker", enabling them to take a virtual walking tour, solo or in groups, around the state between 15 Oct and 18 Dec.

Those who participate will also be in the running to win one of four trips to Utah when travel restrictions to the destinations are eventually eased.

The famil prize will include return Economy class flights with Delta Air Lines, six nights of accommodation, some meals, activities, attractions and transportation - register **HERE**.

THE Victorian Government has approved plans to construct a major tourist precinct called Cape Otway Road Australia (CORA), billed as being the largest sports and wellness destination in the Southern Hemisphere.

To be located in Modewarre, south west of Geelong, the \$350 million development will feature a combination of four- and five-star accommodation, including 128 hotel rooms, 37 eco lodges and 24 retreat homesteads.

The proposed tourist site will also boast world class indigenous art galleries, elite sports facilities, restaurants and a microbrewery.

The designers of the project have labelled it "Victoria's own MONA", and is envisioned to be "renowned around the world as the ground-breaking venue on

the southern edge of the great southern continent, the place where the latest innovations in elite sport performance, health and wellbeing are immersed in a unique environment of natural beauty, arts, culture and food", according to its website.

Pictured: A render of what the major tourism precinct will look like when it is completed.

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

A five-day Kakadu in-depth self-drive package, valued at \$934 per person, is available for just \$539pp, including a two-night stay in Darwin at the **Palms City Resort** and two nights at **Cooinda Lodge** in Kakadu. Bookings must be made before 11 Nov, and are valid for travel up till 31 Mar. Extra extensions can be included, and for details, **CLICK HERE**.

Sydney's **Pier One Sydney Harbour**, Autograph Collection in Walsh Bay is hosting the **Maison Mumm Hotel** for the Melbourne Cup. A range of options are available, including a Cup Day Lunch at The Gantry, competitively priced at \$250 per head - **CLICK HERE** to book.

Book a cruise with **Regent Seven Seas Cruises** with the Elevate Your Experience offer, providing a free two-category suite upgrade. Valid until 13 Nov, a 10% deposit on select 2021 cruises is also available in Alaska, the Mediterranean or Northern Europe. **CLICK HERE** for more.

Royal Caribbean International has released a 60% discount on second guests for 2021, with kids also able to sail free all summer long. Travellers will also be able to save up to \$100 on next year's sailings. Offer valid until 05 Nov. Call 1800 754 500 for more details.

QF plots Merimbula

QANTAS has announced plans to launch flights from Sydney to Merimbula for the first time in its history, revealing direct services will operate four times weekly from 18 Dec 2020 using a 50-seat Q300 turboprop aircraft.

The new flights will create more competition for REX, which currently services the route.

Green tick for icon

THE Sydney Opera House has been named the second most eco-friendly tourist attraction in the world, according to the Green Building Council of Australia.

The iconic tourist attraction scored 50 out of a possible 60 points, earning praise for its commitment to low emissions, water reduction, recycling schemes and renewable energy.

Hillman wants more

ECO Tourism CEO Rod Hillman has questioned the optimism for tourism expressed by the Federal Government following Wed's budget announcement, penning a letter this week outlining what is still required for a full rebound.

Hillman wants more regional support and specific funding for operators in northern Australia.

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

Aloha Friday

HAWAII TOURISM
OCEANIA



HOW HAWAII CAN HELP YOU CONNECT WITH NATURE

From the warm tropical climate to the lush scenic landscapes, the natural environment of the Hawaiian Islands has to be seen to be believed.

There is no better way to connect with nature than by taking part in outdoor activities across the Hawaiian Islands. With so much to see and explore, visitors have the opportunity to discover all that Hawaii's natural environment has to offer.

Take to the treetops and experience an exhilarating zipline experience over Hawaii's dense rainforests, or lace up some hiking boots and take a trek through one of the islands' phenomenal natural wonders, Waimea Canyon.

To truly connect with the natural environment, visitors can take part in a Forest Bathing experience. The traditionally Japanese practice takes participants deep into the forest with a guide, so they can immerse their senses in the environment.

The ocean is the key to the Hawaiian Islands and locals focus their lives around the waves. From surfing and kayaking, to diving and sailing there are so many ways to build a connection with the ocean. Ancient

Hawaiians travelled across the sea using outrigger canoes, and visitors can take part in similar experiences today. As an introduction to the islands and the ocean, groups can climb into an outrigger canoe, paddling with the help of a guide and learning about the ecosystem of vast marine life.

Visitors looking to integrate nature into all aspects of their trip will be delighted by the many restaurants offering paddock-to-plate dining across Hawaii. Famed for its island-grown produce, many fresh dishes will include local ingredients like taro, Maui onions and macadamia nuts. Maui's upcountry region is home to fresh produce farms including vegetables, lavender and an organic vodka distillery.

As ecologically diverse destinations, the Hawaiian Islands are committed to providing responsible tourism options to visitors. Many hotels and resorts offer eco-friendly accommodation options and there are numerous activities that promote responsible travel. When spending time in the sun, it's important for visitors to remember that only reef-safe sunscreen can be used across the islands. This initiative was legislated by the state government to protect Hawaii's reefs and marine life.

AND THE WINNER IS!

Congratulations to Taryn Atton from Helloworld Travel Menai Marketplace who has WON our photo competition. Taryn shared her special Waikiki Wedding photo!

Mahalo to all that shared their photos.



Getting married in Waikiki in 2015! Overlooking iconic Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach; celebrating with our ohana - who could ask for anything more?



Hawaii to Start the Pre-travel Testing Program for Travellers

State of Hawaii's pre-travel testing program will start on October 15, 2020. This will give travellers arriving from out of state an alternative to the 14-day mandatory self-quarantine. Hawaii's visitor industry has established protocols to ensure the safety of residents and workforce, while also welcoming back pre-tested guests safely. For more details on the current situation [click here](#).