

Club Med coverage

CLUB Med has announced COVID-19 medical assistance coverage for Australian guests at no additional cost.

The new offer applies to any travel between now and 31 Dec 2022 to any Club Med resort worldwide, for all guests who have made a new booking since 01 Jul 2020.

The enhanced coverage is provided at no extra cost to help cover any medical expenses and cost of stay due to lockdown or quarantine requirements if guests fall ill due to COVID-19.

The COVID-19 cover is a free add-on to the travel emergency, assistance and evacuation services in the resorts and the basic travel insurance coverage already part of Club Med's all-inclusive packages for Aussie pax.



NEW 2021 CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Adelaide to Darwin

15 Day Tour
Now Available
From \$6,745pp*



*Conditions apply

CLICK FOR
NEW BROCHURE >

Travel Daily launches airline

EXCLUSIVE

AUSTRALIA'S favourite travel industry publication is moving into the jet age, going head-to-head with established carriers via the acquisition by the Business Publishing Group of a small fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft.

Funded by private equity, the initiative will create a "purely trade-friendly carrier," according to Publisher Bruce Piper, who said the organisation was able to take advantage of the weak aircraft leasing market due to COVID-19.

"With thousands of jets parked in Alice Springs and the Arizona Desert there are significant opportunities to secure planes at a fraction of the normal price."

While initially plotting a domestic operation, the group ultimately plans to expand internationally, with a plethora of wide-bodied A380 aircraft also currently underutilised.

A key differentiator for **Travel Daily Airways** will be the involvement of the travel trade, with domestic routes attracting 5% BSP commission, which will be doubled to 10% on international

UA ups bag charge

UNITED Airlines this week implemented changes to its economy class baggage allowance for travel to and from Australia.

Effective for any tickets issued on or after 25 Mar, the first checked bag will continue to be free, but the fee for a second bag will be US\$100 which is payable at the airport upon check-in.

Bags can have a maximum weight of 23kg, and additional, oversized or overweight bags will incur a charge of US\$200 each.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page.

Our next issue will be published on Tue 06 Apr due to the Easter break.

services when they launch.

"With a long involvement with the travel sector we believe rewarding advisors for their bookings will be a key competitive advantage in driving yield and seat factor," Piper said.

"When my wife Jenny and I took over **Travel Daily** in 2004 we knew little about the industry or indeed journalism - and we've done OK so far," he noted.

"Similarly there's no reason we shouldn't be able to make a success of an airline, particularly in the current environment," he said, adding that although aviation can be a complex business, these days most technical issues can be solved with a simple Google search.

"There are many pilots, flight attendants, reservations teams and ground crew currently stood down so we don't anticipate any difficulties in attracting staff."

The first **Travel Daily Airways** flights will debut in exactly 12 months time, on 01 Apr 2022.

Livn now offers TIX

LIVN Group has announced a new partnership with event ticket provider TIX to offer musicals, theatres and concerts to travel distributors across the globe.

The move is launching with *Frozen the Musical* by Disney Theatrical Productions which is now available to Livn distribution partners - more info on **page four**.

IHG seals Vic deal

IHG Hotels & Resorts' upmarket InterContinental brand is set to arrive on Vic's Mornington Peninsula, with last night's signing of an agreement with the group redeveloping the iconic Hotel Continental in Sorrento.

The "Conti" as it is known to locals will become the InterContinental Sorrento when it opens in Nov this year after a state-of-the-art restoration by the Trenergy Consortium.

It will feature 106 beautifully appointed, spacious guest rooms, many with water views, and will become the 10th InterContinental Hotel in Australasia.

Money for Murray

MURRAY Regional Tourism, the peak cross-border tourism organisation for the Murray region in NSW and Vic has been awarded \$290,000 in funding by the Vic Government.

Chair Wendy Greiner said the money would assist Murray Regional Tourism to "support industry through implementing dedicated marketing initiatives to increase awareness and drive visitation into the future".

She also acknowledged a further \$850,000 investment from the State Government to support the recovery of Mildura Airport.

"Air access is critical to the region's recovery, and is responsible for driving nearly 25% of domestic overnight visitors to the Murray," Greiner said.

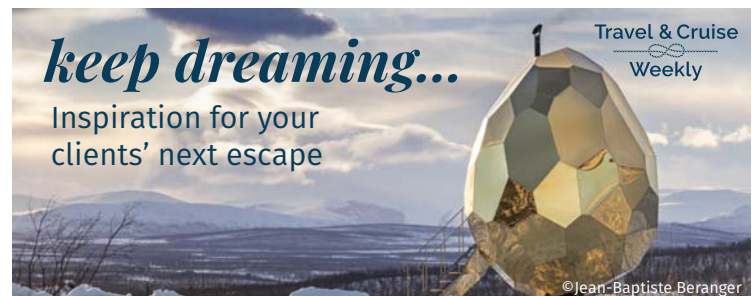
Drive
OUTBACK
QUEENSLAND

THERE'S MORE TO EXPLORE IN QUEENSLAND'S BACKYARD

Download our new
Drive Outback Queensland Guide:
outbackqueensland.com.au/
drive-outback-queensland

GOOD TO GO

Outback Queensland
Live Australia's story



Sabre storefront

SABRE has introduced its new airline storefront, which the tech company hopes will be the next generation of air shopping.

With a phased rollout to begin via Sabre shopping APIs, the company said the industry-first will make comparison-shopping complex airline offers easier.

The company said it expects to launch the new capability for travel agencies via Sabre Red 360 in the coming weeks.

The new airline storefront provides digital “shelves” that organise the breadth and depth of an airline’s offering in a side-by-side display.

For airlines, the new storefront supports differentiation and more merchandising opportunities in the indirect channel, with flight search results displaying several product offerings for each flight.

For travel advisors, it allows for efficient comparison shopping across several flight options.

“Airlines have invested in differentiating their brand in a number of ways,” Chief Product Officer Wade Jones explained.

“While this creates greater choice for travellers, it also presents a challenge – it’s easy to understand the cost, but harder to understand what the experience will be.

“Sabre’s new airline storefront not only empowers airlines to effectively market their unique product in the indirect channel, it also helps travel buyers communicate the total offer value,” Jones added.

TRA confirms bloodbath

TOURISM Research Australia (TRA) overnight released its National Visitor Survey results for 2020, with a whopping \$78.3 billion in total domestic and international tourism losses.

The stark figures highlighted the massive ongoing impact of international and domestic border closures, with the full calendar year results comprising \$35.1 billion on reduced domestic overnight spending, an \$8.9 billion drop in domestic day trips and \$34.3 billion in losses from international travel.

The 12 month period was also hit by the bushfires in early 2020, TRA said.

The figures also highlighted the impact of COVID-19 related travel restrictions and border closures which heavily affected interstate movement during the year.

“With Australians switching to travel within their home state, the share of intrastate overnight trips and spend increased across all states and territories,” the report noted, with the national share of overnight intrastate trips increasing from 67% to 81% for

TIME to Learn

THE Travel Industry Mentor Experience will hold its next workshop on Tue 13 Apr at 1pm AEST, with a focus on customers - how to identify them, and use personas to optimise business results - for more details see travelindustrymentor.com.au.

overnight trips, and 44% to 67% for spend.

Capital cities have been hit harder by the pandemic, the report noted, with the number of overnight trips to capitals down 52% to 23.3 million, while travel to regional areas declined 30% to 51.6 million trips.

Simon Westaway from the Australian Tourism Industry Council said the figures were proof of the massive hit to the sector, with more than a third of tourism businesses cutting staff and downsizing because of ongoing low consumer confidence in travel.

COVID-19 summit

THE World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTTC) has joined with Carnival Corporation and Hilton to present the *2021 Global Scientific Summit on COVID-19*.

The live global forum, which is open to the public, will take place in London, but is unfortunately timed from 2am-5.30am Sydney time on Fri 16 Apr.

The Summit will “bring together top global scientists and health experts discussing the latest discoveries, evidence-based insights and best practices for living in a world with COVID-19, and is the second edition of last year’s forum which was hosted by WTTTC and Carnival.

It is recommended that people register in advance for the event at covidsciencesummit.com.

ContikiX launches

CONTIKI is literally reaching for the stars, having today announced partnerships with both SpaceX and Virgin Galactic.

Dubbed ContikiX, the concept is being marketed as “affordable space travel developed exclusively for 18-35 year olds,” giving these travellers of the future the opportunity to orbit Earth and experience the Blue Planet from more than 300 kilometres above it.

Complete with delicious meals prepared by an award-winning chef, spacious rooms with comfy beds and an on-board dancefloor, ContikiX will include all the classic inclusions from the brand travellers are used to.

“Due to the pandemic and questionable state of the planet, I think a lot of people are over Earth at the moment and are looking for an escape,” said Contiki’s local MD, Katrina Barry.

Azzurra 2023 out

EMERALD Azzurra’s first yacht cruises in the Black Sea are the highlight of Emerald Cruises’ 2023 brochure.

The two new Black Sea itineraries, as well as Azzurra’s second season of Adriatic, Mediterranean and Red Sea cruises, were released today, alongside new renders of the upcoming ship which is currently under construction at Scenic Group’s Croatian shipyard.

More on the Emerald program is featured in *Cruise Weekly* today.

EXPLORE MORE with Viking

Remarkable journeys at one incredible price. Explore more with our combined cruise and touring extension packages.

[VIEW OFFERS](#)





**GET YOUR MESSAGE
TO LISTENING EARS**

**CLICK HERE FOR INFO ON
PODCAST SPONSORSHIP**

Travel Daily

Webjet raising another \$250m

WEBJET overnight announced a “convertible notes offering” to raise \$250 million, with some of the proceeds to be used to de-risk the refinancing of the company’s \$130 million term debt due for repayment in Nov next year.

MD John Guscic said Webjet was “taking advantage of market conditions to proactively manage our balance sheet,” with the offering also giving the company additional flexibility to “pursue leadership in all our businesses”.

He said Webjet believes the highly fragmented B2B wholesale bedbank industry will change significantly as a result of the pandemic, while the local Webjet OTA business had already seen “meaningful market share growth as the Australian domestic travel markets start to return”.

Guscic said the notes offering would give Webjet flexibility to further capture demand as bookings continue to shift online.

He said the new finance had a materially lower cash interest cost than current arrangements, and gives Webjet “the ability to pursue strategic opportunities”.

The notes will be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

Virgin into Glasgow

VIRGIN Hotels has announced plans to open and operate a new hotel in Glasgow, Scotland.

The property is expected to open in 2022, and would become the brand’s second Scottish hotel alongside the planned Virgin Hotel Edinburgh which is also slated to debut next year.

Virgin Hotel Glasgow will be located in a prime city centre position overlooking the River Clyde, with 242 Chambers and Grand Chamber Suites, meeting and event spaces and multiple dining and drinking outlets.

US carriers commit to net zero

AIRLINES for America (A4A), the major industry trade group representing US carriers, has announced a commitment by its members to “work across the aviation industry and with government leaders in a positive partnership to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050”.

The group, which includes United Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Hawaiian Airlines, Southwest Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Atlas Air and Alaska Airlines, has pledged to work towards a rapid expansion of the production and deployment of commercially viable sustainable aviation fuel.

A4A CEO Nicholas E. Calio said the airlines were proud of their record on climate change, but the challenge has “only continued to intensify,” urging governments to implement policies supporting environmental innovation.



Window Seat

‘**KAREN**’ used to be little more than a lovely girl’s name, derived from the name Catherine.

However, during the pandemic it has become a pejorative term for a woman seeming to be entitled or demanding, beyond the scope of normality.

Now, Karen is coming to life at Madame Tussauds Sydney in the form of a wax figure.

Karen will be complete with acrylic nails, garish sunglasses, and her signature asymmetric bob & highlights combination.

She’ll also be a talking figure, with the public invited to suggest what she should say - **CLICK HERE** to contribute.

Madame Tussauds is also showing empathy for all those delightful real-life Karens, who can enter free from 01-04 Apr.

JOURNEY BEYOND

We're hiring!

We are searching for travel enthusiasts to join, inspire and grow our Sales & Marketing team with 6 new positions available.

If you live and breathe travel and are passionate about the Journey Beyond family of brands, then don't miss out on these amazing opportunities.

Marketing Campaign Manager | Journey Beyond Rail Expeditions | Adelaide based

Marketing Manager | Eureka & Cruise Sydney | Melbourne based

Marketing Coordinator | Adelaide based

Content & Communications Executive | Adelaide based

National Strategic Accounts Manager | Adelaide based

Business Development Manager | VIC and TAS | Melbourne based

FIND OUT MORE



24 hours of RSSC luxury



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) continued its travel partner appreciation last night, with top achieving travel advisors for the first quarter of 2021 treated to “24 hours of luxury” in the form of a luxurious all-inclusive stay at Spicers Sangoma Resort in the NSW Blue Mountains.

The lucky participants are **pictured** at sunset overlooking

the distant Sydney skyline, from left: Garry McLaughlin from Firstclass.com; Gillian Seller, Matthew Vince and Lisa Pile from Regent Seven Seas Cruises; Kathy Pavlidis, Travel Associates Kew; Blair Leslie, Mosman Travel; Vicki Williamson from MTA Mobile Travel Agents; Ian Mollison of Helloworld Balwyn North; and Frances Mendham from Atour Travel Service.

Livn, TIX let it go (to agents)



LIVN'S new partnership with TIX (see p1) will see opportunities for travel advisors and other third party distributors to offer musical and theatre product to a wider audience.

TIX is a well-established B2C channel for live events, and is now enhancing its reach through Livn's Open Connectivity Hub for distributors of tours & activities.

The pact formally launched last night at a performance of *Frozen the Musical* by Disney Theatrical Productions, which is now available to Livn distribution partners, travel agents and the wider travel industry.

And in a move which will further melt some ice-cold hearts, there's a \$1,000 cash prize up for grabs for the travel consultant who sells the most *Frozen* tickets.

The deal is Livn's first partnership in the musical, theatre and concert space, enhancing its portfolio which already includes day tours, experiences, attractions and activities - all accessible to

distribution partners via a single integration with the Livn API.

Pictured at last night's *Frozen* performance at the Sydney Capitol Theatre are Sheila Moloney from TIX; Mark Rizzuto of Livn; and James Robertson from Disney Theatrical Group.

Discova your best travel outfit

DISCOVA DMC has this morning formally launched a new “Travel Tailor” smartphone app which promises to make holiday-fashion faux pas a thing of the past.

The artificial intelligence-enabled app is intended to be white labelled and will be free for all Discova partners to offer to their customers.

Once installed on a user's phone the app asks them to take a selfie which is processed to create accurate measurements and the customer's ideal colour palette.

The information is automatically matched to their travel itinerary, and then other details are gathered online including forecast weather conditions so the app can advise appropriate layering options and whether travellers will be OK in shorts or not.

A unique feature is the “fitting room” where the user's profile and travel details are combined to offer outfit suggestions - and there is even a geolocation option to identify the nearest clothes store to create the right look.

Disova Global Director of Sales, Andrew Turner, said “from budge smugglers to socks and sandals, we know mistakes can be made when you travel”.

“We want to do our bit to help travellers stay on the right side of good taste,” he said - [discova.com](https://www.discova.com).

RCI's new Odyssey

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has formally taken delivery of its brand new *Odyssey of the Seas* which will debut next month in Haifa, Israel before her maiden US season out of Fort Lauderdale planned for Nov this year.

Meyer Werft Yard handed over the vessel to Royal Caribbean Group CEO Richard Fain and RCI CEO Michael Bayley in a virtual ceremony last night.

Odyssey becomes the 25th ship in the RCI fleet, while the company also overnight announced the deployment of *Anthem of the Seas* on a series of upcoming UK domestic cruises.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Travel Daily
NEWS ON THE FLY

NEW EPISODE AVAILABLE!

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

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.

1



2



3



4



Whose flag is this?



THIS country didn't have any symbols of its own during rule over it by colonial powers.

The first flag used locally had a bird-of-paradise on it, with a green background.

The colonial administration developed a flag with a vertical tricolour of blue, yellow and green

as a possible national flag, with the southern cross on the left and the bird-of-paradise on the right.

This flag wasn't particularly exciting to the locals but a young student submitted the current design to the government and it was adopted in 1971.

Do you know whose flag this is?

Whose animal is this?



©Aram Kazandjian

THE western chimpanzee was only recently declared this African nation's national animal, with the government officially adopting it as such in Feb 2019.

The decision was made in an attempt to preserve the species, with populations falling by 80% between 1990 and 2014.

Western chimpanzees mainly

inhabit western Africa (hence their moniker) and hunt often using tools like spears.

The largest populations are in Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea, but they are the national animal of neither of these nations.

Do you know which of the neighbouring countries they are the national animal of?

Brazil word search

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

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

BRASILIA
PORTUGUESE
AMAZON
ANACONDA
CAIMAN
CHRISTREDEEMER
RIODEJANIERO
CARNIVAL

GAUCHO
BOSSANOVA
RAINFOREST
BOLSONARO
SAOPAULO
COFFEE
IGUAZUFALLS

ANSWERS 31 MAR

Pub quiz: 1 The Dunes Hotel, 2 Charing Cross Road, the Mall, Northumberland Avenue, the Strand, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall, 3 a) Sweden, 4 East Germany, 5 b) Lincoln Cathedral, 6 Egypt, 7 Australia, 8 Surfers Paradise, 9 Toowoomba, 10 New York City

Seen it at the movies: 50 First Dates

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

PTMs catch up country-wide



TRAVELMANAGERS has celebrated the return of domestic travel and the anticipation of travel bubbles with a series of state-based gatherings with its personal travel managers (PTMs).

Also joined by members of its National Partnership Office, representatives have congregated in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, and most recently, Sydney, where last Fri over 70 PTMs got together at the Royal Exhibition Hotel in Surry Hills (pictured).

According to Chief Operating Officer Grant Campbell, these state gatherings are being held to share the recent and continuing experience of 2020, to recognise the opportunities resulting from state governments keeping their borders open, and to prepare for the development of travel bubbles to New Zealand, as well as Fiji, Japan and Singapore.

“Despite limited sales and the extremely high level of non-charged activity in securing customer refunds and future travel, TravelManagers still has thousands of refunds to secure

on behalf of its PTMs’ clients, not to mention tens of millions of dollars of credits to redeem,” he said, adding that many of the refunds and credits are due from suppliers based overseas.

“This is a situation being faced across the travel agency community and illustrates what all travel agents have had to trade through during the past 15 months.”

Campbell said PTMs and the National Partnership Office are keen to get together to catch up to share experiences, celebrate the extraordinary achievements of last year, and prepare for recovery as international borders open and travellers can resume their postponed plans and dreams of future travel.

Spain beach masks

AUTHORITIES in Spain have mandated the use of face masks in all public places including beaches, attractions and alongside hotel swimming pools, with fines starting at €100.

Viking’s new offers

VIKING has released a range of new offers including cruise deals packaged with popular pre- and post-touring extensions, giving guests the chance to explore more and truly make the most of their next cruise.

Off the back of traveller sentiment expressing a desire to travel for longer when borders reopen, these limited time package deals, valid for bookings until the end of the month, include an additional saving of \$150pp per extension on top of any current cruise savings.

Offers include the 10-day Portugal’s River of Gold and the 13-day Iceland’s Majestic Landscapes.

Skal Sydney walks

SKAL International Sydney is once again participating in this month’s MS Walk Run + Roll New South Wales.

Participants will enjoy a scenic eight-kilometre course with views of Sydney Harbour to benefit multiple sclerosis.

There will be food, music and entertainment available for the whole family at the event village, with funds raised as a team ensuring that people living with multiple sclerosis get the vital support they need.

Team members will also be having lunch at The Port in Darling Harbour at the conclusion of the walk – more details available [HERE](#).

Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

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.

TFE Hotels has named **Jelena Bojanic** as the General Manager of the world’s first **A by Adina** in Canberra. Bojanic most recently served as an Assistant Hotel Manager with a number of TFE’s other brands.

Qantas Airways has appointed **Atina Vertzonis** as its new Supplier Relationship Manager. She joins QF with more than 15 years of industry experience, with her most recent position as Helloworld Travel Contracting Manager.

Kathryn Robertson has taken on a new Group General Manager Sales role with **Air New Zealand**. She is promoted to the new position, vacating her current responsibility as Regional General Manager Australia.

Outrigger Hotels & Resorts has announced the appointment of **Chrissy Thomas** as Area General Manager of **OHANA Waikiki East** by Outrigger and **Waikiki Malia** by Outrigger. **Carly Clement** has also been announced as General Manager of **Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort**; **Edwin Torres** as General Manager of **Waikiki Beachcomber** by Outrigger; and **So’o Tana** as Hotel Manager of **Waikiki Malia** by Outrigger.

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