

AA is turning 22!

TRAVEL recruitment specialists AA Appointments Australia has this week celebrated the milestone of turning 22.

The company's Managing Director Adriana D'Angelis said the birthday was even sweeter having successfully navigated the unprecedented challenges of the last 12 months, with the company bringing all staff together to mark the moment in style.

"I am so grateful to be able to bring our national team together to say thank you for their unfaltering loyalty, professionalism and empathy assisting those in need during these unprecedented times," D'Angelis said.

"I want to take this opportunity to extend our sincerest gratitude to our highly valued clients... as we continue to manage the significant challenges affecting our industry...our national account managers are here to support your business."

Nexus Hols ceases trading

EXCLUSIVE

TOUR operator Nexus Holidays Pty Ltd is set to be wound up, after last week appointing Jonathon Keenan and Peter Krejci of BRI Ferrier as the company's liquidators.

The business, which also traded as Vista Holidays, had in the past been a significant supplier to several large industry disruptors, including Luxury Escapes, Webjet Exclusives and Inspiring Vacations.

Nexus specialised in China but had a wide portfolio also encompassing trips in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, India & Sri Lanka, Europe, USA, Canada and cruising.

The Nexus Holidays website notes the company had been "significantly impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, where trading has been limited due to travel restrictions.

"The available financial information indicates the

company has insufficient assets available to meet its liabilities, and the directors have formed the view that it is insolvent... as such, the company is unable to deliver on previously booked holiday packages and tours.

Nexus Holidays had previously been ATAS accredited until last year, when it was terminated due to a breach of the "fit and proper person" provisions of the AFTA scheme (**TD** 03 Jun 2020).

The company's directors are Canada-based Matthew Wang & Honglei Chu from Mascot NSW.

Customers who made payments via credit cards are being urged to explore whether a chargeback can be lodged with banks.

Proofs of debt can be completed at briferrier.com.au, with the liquidators saying they are currently undertaking urgent investigations and will release an initial report on Nexus Holidays Pty Ltd by 04 May.

Today's issue of TD

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

Air control shift?

AIRSERVICES Australia could relocate up to 65 air traffic controllers to Melbourne from its Sydney Airport base to save on costs, according to briefing documents obtained by the *SMH*.

US gears for Europe

EUROPEAN Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has indicated that American travellers vaccinated for COVID-19 will be able to travel to European Union countries from mid-2021.

Von der Leyen told *The New York Times* that because Americans use vaccines that have been approved by the European Medicines Agency, US travellers would be "unconditionally" accepted, however she did not reveal a precise resumption date.

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600,000 tix snapped up

MORE than 600,000 half-price flights have so far been purchased by travellers as part of the Federal Government's \$1.2 billion tourism support package announced last month (**TD** 19 Mar).

An update released by Tourism Minister Dan Tehan yesterday noted that more than half a million air tickets were purchased in the first three weeks of the support scheme being announced, with Tehan adding that the ongoing message to Aussie travellers is to continue to book their cheap trips through travel agents and to spend up big on tourism experiences while at their destinations.

"Take advantage of this opportunity to book a cheap holiday through your travel agent and when you're on holiday spend on a tourist activity and a night out to support tourism jobs and business," he said.

"For every dollar spent on a

flight ten more will be spent on the ground and from speaking to so many people in the tourism industry, I know this program has made a difference.

"The tourism industry is central to our National Economic Recovery Plan and, as we have done right throughout the pandemic, we will continue to make the necessary investments to support jobs across Australia," Tehan added.

The Minister confirmed that three quarters of the half-price air tickets have been purchased to date, with the remaining to sell "like hot cakes".

Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack also heralded the injection of life the support program has had on aviation.

"Australians are taking trips in large numbers with airlines reporting sales dwarfing previous records - our aviation industry is in a remarkable position," he said.

Singapore eases

SINGAPORE has lifted transit restrictions for a number of countries, including Australia.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has cautioned however that the update arrives with conditions, including restrictions on which airlines people can travel with - see the full advice **HERE**.

NZ puts WA on hold

NEW Zealand has put a temporary hold on travel between the country and Western Australia amid a sprinkling of COVID-19 cases identified in the state.

"According to our bubble protocols, travel between New Zealand and Western Australia has been suspended, pending further advice," the New Zealand Government said in a statement.

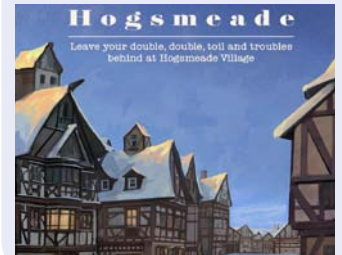
The two-way travel bubble was launched on 19 Apr and this is the first time it has been paused.



Window Seat

WITH travel to most of our favourite overseas destinations still a little while away, British photo printing website Inkify has put together the ultimate aspirational travel poster collection - to fictitious places.

The feel-good assortment include the virtues of *Harry Potter's* settlement of Hogsmeade Village, or for *Star Wars* fans, check out Tatooine, the land of suns, sand and Skywalkers - check out the full list of posters **HERE**.



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Int'l flights for Feb

INTERNATIONAL air traffic in Australia during Feb saw 51,613 passengers carried for the month, a 98.2% drop on the 3.26 million recorded in Feb 2020.

Singapore Airlines led the way with a 16.8% share of the total international air traffic, followed closely by Qatar Airways with 16.2% and Air New Zealand with 13.8% of the market.

The busiest route during Feb was Sydney to Auckland, accounting for 6.7% of total flight traffic, while Sydney to Singapore was next with 5.6%, followed by Sydney to Los Angeles (5.2%), Sydney to Doha (4.7%) and Brisbane to Auckland (4.5%).

Unsurprisingly, Sydney Airport topped the list of passenger volumes for the period, taking in close to half of all international travellers, with Melbourne holding second spot with 21.8%, followed by Brisbane (16.9%).

A private Seaside

MSC Cruises has revealed that guests aboard *MSC Seaside* will soon be able to take advantage of an exclusive private beach experience in Taranto, Italy.

The new experience is part of the ship's first sailings of the Mediterranean from 01 May, which includes the newly added destination of Siracusa in Sicily.

Seaside will join *MSC Grandiosa* in offering seven-night cruises calling in places such as Genoa, Valetta and Civitavecchia (Rome).

Hurtigruten split to boost growth



EXCLUSIVE

A STRATEGIC structural change is now being rolled out across the world by cruise line Hurtigruten, which will allow the company to grow either side of the business as necessary, Managing Director APAC Damian Perry has told *Travel Daily*.

The structural change will not only allow clients to identify the group's two different brands (Hurtigruten Coastal Express and Hurtigruten Expedition), but will also deliver operational specialisation, with different markets able to create business plans centred on strong points.

"You might find in some markets, expedition is a far stronger product than Coastal Express, or vice versa, so you might find those markets create

business plans that focus on that strength and grow that area more aggressively," Perry explained.

"For Australia, we grew off the back of Norwegian Coastal Express (pictured) and created enough awareness that people were interested in doing the Scandinavian and Nordic experiences.

"Over the last couple of years Australians have been lapping up our expedition product.

"We'll be putting similar effort into both businesses, but we can now be really specific," Perry said.

Dreamworld flags more attractions

DREAMWORLD'S new Chief Executive Officer Greg Yong (*TD* 21 Apr) has flagged the construction of a range of new attractions and experiences for the theme park in 2023.

Yong told the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that parent company Ardent Leisure was looking to be "more strategic" with its planned attractions than it had been previously, stating the company would not simply look to emulate successful rides overseas.

Ardent recently revealed it had \$18.8 million in cash available to its Australian businesses, and had only so far drawn \$5.3 million of a \$63.7 million loan facility.

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

The Hurtigruten Group is in search of a **Brisbane based Regional Sales Manager**. Part of the APAC team, this role will be responsible for maximising sales potential within their designated area, cultivating strong relationships and identifying new customer prospects. Representing the Hurtigruten brands to the travel industry and the public, the role will strive for successful execution of their sales plan and achievement of passenger and revenue objectives/goals.

[Click here for more information.](#)



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Where in the world?



IT MIGHT not look like much from the surface, but if you head down into this rock formation, you will see spectacular churches hewn from the earth itself.

There are 11 cave churches, hewn from the rock during the 13th century and today are still an important place of worship and pilgrimage.

The churches were chiselled from the rock itself, with doors, windows, columns, floors and roofs all carved out, along with a system of drainage ditches, trenches and ceremonial passages.

The churches are UNESCO World Heritage listed, but where can you find them?

Pick the nation

COUNTRIES have unique geography, ethnicities and cultures which come together to often form very distinctive symbols.

Based off the four different symbols and famous faces, see if you can figure out which country they represent.



Sudoku

DIABOLICAL

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

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

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

Whose mascot is this?



SOURDOUGH Sam started out life as an art piece hanging inside the team's stadium, before someone at the team decided he would be a good real-life mascot.

Sam is a gold rush prospector, which, for our smarter readers,

should hint at which city and team he represents.

In 2014, following a sponsorship agreement with his team's stadium, Sam was given a new pair of Levi's jeans.

Whose mascot is Sam?


ANSWERS 23 APR

Icon under a microscope :St. Gerasimos Christian Church, Santorini, Greece

Test your airline knowledge: Airport codes - 1 Guangzhou, China, 2 Riga, Latvia, 3 Wellington, New Zealand, 4 Denver, United States
Airline liveries - 1 Avianca, 2 Air Astana, 3 SriLankan Airlines

Pub quiz: 1 Eight, 2 Joe DiMaggio, 3 c) North Korea, 4 True – they are closest to Morocco, 5 d) Florida, 6 Switzerland, 7 Pennsylvania, 8 MONA FOMA, 9 Taiwan, 10 Indonesia

Travel Daily



Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

Dream's cash grab

NEW share subscriptions have seen Dream Cruises receive US\$307 million in liquidity.

Issued to Darting Investment Holdings and fellow Genting Hong Kong subsidiary Ocean World, the former paid US\$59 million in cash, while the latter's investment totalled nearly US\$248m, and was set-off against an equivalent amount of intercompany loans.

The investment will allow Dream to continue operating.

Sustainability efforts

ACCOR has joined forces with Expedia to drive more sustainable practices across its hotels, with the brand pledging to protect and heritage for future generations.

Expedia will help promote Accor's commitment to expand its efforts to more than 3,000 properties across 100 countries, many of which are located close to UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Efforts include planting trees, plastic reduction and clean-ups.

I can't wait to get on the road again



THE first week of Club Med, Globus and Norwegian Cruise Line roadshow has been a great success, with limited spots still available for remaining events.

The Reboot, Regroup, Reconnect Roadshow has seen events take place around the country, including Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, Sydney, Canberra, Wollongong, Geelong and Doncaster.

Importantly, the events provided advisors the chance to meet brands face-to-face again.

"It was so nice to see three leading brands come together to provide really interesting insights into consumer trends and how we can partner together to capitalise on these emerging opportunities," said Snowscene's Emily Warbick.

"It was also so great to catch up with industry colleagues we haven't seen face-to-face for far too long," she added.



The roadshow resumes tomorrow in the Gold Coast and Newcastle, before taking the show to Perth later in the week.

Reboot, Regroup, Reconnect then concludes in May with events in Hobart, Mornington and Adelaide.

The roadshow was initiated to capitalise on strong forward booking trends, and help agents to get back on track and start looking to the future, rather than dwell on the negativity of last year (**TD 22 Mar**).

Pictured are Norwegian's James McCullough, Club Med's Adam Ferraro and Globus' Melinda Wouda, and **inset**, attendees at the Brisbane event get in on the fun with a selfie.

BROCHURES

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Viva Holidays/ Sunlover Holidays - 2021-22 Victoria brochure

Viva Holidays and Sunlover Holidays have released their co-branded 2021/22 Victoria brochure. The publication includes new regional accommodation options with overnight stays at Pizzini and Feathertop wineries, in addition to a range of new touring product with a focus on wine experiences. Travellers will be able to find great new experiences - even those who have done it all - with new accommodation such as Quincy Hotel Melbourne,

Phillip Island Apartments and Oak Tree Lodge, and new touring from AAT Kings, Wine Hop & Coastal Tours and Autopia.



Travel Oklahoma - 2021 Travel Guide

Gently flowing waterfalls, starkly beautiful salt flats, and towering sand dunes are all features of Travel Oklahoma's 2021 Travel Guide. The state is home to the largest protected remnant of tallgrass prairie on Earth, with the guide detailing each of Oklahoma's six travel regions - Central Oklahoma, Northeastern Oklahoma, Northwestern Oklahoma, Southeastern Oklahoma, South Central Oklahoma, and Southwestern Oklahoma. Of particular focus are Outdoor Adventures, Urban Adventures, Route 66, Native American stories, Western Heritage, Arts & Culture and more.

Got a confidential tip? Contact Travel Daily via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)