

JetBlue transatlantic

NEW York-based JetBlue

Airways has taken delivery of its first Airbus A321 Long Range (LR) aircraft, with the delivery setting the stage for the carrier to launch its first transatlantic services.

Flights are planned to London from both New York and Boston, with the carrier also the launch customer for the new "Airspace by Airbus" cabin which features the largest overhead bins on a single-aisle aircraft, new ergonomic sidewalls to boost shoulder-level personal space and custom LED mood lighting that changes through different phases of flight to help reduce jetlag.

JetBlue CEO Robin Hayes said the new A321LR means "we now have an aircraft allowing us to stretch our wings and become a true global carrier offering flights beyond the Americas for the first time ever".

He said the A321LR offered the range of a wide-body aircraft but with the economics of a single-aisle plane, with a range of up to 4,000 nautical miles through the use of three additional fuel tanks.

The new aircraft will offer unlimited, free high-speed internet connectivity in both Mint (business class) and Core (economy), with 24 lie-flat suites up the front and 114 passengers down the back.

New Tehan tourism panel

MINISTER for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Dan Tehan, has today announced the creation of an expert panel to provide advice to the government and "help drive the economic recovery of the tourism industry and ensure its long-term success".

The new Reimagining the Visitor Economy group will continue the work which commenced in 2018 on the development of the Tourism 2030 long-term strategy, put on hold due to COVID-19.

The panel will be led by former Federal Tourism Minister, Martin Ferguson for the next six months, and with a remit covering domestic and international tourism, business and major events, international students and short-term overseas workers - along with associated industries such as hospitality, aviation and accommodation.

Others on the panel will include Tourism and Events Queensland CEO Leanne Coddington; former Tourism WA Chair Kate Lamont from Lamont's Wine and Food;

StudyAdelaide CEO Karyn Kent; and Juan Walker, owner and operator of Mossman, Qld-based Walkabout Cultural Adventures.

"Australia remains a world-leading tourism destination that offers unique tourist attractions and the highest-quality visitor experience," Tehan said.

"Mr Ferguson and his team have the crucial role of helping Australia to chart a course to long-term success as we emerge from COVID-19," the Minister said.

Ferguson welcomed his appointment to the panel, saying "we have an opportunity to reimagine a new future for the sector which is more resilient, sustainable and competitive".

The panel is expected to consult widely, with interested parties including businesses and industry bodies invited to make written submissions.

The full terms of reference and more info are at austrade.gov.au.

TD's newest (cutest) team member!



THE *Travel Daily* team has expanded once again, with Associate Editor Adam Bishop and his wife Sarah welcoming their firstborn into the world.

Charlie (**pictured**) was born earlier this week, and we can't wait until he learns to type so we can really put him to work!

Congratulations to the lucky family from everyone at the Business Publishing Group.

Thai quarantine up

THAILAND has returned its quarantine period for incoming passengers to 14 days, amid a range of new restrictions aiming to contain a COVID-19 outbreak.

Restaurant dining has also been banned in Bangkok and several other hard-hit provinces, with locals urged to only undertake essential travel.

Today's issue of TD

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

Become a Territory Expert

Win an awesome NT pack valued at \$1000*

Live webinar

Tuesday 11 May 11am AEST

Wednesday 12 May 1pm AEST

Register now



*For registration and eligibility, visit www.tourismnt.com.au/trade



SOUTHERN LIGHTS FLIGHT

Exclusive Southern Lights Equinox Flight 25 September 2021 ex Melbourne

- ✓ Only Australian 2021 aurora flight departing during the equinox week
- ✓ No Seat Rotation
- ✓ Window seat on every paired booking
- ✓ Fully commissionable and agent incentive

Agent Webinar:

Find out why this flight is so unique plus details on the agent incentive

Thu 6th May - 10:30am

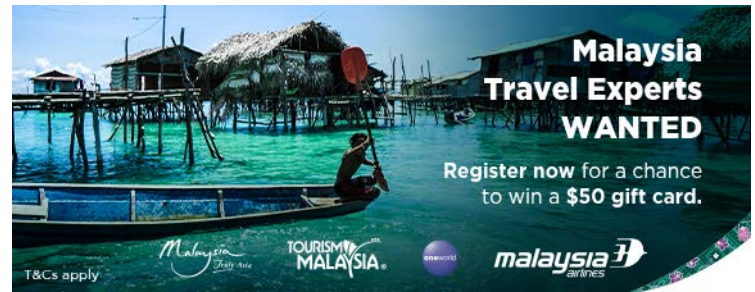
Register @

www.theinspirecollective.com.au/contact

Terms and Conditions apply. See website for details

CALL 1800 722 311

www.quovadisholidays.com



A&K Cairns trip

ABERCROMBIE & Kent (A&K) has released an exclusive six-day itinerary to Cairns, as part of a unique partnership with the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

The Aug departure includes pre-opening access to the curated Art Fair exhibition, a meet and greet with fashion designers, tickets to VIP gallery events and an opportunity to take part in a hands-on Aboriginal art workshop.

The trip is limited to 24 pax, with the initiative being the first time the Fair has been packaged as part of a travel product.

See abercrombiekent.com.au.

Rail/scooter pact

A **NEW** partnership between Italian rail operator Trenitalia and micro-mobility specialist Helbiz will allow customers to seamlessly purchase add-on e-scooter or e-bike vouchers when buying train tickets for a “full intermodal experience” to and from the train station.

US to cruise by mid-July

AMERICA'S Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has flagged the ability for cruising in US waters to recommence by Jul this year, with the easing of several previous requirements under its Conditional Sail Order as vaccine rollouts continue.

The initial framework stipulated that cruise lines would have to operate test cruises with volunteer passengers to test their protocols, but under the latest update this can be bypassed if 98% of the crew and 95% of passengers are fully vaccinated, according to *USA Today*.

The CDC has also promised to review applications from cruise lines for simulated voyages within five days, rather than 60, and will align its testing and quarantine requirements for cruise travellers to those for its guidance for fully vaccinated people.

Before cruises can restart, however, cruise lines must submit

formal agreements with ports detailing how they will respond to any COVID-19 outbreaks.

Cruise Lines International Association spokesperson Bari Golin-Blaugrund welcomed the CDC update, saying “we are optimistic that these clarifications show positive progression - and importantly, a demonstrated commitment to constructive dialogue which is key to restarting cruising as we have seen with other governments and health authorities around the world”.

R&C Villa focus

RELAIS & Chateaux (R&C) has launched a new “Villas by Relais & Chateaux” collection, with the move said to reflect changing consumer attitudes due to the pandemic by fulfilling pent-up demand for travel while ensuring guests feel safe and confident.

There are 500 villas in 30 countries on offer, with more to follow, promising “fully customisable service options and an unrelenting focus on food and drink,” meaning guests will receive the same experience as if they were staying in a R&C hotel.

“Now more than ever, our guests value personal space and our collection of incredible villas can give them confidence and peace of mind, without compromising on hospitality,” said R&C President Philippe Gombert.

See relaischateaux.com.



Window Seat

ACCOMMODATION developers take note - a former US Government underground rocket facility has been placed on the market, and it could just be an ideal option for a hotel.

Constructed in 1960 in Kansas, the underground complex reaches almost 70 metres below the surface, and cost the equivalent of US\$110 million in today's dollars to build.

It's one of 12 “impenetrable underground silos” installed by the USA during the Cold War with the Soviet Union - most of which became defunct in 1979 when the Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty restricted the nuclear arsenals of both companies and ordered that the facilities be destroyed.

The North Star Silo somehow escaped, and is now for sale as “the most complete and developable facility of its kind”.

“With the skyrocketing number of recent catastrophic natural events coupled with the arrival of the coronavirus, the defunct launch site could be repurposed as the ultimate, private safe house,” a promo suggests, noting there's plenty of room to construct a 17-storey underground “survivor-themed hotel” on the site, with expressions of interest open at northstarmissilesilo.com.

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.](#)



Have it all.

Our best amenities included at 50% off

- > SHORE EXCURSIONS
- > DRINK PACKAGE
- > SPECIALTY DINING
- > WI-FI

* Terms & Conditions Apply




Holland America Line®
SAVOR THE JOURNEY

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Send your pie recipes from around the world to pie@traveldaily.com.au

Travel Daily

All eyes are on pies!



Google adds COVID info to searches

INTERNET giant Google has enhanced its travel search tools with the addition of any COVID-19 related travel restrictions to results relating to flights, hotels and activities.

The move sees consumers advised of border closures, vaccination mandates, quarantine rules and needs for negative test results while they are planning their trips - [google.com/travel](https://www.google.com/travel).

New Huka website

BAILLIE Lodges has renamed the exclusive owner's residence at Huka Lodge in NZ as Alex van Heeran Cottage, in honour of the luxury property's former owner and founder of The Huka Retreats.

The move has come alongside the launch of a new website for the property which now includes downloads for travel industry partners - see [hukalodge.com](https://www.hukalodge.com).

Canadian bailout

CANADIAN airline Transat has reached an agreement with the Government of Canada to borrow up to CAD\$700 million in additional liquidity.

The money is being made available via a program called the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility, with the carrier's CEO Jean-Marc Eustache saying "the funds obtained will also enable us to reimburse our customers whose travel had to be cancelled due to the pandemic".

Transat has committed to maintain its existing staff numbers, restrict the payment of any dividends and executive bonuses, and immediately begin refunding customers holding travel credits who want their money back.

About half the money is repayable over a seven year term at the current Canada Bond rate of 1.2%, while the rest is secured by 13 million warrants for the purchase of Transat shares.

CLIA comes a-LIVE in Sydney



CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia brought its newly revived CLIA LIVE education series to Sydney this week, with travel agent members hearing about the latest news and innovations from multiple cruise lines.

The two-day event on Wed and Thu was a sellout, attracting 100 registrations and followed similar

showcases in Brisbane and the Gold Coast in recent weeks.

Yesterday's attendees were among the first to hear about the brand new *Celebrity Beyond* from Celebrity Cruises (**TD** 29 Apr), with delegates (pictured) including Marita Nasic from CLIA; Tim Faircloth of Tim Faircloth Cruising; Celebrity Cruises' Jessica Jones & Megan Catterall, itravel.

Explore the heart of Coastal Norway

Mother's Day Sale

Give a gift like no other with our Suites for Your Sweet.

For a limited time only, enjoy 10% savings on suites on select Classic Roundtrip, Classic North, Classic South and Voyage of Discovery cruises. Spoil your loved one with a trip of a lifetime.

*Terms & Conditions: Visit our website for full terms and conditions. On sale now until 23 May 2021.



HURTIGRUTEN
Norwegian Coastal Express

Norwegian Coastal Voyages

Visit up to 34 ports

Search for the Northern Lights in winter or bask in summer's Midnight Sun

Northern Lights Promise*

Book now at [hurtigruten.com.au](https://www.hurtigruten.com.au)

Travel Daily

CORPORATE UPDATE

TAG agent option

GLOBAL travel and event management company The Appointment Group (TAG) has launched a new division for independent travel advisors.

Dubbed "TAGiclub" the offering aims to cater to "experienced, high-end independent contractors at the top of their game," according to TAG Chief Operating Officer, Gabrielle Carr. "There's so much uncertainty and instability for many agencies, we wanted to launch TAGiclub to provide a new home to any displaced agents from permanent positions, or advisors looking for a modern approach to travel."

TAG operates specialist divisions covering corporate, touring, events, private and production travel, and is a Vituoso member as well as being part of AFTA.

Carr said TAGiclub members would have access to cutting-edge technology, professional development, mentoring, lead generation and collaboration - email TAGiclub@TAG-group.com.

New TAMS tool

THE US-based Travel and Meeting Society (TAMS) has released a new free tool for corporate travel managers and buyers, helping to guide them through a "self-assessment of the technologies in place across their company's travel program".

The tool identifies specific strengths and gaps, and can be completed either as a high-level overview or a comprehensive examination of the systems and processes that comprise the current state of their program.

It was developed by travel industry consultancy airShopRQ, courtesy of NZ-listed travel technology firm Serko.

The tool will be available for download as a standalone Excel workbook from the TAMS website, with the aim of having regional travel managers use collaboration tools such as SharePoint or Google Sheets to generate a global score of tech used across their travel program.

See tamstravel.org/assessment.

Getting the band back together



THE 1000 Mile Travel Group is finally back in its Abbotsford, Melbourne office after more than a year of working from home.

Earlier this week the team celebrated the reopening at a local eatery, with the day also including a birthday celebration for Yosef Levi, Technology &

Implementations Manager.

Pictured making the most of the excitement are MD and self-taker Ben Ross; Nicola Veltman, Executive Director; Brooke Clarke; Emily Davidson; Anita Henshall; Stephanie McDonald; Tenneale Fogarty; Yosef Levi; and Rachel McInnes.



Travel Daily

LEARN MORE WITH THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY 'HUB'

Click here to discover

FCM launches its brand



FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's FCM Travel Solutions corporate division last week formally launched its new branding (**TD** 10 Mar) at an event at Sydney's The Grounds in Alexandria.

As well as introducing guests to the new look FCM logo, the event laid out the TMC's vision for the future courtesy of CM GM Australia, Melissa Elf.

The FCM Meetings & Events Team - formerly cievnts (**TD** 07 Oct 2020) also celebrated the launch of their new journey, showcasing plenty of hybrid event expertise as they curated

the experiences for delegates both in person and from across the globe.

The climate-conscious carbon neutral event was conducted in partnership with South Pole, while attendees were inspired by keynote speaker Michael McQueen who spoke about the COVID-inspired shifts in consumer habits and expectations.

He also gave guests insight into how to foster engagement, collaboration and culture when leading remote and hybrid teams.

Some of the FCM family are **pictured** on stage at the event.

Catch up on the news of the week



Travel Daily

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN



GET YOUR MESSAGE TO LISTENING EARS

CLICK HERE FOR INFO ON PODCAST SPONSORSHIP

Travel Daily

Icon under a microscope



THIS landmark is iconic and easily recognisable when you see the whole picture, but can you identify it from this small portion of the image?

From the front, this statue is

incredibly easy to identify, but it is less often pictured from the back.

Standing near the entry to its city's harbour, the statue was a gift from France.

Test your knowledge

FOR travel, flying is a key part of our industry, and it's also full of symbols and acronyms.

Agents have to know airport codes, airline codes, airline liveries and more.

How well do you know the aviation industry? Do you know what airports these codes stand for, and what plane liveries are pictured?

AIRPORT CODES

1. MFM
2. MAN
3. BXG
4. HAV

2



AIRLINE LIVERIES

1



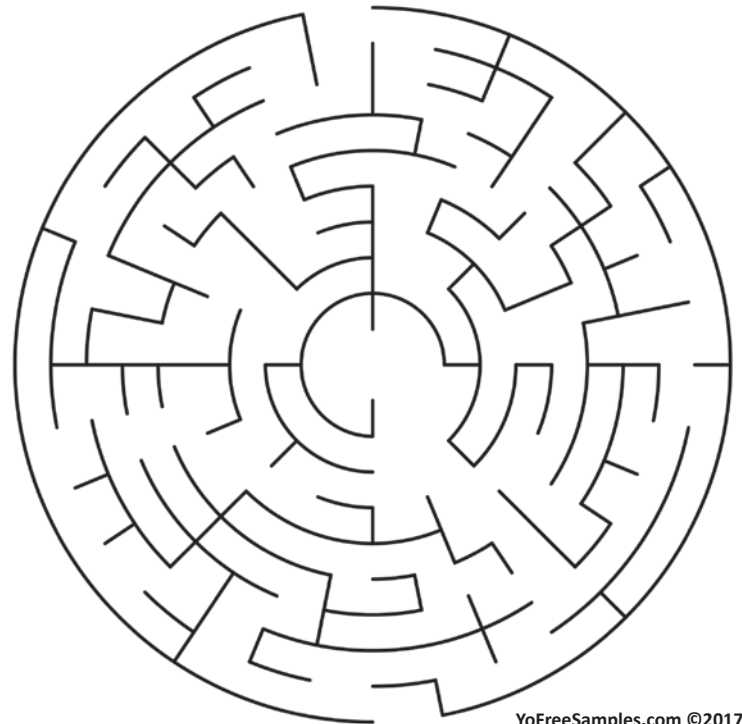
3



A-maze-ing

CAN you find your way through this maze?

Start at the top and finish at the bottom.



YoFreeSamples.com ©2017

ANSWERS 29 APR

Whose flag is this: Chad

Know your brands: 1 Champion, 2 Bitly Inc, 3 NBC, 4 Viking Cruises

Whose animal is this: Raggiana Bird of Paradise - Papua New Guinea

**NEED A DISTRACTION
AMID THE DOOM
AND GLOOM?**

Check out our daily puzzle page.



Viking offers more

VIKING Cruises says it's delivering longer itineraries and more in-depth experiences in response to recent research showing guests are looking for more out of their next voyage.

The current Explore More campaign is being extended with two new packages combining popular cruise itineraries with pre- and post-land extensions.

The offers include a 20-day Israel, Egypt and Jordan trip including a 12-day Nile cruise along with four nights in each of Jerusalem and Jordan from \$13,145pp, as well as a 32-day Barcelona to Cappadocia or vv journey including a 29-day Mediterranean Iconic Shores cruise plus three nights in Cappadocia - [CLICK HERE](#).

A by Adina Sydney

TFE Hotels has officially opened the doors of its new A by Adina Sydney, describing it as "the crowning glory of an elevated suite of apartment hotel properties".

A by Adina is part of a 26-storey tower at 2 Hunter St in the CBD, offering 82 studio, 104 one-bedroom and eight two-bedroom accommodations as well as the city's first ever "sky lobby" - for more see abyadina.com.

MH tests IATA pass

MALAYSIA Airlines has begun trialling the IATA Travel Pass app on flights from Kuala Lumpur to London, with the carrier saying it plans to integrate the technology into its own mobile platform.

A meeting of the minds



AFTER meeting at a roundtable discussion initiated by AFTA with MP for Warringah Zali Steggall earlier this month, this group Sydney travel people gathered again this week to network and exchange notes, helping each other navigate the new normal.

Up for discussion was everything from coping on a reduced income, comparing notes on grant applications, side-business pivoting and discussions about how advisors can best support each other.

Diveplanit Travel Business Development Deborah Dickson-Smith said the group was hoping to meet once every two months, with those interested in joining asked to reach out at deborah@diversiondivetravel.com.au.

"There may have been hugging involved by the end of the night," Dickson-Smith added.

Pictured are Landmark Travel Director Gerd Wilmer; Susanne Timm; Inspire Travel Solutions

owner Alastair Fernie; Diveplanit Director Simon Mallender; Skilled Travel Director & owner Sean Skilton; Journeys Unlimited Travel's Alison Garland; and Dennis Jones.

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

Savings of up to \$400 per couple are available on the Red Centre Escape itinerary with **Travelmarvel**. The seven-day departs from Jun to Nov for \$2,895 per person, twin share. Book by 30 Jun (or until sold out) to access the savings. Conditions apply, and for details, call the Travelmarvel team on 1300 278 278, or [CLICK HERE](#).

Up to US\$400 in on board credit and 10% off all sailings are part of a soon-to-expire offer with **Virgin Voyages**. Sailors can also currently score an extra US\$100 on a pre-purchased bar tab - [CLICK HERE](#).

Book the Best of Italy tour with **Trafalgar**, with savings of up to 15%. Meals included are 12 breakfasts and seven dinners, with the price starting from \$3,848 * per person, twin share. For more information or to book call 1800 002 007.

Viking Cruises' 18-day Moscow to Helsinki or v.v trip combines the 13-day Waterways of the Tsars river cruise with three nights in Helsinki and two additional nights in Moscow. The total package starts from \$9,595 per person, with savings up to \$6,200 per couple including return flights. For additional information, phone Viking on 138 747.

Coffs to Brisbane

QANTAS yesterday debuted a new direct route between Brisbane and Coffs Harbour on the NSW North Coast.

Four weekly Q400 turboprop services will operate between the cities, with the launch finally coming after a delay due to the recent Brisbane lockdown and associated travel restrictions.

QantasLink CEO John Gissing noted QF was also now operating from Coffs Harbour to Melbourne, with the connections making the region accessible to travellers from both Qld and Vic as well as having significant flow-on benefits for local businesses recovering from COVID-19.

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