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THURSDAY 19 AUGUST 4PM & 6PM AEST

SPECIAL GUEST **JASON EDWARDS**



National Geographic's Jason Edwards has been at the forefront of natural history photography for nearly three decades. His image portfolio ranks among the largest of any photographer in the Society's long history.

Jason is an Ambassador for Tourism Australia and Sustainability Victoria, and is also a Fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers, using his lens to highlight issues affecting wildlife, the environment and indigenous communities.

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E X P E D I T I O N S



Ken Morgan
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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a front cover page from Ponant.

C360 replacement

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia's upcoming Virtual Cruise Forum will be hosted later this month in place of Cruise360.

The free event will take place on 27 Aug, and will "combine the global perspective of international leaders with the insight of key regional executives," - see today's *Cruise Weekly* for more exciting details.

Qantas reunion trip

AUSTRALIA & Beyond Holidays is finalising details for its Longreach 100 year Qantas Staff Reunions trip this Oct.

There are a range of packages available exclusively for current & former Qantas Airways staff and their families to celebrate the 100th year of the airline.

For further information on the trip and packages, **CLICK HERE**.

Vax travel rates revealed

THE Federal Government has updated its four-stage plan for post-COVID normality to include vaccination targets needed to unlock a return to overseas travel - however precise timelines are yet to be revealed.

Following a National Cabinet meeting on Fri, Prime Minister Scott Morrison confirmed Australia would need to attain 70% of the eligible population (aged 16 and over) fully vaccinated for the industry to take its next key step in Phase B.

When this is achieved, the Government said it would reduce quarantine arrangements for vaccinated residents and restore inbound passenger caps to previous levels for unvaccinated returning travellers.

Larger caps for vaccinated returning travellers would also be introduced, as well as a green light for capped entry of student and economic visa holders.

But for all restrictions on outbound travel for vaccinated Australians to be lifted, Morrison confirmed the country would need to have 80% of its residents

vaccinated, with Phase C to see the travel bubble program extended for unrestricted travel to a range of new candidate countries - likely to initially include Pacific Island nations and countries such as Singapore.

At this time, Australia will see a gradual re-opening of inbound and outbound international travel with "safe countries" for vaccinated travellers, defined by Morrison as being countries with a similar vaccination levels that Australia has at that stage.

The Prime Minister noted that Australia could reach the 70% Phase B milestone before the end of the year, with the latest data from the ABC suggesting at the current rate of 1.2 million doses a week, the country could potentially expect to have its adult population fully vaccinated by early Jan 2022.

New Backo role

NICOLE Backo has taken a new role as Strategic Partnership and Account manager at the NRMA.

She was previously Regional Commercial Manager South West Pacific for British Airways, leaving the carrier in Jun after 22 years having starting in the BA call centre in Sydney in 1999.

QF reduces Norfolk

QANTAS Airways has cut some Norfolk Island flights to and from Brisbane & Sydney until 29 Aug.

Travellers are permitted to rebook to another Qantas-operated flight, retain the value of the ticket in credit, or are entitled to a refund.

Once a ticket has been reissued, subsequent changes are subject to fare rules and conditions, unless the policy stipulated, or unless covered by another commercial policy.

Change fees do not apply, nor do additional fares or taxes, and if a new fare is of a higher value, the difference is payable by pax.

See cruising clearly

JOIN Ponant for a special live online event with National Geographic photographer Jason Edwards to show how expedition cruising should be viewed through his expert lens.

The online webinar takes place 19 Aug between 4-6pm AEST - see the **front cover** for more info and to register today.

NZ supplier group

A NEW coalition of travel industry suppliers has been formed in New Zealand, with the aim of coordinating lobbying activity and calling for combined government support.

The New Zealand Outbound Travel Suppliers Association has about 25 members at this stage, and is chaired by Joseph O'Sullivan from Cruise World who is also a director of Cruise Traveller in Australia.

The group has been working alongside the Travel Agents Association of NZ (TAANZ) throughout the pandemic to highlight the issues being faced by tour operators, with the newly created association giving the organisation a formal structure.

The committee also includes Wendy Wu Tours NZ MD Paul Dymond, Robyn Galloway from Innovative Travel and Marija Kapiteli from Croatia Times Travel.

Do the agent survey

TODAY is the last day of The Inspire Collective's travel advisor survey, which aims to create a "brighter and sustainable future" for the sector.

The Inspire Collective is gathering insights to support and inspire the industry post-pandemic, with business owners and managers invited to take part by filling out an online survey.

The research focuses on what the needs of travel advisor business and their clients will be beyond the current landscape.

Access the survey and go into a prize draw **HERE**.

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Nadi Airport funding deal

FIJI'S travel and tourism credentials are poised to receive a major boost with news of a \$68 million Australian Government-funded loan to improve the country's airport infrastructure.

The cash injection will see a range of upgrades take place at Nadi International Airport, as well as several smaller airports, allowing the Pacific Island nation to bolster its air capacity when international travel finally returns, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reports.

Improvements will include creating more parking spaces to accommodate larger aircraft, as well as key upgrade and maintenance projects.

"This finance facility ensures

that Nadi International Airport is equipped with facilities to serve as the gateway to the new normal for the entire Pacific - connecting our region to the world," Fijian Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said.

Funding will be allocated from the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific purse, a resource designed to prop up the economies of countries in the Pacific, as well as to compete with heightened Chinese investment in the region.

Microsoft Oyo buy?

MICROSOFT is reportedly in negotiations to acquire Indian budget hotel chain Oyo, in a deal that could be worth at least US\$9 billion if it goes ahead.

The speculation was first published by *TechCrunch*, which reported a future deal may also involve Oyo shifting to use Microsoft's cloud services.

Airbnb-backed Oyo has between US\$780 million to US\$800 million in its bank, a recent virtual conference for the company revealed, and has trimmed its monthly cash burn rate from US\$5 million to US\$4 million.

Air NZ rallies in Jun

AIR New Zealand has managed to demonstrate strong improvement in the number of passengers carried in Jun, improving by 150% on the same period last year to 901,000 pax.

The vast majority of bookings were driven by short-haul flights, with long-haul services still at a virtual standstill, accounting for only 5,000 passengers in Jun.

Hostel biz rescued

A RESCUE plan from a mystery investor to save Nomads and Base hostels from going under has been approved by creditors, *The Advertiser* reports.

The proposal was ratified at a creditors' meeting on Fri, and will see control of the group return to its four directors, and the Nomads and Base hostels brands continue to trade.

Owners Tourism Adventure Group flagged financial issues could force its properties to close in early Jul (*TD* 05 Jul).

Stop human traffic

THE World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has authored a new report which puts forward a framework for how the global travel sector can best tackle the scourge of human trafficking.

Released in conjunction with the Carlson Family Foundation, the report focuses on the four key pillars of awareness, education and training, advocacy, and support, arming countries and private companies with better advice to combat transnational crimes which are often much harder to identify and expose.

The WTTC also argues the pandemic has exacerbated the issue of human trafficking, "accelerating the urgent need for targeted actions".

Read the full report [HERE](#).

You can have the lot

PREFERRED Hotels & Resorts has launched its Where Next? buyout campaign, offering group travel organisers the ability to book entire floors, wings or full properties across its network of 135 independent luxury hotels.

The company said the buyout product would be perfect for long-awaited family reunions, get-togethers with friends, group celebrations & business meetings.

Preferred said the service followed an unprecedented demand for full or partial hotel bookings over the last six months.



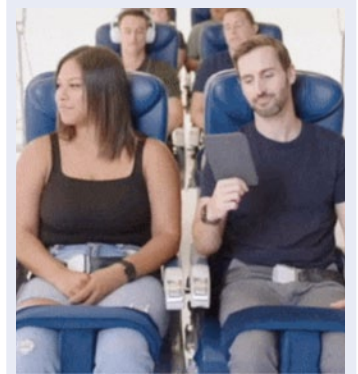
Window Seat

TRAVEL in a post-COVID world is going to look different - and it's not just going to be about masks, jabs and testing.

A company called Kneezly has just announced the ultimate solution to "manspreading," providing the answer to all those uncomfortable in-flight beverage cart bumps often experienced by longer-legged travellers.

Apparently not a joke, Kneezly ([pictured](#)) is a "cosy, huggable travel pillow worn near the knees" to keep your legs under control and also stop those embarrassing in-flight nudges.

Trademarks have now been registered, with a Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign set to launch in the next couple of weeks to ramp up production and marketing - check it out at www.kneezly.com.



SIA quarter boost

SINGAPORE Airlines Group (SIA) has narrowed its first quarter loss to SG\$409 million, from SG\$1.12 billion for the prior corresponding period.

Passenger traffic is also up, with capacity rising to 28% of pre-pandemic levels, as the Singapore Airlines Group progressively rebuilds its network and navigates uncertainties.

Group expenditure also fell by SG\$319 million, down 16.9%.

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Domestic air gaps widen

THE gap in domestic corporate fare prices between Qantas and Virgin Australia has widened in 2021, according to a blue paper compiled by travel procurement consultancy Butler Caroye.

The report showed that domestic corporate fares for Q2 of 2021 was \$289 on average for Qantas and \$181 for Virgin Australia, with most of the gap widening due to a price decrease from VA from Q1 of this year.

The airline reduced its average fare by \$23 compared to the previous quarter, whereas Qantas fares only decreased by \$4 during the same time.

Gaps in fares between the

major carriers has nearly doubled since H1 2019, the paper also showed, and while both carriers have tightened the availability of cheaper domestic fares, the figures show Qantas has done this to a greater extent.

Further findings included a case for buyers to pursue a best-fare-of-the-day approach, with COVID making it an even better proposition, offering more savings overall than pursuing regular airline deals.

Dine on Kangaroo

SEALINK Kangaroo Island has introduced new wilderness dining experiences in partnership with culinary designer Gastronomo.

The Feast, Kangaroo Island will start from 16 Dec and run until 04 Apr 2022, offering travellers a cocktail and dining experience for \$145 per person.

Also available is a two-day, one-night Kangaroo Island & The Feast Weekend Escape Self Drive package priced from \$533ppts, which includes return SeaLink Kangaroo Island ferry transfers from Cape Jervis, dinner at The Feast with return shared coach transfers and one night's stay at the Aurora Ozone Hotel in an Executive Sea View Room.

Rotterdam delivery

HOLLAND America Line has officially taken delivery of its *Rotterdam* vessel during a handover ceremony at one of Fincantieri's Italian shipyards.

Marking the 11th ship in the cruise line's fleet, the 2,668-guest *Rotterdam* will commence its maiden season in the Caribbean from Fort Lauderdale in Florida later in the year, with onboard features including several gourmet restaurants and the Rolling Stone Rock Room music venue churning out classic hits.

The power of saying g'day



TRAVELMANAGERS Australia was able to organise a gathering in Queensland before the lockdown that allowed its agents and the travel sales community to catch up for a relaxed meal.

There was no agenda to the meeting other than ensuring the power of human connection in the travel sector was alive and



well, and perhaps the odd doff of the cap to a brighter future.

Pictured: Zoe Gentle, Club Med Business Development Manager - Queensland, Northern NSW & Northern Territory; Dylan Hearne, Head of Sales at Global Touring; and Sara Puglia, Sales Development Manager at Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours, and **inset** TravelManagers Business Partnerships Manager Karen Dowling and Adventure World Industry Account Manager QLD/NSW Jerry Pilgrim.

BA opens up JFK

BRITISH Airways has reopened its lounge area at JFK's Terminal 7 after a 16-month closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The opening of the Galleries Club lounge signals the next step in the airline's lounge reopening plan, with travellers in First class and Club World members able to access the lounge ahead of their flight to London Heathrow.

Qantas loses case

QANTAS has indicated it intends to appeal a Federal Court judgement that ruled in favour of the Transport Workers Union of Australia regarding the outsourcing of the airline's ground-handling functions.

The court found the move to outsource crew had breached the Fair Work Act, with Qantas failing to convince the judge that its decision was not motivated, at least in part, by the fact the majority of released staff were union members and had various workplace rights under enterprise agreements.

Paul links with CLIA

AGENTS now have the opportunity to learn more about French Polynesia thanks to a new partnership between Paul Gauguin Cruises and CLIA.

Newly launched learning academy modules will cover the cruise line's points of difference in the region, including its all-inclusive packages, relaxing atmosphere, and authentic cultural experiences.

For all of Aug, CLIA-accredited travel agents who complete the modules will also go into the draw to win one of 20 Paul Gauguin Cruises gift hampers, valued at \$100, while CLIA is also offering five accreditation points for course completion.

Win Adventures Through COVID by Parris Fotias

This week Travel Daily and Parris Fotias is giving readers the chance to win a signed *Adventures Through COVID* by Parris Fotias

Parris Fotias has just flown home from a work trip through India. Eleven days later, COVID-19 is officially declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation. Soon after, the Australian Government closes its international border under Biosecurity Act 2015. *Adventures Through COVID* is a personal odyssey that chronicles the frustrations of life during the pandemic.

It is a pilgrimage through past memories looking back on the funny, the ridiculous and the almost forgotten to help cope with an uncertain future.

To win be the first person to email the correct answer to the question below to competitions@traveldaily.com.au

Which two Dorchester Collection hotels are featured in the recent Netflix series - *Lupin & Emily In Paris*?



Where in the world?



THIS bizarre formation is not some wacky fountain but a small geyser.

It formed as a result of man-made drilling in 1916, when a well was being made accidentally hit a geothermal source.

The release of this geothermally-heated water formed a cone on the surface and a second drilling attempt in 1964 to utilise the boiling water for

energy failed when the water was found not to be hot enough.

The second well was sealed but the cap failed and the discharge created a new geyser with multiple cones and travertine pools, due to the minerals in the water.

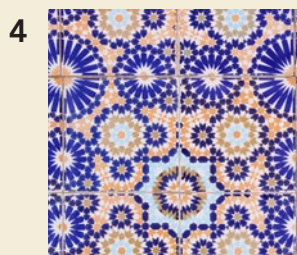
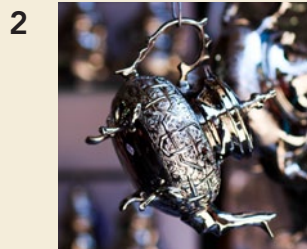
The geyser is located on private property somewhere in the US.

Do you know what state you could find this geyser in?

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.



Pub quiz

1. Jacka Boulevard runs alongside what famous Australian beach?
2. Fremantle is located at the mouth of which river?
3. What year's Summer Olympics were hosted by Rome?
4. Which American city is sometimes known as "the City in a Forest"?
5. What Australian island was once known as Great Sandy Island?
6. Name any of the five rivers bordering the Blue Mountains.
7. What is the capital of Croatia?
8. To the nearest hour, how long does it take to pass through the Panama Canal?
9. Cape Horn marks the meeting point between which two oceans?
10. To the nearest 10 kilometres, what is the minimum width of the Bering Strait?

Sudoku

MEDIUM

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.

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

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

Pick the nation: Morocco

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

Where in the world: Flying Geyser, Nevada, United States
 Pub quiz: 1 St. Kilda, 2 Swan River, 3 Fraser Island, 4 Atlanta, 5 Fraser Island, 6 Colo River, Coss River, Hawkesbury River, Nepean River, Wolgan River, 7 Zagreb, 8 11 hours, 9 Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, 10 80 kilometres

ANSWERS 02 AUG



Direct winning hotels

DIRECT website bookings became the main channel for hotel reservations in Asia last year, with 37% of market share, a portion which has increased to 41% this year, D-EDGE has found. The hotel distribution technology provider's white paper, *Hotel distribution and the pandemic: the travel chessboard*, found that in Europe, where direct website bookings possess the second-largest market share (32%), it is the only channel in which booking levels are back to pre-pandemic quantities.

HK begs for mercy

HONG Kong's tourism sector is pleading with its government to reopen the border with China in a bid to restart the industry. HK closed all but three border checkpoints in Feb last year as part of its response to coronavirus, and officials have refused to reopen the borders amid the country's sluggish vaccination rate. Like Australia, Hong Kong has committed to an "elimination" goal, as opposed to "suppression", in contrast to places like the US and Europe.

Victoria pans for gold



VICTORIA'S Central Goldfields has launched a happiness survey as part of its UNESCO World Heritage bid to measure the wellbeing of residents across tourism landmarks in the state's Central Goldfields.

Residents in 13 areas are being asked about their quality of life and how tourism might be developed in their region to strengthen the community's mental and economic wellbeing. Around 300 people have completed the survey since it was launched on the International Day of Happiness on 20 Mar, with the aim to have at least 200 responses from residents in each of the participating areas.

So far residents have been vocal in their opinions on issues such as tourism growth, access to local shops in busy tourism periods, the desire for slow change in communities, the need to respect peace and nature, as well as facilitate heritage conservation.

The 10-15-minute survey is online and available to adults in Ararat, Ballarat, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Golden Plains,

Greater Bendigo, Hepburn, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Moorabool, Mount Alexander, Northern Grampians, and Pyrenees local government areas.

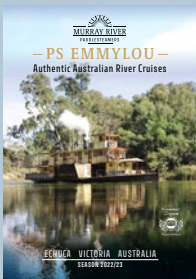
Everyone who responds to the survey in Jul and Aug will also be entered into a draw to win \$100 tickets to Bendigo Heritage Attractions and an annual membership of the National Trust of Australia.

Residents of the areas can take the survey and find out more about the World Heritage bid's Sustainable Tourism projects **HERE** & the proposed Goldfields World Heritage area **HERE**.

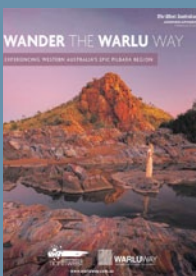
Pictured: Local musicians jamming in Sovereign Hill.

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.



Murray River Paddlesteamers - 2022/23 Emmylou
Murray River Paddlesteamers has gone to press with its 2022/23 *Emmylou* brochure. The program celebrates boutique Australian river cruising, and details *Emmylou's* next season, which is made up of the two-night Murray River Escape cruise, the three-night Murray River Discoverer, the four-night Murray River Explorer, and the six-night All the Rivers Run. The brochure also includes information on Murray River Paddlesteamers' story, regionally-inspired dining available to guests, the cruise line's Melbourne-based hotel partners, and how to spend 48 hours in Echuca-Moama.



Australia's Northwest - Wander the Warlu Way
Australia's Northwest is a new guide on experiencing the Pilbara through the prism of the Dreaming's Serpent, along a self-guided road trip. Stretching across almost 3,000 kilometres, Warlu Way meanders through picturesque coastal towns, top-notch fishing spots and secluded swimming holes in remote pockets of the outback. Made up of a system of winding roads, the brochure details how to explore Warlu Way in its entirety, or how to do so in sections, detailing four key coastal and inland routes across its 20 pages.

Air travel dwindle

AIR travel demand in the Asia-Pacific remains suppressed, according to preliminary figures released by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines.

Ongoing tight border restrictions are blamed for continuing to subdue international air passenger demand in the region.