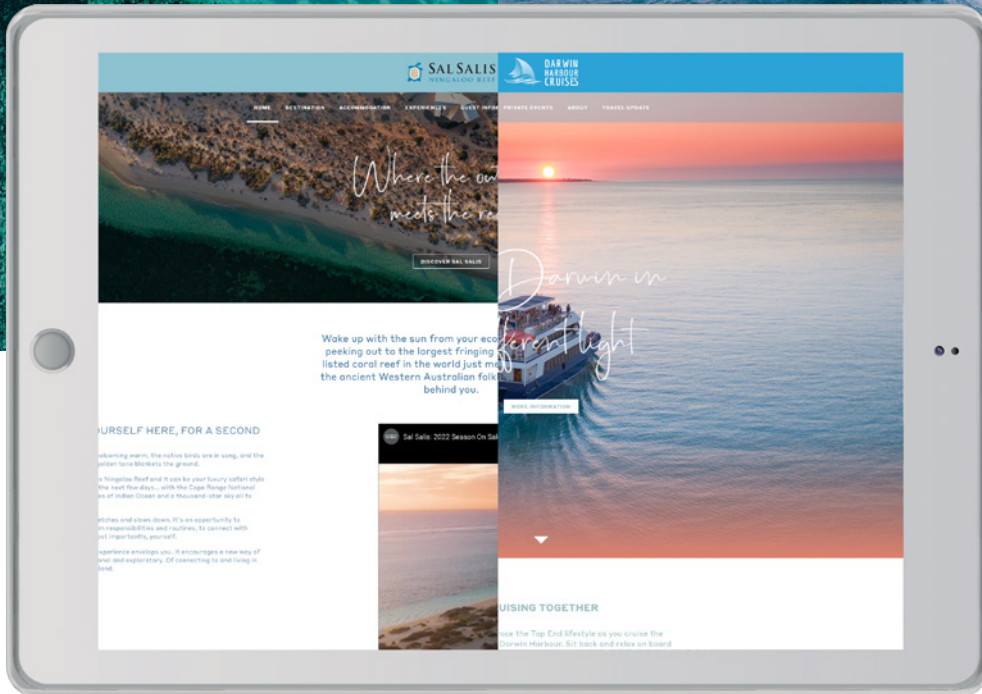




SAL SALIS
NINGALOO REEF



**DARWIN
HARBOUR
CRUISES**



More Reasons to Journey Beyond

Fresh-faced, functional and with live availability, the new Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef and Darwin Harbour Cruises websites have a fresh new look. Whether you're after inspiration or information, the websites will empower you, with the live availability feature allowing you to check travel dates in real time with your clients. As always, the Journey Beyond Experience Hub is your go-to for even more comprehensive resources including images, assets and prices.

[VISIT SAL SALIS WEBSITE](#)

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They will also receive a special certificate showing their expertise - see **page six** for details.



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Closed borders slam Rex

REX Airlines this morning revised its profit guidance for the 2020/21 financial year, and is now forecasting increased annual losses of up to \$18 million.

The update is based on new information as the carrier assesses its financial position amid the NSW lockdowns and the ensuing border closures which "significantly impacted revenue".

Rex admitted that because the lockdown was initially perceived to be "temporary and of short duration," it took no initial measures to mitigate the losses.

Consequently the impact for the month of Jun was much heavier

AIUla is waiting

SAUDI Arabia has reinstated quarantine-free e-visas for international travellers to visit the UNESCO World Heritage listed city of AIUla for a list of 49 countries including Australia and New Zealand.

Confirming the news, the Saudi Arabia Tourism Authority stated that while Aussies can't travel to the city just yet, the destination has plenty to offer travellers looking to book their post-COVID holiday plans, including its old town markets, desert stargazing tours & the ancient capital Dadan.

"The reinstating of e-visas now offers int'l travellers the opportunity to be among the first to visit our monumental destination," the Royal Commission for AIUla said.

than expected, with the carrier also today announcing it would be implementing temporary stand-downs of staff.

Rex Airlines has grounded its fledgling Boeing 737 operation until there is more certainty around open borders, with no availability on the jet services until Mon 13 Sep at this stage.

EK free Expo pass

EMIRATES is offering complimentary single-day passes to Expo 2020 Dubai, valid for anyone who flies with EK to its home city from 01 Oct 2021 through until 31 Mar 2022.

The offer is also valid for transit passengers who have a connection in Dubai of more than six hours, while EK Skywards members will also earn one Skywards Mile for every minute they spend in the city during the much-anticipated event.

EK is Premier Partner and Official Airline of Expo 2020 - for more info see emirates.com.

ATIC calls for plan

THE Australian Tourism Industry Council (ATIC) is calling on govts to create a three-pillared plan to help the tourism & events sector.

ATIC wants to see targeted financial support until the end of the calendar year, flexibility provisions in the Fair Work Act introduced, and a more detailed COVID-19 transition road map to create greater certainty.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news plus a front cover page from **Journey Beyond** and a full page from **Singapore Travel Specialist**.

Fresh websites from Journey Beyond

JOURNEY Beyond has relaunched new online presences for Darwin Harbour Cruises and Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef.

Both websites now offer live ability checking, enabling travel advisors to confirm dates in real time with their clients.

The sites complement the Journey Beyond Experience Hub which features comprehensive industry resources including images, assets and pricing - see the **cover page** for details.

QF auction success

MORE than 12.3 million Qantas Points were recently splashed on the carrier's online five-day loyalty auction, with an expert-led 787 cockpit simulator experience proving one of the most valuable items on the bidding list.

Fetching 24 times its reserve price, the flying tuition with one of Qantas' most experienced captains was sold for an eye-watering 1.2 million points, while a kids coaching clinic with Socceroos Coach Graham Arnold was snapped up for 500k points.

A luxury holiday by Byron also far exceeded the starting price, going for 3.77 million points.

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Jab push gathers support

THERE'S been an overwhelming response to the #givetravelashot campaign initiated by the Business Publishing Group (**TD** yesterday), with a host of industry bodies, suppliers and other stakeholders pledging support.

The campaign aims to be industry-wide, recognising that under the Government's phased plan for a return to normality, the travel and tourism industry is unlikely to see any sort of recovery until many more people are vaccinated.

Several travel agencies across the country will be featuring the campaign in their shop window TV screens, while CATO, CLIA and AFTA have all confirmed their support for the program.

Scores of suppliers will begin

using the hashtag, and the **TD** team has worked hard all night to put together a full suite of assets including a Facebook frame, Instagram posts, social media stories, email signatures & more.

It's all available now for free at traveldaily.com.au/givetravelashot which also features logos and artwork for incorporation into branded collateral.

All the assets are free to use and we are happy to provide them in other sizes upon request - so please don't hesitate to get on board with the campaign today.

Regional Victorians can go to the snow

FALLS Creek and Hotham are welcoming back regional Victorian guests today following the ending of lockdown restrictions across the region.

"This season may not have been what we had planned, but we're so excited to see our mountain communities reopen to regional guests...there's still so much snow and fun to be had, and we can't wait to welcome guests back to enjoy Hotham's great terrain and our fresh mountain air," Hotham VP and General Manager Belinda Trembath said.

While residents across regional Victoria can now enjoy the fun of the snow, the Victorian Govt recommends those travelling to an alpine resort get a negative COVID-19 test in the 72 hours prior to entering any resort.

VA pivots to ADL

VIRGIN Australia will introduce two direct services from Adelaide ahead of the Sep school holidays in a bid to focus on the few remaining air routes uninterrupted by restrictions.

The carrier will resume flights between Adelaide and Darwin from 06 Sep and launch a new direct service between Adelaide and Launceston on 07 Sep, the latter of which will be a first for Virgin's local operations.

To mark the introduction of the services, VA is running an Economy class sale until 13 Aug (or sold out), with Adelaide/Launceston flights discounted to only \$59 and Adelaide/Darwin services priced from \$119.

Legal fight afoot?

A QUIETLY orchestrated move by the Federal Government to prohibit some people from leaving the country (**TD** 05 Aug) may become the subject of a new legal challenge.

Law firm Marque Lawyers has confirmed to *The Guardian* this week it is investigating a potential legal challenge, with the firm now in the process of collating stories from expats who will be affected by the legal change.

"It is a significant additional restriction on the generally assumed freedoms of Australian citizens, including the right of return," a spokesperson for Marque Lawyers said.

No decision to proceed with any legal action has yet been made.



Window Seat

A MAN who robbed a travel agency in the United Kingdom was unable to get away with his offence because he left his birth certificate near the scene of the crime, a UK court has heard.

Ian Jewett took off with £1,700 from a Tui Travel branch in Brighton three years ago after demanding staff empty their tills into a sack, however, shortly after his escape, the bumbling thief stopped in at a pub around the corner and accidentally left a bag behind containing a number of personal items - including his birth certificate.

The bag also contained some rolled up paper which police said Jewett used to imitate a gun during the robbery.

Pleading guilty to the brainless crime late last week at Lewes Crown Court, Jewett was sentenced to six years' imprisonment.

LATAM ups A320neo

LATAM Airlines has signed an agreement with Airbus for the purchase of 28 new A320neo aircraft, adding to the 42 planes already on order.

The purchase is designed to help the airline modernise its fleet over the next couple of years, with the aircraft delivering 20% more fuel efficiency and a 50% reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions and noise pollution.

"The purchase of these highly efficient aircraft is a sign of the commitment we have made with the transformation towards a carbon-neutral LATAM in 2050," LATAM CEO Roberto Alvo said.

VS mulls float

VIRGIN Atlantic Airways is considering listing on the London Stock Exchange, with talks under way with institutional investors.

Richard Branson's Virgin Group holds 51% of the carrier, which last year restructured with a £1.2 billion rescue package.

A float would be underpinned by hopes of a rapid resumption of transatlantic travel.

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SWITZERLAND TRAVEL EXPERIENCE 2021 TRANSITIONS TO VIRTUAL
Due to incredibly unpredictable travel restrictions, it was impossible to bring everyone to meet in Australia this year. That's why we've decided to transition the Switzerland Travel Experience STE 2021 to a virtual experience.



Swiss Travel System.



Aspiring to pay-per-use lounges



FOLLOWING recent acquisitions of lounges within airports in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, Swissport has now introduced the first Australian lounge under its Aspire brand at Perth Airport's Terminal 2.

The new area (pictured) was developed in partnership with Perth Airport and is open to all passengers departing from Terminal 2, offering comfortable seating and a relaxing atmosphere for up to 120 guests.

Lounge amenities include the option of ordering food and drinks from a menu inspired by local Perth producers, a variety of digital magazines and newspapers, charging facilities, televisions and free wi-fi.

A special introductory price of \$22 is available throughout Aug, changing to the standard price of \$44 after that if purchased online (\$49.50 for walk ups), while corporate rates are also on offer through resourcing companies and salary packaging providers.

Swissport's Managing Director Australasia Brad Moore said pay-per-use lounges were becoming



an increasingly popular choice for air travellers around the world, and that Aussies will also have an appetite for amenities that meet their specific cultural needs.

"Our lounge products are carefully designed to meet the unique and evolving needs of our airport and airline partners," Moore said.

"The remote area workers that frequent Perth's Terminal 2 will have access to a peaceful new space for socialising and dining, adding some extra comforts to the start of their journey".

A second Aspire lounge at Perth Airport's Terminal 1 will launch later this year, to be constructed in the airport's former control centre and observation deck.

Swissport manages 54 lounges at more than 30 airports in 13 countries under its Aspire brand.

Travel Daily
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AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

AFTA along with many other peak bodies and individuals has been calling for many months now for faster vaccination rollout and takeup so that we can all get travelling again and back to living more normally again.

You will have seen our increasing use of #GetTravelReady and #BeTravelReady as part of our commitment to boosting a sense of urgency around vaccination takeup. We had already added this to our advocacy priorities and had started to work on a supporting campaign.

Once National Cabinet agreed on 30 Jul the magic release numbers for thresholds for Stages 3 and 4 of their national roadmap, we were able to progress these campaigns as shared most recently via our 03 Aug Member Update Webinar.

As a member organisation, we are always happy to also support and promote our members' campaigns. So, when Linda Forster contacted us after our Tue webinar to ask for our amplification of her campaign, we were of course very happy to do so especially given its fit with our campaign of bringing the need to inspire Australians to be travel ready via media and social media.

From individual initiatives like Linda's through to *Travel Daily's* #givetravelashot and News Limited's Call To Arms campaign, we are all focused



on the same end. Let's get to 80% as quickly as we can to end the lockdowns, and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods. We also ask our members to maximise your databases to promote the vaccination cause so that open borders and international travel happens as soon as possible.

Of course, parallel to this, as we find ourselves as travel agents and businesses in our 18th month of what is in reality an extended hard lockdown, we continue to press the case federally and at a State and Territory Government level for ongoing, much needed financial support and relief.

We are very grateful for the ongoing access to and support from Federal Tourism Minister the Hon Dan Tehan and his office as well as Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Bruce Billson and his team.

It is pleasing to hear that so many of our members have now received payments from their applications for support for Rounds 1 and 2 of the Federal Government's COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Grants Program.

We continue to work with and for those still waiting for a positive outcome and we continue the fight for ongoing support via this mechanism including via Round 3. Stay tuned.

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QR Africa gateways

QATAR Airways has strengthened its presence in Africa with the launch of new linked services between Doha and Zambia's capital Lusaka and Harare in Zimbabwe.

To mark the expansion on the continent, the first flights were inaugurated by the airline's Airbus A350-900, where the plane was greeted in Lusaka and Harare by traditional water cannon salutes upon arrival.

Carnival masks up

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has changed its mask policy for guests on board all its ships, mandating the coverings be worn in indoor areas - regardless of whether they have been vaccinated or not.

In place until at least 31 Oct, the new regulations will apply to elevators, indoor entertainment venues, in any retail shops and in the vessel's casino, except when eating or drinking.

The Wright way forward

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has recruited Darren Wright to be the new Global Chief Marketing Officer for its leisure division, returning to the business after a 20-year stint in senior roles within the aviation sector.

Wright (**pictured**) will be charged with managing Flight Centre's overall brand strategy, including handling customer insights & engagement, marketing operations and technology, as well as worldwide retail.

Reflecting on his appointment, Wright said his job would be to energise the brand and ensure that younger demographics in particular understand Flight Centre's core value.

"The road ahead is to further reinvigorate the Flight Centre brand when speaking to our existing customers, as well as engage a new younger audience looking for security and advice from our collective travel experience,"



Wright said.

"As we continue FCTG's globalisation, we are focused on building scalable capabilities with core agency support from long-term partners such as Rapid Media in Australia," he added.

The new recruit also indicated the company would be re-evaluating its current agency agreements globally and is examining supporting smaller, more agile in-house teams to drive future success.

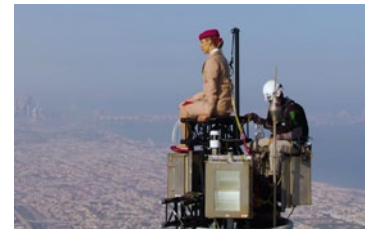
On top of the world

EMIRATES flight attendants are used to taking their service to great heights, but one staff member recently took this notion to a lofty new meaning for the airline's latest commercial.

The staff member was fastened securely to the tip of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, where she held up cards about the carrier's service in a nod to the scene in the 2003 cult romantic comedy *Love Actually*.

"The calm and confidence of the cabin crew you see in the ad is an embodiment of our frontline team," Emirates President Tim Clark said.

Watch a behind-the-scenes video of the advertisement **HERE**.



Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called **Keep Dreaming** is specially designed for agents to send their clients - giving you a reason to reach out to your database.

Keep Dreaming is full of destination articles, cruise stories and more to inspire.

Click here to view **Keep Dreaming** magazine

Click here for a toolkit to help you share it with clients



Travel & Cruise
Weekly

Andorinha joins

TAUCK has christened its new *Andorinha* riverboat in Portugal. The new ship, purpose-built for the Douro River, is inspired by the local culture and climate. The christening took place shortly before the embarkation of *Andorinha's* first scheduled cruise, with the vessel's pax as the guests of honour. The first sailing is a 12-day Exploring the Douro, plus Lisbon & Madrid itinerary, which includes a two-night pre-stay.

MONEY

WELCOME to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.731

THE United States dollar extended recent gains overnight after the monthly job openings report found the most unfilled vacancies in the survey's history. The USD index climbed to four-month highs, after the job openings survey found 10.1 million available positions in Jun, with just 9.5 million available Americans to fill them. This imbalance could drive wages growth, it is believed. *Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.731
UK	£0.528
NZ	\$1.041
Euro	€0.623
Japan	¥80.74
Thailand	฿24.35
China	¥4.699
South Africa	10.80
Canada	\$0.915
Crude oil	US\$69.04

The new kid on the block



JUST when you thought New York was incapable of building on its hotel stocks any further, a resort dedicated to block building opens its doors.

The 250-room Legoland New York Resort is now welcoming guests to stay, with visitors able to take advantage of the bonanza of family-friendly features housed within its specially themed accommodation.

Key attractions include each room being equipped with Google Nest technology that can place room service orders, read the kids a bedtime story or send the little ones on an exciting in-room scavenger hunt.

Room themes include Pirate, Kingdom, Lego Friends and Lego NINJAGO (inset), all with separate sleeping areas for kids.

Nightly children's entertainment



with many of the famous Legoland characters also takes place for all visitors, with other fun activities on offer throughout the property, such as a creative Lego workshop area, a castle play scape and Lego minifigure wall for the whole family to gawk at.

The timing of the resort's opening coincides with the opening of Legoland New York only last month, the largest Legoland ever built by owner Merlin Entertainments Group.

As part of the property's COVID safety precautions, all payments will be cashless and conducted through credit/debit cards or contactless payment options.

Premia is primed

NEW South Korean startup Air Premia has announced it is planning flights to the United States, ahead of taking to the skies for the first time on Thu. Premia will launch its maiden flight from Seoul to Jeju - one of the world's busiest leisure routes. Last week, Premia filed an application for a foreign air carrier permit to fly to the United States, in addition to harbouring plans to launch flights to Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam next year.

Venture delayed

SEABOURN Cruise Line's *Seabourn Venture's* new inaugural voyage date has been delayed to early next year.

Venture will now depart from Greenwich on two new itineraries around the United Kingdom from 10 Apr 2022, after the T. Mariotti shipyard informed Seabourn of her delay.

Guests currently booked on *Venture* voyages scheduled to depart between 11 Dec 2021 and 24 Apr 2022 will receive more details soon about their booking.

Women in charge

WYNDHAM Hotels & Resorts has announced a program to support the advancement of women-owned hotels.

The Women Own the Room program is intended to help overcome barriers females face in hotel development, Wyndham said, and to help women effectively open and run their hotels, through delivering financial solutions and more.

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

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