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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.

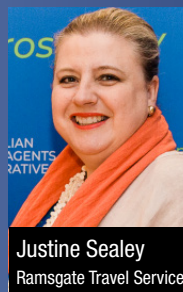
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EXPEDITIONS

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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page, a page of #givetravelashot entries plus a front cover page from Ponant.

Rex seals deal with Flight Centre

EXCLUSIVE

REX Airlines is expected to today confirm an agreement with Flight Centre Travel Group, which it says will "significantly extend the airline's consumer reach and commercial footprint".

The preferred partnership will see the company promote Rex to Flight Centre's large leisure and corporate travel customer base across Australia and globally.

"This will give consumers even greater access to both our national, regional and domestic networks, and will further enhance our brand awareness," said Rex Deputy Chair, John Sharp.

"It also means we will be in an even stronger position once lockdowns are lifted and borders reopened to capture more of the pent-up demand from travellers keen to fly again," he added.

Bay, FBI still in CT

BAY Travel and FBI Travel continue to both be active members of CT Partners, having been with the group since its inception some 15 years ago.

The agencies have clarified that their new membership of the WIN Global TMC network (TD 13 Aug) links them with like-minded corporate agencies across the globe and is additional to, not a replacement for, their participation in CT partners.

CVFR enhances platform

THE updated TravelTech ticketing system from CVFR Consolidation Services (TD breaking news) promises a range of enhancements, including the ability to issue both NDC and traditional tickets in the same workflow that agents are already comfortable with.

Featuring robotic ticketing enabling intervention-free issuing of tickets for OTAs and other high transaction agencies, the new version's NDC capabilities enable agents to offer their clients "more than a plane seat," with add-ons such as ancillaries and other services to provide a rich retailing experience for the industry.

"From the start our goal was to deliver a product that makes it easy for agents...keeping that goal in mind, the whole platform has been designed with travel

agents in mind," said CVFR Travel Group CEO Ram Chhabra.

"We were never chasing to be first, that was never important to us, it was about making it right for agents," he said.

The new TravelTech will roll out from 30 Aug, with CVFR to run training sessions as well as releasing instructional videos to showcase the enhancements.

AFTA recruiting for mental wellbeing

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents will appoint a new staff member focusing on the industry's mental health, with funding secured under the Vic Small Business Wellbeing Project.

Recruitment is currently under way for the full-time role supported by the Vic Department of Health for this financial year, meaning Victorian AFTA members will be able to access "in-person bespoke and individual services," the Federation said.

The wider AFTA membership base will also benefit from tailored webinars and workshops and training of its staff, alongside existing support for the sector available through the Beyond Blue New Access Scheme.

AFTA Chairman Tom Manwaring said people working in travel had been hit hard by COVID-19.

After 18 months of hard lockdown, the cumulative impact of continuing state and territory border closures and the international travel ban means that "this additional support for our members' mental wellbeing could not have come at a better time," Manwaring said.

TIME scholarships

THE Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) has announced the recipients of two scholarships, with the winners to take part in the program as part of the upcoming Sep intake.

Kathy Labbozzetta from Relax Travel & Cruise in Hunters Hill, NSW has been awarded the Go the Extra Mile scholarship provided through the running efforts of Timo Lorenzen earlier this year (TD 30 Jun), while Melbourne-based Hannah Taylor from Celebrity Cruises will undertake TIME mentorship under a second anonymously donated scholarship.

Both will start the program from 08 Sep - more details on TIME at travelindustrymentor.com.au.

Ponant live online

PONANT is inviting the travel community to register for its special event this Thu 19 Aug, featuring Tourism Australia ambassador Jason Edwards who has been "at the forefront of natural history photography for nearly three decades".

The free online sessions will take participants on a Ponant expedition from his unique perspective - for more info see the cover page of today's TD.

Quiktravel

Consolidated Travel is launching the new Quiktravel on 23rd August

NDC TICKETING

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25%

will book trips last minute - 2 weeks out

Source: Survey commissioned by nib Travel Brands N=1044, Australian respondents asked about when they would book their trip.

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More vaccination pushes

TOURISM Australia and Flight Centre Travel Group have both joined the campaign to encourage Australians to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a gateway to the resumption of travel.

Tourism Australia has released an industry toolkit under the banner of "It's our Best Shot for Travel," along with a major

consumer media push launched in newspapers last weekend.

Social media assets, website stickers, Zoom backgrounds and print advertisement artwork are available, urging the public to "get vaccinated and get ready to go," noting that as well as getting protection against COVID-19 "you're also supporting hundreds of thousands of Australians who work in the tourism industry".

Flight Centre has also launched an "Our Path to Freedom" campaign showing how vaccination will lead to no lockdowns and open borders.

MEANWHILE the travel sector has also embraced *Travel Daily's* #givetravelashot campaign (TD 09 Aug), with thousands of industry people promoting the vaccination message through social media in recent days.

Some of the latest posts and our weekly winner in the campaign are showcased on **page four**.

Hyatt bites Apple

HYATT today announced the US\$2.7 billion acquisition of US-based Apple Leisure Group, which operates a range of hospitality assets across the globe comprising over 33,000 rooms under the AMResorts banner.

About 100 properties are covered by the "asset-light" deal under brands including Secrets Resorts & Spa, Dreams Resorts & Spas, Zoetry and Breathless, as well as European leisure operation Alua.

Virgin to close CBR, PER Club lounges

VIRGIN Australia today confirmed it would not reopen its VIP Club int'l lounges in Perth and Canberra, but has committed to reintroducing the facilities in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane by the first quarter of 2022.

VA's Clubs - the exclusive enclaves only available to VIPs & the carrier's top frequent flyers - first closed on 23 Mar 2020, and the carrier has now completed a review based on extensive consultation with its top clients.

The loyalty program review will also see 'The Club' brand retired, and replaced with a "new and fresh name that reflects the airline's future direction".

VA Group Chief Commercial Officer, Dave Emerson, said standalone premium lounges in PER and CBR aren't commercially feasible, but clients will continue to have access to VA's domestic lounges in those airports.



Window Seat

TALK about a holiday designed to escape the winter chill, Ugg Express has teamed up with DoubleTree by Hilton Melbourne to provide guests with access to some of the company's cosiest products.

Travellers staying in the special UGG Room before the end of Sep will be able to slip their cold feet into a pair of warm UGG slippers, snuggle up in a warm woollen scarf with a cup of hot chocolate, and unwind with a good book on the sheepskin throw on the bed, as part of the winter collaboration.

Guests will be offered discounts across the company's range of slippers, UGG boots and woollen shawls, and also be served up a winter menu by Executive Sous Chef Steven Tan.

WIN A SINGAPORE DESTINATION STAMP PACK



Singapore Tourism Board are giving away 100 exclusive destination stamp packs to Australian Travel Agents and PCOs.

To be one of the first to receive the stamps, click [here](#) to reply in 25 words or less*

"What is your favourite Singapore experience that you hope to rediscover and why?"

Entries close at 11.59pm AEST on Tuesday 24 August 2021. Terms & Conditions apply.

Frailties in domestic: TRA

A NEW report tabled by Tourism Research Australia (TRA) has laid bare the challenges of making a full tourism recovery without international tourists, revealing the disparate spending patterns with domestic travellers.

The document found that despite an uptake in domestic tourism during the COVID period, the average domestic overnight trip is less than four nights and average spend is under \$700, in contrast to an average 18-night trip for international tourists, whose spend is around \$6,500.

Domestic trips are also concentrated on weekends, with spikes in demand around long weekends and school holiday periods, whereas international visitors are typically more evenly spread, and would provide more important support to tourism

EK ramps up flights

EASING restrictions around the world has seen Emirates ramp up air operations, scaling-up operations across 29 cities on 270 flights in line with demand.

The airline will operate 73 weekly flights to gateways in the UK by Oct, including six flights to London, with the UK recently placing the UAE on its amber list.

businesses - particularly during non-peak periods.

Looking forward, the report suggested the biggest challenges facing the introduction of quarantine-free travel included the logistics around air travel such as vaccine passports, vaccination rates, achieving herd immunity, and vaccine effectiveness against new variants of the virus.

Travel agents and tour operators were also listed among the most vulnerable business segments during the border closure.

NZ now number one

NEW survey data from Flight Centre data shows that New Zealand has overtaken Europe as the most popular overseas destination for Aussies when international travel resumes.

Speaking with *Mumbrella* on Fri, Flight Centre's CMO Clinton Hearne noted its internal data also indicated that Aussies now want to embark on longer holidays than they did pre-COVID, and are prepared to spend more on the experience as well.

Hearne added that its search data also showed that domestic travellers had moved to planning longer trips, desiring holidays longer than seven days.

Show us your best pineapple!

The much-loved Big Pineapple on the Sunshine Coast is turning 50! To celebrate this icon's birthday, the team at Visit Sunshine Coast invite you to submit your best holiday photos at the attraction.

Photos will be judged by the team with prizes for gold, silver and bronze. The first prize will be awarded a Sunshine Coast prize pack featuring Sunshine and Sons Gin, Diablo Pineapple Liqueur and a few other surprises! Second and third place will also be sent a box of Sunshine Coast goodies featuring Diablo Pineapple Liqueur.

Please send your submissions to trade@visitsunshinecoast.com by close of business Monday 23 August.



Access our toolkit of assets to help spread the word and #givetravelashot

[CLICK HERE](#)



Mercure Darwin Airport luxury



THE Mercure Darwin Airport Resort has opened half a dozen new tropical pool villas (pictured), two-person accommodation that offers guests a private plunge pool overlooking Rapid Creek bushland, a king bed, a private balcony, a large LCD TV and rainforest showers.

The hotel is located only 300 metres from the Darwin Domestic

and International Airports and 15 mins' drive from Darwin's CBD.

Further refurbishments to the resort are set to be completed and ready to open in 2022.

SYD rejects again

SYDNEY Airport has rejected another takeover proposal from the Sydney Aviation Alliance consortium, labelling the revised acquisition offer "not in the best interests of security holders".

The follow up offer put forward a value of \$8.25 per stapled security, the same value of its original bid (TD 15 Jul), however this time Sydney Airport was advised that AustralianSuper had joined the consortium.

The airport's board was unmoved by the development, unanimously concluding the offer still undervalued the business.

FC boosts support

FLIGHT Centre has introduced a new online help centre as part of a wider revamp of the company's website, designed to make it easier for travellers to navigate the challenges of COVID.

Accessible HERE, the new site will answer questions relating to issues such as border closures, vaccine and quarantine requirements, booking amendments, baggage and insurance to name just a few.

"Our collective travel brain of thousands of agents, holiday and airfare experts and accountants is now accessible to all travellers," Flight Centre General Manager Australia Kelly Spencer said.

Users can also access interactive border restriction maps.

WA snaps up flights

WESTERN Australian travellers have bought 3,000 discount airfares released by the state govt within only two weeks.

The promotion to stimulate intrastate tourism was launched by the government and Webjet, with \$100 off the price of routes from Perth to Exmouth, Kununurra and Broome and between Broome and Kununurra.

IHG new lux brand

IHG Hotels and Resorts CEO Keith Barr has revealed the company plans to introduce another luxury/lifestyle brand to the fold in the coming weeks.

The new independent conversion brand will be designed to appeal to high-value, frequent and affluent travellers, with Barr stating it would provide high quality hotels access to IHG's system, whilst retaining their own distinctive brand identities.

Industry combines to #givetravelashot

VACCINATION is clearly the key for the recovery of the travel industry across the globe, and the message is being heard loud and clear through the multipronged efforts of travel agents, tourism operators, brands and other stakeholders who have begun using #givetravelashot, #letsgetto80, #gettravelready and #betravelready in their social media activity since the launch of our campaign last week (TD 09 Aug).

Thanks to everyone who has gotten on board, and let's keep the momentum going, with many posting inspirational pics about some of their favourite travel experiences while others have used the assets from our free industry toolkit (at traveldaily.com.au/givetravelashot) to continue getting the message out.

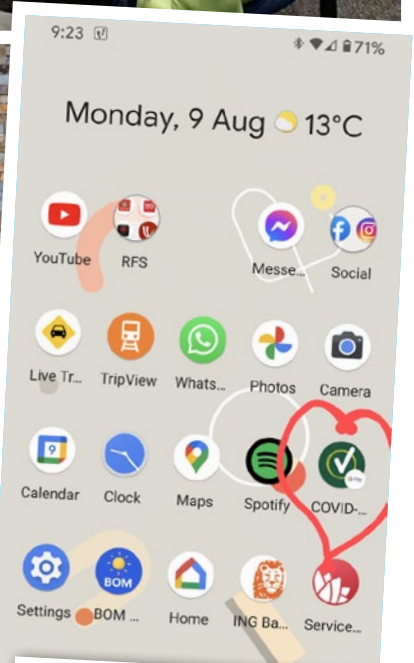
The Council of Australian Tour Operators is among many industry organisations to join the frenzy, with the CATO Board saying it wholeheartedly supports the push for the industry, and Australia as a whole, to get vaccinated. "It's the only way travel and tourism can get back to work, rebuild our businesses and create a sustainable future," CATO said.

"Based on the current vaccination rates, if we continue to do the right thing, Australia should achieve 80% before Christmas. We need to unite as an industry and lead by example...positive progress will allow us to collectively push the Government to set a firm date for border openings, in order that we can all scale up operations and make sure we are prepared for Australians to be able to travel," the CATO Board added.

As part of the campaign we're giving \$50 gift cards to some of the social media posts tagged using #givetravelashot, with one of the winners chosen as Kate Dalton, Trade Account Manager at Cathay Pacific Airways (and also the travel industry's very own Gogglebox star) who's pictured at right getting her second AstraZeneca jab.



BELOW: Now this is a much better type of mask at Sydney's Olympic Park vaccination centre - posted with #givetravelashot by Instagram user @n_kidz_travelz.



RIGHT: Leanne Douglass, Tourism Development Officer from Tamworth Regional Council, posted this on-message montage to celebrate becoming fully vaccinated with Pfizer.



ABOVE: Jacquey Turner, owner of Victoria's Gippsland Travel, shows she's ready to hit the road right now.



ABOVE: A \$50 gift card also goes to Michelle Desmarchelier from TravelManagers in Berowra, NSW who proudly posted an image of her smartphone screen showing the love for her newly acquired COVID-19 digital certificate for easy access. She got it the same day as her birthday, and wins the prize for noting that "the best birthday present a travel agent can receive other than a boarding pass is the freedom to travel when the world reopens".

LEFT: Blue skies are clearly ahead for Simone Nankervis from Brisbane-based Fusion Holidays - who added #givetravelashot to this Facebook post made when she became fully vaccinated in late Jun.

Where in the world?

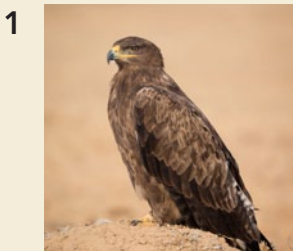


THIS is the oldest and largest cathedral in Latin America. Construction began in 1573 but took just under 250 years to build meaning that it is a mix of architectural styles including gothic and baroque as well as incorporating local designs.

However as well as being famous for its age and size, the cathedral also houses an extensive art collection as well as a series of catacombs. Do you know where in the world you could find this cathedral?

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

- St. Kilda Pier is home to a colony of what animals?
 - Quokkas
 - Little penguins
 - Sea lions
- In what country would you find the longest artificial river in the world?
- The Straits of Mackinac connect which two Great Lakes?
- The majority of Sri Lanka's population are of what ethnicity?
- Nielsen Park is a heritage-listed park located in which Australian city?
- What is the largest of Hong Kong's islands?
- Which two countries have area in Lapland?
- YK is the nickname of what Canadian city?
- Is Leicester Square located in London's East End or West End?
- Is the Washington Monument in the state of Washington or Washington DC?

Sudoku

EASY

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.

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

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

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

ANSWERS 16 AUG
 Where in the world: Cathedral Metropolitana, Mexico City, Mexico
 Pub quiz: 1 Little penguins, 2 China, 3 Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, 4 Sinhalese, 5 Sydney, 6 Lantau Island, 7 Finland and Sweden, 8 Yellowknife, 9 West End, 10 Washington DC
 Pick the nation: Egypt

Destinations!
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Travel Daily

LATAM Aug primed

LATAM Airlines Group is this month projecting its largest operations since the pandemic.

The estimate has LATAM reaching a capacity of 49% of available seat kilometres, made up of 891 daily flights, when compared to the prior corresponding period in 2019.

LATAM expects to close the third quarter with operations greater than 50% of 2019 levels.

Viking doubles up

VIKING has released two new 2022 ocean itineraries, which can be combined to create one extended 67-day voyage.

Both depart aboard *Viking Mars* and explore places like Greece, Oman, Egypt and Sri Lanka.

View the 21-day Passage to India [HERE](#) and the 16-day Across the Bay of Bengal [HERE](#).

Great Ocean wave

VICTORIA'S Great Ocean Road is one of the world's top 10 most-popular road trips, recent research from Zutobi has found.

The driving test site has found the Great Ocean Road is the ninth most-popular road trip, with 677,200 global annual searches.

The top five consists of Big Sur, US Route 66, the Dolomites, Salar de Uyuni and the Gobi Desert.

Rounding out the top 10 is Badlands National Park, Costa Smeralda, the Island of Hawaii, and North Coast 500.

Anantara resort plan

ANANTARA World Islands Dubai Resort is set to expand its Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas' Middle East portfolio following renewed traveller demand.

Slated to open in the fourth quarter of this year, Anantara World Islands Dubai is in the final stages of development in the World archipelago of small artificial islands constructed in the shape of a map, located in the waters of the Persian Gulf.

Lizard Island scales up



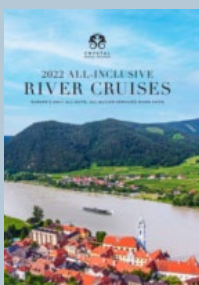
LIZARD Island has announced two new executive appointments, Executive Chef Winston Fong and General Manager Leon Pink (pictured).

Most recently Four Seasons Resort Seychelles Manager, Pink has held the same role at One&Only Reethi Rah.

Meanwhile Fong had previously worked in Fiji and was most recently the Executive Chef at Orpheus Island Lodge, where he led a team of ten in the kitchen, established a culinary garden, and developed a love for the diverse range of premium ingredients on offer in Far North Queensland.

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.



Crystal Cruises - 2022 River Atlas

Crystal Cruises has gone to press with its 2022 River Atlas. The program explores the all-inclusive river voyages available next year on the Danube, Rhine, Moselle and Main rivers, and is now available for download. It can also be found in the Order a Brochure section at crystalcruises.com. The comprehensive 184-page digital guide details cruises for Crystal's all-balcony Rhine Class ships *Crystal Bach*, *Crystal Debussy*, *Crystal Mahler*, *Crystal Ravel*, and *Crystal Mozart*. The guide details day-by-day itineraries for the cruises, insightful port descriptions and maps.

Stay inspired with keep dreaming...

A weekly e-magazine with destination features, puzzles and more. Don't miss the latest family special edition!



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