

A&K Australasia

ABERCROMBIE & Kent is today showcasing its refreshed portfolio of antipodean adventures, in a special feature including A&K's bespoke air safaris, Kimberley cruises, Barrier Reef citizen science, golfing getaways & more. See **page four** for more details.

Rex QF threats

REGIONAL Express has warned it is "considering launching legal action against Qantas," alleging that QF has undertaken capacity dumping and predatory practices. Rex said QF's actions through the pandemic mean it would be an "irresponsible use of public funds" to give it any more bailouts.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page and a special feature from **Abercrombie & Kent**, plus a full page from **Silversea Cruises**.

Adventuring to the US

EXCLUSIVE

THE Travel Corporation's (TTC) Adventure World Travel division has revealed plans to expand its operations to the United States.

Speaking with **TD**, the brand's MD Neil Rodgers said Adventure World would officially go live in the American market from next week, a logical next step with little business taking place in Australia and NZ and the US emerging from restrictions.

"We could see that Trafalgar is having record sales in the US, Uniworld are having record sales and we wanted a piece of that," Rodgers admitted.

While fellow TTC brands like AAT Kings, Inspiring Journeys and Contiki have all pivoted to launch domestic products, Rodgers said Adventure World's path needed to be different because the move didn't fit with its brand integrity, and that global expansion was always on the cards regardless.

"Before the pandemic started, we were having our most successful year in 2018/19... we were riding a high and the plan had always been with [TTC owners] the Tollmans that once we had Australasia in gear we would launch our brand of products into the US, followed by Canada & the UK," Rodgers said.

In addition to adding 2022/23 rates into the system to capture forward bookings, Rodgers believes the US growth will help keep the brand's momentum going and help retain staff, enabled by integration with Genesys Global Contact Centre software, which will allow Australian-based team to manage overseas reservations.

MEANWHILE Rodgers revealed Adventure World would soon be unveiling a number of small group journeys in partnership with The Treadright Foundation, with details to launch soon.

Silversea 2023/24

SILVERSEA Cruises has unveiled its voyages out to the 2023/24 season, saying it's the "largest-ever destination offering in a single itinerary launch".

A record 690 destinations in 125 countries are featured across all seven continents, including more than 60 maiden ports of call.

Silversea plans to operate its largest ever Australia/NZ season with 15 voyages aboard *Silver Muse* and *Silver Whisper*, while *Silver Explorer* will undertake her final Kimberley season.

There's also a wide array of voyages in the Mediterranean, Alaska, eastern Canada, the Arctic, new Baltic Sea expeditions, the addition of the Arabian Peninsula to the program, Antarctica and a 24-day crossing of the Northwest passage.

A pre-sale is open now for Silversea Venetian Society loyalty program members - more on **page 7** and in **Cruise Weekly** today.

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Travel Daily

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Travelodge purchased

THE Travelodge portfolio in Australia has been acquired by a new hospitality sector joint venture for \$620 million.

Comprised of 11 hotels across Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Newcastle, the property network was previously owned by Mirvac and NRMA, and will now be managed by new owners Salter Brothers under a joint venture agreement with Singaporean wealth fund GIC and investment firm Partners Group.

The move marks the group's first acquisition, creating "a platform of scale and geographic diversification across Australia", Salter Brothers indicated in a statement overnight.

"The transaction enables us to capitalise on the evolving

hospitality sector in Australia, positioning for growth and adding value to the portfolio via targeted capital expenditure and rebranding where appropriate," Salter Brothers Managing Director Paul Salter said.

The portfolio represents 2,032 mid-scale hotel rooms in Australia, with Salter adding the purchase now positions the company well for future asset acquisitions in the sector.

Smarter roadtrips

TRIP.COM-OWNED travel search engine Skyscanner has launched a new AI-driven roadtrip tool designed to group together all the booking components needed for a US drive holiday.

The new planner combines searches for car rental, hotel booking, and activities to do in each destination - all in the one search engine, with itineraries categorised as either family, outdoors, romantic or culture.

Options for rental cars and hotel bookings are only shown when they are available through third-party travel sites on the days that a user searches - access **HERE**.

NSW biz support

THE NSW and Federal Governments have expanded their COVID-19 support program for businesses with an annual turnover of between \$75,000 and \$250 million - up from \$50m.

To qualify for the JobSaver payments, businesses will have had their revenue impacted by at least 30% by restrictions, with maximum weekly payment limits also substantially increased.

Businesses that maintain their employee headcount can now receive between \$1,500 and \$100,000 per week, up from \$10,000, with payments based on 40% of their weekly NSW payroll.

Applications for JobSaver opened on Mon with more than 14,000 applications received.

Tassie to up allure

THE Federal Government has announced \$5.14 million in new funding to create new tourist attractions in Tasmania, with the development to focus on mountain bike trails, rock climbing and farm experiences.

The cash injection will be split into two, with eight tourism projects to receive \$2.34 million while \$2.8 million will be used to encourage agricultural tourism, such as interactive farm tours, on-farm accommodations and meals, paddock-to-plate experiences and cooking schools.

"There's a real focus on product innovation and new visitor experiences designed to increase yield and length of stay, which we know is so important for industry recovery, particularly in regional areas," Tourism Tasmania CEO John Fitzgerald said.

The eight projects slated to create new attractions include: Wild Tamar Adventures, Table Cape Lightshow, Riding the Mountain bike trail, Blue Derby Green Flow Trail, Bay of Fires Trail bike trail, Bicheno Beams, Wild Mersey Trail and Sky Rider.

US maintains block

THE US Government has confirmed it will not be lifting COVID-19 international travel restrictions for non-Americans until at least 21 Aug.

A White House spokesperson said the decision was driven by a global rise in cases associated with the Delta variant, as well as a recent advisory against Americans travelling to the UK.

US Travel Association Executive Vice President of Public Affairs and Policy Tori Emerson Barnes has called for the decision to be reviewed to pave the way for vaccinated travel corridors.

"We urge [the Govt] to revisit its decision in the very near term and begin reopening int'l travel to vaccinated individuals, starting with corridors between the US and nations with similar vaccination rates," he said.



Window Seat

WITH the prospect of international travel now visible on the horizon, the time to start planning that next holiday to Ireland is now, and what better way to be inspired than by salivating over the country's unique cuisine choices.

Tourism Ireland recently released a list of fun facts about its dishes, including the Belvelly Smokehouse in Cork, which has smoked salmon that is so tasty it was once served at Queen Elizabeth II's 80th birthday.

Also in the spotlight is Ireland's famous stew made with lamb, carrots, potatoes and onion, which was frequently featured on the menus for third-class passengers on the *Titanic*.

For something a little different on your plate, travellers should also try some produce from Europe's biggest wild eel fishery in Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland, which delivers a slippery 700 tonnes of wild eels each year to some of the best restaurants in Europe.



DL extends loyalty

DELTA SkyMiles Medallion Members will be able to enjoy their status through to 31 Jan 2023 as part of a push by Delta Air Lines to shore up its loyalty customer base.

The carrier has also confirmed that passengers booked in Basic Economy now have the ability to make changes to their flights for travel through to 31 Dec, which DL said would help reduce calls to its reservations team.

Tucan Travel IP For Sale



Long established adventure travel company

- Trademarks; including name and logo;
- Business Names;
- 11 domain names inc. tucantravel.com.au and budgetexpeditions.com.au;
- Customer Database

EOI Closes 2 August 2021
Contact for more information

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E: sjolly@rodgersreidy.com.au



DFAT warns of travel scam

AUSTRALIANS stranded overseas due to Government border policies are now being approached by scammers purporting to offer space on official repatriation flights.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has issued a formal warning over the practice, citing reports that several people have been contacted by someone professing to be from DFAT.

The fraudsters are allegedly asking for credit card information, with DFAT advising that it will never request payment for flights over the phone.

"If you receive a call from someone claiming to be from DFAT seeking payment for one of

these flights, please hang up," the Department said.

With tens of thousands of Aussies still wanting to come home, "DFAT are arranging facilitated commercial flights with Qantas to return Australians to Australia," the update notes.

"We contact vulnerable Australians to ensure they are prioritised on these flights... we're in the process of contacting relevant consular clients to warn them of this potential scam."

It's unclear how the fraudsters are obtaining contact details for the Aussies stuck overseas.

Travel Haven closes

MELBOURNE-BASED travel agency The Travel Haven Pty Ltd has been placed into members' voluntary administration by its Directors.

Established in 2012, the agency was based in North Ringwood Shopping Centre.

Matthew Kucianski from Worrells Solvency & Forensic Accountants was appointed as the company's liquidator last Thu, and is now inviting creditors to submit formal proofs of debts or claims on or before 17 Aug.

QR green training

QATAR Airways has announced it will train staff using the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Environmental Sustainability in Aviation, which is offered in partnership between IATA and the University of Geneva.

The program's selection follows QR's accreditation to the highest level in the IATA Environmental Assessment Program.



The July issue of *travelBulletin* is out now. Take a deep dive into the question of whether agents should charge service fees and read about cruising Europe and more.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*

Australia to ride Japan travel wave



FEDERAL Tourism Minister Dan Tehan was waxed up and ready to take to the surf during his recent visit to Japan (**TD** 19 Jul), where he met with Tourism Australia and the leaders of key distribution partners (**pictured**).

Discussing pathways to reopening, the gathering reaffirmed Tourism Australia's strong commitment to the Japanese market, with participants also signing a key Memorandum of Understanding that they would all do "everything

possible to work towards a strong recovery once borders reopen".

Japan was Australia's fifth largest inbound market in 2019, with authorities expecting the country's importance to increase further as the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tourism Australia Country Manager for Japan, Derek Baines, confirmed that as soon as there is some certainty on borders "we will be ready to go with a major integrated marketing and distribution campaign to drive conversion".

He said that initial planning discussions were already underway with state and territory tourism organisations, as well as airlines and key distribution partners in Japan.

NSW T&E tender

THE NSW Government's Transport for NSW agency has launched a tender process seeking proposals for the provision of a Software as a Service (SaaS) platform that provides "end-to-end support of a Travel and Expense Management solution".

The proposed platform would focus on travel requests and approval, bookings, expense management, compliance and reporting, with the ability to integrate with existing Transport for NSW systems.

With a statewide scope, the tender closes on 27 Aug, and prospective tenderers need to register their interest by emailing tss.bidder@transport.nsw.gov.au in order to gain access to the Request for Proposal documents.

Amadeus + Hopper

AMADEUS has extended its relationship with Canada-based travel app Hopper, in a reciprocal agreement giving Hopper users access to Amadeus' global car rental content.

In turn Amadeus will distribute some of Hopper's insurance products on the Amadeus Travel Platform, including Cancel for Any Reason coverage which allows users to cancel up to 24 hours prior to departure and receive an 80% refund, and Price Freeze, which enables ticket prices to be locked in for 14 days.

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Content produced in collaboration with Abercrombie & Kent



A&K's refreshed Antipodean adventures

WITH more than 35 years' experience, and a team of 70 travel professionals in Australia and New Zealand, luxury travel company Abercrombie & Kent has released a refreshed and exciting portfolio of extraordinary Antipodean travel ideas.

The collection is a valuable planning tool for travellers and agents, presenting an almost limitless selection of what is possible from indigenous immersions in the Northern Territory to tasting Tasmania's finest oysters straight from the sea, a luxury expedition cruise in the Kimberley or an exclusive citizen science adventure aboard a yacht in the Great Barrier Reef.

Featuring an extensive selection of curated experiences, local connections and favoured accommodation options, A&K can stitch elements together to craft privately Tailor-Made

journeys and flexible small group adventures for your clients.

There are golfing getaways, eco-walks, cycling tours, fly fishing forays, outback air safaris, urban encounters, hands-on conservation initiatives and more.

The portfolio also includes a selection of expert-led shared adventures for groups of no more than eight guests - [CLICK HERE](#) to view the collection.

More bikes and beads for AKP

EMPOWERING local communities through mobility, A&K Philanthropy's bike shop program has expanded to include the newly-opened Doffa Bike Shop in Karatu, near Tanzania's world famous Ngorongoro Crater.

A female-focused initiative, the

shop uniquely employs women who are living with HIV aiming to give them a dignified life and fight the stigma of HIV.

Also housed in the same facility is Ubuntu Bead Works.

A&K guests when travelling in the area are invited to visit these two inspiring initiatives.

Air travel as it was meant to be

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has released a new portfolio of bespoke air safaris through Australia and New Zealand delivering the luxury of time, space and access.

Each journey enables a small group of travellers to visit, with ease, out-of-the-way destinations which are difficult to link together unless by private charter flight, with destinations including Arnhem Land in the Top End, Quilpie and Winton in

Central Queensland or South Australia's William Creek and Flinders Ranges.

Each A&K air safari is also specially tailored to include exclusive excursions and activities like an intimate homestead experience in outback Queensland with the property owners, or a unique wine and artisan experience on New Zealand's Waiheke Island while handpicked accommodations are a feature of every journey.



See new destinations from new heights.
Discover a variety of Australian wonders in privileged luxury, travelling in limited company on privately chartered aircraft.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Abercrombie & Kent

Olympics word search

G	X	Y	E	T	G	R	X	W	S	J	C	N	R	M
N	K	W	T	S	N	G	V	T	P	L	V	E	A	R
I	L	V	A	K	I	C	G	T	O	V	N	V	S	E
M	L	M	R	A	F	P	N	S	R	K	N	A	Z	L
M	A	U	A	T	R	O	I	C	T	J	Y	V	S	A
I	B	N	K	E	U	S	L	I	S	L	C	O	D	Y
W	T	N	H	B	S	T	C	T	C	N	O	W	L	R
S	F	V	V	O	Z	P	Y	E	L	Y	Q	R	L	S
G	O	N	U	A	R	O	C	L	I	E	R	P	A	V
N	S	O	L	R	J	N	W	H	M	K	C	T	B	D
I	U	N	P	D	H	E	P	T	B	C	K	K	E	V
W	E	A	I	I	F	D	J	A	I	O	L	A	S	W
O	L	B	L	N	K	O	W	O	N	H	N	Z	A	O
R	R	J	A	G	L	M	Q	Z	G	Z	J	Z	B	B
D	U	T	T	H	C	R	O	T	J	N	A	P	A	J

SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| ATHLETICS | ROWING |
| BASEBALL | SKATEBOARDING |
| CYCLING | SOFTBALL |
| HOCKEY | SPORTSCLIMBING |
| JAPAN | SURFING |
| KARATE | SWIMMING |
| POSTPONED | TOKYO |
| RELAY | TORCH |

Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

E	E	B
N	L	A
E	V	R

- Good – 21 words
- Very good – 31 words
- Excellent – 42 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called Keep Dreaming is specially designed for agents to send their clients.



Know your brands

LOGOS are the main way that companies distinguish themselves, and some logos are so famous that you don't even need to see the company's name to know who it is.

See if you can identify these four logos.

1



2



3



4



Whose animal is this?



THE rufous-bellied thrush is known for its beautiful plumage and singing voice is found throughout this nation, which it is the national animal of.

For many years it has been celebrated in the nation in both writing and music, and was officially adopted as the national

bird by presidential decree in 2002.

Rufous-bellied thrushes are native to South America (where this country is located) and is most common in Brazil and Argentina.

Do you know which of these two countries it is the national animal of?

Know your brands: 1 Jetstar, 2 NBN Co, 3 John Deere, 4 Priceline
Whose animal is this: Rufous-bellied thrush - Brazil
Unscramble: able, abler, alec, bale, ableen, baler, bevel, bare, earl, elan, eleven, elver, enable, enabler, lane, laver, lean, learn, leave, leaven, leaver, leev, leev, lever, navel, rale, ravel, rebel, reel, renal, reveal, revel, veal, velar, vena, VENERABLE, veneral, verbal, vernal

ANSWERS 28 JUL

Coral by name, coral by nature



CORAL Expeditions has led a Citizen Science Expedition to the Great Barrier Reef as part of the cruise line's joint initiative with nonprofit organisation Great Barrier Reef Legacy.

Taking place earlier this month, Coral brought together a cohort of conservation-minded guests and expert scientific specialists to partake in the inaugural Citizens Science of the Great Barrier Reef voyage over 10 nights from Cairns.

The expedition was led by

some of the world's leading reef and species scientists, and focused on two key conservation projects including an in-depth behavioural study of the rare common minke whale, and the surveying & sample collection of coral species to add to the Living Coral Biobank, a ground-breaking project to preserve and protect coral diversity for the future.

Cruise cleaned out

THE slow cancellation of a second Australian cruise season in a row is costing travel advisors millions of dollars in lost bookings, Clean Cruising GM Dan Russell has highlighted.

The cruise agency's General Manager has called attention to the fact Australia is placed a distant last globally thanks to its slow local cruise resumption plans, blaming the laboured vaccination rollout.

Russell is calling for the government and industry to urgently agree upon restart plans.

Soneva Fushi VR

SONEVA Fushi has launched a pioneering new VR experience that shares Soneva's "slow life" ethos and champions the Maldives archipelago as a bucket-list destination for travellers.

The hotel partnered with the United Kingdom-based studio to create a personalised VR content series that showcases Soneva to a global audience while in-person visits are unable to take place.



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Singapore flags Sep

SINGAPORE is aiming for quarantine-free travel by Sep for those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

The city-state projects that 80% of its population will be vaccinated by then, putting it in good stead to proceed with its reopening plans, Singapore's Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong told parliament on Mon.

The introduction of a green lane between Australia and Singapore was delayed earlier this month.

Pleasant expansion

PLEASANT Holidays and its luxury brand Journese are expanding its Mexico product, introducing new destinations and resorts in the country's most popular beach areas.

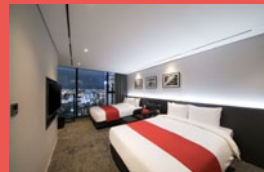
More than 20 additional resorts are flagged, including in Merida and Isla Mujeres, bringing the company's Mexico portfolio to 18 destinations, offering more than 300 hotels and resorts, including all-inclusive, adults-only and family-friendly options.

ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



To be developed on the foundation of an existing, 86-key charming beachfront property, **Chedi El Gouna** is being planned on the Red Sea in Egypt. The hotel will be perfected by The Chedi's signature Asian aesthetics of timeless design, which will pay homage to the look of the Nubian village and Egyptian countryside. It will be the third collaboration between GHM Luxury Hotels & Resorts and Orascom Hotels Management.



"Cool", "laid back", and "edgy", Best Western Hotels & Resorts has announced the opening of **Aiden By Best Western @ Denver West/Golden**. The hotel draws travellers in with its exterior and attention-grabbing mural, created by a local artist, which wraps around the building. Each floor of the hotel is designed to represent the various seasons with individualised colour palettes, custom signage, artwork and murals that transport guests into adventurous spaces.



Raffles Maldives Meradhoo Resort is now ready to welcome guests back to unwind in its elegant oasis. The hotel is surrounded by the crystal-clear Indian Ocean in one of the world's largest and most remote natural atolls and offers the legendary service of Raffles. Spanning across two islands, the resort offers 38 beachfront and overwater villas.

 SILVERSEA®
The background of the top half of the page is a photograph of an ancient Egyptian temple carved into a sandstone cliff. The temple features a series of columns with papyrus capitals and a small entrance. The lighting is warm, suggesting a sunset or sunrise, and the sky is a clear, light blue.

NEW ITINERARIES

WINTER 2023, SUMMER 2023-24

JOIN SILVERSEA'S NEW SEASON LAUNCH 2023 & 2024 WEBINAR

You're invited to attend our webinar to discover SilverSea's exciting new season of incredible all-inclusive voyages for 2023 & 2024. This launch includes an extensive set of voyages and worldwide destinations, including many firsts for SilverSea. We will reveal important details you will need to share with your clients, including new destinations, must-knows, longer voyages, and overnight stays.

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