

## Today's issue of TD

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

## Hayman agent rate

**INTERCONTINENTAL** Hayman Island Resort is offering 50% off on stays for Queensland-based travel industry partners who book and stay before 31 Aug.

The exclusive limited-time offer is valid for new bookings, and also applies to launch transfers.

It's available for personal travel only, and guests will be required to present an industry business card upon arrival; to book call 07 5501 9992 and quote IVTCD.

## TIME for Silversea

**THE** Board and Committee of the Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) have today announced a new scholarship for the program, thanks to the generosity of Silversea Cruises.

Open to qualified applicants from any background across the travel, tourism, aviation and hospitality industries, the full scholarship supports a candidate to engage in the TIME six-month industry mentoring program.

Silversea Director of Sales, Steve Richards said despite COVID-19 it was vital for the industry to continue to invest in its future.

"We'd love nothing more than to see a deserving tourism and travel individual to be awarded this important scholarship."

Applications close 20 Aug - see [travelindustrymentor.com.au](http://travelindustrymentor.com.au).

## AFTA's message for PM

**AS PART** of the organisation's next step to highlight the plight of travel advisors, the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) has written directly to the Prime Minister requesting wider support for all travel agents.

Citing the roughly 15,000 jobs already lost to the sector, the letter signed by AFTA Chair Tom Manwaring has called for agencies to be protected against the recent lockdowns caused by the Delta outbreak in Sydney and Melbourne, arguing that if

properly supported, the industry can be "one of the cornerstones of Australia's economic recovery post-COVID-19."

"Consumers need travel agents now more than ever in managing cancellations, refunds, and credits and, once international travel resumes, will need them to navigate the confusion of travel requirements and restrictions," the letter states.

"Travel agents have successfully secured an estimated \$8 billion in credits and refunds on COVID-impacted travel on behalf of consumers from airlines, cruise lines, hotels, and tour operators.

"There is still \$2 billion worth of travel booked through travel agents to be secured."

The letter also stressed the need for the country's vaccine rollout to be done as "quickly as possible", conceding the Govt's recent pledge to get all Aussies vaccinated by late Dec was a "step in the right direction".

## QF sold on loyalty

**QANTAS** has announced that its Frequent Flyers are now able to bid for a range of exclusive travel experiences using their loyalty points as currency.

Kicking off 02 Aug, up for grabs will be a private charter flight to Byron Bay, Hamilton Island or Devonport inclusive of premium Qantas hospitality, as well as a luxury holiday for four people to Queenstown.

Also on offer for successful bidders is a kids soccer coaching clinic with Socceroos Coach Graham Arnold, and the chance to take the controls of a 787 simulator with one of Qantas' most experienced captains.

One item will be auctioned off each day between 02 and 06 Aug between 8am and 9pm AEST, with the member who places the highest bid by 9pm and has the points available in their account, declared the winner.

## TA US connection

**TOURISM** Australia (TA) recently participated in the Global Travel Marketplace in Fort Lauderdale from 8-10 Jul, the first in-person travel trade event for TA's Americas team in 17 months.

Attended by 120 travel advisors, Tourism Australia connected with the most-qualified and top-producing agents through one-on-one appointments, boardroom-style presentations, and an interactive quiz.

## Expedia TAAP tools

**EXPEDIA** TAAP has developed a Travel Agent Toolkit, providing an easy way to help consultants keep connected to their clients via social media.

The initiative is recognition that in the current travel-restricted environment, travel agents can always focus on marketing themselves, with the toolkit regularly updated with new content.

Over the next few weeks Expedia TAAP is promoting the free resource by asking agents to send in their latest posts, with 10 weekly prizes of \$50 gift cards.

The toolkit includes email templates, social media tiles and campaigns which can be easily customised and rebranded, with details and directions available through the Expedia TAAP Academy by **CLICKING HERE**.

## Coral's ace of Bass

**CORAL** Expeditions has released its new 13-night Tasmania's Bass Strait Islands Hobart to Melbourne expedition, departing early next year.

Travelling aboard its *Coral Geographer* ship, the sailing departs 16 Feb 2022 and explores the outlying islands of Eastern Tasmania and the Bass Strait.

The voyage will take in the wilderness regions of the Kent and Furneaux Groups, the unique Australian wildlife at Maria Island, and two days on King Island, while guests will also enjoy a variety of day hiking options, including the Fluted Cape walk.

**SCENIC**<sup>o</sup>  
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

## 2022 FRANCE RIVER CRUISING

Book with Confidence:

Flexible booking policy up to 60 days prior and Complimentary Deposit Protection Plan\*

\*conditions apply

Download marketing toolkit here

FRANCE MONTH



**Suppliers! Drive sales by teaching travel advisors**

with the Travel Daily Training Academy

[Click here for an information pack](#)

Travel Daily



## Window Seat

**SIMILAR** to a Superman character that nobody asked for, the flying engine-clad nuisance that is "Jet Pack Man" has been spotted again flying close to aircraft in Los Angeles.

According to media reports in the US, a pilot flying near the airport alerted air traffic control after spotting the aerial lunatic zooming around LAX airspace.

"A Boeing 747 pilot reported seeing an object that might have resembled a jet pack 15 miles east of LAX at 5,000 feet altitude," an FAA spokesperson told news station *KABC*.

The latest sighting follows numerous reports last year of a flying man doing loop-the-loops near the approaches to LAX.

Although many theories abound, it is unlikely to be an unconventional health check - as one Fox News reader quipped: "Jet Pack Man is Dr Fauci trying to see inside the jets if pax have their masks on".



## Saipan the "new Bali"?

**SAIPAN**, a US island protectorate in the western Pacific, looks set to target tourists from Australia, with the launch of a new leisure airline which could bring Aussies from Brisbane in about six hours flying time.

Saipan is the largest of the Northern Mariana Islands, and will have 80% of its population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within just a few weeks.

Australia is high on the list to be part of a tourism-driven post-COVID economic recovery, with Governor Ralph Torres saying the Marianas Pacific carrier planned to operate services to other COVID-safe nations.

The airline's Chairman is Aussie aviation veteran Neil Hansford, who told *The Australian* Saipan was an obvious choice for a travel bubble with Australia.

"No Australian health authority is going to allow travel to Bali any time soon, same with the Philippines," he said.

"Australians are going to want to go somewhere that's COVID-safe, and Saipan ticks all the boxes... it's the same distance (from Brisbane) as Bali, it has the same quality of hotels, the same sort of resorts, better diving, English is the main language and they're in the same time zone as us."

The fledgling carrier's website describes Marianas Pacific as a

"new international consumer airline in its formative stages," with a route map indicating connections from Saipan to Brisbane as well as several Asian ports including Seoul and Busan in South Korea plus Osaka and Tokyo in Japan.

Marianas Pacific would use three US-registered two-class Boeing 757s, operating as an FAA-approved scheduled service Part 121 air carrier, allowing unrestricted operations.

The operation also proposes high speed water transfers to some of the 13 other islands in the Northern Marianas using special "Wing-in-Ground" effect (WIG) vessels which skim about 4m above the ocean at 135km/h.

## Vax travel wrinkles

**FORMER** Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Nick Coatsworth believes travel complications may arise in the future for tourists from countries where vaccine data is not widely known.

Speaking to *The Briefing* podcast this morning, Coatsworth said travellers from countries with opaque information systems may find unrestricted travel tricky.

"There is going to have to be a lot of international cooperation on this and where it is going to get challenging is...going to be with the Chinese vaccines and the Russian vaccines - this may be an issue for people who had those vaccines trying to enter Australia," Coatsworth said.

"If there are nations not being as transparent as they need to be, they actually need to be called out for it," he added.

## VS links to MEA

**VIRGIN** Atlantic has announced a new codeshare agreement with Middle East Airlines/Air Liban, with the VS code placed on MEA flights to Beirut from Boston, New York JFK and Los Angeles linking to VS flights from London.

## Skytrans signs on

**QUEENSLAND** airline Skytrans has inked a deal with Whitsunday Coast Airport to operate two new routes from Cairns and Rockhampton from Sep.

The carrier, partly owned by rugby league champion Johnathan Thurston, will fly to The Whitsundays from both cities once a day Mon-Fri, accounting for an extra 44,000 seats annually to the tropical destination.

"As we continue our recovery from the dark days of the pandemic, Whitsunday Coast Airport continues to be one of the fastest growing regional airports in Australia," Whitsunday Regional Council Mayor Andrew Willcox said.

Whitsunday Coast Airport is expected to see 49 weekly flights operate by Oct, with Willcox adding the increased services "sends a positive message" to tourism operators that the region's resilience during the current crisis is paying off.

## QTIC wants voices

**QTIC** and The University of Queensland are asking all tourism, hospitality and related sector professionals to participate in a new survey, designed to inform Qld's Crisis Resilience and Recovery Plan - the 17-minute survey can be accessed [HERE](#).

## Hook, line & sinker

**THE** publisher behind travel brands such as Tourism Fiji and The Travel Corporation has hooked a new deal with Tourism Australia's Signature Experiences brand, Great Fishing Adventures of Australia.

Grin Creative has been charged with creating the new publication *Allure*, which baits the appetite of travellers around the country who want to explore the best fishing experiences available.

The first issue is expected to reach a combined audience of more than 250,000 Australians. Access the online mag [HERE](#).

## WATCHING THE OLYMPICS?



## SO ARE YOUR CLIENTS.

Update your knowledge on **Japan** with the Travel Daily Training Academy - with training on Tokyo and Oita.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE MODULES](#)

Travel Daily

## CORPORATE UPDATE

### New FCM corporate CTO

**FLIGHT** Centre Travel Group has announced the appointment of Peter Gianusso as its new Global Chief Technology Officer for its corporate division, including FCM Travel and Corporate Traveller.

Gianusso, who was most recently VP Technology & Transformation at US finance giant Prudential Financial, will be based in Flight Centre's US headquarters in Montvale, New Jersey, with responsibility for overseeing the IT platforms behind its corporate operations.

These include the "global data

consolidation platform" which collates information from all corporate markets, a business rule and automation system used to improve data quality and simplify transactions, and central traveller profile and API platforms which are "leveraged across multiple brands & various... assets," the company said.

FCTG Global Chief Experience Officer, John Morhous, said the addition of Gianusso continued the company's investment in "world class talent to power the innovation and scalability that are core to our brand strategies," with his financial services knowledge expected to "translate well into travel".

### Sustainable BCD

**BCD** Travel has received a "Platinum" rating from sustainability assessment firm EcoVadis for the second year running, with the accolade seeing BCD retain its position in the top 1% of the 75,000 businesses currently assessed by EcoVadis.

The process considers performance in the areas of the environment, labour standards and human rights, ethics and sustainable procurement.

### Reed & Mackay appointment

**BRAD** Ellis has been named as the new Director of Sales, Australia for Reed & Mackay.

Ellis' pre-pandemic experience includes travel roles such as positions with Collette, Thrifty Car Rental, Travel Indochina and Corporate Traveller.

## Did you know?

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



## Where to be in Werribee



**IHG'S** Holiday Inn brand has welcomed the Holiday Inn Werribee to its network this week, with the Melbourne-based property featuring 150 contemporary and modern rooms, an open lobby, bar, restaurant and meeting spaces.

Located on Synnot Street, the hotel will target modern travellers and families, with a contemporary lounge area and e-Bar available for those who need to catch up on the day's news or work, as well as an all-day-dining at Rosana Bistro & Bar, which serves up modern Australian cuisine.

Rooms boast comfortable bedding, large TVs and free

unlimited high-speed wi-fi, as well as family rooms and interconnecting suites.

Nearby attractions include the Werribee Open Range Zoo, Werribee Mansion, Victorian State Rose Garden and the National Equestrian Centre.

"Our open lobby with its floor to ceiling windows and amazing views, not only gives our guests a warm and welcoming place to relax, work or socialise, it is also home to our modern restaurant and bar," Holiday Inn Werribee GM Preston Miskelly said.

"It is the ideal location to enjoy dinner or drinks with family and friends as you watch the sun go down," he added.

**Pictured:** One of the 150 modern rooms on offer.

### More UNESCO sites

**THE** UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has designated 33 new World Heritage Sites, after several days of online consideration by the relevant committee.

Additions this year include frescoes in Padua and porticoes in Bologna, Italy; the Arslantepe Mound in Turkey; and Peru's Chankillo Archaeoastronomical Complex.

The UK's Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales has made the list, along with Nice in France, Japan's Jomon prehistoric sites, the tidal flats of Getbol, Korea and Thailand's Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex.

For the full list see [unesco.org](http://unesco.org).

### Backpack operator group rebrands

**THE** Backpacker Operators Association NSW has completed a major rebranding process, and will henceforth be known as the Youth Tourism Association NSW.

The organisation has over 100 members, including small, medium and large tourism businesses as well as individuals, with the new brand aiming to encapsulate the wider sector including international students, working holiday makers and activity, attraction and accommodation operators.

See [youthtourismnsw.org.au](http://youthtourismnsw.org.au).

Do you listen to Travel Daily - News on the Fly to catch up on the news?

Use the podcast to update our listeners with your company's news.

Sponsorship opportunities are available now.

[CLICK HERE TO ENQUIRE](#)

Travel Daily

## Icon under a microscope



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

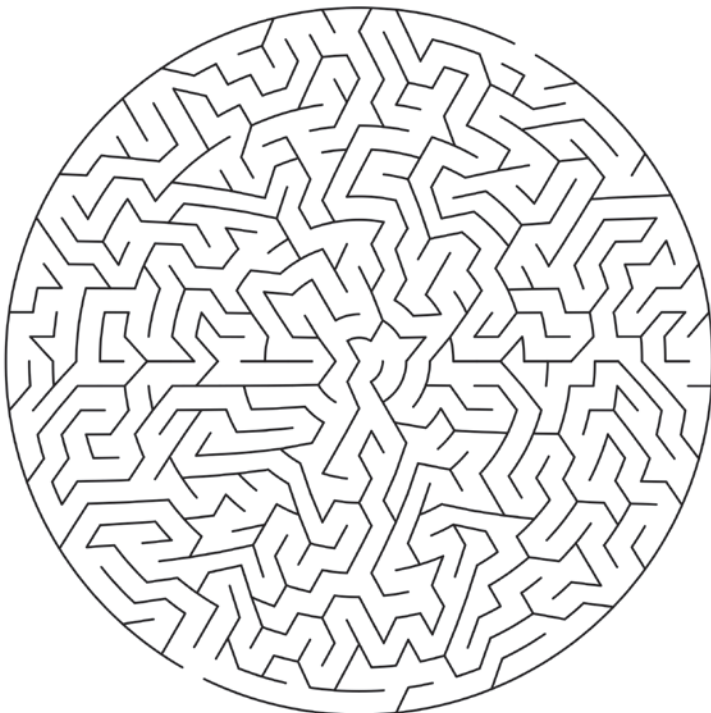
This is part of a monument

which famously depicts a mythical creature.

It has stood where it is for over 4,000 years and is one of the most recognisable landmarks in the world.

## A-maze-ing

**CAN** you find your way through this maze?  
Start at the top and finish at the bottom.



*keep dreaming...*

Inspiration for your clients' next holiday

[Click to subscribe](#)

Travel & Cruise  
Weekly

© Rainer Eder

## Funnies Flashback



**WE'VE** trawled through the *TD* Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 30 Jul 2014:

**TOURISTS** in the Northern Territory endured a white-knuckle ride this week after phoning police to report their bus driver as intoxicated.

The group was returning from a visit to the jumping crocodiles at Adelaide River and immediately suspected something wasn't right upon returning to the bus.

At one point, the driver veered into oncoming traffic, and also nearly drove into a lake, allaying her guests' fears by noting "it's only water".

Passengers had to confiscate a bottle of booze from the driver during the trip home, and even offered to take the wheel from her.

Police were waiting back in Darwin to charge the driver with driving under the influence.

## Cheesecake Day



**THERE** are some truly delicious foods that are celebrated this week, with both lasagne and cheesecake having their world days yesterday and today respectively.

Lasagne Day is held every year on 29 Jul and although the origins of the day are uncertain, what

is sure is that this tasty dish is worth celebrating - whether it's a traditional meat lasagne or a delicious veggie option.

And today is the day for cheesecake lovers with a free pass to indulge in this dessert in celebration of Cheesecake Day which was first inaugurated in 1985.

Icon under a microscope: Great Sphinx, Giza, Egypt

ANSWERS 30 JUL

## Trumpeting Aussie air journeys



**AUSTRALIAN** Air Safaris by Kirkhope has recently appointed Aussie music royalty to be its new ambassador, with James Morrison joining to promote the company's expanding range of air tours.

Morrison (**pictured**) is not only a demon on the trumpet, but is also an experienced aviator, a match Australian Air Safaris believes makes him the perfect person to tell travellers its story.

"James has owned various aircraft over the years which has seen him fly himself and often his

band all over Australia - thank you James for your endorsement," the company said.

Commenting upon the new partnership, Morrison said his own experiences in the air had convinced him to champion the brand's growth plans.

"When you've been around aeroplanes and pilots as long as I have, you get to know who's who, and I've known about Kirkhope Aviation for more than thirty years - one of their pilots even moonlights in my band on saxophone," he enthused.

"Being brand ambassador for Australian Air Safaris is something I cherish, it's a way of sharing my love of flying and an opportunity to encourage all those with a spirit of adventure to see this country from the air."

Kirkhope formally launched its new Australian Air Safaris touring brand last week, expanding its Sydney and Gold Coast air operations (**TD** 27 Jul).

## \$500k for cancer

**ACCOR** Pacific has now donated more than \$500,000 for cancer research through its Accor Community Fund, attaining Garvan Institute of Medical Research's Life Governor levels.

The Accor Community Fund has raised more than \$2 million for its five charity partners, including Lifeline and AIME.



## AS inks Sabre deal

**ALASKA** Airlines has expanded its technology partnership with Sabre to include the travel technology company's Dynamic Availability and Group Optimizer product solutions.

The airline has also renewed its SabreSonic and Intelligence Exchange agreement.

"It is especially important right now to have the most robust, agile and advanced technology solutions possible to propel our business into the future," said Alaska Chief Commercial Officer Andrew Harrison.

"We are now very much focused on driving revenue and growth."

## Pigram appointed

**STAYWELL** has announced the appointment of its Global Marketing Manager Trent Pigram.

Bringing with him extensive digital and marketing experience, Pigram has previously worked with major brands including Sofitel and Meriton.

His experience includes leading the development of Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour's content creation and amplification strategy, as well as creating and implementing a multi-channel social media strategy.

He will also be tasked with driving strategic partnerships and digital performance.

## TRAVEL SPECIALS

**WELCOME** to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to [specials@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:specials@traveldaily.com.au)

Guests can get a third night for every two nights booked per stay with **IHG Hotels & Resorts**, through PrivateUpgrades. In over 70 hotels, you can enjoy every consecutive third night free until the end of the year, up to a maximum stay of 14 nights. See the full list of hotels offering this promotion **HERE**.

Kakadu's **Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel** in Jabiru is welcoming re-opened borders with a snappy deal. The Bed, Breakfast, Cruise and Wine offer includes one night's stay, buffet breakfast for two, wi-fi, a two-hour Yellow Water Billabong Cruise, and a bottle of house wine with your meal at the Escarpment Restaurant & Bar. To book, call 08 8979 9000.

Book a luxury stay with **Pullman Reef Hotel Casino**, with the Luxe Life Package from \$285 per couple. Priced from \$999, guests can enjoy three nights' accommodation in a Superior room for two people, daily casino drinks, self-car parking, a \$100 food and beverage voucher to redeem at participating in-house outlets, a 12pm late check-out, and wi-fi access - to book, call 07 4030 8888.

Savings have been released on a new luxury Australian rail and sail adventure in Dec 2022 when booking through **Cruise Traveller**. Couples can save up to \$5,460 on the cross-continent adventure which combines the famous Indian Pacific train and a luxe Ponant small-ship expedition - **CLICK HERE** for more.

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