

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page and a special feature from **Silversea Cruises**.

## Moon rises today

**SILVERSEA** Cruises' new flagship, *Silver Moon*, sets sail on her inaugural season today, sailing from Greece.

*Moon* will visit places like Haifa and Cyprus, with guests to call into many of the Mediterranean's best destinations - see **page four**.

## Jennifer jumps ship

**LONG-TIME** local Carnival chief Jennifer Vandekreeke has revealed plans to leave the company after 13 years.

Vandekreeke has been instrumental in making the brand a success Down Under, and will take up a role with a yet-to-be-named local company soon - more details in today's **CW**.

## ScoMo looks to Europe

**PRIME** Minister Scott Morrison has indicated the success or failure of traffic light travel systems implemented during the European summer may influence when Australia decides to relax its own border restrictions.

Speaking with *Sky News* last night, the PM said that Australia could be living with restrictions for "years to come" in light of new COVID variants emerging around the world, stating the Federal Government would be watching closely whether increased tourism in Europe leads to greater levels of hospitalisation and/or deaths on the continent.

"We will see over the course of this summer in Europe, where a lot of people will be moving around under those new arrangements, and we'll be able to see what the impact of that is," Morrison said.

New variants were also cited as

a point of concern when it comes to lifting travel restrictions, with Morrison pointing out an increase in hospitalisations in the United Kingdom due to the spread of the Delta variant, despite 80% of British adults having had a first vaccine dose and 58% injected with a second shot.

Providing some hope to the local travel industry, Morrison noted that if serious illness were to drop on a "sustained basis" in Europe while travel was active, it could create a pathway forward for Australia to follow suit.

## No QR surcharge

**MIDDLE** Eastern carrier Qatar Airways has confirmed that unlike some other carriers, the advent of its new Oryx Connect NDC platform for travel agents unveiled this week (**TD** yesterday) will not see surcharges imposed on GDS bookings.

## QLD declares more

**STARTING** from 1am AEST tomorrow, any traveller to Queensland from another state or territory will need to make an online travel declaration at least three days prior to entry.

The state is also implementing the same requirement for those coming in from New Zealand, stating a need to enhance its COVID-19 contact tracing abilities as the primary motivation.

For more details, **CLICK HERE**.

## Seabourn cancels

**SEABOURN** is ditching sailings in Australia for the 2021/22 summer season due to "continuing limitations in travel" throughout the region.

The cancellations will see departures on board *Seabourn Encore* and *Seabourn Ovation* scrapped between 01 Sep and 26 Apr 2022.

More details in today's **CW**.

# RED CENTRE 'MATES RATES' SALE

## HOT DEALS STARTING FROM JUST \$379<sub>pp</sub>

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## Window Seat

IT IS often said that timing is everything and we now know for sure that while landing an aircraft is not a great time to be elected an arachnologist.

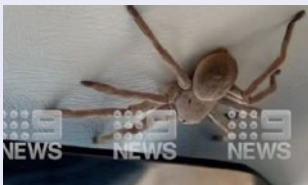
Just ask the pilot who was recently coming in to land his Cessna plane in the Northern Territory when a giant huntsman spider dropped on top of his head, sending him into a major tailspin (pictured sourced from 9News).

New South Wales tourist Sean Hancock, who was a passenger alongside his wife Colleen when the incident occurred, said seeing the "15cm big boy" was just a great Northern Territory experience, but admitted the pilot did not see it that way.

"He's panicking, trying to brush it off his leg, he wasn't a big fan at all," Hancock mused.

"I saw the spider and I just started laughing because I knew it was just a harmless huntsman," he added.

Following the frightful flight, Hancock and his wife enjoyed some croc jumping, hopefully no crocodiles landed in anybody's lap this time!



## Air NZ shows life signs

IN AN encouraging sign for the travel sector, Air New Zealand has revealed it has managed to achieve a positive EBITDA position since Sep 2020, despite ongoing travel restrictions.

In a market update to the ASX, the carrier also confirmed it has been cash flow positive since the second quarter of 2021, fuelled by a combination of increased traffic volumes and government wage and subsidy schemes.

"There has been much to celebrate in recent months, with the opening of the travel bubble on the trans-Tasman and to the Cook Islands, and the strong demand across our domestic network," CEO Greg Foran said.

Foran added that for Air NZ to make the shift from "survival to

revival" mode, it would need to increase its customer focus while maintaining a low cost base.

Despite the positive indications, the carrier is still expecting to record an approximate loss of NZ\$450 million for the 2021 financial year, and is not anticipating a strong recovery in the long-haul market in the 2022 financial year.

**MEANWHILE** Air New Zealand has awarded its permanent staff with NZ\$1,000 worth of company shares as a thanks for all of their hard work during the pandemic.

## VA affected by bug

A **GLITCH** in the Akamai content delivery system has caused significant IT outages for a number of airlines yesterday, including Virgin Australia.

"Flights are largely operating as scheduled and we apologise to any guest who has been inconvenienced," the airline said.

## FC NZ restructure

**FLIGHT** Centre New Zealand is following a similar path to the company's Australian operations (*TD* 09 Apr) by revealing plans to streamline the leadership of its independent divisions.

The company's Travel Associates brokers and Travel Managers Group (TMG) brands will see a new GM of Independent Models role created to spearhead the growth of independent agent models within the business.

Flight Centre NZ offered the new position to TMG's GM Cath McLeod, but she has declined to accept, leaving the business to kick-start a recruitment process.

## Travel Daily on location in Queenstown, NZ

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Destination Queenstown which is hosting a VIP trade fam in Queenstown, New Zealand.

**AFTER** an amazing dinner at Blue Kanu last night experiencing 'Polynasia' styled cuisine, the group woke early to join Nomad Safaris on a Gold Seeker Tour off-road adventure, looking to strike it rich.

After missing the 'rush' lunch was certainly welcomed at Gibbston Valley Winery, sampling some of the regions best wines and food.

The afternoon is an eventful one with off-road and jet sprint boats from Oxbow Adventure Co. before enjoying a progressive dinner with Alpine Wine Tours.



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## CORPORATE UPDATE

### FC links with HotelHub

**FLIGHT** Centre Travel Group has inked a deal with Travel Centric Technology-owned company HotelHub, an agreement which will see the travel agency's corporate brands provided with new global booking and distribution services.

Flight Centre divisions such as FCM and Corporate Traveller are now able to fully automate the hotel booking process using HotelHub's interface, which includes an API integrated with industry online booking tools to ensure all hotel bookings are manageable within its platform.

"HotelHub's independent, flexible and modern technology, and its scalability and highly customisable content, will be central to our hotel strategy," Flight Centre's Vice President Corporate Suppliers and Distribution Yon Abad said.

"Leveraging HotelHub's platform to distribute our extensive and vetted content will enable us to offer globally a best-in-class hotel product and solutions to our corporate customers."

The move follows previous decisions by Flight Centre to

shore up its accommodation offering, including an agreement with Hotelbeds late last year to increase its global distribution reach (**TD** 18 Dec 2020).

### CWT green pledge

**TRAVEL** management platform CWT has become the latest travel company to commit to a significant reduction in its environmental footprint, this week signing the Science Based Targets Call to Action Standard Commitment Letter.

The Science Based Targets call to action pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with achieving a global temperature increase below the 1.5° to 2° range.

"We will be collaborating closely with our entire value chain on how to support each other in reaching our climate targets, further contribute to the UN's sustainable...goals, and work towards transitioning to a low-carbon economy," said CWT Vice President, Global Responsible Business and Diversity & Inclusion Françoise Grumberg.

## Did you know?

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



## itravel reaches out to clients



**A GROUP** of iTravel consultants recently hosted a successful APT client event on the Northern Beaches in Sydney.

"[The event] was a great success and we showcased private air touring and small ship cruising,"

### Policy is patchy: US

**A PATCHWORK** approach to reopening business travel across the United States will hold back the sector from staging a full recovery until at least 2024, the US Travel Association claims.

The industry body is calling for the adoption of clear federal guidance so that regulations don't vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, effectively discouraging business travel.

Spending on large, in-person professional meetings and events declined by 76% last year, amounting to a US\$97 billion loss in spending on corporate travel.

### Royal enhances kit

**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) is supporting its travel partners with enhanced trade tools and a virtual event.

Relaunching today, RCI's advisor portal, HomePort, has been redesigned with brand new features and improved functionality, on which the cruise line will also be hosting a virtual scavenger hunt, with many prizes up for grabs - **CLICK HERE** for info.

said iTravel Travel Manager Megan Catterall.

"The presentation, venue and our clients, old and new to iTravel, came to hear more about these incredible tours - the atmosphere was electric," she added.

**Pictured:** Margie Colbeck, APT; Eliza Summerhayes, iTravel; Rashelle Thompson, APT; Natasha Dann iTravel, and Megan Catterall from iTravel.

### Air Charter appoints

**PRIVATE** charter carrier Air Charter Service has appointed Melissa Rogers and Matthew Haigh as a Director and Assistant Director respectively.

Managing Director of Australia Paul Crook said the appointments arrive at a time of strong growth for the business, despite the broader struggles of the travel sector in Australia.

Air Charter Service caters for corporate and luxury executive travel among other services.

### Airbus/Boeing truce

**THE** United States and European Union have agreed to a truce in their 17-year Airbus-Boeing conflict over aircraft subsidies, spurred on by a consensus to counter investment from China.

Aircraft subsidy tariffs imposed during the presidency of Donald Trump have also been suspended for at least five years.



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Please email your resume to Andrew Want  
andreww@edentravel.com.au

Content produced in collaboration with Silversea Cruises



# Silversea's new flagship sets sail today

SILVERSEA Cruises' new flagship, *Silver Moon*, sets sail on her inaugural season today.

Sailing from Santorini and Crete to Haifa (Israel) and Cyprus, guests on board will be the first to experience the brand new *Silver Moon*, while also calling into many of the Eastern Mediterranean's most beautiful destinations.

"We are so excited to celebrate the restarting of cruising by Silversea in Europe," said Steve Richards, Silversea's Director of Sales AUNZ.

"This location is fitting as it is the home of Silversea.

"While we wish we could be on board too, we believe that by this time next year Aussies will also be able to cruise the Mediterranean," he added.

To mark this milestone and celebrate the highly anticipated opening up of the world, Silversea has curated a collection of

remarkable voyages, departing from Jul 2022 onwards.

With an extraordinary reduced deposit of only 15% combined with Silversea's flexible booking conditions, and an enhanced early booking bonus of 10%, Silversea is giving its travel partners the opportunity to reward their clients if they book now - [CLICK HERE](#) to view the range of voyages.

## S.A.L.T. - Sea and Land Taste

SILVERSEA Cruises' innovative new culinary enrichment program, S.A.L.T. - Sea and Land Taste makes its debut on board *Silver Moon*.

The program will enable guests to travel deeper through a range of destination-focused gastronomic experiences both on board and ashore.

Three new dining venues on *Silver Moon* will unlock the immersive experiences for guests: S.A.L.T. kitchen which

will offer a changing menu based on the destination and a regionally-inspired wine list, S.A.L.T. Lab test kitchen which gives guests the chance to learn about local ingredients and techniques through workshops, tastings and demonstrations, and S.A.L.T. Bar which allows travellers to sample the flavours of a destination through a large selection of wines, spirits and other drinks.

[CLICK HERE](#) to discover more.

## Moon pushes lux boundaries

SILVERSEA Cruises' *Silver Moon* is at the cutting edge of ultra-luxury travel in the 21st century, and adds a number of innovative enhancements to those debuted on its sister ship, *Silver Muse*.

From the new S.A.L.T. dining ecosystem to the enriched public spaces, *Silver Moon* represents a refinement of Silversea's already ultra-luxury cruise experience.

*Silver Moon* features all the small-ship intimate hallmarks

of the Silversea experience, with fewer than 300 suites, personalised service and a crew to guest ratio of almost 1:1.

In addition, a number of public spaces have been reimagined on board, including the Dolce Vita lounge, the pool deck, the spa and fitness centre, the Arts Cafe, the Panorama Lounge and more, all for guests enjoyment.

To view the atmosphere of luxury on board, [CLICK HERE](#).



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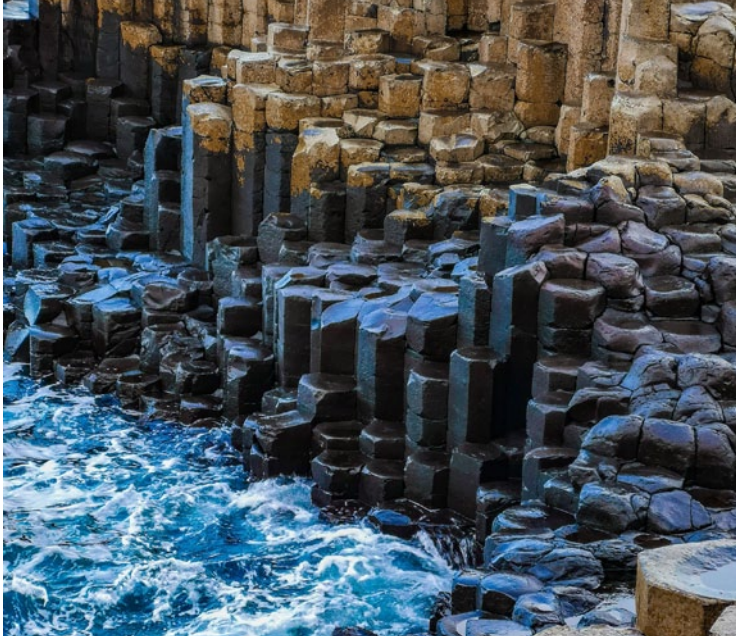
\* TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. BOOK BY 31 AUGUST 2021.



SILVERSEA

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## 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?

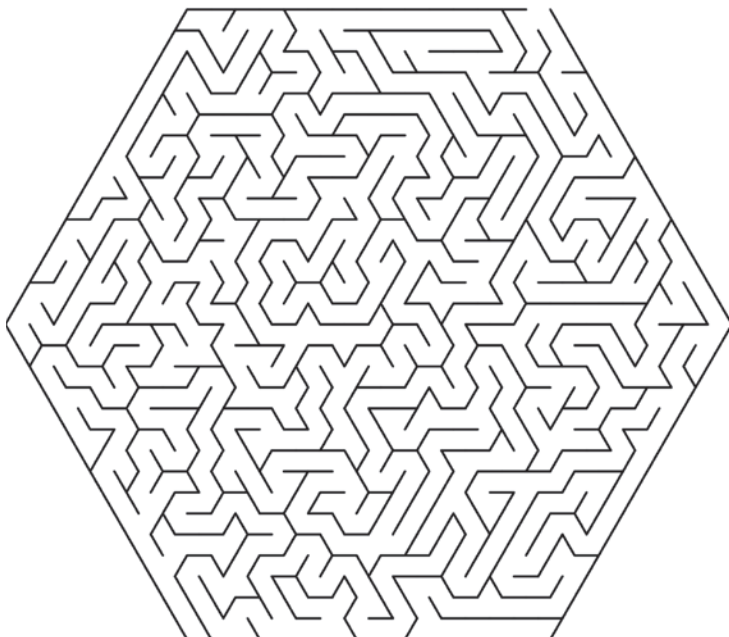
This is only a small portion of about 40,000 interlocking

basalt columns that make up this remarkable landmark.

Most of the columns on the UNESCO site are hexagonal, though some have four, five, seven or eight sides, with the tallest standing 12 metres.

## A-maze-ing

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



## Funnies Flashback



**WE'VE** trawled through the *TD* Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 20 Aug 2014:

**SOMETIMES** the urge to just get out and see a place can spur people to do rather odd things.

During a domestic holiday, a Danish man decided a detour to Rome to see a particular church was so necessary that he hired a taxi to drive him straight there.

Hopping into a taxi in the city of Odense one evening, he told the driver to drive him straight to Rome - a journey of 1,803kms costing DK29,226 (AUD\$5,607).

Initially the driver thought the man wanted to be taken to the airport but no, the journey was for the entire trip to Rome.

Passing through Germany, Austria and Italy, the trip took three days, with the driver saying he didn't sleep during the drive.

He said when he eventually got home, he took three days off as he had just earned a month's salary in one trip.

## Picnic and Sushi Days



**TODAY** happens to be a rare day where you can combine the celebration of a number of international days of the year, being International Picnic Day and International Sushi Day.

It's not known when International Picnic Day started being celebrated, but picnics in general became popular in France after the French Revolution and the largest picnic in the world was held with

20,000 people in Lisbon, Portugal in 2009.

Similarly, the origins of International Sushi Day are unclear, but sushi has been consumed in South-East Asia for many centuries, with the traditional form we are familiar with starting sometime between 1600 and 1800.

Today why not combine the celebration of picnics and sushi together and enjoy both at lunch.

Icon under a microscope: Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland

ANSWERS 18 JUN

## Back on deck in Tassie



**GLOBUS** family of brands' Head of Marketing Australasia Chris Fundell and Head of New Zealand Brett Simon (pictured) recently joined a group of 22 travellers for a fun trip around Tasmania.

Highlights of the Rugged Tasmania tour included sampling some of the food and wine on offer at Bruny Island and traipsing through the Cradle Mountain and Freycinet National Parks.

"Cradle Mountain, Freycinet, Strahan and the Gordon River cruise were all top experiences for me but one of the best things was seeing how much our loyal Globus travellers and new clients to our brand enjoyed the trip," Fundell admitted.

"We have so many incredible experiences in Australia and our small group discovery tours are perfect for those looking to take

the hassle out of travelling, while still exploring our backyard's most iconic sites and hidden gems."

Rugged Tasmania is a nine-day itinerary travelling clockwise around Tasmania, with prices leading in from \$4,564pp.

## Qld tourism boost

**THE** Qld Government's 2021/22 Budget has allocated a further \$9.9 million for the 94km Wangetti Trail, a walking and mountain bike path through tropical rainforest areas from Palm Cove to Port Douglas.

The trail will now also feature eco-accommodation facilities and be completed in mid-2022.

Close to \$15 million in funding was also announced to add more tourism infrastructure and support small tourism businesses.

Travel Daily

Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

## Coral tops up WA

**CORAL** Expeditions has added two new departures sailing between Broome and Cairns in Jan aboard the 99-passenger *Coral Adventurer*.

Highlights of the duo of 18-night voyages include birdwatching at the Lacepede Islands, Zodiac rides through the King George Falls and diving with sharks at Osprey and Holmes Reef.

"These are two of our most popular Australian expeditions, this combined voyage brings together our greatest hits," Coral Expeditions Commercial Director Jeff Gillies said.

The first cruise departs 01 Jan 2022, while the second sailing embarks 20 Jan 2022, with prices starting from \$13,450pp.

## Hilton in Maldives

**HILTON** has signed an agreement with Amingiri Holdings Pvt Ltd to introduce the 109-villa Hilton Maldives Amingiri (pictured) to the market.

The luxurious property will open to the public in late 2021, and feature six restaurants, a pool, a spa, a fitness centre and salon.

Teenagers will also be able to enjoy a special teens-only zone boasting a relaxing rooftop area and curated youth food menu.



## 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)

Savings of up to \$1,200 per couple are available on a Mississippi River cruise in 2022 and 2023 through **American Queen Steamboat Company**. Including a one-night hotel stay, an unlimited onboard beverage package and hop-on-hop-off shore excursions, the 15-night Mighty Mississippi itinerary is available from US\$5,071 per person, twin share. To book today and take advantage of the offer, [CLICK HERE](#).

Save up to \$500 per couple on 2021 tours with **Evergreen Cruises & Tours**, or enjoy earlybird savings of up to \$900 per couple on 2022 tours. Book now at 1300 892 708.

Book a select 2022 Mediterranean or Northern Europe sailing with **Regent Seven Seas Cruises** with a free two-category stateroom upgrade and 50% reduced deposits. The promotion is valid on bookings made before 30 Jun. For more information, call 1300 435 200.

Travellers on **AAT Kings'** Auckland to Christchurch New Zealand Uncovered tour can currently save up to \$600 per couple on selected departures. The 17-day guided holiday discovers the sights of New Zealand, the contrasts between the North and South Islands, and more. Contact 1300 228 546 for further information.

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