



5 Year Anniversary 



Celebrating five years of service from Adelaide

As we continue our commitment to Australia and your clients, we thank you for your valuable support throughout our five years of flying from Adelaide.

We are proud to have flown more than 230,000 passengers from Adelaide since our launch.



GOING PLACES TOGETHER

QR five yrs in ADL

QATAR Airways is today celebrating the fifth anniversary of its first flight between Doha and Adelaide.

The inaugural QR flight into Adelaide (**TD** 03 May 2016) was also the very first commercial flight of an Airbus A350, and since then the carrier has carried almost 500,000 passengers on its South Australian services.

It has also carried over 30 million tonnes of cargo, according to Qatar Airways VP Australasia and North Asia, Thomas Scruby.

"This anniversary provides an opportunity to thank the local food and wine producers whom we have built strong relationships with over the past five years.

"It's an especially critical time for the travel and aviation industry as we work through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and we would not still be here without the support of our partners in Adelaide," he said.

SATC CEO Rodney Harrex paid tribute to QR's ongoing commitment to the Adelaide market, particularly over the past 12 months.

"After keeping the state connected to the world throughout the pandemic, the airline has a significant part to play as we rebuild our tourism and freight sectors," he said.

QR is celebrating the birthday with special fares ex ADL from \$1,459 return, with guaranteed flexibility on bookings made up to 30 Jun 2021, for travel until 31 May 2022 - see the **cover page**.

Round Two grants open

TRAVEL agents, wholesalers and inbound & outbound tour operators from across the country have started lodging applications for the \$130 million second round of the Government's COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support scheme.

The additional funding was announced on 11 Mar, with the Services Australia portal updated for the additional round early yesterday (**TD** breaking news Fri).

Early feedback is that processes for the second round are significantly simpler than for the first \$128 million tranche, with successful applicants from the initial pool having data from their previous lodgements used as the basis for the new calculations.

NZ reopens to WA

QUARANTINE free travel from Western Australia to New Zealand has resumed today after being briefly paused on the weekend due to three cases of COVID-19 community transmission in Perth.

Authorities in NZ are advising anyone who has arrived from the WA capital in the last four days and has been in a designated "location of interest" to self-isolate and contact the NZ Government's official Healthline.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page, a cover page from **Qatar Airways** and a full page from **Viking Cruises**.

Adjustments "to create a more equitable program" include increasing the minimum payment to \$7,500, reducing the number of tiers from 41 to nine, and requiring a declaration that no part of the turnover figure used to calculate round one payments was based on TTV.

Businesses must have received payment under round one to be eligible for round two, unless an exceptional circumstance decision applies, the new rules note.

For businesses with a G1 figure on their Business Activity Statements of \$500,000 or more, "an additional financial verification by Austrade will confirm that TTV was not the basis for your round one payment".

Decisions to reject existing applications under round one will not be reviewed, Austrade noted.

More on **page three**, with full details of the second round online now at austrade.gov.au.

More with Viking

VIKING Cruises is promoting its "Explore More" packages combining cruises with unique land add-on - see **p7** for details.

\$95m paid so far

TOURISM Minister Dan Tehan has confirmed that almost \$95 million in payments under the first round of the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support grants program have been paid out so far, to over 2,800 travel agents.

Tehan said the additional funding round (see main story) would bring to \$258 million the total direct support for travel agents, in addition to about \$700 million already provided in other measures such as JobKeeper, loss carry back provision and PAYG cash flow boosts.

"We want Australians to book a holiday in Australia this year to support our tourism industry, and to book that holiday through a travel agent," the Minister said.

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Rex \$39 SYD-MEL fares

REGIONAL Express is expecting to spark a price war with rivals Qantas and Virgin Australia, after this morning releasing a \$39 Sydney-Melbourne fare which is “even cheaper than the cost of catching a bus” between the two capital cities.

The special price offer, valid for travel to 28 Aug, also includes business class from \$299, with fares including checked luggage and on-board refreshments.

Rex Deputy Chairman, John Sharp, said the carrier had noted reports from peak tourism bodies

that the Government’s tourism stimulus programs had not benefited Melbourne & Sydney.

“This will now change... I believe this initiative will singlehandedly revive a moribund travel and hospitality industry in the two cities,” Sharp enthused.

“The resulting copycat moves from our competitors will mean that there will be hundreds of thousands of \$39 fares available.”

Sharp said stakeholders in Sydney and Melbourne had provided strong support for the recently launched Rex jet flights on the route, “and we hope that our initiative will be able to return the favour”.

“Since our entry into the domestic market, the cosy duopoly has been completely disrupted...this is why Rex is good for Australia and why Australia needs Rex,” he said.

ADDITIONALLY Sharp pointedly noted that Rex was the only carrier in Australia to have fully refunded any flights disrupted by COVID “without resorting to disingenuous delaying tactics”.

Rex continues to guarantee full refunds for any passenger affected by COVID-19 changes.

“All the other major airlines simply do not have the cash to refund all the tickets that are entitled for a refund,” he said, claiming that QF has over \$5 billion in tickets on its books, most of which are due for a refund.

“Its unencumbered cash is a tiny fraction of that,” Sharp said.

NZ, CA extend pact

AIR New Zealand and Air China have extended their strategic alliance covering flights between NZ and China through until 2026.

The five year extension was announced this morning in Auckland at a China Business Summit, with NZ CEO Greg Foran saying the renewed pact “will be a vital boost for our tourism industry as it recovers from the severe impact of COVID-19”.

He said the alliance would continue to deliver “real benefit” to New Zealand including greater choice and more capacity into the country.

The deal was first implemented six years ago (**TD** 02 Sep 2015) and offers reciprocal frequent flyer benefits and “better access to Air China’s comprehensive domestic network” for Air NZ customers.



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Scenic global air

SCENIC Group has recruited US-based Brian Chapin as its new Senior Director - Global Flights.

Chapin, who has held former senior roles with American Airlines, Virtuoso and Ensemble Travel Group, was also on the board of the American Society of Travel Agents from 2018 to 2020, and will be responsible for building Scenic’s air and GDS relationships, developing global efficiencies and “exploring technologies that can assist in the streamlining of all air processes”.

Scenic said the appointment was part of ongoing efforts to globalise many of its operations.

US mask mandate

AMERICA’S Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has extended the requirement for compulsory face masks on the country’s aircraft, trains, in airports and on public transport through until 13 Sep this year.

Previously the mandate had been due to expire on 11 May.

A TSA spokesperson said that with about half of all US adults having now had at least one COVID-19 vaccine shot, “masks remain an important tool in defeating this pandemic”.

Exemptions apply for travellers aged less than two as well as those with certain disabilities.



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*T&C applies

AFTA to continue the fight

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents has thanked the Government for its “continued open dialogue” over the criteria for the second round of the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program (see p1), noting that it continues to push for ongoing support for its members.

AFTA Chairman Tom Manwaring said the Federation alongside CATO and ATEC had been working together as part of the consultation with Austrade over the ongoing refinement of the grants scheme.

“We are very grateful for the Government’s allocation of \$258 million in support to travel agents so far,” Manwaring said.

“We also appreciate the opportunity to continue to provide feedback on the implementation process and are grateful for Austrade’s ongoing commitment to consultation.

“There is commitment at all

levels to getting the money to those agents and businesses who so desperately deserve it.

“We know that many agents are in an increasingly dire state and we have and will continue to fight for ongoing support,” he said.

Manwaring noted that as well as lobbying federally on an extension of the Grants Program, AFTA is also pushing for ongoing support for members, with an initial focus on the next six months.

“This work is also ongoing at a state and territory level,” he said.

UA loyalty tweak

UNITED Airlines has removed a requirement for four flights on UA aircraft to achieve 2022 Premier status for members of its MileagePlus loyalty scheme.

The change applies to members living outside the USA, who still need to earn status by flying, but can do so on UA partner carriers.

El Questro, Kings Canyon update

TECHNICAL issues arising from the recent acquisition of El Questro and Kings Canyon Resort by G’Day Group (TD 23 Feb) mean the properties are currently delayed in their response time for trade booking requests.

The company said it was working to rectify the situation as a matter of urgency, with a dedicated team also prioritising bookings that are due to arrive in the near future.

Urgent enquiries can be directed to 08 7210 9620 or trade@gdaygroup.com.au.

ITB Asia in person

ITB Asia will return to a physical format for its 2021 edition, which is now scheduled to take place in Singapore from 27-29 Oct.

Strict COVID-19 protocols will be implemented, with over 600 international exhibitors registered.



Window Seat

A CONTROVERSIAL new travel offer from authorities in the Swiss city of Basel is offering one-way travel to anywhere else in Europe.

Sound appealing? There’s a slight catch - you have to be a homeless beggar and living on the Basel streets, and you have to promise not to come back.

Rail vouchers or cheap flights - plus a little bit of cash - are available to those who sign a written contract promising not to return to Switzerland for a certain period of time.

According to local newspapers so far about 30 people have taken up the somewhat unfriendly offer from the city’s immigration service, travelling to Romania, Belgium, Germany, Italy and France.

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VIEW CURRENT OFFERS

The Remarkables, Queenstown - Photo: NZSKI

Clifton Beach, Cairns - Photo: Tourism and Events Queensland

anzcro

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Travel Daily

All eyes are on pies!



UK travel protection probe

AUTHORITIES in the UK have announced a review of the ATOL (Air Travel Organiser's Licence) travel consumer protection program operated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

A wide-ranging review consultation will focus on the use of client funds by travel agents.

"At present some ATOL-protected travel businesses use their customers' advance payments for their holidays to fund their own operations, before the customer takes their holidays.

"While this is a long-standing practice in the industry, in some cases it may fail to incentivise robust financing arrangements," according to a CAA statement.

The Authority is proposing new regulatory options to reduce the risk to consumers when individual travel businesses cease trading.

CAA Director Paul Smith said "the ATOL scheme exists to protect consumers, and it is

therefore right that we work to continually strengthen its financial resilience.

"Following several large ATOL failures in recent years, we have become concerned about the impact of businesses using consumers' money as a source of funding working capital," he said.

The consultation period will close on 30 Jul, with officials considering all recommendations before launching a second consultation with specific proposals early next year.

Smith attempted to assuage the concerns of companies operating in the travel industry, saying "we understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their finances.

"We will take full account of the need to allow industry to adjust to any new arrangements that will be implemented," he said.

The full consultation document is available at caa.co.uk.

Crown adjusts Perth

CROWN Resorts Limited this morning confirmed that following a statement issued by the WA Government, interim restrictions were imposed yesterday requiring the immediate week-long closure of the casino at Crown Perth.

However the property continues to operate all hotels, non-gaming F&B venues, banqueting and conference facilities.

MSC crew vax

MSC Cruises has announced a fleet-wide COVID-19 vaccination program for its crew, as an extra core element of the protocols which have supported operations since the first MSC ship returned to service in Aug last year.

Initially MSC will prioritise crew on ships earmarked for summer 2021 cruise holidays in Europe, those scheduled to restart in the Caribbean and US ports, and *MSC Virtuosa* prior to its 20 May UK inaugural voyage.

Veriu Caroline sweet

THE Veriu Group will next Mon open its latest property, Punthill Caroline Springs, in Melbourne's western corridor.

The brand new 80-apartment property offers a mix of studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments, with full kitchens, fast internet and comprehensive conference and meeting facilities.

The opening lifts the portfolio to over 1,450 units operating or in development at 23 sites under the combined Veriu Hotels and Punthill Apartment brands.

Marriott India move

MARRIOTT International has made it possible for members of its Bonvoy loyalty scheme to donate points in support of UNICEF and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support their work in helping India battle its unprecedented COVID-19 outbreak - giving.marriott.com.



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Mother's Day Sale

Where in the world?



© Either way

THIS giant buffalo statue is, possibly unsurprisingly, the world's largest buffalo monument (somehow we don't think there's a huge amount of competition for the title).

Nevertheless, the buffalo stands at around 8m tall and has been the town's most popular roadside attraction for over 50 years.

The statue was built in 1959 and shares its site with a live herd of buffalo and the National Buffalo Museum.

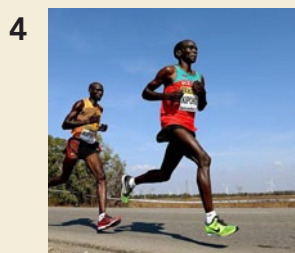
It was the first roadside statue built in the US state where it is and is located right by the exit of the interstate freeway which runs past the town.

Do you know where this is?

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.



Sudoku

TRICKY

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.

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

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

Whose mascot is this?



SMOKEY X leads his team into the arena on game day and is cared for by a fraternity at the institution he represents.

The winner of several mascot championships, Smokey is a Bluetick Coonhound – a breed

native to the state his team represents – and is in his 10th iteration.

Known to be somewhat feisty, Smokey once bit an opposition player...good boy?

Smokey is whose mascot?

ANSWERS 30 APR

Icon under a microscope: Statue of Liberty, New York, USA

Test your airline knowledge: Airport codes - 1 Macau, China, 2 Manchester, England, 3 Bendigo, Australia, 4 Havana, Cuba
Airline liveries - 1 Copa Airlines, 2 Air Malta, 3 Malaysia Airlines

Pub quiz: 1 Dublin, 2 Arabic, English, French, Mandarin Chinese, Russian and Spanish, 3 Portsmouth FC, 4 Maui, 5 Yucatan Peninsula, 6 New South Wales, 7 Sydney Opera House, 8 2021, 9 Brazil, 10 Australia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

Outrigger Waikiki blessing



A SOFT reopening of the Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort in Honolulu, Hawaii received a traditional Hawaiian blessing last week.

An intimate group including Outrigger Hospitality CEO Jeff Wagoner, Kahu Blaine Kia and resort GM Markus Krebs gathered for the words of aloha delivered by the Kahu Blaine Kia (pictured), which extended to the many hands that worked on the property's US\$80 million transformation and "the hosts who will maintain the property and provide exceptional service to guests".

The hotel has long been a favourite with Australians, and will be "sure to impress return travellers once borders are open with its newly designed upscale residential-style rooms and suites," a spokesperson said.

The upgrade also includes a fully reimaged Kani Ka Pila Grille,

with the resort design and feel emulating an elegant Hawaii beach house.

"At Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort our goal is for guests to experience Waikiki as it should be - a place rooted in Hawaiian culture, harmonious with nature and filled with art and music of the islands," said Krebs.

Work now continues on the Diamond Head Tower, Wailoa Wellness Wing and the Olelo Cultural Center, with the anchor restaurant Monkeypod Kitchen by Merriman scheduled to open by the end of the year.

"Today marks the beginning of a grand new voyage for Outrigger; we are excited to bring our hosts back to this special property and warmly welcome guests to come enjoy this beachfront destination, which was historically a place of healing and rejuvenation - something we could all use more of," Krebs concluded.



Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

Coral 35th birthday

CORAL Expeditions' 35th anniversary Circumnavigation of Australia itinerary later this year will sail over 59 nights roundtrip from Darwin.

The *Coral Adventurer* cruise departs 30 Oct, and will visit 35 places that shaped Australia navigating counter-clockwise around the country.

Highlights include paying tribute at sea to *Sydney* at her resting place in the Indian Ocean, discovering fossils at Denham, exploring World War II sites in the Torres Strait Islands, and more.

Geikie tours restart

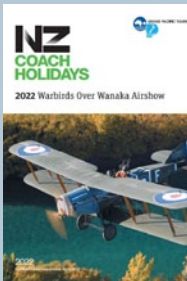
BOAT tours on the 88-seat *Ms Casey Ross* have recommenced at Western Australia's ancient Geikie Gorge in the Kimberley region, after being suspended in 2020 due to COVID-19.

The Fitzroy River vessel was named after the late matriarchal leader of the Danggu clan, traditional leaders of Danggu Geikie Gorge National Park which welcomes 70,000 guests a year.

Purnululu National Park is also now open, after being closed to the public due to significant wet season road damage.

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.



Grand Pacific Tours - 2022 Warbirds over Wanaka
New Zealand coach holiday specialist Grand Pacific Tours has launched its new 40-page 2022 Warbirds over Wanaka Airshow e-brochure. Four itineraries are on offer, ranging from eight to 15 days including an Ultimate Small Group Tour for just 20 travellers described as a Business Class on Wheels experience. All departures include a three day Gold Pass to the internationally renowned aviation extravaganza which next year is scheduled for 15-17 Apr - for more information and to view the brochure [CLICK HERE](#).



Viva/Sunlover Holidays 2021-22 Western Australia
This new co-branded WA brochure from Viva Holidays and Sunlover Holidays showcases new touring options including an overnight stay at the Swan Valley's stylish Mandoan Estate, as well as day tours in Perth and to Rottnest Island. New properties on offer include Cape Lodge, Smiths Beach Resort, Silkwood Wine Chalets and Quality Apartments Banksia Gardens in the Margaret River/South West region, and Broome's Mangrove Hotel.

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



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