

Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 3rd November 2021

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QR fly and win push

QATAR Airways and Hamad International Airport have teamed up to launch the Fly and Win campaign, offering the chance to score three luxury prizes when Privilege Club members buy tickets between 01 Nov and 31 Jan 2022.

Prizes include US\$1 million, a private jet experience with Qatar Executive to the Maldives with accommodation, or a Porsche. For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

More value for QF loyalty

ONLINE travel company Luxury Escapes has forged a reformulated partnership with Qantas Frequent Flyer, offering the airline's loyalty members a more attractive points redemption rate across its various accommodation packages.

Building on a partnership first created in 2018 (*TD* 01 Feb 2018), the latest arrangement offers travellers a 40% increase in value, with Luxury Escapes CEO Adam Schwab stating the deal had been timed as the local market begins to surge with travel bookings.

"Record bookings over the past week show us that Australians are ready to get back out and see the world," he said.

"We're proud to continue our alignment with Qantas Frequent Flyer to offer our loyal customers an improved rate that will allow them to use fewer points and enjoy more holidays with Luxury Escapes," Schwab added.

Examples of savings include a

stay at Palazzo Versace Gold Coast being discounted by up to 45,658 points, while staying at Mulia Villas Bali can save customers up to 171,372 points.

"As travel starts to reopen from this month we will continue to offer members even more enticing ways to earn and redeem points right across the Frequent Flyer program," Qantas Loyalty CEO Olivia Wirth said.

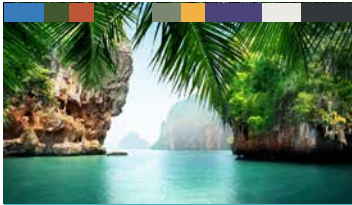
Qantas loyalty members can also earn 1 Qantas Point per \$1 spent on eligible holidays, even when they use points to book.

North Qld in gear

DRIVE North Queensland has launched a new website featuring road trip itineraries in regions such as outback Queensland, Mackay, Whitsundays and Townsville.

The website will continue to be updated over time with new drive adventures, while visitors are being encouraged to share their travels using #drivenorthqueensland.

Access the site [HERE](#).



News TRAVEL NETWORK Jan to Jun 2022
TREND FORECAST

Discover the key travel consumer trends shaping decision-making. For category insights for your brand contact your News Corp representative

VIEW HIGHLIGHTS

News Corp Australia

Air NZ rewards

AIR New Zealand loyalty members can now win a share of \$85,000 worth of prizes on the Airpoints store.

Six lucky shoppers will be gifted Christmas stockings each worth more than \$14,000 - for further details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including a photo page from **Norwegian Cruise Line** plus a product profile from **Far East Hospitality**.



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Hyatt seals Apple Leisure deal

HYATT has completed the previously announced US\$2.7 billion acquisition of Apple Leisure Group (TD 16 Aug), with the deal seeing the hospitality giant double its global resorts footprint.

About 100 of Apple's AMR Collection brand portfolio properties across 10 countries will become part of Hyatt - along with 24 in the pipeline - meaning the company will offer "one of the largest collections of luxury all-inclusive resorts in the world".

The deal also sees Hyatt add properties in 11 new European markets as well as new destinations such as Acapulco, the Canary Islands, St Martin and Menorca.



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Geelong Travel into CT

CT PARTNERS has confirmed the addition of Victorian agency Geelong Travel as its latest member, with the buying group saying the strong reputation of owner Stuart Coffield and Geelong Travel's business mix of premium leisure and corporate travel make it the "perfect fit".

Geelong Travel, which is a top seller for a number of key industry suppliers, was formerly part of Magellan Travel Group (TD 26 May 2015), with Coffield among several Magellan members who publicly opposed the network's controversial acquisition by Helloworld Travel

Sakara keel laid

SCENIC Group owner Glen Moroney has celebrated the keel-laying ceremony for *Emerald Sakara*, the newest yacht in the Emerald Cruises fleet, saying "global demand from our guests for our yacht cruise product gave us the confidence to build a sister yacht to *Emerald Azzura*".

The keel was laid at the Ha Long Shipyard in Vietnam, with the 100-guest *Sakara* scheduled to launch in 2023.

Featuring balcony cabins on 88% of staterooms along with a large infinity pool, spa, gym and marina toys, *Emerald Sakara* will be the 11th vessel in the Emerald Cruises fleet, which also includes river ships in Europe and Asia.

Rocky trip planner

BANFF & Lake Louise Tourism has launched a new Trip Planner Tool, helping travel agents to seamlessly plan their clients' holidays in the Canadian Rockies.

Custom itineraries can be created using the tool, inspired by themes including Experiences, Accommodation and Food & Drink, with users able to select dates of travel and then drag and drop product options into each day in Banff National Park. See banfflakelouise.com.

Limited (TD 19 Jan 2018).

The switch to CT Partners is the latest in a series of recent additions for the network, including Frontier Travel and Landmark Travel in NSW (TD 03 Aug) as well as Vic's Benalla Travel and Where2Travel (TD 08 Jul).

AS, BA cooperate

BRITISH Airways and Alaska Airlines have announced an expanded codeshare agreement covering 16 additional markets.

The pact now connects the AS network beyond Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles to BA's non-stop services from London Heathrow, with the move continuing significant expansion of the Alaska Airlines codeshare network since it became a Oneworld member in Mar.

Other deals with American Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Qatar Airways, Iberia and Finnair link 16 daily international connections via SEA, SFO and LAX to Alaska's US West Coast routes.

New Spencer brand



THE indefatigable Penny Spencer from Spencer Travel has announced the launch of a new "Spencer Travel Wellness" brand.

The fledgling division reflects the post-COVID world where "people are more focused on what's important to them, to find that desired work-life balance," according to Spencer.

"Wellness travel helps people to 'reboot', find their calm and improve their wellbeing," she said, with the operation leveraging existing relationships to offer clients "incredible wellness experiences".

Inaugural partners include COMO and Six Senses, with Spencer encouraging clients to reach out to talk through their wellness travel needs such as spa experiences, fitness, detox, anti-ageing, meditation and mindfulness.

TD's newest team member!



PLEASE forgive the indulgence, but *Travel Daily's* owners Bruce and Jenny Piper (pictured) just can't resist announcing the arrival of Caleb Isaac Beyer - their first grandchild, and son to daughter (and key Business Publishing

Group team member) Sarah Beyer and her husband Levi.

Caleb was born on 01 Nov, and both mother and baby are doing well - along with proud aunt Anna Piper who is also a core employee of the family business.

Suppliers! Drive sales by teaching travel advisors

with the Travel Daily Training Academy

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Travel Daily



Familiar faces gather for Cup



YESTERDAY'S Melbourne Cup provided a perfect excuse for a get-together, with this crew of friendly travel industry faces enjoying the occasion after a prolonged absence of in-person events and conviviality.

The gathering included, from left: Christian Schweitzer, founder of Marketing Unbound

Collective; Kymberlee Street, Miss Philippines Australia; Hands On Journeys and SLAK Flowers founder Simla Sooboodoo; Jeff Hakim ex Travel Partners; Ann-Marie Gordon, WRI Insurance Brokers; Rebecca Fleming, Lockton Insurance Manager Travel & Tourism; and Miss World Australia Sarah Marschke.

Webjet rebrands Online Republic

THE NZ-based Online Republic business owned by Webjet (**TD** 06 Jun 2016) has doubled down on vehicle rental, rebranding as GoSee to bring its original Airport Rentals and Motorhome Republic operations under a single combined banner.

The rebrand as a specialist "land travel comparison website" promises to allow travellers to search and compare vehicles, with a significant advertising campaign to promote the offering planned for later this month.

Online Republic also previously powered Webjet's cruise operations under the Cruise Sale Finder brand, but the cruise division was closed down in the early stages of the pandemic last year (**TD** 01 Apr 2020).

The revamped GoSee website is now live at goseetravel.com, with the group also set to offer white label and API feed options.



Window Seat

THOSE who want their friends to know what a great holiday they are having will certainly value the services of the new "Instagram Concierge," a staff member dedicated to reflecting the holiday glow at the W Punta de Mita Hotel in Mexico.

Eduardo Vallin told *USA Today* he spends his days helping guests locate the best social-media worthy shots during their vacations, curating a personalised itinerary based on their online activity.

After getting details of their Insta profile, "I analyse the vibe of their feed, the filters they use, and the content they post to recommend spots that fit their aesthetic," he said, taking clients on a personalised tour of the property to get the shots.



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Did you know?

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



ITB China pivots

ITB China 2021 has gone fully digital, offering the industry a virtual platform for networking, business and content.

Dynamically evolving restrictions due to the pandemic have led to ITB moving the event completely online this year.

Running from the start of this week through to the end of the year, the event kicked off with a series of one-on-one interviews with leading industry experts - register [HERE](#) to learn more.

Enjoy My Japan

JAPAN National Tourism Organization (JNTO) will relaunch its Enjoy My Japan global campaign, as the country prepares the ground for a resumption of overseas visitors.

JNTO has reinvigorated the campaign, originally launched in 2018, signalling Japan's readiness to meet its ambitious goal of welcoming 60m overseas tourists.

Club Med returns to the office



CLUB Med is back in town, welcoming its Pacific team's return to the Sydney office yesterday (**pictured**).

With bubbles in hand, the Club Med team stylishly celebrated both the Melbourne Cup and

the end of a travel ban that also stopped the nation.

Club Med's sales representatives are also back on the road around Australia, at full capacity to aid travel advisors with the increased demand for international travel.

Garuda bankruptcy?

GARUDA Indonesia is teetering close to bankruptcy, as the country's government prepares contingency plans to rescue its embattled flag carrier.

Deputy Minister of State-Owned Enterprises Kartika Wirjoatmodjo said Garuda's debt negotiations and restructuring were underway with all lenders, aircraft lessors, and global bond holders.

An option to liquidate Garuda is also being explored, should the restructuring efforts fail.

Wirjoatmodjo said should the reorganising break down, there would be no other option but to close Garuda and find a new flag carrier, as it is impossible for the government to inject capital with such debt value.

Pelita Air, an airline based in Jakarta, could take over Garuda's domestic routes, should liquidation be inevitable, with Garuda barely earning enough to rent the aircraft it operates.

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Applications close 12 November 2021.

Wellness walkers reach 130,000km

CONGRATULATIONS to each and every participant in NCL's Walk for Wellness! This year, walkers clocked well over 130,000km, smashing the target distance of 100,000km.

"Here's to all the wellness warriors who took part in this year's challenge! To reach our target of 100,000km with nine days to spare is simply phenomenal and it's all down to your outstanding efforts," NCL's Sales Director AUNZ Damien Borg said. "A special shout out to our community's incredible sense of teamwork and camaraderie.

"I'm thrilled at how we've all come together to celebrate what's great about our industry, and taken the time to look after our own wellbeing." This year's challenge took walkers on a Europe and Caribbean adventure, tracing next year's maiden season of NCL's brand-new ship, *Norwegian Prima*, from Iceland to Miami. Along the way, participants took part in 13 mini-challenges and were awarded more than 270 prizes, including Nike sneakers, Shiatsu massage pillows, luxury wellness hampers and Rebel Sport gift cards. Watch this space - major prize winners are to be announced next week, including the big one - the cruise prize. Still seeking some inspiration to keep your steps up? Enjoy over 90 hand-picked tracks on NCL's dedicated Walk for Wellness Spotify playlist **HERE** and keep in touch for future initiatives by signing up to NCL's [Partners First Rewards program](#).



NCL's QLD BDM Craig McLaurin on a Gold Coast stroll with the team from Our Vacation Centre.



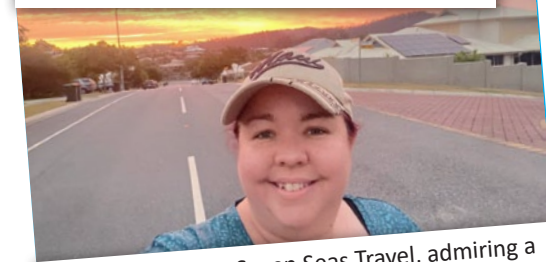
TATIANA Apostolova, World Business Travel Sydney, stretching and whale watching with her NCL yoga mat.



JACINTA Baker (NCL's WA, NZ and home-based BDM) and Ange Middleton (NCL's Senior Sales Manager) catch-up for a Hawaii-themed walk.



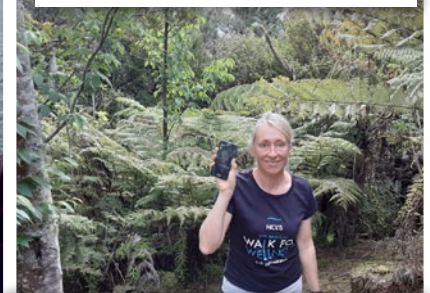
JULIANNE Gazal-Risk from Travel Managers on the Cremorne Point walk with her pooch Lola.



KAREN Murphy, Seven Seas Travel, admiring a stunning Queensland sunset.



CRAIG McLaurin hosting a Moreton Bay coastal walk with Meg Clout (Clout Travel), as well as Brad Sward and Lolo Trendell (Trendell & Turner Travel Associates, QLD).



ALISON Sharp, Travel Managers NZ, taking her US-based sister on a virtual walk in the kiwi bush.



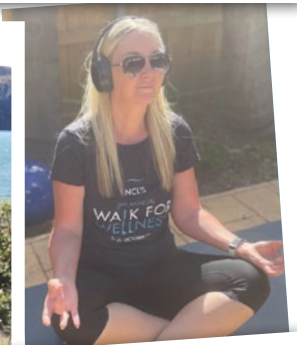
ANGELA and Peter Manase celebrating the end of the challenge in NCL style.



DERREN McAneaney of You Travel NZ – every step counts!



RAEWYN Going (second from left) HW Travel Whangarei taking the whole family on a stroll (including virtual NCL ship!).



KAREN Wright of Cruise Guru took up meditation during Walk for Wellness, saying "it's good for you and your mind".

The first official interview with new AFTA CEO Dean Long, the disunited states of Australia and more in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin

CLICK to read



Irish scores hat-trick

THE Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin has been named Europe's Leading Tourist Attraction for the third year in a row at the World Travel Awards.

Located on the banks of the River Liffey, the museum tells the stories of those who left Ireland via 20 interactive galleries.

The site is also home to the Irish Family History Centre, a genealogy service offering access to Irish family history records and information to help anyone explore their Irish roots.

Other Irish winners included Jameson Distillery, claiming the title of Europe's Leading Distiller.

Seabourn's icons

SEABOURN has unveiled its new Seabourn Journeys collection in Europe and Asia for 2022 and 2023, featuring land visits to see some of the regions' most iconic landmarks.

Describing the excursions as the "icing on the cake" for its sailings, highlights of the new voyages include a five-day Istanbul & Cappadocia sailing, visiting attractions such as the Byzantine Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque, St. Sophia, Topkapi Palace and the Grand Bazaar.

Further cruises include visits to Greece, Portugal and Jerusalem. Call 1800 929 9391 for details.

Caribbean revamp

MSC Cruises has announced that it will be operating seven- and 14-night cruises from St. Maarten and Barbados in the Caribbean from 05 Dec as an alternative to cancelled sailings from Martinique & Guadeloupe.

Forced to pivot due to COVID cases and low vaccination rates, the line has redeployed *MSC Seaview* to new regional itineraries, which also includes a 12-hour extended stay at each destination.

APAC hotels impact

PROFITABILITY for hotels in seven key Asia Pacific markets, including Sydney, are still well below pre-pandemic levels, new figures from STR show.

The gross operating profit per available room (GOPPAR) for Sydney hotels is still in negative territory, ahead of only Bangkok, Bali and Tokyo.

The best performing city in the region was Beijing, which still sits at only 40% of 2019 GOPPAR volumes.

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.



Artotel Vue Palace – Bandung, with a refurbishment also on the cards which will include upgrades to the restaurant, bar area, and brand new spaces for meetings and events.



Suralai, a luxury six-bedroom villa located on the Thai island of Koh Samui, has undergone extensive renovations during the pandemic which sees the property sporting a contemporary new look. All rooms have been refurbished with cool grey ceramic floors, new blinds and drapes, as well as new soft furnishing accents in rich Jim Thompson silk fabrics. New outdoor furniture has also been added to terrace areas, and long island-bar upgraded.



Hyatt Hotels Corporation has entered into a management agreement with The Red Sea Development Company for a new 430-room **Grand Hyatt Red Sea** on Shaura Island, boasting prime position within one of Saudi Arabia's most exciting tourist development projects. The resort, which will open in 2023, will offer guests a mix of suites and large standard rooms, as well as access to the island's common amenities which includes an 18-hole golf course.

Win a Balcony stateroom on the Azamara Onward Pre-Inaugural Cruise!

Azamara and Travel Daily are providing one travel agent and guest with the once-in-a-lifetime experience of sailing on the 5 Night Pre-Inaugural Cruise of *Azamara Onward*. Sailing from Barcelona to Monte Carlo and staying in a Balcony stateroom, this is a special sailing not to be missed.

Prize includes Balcony stateroom for 2 on the 5 night pre-inaugural cruise. Minor Prizes will be awarded each week of one x \$100 VISA e-gift card. So get your entries in early.

To enter please tell us in 25 words or less why you need to win an Azamara cruise in Europe? Creativity counts!

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* Terms and conditions apply



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For travellers looking to immerse in local experiences with convenience at your fingertips, consider a stay at landmark brands Village Hotel Bugis, Village Hotel Katong, Orchard Rendezvous Hotel, and Rendezvous Hotel Singapore (Bras Basah).

Known as a melting pot of cultures, Singapore possesses a unique energy that is nowhere to be found in the world. It's all about new experiences – take a break from the typical hotel suite and engage in an experience that is memorable and fun!

Enjoy the colourful personalities of the Bugis and Katong cultural

districts as you step into a world of local cultures. Eat, shop, play, and feel like a local with the signature Village encounter that delivers authentic local experiences, culinary delights, cultural gems, and the vibrant energy of specific locales. In between work meetings, you'll find yourself pleased with the numerous opportunities to get in touch with Singapore's heritage roots.

If you are looking for the conventional convenience with quick connections to the city, explore a stay at Orchard Rendezvous Hotel or Rendezvous Hotel Singapore. Aimed at giving visitors a window to romancing

the city, culture and life, the Rendezvous brand of hotels is your answer to exploring arts and cultures, and making cherished moments, all along Singapore's famous Orchard shopping belt.

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