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## Youth tourism to return

**PRIME** Minister Scott Morrison has confirmed the reopening of Australia's borders to overseas visa holders (**TD** yesterday), including arrivals under the Working Holiday Maker program.

The next stage of the country's post-COVID travel resumption will become effective from 01 Dec, allowing fully vaccinated eligible visa holders to enter without applying for a travel exemption.

As well as backpackers, the initiative will apply to skilled migrants and students along with humanitarian and provisional

family visa holders, the PM said.

Morrison also announced new travel arrangements for Japan and Korea, with fully vaccinated citizens of both countries eligible to enter Australia quarantine-free to states and territories which are open to arrivals.

The Australian Tourism Export Council hailed the moves, noting that in particular the return of Working Holiday Makers would help address acute labour shortages for Australian tourism and agricultural businesses.

QF Chief Customer Officer Stephanie Tully said the decisions were "another positive step towards rebuilding Australia's travel and tourism sectors".

### TD event sellout

**CLOSE** to 400 travel industry people will gather in Sydney next Tue night for the **Travel Daily** Still Standing Celebration, which sold out in a matter of days last week.

We're overwhelmed and thrilled at the support for the hottest event of the year, which is taking place thanks to the generosity of sponsors including CVFR Travel Group, Globus, Norwegian Cruise Line, Viking Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Oceania Cruises, Celebrity Cruises and Scenic.

### Croatia combos

**BEYOND** Travel is today showcasing its Cruise Croatia signature journeys, combining Adriatic cruises with intriguing Balkan explorations - see **page 7**.

### Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today has six pages of news and a special feature from **Beyond Travel**.

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WEBINAR 5 | Rubies Route & Cowboy Corridor: |  
Tue 30 Nov, 9am AEDT



## Time to join the dots

**TOURISM** Australia is inviting travel advisors to join the Aussie Specialist program for an exclusive and immersive dot painting experience.

Join the Aussie Specialist team for a live online workshop where an artist from Maruku Arts will create a piece, offering commentary as they create.

Participants are able to paint-along producing their own artwork with Indigenous symbols, using a kit sent out beforehand.

Attendees must be qualified Aussie Specialists to attend.

**CLICK HERE** to register for the workshop.

## Agents key to Qatar move

**EDUCATING** the trade will be key for Qatar as it embarks on its campaign of promoting the world's best value stopover, Qatar Tourism VP International Markets Phil Dickinson believes.

Speaking to *Travel Daily* at last week's Qatar Travel Mart, Dickinson said turning travel sellers into country specialists would make up a big portion of its new training academy.

"We've got a good reputation out of the Australian market, but I think it's the fact we haven't been creating that awareness among the consumer and the trade,"

Dickinson said.

"It's about creating that awareness of what there is to do and see in Qatar, doing some myth-busting as well...it's also about convincing people if you are going to be travelling all the way from Australia across Europe or the United States, why not consider Qatar as a stopover for one or two days to break up the journey?"

"There's been a lot of work and effort that's gone into the stopover program to make sure we make the lead-in price as competitive as it possibly can be...it's the hook to get people to think 'hang on', for you know, for \$14 a head I can stay at a four star hotel".

Dickinson pointed out Qatar packs "quite a lot in" for a small country, which makes its experiences accessible for all.

"That means there's nothing that's out of reach," he added.

While a big portion of the new training academy will focus on sellers, it will also attempt to include all stakeholders along Qatar's tourism value chain.

"We're going to have modules for immigration officers, modules for duty free, modules for concierges, modules for taxi drivers, modules for restaurant staff," Dickinson said.

"The whole point is to get that complete amount of 50,000 hospitality staff across Qatar get complete buy-in, make sure everybody's a salesperson".

## Travel Daily

on location in  
**Doha, Qatar**

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Discover Qatar, Qatar Airways, and Visit Tourism which are this week hosting their Qatar Mega Fam Trip.

**TODAY** is the second day of the Qatar Mega Fam Trip, with attendees heading to Qatar's sand dunes and the Inland Sea.

The day will also see attendees pay a trip to Qatar Travel Mart, the first exhibition of its kind in the country to promote both inbound and outbound tourism - see **page 4**.

## Princess Aussie first

**PRINCESS** Cruises has unveiled its new 2023-24 program, with its longest-ever world cruise from Australia.

The 110-night global odyssey departs late Apr 2024, with guests set to enjoy 47 spectacular ports across 32 countries, on an itinerary that includes overnight stays in St Petersburg, Lima, and New York City.

Featuring 113 departures between Sep 2023 and Oct 2024, the program is one of Princess' largest yet, with two Royal-class ships - *Majestic Princess* and *Royal Princess* - based in Sydney.

*Grand Princess* will cruise from Melbourne and *Coral Princess* will sail from Brisbane and Fremantle.

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## Cancellations double in Oct

**FLIGHTS** cancelled during Oct more than doubled the number noted in the same period last year, the latest figures from the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE) show.

While the number was a big improvement on Sep, which saw cancellations spike to over 30%, the report showed that 3.7% of flights were withdrawn for Oct, while only 1.4% of services were cancelled in 2020.

Qantas (including QantasLink) accounted for the largest portion of cancelled services, removing 375 flights (5.2%) from its schedule, followed by Virgin Australia with 138 flights and Jetstar (39 flights).

On a positive note, Aussie airlines exceeded the long-term on-time average, recording 88% of arrivals on schedule and 88.4% of departures on track for Oct, well above the historical 83%

average.

Qantas and VA shared the honours as the least tardy carriers, both delivering 88.8% of all services on time.

The next best was Rex Airlines with 88.35%, followed by Jetstar, which only managed to operate 84.1% of flights on schedule.

The Sydney to Launceston route performed the best for both on-time departures and arrivals, 100% and 97% respectively, while the next best departure timings were Cairns to Melbourne (96.9%), Sydney to Hobart (96.9%) and Canberra to Adelaide (96.7%).

Launceston Airport was also the best performed hub, recording a 95.5% on-time record, followed by Cairns Airport with 93.3% and Mackay Airport (93.2%).

Angry travellers were most likely flying between Brisbane and Melbourne, which had the lowest on-time score of just 33.8%.

## Ecotourism refresh

**ECOTOURISM** Australia has marked 30 years of operations by introducing a new strategic direction, which includes a greater focus on destinations, increased member benefits, better access to industry resources and new logos.

## Flu vax needed

**TRAVELLERS** planning to embark on a trip to the northern hemisphere should be encouraged to get vaccinated against influenza before departure, the *Medical Journal of Australia* reports.

The medical journal claims Aussie travellers could bring flu back to our shores early, posing the risk of a bad summer flu, months before the usual national flu vaccination campaign starts.

NSW currently recommends residents heading into the northern winter get a flu jab at least two weeks before leaving.

## Ad spend rebound

**GLOBAL** advertising spend in the travel sector will grow by two to six times faster than the industry average between 2021 and 2023, a new study from media agency Zenith claims.

Despite the predicted increase, the same report suggests travel ad market spend won't reach pre-pandemic levels until 2023.

Australia is listed a key market for growth, with local travel brands anticipated to inflate their digital advertising spend from 54% in 2019 to 61% in 2023.

Zenith stated that travel brands will need to splash more cash on ads as they seek to address a drop in trust from consumers during the challenging COVID era, as well as address a demand from travellers wanting to know more about sustainable travel.

Travel advertising was among the worst hit sectors in 2020, shrinking by 46%, while the broader industry average only declined by 4%.



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In it for the **LONG** haul

Don't miss the November issue of *travelBulletin*, with the **EXCLUSIVE** first interview with AFTA's new CEO.



**travelBulletin**

## Vote for Big Cruise

**THE Big Cruise Podcast** hosted by travel identity Barry Downs and maritime author Chris Frame has been nominated in the Listeners Choice category of the Australian Podcast Awards.

To vote for the travel podcast, which offers a refreshing approach to cruise news and reviews, **CLICK HERE**.

## Cape York charge?

**TRADITIONAL** owners of Pajinka in Cape York are reportedly planning to charge visitors on arrival to help the area better manage the sudden rise in tourist interests and improve facilities for visitors.

The amount of the levy is yet to be determined, but would involve the set up of an entry station to collect fees.

Pajinka has been particularly popular with 4WD travellers, with the Cape York council estimating that 80,000 people visited the region this year alone.

## Qatar Mega FAM gets desert-ed



**DAY** two of Discover Qatar, Qatar Airways and Tourism Qatar's 2021 MEGA fam began with a trip to Qatar Travel Mart (QTM), the first exhibition of its kind in the country to promote both inbound and outbound travel to its tourism industry.

Taking place over three days at Doha Exhibition & Convention Center, QTM featured dedicated sectors from luxury, business, medical, sports, leisure, culture and halal travel.

After a morning rubbing



shoulders with tourism representatives from around the region and beyond, participants headed out to the Inland Sea, where they hit the sand dunes for some dune-bashing and lunch, before heading to their accommodation for the night at Hilton Salwa.

**Pictured** are Qatar Airways' Regional Manager Commercial Ops America Riyas Kuttery, VP Africa Hendrik Du Preez, SVP Global Sales Matt Raos, CCO Thierry Antinori, Destination Qatar SVP Steve Reynolds, QR Head of Global Leisure Travel Dimitris Floros and Manager Key Accounts Theresa Cissell, and **inset**, enjoying some time out of the sun at Regency Sealine Camp are FLOE Senior Executive Commercial Partnerships Andrew Young, Room-Res.com co-founder & Managing Partner Nic Bryant, and House of Travel Australia Finance Director Grant Campbell.



## Window Seat

**WITH** so many travellers preparing to depart Australia and leave their beloved pets behind, perhaps there will soon be a way to keep in contact with those furry friends via a simple phone call?

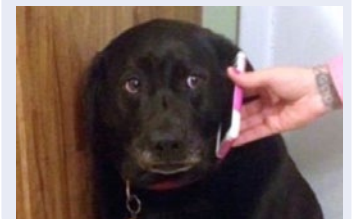
At least, that's a technology being worked on at the University of Scotland in Glasgow, where a DogPhone is being tested by Dr Ilyena Hirskyj-Douglas on her 10-year-old labrador Zack.

The DogPhone is essentially a small ball equipped with a sensor and connected to a laptop, so that when a dog moves the ball, the "phone" initiates a video call to the dog's owner for a quick bow wow.

There are already a host of products on the market for owners to spy on their pets while they are away from home, from food dishes with motion-sensors to laser-triggered cat flap cameras, but this could be the first prototype doggy phone developed by a Uni lab.

Dr Hirskyj-Douglas said the DogPhone was being tested to study the way dogs experience technology and to innovate around their ease-of-use.

Frankly, we feel the idea is barking mad!



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\*All guests must be fully vaccinated in line with NSW Government mandate.

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## Pitch a tent and stay a while



**RANGELANDS** Outback Camp recently hosted key trade partners to a delicious lunch at Eat Street Northshore in Hamilton, Queensland.

The event was an opportunity for agents to network and learn more about the high-end glamping experiences on offer, as well as grab a history lesson as to how the concept was born.

The gathering also enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of how the fresh produce is grown at Eat Street Northshore, a supplier

of the breakfasts and gourmet dinners served up during the all-inclusive outback glamping experiences.

The menu includes a selection of fine wines, beer and spirits.

**Pictured:** Agents gather for some fine wine and learning.

## Fiji hits milestone

**FIJI** has hit its 90% double-dose vaccination milestone, ensuring further protection for the country as it prepares to open its borders.

After almost 20 months closed off to the rest of the world, Fiji, its resorts, attractions, and its people, are preparing to open their arms to travellers from several countries including Australia from next month.

Tourism Fiji Chief Executive Officer Brent Hill said vaccinations were a public health investment, and to achieve nearly full herd immunity puts Fiji in a strong position to reopen in Dec.

## Cooking great craic

**TOURISM** Ireland has enlisted the services of Irish-born Aussie chef Colin Fassnidge to present two online cooking demos.

Streaming live on 29 Nov and 06 Dec at 6pm AEDT on Fassnidge's Instagram page, attendees will learn how to cook up some authentic Irish meals.

**CLICK HERE** for more details.

# Air NZ slashes Oz flights

**CITING** "border uncertainty", Air New Zealand has cancelled more than 1,000 trans-Tasman flights through to 31 Dec.

The airline confirmed that the decision was precipitated by the NZ Government's indication this week that quarantine-free travel between Australia and New Zealand would be "unlikely" to re-commence this year.

"I appreciate how difficult this news will be but our hands are tied until border restrictions ease and we receive further clarity," Chief Customer Officer Leanne

Geraghty said.

"This will be particularly tough news for families and friends who were hoping to catch up over Christmas...our hands are tied until border restrictions ease and we receive further clarity from the New Zealand Government."

The carrier's schedule beyond 31 Dec remains in place until there is more guidance, with the carrier continuing to operate a reduced schedule of flights into Sydney and Melbourne, and 'red flights' from Australia to NZ for those with quarantine places.

## AFTA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



**FROM** my desk in the AFTA office, I can see the end of the Sydney Airport runway. The increasing frequency of planes taking off and

landing and the signs of a return to a more normal landscape never cease to make me smile.

The focus of supporting you is always front and centre. AFTA has continued to have meetings with our federal politicians including the Tourism Minister yesterday and we will be meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and one of the sector's strongest supporters Pat Conaghan MP on Friday

AFTA is receiving many requests for certainty on any additional support from Governments. At this time we are not able to provide this and I would urge all business to plan as though additional support won't be forthcoming. Being prudent and planning conservatively will ensure any additional support will only enhance your operations.

We have now had over 1,000

industry members attending our webinar series with a lot of great feedback. The most recent saw the Australian Border Force (ABF) provide an update on the introduction of the Digital Passenger Declaration.

AFTA is working with ABF on additional member resources including a Frequently Asked Questions document and a fact sheet which members can share with customers.

This week we will be joined by Cover-More and the Insurance Council of Australia to cover the changes to travel insurance – a topic which members are keen to hear more on! We're also proud to be making this series open to all the industry and free to our members.

A huge thank you to all our members who have taken the time to complete our recent member survey to assist AFTA's ongoing push for industry support. We're still working our way through the results but there's some powerful insights that we will be able to build into our advocacy and media engagement.

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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.



## Learn about Fiji

**THE** Australia Fiji Business Council has hosted a webinar session informing the travel industry about how tourism will work when the country formally opens on 01 Dec.

Speakers included Fiji Airways CEO Andre Viljoen, Tourism Fiji CEO Brent Hill, as well as senior representatives of Fiji Airports, Ministry of Health and the ANZ Chief Economist for the Pacific.

The session is available to view by **CLICKING HERE**.

## 40,000 reasons to sing



**A CHARITABLE** foundation established by Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia to create better health, education and economic outcomes for the Anangu Indigenous communities has raised \$40k for the cause.

The Anangu Communities Foundation Annual Progressive Gala Dinner & Fundraiser, held at various locations throughout Yulara hill, was greeted by a performance by prominent member of the Mutitjulu community, Sammy Wilson, who delivering a welcome to country.

Local Indigenous duo from Alice Springs, Apakatjah, also provided entertainment for guests, as did Alexander Revithiadis (**pictured**), with funds raised going towards important initiatives such as the upkeep of health and medical facilities, a range of cultural and community projects, as well as educational programs for youth, and much more.

Ayers Rock Resort matches all guest contributions dollar-for-dollar, up to \$200,000 each year.

## NSW, Vic get nod

**SOUTH** Australia has opened its borders to visitors from NSW, Victoria and the ACT from today, with over 25,000 people already applying to travel to the state.

All arrivals will need to be double vaccinated against COVID-19, and depending on what government area travellers are arriving from, may be subject to testing requirements before and after arrival.

Visitors will also need to apply for a new online border entry permit via EntryCheck SA, which went live late last week.

## MONEY

**WELCOME** to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

**AU\$1 = US\$0.722**

**THE** Aussie dollar was mostly weaker against most of the major this week, only finding minor gains against the Euro as the continent grapples with a new rise in COVID cases as it approaches winter.

As global sharemarkets were negatively impacted by poor financial sentiment, so too was the Aussie which found itself down 0.6% against the greenback overnight.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.722
UK	£0.539
NZ	\$1.038
Euro	€0.643
Japan	¥83.01
Thailand	฿23.87
China	¥4.614
South Africa	11.455
Canada	\$0.917
Crude oil	US\$78.89

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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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These popular cruise-tours feature a carefully crafted and fully escorted land

tour combined with a deluxe 8-day small ship Dalmatian Island cruise. The land component includes not only major cities such as Venice, Split and Dubrovnik - but also charming regional highlights such as beautiful Bale in Istria and Bled in Slovenia. While aboard the Cruise there are daily stops to experience the historic towns, ports and islands including Korcula, Hvar and Trogir.

There are four Signature Journeys and sixteen departures to choose from between June and September 2022. With the tours starting in Venice, Zagreb and Dubrovnik or vice versa.

With over 28 years experience Cruise Croatia by Beyond Travel is a Australian based family owned Croatia specialist, offering the largest range of small ship

cruises and cruise-tours available in the market.

Our expert Sydney team are back in the office ready to share their knowledge, experience and passion with you and your clients.

We invite you to explore our exclusive 2022 Signature Journeys.

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Contact Cruise Croatia today to request custom flyers branded for your agency and ask us how to receive **15% commission** only on new 2022 Signature Journey's bookings until 31 Dec 2021