



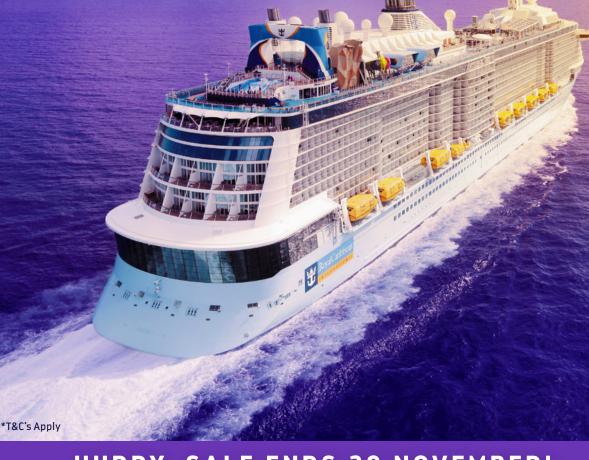




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Cruise Operators

Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 24th November 2021



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RCI launches sale

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) is offering up to \$400 of onboard credit, 60% off the second guest and other savings as part of a massive Black Friday and Cyber Mon sale launching today.

Open for bookings through until 30 Nov, full details can be seen on the cover page of Travel Daily.

Rex grabs Qld win

REX Airlines has won a competitive tender to service Qld's Central 1 Route connecting the remote communities of Roma and Charleville to Brisbane.

Currently serviced by QantasLink, the Central 1 route is one of seven regulated itineraries put out for tender in Jul.

Rex has also been re-awarded the five other regulated routes it's currently servicing to destinations such as Mt Isa, Birdsville, Winton, Mornington Is. and Longreach, with the new five-year contracts commencing on 01 Jan 2022.

Webjet "snapping back"

WEBJET this morning confirmed it would once again resume paying dividends as it sees a rapid return to high booking volumes due to border openings.

The company announced its results for the six months to 30 Sep, with positive working capital delivering a \$3.5 million per month cash surplus giving it "significant liquidity and runway, as well as the ability to pursue attractive growth opportunities".

The pandemic downturn and consequent restructuring costs saw Webjet report a \$61.8 million loss for the period, but CEO John Guscic noted that the WebBeds accommodation division had now returned to profitability, driven by domestic markets in Europe and North America.

The Webjet OTA was profitable in Oct 2021 as domestic and international borders started to reopen, with the national COVID response improving consumer

confidence around travel.

Guscic also noted the recent rebranding of Online Republic as GoSee (TD 03 Nov), saying providing all car and motorhome content on a single website would help drive efficiencies, as well as offer greater choice and functionality for customers.

TTV within WebBeds is now tracking at 63% of pre-COVID levels, despite many key markets still yet to reopen, while the OTA operation is seeing a "genuine opportunity to increase market share as consumers continue to shift to buying online," he said.

The company has also confirmed the acquisition of Canadian travel technology firm Trip Ninja, which Guscic said would "further improve our ability to offer competitive pricing for international itineraries that will become more complex as customers seek to capitalise on different destination openings".

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news, a cover page from **Royal Caribbean International**, and full pages:

- CLIA
- Qatar Tourism
- CAPA Summit

What a line up!

TRAVEL Daily readers are being offered an exclusive discount to attend next month's Australia Pacific Aviation Summit, to take place in person on 07-08 Dec at Sydney's Royal Randwick venue.

The must-attend airline event features a wide array of highprofile speakers including Qantas CEO Alan Joyce, Air NZ chief Greg Foran, Bonza Airways founder Tim Jordan and Tourism Australia MD Phillipa Harrison.

Also appearing virtually will be Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker and Virgin Australia CEO Jayne Hrdlicka, with registrations open now - for details see the last page.







Aurora names CMO

HAYLEY Peacock-Gower has been promoted to become Aurora Expeditions' Chief Marketing Officer, with the newly created role a step up from her previous position as the cruise line's Head of Global Marketing more in Cruise Weekly today.



Aeronology TravelCheck launch

EXCLUSIVE

AUSTRALIAN travel technology firm Aeronology has announced the debut of TravelCheck, a comprehensive platform to give agents up-to-the-minute information on health, visa and passport requirements for travel in the post-COVID world.

The company's CEO Russell Carstensen confirmed that Aeronology had signed a global distribution contract with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to provide access to the Timatic system which is used by airlines to verify travel document requirements.

"Timatic delivers personalised information based on things such as the passengers' destination, vaccine/health requirements, transit points, nationality, travel document and residence country," he said.

Carstensen said Aeronology's IATA deal covered all Timatic

information, rather than just COVID requirements, with the data to be embedded across Aeronology's platform including traveller profile passport info as well as flight quotes and bookings done on the system.

It will allow advisors to check itineraries and requirements based on traveller passports, add extra countries if required, and have all the critical journey information provided in English and six other languages if required. Carstensen said.

"IATA's Timatic complements Aeronology's global travel technology which will help travel advisors rebound with a sophisticated and seamless global online, mobile and full-service travel booking toolbox," he said.

"It's about health, safety and travel visas, up-todate information to provide confidence to the seller and buyer to travel globally."

JQ pilot arrested

A 55-YEAR-OLD Jetstar captain has been stood down after police confirmed he was being investigated over the disappearance of two campers in Mar 2020, with officers alleging the pilot repainted his 4WD from blue to beige to avoid detection.



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Travel Daily

on location in Doha, Qatar

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

TODAY is the final day of the Qatar Mega Fam Trip, in which Travel Daily will attend the inauguration of Qatar Airways' new Boeing 777X.

Visitors will be taken for a tour of one of the stadiums to be used for the highly anticipated 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The trip will be rounded out with a gala dinner, celebrating the successful showcasing of one of the world's best

For more details on the allure of Qatar, see page four.

Certares US agency group buy

TRAVEL investment giant Certares has announced the acquisition of a stake in Avoya Travel, a major US-based agency network which is "redefining how vacations are booked by connecting travellers with independent travel advisors".

Avoya was founded by the Anderson family in 2006, with a business model based on partnering with suppliers to promote travel and cruise offers, with leads generated passed through to travel agents across the USA who specialise in each destination or product.

Co-founder Van Anderson will retire, while Brad Anderson will move to a senior advisory role.

The next generation, brothers Jeff and Michael Anderson, who have managed day-to-day operations at Avoya for almost a decade, will serve as Co-CEOs.

The move continues Certares' deep engagement with the travel sector which also sees it as a co-investor in AmaWaterways alongside Australia's McGeary family, as well as having stakes in Hertz, LATAM, G Adventures, Internova Travel Group, American **Express Global Business Travel** and TripAdvisor.

Certares Senior MD Colin Farmer said the private equity firm was thrilled to be partnering with the Anderson family.

"Through three generations of family leadership, Avoya has built an incredible team which has consistently pioneered innovative technology, industry-leading marketing and unmatched relationships with independent travel agencies, travellers and suppliers," Farmer said.

Avoya has a patented proprietary digital platform, and offers software and services to thousands of companies including cruise lines, resorts, tour operators & independent agents.



Window

FORMER US President Donald Trump is being celebrated in liquor, with a bar at his Trump Tower in New York now featuring a full line-up of new cocktails which commemorate his time in office.

Trump was the 45th President of America, and travellers to the Big Apple are sure to want to check out the new 45 Wine & Whiskey Bar, if only to taste the Forty-Five, a concoction containing Wyoming whiskey, demerara and orange bitters, along with a side of Diet Coke and beef sliders costing - you guessed it - US\$45.

Other tipples on offer include The West Wing and The FLOTUS, which are a little more affordable at US\$25 and US\$29 respectively.



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TM hits the reset button

TRAVELMANAGERS (TM) has launched a travel RESET program that is designed to assist its remote agents to become better informed about how to sell travel in a COVID-impacted world.

Consisting of eight webinars covering a range of topics, the objective will be to keep the company's Personal Travel Managers (PTMs) up-to-date about issues relating to fares, ticketing, marketing, risk mitigation and service fees, to name just a few.

TravelManagers' Executive General Manager Michael Gazal said the sessions were an important bridge for agents to meet the evolving and often complex needs of travellers negotiating the dynamic health conditions overseas.

"After almost a two-year hiatus, much has changed in the way we will travel, ensuring that clients understand the terms and conditions imposed by airlines

Emblems Collection

ACCOR has introduced the Emblems Collection brand - a portfolio of distinctive hotels.

The luxury brand will feature "unique hotels that are emblematic of their designers, demographics or destinations, Accor explained.

Guiyang Art Center Hotel, Emblems Collection, in the heart of China's Guizhou province, will be the brand's first hotel, when it opens in Dec 2022.

Properties joining Emblems
Collection will fall into
three categories: Heritage,
incorporating hotels that are
a landmark of a destination;
Retreat, which will include
properties in beaches,
countrysides, and mountains; and
Signature, which will be designled hotels in the style & signature
of the hotel's original residents.

Emblems Collection is expected to grow to 60 properties around the world by 2030.

and other suppliers will be an essential component of a PTM's role," Gazal said.

"Our PTMs need to feel confident in their approach to navigating the complexities of travel in a COVID-normal world."

TravelManagers has also partnered with Amadeus and Healius Pathology to deliver expert advice in webinars dealing with safe travel processes and accredited COVID travel tests.

Speaking about the value of the RESET program as international travel begins to reboot, Qld-based PTM Valeria Ireland said the sessions had instilled a renewed sense of confidence.

"I was worried about feeling out of my depth with the new rules and restrictions around international travel," she said.

"As well as learning a lot, the sessions have restored my sense of confidence in my knowledge and expertise."

Hunt clarifies fees

FEDERAL Health Minister Greg Hunt has confirmed travellers are not responsible for paying for COVID-19 tests when travelling across state and territory borders, so long as they are obtained at a state-run clinic.

The remarks follow Qld Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk previously stating visitors would have to pay \$150pp for a test, but today welcomed the clarification.

ACA roadshow

THE Australian Cruise Association's (ACA) restart roadshow, run in conjunction with CLIA and Tourism Australia, has kicked off in Queensland.

The series of half-day workshops in key cities around the country are designed to help the tourism industry prepare for the arrival of cruise ships, crews, and passengers.

More information in today's *Cruise Weekly*.

Qatar Mega FAM scores a goal



THE third and final day of the Qatar Mega FAM trip opened with attendees taking a tour of the hotel in which they had stayed the previous night - Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas.

Set among lush gardens and across three-and-a-half kilometres of private beaches, all stays at Hilton Salwa come with admission to the adjacent Desert Falls Water & Adventure Park - the perfect place to cool off in the Qatari sunshine.

After lunch, guests were taken on a tour of Al Janoub Stadium - one of eight venues set to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The appearance of Al Janoub's roof was inspired by the sails of a traditional dhow vessel weaving its way through the currents of the Arabian Gulf, reminiscent of the pearl divers of the region.

After the tour, invitees returned to their accommodation to prepare themselves for the night's gala dinner, on the lawns of Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel.

The night saw guests serenaded by Indonesian singer-songwriter

Raisa, who lends her voice to Qatar's Tourim's new 'Experience a world beyond' advert.

She was followed up by English rock band Then Jericho - a perhaps out-of-the-box, but nonetheless fitting end, to a fantastic three-day famil and showcase of just some of what Qatar has to offer as part of the world's best value stopover - visit *Travel Daily's* Facebook and Instagram account for more.

Pictured top is the Australian contingent: The Travel Corporation Head of Sales Andrew Young, Bay Corporate Travel National Account Manager Samantha Ellis, Flight Centre Travel Group Regional Sales Manager Martin Cummings, Qatar Tourism's Rich Styles. Room-Res.com co-founder and co-Chief Exec Nic Bryant, Express Travel Group Head of Product & Events Amber Kelly, House of Travel Australia Finance Director Grant Campbell and The Inspire Collective's Deb Fox; pictured below, the entire fam group prepares to explore the Al Janoub Stadium.

page 4



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Cheers to that Azamara!



AZAMARA has chosen the third weekly winner from its Azamara Onward Pre-Inaugural Cruise competition, with Jonathan Hickman from Travel on Crown Wollongong (pictured) walking away with a \$100 Visa gift card for his submission.

Hickman won for his creative acrostic poem below:

- A AzAmazing
- Z Zestful
- A Accessible
- M Maiden Ports
- A Aqualina
- R Rediscover
- A Africa
- C Cruise with Confidence
- R Reimagine
- **U** Unparalleled Destinations
- I Indulgences
- S Shuttle
- E Explorer
- E Europe

U Up-market

- R Recharge
- O Onward
- P Pre-inaugural
- E Experiences

Agent's new dawn

TRAVEL agents have a big chance of scoring back business from online travel aggregators as Aussies seek out expert advice to organise their next overseas trips, GOPASS Global Chief Executive Officer Mark Radford believes.

One way to keep clients in the loop is to use the GOPASS travel risk platform, Radford explained, which offers real-time updates about overseas protocols such as border restrictions, quarantine requirements, health policies and vaccination rates - CLICK HERE for more details.

Read about Celebrity Cruises' Northern Europe itineraries on board their stunning Edge Class ships. In the November issue of *travelBulletin*, Celebrity is asking Aussies "Isn't it time?"

travelBulletin

CLICK to read

Mint QBR pact

MINT Payments has partnered with Qantas Business Rewards (QBR), allowing QF points to be earned by Mint merchants who opt into the QBR program for credit card payments and MintEFT Portal transactions.

The agreement will see Mint "platinum-tier" merchants earn one QF point per \$5 transacted.

The offer replaces the current Mint Rewards program.

InsideJapan virtual

INSIDEJAPAN has announced a final Virtually InsideJapan tour for 2021 with a specific trade focused session targeting trade partners who are keen to be "Japan-ready".

Filmed at the seaside temple town of Kamakura, the event takes place from 11am AEDT on 02 Dec - **REGISTER HERE**.

New AAT Qld tour

AAT Kings has announced a new seven-day Brisbane-Brisbane "Queensland Spirit: Heart of the Outback" tour which allows guests to partake in authentic experiences such as sleeping in restored shearers' quarters on an historic working station.

On sale now, the first departure is scheduled for 23 Apr 2022, with other highlights including a behind-the-scenes tour of the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum in Winton as well as an exploration of Longreach, the birthplace of Qantas.

There's also a rail journey, glamping in eco-friendly tents and more, with prices starting at \$3,795ppts and savings of up to \$500 per couple on offer as part of AAT Kings' Wild Awaits promotion - aatkings.com.







Declaration signed

AUSSIE adventure travel operator World Expeditions. has signed up to the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism, pledging to share knowledge and drive its company towards net zero emissions.

The company's CEO Sue Badyari said the goal of travel should not only be to reduce the industry's impact on the planet, but also add value to the destinations they visit on tours.

"It goes beyond sustainable travel which seeks to leave a place in the same way you found it...regenerative travel aims to leave a place improved," she said.

Irish tourism gong

IN A nod of recognition to the tourism industry. Niall Gibbons from Tourism Ireland has been named the most influential Irish Chief Executive on LinkedIn in the latest Reputations Agency's Social CEO report.

The study analysed 100 LinkedIn profiles between Nov 2020 and Oct 2021, finding the tourism body's chief to have the biggest reach among Irish execs, also marking the second year in a row that he has secured the honour.

The accolade follows Lonely Planet recently awarding Dublin the title of the seventh best city in the world to visit.



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.



After close to two years of closure, Pure T Hotel Hobart is gearing up to open to the public again on o1 Dec under the new ownership of Vision Hotels. Previously operated by Uni Tasmania as student accommodation, the property has been

refreshed for its new phase, featuring a range of superior rooms with city views. Vision Hotels added that it is now undertaking investments in Australian properties and Pure T Hotel Hobart is just the beginning.



Conrad Maldives Rangali Island is nearing refurbishment, recently revealing plans to debut its grand relaunch in Feb 2022. The refurbishment to the luxury resort includes updated interiors throughout and the

addition of newly-designed water villas, reimagined restaurants, a new Teens Club, as well as the delivery of several new "thoughtful



Pullman Sydney Hyde Park has unveiled a new accommodation concept called Park Suite by Coco Republic, featuring calming colour tones and furnishings that are styled in Coco Republic's trademark design. Located on the 20th floor, the suite also

offers guests large windows in the corner room to take advantage of the views of Sydney, as well as a stylish dining area and fully stocked mini-bar including snack and wine options.

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.



Bring Fido along too

THE Holiday Inn Sydney Airport has introduced a new pet-friendly package designed to cater to Aussies who are keen to travel but don't want to leave their beloved dogs behind.

The very imPawtant Puppy deal includes a dog bed, food bowls, treats and toys to take home and a special terrace area and dog menu at the Biggles Bar & Grill on-site restaurant.

Doggies must weigh less than 20kg - see more info HERE.

Hurti promotion

HURTIGRUTEN Expeditions has unveiled its biggest sale of the year, offering guests up to 30% discounts on cruises to far-flung places like Antarctica to the Canary Islands, Svalbard, Iceland and Greenland.

The promotion will run until 05 Dec and also extends to select voyages in Europe including 20% off British Isles sailings, as well as 30% off Canada and South America cruises.

For more details, **CLICK HERE**.



Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994. Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication. **EDITORIAL**

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