

Great Expectations

THE Travel Community Hub's Great Expectations webinar will take place this Thu at 1pm AEDT.

The webinar will feature CATO MD Brett Jardine, Crooked Compass Director Lisa Pagotto and Travel Agent Achievers' Roslyn Ranse - [CLICK HERE](#).

Way to go Aussies!

THE race for all Aussies to travel overseas again is getting close, with the national vaccination update showing 82.2% of residents have been jabbed once, and 61.9% are double dosed.

NATIONAL VACCINATION UPDATE

11 October



Arrival caps to be scrapped

INTERNATIONAL arrival caps will be scrapped as early as the start of next month, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt confirmed this morning.

The limit on Australian citizens and permanent residents arriving back in the country will be removed as soon as NSW transitions from hotel quarantine to home quarantine, which is expected to happen on 01 Nov, the marker for the state's planned return to overseas travel.

"[Stranded Australians] have carried part of the burden during the pandemic, I acknowledge that, this has kept us safe but now we can bring them home," Hunt told *ABC Radio*.

"We can remove the caps for those returning Australians if they can get home quarantine...that's a system that's well-established and well tried," he added.

Hunt's comments follow remarks made by Prime Minister

Scott Morrison yesterday, backing NSW's plans to fast-track the resumption of international travel as soon as the state's home quarantine program is ready, bringing the date forward from mid Nov to 01 Nov.

"The NSW Premier [Dominic Perrottet] and I have been discussing how we can accelerate our plan to open international travel when home quarantine is made available," Morrison said.

The move is expected to see a demand for flights rise rapidly, precipitating a likely expansion of flights listed by the carriers such as Qantas and Virgin Australia over the coming months.

Sun will rise again

QANTAS CEO Alan Joyce has suggested the airline's long-awaited Project Sunrise, which will see direct flights to London and New York, will likely take off at some stage in 2024 or 2025.

Joyce made the comments while speaking at the IATA AGM in Boston over the weekend, with the project delayed close to its initial launch plan by the onset of the pandemic, with Qantas almost signing the A350-1000s needed for the trip in early 2020.

More details on Qantas' future network strategy on [page three](#).

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news.

Inspiring more travel

THE Inspire Collective is undertaking a research project to understand the awareness and consideration by the travel industry of different stopover options for Australians.

Participants will have the chance to win a prize - see [HERE](#).

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Window Seat

WITH international travel about to open for a large portion of Aussies very soon, it's a great time to see which tourism landmarks around the world are proving the most popular on Google.

According to luxury travel provider Kuoni, the most sought after attraction is The Burj Khalifa in UAE, followed by the perennial favourite Eiffel Tower in Paris, France and Peru's Machu Picchu.

The United Kingdom snagged two spots in the top 10, with Big Ben ranking fourth in the world and Stonehenge grabbing eighth position.

Mainland Europe was also popular, with Pompeii in Italy, Spain's Alhambra & Notre Dame in France all making the cut.

Fiji to open up to Aussies

FIJI has announced that Australia and New Zealand will be included in a list of partner countries able to travel quarantine-free from 11 Nov (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

The only significant restriction will be the need for tourists to spend the first two days of their holiday in their hotel premises, with the country's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama keen to let travellers know they will "not be locked in a room".

"[Tourists] can use all hotel amenities and get settled in, then a rapid diagnostic test taken 48 hours after their arrival will grant them free reign of safe-travel areas, where they can take part in tours that allow our tour operators to make a living, shop for souvenirs, and eat at restaurants," he said.

Travellers will also need to show proof of vaccination and test

negative for COVID 72 hours prior to departure.

The country will open formally to other nations from 01 Dec, with Jetstar and Qantas yesterday confirming direct flights from Sydney to Fiji will take off from mid-Dec, offering five weekly Jetstar flights from 17 Dec, and four Qantas flights from 19 Dec, equating to around 3,200 seats per week.

Jetstar fares over the summer period will lead in at \$219 one way, while all-inclusive Qantas rates start at \$358 one way.

Meanwhile Fiji Airways has announced that flights will resume for fully vaccinated travellers from 01 Dec, with the first scheduled to depart Sydney.

The carrier will launch 14 flights a week from Sydney twice a day, with daily flights from Melbourne and Brisbane also set to recommence shortly after.

Singapore virtual

TRAVEL agents from Australia and New Zealand are invited to join the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on a live virtual tour of the destination's cultural neighbourhoods on Thu 04 Nov at 12pm AEDT/2pm NZDT.

The 90-minute tour will explore places like Chinatown and Kampong Gelam - register **HERE**.

MEANWHILE Singapore Airlines will soon operate vaccinated travel lanes to 14 cities, with that number expected to be expanded to even more destinations in the coming weeks.

The new cities added include Amsterdam, Barcelona, Copenhagen, London, Los Angeles, Milan, New York, Paris, and Rome, all starting 19 Oct.

In further news, Singapore Airlines is currently conducting a major recruitment drive in Australia, seeking applications across Sydney and Melbourne.

See **page four** for more details.

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QF shores up DRW to LHR

QANTAS has finalised a deal with the NT Government to operate its direct route from Australia to London via Darwin when international flights resume next month with the reopening of Australia's border.

The carrier flagged it was in discussions to temporarily ditch Perth for Darwin last month (**TD** 27 Sep), with the NT Government and Darwin Airport both agreeing to terms on the route, seeing flights operate from Melbourne (18 Dec at the latest) and Sydney (14 Nov) through Darwin.

"The Kangaroo route is one of the most iconic on the Qantas international network and we are delighted that Darwin will play a vital role in Australia's post pandemic reopening to the world," Qantas Chief Executive Officer Alan Joyce said.

"Qantas has been flying repatriation services from London to Darwin as part of the airline's

efforts to help bring Australians home over the past 12 months, so our pilots already have extensive experience operating this particular route."

Passenger transit arrangements will happen in two stages, the first seeing transiting travellers from all Australian states, or returning from London, be able to visit the international lounge and shops at Darwin Airport.

During this phase passengers travelling from London to Sydney and Melbourne via Darwin and wanting to travel to other Australian cities may be subject to state and territory quarantine requirements.

Stage two will see pax granted permission to leave the terminal and visit Darwin, providing a tourism boost for the city.

Sydney flights will depart five times a week at 6.30pm, landing in Darwin at 9.25pm, before taking off for London.



New payment choice

AN ADDITIONAL payment option for Australian travel advisors, MintEFT, has been introduced by sister cruise lines Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

Advisors who choose to use the platform should contact Mint directly to register.

ADL appoints MD

ADELAIDE Airport has announced Brenton Cox as its new Managing Director.

Taking up the position from 10 Dec, Chair Rob Chapman said Cox brings considerable experience and a strong understanding of ADL's operations to the role, as the Airport's Executive General Manager Finance & Corporate since 2013.

"Cox has played a key role in managing Adelaide Airport's expansion and significant passenger growth pre-COVID," Chapman said.

Fraser Is upgrades

THE Kingfisher Bay Resort Group has renovated two of its premiere properties on K'gari (formerly Fraser Island).

The Kingfisher Bay Resort has introduced a new Rainforest Bar, featuring a revamped menu of bush tucker-infused cocktails.

The Sand & Wood restaurant has also moved from a buffet-style eatery to serving Asian/Pacific-inspired share-platters.

The resort group has also refurbished its Eurong Beach Resort so that one wing now features exclusive King hotel rooms, as well as new furniture and hardwood floors in all rooms.

Showcase returns

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has announced that it will be bringing back its popular Cruise Port & Destination Virtual Showcase from next month.

More details in **Cruise Weekly**.

TRAVEL AGENT INVITATION

Join the STB team on this virtual tour of Singapore on Thursday 4 Nov 21. Come and visit Chinatown and Kampong Gelam with us!

REGISTER NOW AS SPACES ARE LIMITED

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singaporeimagine



Greater Bay a-okay

HONG Kong carrier Greater Bay Airlines (**TD** 24 Aug) has been granted an air operating certificate.

This will allow the airline to launch charter flights while it awaits an air licence necessary for full-scale operations.

Greater Bay is led by former Cathay Dragon Chief Executive Officer Algernon Yau Ying-wah, who has been joined by many of his former colleagues.

Meet the Mentors

OCT is Travel Industry Mentor Experience's (TIME) Mentor Month, and to celebrate, it is showcasing some of its mentors in an online panel discussion.

Together, they will provide insights and answers on what it's like to be a mentor, and the enormous value it adds to both mentor and mentee.

Register **HERE** for the event, which takes place tomorrow.

Gains once made now lost

AUSTRALIA'S domestic tourism market declined significantly in Jul after months of gradual recovery, Tourism Research Australia (TRA) has found, with Australians taking just six million overnight trips and spending just \$3.4 billion for the month.

Both of these numbers were a large deviation from pre-pandemic levels, with a rise in the COVID-19 Delta variant leading to widespread lockdowns and border restrictions across the country during the month, including increased restrictions in Greater Sydney, and statewide lockdowns in Victoria and South Australia.

In Jul, overnight spend across the country was also down 43%, declining the most in the ACT (down 81%), New South Wales (down 77%), Victoria (down 49%) and South Australia (down 46%).

Overnight trips also shrunk by 49%, while there was also a 38%

fall in nights stayed.

Interstate travel was more affected than intrastate travel due to border closures, while overnight trips for the interstate category fell 75% and spend was down 61% to \$1.7 billion.

Meanwhile intrastate spend was down 18% to \$2.4 billion, with intrastate overnight trips contributing 60% to total spend, up from 41% in Jul 2019.

Australians took 9.8 million day trips and spent \$1 billion for the month, which was a 56% fall in spend and a 55% fall in trips.

Taste a new direction

TASTING Australia Festival Director Simon Bryant will step aside to make way for a new creative team next year.

Tasting Australia, presented by RAA Travel, takes place across Adelaide and regional SA from 29 Apr to 08 May 2022.

Insurance setback

INSURANCE companies have won a crucial test case on COVID-19 payouts, after a Federal Court of Australia ruling found a range of insurance policies did not cover financial losses caused by the pandemic.

The Court ruling means insurance companies may potentially avoid paying out billions, after it was found the majority of nine business interruption policies would not need to be paid out.

The narrower interpretation meant a business needed an actual case of coronavirus within its walls or in its proximity to make a claim, rather than ruling that a government lockdown order was sufficient.

This means a business cannot be compensated if it can only prove its losses were due to a government lockdown or a general economic downturn caused by the closure of borders that prevented travel.

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Applications close 20 October 2021.

As lockdowns continue around the country, NCL is mobilising the industry with their Walk for Wellness initiative. Read more in the October issue of

travelBulletin



EK links with HBO

EMIRATES and video-on-demand service HBO Max have partnered to offer premium content on board its planes from next month.

Initially launching 160 hours of content over 31 shows, content on offer will gradually expand.

To stopover or not stopover?



The Inspire Collective are looking to understand the awareness and considerations of different stopover options for Australians, as we look forward to travel through to the UK/Europe again.

Inviting all sectors of the industry to participate in this short survey, with four respondents winning a \$50 gift card for their effort.

To enter
CLICK HERE

the inspire collective

Now Bax is how you celebrate



THE race is on to score a free ticket aboard a NYE Hits of the Harbour Cruise in Sydney thanks to a **Travel Daily** competition running in conjunction with Rediscover Australia and Unique Cruises, with Natalie Bax from Azamara throwing her celebratory hat into the ring.

The cruise line's Sales Support Executive for Australia and New Zealand submitted the above photo of herself (pictured left) with a friend in 2012, with Bax stating it was "her best New Year's Eve ever", as she was able to see the 9pm fireworks from Luna Park's ferris wheel.



In addition to the grand prize, there are also vouchers of \$100 and \$50 on offer for whoever picks up second and third place. See **page six** for more info.

Oceania savings

TO CELEBRATE Oceania Cruises' Europe and Nth America 2023 Collection program launch last week, Creative Cruising is offering an exclusive \$200 saving off every booking deposited this month - call 1300 362 599.

TIA leader resigns

AFTER more than seven years as Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) Chief Executive, Chris Roberts will be stepping down from the end of Jan.

Announcing the move in a LinkedIn post, Roberts said he had been contemplating the move since the start of last year, but decided to remain with TIA for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recovery is slower than thought: WTTC

WORLD Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) research has revealed the industry's slow recovery is hitting jobs and growth worldwide.

The longer-drawn-out than expected recovery will see the industry's contribution to gross world product only increase by less than a third next year, based on economic modelling conducted by Oxford Economics.

The recovery of the sector has been hampered by the lack of international coordination, severe travel restrictions and slower-than-desired vaccination rates in some parts of the world.

WTTC warned nearly 20 million travel & tourism jobs hang in the balance this year, but said with the right measures, including allowing fully vaccinated travellers to move freely, governments could see jobs surpass 2019 levels by next year.

Regional COVID trial

NEW South Wales' rural pilot locations for COVID-19 certificates have been announced as Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Port Macquarie, and Lismore.

Customers in these cities will be the first to display their COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate on the Service NSW application.

NSW Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said the pilot program would focus on staff and visitors at a number of clubs and selected taxi companies.

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Viking 2022 savings

TRAVELLERS who opt to go on a 2022 cruise with Viking can access significant savings when bookings are made by 24 Dec.

Discounts of up to \$2,800 per couple are on offer for ocean cruises, up to \$5,600 twin share on river sailings and up to \$8,000 better off on select expedition voyages.

Seats are filling up fast so Viking is encouraging people to make a booking sooner rather than later.

For further details on what cruises are available, **CLICK HERE**.

WA still the Dream

TOURISM Western Australia has formed a marketing partnership with Singapore's Dream Cruises which will see pax exposed to WA attractions on board its vessels until 06 Nov.

The aim is to incentivise tourism in WA once international border restrictions are lifted, with activations on board to include Swan Valley gourmet produce, WA-themed cabin packages and an Amazing Race WA concept.

Singapore is the second largest inbound source market to WA.

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.



Insight Vacations - 2022-2023 Worldwide Collection
Insight Vacations has gone to press with its 2022-2023 Worldwide Collection. The program includes 133 immersive itineraries and over 100 unique Insight Experiences across Europe, Northern Africa, the Americas and Asia. A highlight of the brochures is Insight's "Make Travel Matter" experiences, which now feature on every tour worldwide.

These experiences aim to advance 11 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, which positively impact the communities that Insight visits. They connect guests with people, the planet and wildlife, and promote the values of sustainable tourism.



Ponant - Luxury Expeditions 2022 & 2023
Ponant's new 2022 & 2023 Luxury Expeditions guide discovers the cruise line's incredible luxury expeditions for the next two years, exploring Australia, Antarctica, the Arctic, the Indian Ocean, Japan, Melanesia, and New Zealand, plus itineraries aboard its brand new, world-first hybrid-electric luxury polar exploration vessel, *Le Commandant Charcot*. Some of the experiences on offer in Australia in the brochure include snorkelling in the Great Barrier Reef, viewing the ancient galleries of Wandjina and the Gwion Gwion rock paintings, which date back over 120,000 years.

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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 impressive building was originally just a large townhouse

built in 1703, but it was expanded with three extra wings around a central courtyard and contains a well-known balcony where the locals can see the royal family on special occasions.

Can you name this palace?

Answer: Buckingham Palace, London, England

Show us your best New Years Eve Photo!

Rediscover Australia and Unique Cruises are partnering with *Travel Daily* this month to offer readers the chance to win a ticket on the **NYE Hits on the Harbour Cruise**, as well as offering \$100 and \$50 gift vouchers for 2nd and 3rd prize by providing your best picture of your past New Years Eve celebrations.

This ticket gives you access to:

- 6 Hours Sydney Harbour Cruise on Journey Beyond Cruise Sydney's *Spirit of Migloo*
- Continuous premium food
- Unlimited beverages including premium sparkling wines and beers - For more information on what is offered **CLICK HERE**

To enter send a picture of your best New Years Eve along with, in 25 words or less, what made it so memorable.

Entries to competitions@traveldaily.com.au