

Viking incentive

VIKING is currently giving Australian and New Zealand travel agents the chance to win an expedition pack valued at over \$1,000 when they interact with the cruise line's social media marketing collateral.

To be in the running for the pack, which contains a limited-edition collector parka, a pair of Nikon binoculars and \$250 worth of Rewards by Viking points, agents need to download an expedition social media tile and post it on their preferred social media platform and share the link on Viking's competition page before 31 Oct - details [HERE](#).

Airline's Bonza launch!

AUSTRALIA is set to see a new ultra-low airline launch in the market from early next year.

While still subject to regulatory approvals, the newly formed independent airline Bonza has announced its plan to enter the market to "provide greater travel choices for ordinary Australians", with the carrier backed by US private investment firm 777 Partners and founded by former Virgin Blue Chief Commercial Officer Tim Jordan.

"Bonza's mission is to encourage more travel by providing more choices and ultra-low

fares, particularly into leisure destinations where travel is now often limited to connections via major cities," Jordan said, adding the new player would be of particular benefit to regional areas by providing new routes and greater travel opportunities.

Bonza will also look to fill what it perceives to be a vacuum in the domestic low-cost aviation sector, particularly after the Tiger brand was cut by Virgin Australia owners Bain Capital last year (**TD** 05 Aug 2020).

Although Tiger was discontinued by VA, the airline did leave the door open to operate an ultra-low-cost-carrier at a time the business felt the domestic market could sustain it, with TT's Air Operating Certificate and necessary resources retained.

The US investment firm behind Bonza also holds investments in Canadian low-cost airline Flair Airlines, as well as the Southeast Asian-based Value Alliance of low-cost carriers.

Bonza plans to deploy Boeing's energy-efficient 737-8 aircraft on its Aussie routes.

Qld hardship help

APPLICATIONS to apply for the Qld Govt's \$110 million Tourism and Hospitality Sector Hardship Grants Program have opened today, until 22 Nov.

Support will depend on the size of the applicant's payroll - apply for funds [HERE](#).

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news.

Silversea reassures

SILVERSEA Cruises has moved to add peace of mind for clients by unveiling a refund and cancellation policy that is valid even when sudden border restrictions may be imposed.

The cruise line has confirmed the policy is applicable to all bookings made prior to 30 Nov and will apply to sailings booked in the Asia Pacific.

If a cruise is prohibited from taking place due to a government order, clients will be entitled to a 100% future cruise credit.

For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

NZ's learn and win


TOURISM New Zealand is highlighting its new virtual roadtrip through the country's Canterbury region.

Agents can join the webinar and visit with Waitaki & Aoraki Mackenzie Regional Tourism to showcase the various hidden gems of the areas, as well as provide expert tips to help better sell New Zealand to clients.

By registering, advisors also have a chance of winning one of five flights to New Zealand and a limited number of curated regional gift baskets.

The session is scheduled to take place at 11am AEDT on 13 Oct.

Advisors can register to attend [HERE](#).



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Abercrombie & Kent

NRMA flexibility

NRMA Parks & Resorts is now offering a free change of booking dates or destination, holiday credits or a full refund for any guests who have had their plans impacted by the pandemic.

The NRMA Booking Promise is available across its portfolio of 37 holiday parks located in the eastern states.

"As we're all looking forward to good times ahead, now is the perfect time to make plans for summer and book with confidence at NRMA knowing there's no need to worry," the company's Chief Executive Officer Paul Davies said.

Thailand preps its return

THAILAND has announced it will be allowing travellers to visit from 10 countries without the need for quarantine, moving Australians a step closer to being able to visit.

The first batch of countries allowed in from next month will include China, Germany, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States; Australia has not been named on the list yet, but additions are expected in the coming months.

Under the first stage of the plan, visitors will only need to prove they are COVID-free at their time of travel with a PCR

test undertaken before they leave their home country.

They will also need to take a test when they arrive in Thailand.

"The time has come for us to ready ourselves to face the coronavirus and live with it as with other endemic infections and diseases, much as we have learnt to live with other diseases with treatments and vaccinations," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha said.

He added authorities will also consider allowing the consumption of alcohol beverages in restaurants, as well as the operation of entertainment venues from Dec to support the revitalisation of the tourism and leisure sectors during New Year's.

W Brisbane appoints

W BRISBANE has made a trio of new appointments, with Stacey Plaine joining as Director of Marketing, Jeremy Colahan as Hotel Manager and Pawel Klodowski taking on the role of Chef de Cuisine.

Plaine joins the hotel's team with over 11 years of international marketing experience, having previously worked at Marriott International in Europe.

TRAVEL CONSULTANTS WANTED!

Wall Street Travel, an IATA agency established in 1988, is looking to add some experienced team members to rebuild as business returns, currently working from offices in Sydney's inner west, with plans to expand and eventually relocate to the CBD, our traditional home.

WST has traded throughout the pandemic at a subdued level; managing repatriations, family reunions and a bit of business travel. Our clients have traditionally been SME's, CEO's, high net worths that travel in the premium cabins, with primarily long haul complex itineraries. We do interesting work that requires engagement and the ability to actually sell to our clients.

Of recent years we have managed quite a few intergenerational family holidays to exotic destinations, and our CPD Conferencing subsidiary runs an annual ski conference in North America for professionals, business owners and their families.

Candidates must know how to sell, multi-task, work as part of a team and maybe have some following, you will need to be flexible and looking to thrive going forward.

Wall Street Travel is a business that believes its best days are still ahead. To make a confidential enquiry contact MD Ben Caplan via email to ben_caplan@wallstreettravel.com.au.



WALL STREET TRAVEL

VA brings it forward

FOLLOWING the news of Fiji reopening from as early as next month, Virgin Australia has brought forward the resumption of flights between Australia and Fiji by a week, from 23 Dec to 16 Dec.

Virgin said the move will better align with the start of the summer holiday period.

The airline will operate daily direct flights to the destination with seats from \$289 one way, inclusive of taxes, Velocity Frequent Flyer Points and up to double Status Credits.

Changes or cancellations can be made with no fees for travel up to 28 Feb.

MSC Brazil + RSA

MSC Cruises has received the green light to restart in Brazil and South Africa.

The cruise line's *MSC Seaside*, *MSC Preziosa* and *MSC Splendida* will be deployed to homeport in Brazil, meaning up to 15 MSC vessels will operate from Nov.

Meanwhile, the Government of South Africa has also approved the resumption of cruises, as the second key market poised to reopen this coming northern winter.

MSC is now waiting for the Government's additional specific guidelines for the resumption of cruises for South African cruisers.

The line will soon reconfirm the schedule of sailings planned for the 2021/22 season.

MSC said the green lights reflect the successful continuation of its phased restart strategy, which has previously seen resumptions in Europe, North America and the Middle East.



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Hotels get a kick

THE AFL and NRL Grand Finals delivered differing impacts for Perth and Brisbane's hotels respectively due to COVID-19.

Perth realised its strongest revenue per available room in five years during the AFL Grand Final, while performance during the NRL Grand Final in Brisbane was more muted by a COVID-19 flare-up the week of the game.

The Western Australian capital's RevPAR of \$268 on the day of the game (25 Sep) was a 70% increase from the prior Sat.

Additionally, occupancy remained strong until the Tue following the event.

Meanwhile, occupancy in the Brisbane market finished at 53%.

Raffles expansion to focus on resorts

RESORTS are on the rise at Raffles Hotels & Resorts, as many markets see a robust return to leisure travel following more than a year of disruptions and pent-up demand.

Raffles is entering an exciting phase of growth which will see the brand add several new resort destinations to its worldwide portfolio of hotels, resorts and residences.

The brand plans to double its footprint of resorts over the next three to five years, with a development pipeline including destinations such as Macau, Sentosa, Manama and Jaipur.



Clarity still needed: ACCI

CLARITY is urgently needed on an international travel plan, the Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI) has warned.

With vaccination rates rapidly rising around Australia and domestic reopening plans starting to take effect, the focus must shift toward clarifying plans for the resumption of international travel.

ACCI is seeking urgent action from the federal, state and territory governments on the following priority issues: increasing quarantine-free two-way travel for the fully vaccinated with other countries; state & territory governments committing to the national plan of returning the quarantine caps to their previous level when their jurisdiction reaches 70% vaccinated; and state & territory governments committing to

extending home quarantine to all returning Australians who are fully vaccinated.

ACCI would also like to see an increase in the arrival of skilled migrants, international students, and business travellers; continuing targeted support to sectors that are not going to recover until next year due to ongoing international travel restrictions; and improving the understanding of any restrictions imposed on the movement of international travellers across borders, including the lifting of limits on ships coming to Australia such as those that will operate domestic cruises.

Chief Executive Andrew McKellar said proactive steps must be taken now.

Senior Sales Executive – Corporate (Sydney and Melbourne)

As one of the world's largest global airline brands, we are in search of the best available talent.

We are currently looking for experienced Travel/Airline industry sales professionals with experience utilising CRM and business intelligence tools, to represent Emirates to corporate clients and key industry partners.

In this role, the Senior Sales Executive – Corporate will act as an Emirates ambassador for key corporate agency partners and be responsible for the acquisition, implementation, development and retention of corporate accounts within the assigned sales territory.

With two positions available, based in Sydney and Melbourne, this is a great opportunity to make your career soar and join the AU Corporate team.

For more information and to apply, please visit emiratesgroupcareers.com and search using job reference number **210000UR**. Applications close Monday, 25 October 2021. Only online applications accepted.

Apply now and you could help us to create the future of travel.

Uluru bargains

VOYAGES Indigenous Tourism has launched a Lockdown to Outbound deal, inviting travellers to leave quarantine behind and "lock down" up to 45% off at one of the company's resorts.

Enjoy a minimum two-night stay at either Sails in the Desert, the newly refurbished Desert Gardens or Emu Walk Apartments with up to 45% off.

Prices start from \$275 per night at Emu Walk Apartments, \$299 per night for Desert Gardens Hotel and \$315 per night for Sails in the Desert.

CLICK HERE for more info.

Vale Long

KAKADU National Park is mourning the passing of Ngai-Bangardi Long, a senior traditional owner of the Maguk area.

In line with cultural practice and the wishes of the traditional owners, Maguk and the area around the Mary River will be closed until further notice.

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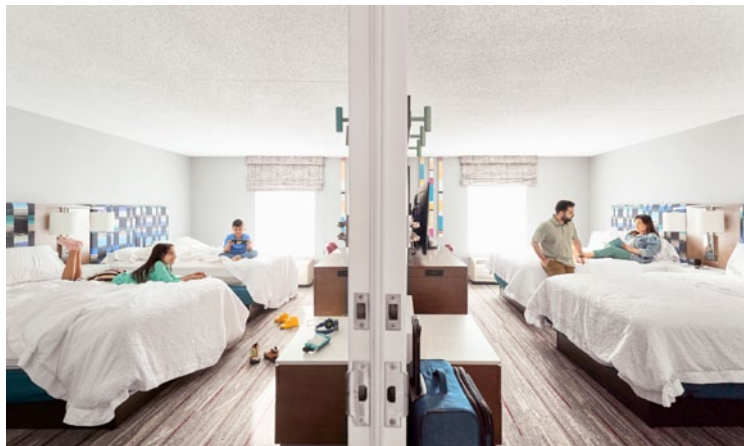
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Hilton gets connected



HILTON is addressing a long-time travel planning need, allowing guests to seamlessly book and instantly confirm connecting rooms.

A recent survey found 79% of

Australian travellers would like to stay with friends in a connecting room.

The Confirmed Connecting Rooms by Hilton technology is available when booking on [Hilton.com](https://www.hilton.com) or through the Hilton Honors application, at participating hotels.

"We are confident it sets Hilton's hotels apart and creates renewed confidence in the booking experience for our guests at a time when people are starting to once again be planning ahead for travel," said outgoing Vice President Operations Australasia Heidi Kunkel.

Holiday Inn in Vic

IHG Hotels & Resorts has signed an agreement with the Pelligra Group to open the Holiday Inn Dandenong in Victoria.

The 108-room property is set to open in Apr 2022, undergoing a \$10 million refurbishment before it opens its doors to the public.

The revamp of the former Ramada Encore by Wyndham Dandenong hotel will see additional rooms added and the lobby area refreshed, taking the property from a limited-service hotel to a full-service upper mid-scale positioning.

The Holiday Inn Dandenong will be IHG's fifth hotel to open in partnership with the Pelligra Group, and add to a strong Victorian pipeline.

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](#)

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Travel Daily



AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

RIGHT around Australia this month, there's a focus on mental health and wellbeing with different states marking Mental Health Week.

AFTA is very pleased to add the expertise of Elise Barassi to the team as a

dedicated mental health support resource for our members.

We're able to do this for the rest of this financial year thanks to funding from the Victorian Department of Health.

Elise is less than a week in the role and, as a result of a background in travel, as well as being a mental health professional, brings powerful insight and practical learnings for AFTA members to better deal with mental health pressures and promote mental health wellbeing.

We asked Elise for some suggested ways of moving forward through the current pressures:

1. All too often we make the mistake of thinking mental health is something that takes care of itself and which we can put to one side because we're too busy to deal with it. Take the time to take some time out.



afta

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS

2. Embrace mindful moments. Give your mind a break on a regular basis by stopping to smell the roses, watch the sky, stop thinking, embrace your senses and stop those ruminating thoughts for just a

little while. You will re-energise, refocus and reboot and be far more productive in the long run.

3. Create your own self-care list. Self-care for you might look very different to self-care for someone else.

4. Give others permission to check in on you and to flag signs with you that you may not be okay. Isolation and restrictions have made it more difficult to stay connected and can hide some of the more obvious signs that someone is having a tough time. Have the conversation today with a friend and a colleague and give each other permission to flag any change in behaviour and to ask whether someone is okay.

That light at the end of the tunnel is growing stronger and each and every day we are getting closer to life normalising.

Be kind to yourself and each other.

TSA cyber change

THE United States' Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will impose new cybersecurity mandates on the railroad and airline industries by the year's end.

As part of a department effort to force compliance, the United States Department of Homeland Security will move to require more companies to meet a cybersecurity reporting baseline and identify "point persons".

Mysa stay prize

THE Mysa Motel in Palm Beach, Queensland, is giving two lucky travellers the chance to win a two-night stay at the accommodation.

The seven-bedroom motel opened its doors at the beginning of Mar, and is giving away a two-night stay to those who sign up to The Mysa Motel newsletter, follow @themysamotel, and tag three friends - winners will be drawn on 24 Oct.

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



Air NZ cargo boost

AIR New Zealand has secured an important source of revenue by extending a contract with the New Zealand Government to transport Kiwi cargo overseas for another five months.

The carrier will now participate in the Maintaining International Air Connectivity scheme until at least 31 Mar 2022, with Vancouver in Canada recently added as a destination.

To date, Air NZ has flown nearly 7,000 flights under the scheme.

Blue Lagoon finally returns



AFTER a long delay in cruising, Blue Lagoon Cruises has announced it will be recommencing sailings on a reduced basis from 14 Jan 2022 following Fiji's decision to reopen to international travellers from next month (**TD** 11 Oct).

The line plans to resume its normal weekly cruise schedule from 01 Apr 2022, with bookings now open alongside a range of special discounts to celebrate the relaunch, including 30% off any three-, four- or seven-night cruise, plus a free upgrade from Hibiscus to Orchid Class and a FJ\$100 bar/spa voucher per cabin as part of Blue Lagoon's Border Buster sale.

The operator conducts voyages of the country's outer Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands, with guests needing to be fully vaccinated and potentially also required to provide a negative COVID-19 rapid test prior to boarding, depending on the date of departure.

All guests will also need to be screened prior to boarding.

CLICK HERE to access the latest cruise schedule.

Marriott says bula

IN LINE with news that Fiji is preparing to open up to tourism from next month, Marriott International has announced it will progressively reopen its network of luxury resorts in the country from Apr next year.

Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay is open now, with Sheraton Fiji Resort, Sheraton Denarau Villas, and Sheraton Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island to all open from Apr.

Bookings for all of the resorts are available to book now, with a range of special deals also on offer for Bonvoy members, including 25% savings on bookings made from 07-14 Oct for stays commencing Apr.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.734

THE Australian dollar performed strongly overnight on the back of commodity prices, particularly iron ore and copper which both climbed back to one-month highs.

Energy prices remain the main driver, with supply tight in Europe and China.

The AUDUSD gained 0.5%, while AUDJPY was the clear standout performer – up 1.5% overnight.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.734
UK	£0.540
NZ	\$1.058
Euro	€0.635
Japan	¥83.33
Thailand	฿24.74
China	¥4.734
South Africa	11.071
Canada	\$0.917
Crude oil	US\$80.52

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

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



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