

SYD board swayed

SYDNEY Airport's board will unanimously recommend that shareholders vote in favour of a revised takeover from the Sydney Aviation Alliance, pending independent expert approval.

The change of position follows another acquisition bid by the consortium which this time sweetened the pot by offering an increased \$8.75 cash per stapled security, a rise from the previous \$8.45 value offered.

Sydney Airport has now granted the suitor permission to conduct due diligence to enable it to put forward a formal binding proposal, which is expected to take around four weeks.

ACCC rejects QF alliance

THE Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) has formally rejected a proposal put forward by Qantas and Japan Airlines to coordinate a joint business agreement on flights between Australia and Japan.

The verdict followed a draft decision by the ACCC to knock the collaboration on the head in May (**TD** 06 May), with the consumer watchdog claiming a cooperation between Qantas and JAL would likely lead to reduced competition to the detriment of travellers and competitor airlines.

"The ACCC can only authorise an agreement between

competitors if it is satisfied the public benefits would outweigh the harm to competition - the alliance did not pass this test," ACCC Chair Rod Sims said.

Virgin Australia was vocal in its objection to any planned joint-venture, telling the ACCC in a submission that it would be more difficult to enter the Australia-Japan route if it meant competing with Qantas and Japan Airlines acting jointly rather than as individual competing airlines.

When the draft rejection was initially handed down, Qantas stated it would introduce a Cairns to Tokyo route as an incentive to rubber-stamp the proposal, however, the ACCC was unmoved by the commitment.

"We think Qantas could commence a new Cairns service without the alliance, and the timing of any such service would be best determined by commercial factors in a competitive environment," Sims argued, adding that Jetstar services on this route are already planned to start again from Feb 2022 without the alliance.

Qantas expressed its "disappointment" with the call, confirming it means abandoning plans to proceed with the Cairns/Tokyo route as it's "not commercially viable" without JAL.

If the carriers had received the green light, the agreement would have allowed the pair to stop competing on all aspects of price and service for three years.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page.

Dust off the passport

FEDERAL Tourism Minister Dan Tehan has called on Aussies to "dust off their passports" in preparation for the relaunch of international travel.

Speaking to various media outlets over the weekend, Tehan warned that the rebooting of overseas travel in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom had seen "huge queues" in travellers seeking to get lapsed passports renewed, causing delays in people's travel plans.

"In the lead-up to us hitting that 80% mark, look at your passport, dust it off and make sure if you need it reissued to get in early."

Hotels hit in Aug

AMID an increase in COVID-19 cases and lockdowns across Australia, the country's hotel industry reported badly impacted performance levels for Aug, according to data from STR.

Occupancy was recorded at 30.8%, the lowest level in Australia since May 2020, while the average daily rate was \$163.22 and revenue per available room was \$50.33.

The outlook for Sep also looks muted, with only small peaks in occupancy visible for Sep school holidays and key events such as the AFL Grand Final in Perth.



Bake along with us in September, with different recipes each week.

Send us a picture of your baked goods, along with any extra tips or secret ingredients or variations, and the best one will win a \$50 gift voucher. Email bakeoff@traveldaily.com.au

This week's recipe:

CARROT CAKE



Travel Daily

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TA refreshes agent tools

TOURISM Australia (TA) has revamped its Aussie Specialist Program in a bid to make it easier for travel sellers to better promote Australian holidays.

The online program has been given a new look and improved functionality, including greater personalisation, faster qualifying times and shorter more interactive training modules.

Tourism Australia Managing Director Phillipa Harrison said the timing was right for a refresh of the program as travellers here and overseas prepare to make more holiday plans Down Under as borders begin to ease soon.

"Australia remains one of the most desirable travel destinations in the world and the Aussie Specialist Program helps to ensure we will be in the best possible position to convert travel demand into bookings as soon as borders reopen," Harrison said.

"We now have more than

26,000 qualified Aussie Specialists worldwide and hope the new program will allow more agents to complete their learning so they too can best sell Australian tourism experiences," she added.

The Aussie Specialist Program is jointly promoted by Tourism Australia and all eight State and Territory tourism partners, offering travel agents an online platform and training resources to learn about Australia, helping them to promote and sell the destination more effectively.

Touchless LHR trial

AMADEUS' touchless bag drop technology is being trialled at Heathrow Airport this month, deploying proximity sensors to allow passengers to check-in luggage without having to touch kiosk screens.

The move is part of a wider push to create contact-free travel.

HA reactivates Oz

HAWAIIAN Airlines is reportedly preparing to restart flights back to Australia.

The carrier has indicated it plans to resume services between Honolulu and Sydney/Brisbane from 16 Dec, marking the first time in 18 months that its planes have made the journeys.

BNE to LST push

QANTAS will launch three return services a week between Brisbane and Launceston from 01 Nov deploying its QantasLink Boeing 717 aircraft on the route.

The flights will operate until at least the end of Mar 2022, with plans to potentially increase capacity in line with demand.

MEANWHILE Jetstar will also add two extra weekly return services to its existing Brisbane to Launceston route from Nov, bringing the total flights each week aboard its Airbus A320 aircraft to nine.

Calling TIME on Oct

TIME is running out to register for TIME's final intake of mentees for 2021 in Oct.

The six-month program kicks off on 27 Oct and is designed to match people in travel with a mentor who can help hone connections, increase knowledge bases, and develop your skills.

The course costs \$1,500 per person - for further information and to sign up, see **HERE**.

HAL's 2022 return

HOLLAND America Line will see its full fleet of ships return to service by May next year, with restart details for *Noordam*, *Oosterdam* and *Westerdam* revealed late last week.

Noordam is scheduled to undertake four sailings in Japan from Mar 2022, while *Oosterdam* returns to the Mediterranean from 01 May 2022 and *Westerdam* is preparing to set sail in Alaska from 08 May 2022.

NEW ZEALAND VIRTUAL ROAD TRIP

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Join us on Wednesday 15 September and you could win 1 of 5 flights to New Zealand. You'll experience an unforgettable self-famil where you'll take in the unique experiences of Fiordland and the West Coast.

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Even more Grandeur

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises' *Seven Seas Grandeur's* 15 suite categories have been revealed in the line's latest brochure.

One of *Seven Seas Grandeur's* highlight suites is the Regent Suite, which includes the reimagined space The Parlor, while new designs for restaurants Prime 7 and Chartreuse and a rejuvenated Observation Lounge, have also been revealed.

Grandeur will commence her inaugural season in Nov 2023 and reservations go on sale 23 Sep.

View the brochure [HERE](#).

There's Norway you can stop us



HURTIGRUTEN Expeditions has revealed two godmothers for its battery-hybrid-powered *Fridtjof Nansen* ship - Sunniva Sorby and Hilde Falun Strom (**pictured**).

The two seasoned exploration and environmental pioneers were the first females to overwinter in Svalbard, and are dedicating their lives to inspire action on climate change and engage in dialogue about the global catastrophic risk.

Sorby and Strom put out a joint statement saying, "it is an honour to serve as godmothers to one of the world's most advanced and environmentally friendly expedition cruise ships."

"Over decades of polar exploration, we have witnessed the significant changes and challenges our planet faces."

Hurtigruten Group CEO Daniel Skjeldam said "as Nansen himself was, Hilde and Sunniva are true pioneers...they are true role models and amazing ambassadors for our values."



Marketing & Product Manager PGL Adventure Camps

Our people are at the heart of our company. We have a passion for exceptional service, and a love of what PGL Adventure Camps has to offer. We would love you to join our team.

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Window Seat

TALK about taking a starring role during lockdown!

The team at itravel have spent some of their downtime powdering the makeup and learning some iconic Hollywood lines via a series of quirky new movie previews and fake advertisements.

Head of Operations Kim Wudko is very compelling in *The Huntsman Winter Wars* (view [HERE](#)), while Managing Directors Louie Apostolovski and Steve Labroski were highly convincing in their recreation of Heath Ledger's and Jake Gyllenhaal's chemistry in *Brokeback Mountain* (view [HERE](#)) - it may be a little premature but we smell some digitally altered Oscar buzz for these stellar efforts.

Kiribati flags Jan

THE Tourism Authority of Kiribati has announced that the tiny Pacific nation will reopen its borders to travellers from Jan 2022, with its tourism restart program to include a range of COVID-19 safety protocol training for accommodation providers.

Tourists returning next year are also expected to benefit from a new customer service program designed to bring the standard for all tourism providers to a new level of professionalism.

Uncover the Magic of Norway

Up to \$1,500 Onboard Credit*



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Where in the world?



IT DOESN'T take an expert to know this impressive structure is in Egypt, but the question is, do you know what monument it is?

It was originally carved out of the mountainside in the 13th century BC and served as a monument to the ruling family of the time.

In 1968 the site was under threat from the creation of a large artificial water reservoir after a dam was built, and to protect it, the complex was relocated on an artificial hill made from a domed structure.

Do you know the name of this structure?

Pick the nation

COUNTRIES have unique geography, ethnicities and cultures which come together to often form very distinctive symbols.

Based off the four different symbols and famous faces, see if you can figure out which country they represent.

1



2



3



4



Pub quiz

- Excluding Antarctica, what is the southernmost point of Australia?
- Excluding Tasmania, what is the southernmost point of Australia?
- Muttaborra is the geographic centre of which Australian state or territory?
- Chimborazo, the point farthest from the Earth's centre, is located in what country?
- What is the only country to have appeared at every FIFA World Cup?
- BCN often refers to what city?
- The Crossroads of the Pacific is often used to refer to what city?
- What is the capital city of Texas?
- Gatorland is a popular theme park and wildlife preservation found in which Floridian city?
- The original Ferris Wheel was designed and constructed for what city in the late 19th century?

Sudoku

MEDIUM

THE aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes.

							6	
1				4		5		
6	5			8			1	3
	8	2	3	5				
3								5
				2	8	1	3	
5	4			1			7	8
		8		9				1
	7							

www.sudokuoftheday.com - visit them and get a new Sudoku every day!

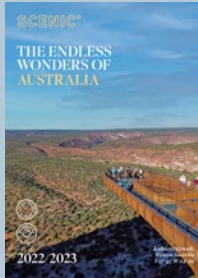
ANSWERS 13 SEP

Where in the world: Abu Simbel, Egypt
 Pub quiz: 1 Bishop & Clerk Islets, 2 South Point, 3 Queensland, 4 Ecuador, 5 Brazil, 6 Barcelona, 7 Honolulu, 8 Austin, 9 Orlando, 10 Chicago
 Pick the nation: Ethiopia

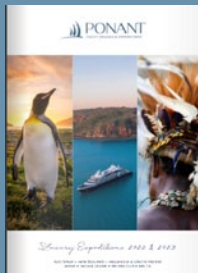
9	7	1	8	6	4	3	5	2
2	3	8	5	9	7	6	4	1
5	4	6	2	1	3	9	7	8
7	6	5	9	2	8	1	3	4
3	1	9	4	7	6	8	2	5
4	8	2	3	5	1	7	9	6
6	5	4	7	8	9	2	1	3
1	9	3	6	4	2	5	8	7
8	2	7	1	3	5	4	6	9

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.



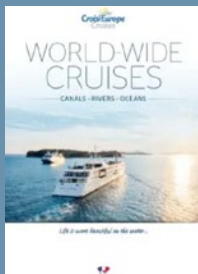
Scenic - The Endless Wonders of Australia 2022-23
Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours has gone to press with its Endless Wonders of Australia 2022-23 brochure. The program features four new land journeys in Tasmania, New South Wales, Cape York and the Eyre Peninsula, and spans every state and territory in the country. Scenic guests will enjoy unforgettable handcrafted experiences designed to give a true insight into the rich culture, diverse landscape and history of Australia.



Ponant - Luxury Expeditions 2022-2023
Ponant's new 2022-23 Luxury Expeditions brochure offers an atlas of destinations and discovery of some of the cruise line's most exceptional itineraries, from the polar caps to the outback. Allowing travel advisors and partners to promote Ponant's expeditions with ease, the brochure highlights Australia's most in-demand itineraries, including the Kimberley, the Eastern States and Tasmania, as well as NZ's Sub-Antarctic Islands.



Wendy Wu Tours - Australia and NZ 2022/23
Wendy Wu Tours has released a new Australia & NZ brochure, featuring two pages complementing the company's existing range of itineraries in the country. The Australia collection has expanded to feature the seven-day Tasmanian Highlights tour, focusing on the dramatic eastern coastline including Freycinet National Park and Wineglass Bay, as well as Cape Pillar. Travellers will also visit the historical town of Port Arthur and sample Tasmania's renowned local produce.



CroisiEurope - World Wide Cruises 2022
CroisiEurope's new World Wide Cruises 2022 brochure outlines the cruise line's fantastic experiences exploring the continent's spectacular city centres and landscapes. The new brochure also showcases CroisiEurope's value and variety, with guests able to enjoy included drinks on their cruise. The brochure is filled with ideas and inspiration, immersing travellers in European architecture, history, panoramic landscapes, and exotic cultures, all with trusted local guides.



travelBulletin

CATO is forging its own future with a new constitution, accreditation scheme and other reforms. Read more in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read

Largest SAF deal to date



UNITED Airlines has announced its intention to purchase 1.5 billion gallons of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from cleantech company Alder Fuels - a move the airline claims is the largest publicly announced agreement of its kind in aviation history.

The acquisition also surpasses its own previous record set in 2015 when it bought 900 million gallons of green fuel from Fulcrum BioEnergy.

UA's CEO Scott Kirby said the latest deal represents a major step towards being truly sustainable and avoiding a reliance on carbon offsets.

"UA has stayed focused on decarbonising without relying

on the use of traditional carbon offsets," he said.

"Part of that commitment means increasing SAF usage and availability since it's the fastest way to reduce emissions across our fleet.

"However, to scale SAF as quickly as necessary, we need to look beyond existing solutions and invest in research and development for new pathways like the one Alder is developing," Kirby added.

The US Department of Energy believes agricultural residues alone could provide enough biomass energy to generate more than 17b gallons of jet fuel and displace 75% of US aviation fuel.



Travel Daily

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