

Uniworld forum

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises is gearing up to host a virtual groups forum on 23 Sep, offering travel agents tips on how to optimise and include groups as part of their recovery strategies.

The session will start from 11am AEST and be held via Microsoft Teams, with time to be allocated for Q&A - register [HERE](#).

Tourism Fiji appoints

TOURISM Fiji has announced the appointment of Robert Thompson as Executive Head of Regions, a new role overseeing activities across its global offices.

Thompson has been Regional Director Australia since 2019, and more recently served as Acting Chief Executive Officer from Dec 2020 until Jul 2021, after the departure of Matt Stoeckel, who returned to Australia.

His broad experience has been an asset to Tourism Fiji and the tourism body said the new role would further strengthen its global teams in marketing Fiji to the rest of the world.

Thompson retains his role as Regional Director Australia and will be based in Sydney, while also spending some time in Fiji.

Silversea Kimberley

SILVERSEA Cruises has released its collection of 2022/23 sailings in Australia's Kimberley region, offering voyages ranging from 10 to 32 days and hosted aboard the 144-guest *Silver Explorer*.

Itinerary highlights include the 10-day Darwin to Broome voyage in 2022, visiting the Hunter River region and picturesque Buccaneer Archipelago.

Also new for 2023 is a 17-day Darwin to Fremantle sailing featuring Zodiac trips in the lagoons of the Lacepede Islands, as well as an expedition to the Dampier Archipelago.

To view the Coast of Wonders brochure's full suite of cruises available in 2022 and 2023, [CLICK HERE](#) for the online version.

Digital declarations deal

THE Federal Government has awarded the contract for its "permissions capability" platform to consulting firm Accenture, almost a year after initially releasing details of the huge IT project (**TD** 26 Oct 2020).

The deal will see Accenture create a platform for digital incoming passenger declarations, replacing the current paper-based forms and also at the same time allowing for the electronic collection of information on the vaccine status of inbound arrivals.

Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews said the move was one of several proactive steps being taken by the Government "to ensure the safe reopening of the border at scale when supported by health advice".

AAPA commits to net zero by 2050

THE Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) has jointly committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 - significantly expanding earlier commitments to halve greenhouse gases over the next 30 years.

AAPA Director-General, Subhas Menon, said sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) are expected to feature heavily in reduction plans, and noted that while the Asia Pacific region would constitute about 40% of global SAF demand "production and supply facilities in the region are lacking".

He urged allocation of resources to convert biomass for the production of SAF, with other measures including emerging sources of energy, market-based initiatives like the ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme (CORSIA) and technology and operational improvements.

Menon also noted that greater collaboration amongst governments to streamline border measures and address vaccine inequity was "critical in speeding up air travel recovery".

"This will help us to welcome home increasing numbers of Australians, and welcome the tourists, travellers, international students, skilled workers and overseas friends and family we've all been missing during the pandemic," she said.

While the initial application will be for Digital Passenger Declarations (DPD), the Accenture deal lays the framework for a range of other applications including the issuing of visas, import permits, identity cards, licenses, registrations and other documents.

Accenture will deliver the initial operating phase of the DPD later in the year, Andrews said, with the system also "providing the capability to collect, verify and share any Australian Government-approved and digitally-verified travel, health and vaccine status information of international travellers with State and Territory public health authorities".

The DPD will now move into a testing phase before being deployed at scale throughout major Australian airports.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news.

Scenic 2022/23

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has unveiled its new 2022 and 2023 Southeast Asia program, the longest and most extensive cruising program in the region.

Featuring a new nine-night itinerary on the Mekong River aboard Scenic's custom-built luxury ship *Scenic Spirit*, the cruise line offers departures earlier and later in the season, and to more locations.

The new nine-night river cruise can be combined with a five- or 10-night land journey.

JNTO virtual event

THE Japan National Tourism Organization is reminding wholesalers that it is running a special virtual event on 10 Nov between 12 and 2pm AEST, with gifts on offer for attendees.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Travel agents are also invited to an event on 17 Nov - [CLICK HERE](#).

NEW ZEALAND VIRTUAL ROAD TRIP
COAST THROUGH FIORDS, GLACIERS, RIVERS AND FORESTS

Did you know this area has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as a 'special place' in the world?

100% PURE NEW ZEALAND
traveltrade.newzealand.com

[REGISTER NOW](#)

NCL'S WALK FOR WELLNESS
1-31 OCTOBER 2021



REGISTER NOW



Feel Free

More ATAS withdrawals

ALMOST 20 participants in the AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS) have ceased to be part of the program in the last three weeks, with a mixture of voluntary withdrawals and business closures cited as the reasons for the moves.

The AFTA website was updated with the details this week, confirming additional withdrawals on top of the 80 plus which had already pulled out over the last three months (TD 08 Sep).

The latest cancelled ATAS participants include voluntary withdrawals by Croydon Travel, Zhongyuan Travel, Ellendale Travel and The Travel Shop@Home, along with The Village Travel Wilston, World Destinations, The Travel Lounge and Travel and Tour Hunters.

Also out of ATAS are Great Southern Rail Travel, Helloworld Travel Glenelg, and Alice's Wonderland Travel, all of which

are also listed as voluntary withdrawals from the scheme.

Business closures on the ATAS cancellation schedule include Kiama Travel & Cruising, Ekno Experience Tours & Travel and Helloworld Travel Garden City Booragoon, while Herman's Tours and Travel has voluntarily withdrawn with "Business Sold" being cited as the reason.

Green goals listed

CARNIVAL Corporation has introduced its goals for 2030 and aspirations for 2050 in its 11th annual sustainability report.

Six focus areas are detailed for the cruise company and its brands in the *Sustainable from Ship to Shore* report, including climate action, circular economy, sustainable tourism, health, diversity & inclusion, and biodiversity & conservation - more details in today's **CW**.

EY COVID upgrade

ETIHAD Airways has enhanced its Verified to Fly service to make travelling easier in the complex COVID environment.

Offering a more streamlined and personalised service through its website [etihad.com](https://www.etihad.com), the refresh makes the booking process quicker and easier for travellers to ensure they have all the required COVID-related documents before leaving for the airport.

Seven days ahead of travel, all guests will receive a personalised email informing them of the documents required for their trip.

Agoda supports

AGODA has launched a new 24/7 support system to assist Australian hotel partners, including new content about its reservations and initiatives to help attract more domestic travellers into properties.

The full suite of updated support tools can be found **HERE**.



Window Seat

PALERMO does not have to do too much to sell itself as a tourist destination - the city is noted for its history, culture, architecture and gastronomy.

However, Palermo was recently the setting of a joyride by Belgian racing driver Max Verstappen, who was on his way through the Sicilian capital to compete in the Italian GP.

Verstappen, fresh off his victory at the Dutch Grand Prix, ripped his Formula One racing car around Palermo, passing by some of the city's sights, not a bad way to remind travellers what's on offer - **CLICK HERE** to view the speedy sightseeing.



PENGUINS, WHALES, GLACIERS AND MORE!

Explore Antarctica with Quark Expeditions, the leader in polar adventures.

Save up to 25%!

on select voyages!

 Quark Expeditions®

The Leader in Polar Adventures

LEARN MORE



QF ditches plastic

QANTAS has announced it will soon phase in wooden cutlery on board its aircraft in exchange for plastic variants.

The carrier said the plan was part of its ongoing sustainability review strategy, with the new wooden cutlery packs to be initially introduced for customers to use on Queensland flights.

The more environmentally-friendly knives and forks will then be rolled out across the entire domestic and regional network from as soon as next month.

IATA VP of APAC

PHILIP Goh will lead the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in Asia-Pacific as its Regional Vice President.

Effective from today, Goh succeeds Conrad Clifford, who has been IATA's Deputy Director General since 01 Jul 2021.

Goh is a 34-year veteran of the airline industry.

Aug applications spike

THE number of Australians seeking an overseas travel exemption in Aug almost doubled the 19,502 people who applied for a concession in Dec 2020, new figures from the Department of Home Affairs have revealed.

Travellers presenting the Federal Government with a "compelling reason to leave the country for at least three months" have led the list of overseas travel exemptions granted for the month.

More than 10,000 Aussies boarded a plane for an overseas destination using the compelling reasons rationale, while travelling for critical industries and business was the next most common reason, accounting for 3,423 people for the month.

Close to 3,000 Australians left the country citing compassionate reasons, while the remaining reasons to travel only figured in the hundreds, such as urgent and unavoidable personal

business (343), national interest (142), response to a COVID outbreak (85) and urgent medical treatment (79).

In total, the Federal Government approved 21,337 people to travel internationally, whereas just over half of that number were rejected (12,347).

In terms of inbound travel requests for Aug, the latest report showed that 6,593 people were granted entry to Australia and 11,927 had applications refused.

Most of the exemptions went to people with critical skills (3,337), followed by compassionate grounds (2,701), national and diplomatic interests (260), critical medical skills (241), and urgent medical treatment (54).

Since the start of the international border closure in Mar 2020, close to 211,000 Australians have been allowed to travel overseas, with 122,131 requests being refused.

Vax travel support

NEW polling conducted by *The Guardian* has found that 77% of respondents believe vaccines should be compulsory for all airline travellers.

The media outlet's Essential survey also found that one in five Australians are prepared to accept "some deaths" if it meant normalising international travel because "the cost of remaining closed is too high".

Anxieties related to health risks associated with rebooting international travel were found to be higher in Western Australia and Queensland when compared to states battling Delta outbreaks like NSW and Vic.

The poll of 1,100 people also identified a communications issue with the Federal Government's four-phase plan to reopen Australia, with only one in four respondents stating they fully understand the strategy to reopen to travel once the nation hits 80% vaccinated.

*** AGENT INCENTIVE + COMMISSION ***

RED CENTRE 'MATES RATES' SALE

THE FIRST 100 AGENTS TO MAKE A MATES RATES BOOKING IN SEPTEMBER WILL RECEIVE A **\$50 BONUS**



SALE ENDS 30 SEP 21.
TRAVEL UNTIL 30 APR 22.

CONDITIONS APPLY

NT Now

RED CENTRE
NORTHERN
TERRITORY

Holidays of Australia & the World

Tourism hole now \$35b

THE total cumulative loss in interstate overnight travel for Australia now stands at \$34.9 billion since the start of the pandemic, figures from Tourism Research Australia (TRA) show.

The findings of the report also indicated that overnight domestic spend across the country amounted to \$5 billion for Jun, an 18% drop on pre-COVID levels, while overnight trips also fell by 36% to 6.3 million and the number of nights spent on a trip also decreased to 24 million, down 23% on 2019.

The full impact of border closures and lockdowns can be seen across all states and territories, but the trend is most noticeable in Victoria where spend has plummeted by 55% since the beginning of Mar 2020.

Overnight visitation to the state has also halved between Mar 2020 and Jun 2021, with the Northern Territory also dented

badly, down 36% in overnight visitors and 45% in spend.

The large market of NSW was not immune to the broader trend, noting a 31% decrease in visitors and 30% drop in overnight spend, while Qld saw similar losses, down 30% across both categories.

Regional Australia continued to outperform major cities in Jun, with metropolitan areas noting a 46% fall in overnight trips and 32% drop in spend, while regional destinations only saw a 28% and 3% dip across the same categories respectively.

While there may be light at the end of the tunnel with Dec likely to see some travel restrictions eased, the TRA report cautioned that the data for Jul and Aug are anticipated to decline even further, a two-month period which saw COVID-19 outbreaks continue to deteriorate in NSW and spread to other states and territories.

ADL/TSV takes off

QANTAS' new Adelaide to Townsville route took to the skies yesterday for the first time, with the moment marked with celebrations at each gate.

QantasLink will operate three weekly return flights with Embraer E190 aircraft, delivering more than 550 seats a week on the route.

Fauci backs mandate

INFLUENTIAL infectious diseases expert Dr Anthony Fauci has thrown his support behind the notion of mandating vaccinations for all travellers wishing to step aboard an aircraft.

Stopping short of proposing the US regulations, Fauci stated that he would support the idea if the Biden Administration wanted to drive it forward.

"It's on the table, we haven't decided yet but if the President said, 'let's go ahead and do it,' I'd be supportive of it," he said.

Kong no longer king

LONG-STANDING BWH Hotel Group CEO David Kong has announced his intention to retire from the role at the end of 2021.

Appointed in 2004, Kong has steered the company through multiple crises during his tenure, with senior executives at the hotelier calling out Kong for his passion for people.

"David has always led by example and, most importantly, cared deeply about those he serves from hoteliers, to colleagues, associates, guests and communities," BMH Hotel Group Chair Ishwar Naran said.

Kong started out his career in the hospitality industry as a dishwasher and busboy before rising through the ranks to become one of key decision-makers in the global hotel sector.

The company said it would announce a new CEO at the company's Annual Convention taking place on 07 Oct.



KIMBERLEY 2022-2023 WITH SILVERSEA

We are delighted to announce our exciting Kimberley voyages in 2022-2023. This collection of unique itineraries will defy conventional experiences in expedition. Aboard *Silver Explorer*, guest will uncover unbelievable rock formations, sculpted beaches, uncharted rivers and ancient indigenous art with local experts and trusted guides in utmost comfort and wonder of an ultra-luxury Silversea. Discover more about our incredible voyages in our brand new 2022/2023 brochure.

[VIEW NEW BROCHURE](#)

CONTACT YOUR SILVERSEA SALES MANAGER OR RESERVATIONS ON 1300 727 155 OR +61 2 9255 0600 | [SILVERSEA.COM](#)

Paulie's push a touching tribute



PAULIE Veneto was a flight attendant working for United Airlines during the horrific 9/11 terror attacks of 2001, and 20 years later the now-retired hostess is pushing a beverage cart from Boston to New York City to honour the memories of those who died on that awful day.

The walk will take two weeks to complete, a venture close to Veneto's heart as he feels flight attendants that day were never properly acknowledged as first responders to the tragedy.

"They were never recognised and that bothered me every year," he said.

"Flight attendants are first responders because stuff happens on those airplanes...and nobody's coming to help you."

After a period of prescription drug addiction to deal with the trauma and anxiety of fearing his plane might be next, Veneto is now clean and walking every day to keep physically & mentally fit.

He set off from Boston with a beverage cart inscribed with the names of the flights that crashed on 9/11 etched into the side, with his recent journey joined by police officers, firefighters and flight attendants along the way.

Veneto **pictured** on his walk.

Suppliers! Drive sales by teaching travel advisors

with the Travel Daily Training Academy

[Click here for an information pack](#)

Travel Daily



AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

IT'S been pleasing to see our AFTA members again engaging with their local Members of Parliament as part of AFTA's National Mobilisation Campaign as we continue to the push for



restrictions and red tape.

Our sector is at crisis point. The ask remains simple – our sector has been in hard lockdown since Mar 2020 and we need support to keep our doors open and to

retain the expertise, experience and skills in our teams to keep supporting our clients.

This activation and engagement at a local electorate, especially in the current noisy news and political cycle is a key amplification tool which supports AFTA's ongoing advocacy.

AFTA and our membership base have together built a very powerful and growing groundswell of support.

AFTA continues to have frank conversations with Government on the urgent need for support whether an extension of the Grants program or the national implementation of the support in place in NSW for our entire sector. We also want an urgent review of the Government's 80% guarantee Bank loans scheme which is moribund with

retain the expertise, experience and skills in our teams to keep supporting our clients.

This focus on skills – both developing them and retaining them – is another priority for our sector and for the AFTA Board and team. We welcome progress towards a more "normal" existence. Vaccination rates continue to climb. Key milestones keep advancing such as the new Digital Passenger Declaration platform announced yesterday afternoon.

The AFTA Board and team would also like to thank the many members who have taken time to provide such positive feedback and compliments on our successes, impact and support.

Each and every one of the messages and calls is very much appreciated.

A third of NCL back

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has celebrated the return of two more ships in the Mediterranean, with *Norwegian Epic* and *Norwegian Getaway* both resuming sailings in the region.

A latest news means a third of the line's fleet of 17 ships are now back in operation, with *Epic* successfully completing her first voyage to Spain and Italy from Barcelona.

Meanwhile *Getaway* embarked upon her first voyage from Rome, on a mix of 10- and 11-day Greek Isles itineraries.

Plaza Premium Japan

PLAZA Premium Group will debut its Plaza Premium Lounge in Japan in 2022.

To be located at Chubu Centrair International Airport, the opening will secure a strategic expansion to the company's expanding presence in Asia Pacific.

"We are very excited to continue growing our footprint in the North Asia region, especially extending our 360°, world-class airport hospitality services and facilities including...airport lounge, airport meet & greet," the company said.



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



Stay more and earn

CHOICE Hotels' Choice Privileges loyalty members can stay more and earn more as part of a new promotion starting soon.

During Oct, guests at all properties can earn at least 2,000 bonus points by staying two or more nights, with travellers also able to earn 5,000 bonus reward points for qualifying stays of three nights or longer.

To participate in the promotion, Choice Privileges members must register before checkout.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.735

THE Australian dollar was higher in most markets overnight ahead of the United States' consumer price index, which is due tonight.

US sharemarkets shook off a recent losing streak, with the benchmark Dow Jones up 0.8%, boosting local sentiment.

The AUDUSD, AUDEUR, and AUDNZD gained 0.2%, while the AUDJPY was up 0.4%, and the AUDCHF was up 0.8%.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.735
UK	£0.531
NZ	\$1.030
Euro	€0.622
Japan	¥80.98
Thailand	฿24.04
China	¥4.692
South Africa	10.342
Canada	\$0.925
Crude oil	US\$73.51

Day off was the cat's pyjamas



LAST week Intrepid Travel's team in Australia took advantage of a mental health day introduced by the company to ensure the team could relax and reconnect with loved ones in what has been a stressful COVID period.

For Intrepid's Global Corporate Communications Manager Lucy Siebert, the day was an important juncture from the madness to call family in the UK and South Africa, as well as spend time with some furrier members closer to home.

"Most of the time I'm pretty resilient but being separated from my elderly parents and in-laws overseas for years is starting to feel super tough," Siebert said.

"So I really appreciate having today to connect with people and check in," she added.

Pictured: Siebert enjoying the day with one of her two kitties.

China expansion

MICROTEL by Wyndham will Open 20 new hotels in China by the end of next year.

New slated properties in Tianjin and Kunming form part of Wyndham's bold expansion plans for the mid-scale brand in China.

Microtel will further extend its presence in the country with new openings in Huangshan, Changsha, Qingdao & Fuzhou. The brand made its debut in China in late 2019 through the opening of Microtel by Wyndham Guiyang Nanming in Guizhou.

Wyndham has since grown the brand rapidly to a collection of six hotels in the Asian country, including properties in Hangzhou, Hefei, Kunming, Lijiang and Tianjin.

ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND CLIENTS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM COVID-19 AND HELP AUSTRALIANS BE ABLE TO TRAVEL BY GETTING VACCINATED.

Access our toolkit of assets to help spread the word.

CLICK HERE



#givetravelashot #letsgetto80

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

Travel Daily

www.traveldaily.com.au

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

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Associate Editors– Adam Bishop,

Myles Stedman

Contributors – Nicholas O'Donoghue,

Jenny Piper

info@traveldaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Hoda Alzubaidi

advertising@traveldaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

Travel Daily operates by paid subscription to people within the travel industry - sign up at www.traveldaily.com.au.

CRUISE WEEKLY

travelBulletin

business events news

Pharmacy Daily

Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of *Travel Daily* no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.