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Trade-only Online EventFriday 24 September | 4PM AEST

REGISTER NOW









Travel Daily First with the news

www.traveldaily.com.au Tuesday 21st September 2021

Ponant first look

PONANT will this Fri showcase Le Commandant Charcot, the world's first hybrid-electric LNGpowered luxury polar expedition vessel, in an exclusive trade-only industry event.

Taking place at 4pm AEST on 24 Sep, registrations are now open, with sign-up details on the cover page of today's Travel Daily.

Agent sentenced

VICTORIAN travel consultant Annette Roberts was last Fri sentenced to two years and eight months in prison, after being convicted for stealing \$670,000 from Travel & Cruise North East in Wangaratta (TD 01 Sep).

58-year-old Roberts pleaded guilty to stealing from funds returned by suppliers for trips cancelled due to COVID-19 in order to feed a gambling habit.

The agency's owners have since repaid all customers by selling properties and delaying their retirement plans.

Over 50 new AFTA members

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) says it has accepted and accredited over 50 applications from new members in recent months, as it continues to manage high levels of enquiries about becoming part of AFTA, along with a "strong renewal rate of those AFTA members who continue to trade".

In an industry update today, AFTA Chairman Tom Manwaring said a further 20 applications were still under review, claiming that the result "actually puts our proportional representation well ahead of pre-COVID levels".

"Given approximately a third of the eligible travel sector has closed down or gone into

Silversea 2022/23

SILVERSEA Cruises is inviting the industry to view its new 2022/23 Kimberley cruising brochure featuring the 144-guest Silver Explorer - see the last page. hibernation as a result of COVID, this is a remarkable result and vote of confidence in AFTA and the need for our ongoing focus in supporting members and the sector," he said.

Manwaring said the AFTA Board and team were grateful for the ongoing support of the industry.

The demand for AFTA and ATAS participation comes alongside multiple withdrawals from the ATAS scheme (TD 14 Sep, TD 08 Sep, TD 29 Jun), with some pull outs due to business closures, as well as tour operator members withdrawing to join the new CATO accreditation scheme (TD 28 Jun).

Waking from sleep

THE Travel Community Hub has announced two new webinars to discuss the resurgence of the travel sector as it recovers from its COVID-19 hibernation.

The first will take place next Tue 28 Sep at 1pm AEST, featuring Collette's James Hewlett, Pete Rawley from Evolution Travel Collective, Abercrombie & Kent Head of Marketing Michelle Mickan and TD publisher Bruce Piper, talking about how suppliers will reach agents in the new world.

To register for the free "Supplier Demands" session CLICK HERE.

The following day, at 1pm AEST on Wed 29 Sep, Charlie Trevena from Destination Webinars and Pop Media's Fiona Mayor will participate in a "Reviving Your Social Media" session - sign up by **CLICKING HERE.**

Shepherd launches Black Sheep

TRAVEL industry veteran Trish Shepherd today announced the launch of Black Sheep Tourism. a multi-faceted travel service business which "brings brands and business solutions together".

Shepherd, whose career has included senior roles with American Express Travel and more recently as the leader of Ensemble Travel in Australia and NZ (TD 28 Oct 2014), said Black Sheep would be a trusted partner in the post-COVID landscape.

"Now more than ever, businesses need to know their customers, be flexible, swift and equipped - to be ahead of the game," she said.

"As we recover from COVID the funds supporting the big marketing campaigns will not be there. Black Sheep works with global brands and our company provides local solutions."

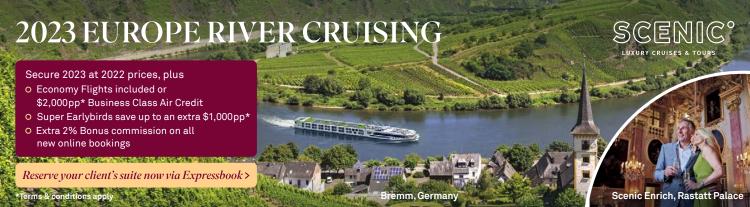
By managing and collating existing customer data, Black Sheep Tourism's team of experts will "help businesses explore new solutions to maximise growth, leverage data in new ways and build cost effective, personalised customer engagement," she said, with other services available including local representation and social media activity.

See blacksheeptourism.com.au.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news plus a front cover page from Ponant and a full page from Silversea.







WebBeds global restructure

WEBJET'S accommodation wholesale business WebBeds has announced the consolidation of all its multiple trade-facing brands under a single banner.

The move follows a review of the business initiated during the pandemic, which aims to simplify operations, reduce costs and position WebBeds for the future.

The existing trade booking websites under Destinations of the World, Fit Ruums, Lots of Hotels and Sunhotels will be rebadged as WebBeds, but still using existing login credentials.

Technology developments in the near future will see platforms transition to Single Sign-On access.

Other changes have seen a global reorganisation of the business into four regions, each with a leader reporting into WebBeds CEO Daryl Lee.

New offices will open in Saudi Arabia to focus on emerging opportunities in the region and further develop the Umrah Holidays International brand.

"Our underlying goals have not changed, but what we have been able to do is look at every aspect of our operation, review what we do well and what areas we could improve," Lee said.

"The key driver has been simplification that drives efficiencies and makes it easier to do business with us," he added.

WebBeds has also created a new Global Product Group "ensuring a greater focus on stakeholder engagement to ensure it delivers product and services that best suit its supply and distribution partners' needs".



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:





Travel Daily



The easy way for travel agents to pay travel suppliers and tour operators by EFT

Join the 600+ Suppliers & Agents already onboard

> Register Today

The Tasman ready

BOOKINGS have opened for stays at The Tasman, a Luxury Collection Hotel in Tasmania, which opens its doors to the public on 01 Dec (*TD* 12 Aug).

The 152-room luxury property in Hobart features 1940s art deco interiors, a premium on-site restaurant, multiple bars and views of the city's waterfront.

APT opens up 2023

THE APT Travel Group has announced its most popular European river cruises for 2023 for the APT and Travelmarvel brands are now available to book.

All new bookings made by 31 Dec will include the company's flexible international booking cover which allows guests to postpone their trips and transfer deposits to another date or trip, so long as it is done 65 days prior to the departure date.

Call 1300 278 278 for details.

Hilton names new Australasia chief

HOSPITALITY giant Hilton this morning announced the appointment of Paul Hutton as its new Head of Australasia, while Alexandra Murray will take over from him as the group's Head of Southeast Asia.

Hutton will succeed Heidi Kunkel, who has led Hilton locally over the past three and a half years (*TD* 13 Feb 2018).

He will be based in Sydney, overseeing 27 operating hotels and a 12-strong property pipeline, meanwhile a Hilton spokesperson confirmed that Kunkel would continue to be with the company until early 2022.



Window Seat

WHEN people travel abroad, part of the appeal of visiting a new country is typically to see the best attractions the destination has to offer, but what about the idea of checking out some of the worst?

If visiting China is in your stars, perhaps keep track of the country's hall of shame for its 10 most ugly buildings, such as the tacky Tianzi Hotel, located



in Langfang, north China's Hebei Province (**pictured** above), or the bizarre pyramid-shaped apartment complex in Kunshan, Jiangsu (**pictured** below).

Other contenders in the quest to be crowned the least aesthetically pleasing construction include a church shaped like a giant violin and the Inner Mongolia Hotel which takes the form of a large babushka doll.

The light-hearted comp is designed to promote the idea of beauty being "highly flexible".





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TNZ survey out now

TOURISM New Zealand (TNZ) is currently running a survey designed to canvass the travel and tourism sector on what evolving needs they may have.

The latest quarterly feedback form contains some overlap with previous surveys, but also contains important new questions to capture the rapidly changing travel environment - take the survey **HERE**.

It's time to talk Tue

TRAVEL Nevada is inviting advisors to join it for Talk it Tues, and discover a range of road trips throughout the US state.

From Las Vegas to Lake Tahoe, visiting ghost towns, hot springs, and other Nevada treasures, a series of six webinars will take place on Tues from next month.

The first webinar will be Neon to Nature & Death Valley, on 05 Oct at 9am AEST - CLICK HERE.

We all need a hand: CATO

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) has accused the Australian Government of short-sightedness in its extension of the \$183.65 million federal aviation support, announced vesterday.

CATO said the assistance was welcome for airlines, but noted the government needed to spread funding across the entire industry, as it is a symbiotic sector, also made up of tour operators, wholesalers, travel advisors, OTAs, ITOs, cruise, hotels, and more.

"Favouring one segment over another is disastrous for an industry already in financial crisis," CATO argues.

"As fears arise for the departure of key aviation workers leaving the industry, the same realisation must be made for the travel industry as the impact could lead tour operators, wholesalers and travel agencies to potentially

close and industry knowledge, international contacts, competitive pricing, and \$5 billion in travel credits go with them.

"These workers and businesses will be vital to enable Australians to travel the world safely and are the key to unlocking future travel credits when borders reopen."

CATO also pointed out the government sought and was provided feedback for future grants, after a second round of endowments was provided to cover the travel industry through to the end of Jun.

"It is now late Sep and there is still no news on future grants," CATO lamented.

MEANWHILE, Federal Aviation Minister Barnaby Joyce said the latest package extension for airlines would play "a vital role in our economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis", adding the time was now to ramp up services.

IHG benefits staff

IHG Hotels and Resorts this morning unveiled IHG myBenefits, a new program for its hotel employees in Australia, along with formalised guidelines for Flexible Work arrangements.

The new platform details paid parental and partner leave, birthday leave and "the ability to use personal leave for proactive wellness," while staff will also have access to the IHG myPerks platform which offers discounts and cashbacks at more than 400 retailers and service providers.

IHG MD Japan, Australasia and Pacific, Leanne Harwood, said the initiative aimed to retain talent as well as attract new people into the hospitality sector.

"By providing a compelling suite of benefits, perks and flexible working arrangements we hope it will attract jobseekers to our industries and most importantly, retain the wonderful talent we already have in our business."

page 3



The Great Cruise Comeback!

Norwegian Cruise Line is one of the fastest growing global cruise brands and is recognised as the most innovative brand in cruise travel. With the great cruise comeback now underway, they are keen to invest now in three key roles to deliver growth.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE | SYDNEY

Reporting to the Director of Sales and with two direct Sales Coordinator reports, the purpose of this role is to oversee the sales support team in servicing trade partners to achieve sales targets, maintain business relationships, implement local marketing and promotional programs and deliver unforgettable events. The ideal candidate will be well organised with a strong attention to detail, a minimum 3 years' sales support experience, leadership, the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment and have experience with Salesforce or other CRM software.

MARKETING EXECUTIVE | SYDNEY

Reporting to the Marketing Manager Asia and working collaboratively with the global marketing team, this hands-on role would provide a great opportunity for an established Marketing Coordinator looking to step up to become a stakeholder in marketing planning and take accountability for executing end-to-end integrated marketing campaigns. Proven experience in executing marketing campaigns, the ability to work under pressure and exceptional communication, project & time management skills are essential.

PERSONAL CRUISE CONSULTANT | SYDNEY

Take ownership of one leading brand and use your sales skills to qualify warm leads, make recommendations and close sales. Comprehensive training provided plus a generous incentive and cruise discount benefits for yourself, your family and friends. A solid understanding of the sales process, a previous track record of achieving sales and a passion for the travel industry will see you thrive in this role.

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A major step: IATA

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has described the Unites States' decision to allow vaccinated travellers to enter with a negative COVID-19 test result prior to travel as a "major step forward" for the global travel sector.

The Biden Administration has indicated that inbound travel will be sanctioned from around Nov.

"This marks a key shift in managing the risks of COVID-19 from blanket considerations... to assessment of individual risk," IATA noted, adding the next goal is finding a system to manage travellers with no vaccine access.

Cloudbeds deal

HOSPITALITY technology provider Cloudbeds has partnered with Australian-based adventure accommodation platform Riparide, with the tie-up allowing property hosts to feed their accommodations to Riparide

across the globe, we're thrilled to have Cloudbeds make the experience of hosting adventure travellers simple and low effort for our hosts," Riparide CEO Nate Sampimon said.

clientele of over 22,000 properties across 157 countries.

using the Cloudbeds platform. "As we grow into new regions

Cloudbeds serves a global

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER (FROM JANUARY 2022)



COMPETITIVE SALARY & BENEFITS

We're looking for an experienced communicator to join our dynamic team.

Our perfect candidate will have a minimum of 7 years' experience in a marketing communications role with demonstrated success in creating and delivering high-impact multi-channel communication strategies that drive engagement and convert sales.

This hands-on role requires a creative thinker with an innate sense of curiosity to drive a sophisticated strategy that successfully influences our target customer. A well-rounded individual who thoroughly understands the nuances of each marketing channel and is able to tailor messaging, writing style and content format accordingly.

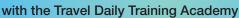
This position comes with a competitive salary package, fantastic industry perks and valuable health benefits.

With eight new ships set to launch over the next two years, now is the perfect time to become a Viking!

To apply, please send a cover letter and your resume to jobsau@vikingcruises.com

Only successful candidates will be contacted. No agencies. Applications close 4 October 2021.

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Travel Compass points south



THE Travel Compass has reopened its office to the public in a new location in the Southern Highlands of NSW, with Managing Director Uschi Howard deciding to make the sea change from the Northern Beaches to Merimbula.

"COVID-19 has taken its toll on us traditional retail agencies and I saw an opportunity to open a new full service, shop-front retail travel agency in Merimbula - first day today and I'm ready when our travellers are," Howard said.

The agency is still contracted to The Travel Authority, with Howard revelling in being able to

Gone in 180 seconds

NEW Air New Zealand flights to fly Australians in New Zealand home sold out in three minutes, the carrier noted this week.

The airline said it was only allocated a "very limited" number of seats and was currently in discussions with the Australian Govt about adding extra capacity.

If more seats become available, Air NZ advised to book through its website, not its contact centre.

continue enjoying the company's "great support network and infrastructure".

Phone and email contacts remain the same, which can be made on 02 62261988 or Welcome@thetravelcompass.

The Travel Compass joins Summerland Travel Merimbula powered by Helloworld as the second travel agency in the area.

New TripTech report

THE Australian and New Zealand tourism sector now has access to a new report from TripTech, providing customised visitor reviews that can be delivered monthly via email.

The Destination Analytics Report is generated using TripTech's travel and road trip apps, enabling real-time data to be delivered across over 10 report categories, arriving in the form of summaries and visualisations.

TripTech believes the report will allow tourism businesses to make better planning decisions.

See more details HERE.





Charity in the fast lane



TRAVEL advisors have given a lot over the past 18 months, and MTA Travel F1 EXPERIENCES Authorised Sales Agent Wendy Brockbank is continuing the trend as the pandemic nears its end.

Brockbank generously donated a signed Daniel Ricciardo cap and some Formula 1 & F1 Experiences memorabilia from her personal collection to The Motor Museum of WA earlier this week.

She is **pictured** with a grateful Motor Museum WA Manager Patric O'Callaghan last week.

Canadian learning

DESTINATION Canada is hosting a travel advisors webinar tomorrow on the Canadian Rockies, Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper, and Calgary.

The session will cover what's new in year-round attractions and accommodation for the regions, as they start to welcome guests from around the world.

All travel agents are invited to join one of two webinar sessions at 8:30am or 10:30am- see **HERE**.

Access our toolkit of assets to help spread the word and **#givetravelashot**

CLICK HERE

AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION

OF TRAVEL AGENTS

IT'S great to see so many of our AFTA members continuing to reinforce with their local Members of Parliament

Members of Parliament the need for ongoing support for our sector.

Right across the country,

AFTA members are making the time and effort to re-engage with their local Federal Member of Parliament and, again, stress why ongoing support for our sector is so critical.

It's critical in terms of keeping key local businesses open so they can keep employing local team members and retain that muchneeded expertise which is going to be even more important when we can travel again.

The news cycle is so very busy at the moment and we need to keep the pressure on.

AFTA is proud of the fact that we do have so many champions right across the political spectrum.

With MP engagement happening across the country as members take up AFTA's call to action on our National Mobilisation

Campaign, there are plenty of examples of really powerful and strategic local traction.

> Just one example is the recent effort of our members in the Federal Electorate of Goldstein who,

under the co-ordination of Steven Green, Olive Tree Travel with the assistance of Chris McGetrick, Bayview Trave andl Kieran Cromie, Brighton Travelworld, provided a powerful briefing of Tim Wilson as well as state MP James Newbury.

Parallel with our national mobilisation, we are thrilled with the overwhelmingly positive member and new member engagement and enthusiasm.

Not only are renewals up but AFTA has received 100 new applications during the COVID-19 period.

We are so very grateful for your support.

We keep fighting on your behalf and we can't wait for us all to get back to the business of travel sooner rather than later.

TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY WILL ENSURE YOU DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND

Make sure you are ready to take advantage of a travel bounceback - get up to scratch on a variety of destinations with the Travel Daily Training Academy.

Click here to start learning



TruTravel returns

TRUTRAVEL last month welcomed back travellers for the first time since the shutdown, with its first tour departing in Croatia this week.

It was the social adventure specialist's first trip in 500 days, with 25 travellers island-hopping by land and sea across 11 days.

Starting and ending in Split, guests boarded their own private yacht on a sailing of the Croatian coast, docking in popular spots such as Dubrovnik and Hvar.

Days were spent swimming in coves, enjoying flotilla boat parties and visiting UNESCO sites.

Airports are ready

THE country's major airports stand ready to facilitate international travel, with the Australian Government investing \$64 million in security screening requirements for the rebound.

Australian Airports Association Chief Executive James Goodwin said the International Airport Security Charges Rebate program will enable airports to support the government's reopening.

Goodwin added airports would perform a vital role in assisting government to facilitate any new protocols and procedures as international travel resumes.



Athletic support

FOREIGN exchange company Travelex has announced a new social initiative designed to support athletes from Australia and New Zealand by covering their international travel costs.

The company will also work with athletes to educate them about how to make responsible financial decisions, including helping to better budget spend overseas.

The inaugural Travelex Athlete Alliance will kick off with seven athletes from Australia and NZ.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.726

THE AUDUSD has fallen to its lowest level in three weeks as markets looked ahead to this week's important meeting of the US Federal Reserve, with the Aussie falling by 0.4%.

Improved US data saw most currencies drop against the greenback, with the retail sector surging back quicker than expected.

The AUD was also down 0.3% on Japan and 0.1% on AUDGPB. Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.726
UK	£0.531
NZ	\$1.035
Euro	€0.619
Japan	¥79-43
Thailand	ß24.21
China	¥4.691
South Africa	\$10.73
Canada	\$0.930
Crude oil	US\$68.69

WA revamps appeal

WESTERN Australian tourism attraction The Perth Mint has undergone renovations in a bid to increase its appeal to travellers when borders are reopened.

The building has an upgraded foyer and jewellery boutique, including the new Pink Diamond Room, and has also added new geological specimens to its popular gold exhibition.

MEANWHILE the state has also seen a family-run cruise company rebrand to Sea West, bringing Mandurah Cruises, Rottnest Cruises and Broome Cruises all under one umbrella.

The company will also soon expand its fleet, with its South West Cruises division to start culinary tours in early 2022, operating out of Dunsborough in the Margaret River region.

In addition to sightseeing and catch-and-cook experiences, Sea West also includes BBQ boating cruises, luxury experiences and on-deck cooking classes.

Kimpton gets tasty

THE upcoming debut of the Kimpton Hotels and Restaurants brand in Australia (TD 05 May) will taste even sweeter for travellers, with Aussie chef Luke Mangan's Luke's Kitchen revealed to be the on-site restaurant.

To be located in the lobby of the Sydney hotel, the dining venue will offer dishes inspired by the local area and operate alongside a 1930s style cocktail bar and wine cellar tasting experience.

The 172-room property will open its doors next year.

Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called Keep Dreaming is specially designed for agents to send their clients.



Max out by 2023

BOEING is reportedly on track to meet its goal of clearing a major backlog of 737 MAXs by 2023 after a long period of delays.

To meet the target, Boeing will need to deliver around 21 aircraft ner month

AA under scrutiny

US SENATOR Richard Blumenthal has expressed concerns to the US Transportation Department that a codeshare partnership between American Airlines and JetBlue Airways could lead to higher airfares.

Antarctica word search

Α	Е	D	R	Α	K	Е	Р	Α	S	S	А	G	E	Р
K	Р	0	L	А	R	0	0	D	Р	Ε	Н	Υ	G	Р
S	Т	Н	G	1	L	N	R	Ε	Н	Т	U	0	S	В
Q	О	Н	В	0	Н	G	N	S	U	В	М	K	S	Е
Α	I	R	K	J	Т	G	S	Е	F	В	R	V	0	Υ
Е	М	0	Н	Т	U	Е	U	R	0	Е	L	K	U	С
S	Α	S	G	1	Α	С	С	Т	S	L	ı	Х	Т	0
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М	S	D	Z	Υ	R	U	N	0	ı	Т	Α	Т	S	Р

SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

CONTINENT DESERT DRAKEPASSAGE **ICF ICESHELF** KRILL **PENGUINS POLAR**



RESEARCH **ROSSSEA SEALS SOUTHERNLIGHTS SOUTHPOLE** STATION WEDDELLSEA WHALES

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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