



Jul intention down

AUSTRALIANS intending to travel declined by 2.7% in Jul when compared to the previous month, according to figures in the latest CommBank's *Household Spending Intention* report.

Despite the month-on-month dip, the same report also showed that travel intention is still well ahead of Jul 2021, holding on to an 84.6% increase.

Relative to Jul 2021, there has also been a strong recovery this year in hotels & resorts, travel agencies, airlines, tourist attractions, and cruise lines.

TIME scholarship

TIME and CATO have partnered up to launch the TIME CATO 2022 Scholarship for "an up-and-coming leader of the future", who will be equipped with personalised mentoring to support their career vision.

Applications for the scholarship are open to all Australian travel industry workers and will be accepted until 26 Sep.

For further details or to apply, [CLICK HERE](#).

Win a US famil trip

UNITED Airlines (UA) is offering travel agents the chance to win a famil trip to San Francisco, Yosemite and Lake Tahoe from 15-22 Oct.

To be in the running, complete the UA training module and book four UA tickets from Australia to the US to be in the running - see the [back page](#) for more details.

ATAS to undergo tweaks

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) has revealed it will adopt a number of changes to the AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS) following a five-month independent review.

Among the big ticket reforms noted in AFTA's response to the review will be the establishment of an advisory committee comprised of AFTA members, as well as industry & consumer reps.

The new advisory body will be responsible for identifying opportunities "to improve the effectiveness and governance of the scheme and ensuring ATAS continues to add value to industry and consumers".

Thirteen recommendations were made in total by independent reviewer Graham McDonald, with AFTA agreeing to adopt 11 of the suggestions put forward (one with an alteration), including a requirement for the mandatory keeping and reporting of separate client accounts, with annual financial statements submitted to the ATAS scheme required to show deposits and disbursements.

Other accepted changes include ATAS accreditation status not being determined by other codes of provisions; a name change to the 'Australian Travel Accreditation Scheme' to reflect a broader membership; incorporating an independent review of the natural justice process to enhance the perception of ATAS's operations;

and greater resources allocated to promote ATAS to the public.

Further accepted tweaks will include ATAS assessing the Treasury's 'Benchmark for Industry-based Customer Dispute Resolution' and determining what complaint data ATAS releases publicly; the ATAS Code to be amended to notify consumers there is a free-of-charge right to appeal an adverse decision to the ATAS Complaints Appeal Committee (ACAC); the removal of the AFTA CEO from being a possible member of ACAC to avoid any conflict of interest; & the release of data detailing systemic issues that can be actioned.

One of the recommendations knocked back was the suggestion a Chair should be a lawyer with at least five years' experience, with AFTA emphasising that such a position should be based on merit - read the full report [HERE](#) and Bruce Piper's analysis [HERE](#).

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news and a full page from **United Airlines**.

Spectrum unpacked

ROYAL Caribbean International has unveiled its 2023/24 program aboard *Spectrum of the Seas* for its first year-round season in Singapore, featuring new five- to 12-night cruises visiting Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Guests can also continue to enjoy the line's popular three- and four-night itineraries, first introduced in Jul (*TD* 06 Jun), which will take them to destinations such as Penang, Malaysia, and Phuket in Thailand.

Upcoming cruises include two 12-night sailings which can be booked back-to-back for a 24-night adventure that takes travellers to a new destination almost every day.

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



Travel Managers Customer Fund

The travel industry's best kept secret revealed

The Australian travel industry's most comprehensive and transparent financial protection - find out why here



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Travel Daily

Wednesday 24th August 2022

Be wowed by Utah

REGISTER now for the Wonder of Utah webinars series, hosted by Destination Webinars.

The four-week series kicking off 30 Aug will highlight five iconic national parks, nine national monuments, 44 state parks, 15 ski resorts, 24 Dark Sky Parks, 28 scenic byways, and plenty more.

There are two live time slots to choose from, either 9am or 12pm AEST, with those registered to also receive a recording.

Those who register before the first session kicks off on Tue will go into the draw to win a \$100 gift card - [CLICK HERE](#).

QR's steely move

QATAR Airways has become the official airline partner of the global Ironman and Ironman 70.3 series, which will include naming rights sponsorship of two Australian events.

As part of the partnership, Qatar will also be the title partner of Ironman 70.3 Sunshine Coast and Ironman 70.3 Western Sydney triathlons this year.

The partnership lasts through the 2025 season, with athletes travelling to the events with Qatar to have access to a range of benefits, such as promotional fares for themselves and family.



Business Development Manager

Inside Travel Group – Brisbane, AU

Inside Travel Group is currently accepting applications for a Business Development Manager to join our global Trade Marketing team, representing our InsideAsia and InsideJapan brands in Australia.

As the Business Development Manager (BDM), you'll leverage relationships with our trade partners to raise awareness and credibility of the InsideJapan and InsideAsia travel brands among Australian travel agents, leading to an increased volume of high-quality trade enquiries and trade sales.

Spending the majority of your time on the road, you'll be visiting key existing partners and carefully targeted new partners as well as attending trade conferences, networking events and training initiatives throughout NSW, VIC and QLD, with the potential for occasional visits to other states/territories as required by the business.

The ideal candidate will have a strong understanding of the Australian travel industry from a trade sales perspective, with extensive experience in successfully pitching to win new business and the proven ability to maximize brand visibility within the industry.

If you're an experienced travel trade professional with previous success in a business development capacity, we want to hear from you!

Applications close: Sunday 28th August 2022

To apply, please send an up-to-date CV and cover letter to jobs@insidetragroup.com

[Click here to view entire job description and how to apply!](#)

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SiteMinder's joyful buy

AUSTRALIAN-BASED open hotel platform SiteMinder has announced it will acquire guest engagement suite GuestJoy for an undisclosed sum, a cloud-based app that allows hoteliers to automate guest communications.

SiteMinder said the purchase of the app, which will be formally completed later this year, will significantly improve its product offering, enabling it to offer hoteliers enhanced client communication, drive upsell revenues, and strengthen sales.

GuestJoy has been a SiteMinder partner since 2017, with the acquiree enjoying a customer base spanning the UK and Europe, with clients located in more than 20 countries.

"GuestJoy is highly regarded within the hotel tech industry for its simple user experience, seamless guest communication functionalities and integration capabilities, which are essential for the modern hotelier to deliver a winning and profitable guest experience, while also optimising their booking and ancillary revenues," SiteMinder's CEO

Sankar Narayan said.

"Great technology powers human connection, and this couldn't be truer for hotel tech."

The purchase follows the launch of SiteMinder's platform in Apr, and its flotation on the Australian Securities Exchange late last year (TD 09 Nov 2021).

AAT Kings SA deals

AAT Kings has partnered with the South Australia Tourism Commission, offering travellers savings of up to \$600 per couple on selected SA tours departing between 01 Apr 23 & 31 Mar 24.

Eligible adventures include three new tours added to the 2023/2024 season, such as the four-day Outback Explorer tour, visiting all sides of Coober Pedy.

Also included is the five-day Adelaide to Kangaroo Island tour, which explores Kangaroo Island's rugged coastline & cider houses.

"We are seeing increasing demand in and popularity of SA so we are excited to be showcasing all it has to offer," AAT Kings Group CEO Ben Hall said.

Booking deadline is 30 Sep.

COMMERCIAL SALES / ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Amadeus has an exciting opportunity for a Commercial Sales / Account Executive to join our team based in either Melbourne or Brisbane. Enjoy flexible working conditions, career development opportunities and a chance to work with the leading players in the travel industry.

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Or call/email Ryan on +61 481 122 929
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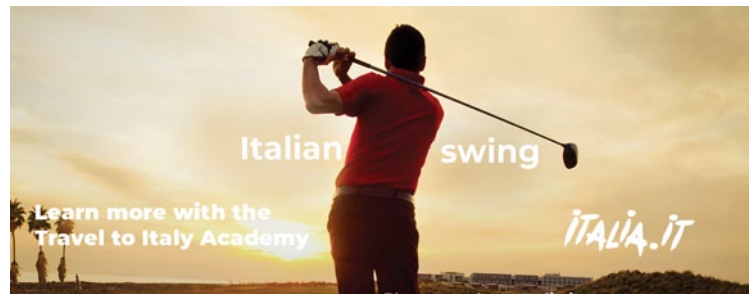
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SIDE TRIP



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Window Seat

THERE are many ways in which a tour operator can say that it's back in business, but G Adventures has found a quirky and unique way to scream this message to the world.

In recognition of running 10,000 trips since Sep 2020, the company's staff have put together a special AC/DC rendition of how it feels to be operating tours globally again.

"Just like the hit *Back in Black* our passion and purpose for changing people's lives through travel has stood the test of time," CEO Bruce Poon Tip said.

Watch the rock'n video **HERE**.



Skills Week launches in NSW



NATIONAL Skills Week launched at Parliament House in Sydney on Mon, with a large number of dignitaries in attendance.

An initiative of SkillsOne, the Week highlights the talents, skills, career pathways, and values of apprentices and trainees across Australia to the wider public and employers.

"Travel industry careers can

gain great exposure to the public about our sector by participating in this kind of a national initiative," said of the Australian Travel Careers Council Chief Executive Officer Rick Myatt, who was in attendances at the opening function.

Pictured are SkillsOne Chief Executive Brian Wexham and NSW Member for Skills & Training Alister Henskens with Myatt.

IAG engages SAFs

LOW-CARBON biofuel company Aemetis will supply International Airlines Group (IAG) with sustainable aviation fuel for flights from San Francisco Int'l.

The multi-year agreement will supply Aer Lingus and British Airways with SAF from 2025.

IAG will purchase a total of 78,400 tonnes of SAF over seven years, enough to reduce CO2 emissions by up to 248,000 tonnes, the equivalent of taking over 16,000 cars off the road.

"SAF is key to decarbonising aviation and IAG has to date committed US\$865 million in SAF purchases and investments," IAG Head of Sustainability Jonathon Counsell said.

"We see great potential to develop a long-term partnership with Aemetis who is at the cutting edge of producing low carbon biofuels from sustainable wastes."

IAG was the first airline group in the world to commit to net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

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GOING PLACES TOGETHER

Learn about Pitcairn

PITCAIRN Islands Tourism has announced it will be conducting a trade webinar on 31 Aug.

Attendees will learn about the group of four volcanic islands, with the presentation to also include how advisors can better sell Pitcairn to Aussie travellers, as well as an introduction to the DMO's new trade microsite.

The online session can be booked by registering [HERE](#).

SpiceJet on brink?

INDIAN budget carrier SpiceJet has indicated that it's now open to external investment as its faces mounting financial pressures.

An equity stake sale may be one way to raise money SpiceJet said, especially as it wants to add at least seven 737 MAXs this year.

SpiceJet is also open to investment from other airlines, Chair Ajay Singh said, with a mystery Middle Eastern suitor touted in early Aug (*TD* 04 Aug).

Asian river line appoints local GSA

CRUISE Traveller has been appointed the exclusive booking agent for Mekong Princess Cruises, with savings released for couples and solo travellers.

To mark the new partnership, Cruise Traveller has also released a special, exclusive cruise tour package featuring a deluxe Mekong River cruise through Cambodia and Vietnam.

There are 11 departure dates available throughout next year, with a suite of inclusions such as excursions and beverages, and savings of \$700 per couple and \$455 for solo travellers.

Celebrating its 20th year of cruising, Mekong Princess operates a deluxe and spacious, all-suite river ship named after the cruise line, which boasts a one-to-one crew to guest ratio.

Call Mekong Princess' exclusive Australian agent Cruise Traveller on 1800 507 777.

Inspiring Vacations back in Japan



INSPIRING Vacations has sent its first tour group to Tokyo since early 2020, following the easing of Japan's travel restrictions.

Under the guidance of an expert local tour leader, the group of 40 travellers will visit Mount Fuji, Kyoto, Kanazawa and Osaka on a 16-day itinerary full of travel experiences, including a visit to Kyoto's Gion district.

Stipulations attached to visiting tour groups include wearing masks, purchasing insurance with COVID cover, frequent hand sanitising, a negative PCR result before arrival and being accompanied by a tour guide from entry to departure.

The company's CEO, Paul Ryan, said despite being escorted, travellers are "still free to explore" and have "ample opportunity to move around attractions at their own pace".

"Our mission is 'Inspiring you to experience the world' and we are delighted to be able to offer these modified itineraries allowing our customers to return to Japan now," he added.

Ryan also revealed the company has seen a significant rise in bookings during the first half of 2022, returning to 2019 levels.

Pictured: Inspiring Vacations guests enjoy a traditional group dinner in Tokyo.

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*Offer correct as at 16 August 2022 and subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 31 August 2022 unless extended. For full terms and conditions click here.

Victoria Falls lodge

SHONGWE Lookout is an exquisite new guest lodge at Victoria Falls, featuring a unique two-platform Lookout Tower with extensive views of the majestic Falls and Zambezi River.

The newbuild was completed at the start of the pandemic in Apr 2020, featuring 23 rooms to provide an intimate boutique setting - for more details see shongwelookout.com.

Vegas Fontainebleau

THE luxury retail element of the new Fontainebleau Las Vegas has been unveiled.

The Fontainebleau is the first new luxury hotel to be built in Las Vegas in almost 15 years, and will comprise a vertically integrated 67-storey hotel, gaming, entertainment and meeting destination at 2777 South Las Vegas Boulevard, adjacent to the Las Vegas Convention Centre expansion.

The shopping precinct of the property will feature about 35 "luxury retail concepts" across two levels, with spokesperson Brett Mufson stating window shopping will "take on a whole new meaning" due to the area's integration with the rest of the resort.

AMAN GROUP SET FOR EXPANSION

HOSPITALITY and lifestyle "brand management" company Aman Group has secured an additional US\$900 million investment to accelerate its global expansion strategy.

The funding values the overall business at more than US\$3 billion, with money coming from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund as well as private equity firm Cain International.

Currently Aman comprises 34 hotels in 20 countries, 12 of which include Aman Branded Residences, along with nine further properties under construction.

A committed pipeline of additional destinations includes hotels in the USA, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Europe, the company said.



As well as its hotel operations, Aman has generated US\$2.4 billion in sales of Aman Branded Residences in the last year.

Aman was founded in 1988 and launched with its first property, Amanpuri (place of peace) in

Phuket, Thailand (**pictured**).

Two years ago Aman welcomed a new hotel brand, Janu, with three forthcoming Janu hotels already under construction in Tokyo, Saudi Arabia's AlUla and Montenegro.

Upmarket farm stay

GREYLEIGH is a new luxury farm stay experience two hours south of Sydney, about five minutes from the coastal town of Kiama.

Accommodating 18 guests across two properties, Greyleigh is the outcome of a total makeover and includes an on-site spa, heated pool, wedding facilities for up to 250 guests and a variety of experiences centring on art, cuisine, wellness and more - see greyleigh.com.au.

Ritz-Carlton Bali deal

THE luxurious Ritz-Carlton, Bali is offering Aussie travellers the chance to enjoy a range of inclusions via a new package deal.

Until 31 Oct, The Ritz-Carlton Escape offer includes daily breakfast for two adults, return airport transfers, a three-course meal daily for two people, a cocktail dinner for two, as well as daily resort activities.

A minimum four-night stay is required, see **HERE** for info.

Viking Egypt debut

VIKING Cruises has formally named its newest river ship on the Nile, with the 82-passenger *Viking Osiris* blessed by George Herbert, the eighth Earl of Carnarvon.

The purpose-built vessel will sail Viking's top selling Pharaohs & Pyramids itinerary, helping meet strong demand for Egypt travel amid the upcoming opening of the new Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza outside of Cairo.

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Wednesday 24th August 2022

Machu Picchu crash

FOUR tourists have died in a bus crash near Machu Picchu.

The accident, which saw 16 others injured, occurred when the bus plunged down a ravine after a visit to the Incan citadel.

The deceased passengers were identified as visitors from Colombia and Peru, while the injured included tourists from France, Canada, Argentina, the Netherlands, and Spain.

The incident occurred just three weeks after a similar accident.

Operators armed

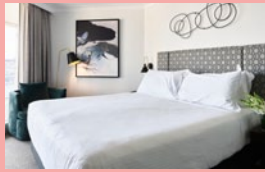
TOURISM Australia's National Experience Content Initiative (NECI) will upskill and support around 1,400 operators from 57 regions, as part of a partnership with Tourism Tribe.

Participants will be able to make the most of new video and image content through personalised coaching and a dedicated NECI online course library.

NECI is a \$12 million content creation initiative aimed at supporting tourism businesses.

ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Pullman Quay Grand Sydney Harbour has revealed a collection of newly renovated one- and two-bedroom luxury apartment-style hotel suites. The new digs feature separate bedrooms and a lounge area, fully equipped state-of-the-art kitchens with

laundry facilities, bathrooms with a corner spa bath, work desk, high speed wi-fi, and balconies with a view of the Sydney Harbour or Royal Botanic Gardens.



Bali beachfront resort **Mamaka by Ovolo** has unveiled its new rooftop pool haven, Kuta Social Club. Overlooking the Kuta Beach strip, visitors to the venue will be able to enjoy sunset views, creative cocktails and Mediterranean cuisine. The club, which offers the ideal place to socialise with friends and make new acquaintances, will host DJ sets during the day and regular events featuring local and international talent at night.



Guests staying at the **Park Hyatt Aviara Resort** in Southern California from early 2023 will be able to enjoy Miraval Resorts & Spas' Miraval Life in Balance Spa. The addition of the spa will mark the completion of the \$60 million resort-wide renovation.

The new spa will offer a personalised approach to wellness, with a menu of globally-inspired spa treatments, fitness and yoga classes, in addition to wellness counselling, culinary workshops and outdoor adventures.

A roaringly good time



THE final day of the Qantas Frequent Flyer/TripADeal luxury African safari famill saw guests bid farewell to their friends at Sebatana Private Lodge and head off on a Johannesburg city tour.

The first stop was the Apartheid Museum, part of the Gold Reef City complex, which illustrates the 20th century history of South Africa, and its system of institutionalised racial oppression.

In the afternoon, the group headed to Soweto for a tour of the township, which borders Johannesburg's mining belt in the country's south.

Deriving its name from a syllabic abbreviation of "South West Townships", Soweto is home to around 1.3 million people, and was created in the 1930s at the onset of apartheid.

NCLH donates land

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has announced the donation of a waterfront parcel in Juneau to the Alaskan native-owned Huna Totem Corporation, which will lead a new pier development effort.

The build-out will include a new welcome centre, and will provide a significant boost to the local Alaskan economy.

NCLH will also enjoy preferential berthing rights at the new pier.

Today, Soweto is a popular tourist destination, with sites such as Kliptown, the settlement's oldest neighbourhood, and the Nelson Mandela National Museum, located on the thriving Vilakazi Street.

At night, the group headed out for a farewell dinner at Marble Restaurant, a sleek, rooftop venue highlighting upmarket local provisions and desserts, as well as craft cocktails and wine, where they toasted to a successful famil.

Pictured are TripADeal Brand Manager Carlos Sanchez, Sebatana managers Michael and Andreen van Zyl, and Qantas Frequent Flyer Corporate Communications Advisor Annabel Carroll.

Gaya Island reopens

GAYA Island Resort in Borneo has reopened to guests, alongside a refreshed dining offering.

Bookings are open and visitors are being welcomed to the island experience for the first time in two years, where they can enjoy a refreshed food & beverage offering throughout each Gaya Island's five exquisite venues.

The revamp includes the introduction of a new private dining experience at the Fisherman's Cove rooftop, which joins Gaya's extensive list of Signature and Crated Experiences.

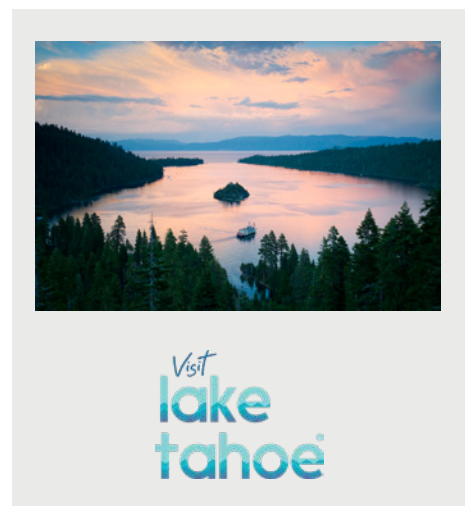
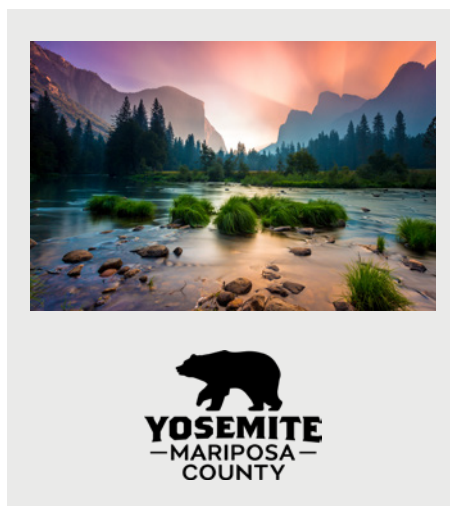
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- Agents must register their details via the **registration form**, with UA ticket numbers & nights booked in San Francisco/Lake Tahoe/Yosemite Mariposa County.
- Join the Gate 7 **Facebook** agent page or **resource centre**.
- Agents who complete the training modules and qualify in all of the above will go into a draw (with one place for the agent who books the most).

Agents will be required to make their own ways to departure Cities SYD & MEL.



Game of Skill

1. Information on how to enter and prizes form part of these terms & conditions. Any entry not complying with these terms and conditions is invalid. The Promoter's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 2. Entry is open to any Australian registered travel agent, travel broker or mobile agent who sells and book United Airlines into SFO as a tourist destination from Australia. 3. The Promotion commences on 18th July - 29th August 4. To enter, Eligible Entrants must during the Promotion Period: Agents must complete the United Airlines Training Modules and book 4 United Airlines tickets from Australia to the USA on UA ticket stock 016. Join the Gate 7 Facebook agent page or resource centre. Agents also responsible to note booking number to provide to UA. • Six Agents will win a trip to San Francisco, Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park • Agents must register their details via the registration form, with UA ticket numbers & nights booked in San Francisco/Lake Tahoe/Yosemite Mariposa County. 5. The Promoter reserves the right to verify the validity of entries and reserves the right to disqualify any entrant for tampering with the entry process or for submitting an entry that is not in accordance with these Terms & Conditions. 6. Agents who complete the training modules and qualify in all of the above will go into a draw (with one place for the agent who books the most) will win a place on the fam 8. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Chance plays no part in determining the winning. 9. The Prizes: • Six (6) Places on the 'Breathe with United' retail agent fam trip. • 3 Nights in San Francisco • 2 Nights in Yosemite Mariposa County • 2 Nights in Lake Tahoe • All accommodation, touring and activities • 50% of meals 10. Not included: • Transfers to departure city (Melbourne x 2 and Sydney x 4) • Airline taxes • Incidentals

Terms and Conditions

Entrants must be free and available to travel to the USA Saturday 15th Oct, returning to Australia Monday 24th October. The prize winners will be responsible for all expenses not outlined in the prize description including but not limited to food and beverage, gratuities, activities, souvenirs, and the securing of and payment for any Visa expenses required for entry into the US. The prize cannot be changed or deferred to another date. No cash alternative. By participating, the entrant agrees to be bound to these terms & conditions and the decisions of United, and agrees to waive any right to claim ambiguity in regard to the contest mechanics and/or the interpretation of these terms & conditions.