

Reho's a survivor!

REHO Travel's team in Sydney, Melbourne and Fiji have filmed a funky new music video to celebrate the business' survival over the last couple of years.

The incredibly creative and optimistic video is now online at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

QF debuts Korea route

QANTAS has resumed services to South Korea for the first time in almost 15 years, with the inaugural Sydney-Seoul service taking off on Sat.

Supported by the NSW Government's Attracting Aviation fund, the 11-hour flights will operate four times a week over the peak summer season, dropping back to thrice weekly between May and Oct 2023.

Sister carrier Jetstar has also launched its own South Korea services, with the combined operations offering customers over 200,000 annual seats on the new route.

Qantas Domestic & International CEO Andrew David said the airline

was adding international capacity as fast as possible to meet growing demand.

"What we've seen this year is that there is no shortage of Australians wanting to travel overseas again and we know South Korea is at the top of the list for many," David said.

Korea Tourism Organization said the QF debut meant there were now five airlines flying non-stop between Sydney and Incheon, while Korean Air will also resume Brisbane-Seoul next month.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages packed with news and a full page from TAFE NSW.

Study travel at TAFE

TAFE NSW is currently inviting applications for Semester 1 2023 for its travel and tourism courses.

A wide variety of options are on offer covering Events, Guiding, Event Management, Travel & Tourism, and Travel & Tourism Management - see the **last page**.

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Trade Marketing

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) is a dynamic, global marketing organisation whose mission is to promote Hong Kong as a unique, world-class destination. HKTB requires a Senior Executive or Assistant Manager - Trade Marketing for its Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific operations.

Based in Sydney, the role is responsible for assisting the Senior Manager, Trade Marketing to coordinate and implement Trade, Cruise & MICE projects & campaigns. An understanding of current trade distribution channels is essential. The position is also responsible for training, state-based trade activities, trade enquiries, database management and some basic administrative duties.

Ideally, candidates will have tertiary qualifications, marketing experience in a tourism-related field, extensive computer skills, good presentation, and communication skills, together with a working knowledge of Hong Kong.

The position comes with a competitive salary package and health benefits.

Applications should be sent by 21 December 2022
E-mail: anna.chui@hktb.com

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Window Seat

AN ENTERPRISING group of US strangers banded together for a totally unique random road trip last week after their flight from Orlando, Florida to Knoxville, Tennessee was cancelled.

After delaying the departure twice and eventually cancelling the service, Frontier Airlines said it would get the disrupted travellers on the next flight - but unfortunately that wasn't scheduled until two days later.

Amid the chaos, one woman took charge and "shouted that anyone who wanted to try driving north to the final destination in a rented vehicle could join her," according to a report posted on *today.com*.

12 other passengers took the plunge, collectively renting a minivan to make the ten hour-plus drive.

One of the travellers posted a TikTok video introducing the rag-tag bunch, and after it started attracting thousands of views they spent the rest of the trip enjoying the comments from viewers and updating their new fan base.

It looks like after their trip the group have become lifelong friends, while the 20,000 positive comments on TikTok show that "it's about coming together when life gives you a s**ty situation and you turn it into something awesome," according to one of the participants.

Check out the TikTok [HERE](#).

FC reveals top destinations

LONDON was the most popular international destination booked by Flight Centre clients in 2022, outstripping Bali, Singapore and Fiji which came in second, third and fourth spots respectively.

The company has released what it's calling a "treasure trove of milestones and nuggets that shed light on an amazing year of travel," according to Flight Centre Global MD Andrew Stark.

Based on the number of flights booked, other popular destinations included Auckland in NZ in fifth position, followed by Los Angeles, Dubai, Manila, Paris and then Bangkok rounding out the top ten.

Domestically Melbourne was the most popular destination for Flight Centre clients, followed by Sydney, Brisbane, the Gold Coast,

Cairns, Perth and Adelaide.

Intriguing insights included the most expensive cruise booking at just over \$330,000 - and a single hotel booking for a 1,092 day stay, taking that out to Mar 2025.

Four star hotels were the most popular with Flight Centre clients, making up 48% of bookings, while in 2022 customers booked an average trip length of 28 days with an average lead time of 77 days prior to departure.

Jayride call centre

LISTED transfer specialist Jayride Limited has announced the introduction of phone sales and support for airport transfers.

Local phone numbers are available across the globe (**CLICK HERE**) connecting travellers with knowledgeable reps to help select the right option.

Jayride also today announced a new \$1 million credit facility to further strengthen its balance sheet and support extra liquidity.

UK travel update

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has issued an updated Smartraveller advisory for the UK, warning of planned industrial strikes which are expected to impact several sectors over the Christmas/New Year period.

Affected sectors will include public transport and hospitals, while UK Border Force officers will take strike action between 23 and 31 Dec which will lead to delays at airports including Heathrow, Gatwick, Glasgow, Cardiff, Birmingham and Manchester.

Specialist training

THE upcoming special "NT Luxury Experiences" webinar led by Tourism Australia's Aussie Specialist team (**TD 08 Dec**) will take place at 10am AEDT on Thu 15 Dec, with opportunities to win a Darwin holiday package - register by **CLICKING HERE**.

New Japan hotels

COSMOS Hotel Management has announced five new Mimaruru apartment hotel openings in Tokyo and Osaka.

Mimaruru properties offer spacious rooms with fully equipped kitchens, with the new locations including Askakusa, Nihombashi and Ikebukuro in Tokyo, while in Osaka the additions are in East and North Shinsaibashi - mimaruruhotels.com.

Celebrity sales stars

CELEBRITY Cruises today unveiled a new sales structure, expanding the team with four new roles with the aim of providing even more support to the line's trade partners.

Led by Cameron Mannix as Director of Sales for Australia and NZ, the new structure features Trevor Thwaites as Head of Sales.

On the ground support will be provided by Strategic Sales Managers Jessica Jones (NSW), Hannah Taylor (Vic, Tas, SA and NZ) and Maggie Silva (Qld & WA), while Fiona Heron has been promoted to Senior Sales Manager with responsibility to support OTAs and packaging agents - supported by Chantelle Sobkowski who will provide added assistance to NZ retail agents - while Oscar Ley has been appointed as the dedicated Trade Marketing Executive.

More details in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

MPT new parent

MELBOURNE Private Tours (MPT) is now operating under the ownership of a new parent company (**TD 06 Dec**), with GM Darren Levien telling *Travel Daily* that after the impact of the COVID period "a change in company was felt to be the best way forward and allow MPT a fresh start".

"MPT no longer offers corporate events and will now solely focus on private touring, which is very exciting," Levien said.

"I have also now taken on the general manager role at MPT and have a much more hands-on approach in the business" - melbourneprivatetours.com.au.

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Skal's Wayside socks and jocks



LAST Fri's Skal Club of Sydney annual Christmas gathering was much more than just a good time, with participants generously bringing along contributions for the Wayside Chapel charity group. Club President Melinda Brown and David "Santa Claus" Reeves are pictured making the welcome presentation of socks and jocks to the Wayside representatives,

continuing the club's longstanding support for the organisation. The convivial gathering also saw industry colleagues share the festive spirit with a Kris Kringle gift presentation - while a sombre moment also saw a minute's silence in memory of sadly recently departed regulars including Tony Millmore, Brian Kirkham and Max Kingston.

SPTe back in 2023

NEW Zealand Maori Tourism has been named as the Diamond Partner for The Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)'s 2023 South Pacific Tourism Exchange. After a four-year hiatus, the event is now scheduled to take place at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand in Christchurch from 12-13 May next year.

SPTO CEO Christopher Cocker said the sponsorship, which is valued at almost A\$70,000, would be instrumental in aiding the Pacific's tourism revival following the impact of the pandemic.

New Zealand Maori Tourism CEO Pania Tyson-Nathan said, "our shared whakapapa (genealogy) connections and close regional proximity provides significant and unrealised potential for us all".

"We look forward to welcoming whanau back to Otautahi (Christchurch) next year," she enthused, with buyer and seller regos live at sptexchange.org.

Bendigo Day Tour

MELBOURNE Elite Tours has introduced a new and exclusive luxury day tour to Bendigo, with highlights including visits to the Golden Dragon Museum and the historic Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The Bendigo Day Tour caters to a small group with a maximum of seven guests, and includes travel in a luxury V Class Mercedes, entry fees, morning tea, and a two-course lunch.

The tour is priced from \$375 - **CLICK HERE** for further details.

Louis Vuitton SYD

SYDNEY Airport is now home to Louis Vuitton's first retail travel store in the southern hemisphere, and its largest stand-alone travel retail store in the world.

The designer label has joined other luxury brands like Dior and Gucci, which have also recently opened new stores at the T1 International Terminal as part of its new luxury precinct.

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Svalbard



Accor, Destination NSW deal

ACCOR this morning announced the signing of a three-year agreement with Destination NSW to stimulate visitation to Sydney and regional NSW via joint marketing campaigns.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will see the two organisations work together until 2025 to raise destination awareness and promote the range of diverse Sydney and NSW tourism experiences, with the objective of boosting overnight visitor expenditure.

Accor Pacific Chief Executive Officer Sarah Derry commented, “we are delighted to formalise our well-established and long-standing partnership with Destination NSW to shine a collective light on how memorable a holiday in NSW can be”.

“Together with Destination NSW, we will launch a series of marketing campaigns to position NSW as a place with

depth, cultural experiences and natural beauty,” she said, adding that the partnership would also allow Accor to showcase its accommodation and experience offerings across NSW.

Collaborative activities under the MOU will include cooperative consumer marketing campaigns, media and social programs, and trade support promoting the state’s destinations and major events, in addition to other mutually agreed activities.

NSW Minister for Tourism Ben Franklin noted “visitors are returning to NSW and the NSW Government continues to explore opportunities to work with industry to turbocharge our recovery”.

“This MOU will help to encourage more visitors interested in exploring, and enjoying, our great state, to make NSW their next destination of choice,” he concluded.

Hawaii in limbo

THE future of domestic US destination marketing for Hawaii is unclear, after the cancellation of a contract with the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) by Mike McCartney, the state’s former Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism Director, who made the decision just minutes before his term ended last week.

The US\$34 million contract was awarded to CNHA in Jun this year - surprising the market which had expected the state’s longstanding relationship with the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) to continue.

McCartney said he rescinded the CNHA deal in favour of separating it into two contracts - one for marketing, and another for destination brand management, communication, education and economic development.

An emergency meeting of the Hawaii Tourism Authority will “explore viable options”.

Jetstar Asia boost

JETSTAR Asia has announced a seasonal increase in flights from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Bangkok to meet surging demand during the 2023 Lunar New Year holidays.

The expanded flight schedule will supplement 3K’s normal scheduled services between 13 and 29 Jan 2023.

Silversea returns

SILVERSEA Cruises is celebrating the arrival of its *Silver Muse* in Fremantle on Sat, marking the return of its ocean fleet to local waters for the first time in over 1,000 days.

New Gallagher role

ANTHONY Gallagher, best known to the industry as the former publisher of *Vacations & Travel Magazine*, has taken a new role as Director of Business Development - Corporate at the Fullerton Hotel Sydney.



Outback Spirit

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Confidential enquiries can be made to Delinda Kalic at Morton Philips on 08 8210 8510. Applications are welcome in Word format through Seek.

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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.



ANZCRO - The Gardens of New Zealand 2023
The Australian and New Zealand Holiday Experts (ANZCRO) is highlighting New Zealand's best garden experiences in its newest online brochure. The collection of six holiday packages encompasses some of the island country's picturesque gardens, castles and historic homes. For instance, the nine-night Gardens, Parks & Rail package provides travellers with a full-day Christchurch Garden Tour, entry to Iron Ridge Sculpture Park, a scenic rail journey from Greymouth to Christchurch, and a boat ride through the Abel Tasman National Park.



The Best Walks & Trails in NSW
This new guide from New Holland Publishers contains everything you need to know about the best walks and trails that are home to NSW, from walks of cultural significance, to walks that showcase the diversity of landscapes, vegetation, wildlife and birdlife. The guide offers concise and easy-to-read text, including historical facts, wildlife and landmark notes; descriptions of how to get there, available amenities and any important warnings or restrictions; and easy-to-follow instructions and maps on how to navigate the trails and tracks.

CZ renews Sabre

CHINA Southern Airlines has extended its global distribution agreement with Sabre as the carrier prepares to ramp up international routes.

The multi-year agreement will allow China Southern to continue distributing offers and fares to agents across the globe through Sabre's travel marketplace.

The airline has also recently resumed services to major international destinations, while there's speculation that China Southern is in talks to join the oneworld airline alliance.

DL restarts Cuba

DELTA Airlines is preparing to restart its service to Havana, Cuba, with two daily non-stop flights from Miami International Airport beginning 10 Apr 2023.

The resumption means customers travelling through Miami will have access to 203 weekly non-stop flights across 10 airports in the United States.

The Biden Administration in the US has pledged to simplify travel between the USA and Cuba, after five years of severely restricted policies imposed by former US President Donald Trump.

Compass points to PNG



BOUTIQUE tour operator Crooked Compass teamed up with Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority last week to host agents and Crooked Compass guests for an evening to celebrate Papua New Guinea.

The night was filled with colour, culture and connection, as travel trade and their guests were educated on frontier travel through Papua New Guinea - one of the world's least-visited destinations.

Attendees were entertained by a cultural performance from Kairuku Hiri, Central Province who stole the show with their traditional kundus (drums) and elaborate headdresses.

Pictured with traditional dancers from the Kairuku-Hiri District of PNG's Central Province are: Sarah Arane, Crooked Compass Relationships and Solutions Manager; Lisa Pagotto, Crooked Compass Founder; (middle) Grace Darius, Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority Special Project Officer;

(second from right) Douglas Keari, Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority Senior Digital Marketing Officer; (far right) Andrew Cavallaro, Helm Australian Market Representative for Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority.

TOTTO joins EVT

EVT Hotels and Resorts has welcomed a new addition to its Independent Collection - Hotel TOTTO Wollongong, which will open to guests at the end of this month following a major renovation.

Located a short walk from Wollongong Beach and close to the city centre, the property will feature 150 rooms and a new Mediterranean-inspired restaurant and bar concept, 'Basta', which is set to open early next year.

Hotel TOTTO Wollongong, which is owned by Pi Capital Partners, marks the 14th property to join EVT's Independent Collection.



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