

Mediterranean 2022

**LIMITED OFFER: €500 BONUS
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*Conditions Apply. Image: © PONANT Nicolas Matheus.

Onboard credit can be used on:

- ✓ Guided Shore Excursions
- ✓ Spa & beauty treatments
- ✓ Onboard shopping at *La Boutique*
- ✓ Premium drinks



At the Heart of
the Greek Islands

Athens to Athens
Departs 22 Jul 2022 | 7 nights
Aboard *Le Lyrial*
From \$4,910 per person*
SAVINGS OF UP TO 20%*



Jewels of
the Mediterranean

Barcelona to Valletta
Departs 22 Oct 2022 | 7 nights
Aboard *Le Champlain*
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From the City of Gods
to the Canals of Venice

Venice to Athens
Departs 19 Aug 2022 | 7 nights
Aboard *Le Lyrial*
From \$4,840 per person*
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VIEW ALL ITINERARIES!



Put the Med to bed

PONANT is inviting cruisers to take advantage of its collection of Mediterranean 2022 itineraries.

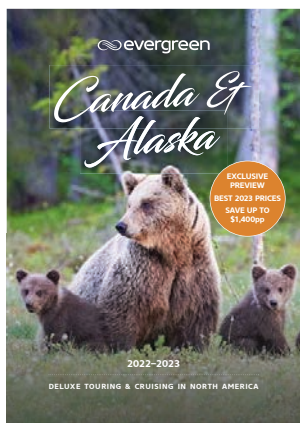
Added incentives include a €500 bonus of onboard credit per person offer, which can be used on guided shore excursions, spa & beauty treatments, onboard shopping at *La Boutique*, premium drinks, and more.

Head to the **front page** for more details on the promotion and to view Ponant's Med itineraries.



Canada & Alaska 2023

Preview Program Out Now!



2022 & 2023 Dates & Special Offers

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QF leaves PER in the cold

AFTER weeks of speculation (*TD* 24 Jan) Qantas has confirmed that it will continue to exclude Perth from its services to London until at least Jun, citing ongoing uncertainty around the reopening of Western Australia's border as the primary reason.

London flights from Sydney and Melbourne will instead continue to operate via Darwin, a pivot the carrier announced in Sep last year (*TD* 27 Sep 2021), with the move to also cut out the need to transit through Singapore in a bid to avoid testing requirements in place in the city-state.

The Perth to London service was scheduled to revert to operating via Perth Airport in Apr according to earlier indications from Qantas, however with WA Premier Mark McGowan refusing to commit to a date to reopen the state's borders, the plan was effectively scuttled.

Qantas CEO Alan Joyce heaped praise on the NT Government for being flexible and making it possible to relaunch the key Australian/United Kingdom route. "The work of the Chief Minister

[Michael Gunner] and his team, and the cooperation of Darwin Airport, have made running and now extending this service possible," Joyce said.

"Because of their help, flying between Australia and London has been a lot easier than it might have been otherwise."

Joyce added that Darwin now stands to enjoy an important boost to its visitor economy by being the link destination on the major route, with the city in a position to leverage the opening up of Australia's borders to all tourists into its visitor economy.

"It's a great opportunity to encourage thousands of visitors to stop off in Darwin to see what the Northern Territory has to offer," Joyce said.

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today has five pages of all the latest news, a front page from **Ponant**, a product update from **Silversea** plus full pages from:

- Entire Travel Group
- Japan National Tourism Office

Silversea combos

SILVERSEA Cruises' ultra-luxury combos offer travel advisors and passengers more.

The cruise line's unrivalled combination cruises are perfect for those who are ready to splurge on longer trips, offering immersive travel, and more memories.

With the pandemic coming to an end, there is a strong trend amongst Silversea's passengers to book a cruise and travel for longer - see **page eight** for more details.



Canada & Alaska 2023

Preview Program Out Now!



2022 & 2023 Dates & Special Offers

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Backbench strategy means no backburner

AFTA has revealed the latest focus of its campaign to apply pressure to the Federal Government for support funding involves lobbying key members of backbench across the aisle.

More than 100 AFTA members are invited to participate in the 11 meetings with backbenchers over the coming two weeks, in the hope of securing its requested \$190m recovery package soon.

AFTA CEO Dean Long said that while the backbenchers are the focus in coming weeks, pressure continues to be applied to all levels of government, and AFTA also remains vocal about issues beyond financial support, such as the restart of the cruise sector.

More AFTA thoughts on [page 3](#).



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Bonza unveils battle plan

THE highly anticipated flight strategy for domestic challenger airline Bonza has been revealed today, with the soon-to-launch carrier mapping out an initial batch of routes and its slated aviation headquarters.

Bonza plans to operate 25 routes to 16 destinations, including one capital city using its first five aircraft, flagging plans to ramp up its services as it takes possession of three more jets within its first year of operation.

Debut destinations include Albury, Avalon, Bundaberg, Cairns, Coffs Harbour, Gladstone, Mackay, Melbourne, Mildura, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Rockhampton, the Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba Wellcamp, Townsville and the Whitsundays.

The airline also revealed that Sunshine Coast Airport will be its home base, with an initial two aircraft based at the hub in addition to Bonza's head office, while Melbourne Airport will

Adding star clients

AUSTRALIAN destination marketing and PR agency Gate 7 has secured the extension of two new Californian clients, with the agency charged with continuing to promote West Hollywood Travel + Tourism Board and Visit Greater Palm Springs CVB to the Australian market.

The agency will oversee tourism development and trade opportunities in both the Australian and New Zealand markets, with Gate 7 noting both destinations are aggressively supporting the rebound of the Australian market.

Located at the foot of the Hollywood Hills in Los Angeles and just 1.9 square miles in size, the city of West Hollywood is heralded as a friendly, walkable haven for travellers, while the allure of Greater Palm Springs is its slower pace and attractions such as the famous Joshua Tree National Park.

become its secondary base which will welcome two of Bonza's fleet of Boeing 737 MAX.

Labelling today's news as the "largest launch announcement in Australian aviation history", CEO Tim Jordan said its plan would give Aussie travellers more choice and affordability across the country's key regional hubs.

"From our two bases on the Sunshine Coast and Melbourne, we will give Aussies more options at ultra-low fares to explore their own backyard," he said.

"Travellers will be able to fly, instead of taking impossibly long road trips and fly without a stopover in a major city."

Bonza will enter the market with 80% of its launch routes being currently unserved, and also boost Australia's low-cost carrier operated routes by close to 40%.

Meanwhile Bonza also revealed ambitions to create a "paperless experience" for its customers, unveiling a new Fly Bonza app available via the Apple App Store or Google Play, that will aim to streamline the booking process.

Functions of the app, which will be fully loaded in the coming weeks, will include booking management tools, check-in functionality, boarding passes, and onboard retail information.

QF's Darwin base

QANTAS has announced plans to set up a new Embraer E190 jet base at Darwin Airport.

The carrier revealed this morning that at least four E190s will be based in Darwin to service important QantasLink routes across Australia, as well as a new international passenger service from Darwin to Dili which recently became a permanent commercial route offering three flights per week, ramping up to five flights each week from Jul.

All E190 aircraft that are part of the deal with Alliance will be painted in phases in Qantas livery.

CLIA Masters back

CLIA'S Masters Program will return from 14 Mar, offering the latest cohort of participants access to the association's highest qualification for cruise specialists.

The six-week course is available exclusively to CLIA member agents who have achieved Ambassador status, and is designed to provide cruise sellers with new ways to open up revenue streams and cultivate unique brand differentiation.

Course content covers relevant topics such as data, technology, neuromarketing, business strategy, and the evolving online retail environment, with 100 accreditation points earned by completing the course.

To register your interest, email info-aus@cruising.org.

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Window Seat

IT IS often said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, however we're not convinced that tourist attractions around the world are necessarily feeling warm & fuzzy about what China is currently embarking upon.

The economic powerhouse, famed in recent times for its ability to construct entire cities in a matter of months, is hailing its ability to replicate famous tourist attractions that the Chinese Government claims are even better than the originals.

The replica Colosseum in Maccua (pictured) has become quite the tourist drawcard in China, as has a knock-off of London's Tower Bridge and Thames Town, a Songjiang District near Shanghai that is complete with cobbled streets, Victorian homes and pubs.

The town even features a medieval meeting hall and a statue of Winston Churchill.



SAF deal brokered

SINGAPORE Airlines, the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), and Temasek have selected ExxonMobil to supply Sustainable Aviation Fuel for a pilot on its use in the state.

The deal will see SQ, with support from CAAS and Temasek, purchase blended SAF from ExxonMobil, and the oil & gas corporation appointed following a Request for Proposal on 10 Nov.

The blended fuel will then be delivered to Changi Airport via the facility's existing fuel hydrant system by the end of Jul.

From the third quarter of this year, all Singapore Airlines and Scoot flights will use this blended fuel, which over a one-year pilot, is expected to reduce about 2,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions from its operations.

Silversea shares joy

SILVERSEA Cruises is showing love to its trade partners, giving away five gift packs filled with goodies including spa vouchers, Pommery champagne, movie tickets, chocolates, and more.

To enter, travel partners must comment on Silversea's Facebook post (HERE) and explain in 25 words or less "which of the cruise line's sailings you would LOVE to experience and why?"

The competition closes Mon, and is open to all trade partners.

AFTA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



TALKING to members around the country and across the market over this past week, I've again noticed a real sense of optimism.

There's no doubt that it's tough - in fact tougher than it has been - but the focus continues to be on looking at where strategic gains can be made.

The announcement of Australia's return to tourism plan, including reopening the international border has given a much needed kick-along to confidence levels.

The extension of the cruise ban, albeit via a shorter period than last time, while disappointing was

not unexpected, at least now we have National Cabinet agreeing that the eastern states and the Federal Government will develop a plan to restart cruising "over the coming months."

AFTA supports and will continue to support CLIA and its members in pushing for the details of this plan so that the various complexities of getting ships back to our waters can get underway.

AFTA continues to keep our foot on the pedal with our lobbying at a local and backbench level as well as at the ministerial and portfolio level.

We've already got 11 meetings locked in over the next fortnight and will be inviting members from each of the electorates involved to join us in these important online briefings.

Indochina in early

TRAVELMARVEL has launched its early release departures for Cambodia and Vietnam next year.

Next year, Travelmarvel will cruise the Mekong River aboard its new *Apsara*, where all guests are guaranteed balcony suites.

To complement the added dates are earlybird savings of up to \$3,000 per couple, available for bookings made until 30 Sep.

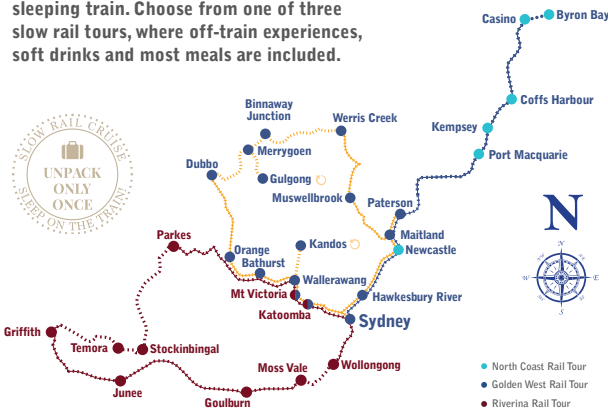
17,600 jets by 2040

THE Asia-Pacific region will need over 17,600 new aircraft by 2040, according to a report by Airbus.

The aerospace corporation said the retirement of older aircraft will accelerate the demand for new models, as the industry continues to decarbonise.

Airbus said it expects around 5% passenger growth on average in air traffic per year.

Holiday here in 2022 on board our newly restored, iconic 1960's ex-Southern Aurora sleeping train. Choose from one of three slow rail tours, where off-train experiences, soft drinks and most meals are included.



<h3>Golden West Rail Tour</h3> <p>13 February 2022, 13 March 2022, 10 April 2022, 11 September 2022, 9 October 2022, 6 November 2022</p>	<h3>Riverina Rail Tour</h3> <p>27 February 2022, 27 March 2022, 28 August 2022, 25 September 2022</p>	<h3>North Coast Rail Tour</h3> <p>19 June 2022, 23 October 2022</p>
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For more information and a full copy of the itinerary, please visit vintagerailjourneys.com.au

Book online, call 1300 421 422 or book via your travel agent.





Flying with EK is child's play



EMIRATES has upgraded its lounge dedicated to minding and entertaining unaccompanied minors at Dubai International Airport, with the facility now offering a suite of new youth-friendly services.

Operating 24/7 and located next to Emirates' First Class Lounge in Concourse B, the refurbished area offers kids video games, drinks and snacks, comfortable seating areas, free wi-fi and washrooms.

Parents are able to pre-book Emirates' Unaccompanied Minor service, and simply drop off their junior flyers at Dubai Airport Terminal 3 where airline staff will greet and check them in to enjoy the area until their flight is ready.

The perks don't end at the airport for kids flying with Emirates either, with the airline also offering toys and activity packs on board, as well as kid-sized headsets to enjoy the selection of over 50 Disney movies and 130+ TV channels for young travellers.

Oooh what a deal!

OUTDOOR media company oOh!media has extended its partnership with Qantas to provide it with advertising space at key travel touchpoints such as Qantas Clubs, Qantas business lounges, in-flight Qantas entertainment, digital signage and pre-rolls on in-flight wi-fi.



The airline is also gifting young flyers with take-home toys and bags inspired by Expo 2020 Dubai for a limited time.

Pictured: Some of the video games on offer at the relaunched children's lounge.

Whitsundays recruit

TOURISM Whitsundays has appointed K&L Gates Partner Tom Young to be an Invited Board Director, bringing with him more than 30 years' experience in the public and private sectors.

Young's expertise relates to law and working with airports, airlines, rail companies and ports in relation to regulatory and real estate matters.

The recruit is viewed by the tourism body as a key figure who can help the tropical destination secure greater investment opportunities moving forward.

"Tourism is facing unprecedented challenging times, the resilience of operators will ensure our industry comes through the other side of this pandemic, stronger and better placed to seize future opportunities to showcase The Whitsundays," Young said upon accepting the Board position.

RETHINK TRAVEL

brought to you by Amadeus

Creating future-ready travel retailing with NDC



MODERN consumers have the same expectations of

travel companies as they do of brands such as Amazon, Netflix and Spotify. As an industry, we need to improve how we deliver our products and services, across all channels. We need to be more responsive to today's traveller, we need to innovate in product development particularly with respect to new safe travel options, and we need to shift our mindset if we are to unlock new sources of value.

NDC is an area that offers tremendous potential – not just to meet the current needs of modern digital travellers, but also to anticipate and address their future needs. Despite the pandemic, momentum around NDC hasn't stalled. In fact, the widely shared vision to improve travel retailing has driven much progress.

Today, airlines - including many based in Asia Pacific such as Qantas, Singapore Airlines and Cathay Pacific - are beginning to innovate with NDC. They're offering new differentiated product bundles and price points, increasingly based on richer contextual information, with the aim to deliver the products travellers want while removing steps from the booking and expense processes.

Qantas, for example, has been offering NDC content through the Amadeus Travel

Platform to pilot travel sellers to test booking and servicing. These select travel agencies can shop, book, and pay for NDC offers sourced from the Qantas Distribution Platform. It includes ancillary services, special price offers, and fully integrated post-booking servicing like cancelling and refunding an NDC booking. The airline plans to make NDC content available to Amadeus-connected travel sellers worldwide in the near future.

Globally, Amadeus is already working with more than 30 airlines on the IT side and with more than 17 airlines for the distribution of their NDC content.

While there is growing excitement across the industry about creating an improved experience for travellers by offering new and compelling airline content, it remains the very beginning of this journey. At Amadeus, we believe that realising the full potential of NDC will require close collaboration by stakeholders across the industry. By working together, we will be able to overcome any hurdles along the way and unlock limitless possibilities to improve travel retailing.

Download our paper '[NDC 2021 and the path to industrialization](#)' to find out more.

Lance Batty, Regional Director, South Pacific, Airlines at Amadeus

AMADEUS



Oaks for humanity

OAKS Hotels, Resorts & Suites has announced that Habitat for Humanity Australia and New Zealand has become a new charity partner for the business.

Habitat for Humanity's mission is to work with low-income families who have faced adverse circumstances such as natural disasters, family violence and disability, to achieve the dream of owning their own home.

Oaks will support the charity through fundraising, volunteer work and the provision of free emergency accommodation from within its property network.

Kimpton makes a splash



KIMPTON Margot Sydney has opened its doors to the public just in time for a predicted resurgence in visitor numbers to the Harbour City, with the 172-room property offering Aussies the chance to score a 10-night stay at any of Kimpton's new hotels in Sydney, Bali, Bangkok, Koh Samui or Paris to celebrate the launch.

To be in the running to win, people need to share and exchange stories about the love of connection via the property's new Kimpton Digital Guestbook.

The introduction of the new guest platform has been supported by interesting stories from respected artists, photographers, creators and leaders in their field – including four Australian creators Alyce Tran, Christian Wilkins, Jasmin Howell and Jared Seng.

One incentive to stay at the new IHG luxury boutique hotel is the benefits of Social Hour, a session of daily complimentary drinks offered to guests between 5-6pm, which serves up boutique Australian wines, Four Pillars G&Ts, and Kimpton's signature

Margot cocktail.

Social Hour will rotate between the lobby area, the mezzanine, and the rooftop bar by the pool.

For guests looking to keep fit, the hotel also offers a selection of yoga and workout routines from the comfort of their own rooms on tablets or the television, thanks to a newly forged partnership with Egg of the Universe.

Pictured: A snapshot of many of the activities on offer at the new Kimpton Margot Sydney.

Cuban authenticity

AUSTRALIAN tour company Simply Cuba Tours has introduced a new collection of immersive small-group tours in Cuba with a focus on photography, endemic birds and scuba-diving.

Groups are limited to small sizes and accommodation takes the form of local Cuban homes for an authentic experience, with prices for departures this year leading in at \$5,249pp for a 10-day adventure.

Call 0402 083 137 for details.

Ukraine air issues

THE Russo-Ukrainian crisis has begun disrupting the latter country's air travel, as dozens of flights have been thrown into disarray, and insurers have dropped aircraft coverages.

Ukraine International Airlines will continue to operate flights without changes, but has moved five of its Boeing 737 aircraft to Spain, at the request of its leasing company.

Unfortunately, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has stopped flying to Ukraine, following the adjustment of travel advice to code red, and an extensive safety analysis.

The S. Africa Show

SOUTH African Tourism is inviting trade partners to The South Africa Show, a live event hosted by Julia Morris on 24 Mar.

The hybrid event will see attendees travel across South Africa, ticking off the country's top bucket list experiences.

Guests will be able to attend virtually across Australia, and in-person in Sydney, with the event to occur across Martin Place and Sofitel Sydney Wentworth.

There will also be 10 famil spots to win - [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Disney cooks up fun

DISNEYLAND Resort will serve up culinary fun during its Disney California Adventure Food & Wine Festival from Mar to Apr.

Many of the state's communities and regions will be featured in the Festival's smorgasbord of specialty dishes and experiences.

There will be a dozen festival marketplaces, culinary demonstrations, signature events, and more on offer for attendees.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.710

THE Australian dollar has slipped further on the back of an escalating Russo-Ukrainian crisis and potential US interest rate hikes hit sentiment.

The Aussie dollar was weaker, along with major equity markets overnight, with the AUDUSD falling 0.1%.

The currency made gains in Europe however, up 0.3% against the AUDEUR and 0.1% with the AUDGDP.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.710
UK	£0.521
NZ	\$1.069
Euro	€0.628
Japan	¥82.24
Thailand	฿22.93
China	¥4.477
South Africa	10.70
Canada	\$0.900
Crude oil	US\$94.44



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Silversea's ultra-luxury combos give agents and clients more

Silversea's unrivalled combination cruises are perfect for those who are ready to splurge on longer trips, immersive travel, and more life-affirming memories. There is a strong trend amongst Silversea's clients to travel for longer. Combine two or more voyages into one spectacular trip and make the most of this strong demand.

From Asia to Alaska, Europe to Antarctica, Silversea's ultra-luxury combination cruises offer diverse itineraries, each one curated in all-inclusive comfort with decidedly enriching insight. Lasting between 14-46 days, you will have a blank canvas to tailor your client's adventures.

What's more, all that enlightenment and adventure comes along with some exceptional comforts: dedicated butler service, regionally inspired gourmet

cuisine, premium beverages and more. Paired with a generous programme of expert-led, small-group shore excursions, this is a recipe for realising lifelong memories. With Silversea's all-inclusive product offering, you can you to easily manage and plan your clients' itinerary under one booking. This includes the round trip airfares, transfers, pre- and post-cruise hotels, plus all shore excursions and more!

Your clients can enjoy savings of up to 20% compared to booking the cruises individually and you will also be rewarded for making a high value booking by high commission returns. Agents are averaging AU\$2,500 in commissions per booking for combination cruises, with some agents making up to AU\$5,000 from a single Silversea booking.

Book by the 28 Feb and your client will enjoy up to US\$1,000 ship board credit per suite which can be used to enhance their journey with spa experiences, specialty dining, premium shore excursions and more.

DISCOVER MORE

View Silversea latest digital brochure highlighting their incredible combination cruises. With over 125 combination cruises your clients are spoiled for choice. Discover the very best voyages and share with your clients today! Read [HERE](#).