

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has four pages of all the latest news plus a full page from **Qatar Tourism**.

Qatar stopovers

THE new Qatar Tourism trade portal aims to help travel advisors offer their clients an unforgettable stopover in Qatar as they travel to and from Australia to destinations across the QR global network.
More details on the **last page**.

Gordy + Getaway

GORDON Bayne's Showponi Marketing will support Channel Nine's *Getaway* program with sponsorships and integration opportunities via a new deal.
The new marketing agency's team (**TD** 25 Aug 2021) is "delighted to start a conversation with our tourism partners on how we can film and share your story to inspire Australians to visit," founder & Chief Executive Officer Gordon Bayne said.

NCL boosts rewards

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has enhanced its Latitudes Rewards Program, featuring a redesigned structure boasting seven tiers to ensure achieving the next status is easier for customers than ever before.

Tiers include a new Diamond status, as well as Sapphire, which replaces the previous Platinum Plus tier, with almost all tiers now featuring a reduced points requirement to unlock each new status level, allowing guests to enjoy exclusive rewards faster - check out today's **Cruise Weekly**.

ACCC probes HLO, CTM

EXCLUSIVE

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has launched an informal "merger review" of the proposed takeover of Helloworld Travel's corporate businesses by rival Corporate Travel Management (**TD** 15 Dec).

The \$175 million deal is set to see Corporate Travel Management (CTM) acquire QBT, AOT Hotels, TravelEdge and Show Group in Australia as well as APX and Atlas Travel in New Zealand.

However the move has clearly prompted competition concerns, with the regulator now inviting submissions from interested parties regarding the proposed acquisition.

A formal market enquiries letter sent by the ACCC last week to various stakeholders includes a range of questions, such as "how closely CTM and Helloworld Corporate compete, such as whether there are significant differences in their prices (including booking fees, commissions and overrides) or service quality".

The Commission is also asking who CTM and Helloworld Corporate's main competitors are, the cost and time for customers to switch corporate travel management suppliers, and

how easy or difficult it is for new entities to enter and expand in the Australian market.

Interested parties are asked whether they have any concerns about the likely competition effects of the proposed transaction, and the extent to which Helloworld Corporate is likely to continue to grow in Australia without the acquisition.

The letter requests that customers of CTM or Helloworld Corporate provide details of their purchases of corporate travel management, including the process and results of any recent tenders.

Respondents can also provide feedback on whether customers can manage their own corporate travel, such as through online booking websites or directly with upstream providers such as airlines and hotel chains, and "the extent to which this constrains traditional corporate travel managers such as CTM and Helloworld Corporate".

The ACCC has set a deadline for responses of 28 Jan, and flagged a provisional date of 17 Mar this year for the announcement of its findings, which may either be a final decision or the release of a formal Statement of Issues.

CTM has launched a capital raising for the \$100 million cash component of the deal, which according to the announced timeline is expected to occur in the first quarter of this year - subject to a number of conditions including ACCC clearance.

Submissions to the Commission's merger review can be lodged, preferably in PDF format, to mergers@acc.gov.au.

Carter to Albatros

CHIMU Adventures co-founder Greg Carter has been appointed as Chief Commercial Officer for Albatros Expeditions.

Carter, who moved out of Chimu in Sep 2020, said he was thrilled to be back in the travel industry, with Albatros operating two brand new state-of-the-art expedition ships.

He will also continue part-time in his role as CEO of the Mawson's Huts Foundation.



We're coming back folks.

Check out Fantastic Rates right across the USA

Expedia TAAP On SALE Now!

ENJOY TODAY

www.expedia.com.au/taap

telephone
1800 726 618

email
expedia-au@discovertheworld.com.au



Disney
Genie

©2022 Disney

A whole new world of holiday planning

WEBINAR

Thursday 13 January, 2022
12pm AEDT | 2pm NZDT

REGISTER HERE

Travellex is poised to take advantage of a wave of travel confidence and has its eyes firmly set on the Australian market. Read more in the December/January issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin



VA cuts capacity

VIRGIN Australia has significantly reduced its capacity as the travel sector continues to see lower demand while COVID cases rise across the country.

The carrier has temporarily cut flight volumes by 25% until the end of Feb and removed 10 services from its schedule - including its sole Sydney to Fiji international route.

"Virgin Australia remains focused on growing its network and consumer reach and will resume services as soon as travel demand improves," the airline's CEO Jayne Hrdlicka said.

"Although we don't know when this wave will pass, we do know that as we make the shift to living with COVID-19 there will continue to be changes in all our lives."

The airline is also believed to have been motivated by major staff shortages, with close COVID contact workers in aviation forced to isolate for seven days.

Coral cancels four

CORAL Expeditions has cancelled four Australian sailings amid Omicron variant fears.

The Coastal Treks of Tasmania, which was due to depart Hobart next Mon, is now cancelled.

Also affected are the Circumnavigation of Tasmania, which was due to depart Hobart on New Year's Day; the Outerknown Adventures on the Great Barrier Reef from Cairns on 04 and 11 Jan; and the Across the Top of Australia, which was set to depart Cairns on 20 Jan.

Royal interruptions

ROYAL Caribbean International has suspended voyages on four of its ships.

The cancellations impact *Jewel of the Seas*, *Serenade of the Seas*, *Symphony of the Seas*, and *Vision of the Seas*.

Guests booked on the cancelled sailings will receive a full refund or other rebooking options.

Barry exits travel sector

KATRINA Barry, local MD of The Travel Corporation's Trafalgar, Costsaver and Contiki brands, is leaving the travel industry to take up a CEO role in the technology sector (**TD** breaking news).

Barry will also resign from her directorship of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents, with The Travel Corporation (TTC) Australia CEO David Hosking saying "Katrina has been presented with a great opportunity and the TTC team will be sad to see her go".

"But we sincerely wish her well and thank her for her significant and exceptional contributions during her time at Contiki, Trafalgar, TTC and the industry more broadly," Hosking added.

Her role within TTC will be taken on an interim basis by Dee Marrocco, Trafalgar's Global Marketing Officer.

Marrocco is normally based in Geneva but is currently home in Australia, and has agreed to step

in until the end of Mar.

Hosking said he looked forward to working with her as well as Trafalgar and Costsaver Global CEO Gavin Tollman and Adam Armstrong, Global CEO Contiki "to establish a longer-term plan for our key brands in Australia".

Barry, who has been with TTC since becoming MD of Contiki (**TD** 18 Dec 2013), said "this has been an incredibly difficult decision".

"Working for TTC over the last eight years with its exceptional travel experiences and people has, without a doubt, been the highlight of my career.

"I love this business and the brands I have had the privilege to work for...the depth of respect, admiration and gratitude I have for the Tollman family is incomparable," she added.

Prior to joining TTC Barry had an extensive career with consulting firm McKinsey & Co, The Virgin Group and BT Financial Group.

BECOME A CANADA SPECIALIST



New program with Sales Companion now available!
www.canadaspecialist.com.au

**CANADA
SPECIALIST
PROGRAM**

CANADA



Vouchers a success

THE Tasmanian Government has revealed its Tassie Holiday Voucher scheme has yielded close to \$30 million for the state's economy in the last two months of 2021.

Travellers from Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia were eligible to win the vouchers distributed via a random ballot, with each \$300 voucher able to be used for tours, accommodation and attractions.

"The program saw more than 12,700 bookings made across the state," the government said.

AA signs codeshare

AMERICAN Airlines has inked a codeshare agreement with SriLankan Airlines, which will see the carriers cooperate on eight services between Europe and the United States.

The deal covers AA flights from London Heathrow and Paris Charles de Gaulle to Miami (MIA) and New York's JFK, as well as Paris and Frankfurt to Dallas-Fort Worth DFW, and from London Heathrow to Chicago O'Hare and Los Angeles (LAX).

Still standing together



WHILE the past two years has kept many travel agents confined to their Zoom screens due to lockdowns and restrictions, TravelManagers recently took the opportunity to organise in-person catch ups around the country to celebrate the company's ongoing resilience during the pandemic.

More than 120 personal travel managers (PTMs) participated in five parties throughout Australia

over the holiday period, where colleagues were finally able to catch up and reminisce about 2021, and even meet new team members in the flesh for the very first time.

In Sydney, twelve staff from TravelManagers' National Partnership Office (NPO) were joined by 36 PTMs from around the state for an afternoon at Vapiano King Street.

"It was lovely to be joined by two of our newest PTMs - Joanne Miller and Mary Maljevac - both of whom joined within the last five months," Sydney-based Business Partnership Manager, Julie McLean said.

Meanwhile in Victoria, staff enjoyed a fun night at Melbourne's Common Man in South Melbourne.

"It was...so good to finally get together and enjoy lots of laughs and a few stories over a drink or two," representative for Ferntree Gully Julie Lunn said.

Other gatherings took place in SA, Qld and Western Australia.

Pictured: PTMs and NPO office staff in Melbourne, including: Penny Trevaud, Dariusz Buchowiecki, Helen Rolton, Karin Evert, Theresa Kwong, Troy Coelho (NPO), Di Yates, Tanyu Cilek (NPO) and Debbie Bean.



Window Seat

ISN'T it just the worst when people damage a tourist attraction's best asset.

Unfortunately that's just what thoughtless vandals have done to a cultural statue in Moche, Peru, with the newly constructed monument that pays upstanding homage to the pre-Columbian Mochica culture no longer standing as erect as it once did.

A group of perhaps slightly jealous men have reportedly smashed a painful hole in the statue (**pictured**), before bizarrely firing gun shots in the air to mark their desecration.

Located 15 minutes from the centre of the regional capital, Trujillo, the statue has proved to be a big hit with tourists, many of whom have been grabbing selfies underneath its impressively proportioned member.

Reacting to the damage, the Mayor of Moche Fernández Bazán said the statue would be repaired and that 30 more similar statues would be constructed soon.



Protocols scrapped

SCOTLAND, Ireland and Wales have followed England's lead by easing COVID travel protocols for inbound travellers later this week.

Ireland will no longer require arriving vaccinated travellers to present a negative COVID-19 test, while Scotland and Wales will also no longer require vaccinated travellers to take pre-departure tests or self-isolate on arrival until they've received a negative COVID result.

Keep up to date with Travel Daily on the go

Download the Travel Daily app from the Apple Store today.



Travel Daily



Harris tickled pink by test



MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.717

A STRONGER US dollar saw the AUDUSD down 0.1% overnight, while the Aussie performed better in European markets.

The AUDEUR was up 0.2% and the AUDGBP also gained 0.1%, while the best performer was the Aussie's conversion to the Swiss franc, up 0.9%.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.717
UK	£0.528
NZ	\$1.061
Euro	€0.633
Japan	¥82.67
Thailand	฿24.12
China	¥4.575
South Africa	11.249
Canada	\$0.909
Crude oil	US\$81.75

FLIGHT Centre's National General Manager Cameron Harris recently enjoyed a day out at the cricket with his daughter (pictured), where the Australians and the Poms played out a thrilling draw.

But aside from enjoying the great sporting contest, Harris said it was just as important to show support for the "Pink Test", a tradition the Australian Cricket Board organises to raise support for important services for breast cancer sufferers through the McGrath Foundation.

"I had the great experience of my daughter joining me at the SCG for the Pink Test, not only was it her first taste of test match cricket but also an amazing atmosphere and education about the Pink Test - an event that Australians have embraced and all for a very important cause," Harris noted on his LinkedIn account.

Support the cause **HERE**.

5G buffer zones

FIFTY airports in the United States have been granted buffer zones from the new 5G telecommunications network following concerns it could interfere with aircraft equipment.

The decision will see 5G operators such as AT&T and Verizon Wireless delay the launch of their services so they can implement the new buffer zones around key aviation hubs.

The FAA had expressed concerns that C-Band 5G could interfere with key aircraft instruments such as altimeters, with cities included in the new set of restrictions to include New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Dallas.

Closer to home, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority recently stated there are no indications of similar problems in Australia, but continue to monitor the situation.

Courtyard in Mel

THE Courtyard by Marriott Melbourne Flagstaff Gardens hotel is set to open its doors to the public in Mar, marking the third property for the brand in Australia and the first to operate in Melbourne.

The 150-room hotel, owned by Ousia Properties, will offer guests all-day dining, a gym, a cafe/bar area, as well as event spaces for corporate meetings.

Aviation change?

IF PRIME Minister Scott Morrison has his way, staff in the transport and aviation sector will be added to the list of critical industries to have redefined close COVID contact protocols.

The PM will ask state and territory leaders to back eased isolation measures in the face of ongoing critical staffing shortages.

Famous faces



THERE are three different faces that make up this picture.

They are a mixture of famous celebrities and travel names.

Can you figure out who the

eyes, nose and mouth in this picture belong to?

And don't worry if you can't guess them all, two out of three ain't bad!

Answer: Eyes - Meghan Markle, Nose - Joe Karbo, Mouth - Michael Cera

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

Travel Daily

www.traveldaily.com.au

Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Associate Editors – Adam Bishop,

Myles Stedman

Contributors – Nicholas O'Donoghue,

Jenny Piper

info@traveldaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Hoda Alzubaidi

advertising@traveldaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

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

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

CRUISE
WEEKLY

travelBulletin

business events news

Pharmacy
Daily

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



An unforgettable stopover in Qatar

From luxury fashion brands to sophisticated restaurants and five-star hotels, Qatar is the ideal place for a city break with a luxurious twist.

Your clients can turn one holiday into two, making the most of their journey with the 'World's Best Value Stopover' packages by Discover Qatar starting from AUD19* per person per night, including hotel stay and more.

We look forward to welcoming your clients to experience Qatar's unrivalled hospitality and authentic culture.

Learn more at qatarairways.com/tradeportal

*Terms and conditions apply

