

MP travel vigil plan

EXCLUSIVE

PARLIAMENTARIANS need to be informed of the “cold hard facts” about the plight of Australia’s travel agents, tour operators and travel-related businesses, according to the organisers of proposed nationwide vigils at the offices of local MPs on 25 Jan to highlight the need for urgent action.

The call to arms is being led by western Sydney travel agent Belle Goldie, who had also previously proposed an industry rallies (**TD** 04 Jan) which were curtailed due to the rise in COVID-19 cases.

The grass-roots campaign aims to amplify the efforts of industry bodies, recognising that state and federal MPs around the country still hold the levers, whether it is lifting the cruise ban or unlocking vital support considered necessary while borders are shut.

The Aussie Travel Action Facebook can be accessed **HERE**.

Cathay cuts commission

CATHAY Pacific says it’s committed to working closely with its “key travel partners to ensure a successful transition to a new way of working,” after confirming it will reduce travel agency base remuneration by 80% on 01 Apr (**TD** breaking news).

CX commission will move to just 1% - the same payout plotted by rivals Qantas and Emirates effective from 01 Jul - with the move described as a “fresh approach to trade partner engagement” as the Hong Kong carrier makes “tough but necessary decisions to see ourselves through the pandemic”.

“Our commitment to Australia and NZ remains steadfast, and

we will continue to invest in this region as we work through the pandemic,” the airline insisted in a statement this morning.

Flights from Australia to Hong Kong are currently banned as authorities there battle to contain an outbreak of COVID-19.

Cruise in control

THE transition of the Conditional Sailing Order to a voluntary program from 15 Jan in the United States is a victory for the cruise sector and its commitment to maintaining strong COVID-19 risk mitigation strategies, CLIA believes.

“Cruise is the only segment of travel and tourism that requires, prior to embarkation for both passengers and crew, exceedingly high levels of vaccination and 100% testing of every individual,” CLIA stated - for more details on the story, see **Cruise Weekly**.

Save your seat sale

BACK-ROADS Touring’s Save Your Seat sale starts this week.

Running through until the end of next month, travellers can save 10% on selected tours in Eastern Europe, France, Iberia, Ireland, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

The promotion can be used in conjunction with Back-Roads Past Passenger and Multi-Tour loyalty discounts.

For more travel specials, see **page four** of today’s issue.

Ponant’s grand tour

PONANT’S deputy Managing Director Herve Ballaiche has put together a 360° guided tour of the cruise line’s new ship, *Le Commandant Charcot*.

Highlights of the online visit includes a look at the spacious Duplex Suites, the ship’s impressive Snow Room, and what quality food & wine is on offer.

Travellers can watch the video tour by **CLICKING HERE**.

Today's issue of TD

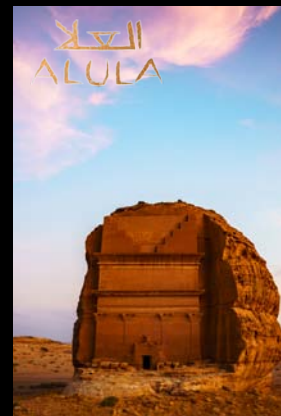
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Qantas shrinks capacity

QANTAS and Jetstar have scaled down their capacity for flights scheduled between Jan and Mar as high numbers of Omicron cases in the country continue to dent Aussie travel confidence (**TD** breaking news).

The Qantas Group has revised its expectations for the quarter,

now anticipating domestic volumes to be at around 70% of pre-COVID levels, down from the 102% initially forecast, while international capacity for the same period will fall from 30% to roughly 20% of pre-COVID levels.

The focus of the downsizing will be on reducing route frequencies and shifting to smaller aircraft rather than suspending services where possible.

Qantas added that international flight reductions were being driven largely by ongoing restrictions to key destinations like Japan, Thailand and Indonesia, and were mostly impacting its Jetstar business.

Qantas CEO Alan Joyce said despite the cuts this quarter, the pipeline for bookings are looking healthy for later in the year.

"People are already looking beyond what's happening now, with early bookings for the Easter holidays in Apr looking promising for both domestic and international," Joyce said.

"We have the flexibility to add capacity back if demand improves earlier than expected, but 70% still represents a lot of domestic flying and it's a quantum improvement on the levels we faced only a few months ago."

Bali IHG rebrand

THE Fairmont Sanur Beach Bali resort has been rebranded as the InterContinental Bali Sanur Resort, with the 120-room beachfront property aligning with the hotelier's ambition to expand its footprint in Indonesia.

The hotel offers guests 26 villas, each with a private pool, as well as 94 suites, and will be located alongside IHG's Holiday Inn Bali Sanur which opened in Aug 2021.

"InterContinental Bali Sanur Resort will be a great addition to our luxury and lifestyle portfolio with its expansive grounds and the range of luxury suite and villa accommodation choices," IHG VP, Development, South East Asia and Korea Serena Lim said.

King Island support

TASMANIAN Premier Peter Gutwein has confirmed King Island tourism operators will receive a business support package in the wake of rising cases on the island and travellers cancelling plans to visit.

"Obviously they've been dealing with a significant outbreak, and I can understand what people not coming to the island would mean to the tourism sector...we are currently working though what we might do in terms of a package of support," he said.

King Island Hotel Office Manager Haylie Crofts told *The Advertiser* that rooms are normally fully booked this time of year, but the outbreak has meant a drop in visitors on the back of government advice to avoid travel to the island for now.

Carnarvon a breeze

BREEZE Holiday Parks has assumed the management of the former Takarakka Bush Resort at Carnarvon Gorge in Central Queensland.

Breeze Director Frank Davies said the new contract marked the 12th park to be added to the company's portfolio of holiday parks in Australia.

"We are dedicated to taking the visitor experience from good to great and delivering exceptional service to every single guest - whether it's a private getaway or a meeting point for family and friends, we're excited to help people create holiday memories that last a lifetime," he said.



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KrisFlyer benefits

SINGAPORE Airlines has extended PPS Club and KrisFlyer Elite statuses for third year, and enhanced their program benefits.

All PPS Club and KrisFlyer Elite statuses that are due to expire between Mar 2022 and Feb 2023 will be automatically extended for another year.

Singapore said the move follows similar extensions the past two years, and supports its members who have been unable to fly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Elite miles earned by KrisFlyer Elite members in the 12 months prior to the latest extension will be credited back into their accounts after the extension, Singapore said.

Fast-tracking Fiji

MY FIJI has introduced a new exclusive airport fast-track service, enabling travellers to skip the lengthy queues at airport arrival and departure.

Guests who use the service will be greeted at Nadi Airport by dedicated My Fiji staff, who will direct them to an exclusive fast track lane and save travellers up to 90 minutes on average in wait times - more info **HERE**.



Window Seat

AMERICA'S Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has released its list of most unusual items confiscated from travellers trying to board flights in 2021, and it's bad news for anyone trying to smuggle live ammunition in a deodorant can.

Yes, at least one passenger thought it was a good idea to conceal ammo in a can of body spray, lending literal weight to the phrase sweating bullets, while another was pulled up with crystal meth concealed in a rather nasty looking burrito.

Another unusual find was a wineholder shaped like a gun, while many sharp weapons were also seized at checkpoints such as giant machetes and butcher's cleavers.

One Bear Grylls wannabe was disappointed when his bear spray was confiscated, but perhaps the most audacious attempt belonged to a passenger at New Orleans Int'l Airport who casually tried to take a chainsaw on board - you can't 'stump' the TSA folks!

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CORPORATE UPDATE

What to expect in 2022

COMPANIES must be more vigilant in minimising the risk to travelling staff from hazards other than COVID in 2022, a new report from BCD Travel warns.

The safety message formed part of a wider report published by the company this week, detailing what trends the corporate travel sector should expect to see present themselves this year.

BCD's forecast suggested businesses should be wary of being singularly-minded when it comes to the threat posed by the pandemic, and to make sure risks such as extreme weather events, terrorism and economic hazards are also taken into account.

"Companies must re-evaluate their travel risk management program to ensure their employees' safety and security on the road," the report stated.

Cyber security was also listed as an increasing hazard posed to business travellers this year, with companies urged to recognise online threats as a daily risk to travel and to take responsibility by tackling it beforehand.

"Prevention or minimising the impact will pay dividends

Biz travel boost

THE decision this week made by Queensland to drop domestic border restrictions from tomorrow is a "significant win" for the corporate travel sector, Flight Centre MD Australia James Kavanagh believes.

"The need for pre-arrival testing has been a real pain point for corporate travellers wanting to come to Queensland," he said.

"SMEs and big business are the backbone to Queensland's and Australia's economic recovery and it has never been more critical to have a travel management company on your side as we navigate the next phase of travel for business and leisure."

Qld will dispense with the need for pre-arrival testing to the state from 1am AEST tomorrow.

over simply responding to cyber incidents after the damage has been done," BCD stated, adding that staff should receive proper cyber training before embarking on a trip as they are often the weakest part of a company's defence against a hack.

Further predictions contained in the report include a likely shift required in travel policies for employees who have now become remote or hybrid workers, representing a break from the traditional model of office-based working.

"Gone are the times of rigid employment policies for office-based workers...companies need to adjust workplace policies to the needs of digital nomads and hybrid employees," BCD said.

Creating more of a balance between in-person meetings and virtual catch ups, as well as becoming more environmentally conscious were also listed as likely trends in 2022.

NDC holds the key

THE ever-increasing personalisation of NDC can help corporations work more closely with airlines to design tailored business travel packages for employees and senior executives, Amadeus VP, Customer Solutions Lydie Charpin believes.

Speaking with *Business Travel Europe* this week, Charpin said NDC provided employees with more travel details in the one place, effectively unlocking more potential flying benefits.

"In practice, NDC makes it easier to provide additional information to corporate travellers, telling them how many frequent flyer points they would earn by booking certain flights for instance," she said.

Charpin added that such messages would help business travellers comply with travel policy and could mean corporations unlock perks such as free wi-fi or lounge access.

Reminiscing happy travel times...



DIGBY Warren, Garth Aston and Tom Goldman.

THE recent opening of a new restaurant in Sydney's Paddington called "Ursula's" provided the perfect pretext for a group of former and current travel industry luminaries to gather this month for a reflective lunch.

As well as remembering their friend and colleague, the late industry doyenne, Ursula King (*TD* 11 Oct 2010), guests reflected on the industry's heyday, with the gathering coordinated

by Judith Crompton and attendees including Tom Goldman from Goldman Travel; Digby Warren of The Journey Masters; Garth Aston from Green Travel (also famed



SIMON Bernardi and Judith Crompton.

for his cameo appearance as National Travel Industry Awards host in the early 2000s); Leith Mills ex Travelscene; Sharyn Kitchener from Mosman Travel; Peter Hession of Peter Hession and Associates; and Simon Bernardi from Australia and Beyond Holidays.



LEITH Mills and Peter Hession.

It's not clear whether salad was a key highlight of the restaurant's the menu, but discussion of industry salad days certainly was.



TOM Goldman and Sharyn Kitchener.

Stretching to new heights



HYATT Regency Sydney's cocktail bar Zephyr will tomorrow launch Rooftop Yoga, a six-week series for locals and guests.

The series is a first for Zephyr, and provides the opportunity to start their year right and practice in an open-air space.

Guests will be treated to sweeping views of Darling Harbour while they connect and unwind, and after the session,

will be able to create their own smoothie or smoothie bowl from the Zephyr Smoothie station.

Rooftop Yoga includes 75-minutes of Vinyasa and a smoothie or smoothie bowl.

The series starts tomorrow at 8am, and will also be held on 22, and 29 Jan, and 05, 12, 19 Feb.

Located on level 12, tickets are \$45 per person, and can be booked [HERE](#).

TRAVEL SPECIALS

WELCOME to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au

Book any eligible **Rocky Mountaineer** package for this year and receive a complimentary rail upgrade from SilverLeaf Service to GoldLeaf Service valued up to \$1,700 per couple. On sale from Tue for two weeks only, visit the agent portal for terms & conditions and for bookings.

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There's never been a better time to spoil yourself with an exceptional Uptown Starcation at **The Darling**, starting from just \$382 per room per night. Valid for bookings until the end of next month, call 1800 700 700.

Kangaroo Is tour

KANGAROO Island Odysseys has launched a new Kangaroo Island Sights & Gourmet Delights Tour, departing Adelaide every Mon to Sat from next month.

Priced from \$1,211 per person, including Sealink transfers, the two-day adventure offers an intimate, small group touring experience, with a maximum of only eight guests travelling in luxury touring vehicles.

Each group is accompanied by a local Kangaroo Island guide, and guests will spend the night at either the Aurora Ozone Hotel Kangaroo Island, or at the Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge, with both hotels including breakfast - [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

Sigmund buoyed

THE Sigmund Project has reached 18,000 visitors in its first six months since launching in Jul last year (**TD** Jul 26 2021).

Travel and tourism's first digital not-for-profit is dedicated to innovation and collaboration, with Sigmund open to "anyone who has a great idea to advance the global tourism industry".

As the new year begins, Sigmund is seeing close to 20,000 unique visitors to the site a month, and has amassed over 5,000 members and more than 100 ideas submitted.

Developer Alan Elliott Merschen said the venture's early success correlates with the industry's appetite for more innovation.

Where in the world?



THIS Renaissance-style church is the largest in the world by interior measure and is seen as one of the holiest Catholic shrines, despite not being the mother church of the Catholic church, or the cathedral for the diocese it is located in.

It is supposedly the burial site of Saint Peter, who was the chief

of Jesus' disciples, and a church has stood on the site since the time of the Roman emperor Constantine the Great.

This church however was not built until 1506, with construction completed in 1626.

Can you name this church and do you know where in the world it is located?

Answer: St Peters Basilica, Vatican City

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