

WA waters it down

THE Western Australian Government has announced a list of exemptions to its indefinite border ban (**TD** 21 Jan).

The expanded travel exemption criteria includes anyone from interstate (not overseas) who needs to attend education or seek essential medical treatment, however they will still need to isolate for 14 days on arrival and be double vaccinated.

Interestingly, international arrivals can also enter WA under the aforementioned criteria, provided they land in another state first and then cross the border as an interstate traveller.

WA residents will also be sanctioned to visit direct relatives (not extended family members) in other states and return under the same set of rules.

ACCC probes THL, Apollo

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has today launched an informal merger review of the proposed acquisition of Apollo Tourism & Leisure by NZ-based Tourism Holdings Ltd (THL) (**TD** 10 Dec).

THL operates the Maui, Britz and Mighty Rental motorhome brands, while Apollo's rental brands in Australia include Star RV, Apollo, Cheapa Campa and Hippie Camper.

Apollo also holds a stake in peer-to-peer recreational vehicle (RV) online rental platform Camplify, while THL owns and operates the SHAREaCAMPER online marketplace.

The ACCC has written to industry stakeholders seeking views on the proposal, as it investigates whether the merger is likely to substantially lessen competition.

Interested parties are being asked how closely the THL

and Apollo RV rental brands compete in terms of price, service, vehicle range, fleet size, locations and target customers, as well as details of any other key competitors in the market.

The ACCC's letter also asks about to what extent alternate forms of accommodation such as motels, holiday parks and Airbnb compete with THL and Apollo, as well as how closely the companies compete in the sale, resale and manufacture of RVs.

Comments from any relevant interested parties are being sought by Fri 18 Feb.

The proposed merger, which is subject to regulatory and shareholder approval, is being touted by THL and Apollo for the creation of significant cost synergies and fleet rationalisation and allow the combined businesses to take advantage of near-term growth opportunities as borders start to reopen.

Travel Daily

on location in the
Antarctic Peninsula

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you courtesy of **Aurora Expeditions** aboard the **Greg Mortimer** as she voyages through Antarctica.

THE second last day for Aurora Expeditions' **Greg Mortimer's** voyage will see guests land at Portal Point, offering magnificent panoramas across Charlotte Bay.

Later in the day, Aurora's intrepid cruisers will land on Antarctica for the last time, with an exploration of Hydrurga Rocks, named so for the seals in the region, before heading to King George Island to disembark for flights back to Chile.

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APT Europe appeal

APT is offering the chance to travel on select European trips in 2023 at 2022 prices when bookings are made by 31 May.

The offer is available on the operator's newly launched pre-release European program and brochure, which includes the return of its 15-day Magnificent Europe river cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest, exploring the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

The voyage leads in at \$6,495ppts, a saving of \$1,000 per couple, and includes flights.

CLIA tracks progress

A NEW report released by CLIA overnight has tracked the progress of the cruise sector, with 75% of the industry body's ocean-going members returning to service across the globe.

The report also examines the progress made in sustainability among other areas - see **CW**.

EK extends deal

EMIRATES has extended its distribution agreement with Amadeus, with the newly inked deal allowing agents to access the carrier's content free of charge from 01 Feb.

The new deal will also see Emirates' NDC content integrated into the Amadeus Travel Platform, which will be made available to the travel trade later this year.

"Particularly as the industry rebuilds post pandemic, everyone in the travel services chain will benefit from flexible models of engagement, multiple means to access dynamic rich content, and the ability to offer differentiated products and services," the airline's Chief Commercial Officer Adnan Kazim said.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news plus a full page from **Entire Travel**.

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Hong Kong webinar

DESTINATION Webinars is preparing to host the Hong Kong Tourism Board to provide an update to the Australian trade regarding activity around Chinese New Year.

Cathay Pacific, Four Seasons Hotels and Marriott International will also be presenting, with attendees having the chance to score one of two \$100 gift cards.

The session takes place 02 Feb at 12pm AEDT - register [HERE](#).

A strategy with a view



NO STRATEGY meeting would be complete without a panoramic view of the city skyline, and while the location was clearly impressive, the women recently attending the Travel Agent Achievers gathering in Sydney were the real star attractions.

Organiser Roslyn Ranse hosted a planning workshop for 14 agents from across NSW, Qld and Victoria at the Shangri-La Sydney on Mon (pictured), with the agenda to help advisors run a more efficient business through the rigours of the pandemic.

"Everyone put the time aside now to map out a plan to achieve what they want this year, some attendees were so inspired they have already kicked goals including group bookings for 2022, exceeding monthly sales targets and connecting with past clients to build and strengthen relationships," Ranse said.

The event, which was closed out

with some refreshing cocktails in the Horizon Club and a tour of the Shangri-La Sydney, was their first site inspection since COVID hit, with several agents beaming in virtually from other parts of Australia and the United States.

"It has been a rough couple of years for the travel community, so it was wonderful to see members supporting and empowering each other," Ranse added.

The next strategy meeting is planned for Jun - more details about attending [HERE](#).

Big Red campaign

DESTINATION NSW has partnered with Big Red Group's RedBalloon on a new campaign designed to increase overnight stays and experiences taken across the state.

The "Feel New, Renew Yourself" marketing push started this week and will conclude mid-Feb.

Ponant adds to 23

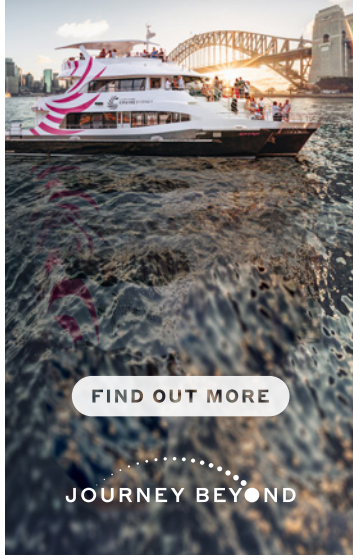
PONANT has unveiled 14 new itineraries in 2023 sailing to destinations such as Antarctica, the Arctic, Northern Europe, Oceania and Asia Pacific.

The latest collection includes new luxury expeditions departing from Cairns aboard *Le Laperouse*, exploring Benoa and Bali in Indonesia for 16 days.

Prices for the voyage start from \$13,140 per person for a Deluxe Stateroom - call 1300 737 178.



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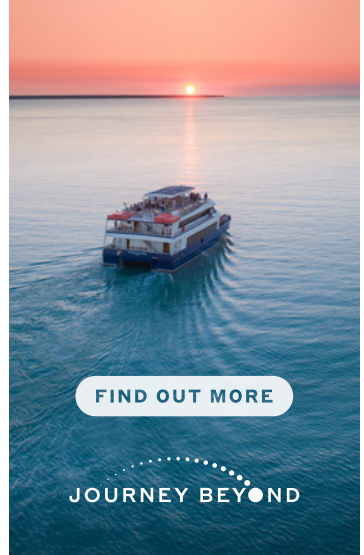


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Victoria ramps up allure

THE Victorian Government has allocated an additional \$8 million from its Enabling Tourism Fund, with the extra funds to help develop new marquee tourist attractions in the state.

The funding will be delivered in grants of up to \$500,000 per project, with proposed attractions to focus on nature, epicurean, arts & culture, as well as First Peoples' led experiences.

Funds will form a critical part of the \$633 million Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan, which plans to increase annual visitor expenditure to the state to \$35 billion and support 300,000 jobs by Jun 2024.

"Tourism is critical to Victoria's economy and that's why we're supporting the industry to plan and develop new projects in regional and rural areas of the state," Victorian Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula said.

"We want new attractions and experiences to encourage more people to visit Victoria – which will help support local businesses and create jobs."

Applications to the Enabling Tourism Fund are encouraged from private sector businesses, incorporated associations, not-for-profit organisations, Traditional Owner Corporations.

QR hails the tiger

QATAR Airways is celebrating the Chinese New Year of the tiger by offering guests a special hongbao envelope containing a complimentary "Super wi-fi" code and an exclusive 22% discount at Qatar's Duty Free outlets.

The envelopes will be available on selected routes and will be in addition to a range of celebratory dishes and treats on board for pax travelling between Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and China.

We've got
something new

COMING SOON

Travel Daily

Thai cannabis push

AUTHORITIES in Thailand have dropped cannabis from the country's list of controlled drugs, with the move effectively decriminalising the use of marijuana.

However a complex web of associated laws means it's unclear whether production and possession of the drug is illegal, with legislative changes planned which would allow people to grow cannabis for their own use, for medical purposes only.

The proposed bill would also regulate any commercial production and specify possible requirements for venues offering recreational use of marijuana.

QF Delhi policy

QANTAS has issued a new commercial policy for customers impacted by DL/SYD cancellations this week, valid for tickets issued on or before 24 Jan for travel up to 31 Jan - **CLICK HERE** for details.



Window Seat

A "KNOB-THROWING" festival in Dorset, UK has become a victim of its own success, having to be cancelled because it was simply too popular.

The Dorset Knob Throwing Event in Cattistock had been scheduled to take place on 01 May, according to the *BBC*, with events including competitive hurling of the county's traditional spherical "knob biscuits".

It hasn't taken place for the last two years due to COVID, but more than 8,000 people attended the 2019 event, and organisers said it had "reached such a size that it cannot be run by a small village committee".

Other activities now cancelled had included a knob and spoon race, knob darts and "guess the weight of the big knob".



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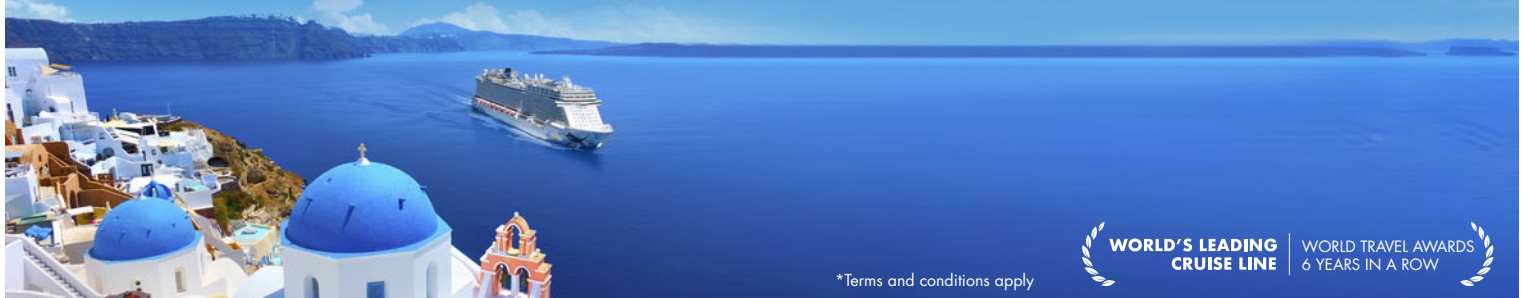
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CORPORATE UPDATE

GBT highlights 2022 trends

AMERICAN Express Global Business Travel (GBT) has released a new white paper detailing key trends for corporate travel and meetings managers in the post-pandemic world of 2022.

GBT Chief Commercial Officer, Drew Crawley, noted the “green shoots of an international travel recovery” which began to emerge last year.

“Let us be clear: businesses and people want to travel... however we will be encumbered by uncertainty for some time to come,” he said, adding that market dynamics impacting supply and demand for travel will make pricing an onerous task.

Trends identified by the report include a “unique opportunity to redefine the role of the travel manager,” with disruption over the past two years actually reinforcing the belief that face-to-face meetings are essential to build relationships and trust and for companies to innovate.

Travel confidence is identified as

GBTA appointment

THE Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) has appointed Delphine Millot to the newly created role of Senior Vice President of Sustainability.

Millot will lead GBTA's initiatives to create a “strong industry focus and public ‘voice’ by working together with members, policymakers and other stakeholders to chart a course toward a more sustainable future for business travel”.

She will work with the founding partners of GBTA's newly created sustainability program, named the GBTA Sustainability Leadership Council which includes Accor, American Airlines, American Express GBT, BCD Travel, BWH Hotel Group, Delta Air Lines, Enterprise Holdings, Hertz, Hilton, HRS, IHG Hotels & Resorts, Marriott International, SAP Concur, Southwest Airlines, TripActions and United Airlines.

the key to keep people moving, with travel managers able to give assurance by using technology and tools to keep road warriors informed at every stage.

Sustainability is another trend which will continue to drive corporate agendas, along with diversity, equity and inclusion, while the report also breaks out analysis of key sectors including air, hotel and ground content.

Crawley is upbeat about the future of the sector, saying “In spite of the challenges, I remain fervently optimistic...because B2B travel partners are designed to manage disruption and simplify complexity.

“Our collective goal across the industry is to keep travellers moving seamlessly, helping them create new moments that matter.

“It's what makes our sector fundamental to economic and social progress around the world.”

Priority Pass grows

PRIORITY Pass has confirmed the addition of 183 airport lounges and experiences to its global network in 2021, with the expansion including 134 new lounges as well as sleeping pods at airports including Moscow Sheremetyevo, New York La Guardia and Bahrain International as well as nine new spas and premium dining experiences.

CTM raises \$25m

CORPORATE Travel Management has successfully completed its Share Purchase Plan, with \$25 million raised as part of the capital raising for its acquisition of Helloworld Travel's corporate businesses.

The offer was oversubscribed by \$23.6 million, with applications scaled pro-rata based on existing holdings of eligible shareholders.

The maximum allocated per shareholder was \$15,000, with the new shares to commence trading on the ASX today.

EK smashes it at the Open



LAST night Emirates hosted some of its key industry partners at the Australian Open tennis in Melbourne, where guests enjoyed front-row seats to watch Aussie Ash Barty power her way into the tournament final.

The group was hosted by Barry Brown, Emirates Divisional Vice President Australasia, who's pictured above with Jason Aghan from Express Travel Group and Webjet's David Galt.

Also court-side

were Ram Chhabra and Nidhi Nijhawan from CVFR Travel Group, pictured below with Brown and EK Head of Leisure Sales Australia, Leonie Brennan, with EK hosting more guests today and over the weekend during the AO finals.



Emirates' guests also included this group from Flight Centre, from left: James Kavanagh, Melissa Elf, Chris Wilks, Tom Walley and Kelly Spencer, pictured with Leonie Brennan in front of the giant AO edifice at Melbourne Park.

Friday 28th January 2022

Quest Ipswich sale

THE Quest Ipswich Apartment Hotel in South East Queensland has been listed for sale as the state sees a run on acquisitions for accommodation assets.

CBRE Hotels has been appointed to sell the freehold interest in the property, which recently underwent a refurbishment and is comprised of 32 self-contained apartments across 64 keys in a studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom configuration.



QF makes the cut

QANTAS has fought its way back into the top 10 strongest brands in Brand Finance Australia's annual list, jumping five rankings from last year to seventh position in 2022.

Brand Finance Australia MD Mark Crowe said the airline's BSI score of 82.4 out of 100 showed the company still enjoyed core business strength, despite the obvious challenges posed to the carrier by the health crisis.

"Qantas' recovery is testament to the iconic brand's enduring strength that fortified the business against the impact of the pandemic, but also ensured it was well placed to take advantage of the recovery in the airline sector," he said.

Icon under a microscope



THIS landmark is iconic and easily recognisable when you see the whole picture, but can you identify it from this small portion of the image?

The unique profile of this volcanic tuff cone is what makes it stand out for visitors to the city.

Protected as a national monument, travellers can hike to the top but be prepared for it to take some effort - it's only 1.2km from the start of the trail to the top but it ascends 170m over that short distance with lots of switchbacks.

Answer: Diamond Head, Hawaii, United States

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

Club Med has added its resorts in Europe and North America to its 2023 earlybird sale, offering guests up to 30% off stays. Families can save \$2,250 on bookings at Val Thorens Sensation, French Alps for example, while individuals can enjoy a discount of \$625. The promotion applies to travel dates between 01 Nov to 30 Apr 2023, and bookings must be made by 31 May 2022. For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Take advantage of discounts of up to \$2,074 per couple on **Tradewind Voyages** in the Mediterranean in 2023 when bookings are made through Cruise Traveller by 31 Dec. Voyages take place aboard the 272-passenger *Golden Horizon*, which offers 21 voyages of eight to 11 nights through the Mediterranean from Apr to Sep in 2023. Call 1800 507 777.

Save \$345 per couple on a food-lovers indulgent long weekend, with the **AAT Kings' Inspiring Journeys** five-day Flavours of South Australia tour, connecting guests to the makers, growers and passionate owners of the South Australian food scene. More details [HERE](#).

Between now and the end of Mar, Chimu is offering up to 30% off Antarctica cruises as part of the Great Chimu Sale. Discounted voyages to The White Continent start from \$8,590pp. See details [HERE](#).

737 Max demand

IN A sign that the travel sector is in the preliminary stages of a rebound, Boeing has experienced solid commercial aircraft demand during the fourth quarter of 2021.

Of particular interest to carriers around the world was the troubled 737 MAX model, which saw more than 900 commercial orders submitted.

"The 737 MAX is now safely flying in nearly every jurisdiction around the globe and the fleet is performing very well," Boeing said, adding that more than 300,000 revenue flights were completed since late 2020, with its MAX fleet now completing more flight hours than it had prior to the initial grounding.

Boeing also delivered 245 737 MAX airplanes in 2021 and has steadily increased production.

Pilots slowly returning to the air

A POLL conducted by a UK recruitment company has found that 62% of pilots were now flying globally, an improvement on the 43% recorded at the same time last year.

Unemployment amongst pilots fell from 30% to 20%, however in the Asia Pacific region unemployment actually rose from 23% to 25%, driven by being the hardest hit region in the world for travel restrictions.

APAC also had the lowest number of pilots employed and flying at just 53%.

"We have seen expatriates return home from the region due to...quarantine or being stuck for long periods away from friends and family," the report noted.

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.

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

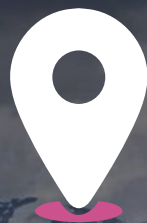
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