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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news plus a full page from CATO.

Canada testing reintroduced

THE Canadian Government has announced the reintroduction of mandatory random COVID-19 testing for air passengers arriving into the country's four major airports: Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal and Toronto.

However rather than undertaking tests at the airport on arrival, those selected for the program will receive an email notification within 15 min of completing their customs declaration with details to help them arrange a test with a provider in their region.

An official statement from Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos noted that although testing had been paused on 11 Jun, "as we have said all along, Canada's border measures will remain flexible and adaptable, guided by science and prudence".

"We need to keep border testing measures in place because that is how we track importation of the COVID-19 virus, and new variants of concern," he said.

All testing for travellers selected under the program will be completed outside of airports, either via in-person appointments at selected testing provider locations and pharmacies, or via a telehealth-supervised RAT test.

If arrival tests are positive passengers are required to go into self-isolation for 10 days.

All travellers to Canada are required to also provide details via the ArriveCAN platform.

Qantas pulls out of BARA

EXCLUSIVE

QANTAS and Emirates are no longer members of the Board of Airline Representatives Australia (BARA), the peak body which is authorised to represent the combined interests of international airlines operating to and from Australian airports.

It's understood QF did not renew its membership of the organisation effective 30 Jun, citing a "change of focus" at BARA, but without providing any further details.

The BARA constitution includes a specific clause stating that Qantas Airways Limited automatically qualifies as a member, along with Virgin Australia.

Qualifications for other members stipulate that they must either be online or offline carriers with local representation, operating at least one weekly flight to an Australian airport.

It's believed that Emirates has also withdrawn from BARA, with EK no longer among the now 32 remaining members listed on the organisation's website.

BARA currently holds an authorisation from the ACCC, valid until 2025, allowing it to

A&K boosts perks

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has confirmed it is now offering Australian and NZ staff members three annual "wellbeing days" of leave, with the intention of encouraging life balance and investment in personal health.

The initiative comes as the company continues to actively recruit more staff, with 20 vacant roles at abercrombiekent.com.au.

collectively pursue negotiations with suppliers such as airports, Airservices Australia, fuel providers and more on behalf of its member airlines.

A 2019 submission from BARA to the Productivity Commission noted that its members "provide 90% of all international passenger flights to and from Australia" - a figure which will no longer be relevant with the Qantas and Emirates pullouts.

BARA, which appointed Stephen Pearse as its new Executive Director this month following the departure of Barry Abrams after almost a decade (TD 06 Jul), hasn't commented on the Qantas withdrawal at this stage.

EK pushes back on LHR caps

EMIRATES has blasted officials at London Heathrow Airport after they unilaterally imposed capacity restrictions at short notice due to an inability to cope with current passenger numbers - with the carrier confirming that it will refuse to comply.

As a result of what the airline described as an "airmageddon" situation due to their incompetence and non-action, overall LHR is being limited to 100,000 passengers departing each day and carriers have been ordered to cancel 10% of flights.

"It is very unfortunate that Heathrow last night gave us 36 hours to comply with this capacity reduction requirement, a figure that seems to be taken from the air," the carrier fumed.

"This is completely unreasonable and acceptable, and we reject these requirements.

Arise rebranding

AUSTRALIAN accommodation group Arise Hotels & Apartments has announced a rebrand as CLLIX Apartments and Hotels, including a new website and a host of technology innovations.

The division of Qld-based Song Properties says the move will see it "reimagine hospitality" via self-service technology including the rollout of new check-in kiosks.

The CLLIX portfolio currently comprises more than 20 properties and 2,500 apartments across the country, including Collins House in Melbourne and the Brisbane Skytower flagships.

CEO Michael Song said the group was now focusing on expansion in Australia, North America, Asia and Europe.

"With blatant disregard for consumers, they want to force Emirates to deny transportation to tens of thousands of travellers who have paid months in advance and booked long-awaited vacations or trips to see their loved ones," the airline said.

Emirates said its LHR ground handling and catering services were fully operational and ready to serve its flights - in contrast to claims by the airport blaming ground operator staff shortages for the capacity issues.

"Thus the essence of the problem lies in the central services and systems for which the airport operator is responsible," the carrier added.

Emirates said all flights for the next few weeks were full, and rebooking so many potentially impacted passengers is impossible at this late stage.

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Jet Zero Council takes off

THE Federal Government has confirmed plans for the country to set up an Australian Jet Zero Council to support the local aviation industry reach net zero emissions by 2050.

To be modelled on overseas versions such as the Jet Zero Council in the UK and the Council for Sustainable Aviation Fuels in Canada, Australia's equivalent will be charged with advancing the local production of Sustainable Air Fuel (SAF) in order to meet key sustainability goals and reduce the industry's reliance on increasingly expensive fossil fuels.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Catherine King, made the announcement this week at the Sustainable Aviation Fuels Breakfast, stating the Council would encourage more innovation and enterprise in green fuel manufacturing. "The reality is - particularly in

Australia - we love to fly, but we also 'need' to fly... and if we are to play our part, we need to make flying sustainable," King said.

"As a nation more dependent on aviation than almost any other, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to drive change," she added.

News of the Council's creation follows the establishment of an SAF fund by Qantas and Airbus last month (**TD** 20 Jun), as well as plans put forward by the Qld Government in Apr for a \$500 million SAF plant in Gladstone.

MEANWHILE this week BP announced it will start producing SAF in Australia by 2025, revealing plans to convert one of its oil refineries in Perth to produce renewable fuels.

BP has not yet disclosed what volume it plans to produce at the facility, but APAC VP Lucy Nation said output would depend on local market demand.

Choosing green

AMADEUS has invested in Choose, a tech company that integrates climate action options into the travel experience across air travel, accommodation and ground transportation.

As a result of the collaboration, travel agents using Amadeus' solutions will be able to access a suite of carbon calculations, purchase offsets and removal solutions to offset the emissions associated with clients' trips.

The tech also allows travellers to gain more insight into end-to-end trips, so that they can address their carbon impact across the entire journey – including rail, taxi, airline and hotel segments.

"By embracing technology, we can power more sustainable journeys and build an industry that delivers on its 2050 net zero goals," Amadeus VP of Sustainability Ecosystem Initiatives Olivier Girault said.

Carbon calculations are based on recognised industry standards.

Travel in the limelight

A NEW cultural tour operator has launched in Australia, with publisher Limelight Arts Media revealing the creation of Limelight Arts Travel.

The new division will offer travellers a suite of local and overseas small group cultural adventures, with the lion's share focusing on music and the performing arts.

Other product will merge the love of travel with visual arts, architecture, history and archaeology, with the first tour kicking off in Qld during Sep for the Brisbane Festival.

In 2023, the new company will offer 15 tours, including the Mahler Festival in Leipzig, the Aix-en-Provence Festival and a tour focusing on Music in Venice, with Limelight trumpeting the virtues of curated itineraries led by expert tour leaders with an enthusiasm for the arts.

For further information on upcoming tours, **CLICK HERE**.

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Window Seat

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is expected to issue an updated travel advisory for Fiji shortly, in the light of the shocking news that the country's McDonald's restaurants have run out of Big Macs and cheeseburgers.

The culinary crisis was flagged on social media by the fast food giant earlier this week, citing "global shipping issues" for a dramatic shortage of beef patties until further notice.

Fortunately, Fiji has a rich local culinary tradition meaning burger fans will be able to chow down on other foodie delights during their holidays - but **TD** still believes a Smartraveller update is urgently warranted to ensure visiting junk food fanatics are suitably forewarned.

Time to find Atlantis

MAGNUM & Co has been appointed by Atlantis Dubai to manage communications in the Australian market for its luxury resorts in the UAE.

The three-year contract will see the agency charged with promoting Atlantis, The Palm, as well as the upcoming ultra-luxury experiential Atlantis The Royal, which will open in late 2022.

Seeking to "redefine travellers' perspectives" on luxury accommodation, Atlantis The Royal will offer rooms, suites and penthouses with views of the Arabian Sea and Palm Island, as well as the largest collection of celebrity chef branded restaurants in the world.

Magnum will lead a new multi-channel strategy focused on positioning the pair of Atlantis resorts as bucket list destinations, in a Middle Eastern market the agency describes as increasingly fierce as overseas travel reboots.

Rex expands into FIFO

REGIONAL Express will significantly expand its presence in the fly-in/fly-out (FIFO) and freight sectors with the \$48 million acquisition of Cobham Aviation offshoot National Jet Express (NJE) (**TD** breaking news).

The purchase price is being split 50/50 between Rex and its joint venture partners - one of whom is the carrier's Executive Chairman Lim Kim Hai.

The move was foreshadowed earlier this week (**TD** 12 Jul), with an ASX release today stating the deal positions Rex to participate in the "booming" FIFO sector.

"With this acquisition Rex will have a FIFO arm that is simply unparalleled in Australia.

"NJE has a completely modern fleet comprising eight Bombardier Q400 turboprops and six Embraer E190 jets for FIFO work," Lim enthused.

"Both aircraft types are fuel efficient, have enhanced

operational reliability and low carbon emissions when compared with the predominantly 40-year-old Fokker 100s used by the other major FIFO operators," he said.

The environmental credentials of NJE look set to play a key role in the deal, with Lim saying the operation "will naturally be the partner of choice for resource companies all over Australia who have been crying out for so long for a FIFO provider that is able to address their triple priorities of minimal impact on the environment, comfort and safety of staff and reliability of service."

Further expansion of the business is also foreshadowed, with Rex saying the charter company would "invest in modern aircraft and technology to enable NJE to expand from its traditional bases of WA and SA and bring our unique brand of FIFO services to Queensland and the Northern Territory".

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Seascope activities

MSC Cruises is building on its family offering with new and interactive experiences on board the upcoming *MSC Seascope* (TD 19 Jan), which will incorporate the latest technology, social media and interactive activities.

Seascope will feature newly designed spaces measuring around 700m², as well as interactive activities when she launches in Dec - read more in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Read about Adelaide

A MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR tourism centre has been proposed for the State Library of South Australia.

The Adelaide City Council is planning to build the Federal Government-funded visitor centre, which will feature virtual reality exhibits, interactive maps, and art displays, in a bid to lure more tourists to the city.

The Council describes the proposed "Experience Adelaide Visitor Centre" as a "relevant, modern, one stop, full-service visitor information service in Adelaide as a gateway to South Australia".

The Australian Government has already pledged \$4 million for the centre's fit-out as part of a 10-year Adelaide City Deal funding agreement.

Jabbing Bali open

AUSTRALIA has allocated \$1.5 million in support for Indonesia's response to the country's foot-and-mouth disease outbreak, accounting for roughly one million animal vaccination doses.

The cash injection arrives after the Federal Government significantly ramped up Australia's defence against travellers bringing the virus back into the country (TD 07 Jul), with a Bali ban ruled out by government authorities at this stage.

Mexican hotel reach

POSADAS and Sabre will collaborate to boost the Mexican hospitality company's distribution to travel agents globally.

The multi-year agreement will help Posadas accelerate its growth plans in front of hundreds of thousands of travel sellers, and drive higher revenue through Sabre's SynXis Central Reservations platform.

Air NZ extends

AIR New Zealand will extend its COVID flexibility policy through to 31 Aug, in light of increasing winter illnesses and bad weather causing disruption to travel plans.

The policy allows customers to opt into credit, or change their flight dates without incurring a change fee.

One giant leap for McAlloon



CHIMU Adventures' Global Relationship Manager James McAlloon, pictured, has wrapped up his epic coast-to-coast walk across Australia, an adventure that totalled 5,200km.

After his initial journey was brought to a halt in 2020 amid state border closures, McAlloon set off once more in Jun this year with his partner Emma Williams to complete the mission, starting in Alice Springs and trekking through Broome to reach the Indian Ocean.

Throughout their journey, the couple raised funds and awareness for Indigenous-owned and operated health service, Purple House, and were featured on *ABC Kimberley*.

"What stays with me the most

isn't the remote deserts, the wildlife, nor the thousands of kilometres of road walked, but the people," McAlloon reflected.

"Australians from all walks of life opened their hearts and homes, becoming my 'community' as I walked from one side of the country to the other," he said.

Ski park up for sale

STONEY Aqua and Holiday Park, Australia's only accommodation tourist park that offers water-skiing facilities, has been listed for sale by HTL Property.

Set on 123 acres, the park is a 15-minute drive from Port Macquarie, and features two Aqua and Waterski Parks, and offers a range of accommodation.



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CORPORATE UPDATE

CWT transport offerings

TRAVEL management platform CWT has announced it will extend its offerings to include car rental and train booking capabilities via web and mobile channels on its myCWT platform.

The new capabilities will be progressively rolled out to key global markets this year, with car rental bookings already available in some markets, allowing travellers to access their company's corporate negotiated rates and preferred suppliers, and easily search for pick-up and drop-off locations.

The car rental capability will also have indicators highlighting electric and hybrid car options to help promote sustainable travel choices, with carbon emission estimates to be added in future.

CWT will partner with Trainline Partnership Solutions, using

its Platform One technology to offer train booking and ticketing functionalities, including corporate negotiated fares and discounts, seat reservations and seat preferences.

This functionality will be made available to UK travellers in Jul, before expanding to other European markets over the coming months.

These new developments are one of the main outcomes of CWT's \$100 million investment into its myCWT travel management platform.

WebBeds signs with Travel Compositor

WEBBEDS has signed an agreement to supply its airport-hotel-airport transfer product to online travel booking software, Travel Compositor.

The agreement will see the B2B travel intermediary's suite of over 15,000 transfer products, including private cars, mini vans, & shuttle buses, supplied to Travel Compositor clients across 1,190 destinations worldwide.

WebBeds Global Vice President Destination Services, Markus Baum, said the new integration provides an "opportunity to accelerate our current growth trajectory".

Delta corp sales up

DELTA Air Lines has revealed an uptick in its business travel segment, citing a 65% recovery in corporate sale numbers for the second quarter when compared to 2019 levels.

International corporate sales rose by 30% during the quarter to 65% of 2019 levels, with the recovery of the transatlantic market now in line with domestic.

The carrier recently surveyed its corporate clients, with results showing "positive corporate expectations for business travel" in the third quarter.

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Blue ribbon attraction opens




AUSTRALIA'S first ever Holiday Inn Express & Suites branded property opened its doors yesterday on the Sunshine Coast, with business leaders and industry representatives gathering on the site for a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

A joint partnership between Pro-invest Hotels and IHG Hotels & Resorts, the new property will participate in IHG's A Greener Stay initiative, and boasts 181 guest rooms and suites featuring high-speed wi-fi, study nooks, premium bedding and the brand's signature 'Express Recharge' concept.

Sunshine Coast Council Mayor Mark Jamieson, CEO and Deputy Chair of Pro-invest Group, Jan Smits, and Councillor Peter Cox were all present for the official opening event.

"This hotel is an important part of the growing Maroochydore City Centre precinct and its completion comes at a time when we are enjoying the return of domestic and international travellers after a very challenging few years," Jamieson said.

Pictured: Pro-invest Group's Jan Smits with Mayor Mark Jamieson.



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SITA boosting MH

MALAYSIA Airlines has signed a five-year deal with tech company SITA to boost connectivity across the airline's global operations.

SITA Connect will aim to deliver lower connectivity costs, enable ease of access to new features & applications, facilitate check-in processes worldwide, and provide network connectivity for team members to access central systems from anywhere globally, supporting the airline's operation for employees who are carrying out their roles remotely.

SITA said its "fast, secure, and reliable connectivity" tech will be a key support in the airline's post-pandemic recovery.

Get your game on!

GAMERS around the globe can now discover an updated virtual Brisbane Airport this month, with users able to "take off and land" in the city thanks to simulation company OrbX.

The firm has just completed an upgrade of Brisbane Airport, featuring high resolution renderings of each of BNE's features, from the hub's taxiways to its terminals, as well as sophisticated three-dimensional modelling of the city.

The upgrade will be available to engage with through flight simulation platforms including Microsoft Flight Simulator, Prepar3D and X-Plane.

New Singapore beach attraction



A NEW attraction at Singapore's Sentosa Island is set to open to tourists in Sep, with the Central Beach Bazaar (render pictured), formally unveiled this week.

The new day-to-night beach carnival experience is slated to open on Sentosa Siloso Beach, with developer Mount Faber Leisure Group (MFLG) introducing a raft of new attractions to visitors, including a food & beverage concept and the 80-metre high Sentosa SkyJet, the tallest fountain in Southeast Asia.

Culinary experiences include International Food Street, which will house seven different kiosks and food trucks, kombi vans, and upcycled shipping containers, offering travellers tasty street food from some of the most popular cities around the world.

"We took the opportunity of the pandemic tourism lull to reimagine, pivot, and transform our offering that was essentially operating only in the evenings, into one that is appealing - not only to tourists, but also locals

- and yet is able to delight our customers from day to night," MFLG MD Buhdy Bok said.

"With the return of Sentosa Musical Fountain, a plethora of lifestyle offerings, and the new magnificent SkyJet Sentosa, Central Beach Bazaar is poised to be a bustling, one-stop entertainment destination located in the prime centre of the popular Siloso Beach."

Further visitor attractions at the site will include a sunset light show every night, souvenir shops and arcade game centres.

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

For the first time, European walk operator, **On Foot Holidays**, is offering the ability to save 10% when booking two self-guided walks in the one holiday. The new initiative allows hikers to save by booking 2023 walks at next year's prices, when booking by the end of Sep. Visit www.onfooholidays.co.uk for more information.

Kamalaya is offering a complimentary massage treatment for guests who book a five-day wellness program before the end of the month for stays until the end of Sep. Additionally, the Koh Samui spa-tel also has a "Stay Longer & Save More" offer with savings of up to 25% on room rates for bookings made by 20 Oct, for stays valid until 31 Oct. For further information, see kamalaya.com.

International Rail is offering 15% off Eurail Mobile passes for all bookings made by end of the month. All passes are valid for up to 11 months from the date of issue. For further information, www.internationalrail.com.au.

"Live Your Best Winter" and enjoy up to 20% off at **Holiday Inn & Suites Sydney Bondi Junction, an IHG Hotel**. The deal gives guests the chance to enjoy up to 20% off the best available rate when booking before the end of the month. Prices start from \$185 per room per night, and are valid for stays from Sun to Fri from now until 15 Dec - [HERE](#).

DGH inaugurated

PRIME Minister of India Narendra Modi has inaugurated the country's latest airport in the large state of Jharkhand.

Deoghar Airport is expected to boost infrastructure development, enhance connectivity and provide employment to local youth.

DGH has already started receiving flights from Kolkata, with other cities to follow soon.

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