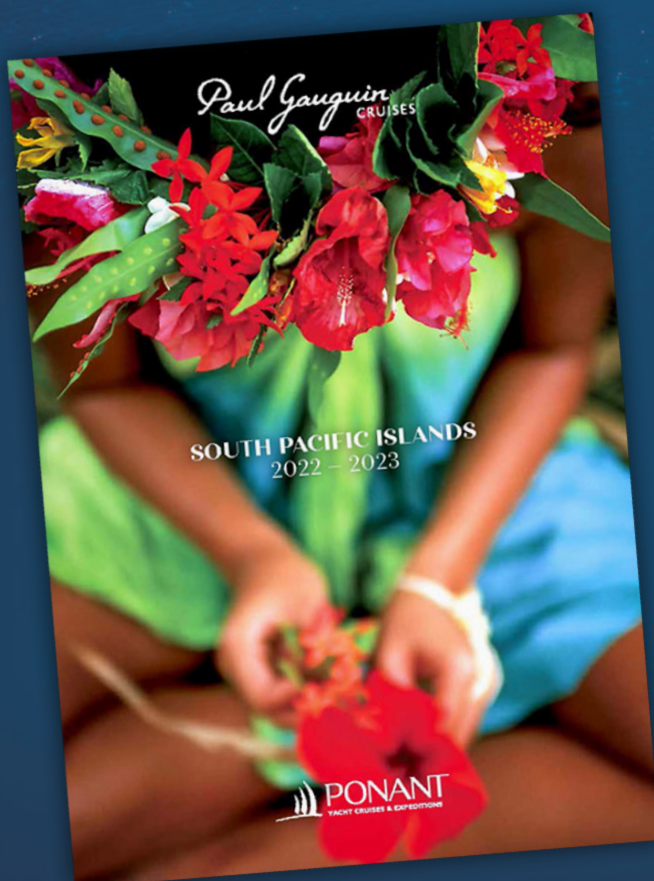


Paul Gauguin

CRUISES

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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of all the latest news plus a cover page from **Paul Gauguin Cruises**.

Polynesia looks nice

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has released its South Pacific Islands program for 2022-23, featuring a range of "exceptional voyages" aboard the freshly renovated *Le Paul Gauguin*.

Itineraries over the upcoming summer season take in Tahiti, Fiji, the Society Islands, the Cook Islands, the Marquesas, Vanuatu and even extend to Papua New Guinea and Bali.

For full details of the brochure see the **cover page** of today's **TD**.

Havas wins Fiji

TOURISM Fiji has appointed Havas Media Group as its new global creative, media and digital agency after a "highly competitive" pitch process believed to involve up to 100 bids.

Tourism Fiji Chief Marketing Officer, Emma Campbell, said "the next few years are critical for us as we build on the positive momentum from our successful reopening...we feel very confident our partnership with Havas will help us deliver the next phase of our strategic plan".

The customer experience element of the partnership will be led by the highly respected Charles Rallings, who was recently appointed as MD, CX for Host/Havas.

Travellex plots expansion

FOREIGN exchange specialist Travellex has announced the launch of over 10 new stores in Australia and NZ at "high profile shopping centres and in key cities", seeking to tap into the strong recovery in international travel and FX markets.

The company confirmed it was also in the process of creating more than 100 retail and head office jobs in the region, including positions at new airport stores in Adelaide, Brisbane and Cairns.

The recovery follows a lean period for the business, which

was recapitalised after being placed into administration in the early stages of the pandemic (**TD** 07 Aug 2020) - with COVID-19 coming on top of a major cyber incident suffered in Dec 2019.

Travellex is also now expanding internationally, including a new two-year contract extension with Singapore's Changi Airport, new outlets at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, and growth at London Stansted as well as Edinburgh and Glasgow airports.

Travellex is also growing its presence in Amsterdam, Dubai and at Hamad Airport in Doha ahead of the FIFA World Cup.

The company has appointed Richard Wazacz as CEO, replacing outgoing chief Douglas Muir who thanked "every member of the Travellex team, all of whom have helped to stabilise, then drive the company forward, under unprecedented trading conditions in recent years".

New Surry Hills TFE

TFE Hotels has announced a new Collection property in Sydney's Surry Hills, with the addition set to open in 2024.

The 102-room hotel will become the fifth to open under the Collection by TFE Hotels banner, alongside Brisbane's The Calile Hotel, Hotel Kurrajong in Canberra, Melbourne's The Savoy Hotel on Little Collins and NZ's The Hotel Britomart.

The new TFE Surry Hills hotel is part of a mixed-use development described as a "curated precinct of sophisticated retail" alongside stylish residences, workspaces and event venues.

Avalon double up

AVALON Waterways is offering double Qantas Frequent Flyer points on all river cruises booked by 20 Jul - call 1300 230 234.

LA sports session

LOS Angeles Tourism has launched a new on-demand travel trade webinar focusing on the iconic destination's sports travel experiences.

Participants will gain an overview of the seasons, teams and schedules for professional sports in LA (and how to book tickets for clients), alongside other activities such as golf, motorsports and more - to view the session **CLICK HERE**.

FJ Suva flights

FIJI Airways is resuming direct flights from Australia to Suva.

Yesterday the first post-pandemic FJ service to the Fijian capital departed Sydney and will now operate twice weekly, while non-stop Auckland-Suva flights will also resume from 04 Jul.



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Crossing to Lombok

FLIGHT Centre's Cross Hotels & Resorts has signed a management agreement with PT. Origin Resorts Lombok to add two properties to its portfolio in Indonesia.

The agreement means Away Lombok Mandalika and Amber Lombok Beach by Cross Collection have joined its stable, bringing the number of Indonesian hotels under its management to six.

Away Lombok Mandalika features deluxe garden and pool suites and is located close to the main town of Kuta, while Amber Lombok Beach by Cross Collection offers guests multi-bedroom pool and beachside villas, luxury dining options and landscaped gardens.

The move follows the addition of two Balinese hotels earlier this year (**TD** 04 Apr).

Myconian O impresses Aussies



A GROUP of Australian Virtuoso travel advisors have become some of the first people to experience the Myconian O, one of the newest properties on the Cycladic island in Greece.

The recently completed hotel is located on Ornos Beach, and will officially open to guests on 02 Jul.

The property's Manager, Kyrillos Chalkiadakis, gave the Aussie agents an exclusive first look at the hotel, where guests are just a step away from town, as well as

some of the best waterfront bars, restaurants, and water-sports concessions on Mykonos.

Myconian O is part of The Myconian Collection, a family-owned group of 11 leading luxury hotels on the island.

Pictured are Jigsaw Travel's Kate Ferguson, Toorak Travel's Anna Rizzi, MTA's Peter Parker, Martina Parker and Susie Myers, the host Kyrillos Chalkiadakis, FBI's Leanne Sheard, and La Collection's Craig Farrell.

Sabre SynXis goals

SABRE is aiming to take hotels into the future of retailing with SynXis Retail Studio.

The new technology will help hoteliers retail goods, services, experiences, and policies, enhancing the guest experience and diversifying revenue streams.

The pilot customer of SynXis, Cordis Hotels & Resorts, saw an increase of 53% in experience sales, 46% in merchandise sales, and 35% in services sales.

"At Sabre, we have been intensively focused on powering a wide array of integrated, efficient, and easy-to-use solutions that help unlock exceptional value and revenue for hoteliers," Sabre Hospitality President Scott Wilson said, adding the software would be a "game-changer" for hotels.

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Window Seat

AN ANONYMOUS baggage handler has offered tips on how travellers can keep their luggage safe amid the chaos caused by surging travel demand and staff shortages.

Flyers can avoid their baggage being lost by only bringing hand luggage, the handler told *The Times*, otherwise, those travelling with family or friends should put clothes for each person in every suitcase in case one gets lost.

The handler also suggested photographing luggage so it can be identified by airport staff and contents for insurance claims; writing names & numbers in permanent marker on cases in case the ID tags fall off & going for four-wheeled cases (for ease of handling).

Topping up wine tourism

WINEMAKER and agritourism operator Food and Beverage Australia Limited (FABAL) has completed a \$20 million acquisition of two vineyard portfolios spanning assets in South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria.

Marandoo Estate in Langhorne Creek and National Vineyard Fund of Australia Limited, both of which were already partly purchased by FABAL, are now 100% owned by the company.

The added wine portfolios include vineyards in the Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Langhorne Creek, Padthaway, Margaret River and Heathcote wine regions, and join a growing list of key food & wine tourism assets such as bed & breakfast accommodation, numerous cellar doors and the famous Barossa Valley Chocolate Company in Tanunda, SA.

FABAL CEO and co-founder,

Chris Day, told *The Advertiser* he was bullish about the prospect of growing tourism opportunities.

"While we have faced many obstacles - both natural and man-made - during our 40 years of operation, we've always come out stronger," Day said.

"These recent challenges have been damaging in unique ways, but they have provided the motivation to strengthen our group's position within our industries, particularly Australian tourism," he added.

Wine tourism remains big business in Australia, with figures from Wine Australia showing 5.5 million visitors went to a winery in the country for the year ending Sep 2020, spending \$5.9 billion during their trip and staying for an average of six nights.

Australia domestic travellers comprised the bulk of traffic, recording 51% of all visitors.

Byron with a twist

A **NEW** concept apartment-hotel project will arrive in Byron Bay in late 2023, thanks to a partnership between property developer Podia and Richards & Spence, the architects of Brisbane's The Calile Hotel.

The Barbotine will comprise of 41 two-, three- and four-bedroom hotel-apartments that offer guests the "home away from home feel of an Airbnb" coupled with boutique luxury hotel service, and can be purchased by investors as an alternative to Airbnb ownership.

The three-level property will feature plenty of greenery, light-filled walkways, and glazing and stone paving throughout, as well as a large central courtyard, a communal rooftop with a swimming pool, private rooftop terraces, and an array of food and beverage venues, health and wellness offerings, and fashion retail vendors.

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Brisbane chases Indians

THE Queensland Government has been advised to chase the Indian Millennial tourism market in the lead up to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games.

The recommendation is contained within a new expert panel report investigating ways to enhance the city's tourism appeal over the next 10 years, with deepening travel ties with young Indian nationals viewed as a big opportunity to shape its future visitation strategy.

One of the reasons is the scale of the market, with India boasting a population of 1.3 billion people, 60% of whom are under 35.

The Olympic Games is seen as a way to continue to leverage South East Queensland's growing reputation as a premier lifestyle destination for younger travellers, which the report suggests is growing at twice the OECD rate, and with further investment will

continue to attract a growing number of "footloose young professionals who could work from anywhere in the world".

To achieve the goal, the panel has recommended ongoing development of its night-time economy in and around Brisbane's CBD.

Projects will include accelerating the delivery of urban amenity and mobility solutions, the promotion of more lifestyle assets, injecting more inclusivity and diversity into marketing collateral, reinforcing Brisbane as a global sports and events hub, and ensuring the Olympic Games will be a "climate-positive" event.

"Our hosting of Brisbane 2032 will accelerate urban transformation and position Queensland to compete in the events and tourism space on the global stage for decades to come," the report declared.

keep dreaming...

Travel inspiration for your clients' next holiday!

[Click to read](#)

Travel & Cruise
Weekly

Hawaii preparation

HAWAII Tourism is reminding Australian travellers that the US state has implemented a number of tourism limits and protocols in a bid to better manage visitor numbers at select attractions.

On Maui, visitors need to make advance reservations for all vehicles and walk-ins entering the Waianapanapa State Park (**pictured**) and Haleakala, while entrance and parking reservations will need to be purchased for entry to Haena State Park and Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge on Kauai.

Pre-bookings are now also required for visitation to Oahu's Diamond Head Monument and Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve.



QR broadens Africa

QATAR Airways and South African airline Airlink have signed a new comprehensive codeshare agreement in a bid to enhance traveller connectivity across Southern Africa.

This new codeshare agreement means travellers can purchase connecting flights between 45 destinations in 13 countries on both airlines using a single reservation.

Emerald 2023 & 24

EMERALD Cruises has released new luxury yacht cruises for 2023 and 2024, including Caribbean and trans-Atlantic voyages, and new destinations in the Mediterranean & Adriatic.

The season will offer cruises aboard *Emerald Azurra*, and new yacht *Emerald Sakarra*, which is set to debut next year.

For more information on itineraries, read today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

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Rex wanted regional re-regulation

REX Airlines last month requested the Government of New South Wales to re-regulate the state's rural air routes, *The Australian* has reported.

The airline's request would have required carriers to tender for rural routes, but the appeal was ultimately knocked back.

It is alleged outspoken Rex Deputy Chair, John Sharp, first approached NSW Minister for Transport David Elliott, and later met with NSW Minister for Regional Transport Sam Faraway to lobby for the change.

The NSW Government deregulated its intrastate air network in 2018 to "enable local councils to engage directly with airlines to help regional communities access the services they need", Faraway said.

Adelaide tops May

ADELAIDE has claimed the top spot for downtown hotel occupancy in Australia for last month, recording 79% volumes.

Average occupancy for Adelaide accommodation in May was a new post-pandemic record, and outstripped levels witnessed in the same period in 2019.

South Australia's Minister for Tourism, Zoe Bettison, said it is fantastic to see such strong results for downtown Adelaide, showing the recovery of SA's visitor economy has begun.

"It means more visitors into businesses, more spending in cafes, restaurants, bars and retail, and importantly, a boost to local jobs," Bettison said.

Insurance dropped

THE mandatory health insurance rule to visit Thailand is the latest change to the country's entry protocols from 01 Jul, arriving after an easing of COVID testing last week (**TD** 20 Jun).

Previously, travellers had to take out a US\$10k health insurance in order to visit Thailand.

Getting behind the wheel of Nancy



AROUND 600 local residents were welcomed on the Western Sydney International (WSI) (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport construction site recently for a community open day, where they were given a guided tour of the in-progress runway and terminal.

Locals were able to participate in an artefact dig, bee-hive making, and bush-tucker tasting, as well as conduct water testing, get a selfie with a dump truck, as well as learn about the site's cultural heritage.

Face painting, food trucks and a 'junior tradies activation' also helped make the day a family-fun affair, as well as an opportunity to climb aboard fire trucks while listening to safety talks from community representatives at NSW Police, Fire and Rescue NSW, the Rural Fire Service and St Johns Ambulance.

Those in attendance also learnt about the thousands of local jobs that have emerged as a result of the upcoming airport, and were able to speak to some of the people working on the project.

Western Sydney Airport General Manager of Community Engagement and Social Impact, Katy Hannouch, said the event was "a great chance for the public to see the progress on this region-

shaping project that will benefit this community and the Sydney basin for generations to come".

"Western Sydney Airport (WSI) has a strong commitment to the community and is the catalyst for unprecedented investment in the region," Hannouch enthused, highlighting the \$100-plus million directly injected into Western Sydney businesses so far as a result of the project.

Community members are being invited to contribute their opinions on different elements of the airport experience as part of the WSI Customer Panel, [HERE](#).

View the full family tour of the upcoming airport [HERE](#).

Vietjet expands

LOW cost carrier Vietjet Air has announced it will commence flying a range of new routes from Da Nang to countries such as Singapore, India and South Korea from next month.

The carrier confirmed it is about to launch services to Busan in South Korea, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Bangalore in India, as well as the major hub of Singapore.

Services will operate between four to seven flights a week, with India now one of Vietnam's fastest growing markets.

Nhulunbuy tourism aims for the stars

NASA'S first Australian rocket launch in decades at the small Northern Territory town may spark a tourism frenzy, according to the CEO of Developing East Arnhem Limited, Paul Dobing.

"It gives us the opportunity to create a really unique experience... and how we can bring all of that together, that's a key focus for us over the next few years," he said.

Two more rocket launches are scheduled in coming weeks and hotels have been fully booked.

COMING EVENTS

TD Events is the new way to showcase your product or service to the travel industry.

Thu 14 Jul 1pm - Amadeus - details coming soon

Thu 21 Jul 1pm - Livn Group - details coming soon

RECENT EVENTS

Missed an event? Don't worry, you can catch up at any time.

Switzerland Tourism "Winter Magic Tour" with Livio Goetz and Lisa Maroun - [CLICK HERE](#).

"The Tide Turns for Cruise" with CLIA MD Joel Katz and Jill Abel from the Australian Cruise Association - [CLICK HERE](#).

Norwegian Cruise Line "The Great Cruise Comeback" - [CLICK HERE](#).

Quark Expeditions showcase of *Ultramarine* - [CLICK HERE](#).

AFTA CEO Dean Long Executive Interview - [CLICK HERE](#).

Entire Travel Group with Brad McDonnell and Greg McCallum - [CLICK HERE](#).

To organise an event for your company, enquire at traveldaily.com.au/events

Tuesday 28th June 2022

Park Hyatt to launch in Johannesburg

HYATT Hotels Corporation has announced the addition of the Winston Hotel in Rosebank, Johannesburg to its portfolio as an affiliated hotel, marking its fourth collaboration with the Millat Group in South Africa.

The property is set to rebrand to Park Hyatt Johannesburg in early 2023 following a major refurbishment, with all 30 guest rooms and suites to be fitted with king-size beds, workstations, and en suite bathrooms; the hotel will also feature a bar with open-air courtyard, multi-purpose event space, and spacious dining room.

IHG exits Russia

IHG Group is in the process of ceasing all operations in Russia, in line with UK, US and EU sanction regimes and the "ongoing and increasing challenges of operating there", the group revealed in a statement yesterday.

The announcement follows IHG's decision in Apr to close the doors to its Moscow office and cease any future investment in Russia "for the foreseeable future", as a result of the conflict in Ukraine (**TD** 12 Apr).

QT Dyson collab

GUESTS staying at QT Hotels & Resorts will soon be able to enjoy an extra touch of luxury in their grooming routine, thanks to the hotel provider's newly announced collaboration with Dyson.

The 'Engineered for Chaos' partnership will see every QT guest room equipped with the high-tech Dyson Supersonic hair dryer, in addition to the cordless Dyson Corrale straightener, which will be available across all suites and on request.

Guests will also be able to refer to the exclusive in-room Dyson instruction styling videos to achieve the most luscious locks.

To signify the hair-raising collab, QT's Directors of Chaos will swap out their distinctive wigs in favour of "sleek new do's".



Time to brush up digital

AUSTRALIAN travel brands need to ensure they are presenting travellers with a smooth mobile digital experience if they want to maximise sales in 2022, according to a new report compiled by digital analytics company ContentSquare.

The study found that 41% of all online traffic for travel in Australia was being conducted via smart devices, suggesting an opportunity for more investment to ensure the user experience is as efficient as possible.

"Only by understanding their mobile journey and the unique needs of customer segments can brands streamline their travel site's user experience to increase conversion rates and revenue," the report noted.

Conversion rates from browsing to booking also remains lower than expected for the travel and hospitality sectors given the resurgence in holiday planning,

the report suggests, showing that conversion rates have only grown from 1.9% in 2020 to 2.1%.

"As travel restarts for Australia, travel brands will need to optimise their customer journeys to increase the number of people taking the desired action on their sites...and analyse conversion rates against industry benchmarks," the report advised.

While mobile devices may be a growing area for browsing travel products, Aussies are still spending more time browsing options on their desktop than mobile devices for each session.

Users currently spend an average of 5.8 minutes per session researching travel, while mobile sessions were shorter on average at just four minutes.

Meanwhile bounce rates were also found to be too high for travel brands, with over half of users abandoning their sessions after viewing just one page.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.693

IT HAS been a relatively quiet week for the Australian dollar, but that may not last long, with forecasters expecting the dollar to fall amid growing fears of a global recession.

Rising inflation, the ongoing Ukraine conflict, and China lockdowns are all factors that continue to stifle global growth forecasts.

Wholesale rates this morning.

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| US | \$0.693 |
| UK | £0.564 |
| NZ | \$1.100 |
| Euro | €0.655 |
| Japan | ¥93.92 |
| Thailand | ฿24.51 |
| China | ¥4.637 |
| South Africa | 10.99 |
| Canada | \$0.891 |
| Crude oil | US\$109.57 |

travelBulletin

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In an evolving time, **travelBulletin** is expanding its digital presence with new online offerings to meet the new needs of the post-pandemic travel industry.

EDM

A twice weekly EDM, including an all new **Saturday** wrap up of the week that was, highlighting the big stories from **Travel Daily** and **Cruise Weekly**.

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