

**WIN AN  
EXPEDITION  
FOR TWO!\***

**NEW Live Online Events!**

*Explore to inspire*

**What's new in 2023?**



\* Conditions Apply

**Join PONANT on Thursday 17 March 2022**

**Tropical Expeditions**

12pm AWST / 3pm AEDT / 5pm NZDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**Polar Expeditions**

2pm AWST / 5pm AEDT / 7pm NZDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)





## Green goes live

**QANTAS'** new Green loyalty membership tier unveiled last year (*TD* 26 Nov 2021) has gone live, designed to encourage its Frequent Flyer members to make more sustainable travel choices.

To achieve Green status, members need to complete at least five sustainable activities across six areas in their membership year, upon which they can choose to receive either 10,000 Qantas Points, 50 Status Credits or have three tonnes of carbon offsets purchased by Qantas on their behalf.

Green tier areas include eco-hotel bookings, carbon offsets on flights, buying sustainable wines, solar panel installation, completion of the sustainability quiz in the Qantas Wellbeing App, and donating to green projects.

## Queensland Campaign Webinar

Join AAT Kings for a  
**SPECIAL EVENT**

Win prizes and hear from the experts!

**Mon 14th Mar**  
12pm AEDT

**Tues 15th Mar**  
11am AEDT

AATKings

Queensland  
AUSTRALIA

## Recovery "precarious" - ACCC

**WITH** all state and territory border closures now lifted, and the international border open to domestic travellers, the recovery of the Australian aviation sector "now largely depends on consumer confidence and willingness to travel," according to a new report from the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC).

The quarterly *Airline Competition in Australia* report highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by the industry, including the impact of the Omicron wave in late Dec which showed "how precarious the path to recovery is".

Before Christmas, scheduled domestic capacity reached 95% of pre-pandemic levels, but "within days airlines were forced to cancel hundreds of flights as passengers and airline staff went into isolation," said ACCC Chair Rod Sims.

Despite the Omicron blip, there

## Norwegian unveils Prima Class dining

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line has unveiled the "elevated culinary and beverage options" for its new Prima class vessels, *Norwegian Prima* and *Norwegian Viva*, saying they will "push the boundaries of traditional cruise cuisine".

Nine new dining and beverage venues will feature on board, including the sustainably focused Metropolitan Bar, which will feature responsibly crafted zero-waste cocktails, and more than 20 biodynamic wines made using organic farming methods.

Also new is a Mediterranean seafood restaurant called Palomar, a "hibachi-style" Japanese eatery named Hasuki, and a contemporary sushi house called Nama.

A total of six Prima-class vessels are planned, with *Prima* set to debut later this year in Europe.

More cruise news in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

are positive signs including early bookings for the Easter holiday period, while Qantas is once again forecasting a return to pre-pandemic domestic capacity levels in the Apr-Jun quarter.

Sims said the ACCC would be monitoring the arrival of ultra-low-cost carrier Bonza, which has flagged a mid-year launch on 25 routes.

"We will be watching how the existing airlines respond to this new competition, and we will keep an eye out for any anti-competitive capacity increases or pricing practices," he said.

The report also noted more consumer choice due to Rex Airlines' expansion into the SYD-MEL-BNE "golden triangle", meaning there are now nine routes in Australia serviced by Virgin, Qantas and Rex, leading to significant price reductions.

The ACCC said Virgin carried 34% of domestic passengers during the quarter, while Qantas and Jetstar each carried 31% and Rex the other 4%.

## Well I Nevada!

**TRAVEL** Nevada has resumed its in-market presence in Australia, with representation continuing via Canuckiwi's Corey Marshall.

Canuckiwi has also named Natalie Brown, ex Hong Kong Tourism Board and GTI Tourism, as Media Director - Australia & New Zealand.

## Go live with Ponant

**PONANT** is offering travel advisors the opportunity to win an expedition for two people by taking part in special live online events next week.

Two sessions will take place on 17 Mar, showcasing both Tropical and Polar Expeditions, with registrations now open via the **cover page** of today's *Travel Daily*.

## THAI resuming MEL

**THAI** Airways International has confirmed it will resume operations from Melbourne at the end of the month.

GDS screens indicate the route, operated as TG466 using an Airbus A350-900 aircraft, will initially fly four times weekly.

## MSC NYC all year

**MSC** Cruises today announced that its *MSC Meraviglia* will operate year-round from New York City, homeporting in the Big Apple from Apr 2023 for itineraries including the Caribbean, Bermuda, New England and Canada.

The deployment further boosts MSC's presence in North America, alongside its departures from Miami and Port Canaveral.

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has five pages of news, plus a front cover from Ponant.

## LUXURY VIRTUAL EXPO

Discover some of Ireland's luxury gems!  
Connect with some of the finest accommodation and attractions across the island

Thursday, 10th of March 2022

Register now

Ireland

**SELL YOUR WAY TO UTAH**

**REGISTER NOW!** ENTRIES CLOSE 31 MARCH

Earn points for a complimentary family to Utah

DELTA | LIFE UTAH ELEVATED | ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

## Saudis cut protocols

THE Saudi Arabian Government has opted to abolish all COVID-19-related entry restrictions for tourists, effective immediately.

These changes will see testing and quarantine requirements removed, and all nations on its red list granted entry to the country.



**Searching for Inventory?**

**Over 1 Million Hotels Available on Expedia TAAP Right NOW**

**ENJOY TODAY**

[www.expedia.com.au/taap](http://www.expedia.com.au/taap)

telephone  
1800 726 618

email  
expedia-au@discovertheworld.com.au

## Travel Junction takes off

**TRADE-FACING** wholesaler The Travel Junction (**TD** 04 Sep 2019) has further enhanced its HELIO booking platform with the introduction of flight booking capability this week.

Live now, the new capability enables travel advisors to streamline the guest booking experience by including air ticketing alongside other product on the system, including 250,000 hotels, resorts & other specialty accommodation globally.

Air can also be combined with The Travel Junction's other items such as transfers, attractions, experiences, car rental and cruise to help agents optimise their share of wallet, according to GM James Whiting.

"We are delighted to announce this new service to provide our partners with greater choice and convenience, by being able to develop creative and compelling dynamically built itineraries.

"We are making both published and wholesale fares available so they can be packaged up with a selected hotel, car, transfer or

experience," Whiting said.

"We know that in already very challenging circumstances our partners are working harder than ever before to navigate daily changing travel requirements for their clients...we want to make it easy for them to do business with us," he added.

The new air ticketing feature is available through a simple search and book procedure, with e-tickets automatically added to itineraries and accessible via the 'Guest Documentation' area.

Whiting reconfirmed The Travel Junction's commitment to never impose cancellation or amendment fees, with registrations for the platform at [thetraveljunction.com.au/register](http://thetraveljunction.com.au/register).

## DayAway appoints

**DAYAWAY**, the hospitality travel tech startup which allows hotel experiences to be booked by the day, has appointed Sydney-based Brandman Agency as its global public relations lead.

DayAway, which has its HQ in New York with offices in Los Angeles, London and Sydney, was founded almost 12 months ago, and late last year appointed Australian industry leader Lynne Ireland as its Chief Commercial Officer (**TD** 05 Nov 2021).

Former Shangri-La Group Assistant VP of Global Sales, Jenny Williams, has also taken a role as a DayAway Brand Ambassador.

## Jacqui joins BRG

**JACQUI** Wright has taken a new role at Big Red Group (BRG) as its new Membership Director - Supply and Distribution.

Wright was most recently with Australian Motoring Services, and prior to that spent almost a decade as GM Travel & Leisure at Entertainment Group.

## Vale Roslyn Rogers



THE travel industry is in shock this week after learning of the sudden passing of Roslyn Rogers (**pictured**) from Travel Redcliffe Peninsula in Queensland.

Travellers Choice's former BDM for Queensland, Kim Tomlinson, paid tribute to Rogers, stating she was "one of the travel industry's greatest advocates and supporters who was deeply immersed in her local community."

Suppliers with bookings made by Travel Redcliffe Peninsula are being asked to please contact Travellers Choice head office.

A funeral will be held this Fri at St Mary's Anglican Church, Sutton Street in Redcliffe at 10am.

## Malaysia reopens

**MALAYSIA'S** borders will fully reopen on 01 Apr, with PM Ismail Sabri Yaakob confirming the move will allow quarantine-free entry for fully vaccinated visitors, who will be required to undergo a pre-departure PCR test and a supervised RAT 24 hrs after arrival.

The change will see the country transition to the "endemic phase of COVID-19", he said, adding that the current MyTravelPass system will be abolished.

**ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP**

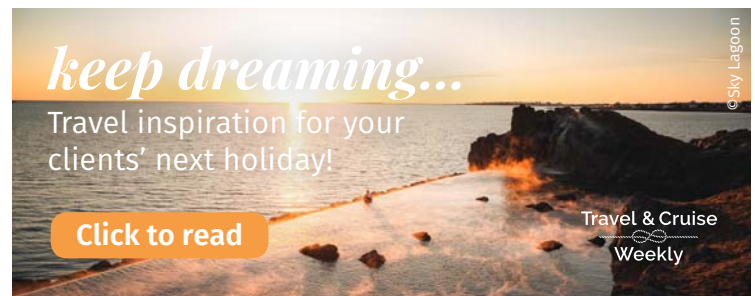
**BRITISH COLUMBIA - CANADA AWE INSPIRING**

**BOOK NOW**

PEACE OF MIND ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP BOOKING PLAN

In partnership with SUPER NATURAL BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA | WHISTLER CANADA | VAN COU VER | SUN PEAKS RESORTS





## SA goes nationwide

**SOUTH** Australia's Great State Voucher program has been made available to Aussies in all states for the first time this week.

The eighth iteration of the travel scheme offers discounts of up to \$200 to interstate travellers for various SA tourism experiences, including guided tours.

Those wanting the vouchers will need to enter a ballot via the South Australian Tourism website **HERE**, with successful recipients able to redeem credit for travel between 10-31 Mar.

Experiences included in the voucher scheme are diving with Great White Sharks on the Eyre Peninsula and wine tours in the Barossa Valley.

## Fares will rise: Joyce

**QANTAS** CEO Alan Joyce has warned the airline will likely be forced to hike the price of air tickets by around 7% because of the rising cost of jet fuel, driven by the military conflict in Ukraine.

Speaking at the AFR Business Summit yesterday, Joyce said that air travellers could see themselves slugged with a 1% increase in price for every US\$4 jump in the fuel cost per barrel, adding that US carriers could rise by much larger amounts.

"US carriers are completely exposed, a lot of domestic carriers don't have hedging but we [Qantas] now has time to adjust and change things to cope with it," Joyce said.

## Japan cooking up a big return



**JAPAN** National Tourism Organization (JNTO) last night hosted a range of partners for a luxurious dinner at Sokyo at The Star Sydney.

The evening began with drinks, followed by a sit-down dinner showcasing some of Japan's most delicious delicacies, such as kingfish miso ceviche, bay bug tempura, dengakuman, and flank steak, paired with a sashimi platter, mixed leaves, a selection of sushi, topped off with a caramel macchiato.

Also joining diners were the celebrity chef duo of Manu Feildel and Gary Mehigan, who recently starred in a new campaign for JNTO (**TD** 17 Jan).

Packing prizes for guests were Japan Airlines, which provided a

return Business class flight from Sydney to Tokyo; All Nippon Airways, which gave away two return Economy class flights from Sydney to Tokyo for two, and Hoshino Resorts, which offered a sumptuous accommodation package.

**Pictured** are Fieldel, JNTO Executive Director Sydney Yoko Tanaka, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney Kiya Masahiko, and Mehigan.



## Window Seat

**TRAVELLERS** heading off to Canada to sample the country's famous poutine may find themselves struggling to find it, following a global backlash from diners who have become unnerved by its association with similarly named Russian President Vladimir Putin.

One of Canada's culinary pride and joys, poutine consists of the heart-stopping combination of hot chips, cheese curds and gravy, however the inventors of the iconic meal have changed the name in support of Ukraine.

Quebec-based Le Roy Jucep, where the food creation was first served, revealed it was imaginatively renaming the dish "fries-cheese-gravy" in solidarity with Ukraine, a stance shared by other restaurants.



**The World's Best Value Stopover in Qatar**

Incredible stopover packages starting from AUD19\* per person per night

**Learn more**

\*Terms and conditions apply

## CTM is recruiting!

Corporate Travel Management (CTM) is undergoing a recruitment drive, with a number of travel consultant roles available across Australia and New Zealand.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)





Travel Daily's second Survival Survey shows green shoots of recovery, but it is a serpentine road ahead. Read more in the latest *travelBulletin*.



## New carrier unmasked

ANA Group has unveiled more details about its upcoming medium-haul international carrier due to launch in the second half of next year.

Utilising Boeing 787-9 aircraft, AirJapan will play a role in allowing ANA to capture emerging demand for medium-haul flights in the region at a competitive price, with the upcoming airline's logo and aircraft design unveiled overnight.

ANA, which flagged a new subsidiary in Oct 2020 (TD 29 Oct 2020), added the new venture would attempt to walk the fine line between being a full-service airline and a low-cost carrier, "combining the best of both worlds while also featuring Japanese-style ideas and quality", and sitting alongside its other major carrier All Nippon Airways.

"We are excited to begin unveiling AirJapan and the selectable service and



comfortable cabin experience it will offer passengers," Air Japan Co's President Hideki Mineguchi said upon the carrier's unveiling.

Ticket prices are set to be closer in the range of budget airlines, ANA confirmed, with the overarching brand concept designed to communicate the Japanese phrase of "fly thoughtful", expressing a "caring, thoughtful and gentle approach".

While the exact routes and specific dates of the scheduled first flight is still under wraps, ANA stated it was closely monitoring trends in the recovery of demand for international flights and that further details would be made available soon.

## Maldives Joali deal

ADDICTED to Maldives has unveiled a new limited-time accommodation package to the Maldives at the art-influenced island retreat, Joali Maldives.

The offer includes an eight-night stay in a water villa with a pool, a 30-minute massage for two adults, return shared seaplane transfers for two adults, complimentary half board for two adults, & VIP welcome amenities.

Joali Maldives offers guests 73 accommodation options including beach villas, over-water villas and expansive residences.

The package is priced from US\$15,200 - +61 413 888 652.

## MSC Med promo

MSC Cruises is offering complimentary drinks, wi-fi, and \$200 of onboard credit per cabin when bookings are made for a seven-night *MSC Lirica* Mediterranean cruise departing 17 Oct - promotion ends 31 Mar.

## Qantas issued seats

THE International Air Services Commission has issued Qantas several batches of additional seats on various overseas routes.

Among the renewed capacity includes 258 seats on the Fiji route, 1,260 to Indonesia, 109-300 third country codeshare seats to Italy, 108-300 seats to exercise stop-over rights, as well as seven weekly frequencies on the South Africa route.

## Singapore injection

AUSTRALIA'S tourism sector may soon find itself boosted by a surge in Singaporean women visiting the country, with Down Under rated the fifth most sought after place to visit.

According to a new poll from YouGov, close to 30% of female citizens in Singapore have expressed an interest in visiting Australia, in line with New Zealand (30%), but behind Japan, which topped the list at 45%.



DOOR-TO-DOOR ALL-INCLUSIVE WITH 15% REDUCED AND REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT\*

AND

PORT-TO-PORT ALL-INCLUSIVE WITH 15% DEPOSIT AND LOWER FARES\*

\* Door-to-Door All-Inclusive fares will increase 1 June 2022 if not prior. Door-to-Door All-Inclusive 15% reduced and refundable deposit offer is available on all voyages departing up to 31 March 2023. Port-to-Port All-Inclusive fares are available on select voyages departing up to 23 April 2023 and will expire 31 May 2022. Port-to-Port 15% deposit can be converted into a Future Cruise Credit, less \$500 per person admin fee in case of cancellation by guest. Other terms and conditions apply.

[CLICK HERE TO DISCOVER MORE](#)

CONTACT YOUR SILVERSEA SALES MANAGER OR RESERVATIONS ON 1300 727 155 OR +61 2 9255 0600 | [SILVERSEA.COM](https://www.silversea.com)



### Billy never puffed

**THE** Victorian Government has introduced a new Bill in state parliament designed to secure the future of the Puffing Billy Railway.

The Bill proposes to rename the Emerald Tourist Railway Board as Puffing Billy Railway Board, alongside new responsibilities to protect the railway's future.

Among the updates is more support for Puffing Billy's partnerships with Dandenong Ranges & Yarra Valley businesses, including wineries and gourmet producers, to better showcase their products to visitors.

### Optus is calling you

**OPTUS** Stadium's upcoming rooftop attraction will open to the public on 31 Mar, providing visitors with the opportunity to take in the view of the stadium and Perth from more than 50 metres above the ground.

Originally announced last year (**TD** 04 Aug 2021), the recently-named Vertigo attraction will join the existing Halo roof and behind-the-scenes tours of the ground, enabling fans to walk several metres beyond the edge of the stadium roof with no hand rails.

The experience will cost adults \$109 per ticket and kids \$65.

**THE** women in Fiji have taken control of their careers at the country's national carrier Fiji Airways, with A330 Captain Seini Cornish (**pictured** second from the left) piloting the first all-female, long-haul flight to Singapore this week.

The timing of the flight coincides with International Women's Day which honours the contribution of women all over the world.

Cornish was supported by First Officer Sonam Pratap & Second Officer Cassandra Robinson on the route, with Fiji Airways MD Andre Viljoen dropping by the cockpit to wish the crew all the best on their impending achievement (**pictured**).

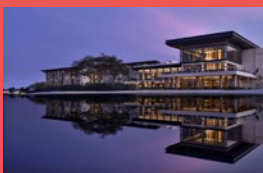
Fiji Airways recently rebooted its network between Fiji and New Zealand after border restrictions were lifted (**TD** 07 Mar).

## ACCOMMODATION

**WELCOME** to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to [accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



**Margaritaville St Somewhere By Karisma Punta Coco, Holbox Island** officially opened its doors at the beginning of the month, welcoming guests to an elevated experience that marries warm hospitality with easygoing vibes. Located on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, the boutique property boasts 39 suites nestled over mangrove gardens and elevated wooden bridges.



**JW Marriott Bengaluru Prestige Golfshire Resort & Spa** is set to debut next week in India's beautiful Nandi Hills region. Once an ancient fortress and the summer retreat of Indian royalty, the property's 301 rooms are nestled in an idyllic setting, which is accompanied by the rolling greens of the 111-hectare Prestige Golfshire Club. The resort is also a 20-minute drive from Bangalore Airport.



**Holiday Inn Portland - Columbia Riverfront**, an IHG Hotel has opened, bringing new life to the city's Jantzen Beach. The hotel has been completely reimagined after a multi-year, \$15 million renovation. Featuring 320 spacious rooms, the hotel is

located on beautiful Hayden Island along the banks of the Columbia River, overlooking the waterfront and into Washington.

**The Seven Network and Sunrise is broadcasting to Australian viewers live from Qatar this week, thanks to Qatar Tourism. Sunrises' Sam Mac's weather segments will be live from various key locations around Qatar.**

**Want to experience Qatar firsthand?**

Travel Daily will be giving a lucky reader the opportunity to win a spot on Qatar Tourism's VIP mega famil departing May 2022.



## Win

Tune into Sunrise 7-11 March and answer these questions to enter.

Every day you watch and enter gives you an additional entry:

1. Which location in Qatar was Sam Mac broadcasting from?
2. Name one activity they did that day.
3. Which day of the week were you watching?

Email answers to [competitions@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:competitions@traveldaily.com.au) to be in the running to win yourself a trip to Qatar.