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2023 MEMBERSHIP IS NOW OPEN

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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 8th Nov 2022



NCL W4W winners

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has announced the winners of this year's highly successful Walk for Wellness, which saw participants travel over 120,000km in collective steps.

About 1,100 wellness walkers, including NCL CEO Harry Sommer, took part in challenges along the way, including collecting rubbish for NCL's new partner, Take 3 for the Sea & its goal to remove 50m² pieces of plastic pollution from Australia's waterways by 2025.

NCL Director of Sales, Damian Borg, said the company was so grateful to see travel partners busier than ever, thanking the record number of participants for taking part in the program which also took out the 'Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign' category at the recent National Travel Industry Awards.

Participants took hundreds of photos during the challenge, with details of winners and pics on page seven of today's *Travel Daily*.

VA, SQ reinstate codeshare

VIRGIN Australia has taken its "virtual" international network to a new stage with the resumption of VA codeshare flights to a range of destinations across the Singapore Airlines global network.

The move is the next step in returning SQ/VA cooperation to pre-pandemic operations, following the resumption of redemption bookings and mileage/Points conversion for KrisFlyer and Velocity members earlier this year (*TD* 23 Aug).

Alistair Hartley, VA's Group Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, said the carrier's customers were now able to search and book SQ flights to 42 destinations in 23 countries.

The offering currently includes London, Paris, Copenhagen, Seoul, Amsterdam, Ho Chi Minh City, while SQ continues to offer codeshare flights on 64 routes across the VA network - including the recently added Queenstown in New Zealand.

SIA Senior VP Marketing Planning, JoAnn Tan, said the carriers would continue to work closely to expand codeshare flights to more destinations across the Singapore Airlines global network, subject to regulatory approval.

The rebooted VA/SQ partnership is covered by the recent Australian Competition and Consumer Commission decision (TD 08 Sep), which permits Virgin to effectively resell the fares offered by partner carriers including United Airlines, Qatar Airways and Singapore Airlines, allowing UA, QR and SQ to specify Virgin Australia's fare levels.

ACCC documents confirm VA has flagged similar cooperation deals with All Nippon Airways, Air Canada and Hawaiian Airlines.

VA and SQ initially established their alliance in 2011, this year extending the pact by five years.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of news, a cover wrap from **CLIA**, a photo page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**, plus full pages from:

- Destination Canada
- Tokyo Tourism
- Still "Still Standing"

Join CLIA in 2023

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) is offering a host of benefits for travel advisors who join for 2023 - including exclusive bonus commission and rewards worth over \$1,500.

Applications are now open - for details see the **cover page**.

Travelport/Travalyst

TRAVELPORT has become the latest addition to the Travalyst Coalition founded by Prince 'Spare' Harry and chaired by Intrepid's Darrel Wade - alongside partners Amadeus, Booking.com. Skyscanner, Google and Expedia.



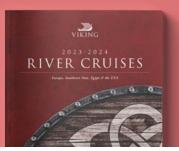
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DAIISHIDODE

Aussies need a break

MANY Australians are in dire need of a holiday, according to a new report compiled by Seek, which shows that over a third of workers haven't had a holiday in over a year.

The report revealed that nearly half (46%) of Australians have more than 20 days of annual leave in the bank, despite 78% saying taking annual leave helps them be more productive in the workplace.

While 55% of those surveyed believe taking annual leave is more important now than pre-COVID, 60% also said they feel like it is now more effort to take a holiday than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Interestingly, 33% also said they prefer to take shorter breaks throughout the year.



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Indonesia rights to Virgin

VIRGIN Australia has prevailed over Qantas in its bid to access additional capacity on the Indonesia route (*TD* 12 Sep), with the International Air Services Commission (ASC) today issuing a final determination allocating VA 172 weekly seats in each direction.

Virgin had initially made the application back in Aug seeking to operate an additional weekly B737-800 service on the Melbourne-Denpasar route.

In accordance with normal practice, the Commission then advertised for any other applications for the capacity - resulting in a competing request from Qantas for 162 seats on the Indonesia route which would allow it to upgauge selected Sydney-Denpasar services from 737 to A330 widebody aircraft.

Both airlines subsequently provided responses detailing the "additional public benefit" from their respective proposals, with QF noting active promotion of the flights, strong network and connectivity for the services and the ability to move additional freight if it received the allocation.

Virgin's supplementary response highlighted its full utilisation of capacity, the fact it was the first to apply for the available space, and that its proposal was "superior in terms of both capacity (172 seats vs 165 seats) and frequency (an additional service every week versus an upgauge on existing frequency during peak periods)".

However the Commission ended up not having to consider the competing submissions, with Qantas abruptly withdrawing its application yesterday "due to a change in circumstances".

The IASC has now proceeded with Virgin's original application, granting a five year authorisation for the 172 seat allocation.

BWH pay with pts

BEST Western Rewards members will be able to reserve their next hotel stay using loyalty points, with BWH Hotel Group today announcing the launch of Pay with Points in Australasia.

5,000 points can be redeemed for a \$25 saving on bookings.



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See **page nine** for more info.

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NEW training modules are available now for Tourism Tokyo's Tokyo Tourism Expert program.

Travel agents can register to learn more about the Japanese capital and enter the draw to win a trip to Tokyo with All Nippon Airways, staying in the Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo.

See page 10 to find out more.



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MTours

Aurora Arctic '24

AURORA Expeditions has released its full 2024 Arctic & Beyond program.

Featuring many multidestination voyages, the newly expanded schedule also showcases trekking adventures and special guests - **VIEW HERE**.



Light & seamless travel in '23

BIOMETRIC technology will become more commonly used by travellers when making a variety of payments, a new trends report by Amadeus suggests.

"Airports already use biometrics for travel document identification, so the logical next step is to leverage this identity check for any payments travellers make during their trip," the report noted, adding that transactions involving upgrades and in-flight meals will start to become a seamless part of the flight journey in 2023.

Small trials have already kicked off around the world, such as with travel retailer Hudson, which uses Amazon One biometric payment solutions at Nashville International Airport, allowing customers to walk in and out and pay with the palm of their hand.

Large undertaking!

DISCOVERY Parks has acquired another asset to its rowing portfolio, this time adding Coffin Bay Caravan Park ahead of the busy summer period.

Located on The Esplanade in South Australia a stone's throw from the water, the park is surrounded by a national park and offers a wide range of accommodation, from deluxe villas to grass-powered sites.

The property has been within the Group as an independently owned G'day Park and, will now be known as Discovery Parks – Coffin Bay. Another predicted trend will see travellers packing lighter for trips, driven by a desire to be more eco-conscious, more hotels offering the hire of bulky equipment such as sports gear, and people wanting to cut down on the cost of check-in luggage.

The metaverse is also viewed by Amadeus to be another big influencer next year, with agents and operators tipped to develop more "try before you buy" sales propositions for travellers.

"This will become increasingly popular as a way to trial higherpriced items such as luxury cruise holidays," the report stated.

Topdeck drops rule

TOPDECK Travel will remove the need for proof of COVID-19 vaccination to be presented from 01 Jan 2023.

"The travel landscape has changed since we first introduced this policy, so our customers could travel safely with us, but now is the right time for it to end," GM Sales, Global Touring David Gendle said.

While the requirement will be dropped, Topdeck will leave its COVID-19 Assurance Policy in place which offers refund security and flexibility in cases of COVID-19 diagnosis within 14 days of a trip for all bookings made before 31 Dec.





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Ads live on the journey

TRAVEL brands in Australia now have a new avenue to advertise their products to travellers, with Uber this week launching its Journey Ads division locally.

Following a successful trial period in the United States, the ride-share platform is pledging a "first-of-its-kind" advertising option offering unparalleled consumer attention from the millions of its Uber riders.

The company said that given the average Uber journey is in excess of 20 minutes, the time a user is spending with the ad format is generally more than two minutes, resulting in "really strong engagement" and far above the click and swipe rates of other social and digital platforms.

"Imagine you're heading to the airport, based on destination targeting, you might see an ad from a travel brand or a credit card company, or you're heading home at the end of the day

and you see a streaming app highlighting its latest content." Head of Advertising Australia and NZ Michael Levine told B&T.

Travel brands will be able to use the new platform to target travellers from the moment they book their ride through to the end of their trip, as a result, brands receive 100% share-ofvoice during the entire trip, with comprehensive reporting and analysis delivered to ad partners at the end of each campaign, allowing brands to "fine-tune" their campaigns.

MEANWHILE Uber has partnered with British Airways to offer the carrier's loyalty members the chance to earn Avios points on every journey they take by car, coach or train booked via the Uber app.

To be eligible for the promo, customers need to link their British Airways Executive Club & Uber accounts.

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Air demand strong

PASSENGER demand in Sep has stayed strong, with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) noting the continued strong recovery of the aviation sector for the month.

All markets reported strong growth, led by Asia Pacific, with total global traffic in Sep rising 57% compared to the prior corresponding period.

Globally, traffic is now at 73.8% of the pre-COVID levels, while total domestic traffic for Sep was up 6.9% compared to the same period 12 months ago, and was 81% of the pre-COVID level.

International traffic climbed 122.2% versus Sep 2021, with last month's international revenue passenger kilometres reaching 69.9% of the pre-COVID level.

"Even with economic and geopolitical uncertainties, the demand for air transport continues to recover ground," IATA's Director General Willie Walsh said.

Travelex hits a six!

TRAVELEX has launched a new cricket-themed "digital airport" store at Adelaide Airport.

Opening this week, the location is the first new Travelex store in Australia since the COVID-19 pandemic, and features signed cricket bats and jerseys from the national team.

It is located in Adelaide's departures lounge, while a number of Travelex ATMs can also be found in the arrivals lounge.

The new "digital airport" strategy places a greater emphasis on click & collect and self-serve, while still providing traditional walk-up stores allowing customers to choose how they buy their foreign exchange.

The strategy also ensures there are no commission fees charged. It is the first phase of Travelex's Adelaide operations, with the second to be completed by the end of the year, and will involve more assisted self-serve options.

Information Sessions

What makes TravelManagers the best in the business?

Find out why TravelManagers has been awarded NTIA's Most Outstanding Mobile Advisor Network in 2019 and now in 2022.

Meet your local business partnership manager for a one-on-one information session and discover why our award-winning model is loved by our network of personal travel managers across Australia.

Information sessions are being held from 14 – 28 November 2022 in the following locations:

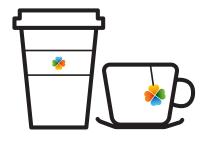
- Gold Coast
- Brishane
- Melbourne Central Coast
- Wollongong

- Sydney Canberra
- Hobart
- Newcastle
- Adelaide
- Perth

Can't make the above sessions? Other dates and locations including regional, are available by appointment. All sessions are confidential and obligation free.

Email join.us@travelmanagers.com.au to book in a time that suits you.









Aviation tech funding

THE Federal Government has allocated \$18 million for 12 projects under the first round of its Emerging Aviation Technology Partnerships (EATP) program.

The EATP, put in place by the former Morrison Government, will commit \$32.6 million up until Jun 2024 in a bid to make the aviation sector competitive, efficient and sustainable.

Winners of the grants supported under Round 1 of the program included Xrotor Pty Ltd, which will use the money to develop, test and trial new propeller designs for both emerging and traditional aircraft, with a view to reducing noise impact and creating higher propulsion efficiency.

Another recipient of funding was AMSL Aero, which is pioneering electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft with an initial focus on delivering air ambulances in regional NSW.

Meanwhile, the development of structural solar surfaces for the wings of an upcoming fleet of Australian electric aircraft is high on the agenda for Praxis Labs, which also landed some

cash from the government fund, while Revolution Aerospace Pty Ltd will use its funding to investigate trials in the delivery of cargo in the Whitsundays region, laying the groundwork for air taxi operations down the track.

"The EATP Program will ensure that our aviation sector remains at the forefront of innovation as it continues to develop and grow, particularly with the renewed focus on achieving net zero carbon emissions," Federal Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development Minister Catherine King said.

"This program will...enhance the capabilities of Australian businesses in delivering new aviation operations with increased technical complexity."

While improving the manufacturing in emerging aviation technology is a primary aim of the funding, digital farming, improving remote community health and boosting regional supply chain efficiency are also part of the objectives, as well as addressing regulatory barriers to the sector.



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Tribe touches down

TRIBE has touched down in Bali with its newest hotel. Tribe Bali Kuta Beach.

The property is now open for bookings, offering 165 rooms across six different categories, many of which have balconies.

Also on offer are design-driven common spaces, smart rooms, and 24/7 grab & go eateries.

Located on Kuta Beach, a 10-minute drive from the airport, and within walking distance of countless restaurants and bars, Tribe Bali offers bespoke experiences which give guests collaborative workspaces, "decompression zones", and coliving areas with contemporary design throughout.

To celebrate local Balinese culture, many of the hotel's features, such as the furniture, have been sourced from local artists to support the creative industry in Bali.

Oz grabs third spot

NEW analysis by BAV Group in the United States has ranked Australia as the third best country in the world for tourism, behind only Italy and Spain.

Australia's rank was supported by being a fun and friendly place.

Window

IN RESPONSE to a Federal **Aviation Administration** report, which showed the average weight of air passengers in the US had increased by 7kg for men and 15kg for women, United Airlines has begun operating some flights with empty seats.

The carrier said it was blocking off seats on some of its Boeing 757 flights - an aircraft normally saluted for its particularly roomy cabin size.

UA will enact the move at least until the end of Apr, with the restrictions to see between three and six seats cordoned off per aircraft.

The downside of carrying extra weight in the air can be both dangerous and financially inefficient, with air performance hampered & the risk of crashing heightened.



Considering a Sea Change?

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- Positions available Gold Coast and Brisbane
- Hybrid/remote considered

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Excessive handling

A BAGGAGE handler contracted by Qantas has been stood down after being filmed aggressively throwing passenger luggage at Western Australia's Karratha Airport on Sun.

The footage, which was captured by travellers waiting to board the plane and posted to social media, shows the handler grabbing suitcases off a conveyor belt and hurling them onto the trolley, sending other bags tumbling to the ground.

A Qantas spokesperson said the airline is "disappointed" with the behaviour, and an investigation is now being carried out.

Airbnb spruiks Qld

AIRBNB has partnered with Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) to launch a remote working hub to promote Queensland as the ideal destination for remote workers to visit.

The hub (which can be accessed **HERE**) is a one-stop-shop that provides inspiration for local long-term listings as well as info on entry requirements, tax details and visa policies.

The Live and Work Anywhere partnership will also see TEQ collaborate with Airbnb on a number of initiatives to educate aspiring remote workers on how to live and work in Queensland.



Click to read



Travel Junction drops by London



THE Travel Junction is back in London to exhibit at the World Travel Market (ITM) for the first time since 2019.

The Brisbane-based agency is the only Australian-owned wholesaler exhibiting at WTM 2022 - a demonstration of the company's commitment to its UK and European growth.

Pictured: General Manager James Whiting and Global Sales Director Kevin Looney with newly appointed UK & European Sales Director, Noel Gibbs.

VA SYD gate opens

VIRGIN Australia's Premium Entry has reopened at Sydney Airport to offer a fast-tracked security experience to eligible flyers, including Velocity Frequent Flyer Platinum, Gold and Beyond members and Business class guests, operating between 5am and 7am weekdays.

Air India eyes buy

AIR India has begun the process to merge low-cost carriers Air India Express and AirAsia India, with the consolidating expected to be completed by Dec 2023.

In a statement on 02 Nov, Air India said the merger is expected to "bring customer, revenue, cost and operational benefits through broader adoption of each airlines' best practices, systems and routes, and the combined entity's greater scale".

The announcement came just hours after Tata Sons-owned Air India completed its acquisition of AirAsia India, which has a fleet of 28 A320s operating domestic flights from its Bengaluru hub.

Air India Express, founded in 2005 and headquartered in Kochi, has a fleet of 24 Boeing 737s which fly short-haul international routes, connecting India with Southwest Asia and the Gulf region.







Tue 8th November 2022

NCL's record-breaking wellness walkers

CONGRATULATIONS to each and every participant who took part in Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) awardwinning Walk for Wellness! A record 1,070 walkers clocked a combined 120,000km, including NCL's President & CEO, Harry Sommer who joined the wellness initiative for the very first time. Plus, the third annual challenge saw NCL's largest-ever prize pool valued at over \$16,000, at the same time as the program was

> named 'Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign' at the National Travel Industry Awards.

Walkers traced Norwegian Spirit's inaugural local sailing season from the South Pacific to Australia and New Zealand, taking part in fun challenges along the way, including a brand-new clean-up challenge supporting NCL's partner, Take 3 for the Sea – offering agents a practical way to look after themselves, while taking action for the environment.

A special shout out goes to Kerry Balestrin from Your Cruise Holidays in Qld, who took out the grand prize, a stateroom on Norwegian Spirit's 12-day Christmas cruise.

"Walk for Wellness has always been about prioritising our health and wellbeing while celebrating our travel community. Thank you to each and every participant for joining us this year!" said Damian Borg, Director of Sales, NCL AUNZ.

CLICK HERE to sign up to NCL's reimagined Partners First Rewards program to be the first to know about all future NCL initiatives.







WEEK one prize-winner, Concept Travel's Kym O'Shannassy.



AMANDA Dowell, MTA Travel Newcastle.



WEEK two prize-winner, World Travellers' Raewyn Going.



OUR Vacation Centre's Greg

Thorn and Noriye Oto with Norwegian's Craig McLaurin.





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MONEY

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

AU\$1 = U\$\$0.648

AFTER a sharp rise on Fri, the Aussie dollar remains steady this week, while at the same time the US dollar fell against all major currencies.

While inflation remains strong at 7.3%, the RBA is hopeful that it will peak soon and a recession can be dodged.

However, inflation is forecast to reach 4.75% over 2023, which is higher than the 4.25% that was originally predicted.

Wholesale rates this morning.

ı	US	\$0.648
ı	UK	£0.562
ı	NZ	\$1.091
ı	Euro	€0.646
ŀ	Japan	¥94.99
	Thailand	ß24.24
ı	China	¥4.684
ı	South Africa	11.48
ı	Canada	\$0.874
L	Crude oil	US\$92.61

Double the Nashville

IHG Hotels & Resorts has announced the opening of its first dual-branded avid hotels and Holiday Inn & Suites property in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.

The hotel offers 168 rooms, including 96 Holiday Inn & Suites and 72 avid hotels, as well as access to shared spaces, including a heated indoor pool, fitness centre, meeting space and outdoor common areas.

IHG has added several new dual-branded properties to its portfolio, including Staybridge Suites/Holiday Inn Express Houston.

Breakfast for tourism champs



TOURISM Western Australia's Managing Director Carolyn Turnbull shared a full English breakfast last week with the Australian British Chamber of Commerce, where she updated the group on Tourism WA's plans for reviving the state's tourism.

Talks on the day included how the organisation is currently working with industry and

NZ goes west, or not

THE West Coast of New Zealand is 'Pretty Great, Actually', according to the latest campaign from Development West Coast, which cuts through the noise with a quirky and understated approach.

In a series of videos highlighting the region's drawcards, visitors are shown how there are "loads of things to do or not", from relaxing in natural hot pools to adventuring in the wilderness.

With the borders reopening, international visitors are returning to the region, resulting in an increase of spending by A\$2.6 million for Sep compared to the same period in 2021.

government to improve access, accommodation and tourism experiences, along with worldclass events.

Pictured: Turnbull (second from the right) with FIIG State Manager, WA Darryl Bruce (far right) and other attendees.

Marsden Lake Otago

MARSDEN Hotels & Resorts is preparing to welcome Marsden Lake Resort Central Otago to its portfolio from 01 Dec.

Located on the shores of Lake Dunstan in Cromwell, the 62-room property includes oneand three-bedroom villas with large overwater decks, private moorings for boats or jet skis, and direct access to the waterway.

The resort also houses a restaurant, cafe, and wine bar, as well as large venue spaces.

Marsden Lake Resort Central Otago is the second resort-style property for Marsden Group since Castaways Resort in Karioitahi Beach, Auckland, joined in 2018.

The group revealed it will also announce the addition of a third resort-style property in early 2023.

Criminal gangs target Boomers

ELDERLY travellers are being tricked into trafficking drugs into Australia, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) has warned.

The AFP revealed it has arrested 18 alleged drug mules on arrival into the country over the last year, including some elderly US nationals who were caught with 15kg of methamphetamine and 1.5kg of cocaine in their luggage, and claimed they were under the direction of organised criminals.

"We have unfortunately seen instances where people have not only fallen victim to classic inheritance or investment scams and lost their money, but they are then offered false hope to regain their money, some unwittingly working as drug mules for the criminal syndicate," the AFP said.

"Our message to these organised criminal syndicates is clear - we are aware of your methodologies in your attempts to bring harmful substances to our country & they will not work."

Dutch activists block private jets

HUNDREDS of climate activists sat around or rode bicycles around private jets at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport on Sat to block them from leaving, ahead of the COP27 UN climate meeting in Egypt.

According to Greenpeace Netherlands, the activists want "fewer flights, more trains and a ban on unnecessary short-haul flights and private jets".

In response, Schipol CEO Ruud Sondag said the airport aims to be emissions-free by 2030.

Travel Daily

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