Travel Daily First with the news

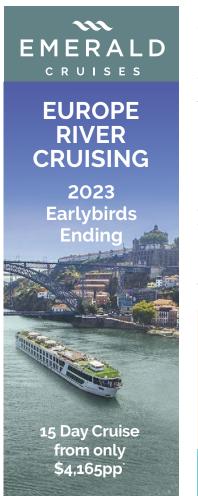


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Bunnik full comm

BUNNIK Tours is today highlighting the advantages it offers for both travel agencies and their clients through its small group touring program.

Benefits include full commission on air bookings, including on taxes - more details on page 8.



Click here for Earlybird Offers

그김씨님 않고 **BAVEL GROUI**

Tuesday 6th Sep 2022

Link adds two members

LINK Travel Group, the invitation-only JV between Spencer Group, Goldman Travel and Flight Centre, today announced the addition of Travel Bevond and Eden Corporate Travel to its ranks (TD breaking news).

Travel Beyond leaves CT Partners to join the new group, with the agency's CEO Tim Lane also set to join Link's Advisory Board, alongside Penny Spencer, Anthony Goldman, Flight Centre's Dani Galloway, Reho Travel's Karsten Horne and Andy Buerckner from Platinum Travel.

Eden Corporate Travel is a longstanding member of Helloworld Business Travel, with Link GM Scott Darlow saying both new members had been identified from the start as "exceptional travel businesses, owned and run by highly respected and skilled industry leaders".

"Their objectives align with Link Travel Group's goals of delivering

transparency and greater returns while driving travel industry leadership and success," he said.

Eden MD Andrew Want said being invited to join Link was an "incredible opportunity to align with industry greats...Link offers an established, long-term vision that is clear and focused - plus access to technology that makes for a very exciting future".

Travel Beyond's Tim Lane said Link "provides a platform for us to elevate our offering to our customers, while allowing our operations to streamline processes and workflows".

Eden started its Link partnership on 01 Sep, while Travel Beyond Group will commence its membership in early 2023.

Today's issue of *TD*

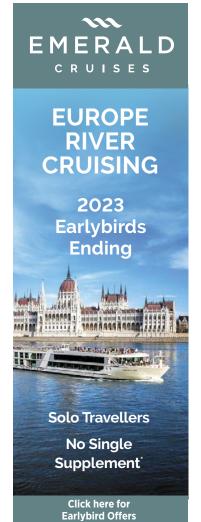
Travel Daily today features seven pages of news plus a full page from Bunnik Tours.



SYD hotel upgrade

HOLIDAY Inn Sydney Airport has unveiled a \$15 million refurbishment which has seen all 252 guest rooms given a new look.

As well as upgrading all furnishings the rooms now feature Nespresso stations, digital menus, new TVs and more.





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Japan back to the future

INSIDE Travel Group Sales & Marketing Manager Harry Sargant believes Japan has chosen a fantastic time to reopen to the Australian market, following last week's announcement that fully booked solo travellers will be welcome back from tomorrow (TD 01 Sep).

Sargant told Travel Daily that having just passed through the northern summer, which is normally the quietest time for Australians travelling to Japan, the end of the year provides a great opportunity for tourists to witness the fall leaves.

Following autumn is the country's ski season; and with little to no crowds as the world slowly begins to rediscover Japan, now is the prime time

RV sell-off proposal

CONSULTATION with the ACCC has kicked off this week in regards to THL and Apollo's proposed merger (TD 10 Dec 2021), with a court-enforceable divestment of 80% of Apollo's four to six berth motorhomes in Australia high on the compromise agenda.

The proposed trade-off to get the merger over the line also includes divesting leases for Apollo's rental branches and depots in four locations, along with the Apollo Star RV brand.

Submissions on the latest proposal are now being encouraged by the ACCC before it makes a final decision.

for Australians to visit the Asian destination as it once was before its tourism boom.

"You're seeing Japan as it was 15-20 years ago when [it] was really off the radar...vou could even walk around Tokyo and Kyoto and not see many other foreigners, and as soon as you went outside to Kyoto, you never saw another foreigner," Sargant explained.

"It's got that special sort of undiscovered feel again at the moment, and I think that will be there for people that get there in the next six months to a year."

While Sargant said he was not quite sure when unrestricted general travel would return, he said he would be surprised if Japan wasn't back to business as usual by the cherry blossom season in Mar and Apr. More on Inside Japan HERE.

Condon joins Entire

ZOE Condon has joined Entire Travel Group's Canada and Alaska team as Travel & Product Advisor. bringing with her 10 years of industry experience, including her latest role at Rocky Mountaineer.

Sales & Marketing Director Greg McCallum said Canada and Alaska is a major driver of post-pandemic growth for the brand, adding, "having someone with Zoe's expertise, insights and connections join the team will ensure that we maintain and build on that momentum".



vour dedicated Rail Partner

Airline honour list

TRAVEL Agent Finder's founder Anna Shannon has announced plans to build a new page which lists the contact details for airlines who still support agents with sales commission.

"We would like to support those who support us," Shannon said, adding that airlines interested in being featured on the new page should contact her at hello@ travelagentfinder.com.au to list their relevant trade contact details and resources.

This page is for travel agent members only and not visible to the public.

Find out more about Travel Agent Finder **HERE**.

FC Foundation plans

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has unveiled its strategic plan for 2022-2024 for the Flight Centre Foundation, as well as a range of new partners.

The plan concentrates on three guiding pillars, headlined by FCTG committing to fund its annual Giving Grants round, where its staff choose the charities to support.

FCTG will also build partnerships with not-for-profits who utilise travel or tourism as a vehicle for positive social and/or environmental impact; and will fund proactive and preventative environmental programs through aligning with organisations that work within conservation efforts, biodiversity, wildlife protection and sustainability.

RAILEUROPE



EMIRATES' new 'Fly Better' ad campaign starring Gerry the Goose (TD 30 Aug) has caught the attention of 'rival' Air New Zealand, which ran an eerily similar 'Better Way to Fly' campaign featuring Dave the Goose over several years from 2016, voiced by legendary actor Bryan Brown.

But instead of earning the Kiwi carrier's ire, Air New Zealand, which is noted for its tongue-in-cheek approach to marketing, has instead released a retaliatory ad that sees Dave return to the skies to poke fun at the Middle Eastern airline.

The cheeky ad makes Emirates look like a bit of a goose for its similar ad push, with Dave the Goose tweeting "you'll be pleased to know that I finally convinced my old mate Gerry to stop doing his own flying, like me. The only problem is he got the wrong airline. What are you doing on Emirates, Gerry?"

Emirates, an interline partner with Air NZ, has since flapped back, tweeting, "don't wing it, Dave! You definitely want to fly with Emirates".

View the fun retort vid HERE.







Walking a new dream

WESTERN Australia has launched a new global tourism brand this week called 'Walking on a Dream', positioning the state as a "dreamlike place" for visitors.

Targeting both interstate and international visitors, the campaign aims to lift Western Australia's profile as a unique holiday destination, and turbocharge visitation as the state exits the COVID-19 pandemic.

The campaign features two Western Australia-born Aboriginal performers, Rika Hamaguchi and Ian Wilkes, who star in the push, alongside local electronic music duo Empire of the Sun, who have also re-recorded their hit single Walking on a Dream to help drive the campaign.

The new concept will be adapted for all future Tourism WA marketing activities that promote additional destinations across WA, including Tourism WA's website, which now showcases a range of travel itineraries.

KIWI Rail's tourism division, The Great Journeys of New Zealand (GJNZ), has launched a new collection of rail tourism offerings in regional NZ. comprising 10 short break packages and multiday tours, as well as a series of 12 fully guided tours.

The short breaks are designed to take travellers off the beaten track in the North and South Islands, on the Northern Explorer, Coastal Pacific and TranzAlpine trains, with experiences such as rail carting in Taumarunui, wine tasting in Marlborough, whale, dolphin and albatross encounters in Kaikoura, and more.

Alternatively, travellers can opt for the longer, fully-guided small group tours split across two categories, Classic and Signature, bringing together several tourism experiences which range from six to 17 days in length, with set departure dates each year. "It's about giving people more

Click here to discover Salling ab GJNZ unveils guided tours travel choice," KiwiRail's General

LEARN MORE ABOUT RAIL IN SWITZERLAND WITH THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY

Travel Daily

Manager Great Journeys New Zealand and Commuter Rail Tracey Goodall said, explaining that the packages and tours are designed to build on the standard scenic train journeys, which will still be available to people who prefer to travel independently.

"They're a convenient, easy way for international tourists to explore New Zealand, knowing that their accommodation, transfers and visitor experiences are taken care of."

Northern Explorer (Auckland -Wellington) will resume running from 25 Sep and Coastal Pacific (Picton-Christchurch) from 29 Sep, while the TranzAlpine (Christchurch-Greymouth) restarted services in Jan 2022.

Scenic trains are open for bookings, while packages will begin later this year and tours in early 2023, with more info to follow soon - see HERE for info.

One in five return

NEW research from Destination NSW has shown that approximately 20% of cruise visitors return independently to ports they visit on cruises.

The trend was highlighted in a new guide from Destination NSW, Quick Tips for Creating Cruise Shore Experiences, which provides practical tips to help businesses tailor experiences and sell them through the cruise distribution network.

Assisting visitor economy stakeholders such as tour operators, attractions and retailers, the guide was created in partnership with the Port Authority of NSW, and presents opportunities like selling exclusive & tailored cruise experiences to cruise ship passengers in ports; building awareness of the destination and its experiences; and inspiring high-value travellers to create positive word of mouth and book return visits.

View the new guide HERE.



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Qantas hits back

QANTAS has responded to claims made by ABC's *Four Corners* program that it has made decisions that have put the safety of its passengers at risk.

Among the claims made by the program include inexperienced and fatigued ground staff making baggage loading errors, an understaffed engineering team putting pressure on maintenance, and a push to discourage some staff from wearing face masks.

"Aviation is one of the most closely scrutinised industries in Australia and Qantas would never, ever compromise on safety," the carrier said.

Qantas also claimed it was denied an unedited interview opportunity to address the claims, and was critical that *Four Corners* did not contact the Civil Aviation Safety Authority regarding any claims made in the program - read Qantas' full response to questions **HERE**.

Big Red's tech push

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand experience marketplace, Big Red Group, has appointed Brent Rutherford to the newly created role of Chief Technology Officer to lead its digital transformation.

The appointment comes as the company begins to overhaul its e-commerce experience for suppliers and consumers across its suite of brands.

Rutherford has held senior roles in technology solution companies and also has experience in helping scale technology and business operations in large and rapidly growing companies such as Dell and Apple.

Rutherford is tasked with modernising the tech across every aspect of the business and connecting the company's five e-commerce platforms -Experience Oz, Local Agent, RedBalloon, Adrenaline and Lime&Tonic - into one cloud-native multi-brand platform.

Atout France scores with rugby



LAST night Atout France welcomed hundreds of industry partners for a lavish soiree celebrating the upcoming Rugby World Cup 2023.

To be played across France, the tournament will bring the destination sharply into focus for Aussie travellers, with an estimated 250,000 bed nights expected from the local market over the 50 days of competition.

A dozen Wallabies players enjoyed the evening along with 350 other guests, with Atout France's inimitable Patrick Benhamou **pictured** taking the opportunity to make a forward pass to Cassie, a Parisian cabaret acrobat who performed at the gathering at the Sydney Sofitel Wentworth Hotel.

Today Atout France's focus switches to Melbourne, where it is hosting its first French Travel Workshop in three years, with the Paris region as the guest of honour.

Taiwan now visa-free

OFFICIALS in Taiwan have announced the resumption of visa-free travel with Australia, NZ, Europe and the USA, with the reopening effective 12 Sep.

However the weekly cap of 50,000 arrivals remains, as well as three days of quarantine.

CELEBRATING VEARS Abercrombie & Kent PIONEERS OF LUXURY TRAVEL

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Albatross & Oceania Roadshow



ALBATROSS Tours and Oceania Cruises have just wrapped up a series of eight morning trade events throughout South-East Queensland.

Held on the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba and Brisbane, attendance throughout was strong, with many agents making the time to attend the educational events, despite some very busy schedules.

Pictured at Mountain Creek on the Sunshine Coast, standing from left at the back: James Sitter, Oceania Cruises; Larry Burrows, event organiser; and Euan Landsborough, Albatross Tours.



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Kimberley return

LINDBLAD Expeditions-National Geographic will explore the Kimberley and beyond next year, when National Geographic Orion returns to Australian waters, having been absent for a number of years.

Orion will delve into the ancient landscapes of the region with two new itineraries - the 12-day Kimberley Expedition: Australia's Wild Northwest; and the 16-day Kimberley Expedition: Northwest Australia & Indonesia.

Highlights of the season include a journey along the iconic King George River to explore its towering red rock canyon walls; dropping in on Horizontal Falls in the Buccaneer Archipelago; and a visit to the remote Komodo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where pax will go in search of the Komodo dragon.

Prices start from \$13,940pp for the 12-day sailing and \$19,520pp for the 16-day trip.

Jetstar's Bali woes

TALLA TOURI

THOUSANDS of Aussie travellers in Bali are believed to have been impacted by Jetstar engineering issues, resulting in dozens of cancelled flights.

Media reports suggest the carrier is issuing food and hotel vouchers as compensation.

TM busts more goals

TRAVELMANAGERS (TM) has continued to break monthly sales records, generating a 47% increase in the average value of sales per personal travel manager for Aug compared to the same month post-COVID in 2019.

According to Executive GM Michael Gazal, Aug 2022 has been its best-ever Aug in terms of total sales, and its ninth-highest month on record, with growth seen across its three sectors cruise, touring and land.

"It's the sort of recovery I think the entire industry was waiting for," Gazal observed.

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> Applications close 21 September 2022



APT bashes it out for charity



APT co-owner and Director, Robert McGeary (pictured), recently took part in the Variety Bash last month, raising over \$20,000 for Variety Victoria Children's Charity.

McGeary and his two comrades travelled from Melbourne to Cairns over 10 days, via Broken Hill, Birdsville, Mt Isa & Kurumba, in a retired limousine - with the rule being that all participating cars must be 30 years or older.

Out of the 103 cars that started the adventure, only 93 made the entire journey, with the old limo managing to reach the finish line, albeit not entirely unscathed.

"The Limo did drag her tummy a few times on the gravel of the Birdsville Track, we lost two cylinders, had three flat tyres, had to top up the oil each day, jammed the handbrake for a day, swallowed plenty of dust, but otherwise she did well and survived the outback drive!"

McGeary said.

Each team dressed in their unique theme each day - fittingly, McGeary and his team were dressed as chauffeurs while driving their old Limo.

"I took part in my first bash with my father, Geoff, in 1995 and we travelled from Sydney to Uluru," McGeary explained.

"After doing a Bash in 2018 in Dad's 1967 HR Holden station wagon with my friends, we noted most cars were 20 years newer and much more comfortable.

"My friends and I decided for the next bash we would buy a car together and when we stumbled on the retired Limo and thought it would be a bit of fun - and comfortable!"

The Bash is Variety's largest annual charity event, raising \$1.5 million every year to provide grants, programs, scholarships, and experiences for kids who are sick or disadvantaged.



AFTA UPDATE from Dean Long, CEO



couple of weeks, we have seen further easing of restrictions around the globe as we continue to learn to live

with COVID-19.

Japan has now opened up to independent travellers (see P2) and Fiji has removed the need for testing. While our largest Asian market, China continues to follow a COVID elimination strategy and remains a closed border, our second largest market Japan's heavy restrictions further stymied a return of aviation capacity to Australia.

As we transit to an Australian summer, many Australians will be hoping to hit the slopes of Japan this winter which have been off limits for over three years.

For the first mover in the Pacific, Fiji, the removal of testing requirements will only serve to supercharge their recovery. Members' feedback continues

Tourism fund open

APPLICATIONS for the South Australian Tourism Commission's \$2 million Experience Nature Tourism Fund are now open until 21 Oct, with grants from \$10,000-\$50,000 available for new and improved nature-based tourism products and experiences - CLICK HERE for more information.

to be that Fiji has cemented its place as the new leisure destination of choice for Australians.

On the advocacy front, the skills summit has come and gone.

While there are some great announcements for the overall economy, there is still much work to be done to solve our acute shortages.

Next week I am back in Canberra for the week working with Treasury on the next phase of its white paper and putting the case forward for the greater support for trainees and apprenticeships.

While the government must increase the allowances, we must also reflect on what our industry must do to improve its attractiveness to young people. In looking at the recent enrolment data for NSW, there are fewer then 300 enrolments from schoolleavers who want to study travel tourism and events. This places our entry level qualifications in the bottom five for VET courses and we must work hard to lift this.

VA wears it better

VIRGIN Australia has partnered with Tourism Fiji and beach cult brand Double Rainbouu to launch a limited collection of bold and colourful resort wear inspired by the Fijian locals and landscapes, with the aim of highlighting the various regions and activities in Fiji to a younger demographic.



Join us for an evening to learn about the Northern Territory, enjoy great food and wine, and win fantastic prizes!

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Preserving tourism

THE Victorian Government is providing 16 tourist & heritage rail operators and museums a total of \$620,000 to preserve state-owned assets, after the sector was invited to apply for grants earlier this year.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.681

THE USD continues to dominate against the AUD, which might see a temporary bounce back after an expected 50 basis points rise by the RBA later today in yet another attempt to curb inflation.

Meanwhile, the Chinese economy is showing no signs of improvement, still impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, despite continuous stimulus measures from the country's government. Wholesale rates this morning.

	<u>-</u>
US	\$0.681
UK	£0.589
NZ	\$1.116
Euro	€o.685
Japan	¥95.69
Thailand	ß24.89
China	¥4.722
South Africa	11.70
Canada	\$0.894
Crude oil	US\$86.87

Hats off to NITA 2022 class



AN ACCOMPLISHED group of 13 students graduated from the National Indigenous Training Academy (NITA) 2022 class last Fri, at a ceremony hosted by Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia at Ayers Rock Resort.

Special guest Rhoda Roberts, a Widjabul/Wiabal woman from the Bundjalung territories & recently appointed Arts Ambassador for Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, was on hand to congratulate the graduates.

Out of the 13 students who completed the course, four earned a Certificate III in Rural Operations, while nine achieved a Certificate III in Hospitality.

Voyages CEO, Matthew Cameron-Smith, congratulated the group, saying, "it is through determination, dedication and your hard work that has got you to where you are today". "Whatever you decide to do, make sure it makes you happy and if I can give any advice, it would be say yes and have a go!"

More than 600 students have graduated since 2011, with the aim of providing solid career prospects to young Indigenous Australians at Voyages properties, including Ayers Rock Resort and Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre in Queensland.

Family Fun package

HILTON Melbourne Little Queen Street has launched its 'Family Fun Package' priced from \$385, which includes accommodation, a family breakfast, a personalised chocolate zoo, and a \$50 voucher for food and drinks to use at the swanky Luci Restaurant.

CLICK HERE to book between 16 Sep and 16 Oct.



TD Events is the new way to

showcase your product or service to the travel industry. Livn Group - info coming soon Missed an event? Don't worry, you can catch up at any time.

RECENT EVENTS

Amadeus - the latest travel technology trends with Kaylene Shuttlewood and Lance Batty -**CLICK HERE** to view.

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



Travel Daily

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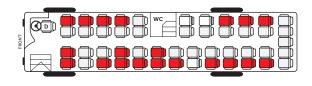
Small groups Max 12 to 20 per tour

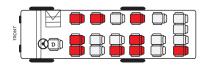


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