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Travel Daily First with the news

Friday 30th Sep 2022

Cruise back for good in Aus

STILL Still Standing!

TRAVEL Daily and our sister publications **Cruise Weekly** and **travelBulletin** are thrilled to announce the return of our Still Standing Celebration.

We're simply calling it "Still Still Standing" with the pre-Xmas event to take place on Wed 07 Dec at 6pm at the Sydney Four Seasons.

Tickets will go on sale in Nov, with limited sponsorship opportunities available - contact stillstanding@traveldaily.com.au. THE Australian cruise industry's recovery efforts grew in scale today, as Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Splendor* arrived in the country this morning, in what the line's local President Marguerite Fitzgerald described as the "return in earnest of international sailing from our nation".

Splendor was led into Sydney by one of her sister brand's vessels, P&O Cruises Australia's Pacific

SAVE THE DATE

Travel Daily BOARDING PASS

Destination STILL "STILL STANDING" - A CELEBRATION FOR THE INDUSTRY Seat Four Seasons Hotel Sydney

Date Wed 7 Dec 2022, 6pm til late



More information to come



Adventure, in a homecoming which signals a fully-fledged 2022-23 summer season ahead.

TravelManagers

Customer Fund

Fitzgerald told **Travel Daily** Splendor's return, and the 3,000+ plus international passengers she has brought with her, signals the start of billions of dollars of profitability back into the Australian economy.

"So many in the (cruise) ecosystem have been waiting for this moment," she said.

"It's been great to have P&O ships back in, it's been great to have *Coral Princess* back, but this is when the economic activity comes back," she said.

Fitzgerald said Carnival Australia saw its role as being to lead the revitalisation of the local cruise industry, which it has done so over the past 12 months.

"We actually see that as our responsibility as 'the Australian cruise company," she remarked.

"We had to do it, we had to be the ones that took the risk, tried things, found a way of making it work to really build that confidence.

"If we'd waited until now to restart the industry, we wouldn't be restarting the cruise industry." In an epic display of maritime

pageantry, *Splendor* and *Adventure* met off the coast of Sydney early this morning, sailing into the Harbour together before momentarily pausing adjacent to Fort Denison, the Opera House, and the Harbour Bridge.

More details on the cover page.



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Travel Daily today features six pages of news, including a photo page from RSSC, plus a cover wrap from Carnival Cruise Line & full pages from: • The Travel Junction

Entire Travel Group

NY's one stop shop

FLIGHT Centre's The Travel Junction has launched a campaign with I LOVE NY, offering agents special packages via The Travel Junction's HELiO platform.

Every booking also earns advisors bonus points in The Travel Junction's annual incentive, with the chance to score a famil trip in Aug 2023 - see **page seven**.

BA ramps up SIN

BRITISH Airways will move back to offering an additional daily flight between Singapore and London from 07 Nov.

The move will also see the launch of BA's new First and Club Suite cabins on the Sydney to Singapore and London route, with the upgraded product available outbound from 01 Nov.

MSC extends club

MSC Cruises is extending Voyagers Club card benefits until 31 Dec 2023 for cards expiring between Oct 2022 and Apr 2023.

Cruises booked by 30 Nov for sailings between 01 Nov & 28 Feb 2023 will see Voyagers Club members receive 700 extra points added prior to departure.



Travel Daily e info@traveldaily.com.au



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NTIA honours individuals

THE last-minute addition of a new category to this year's hugely anticipated National Travel Industry Awards (*TD* breaking news) highlights the keen interest in the rebooted NTIAs, with AFTA taking on board feedback following yesterday's unveiling of the finalists in several categories.

The NTIA Most Popular Travel Support Service, which is being decided by the votes already cast, is being split into two, with a new "Most Popular Travel Support Service by an Individual" award recognising that some have gone above and beyond in helping the industry during the pandemic.

AFTA CEO Dean Long said while the finalists announced yesterday were all corporations (Amadeus, Cover-More, nib Sabre and TravelPay), some individuals had also attracted a significant number of votes "and it simply wouldn't be fair to let that recognition pass without

acknowledgement".

Finalists in the new category are Anna Shannon, Travel Agent Finder; Destination Webinars founder Charlie Trevena; Richard Taylor from The Travel Community Hub; and Roslyn Ranse from Travel Agent Achievers.

"We're thrilled to announce as a result that those travel professionals will also be acknowledged as finalists in the Most Popular Travel Support Service by an Individual," Long said, with the winner to be announced on Sat 15 Oct at the sold-out industry night of nights.

Isolation is over

NATIONAL Cabinet today agreed to the end of all COVID-19 isolation requirements, meaning the end of stay-at-home orders for infected people and the cessation of pandemic leave disaster payments from 14 Oct. Travel high speed from Paris to Champagne in 46 mins and beyond, explore Eastern France by TGV EST. Paris to Reims 46m/Metz 1h24m/Nancy 1h31m/Strasbourg 1h45m.



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Breach bumps delays

THE Optus data breach which saw millions of Australian passport details leaked is adding extra headaches for the alreadystretched passport renewal queue, DFAT says.

Passport details were among the key types of identification stolen in the hack, along with driver's licence numbers, home addresses and phone numbers, creating a rush by many Aussies looking to renew the document.

MEANWHILE DFAT has started releasing the next-generation passport, the R Series, boasting more secure credentials than its predecessor P Series passports, which were rolled out in 2014.

From early 2023, all customers will receive an R series passport, which possesses a high-security photo page comprised of layered plastic, which DFAT claims will make the document harder to forge and damage.

Passport fees will remain the same for the new version.

TGV × RAILEUROPE



POKEMON fans will love China Airlines' "Pikachu Jet CI", the first Pokemon-liveried aircraft ever for Taiwan.

It took 36 different types of paint over 21 days to achieve the A321neo's colourful look, which features 11 of the anime's adorable characters.

On board the aircraft, fans can enjoy 10 hand-picked Pokemon animations, as well as Pokemon-themed pillows, traymats, paper cups, and snacks.

Flight attendants will get in on the fun too, donning aprons featuring Pikachu in flight.







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Over 50s delaying travel

ONGOING conflicts, the lingering effects of the pandemic, and climate change are all impacting Aussies aged over 50 years old from taking a holiday sooner, new data from Australian Seniors has shown.

The survey of 1,000 people over 50 also found that the rising cost of living was delaying a return to international travel, with 80% indicating travel is becoming more difficult to afford.

Despite one in five respondents accumulating travel credits over the last two years, 35% said redeeming the credits was "difficult and time-consuming", while 90% admitted they are having to take chunks out of their savings to fund a holiday.

Concerningly, 72% said they don't mind having to spend the kids' inheritance to fund trips, while one in 10 admitted to drawing down on super or taking on more credit card/personal loan debt to book adventures.

The volume of older Aussies willing to travel overseas without taking out insurance is also shrinking, with only 5% suggesting they would consider travelling without a policy, while 58% indicated they were more likely to take out a policy now than prior to the pandemic.

Health cover was the primary

Holiday show arrives

THE Holiday & Travel Show is set to showcase the sector in Australia from next month, with each two-day event to feature a range of tour operators, cruise lines, hoteliers, and tourism bodies from around the world.

The tour will visit Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne and is free to attend, with guests in the running to score themselves big prizes, as well as access to a film session run by exhibitors.

Sponsors of the events include Norwegian Cruise Line and Journey Beyond - register to attend the events **HERE**. reason for taking out a policy, followed by peace of mind and specific COVID-19 coverage.

Three in five over 50s also said they would consider hopping aboard a cruise ship despite the industry's recent challenges, with most listing cruise travel as one of the most sociable forms of holidays they can take.

In terms of sought-after experiences, historical/cultural topped the list with 40%, followed by food and wine (35%), wildlife/nature (34%), and relaxation/health retreats (29%).

ATEC culture training

BUYERS can now register for the Australian Tourism Export Council and Tourism Australia's host trade engagement platform, where they will learn to better sell to Indian, Indonesian and Muslim visitors around the globe. Find out more details and register by **CLICKING HERE**.

Come and find BC

THE Canadian province of British Columbia (BC) has launched a local campaign encouraging visitation from Australian travellers, with the push showcasing the region's mountains, wildlife experiences, rainforests, and coastlines.

The Find Yourself campaign will be run through traditional and digital media, as well as via co-op marketing with Helloworld, Entire Travel Group and Natural Focus Safaris.

A-ROSA is smarter

A-ROSA River Cruises has launched a new smartphone app to provide guests with more cruise info, including restaurant and bar opening times, details of the evening buffet menus, spa and sauna trading hours, and bookings.

The A-ROSA APP is now available on A-ROSA SENA, ahead of a fleet wide rollout in 2023.



Batik marks KL flights from PER



BATIK Air hosted a cocktail event in Perth last week to celebrate the relaunch of its non-stop Perth-Kuala Lumpur services, which will now run 14 times weekly, as well as the introduction of new Perth-Denpasar services.

Attendees celebrating the Lionowned carrier's launch included WA Tourism Minister Roger Cook, travel trade partners, and key people from WA's airport authorities.

Pictured: Kevin Brown, CEO Perth Airport; Stephanie Juszkiewicz, Senior VP Aviation Business Development Perth Airport; and Datuk Chandran Ramamuthy, Group Strategy Director of Lion Air Group.

South Africa safari links with Taronga

TARONGA has partnered with South African Tourism to bring an array of experiences to Taronga's zoos these school holidays as part of the tourism body's Zoo Month celebrations.

Throughout the month, guests can collect a complimentary lion hat at Taronga or Dubbo zoo and embark on the Wild Safari trail - along the way, kids will learn about some of Taronga's and South Africa's animals and ecotourism practices.

After completing the trail, guests will receive a code to go in a draw to win a family trip to South Africa worth \$34,000.

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CORPORATE UPDATE End-to-end digital needed

THERE are significant productivity and financial advantages on offer for companies that digitally transform their end-to-end business travel processes, a new report from Amadeus suggests.

The study examined large corporations headquartered in the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Germany, and concluded that better management of travel spend would save a collective US\$31.4 billion annually.

The paper advocates for tools like virtual payment cards with predetermined budgets, meaning corporate travellers can pay with the company's money while

GBTA applauds US SAF progress

THE world's largest business travel and meetings trade organisation has hailed the launch of the SAF Grand Challenge roadmap in the US as a major step in the right direction for the corporate travel sector.

"The announcement...puts the global business travel industry on strong footing to overcome barriers for widespread deployment of low-carbon sustainable aviation fuel that can decrease greenhouse gas emissions and shrink the traveller footprint," GBTA CEO Suzanne Neufang said.

"GBTA will continue to play an active role in supporting SAF, by making sure corporate users of air travel can lean on SAF as the most effective solution to reduce their scope three emissions from business travel," she added.

The Sustainable Aviation Fuel Grand Challenge is the result of the US Department of Energy and the US Department of Transportation deciding to formally work together to develop a strategy for scaling up new tech to produce SAF on a commercial scale. travelling using a smart device. This would see the need for expense reports eliminated, enabling a company's finance team to have a more adept control of audit & reimbursement management, improve budget forecasts, and remove the need to chase down specific information from travellers and providers in order to reclaim international taxes.

The paper added that an emerging fragmented approach means adherence to travel policies has become irregular, while 'on-trip' spend like meals and taxis are rarely managed, and a reliance on manual expense claims burden travellers.

"Massive digital transformation is coming at exactly the right moment to answer the need for more efficient and intelligent business travel that companies can better justify, measure and control," Amadeus Cytric Solutions Executive Vice President Rudy Daniello said.

Drilling down on the findings, Amadeus claimed that digitalising expenses can save 147 minutes per expense claim, equating to 188,000 full time equivalent employees and \$20.6 billion in gross economic value, while direct travel spend would lead to 8.2% better efficiencies.

Reed & Mackay appointment

REED & Mackay has appointed Snowden Chan as its new Director of Client Experience in Asia.

He was formerly with Connexus Travel as Head of Client Services in Greater China, and has also held senior regional roles with both CWT and BCD Travel.

Vale Danny Hood

THE corporate travel sector is mourning pioneer Danny Hood, who headed up BCD Travel in the US from 1993 to 1996, and again from 2008 until 2010. Travel Daily LEARN MORE ABOUT FINNAIR WITH THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY

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VEL MY NNAIR

NNAIR



SKAL International Hobart and the International Institute for Peace through Tourism (IIPT) inducted Hobart as a City of Peace and inaugurated the IIPT/ SKAL Peace Park Promenade at Macquarie Point last week.

The dedication coincided with the United Nations International Day of Peace and was attended by dignitaries such as Lord Mayor of Hobart Anna Reynolds.

A&K survey last day

TODAY is the last day for agents to complete Abercrombie & Kent's (A&K) short survey and go into the draw to win a \$500 prepaid Visa card.

The survey will take around five minutes to complete, and will ask how you view the brand and product styles, and how the team can better support you to grow your A&K business.

CLICK HERE to take the survey.

VA offers counsel

VIRGIN Australia workers will receive a day of counselling to help them "get over the trauma" of the pandemic, and "to say goodbye to the past, and hello to the future".

Chief Executive Jayne Hrdlicka said the counselling would help address the challenges in moving forward from the pandemic and the impact of the health crisis on people's professional and personal lives. Cities of Peace is an initiative that identifies cities that actively demonstrate and promote values of tolerance, non-violence, gender equality, human rights, environmental awareness, and youth empowerment.

Pictured: Dave Flower, President Skal Hobart; Elise Archer, Tas Minister for Justice & Arts; Alfred Merse, Past President Skal Hobart; Anna Reynolds, Lord Mayor Hobart; Gail Parsonage, IIPT President Australia.

Culture is closer than you think

TOURISM NT has launched an Australia-wide campaign inviting holidaymakers to immerse themselves in the Territory's Aboriginal cultural experiences.

The marketing push will be supported by deals on Aboriginal cultural tours and experiences, and will feature 'inspiritional advertisements' and social and digital media placements.

According to NT Minister for Tourism and Hospitality, Nicole Manison, domestic Aboriginal tourism-focused visitors contribute \$218 million to the NT economy annually.

"Tourism NT has created this campaign to remind Australians that here you don't just witness Aboriginal culture, you can actually be a part of a culture over 65,000 years strong."

Regent Seven Seas Cruises celebrates

LAST night Regent Seven Seas Cruises hosted about 100 of its key Australian and New Zealand industry partners at an exclusive gala dinner at Sydney's Catalina Restaurant in the harbourside suburb of Rose Bay. The gathering commemorated the luxury line's 30th anniversary, and saw guests welcomed by Andrea

DeMarco, Regent Chief Sales & Marketing Officer, on her final night in Australia before heading back to Miami.



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DeMarco noted that while Regent's ships are "beautiful, beautiful assets", the line's success is built on people including trade partners, hotel suppliers and "employees around the globe, on land and on board all of our vessels who bring the vision and the joy of travel to life".

"So we thank you for standing by us throughout the past couple of years," she said.

"We know it's been a trying two years, but we're just delighted to come back, and come back with a bang," she enthused. During the evening Regent SVP APAC Steve Odell also paid tribute to the long contribution of Diane Patrick, who for the first 23 years of Regent's presence in the market represented the cruise line under its former GSA arrangement with Wiltrans International before the operation transitioned to a local office on 01 Oct 2015.

"It was a great pleasure to work with you and have you here tonight and recognise your contribution," Odell said.



JUSTINE Sealey from Ramsgate Travel with Savenio's David Brandon and Diane Patrick of Wiltrans International.



DANI Galloway, Flight Centre Travel Group; Andrea DeMarco and Lisa Pile from Regent Seven Seas Cruises; and Anna Burgdorf, Flight Centre Travel Group.



CAROLINE Hitchen, Creative Cruising with Norwegian Cruise Line's Ben Angell "from *Prima* to Catalina" and Noosa Cruise & Travel's Natalie Cherry.







JULIE Avery from Travelworld Brighton with Scott Darlow of Link Travel Group.



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TRAVEL SPECIALS

WELCOME to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily*'s Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au

Travellers can save up to \$1,500 per cabin when they book a **Hurtigruten** expedition for 2023 to Greenland, Alaska, British Isles, Iceland or Svalbard before 31 Oct. The 13-day Greenland - The Ultimate Fjord Expedition allows guests to explore the world's largest fjord system, Scoresby Sund, and is priced from \$10,072 per person twin share. Call 1300 322 062 to take advantage of the offer.

Uniworld is waiving the single supplement on some of its most popular 2023 itineraries, including the 10-day Tulips & Windmills journey from Amsterdam to Antwerp, and the eight-day Holland & Belgium at Tulip Time from Brussels to Amsterdam. Phone 1300 780 231 to book.

Cruise Traveller is offering Australians savings of \$1,715 and a free, twonight, pre-cruise stay in London when they book Fred.Olsen Cruise Line's new 80-night Grand Circle South America from London to Antarctica and back in 2023. Call 1800 507 777 before 31 Oct.

Guests who book **Viking's** eight-day Lyon & Provence cruise from Lyon to Avignon can save up to \$2,000 per couple, or up to \$2,800 per couple on the 36-day Grand Fjords & Iconic Viking Shores voyage from Amsterdam to New York City. Phone 138 747 for further details.

Thredbo summer

THREDBO has released a jam-packed summer program for 2022/23, featuring mountain biking, hiking, wellness retreats, and events.

The resort will open on 19 Nov for its summer season until 25 Apr 2023, unveiling an expanded Mountain Bike Park with three new gravity trails, as well as new bike carriers installed on the resort's chairlifts.

New to its guided hike program, the Aries Tor Hike takes guests to walk amongst the granite tors of North Ramshead.

The resort has also revealed an impressive calendar line-up of new events, competitions, live music and activities to keep visitation going past winter.

Skal hotel crawl

SKAL International Sydney will undertake a "road-trip" next Wed 05 Oct, partnering with Skills IQ and the Veriu Group to visit three of the hotelier's properties.

Tickets cost \$30 per person for Skal members and \$35 for non-members, with the gathering starting at Veriu Green Square at 4.30pm for a site inspection and welcome drinks.

Attendees will then transfer to Veriu Broadway to check it out, with the evening then moving onto Veriu Central for dinner.

Tickets are strictly limited, with sales closing at 4pm next Tue 04 Oct, and due to the nature of the event no-shows on the day will not be possible.

Sign up by CLICKING HERE.



Glenn gives BKB the thumbs up!



GLENN Box from Mudgee Travel & Cruise in NSW was the lucky winner of the recent BKB Holidays and Outback Spirit travel advisor incentive.

The promotion ran from Jun-Aug, rewarding the top selling agent nationally for Outback Spirit departures through BKB Holidays.

Box's prize was valued at \$11,790 including a six-day Outback Spirit Red Centre & Field of Light Spectacular tour, along with return airfares for two.

Rex deal finalised

REX Airlines today confirmed the settlement of its acquisition of National Jet Express (*TD* 15 Jul), outlining bold plans to expand it into the country's

"premier fly-in-fly-out" operator. Rex Executive Chairman, Lim Kim Hai, signalled expansion into Qld and the NT, saying "resource companies all over Australia can now count on a modern, comfortable and environmentallyfriendly fleet", with plans to add two Dash-8 400s immediately.

Narrows Escape adds loving luxury

NARROWS Escape Rainforest Retreat in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland village of Montville has added new luxury accommodation to the site.

Voted the 'Most Romantic Hotel in the World' in TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice Awards last year, the property now features two Balinese-style villas set in rainforest, each with a plunge pool, private veranda, double spa and log fireplace.

Heli-gin experience

GCH Aviation's Garden City Helicopters and the Akaroa Craft Distillery have launched a Heli Gin Experience, allowing visitors to Christchurch to fly across Banks Peninsula in a luxury helicopter to the town of Akaroa.

Once there, guests can sample locally made gins and learn more about the distillery, enjoy a food platter, and take home a complimentary bottle of Hector's Gin, from NZ\$850 per couple.

Got a confidential tip? Contact Travel Daily via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click HERE Travel Daily

Travel Daily

Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication. EDITORIAL Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper Associate Editors– Adam Bishop,

Myles Stedman Contributors – Nicholas O'Donoghue, Anna Piper, Jenny Piper, Janie Medbury info@traveldaily.com.au ADVERTISING AND MARKETING Sean Harrigan and Hoda Alzubaidi advertising@traveldaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER Jenny Piper accounts@traveldaily.com.au Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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