

QF, JQ launch sales as Qld asks for help

QUEENSLAND Premier Steven Miles (**pictured**) has fronted the press this morning to urge travellers to consider visiting Far North Queensland after it was hit by tropical Cyclone Jasper in Dec last year.

Miles spoke to *ABC News* and announced that the region is open for business and that areas such as Cairns had barely been affected by the natural disaster, while also taking the opportunity to announce assistance from Qantas Group in the form of discounted airfares.

“We’ve partnered with Qantas and Jetstar to offer discounted airfares and accommodation from most parts of Australia,” Miles explained.

“People come here from right around the world to experience the reef, the Daintree, the Kuranda Skyrail, and this is a chance for Australians to see all of those things, and many of them



have never been here before.”

He added that while it is still a great holiday destination, a trip to the far north of the state would also be “supporting those fellow Australians who count on visitors for their livelihoods, those workers in the restaurants, those small businesses that take people out on the reef and give them those fantastic experiences”.

This morning Qantas distributed its latest Red Email with the discounted airfares, offering “incredible savings” with up to 50% off flights to Cairns, Hamilton Island, Proserpine, Townsville and Mackay for five days, with the sale ending 09 Jan - more details on **page two**.

Miles told the *ABC* that Jasper had been a massive hit for the region, lamenting that “we saw \$125 million worth of bookings cancelled just in the first few days as those photos of the flooding went viral around the world, so we really need to get the message out to Australians first, but also around the world that Cairns and the state’s far north is open for business”.

Jasper hit the Queensland coast on 13 Dec as a Category 2 cyclone and took almost five days to move west across the state, leaving significant damage in its path. *DF*

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of industry news, including our **Corporate Update** page plus a full page from **A Force for Good**.

Japan warnings

TRAVELLERS are being warned to continue exercising caution in certain parts of Japan following the earthquake off the coast of Ishikawa Prefecture on 01 Jan.

Smartraveller has issued an update stating that disruptions to essential services, including local transport, are ongoing, following extensive damage to roads and other infrastructure.

Travellers in Ishikawa, Toyama, Niigata, Fukui, Gifu, or Nagano prefectures are being told to monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities, and to be wary of potential aftershocks.

Additionally, some flights to and from Haneda Airport are still impacted by the crash on Tue.

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Window Seat

THEY say time is undefeated, and despite the best efforts of United Airlines, that remains the case.

Passengers on UA200, scheduled to depart on New Year's Eve, hoped they'd be able to travel back in time to ring in 2024 twice - once in Guam and then again in the United States.

UA200 was originally scheduled to depart Guam at 7.35am on 01 Jan and land in Honolulu at 6.50pm on 31 Dec - travelling across time zones to take passengers back to 2023.

However the flight was unfortunately delayed, departing Guam at 1.49pm on 01 Jan and arriving in Honolulu at 12.34am the same day, meaning passengers missed the countdown by half an hour.

Several passengers voiced their complaints on X, with one claiming to have booked UA200 specifically to celebrate New Year's Eve twice.

There was fortunately plenty of success stories of flights that did deliver passengers their double New Year's Eve, such as Cathay Pacific CX872, which departed Hong Kong around 1am on 01 Jan and arrived in the US on 31 Dec.

QF's huge Qld sale

QANTAS has today launched its special sale to support North Queensland's tourism recovery, offering domestic Economy fares starting from \$99 one-way from Brisbane to Prosperine.

Travellers can also score flights from Brisbane to Mackay for \$109; Brisbane to Cairns for \$129; Sydney to Cairns for \$149; Brisbane to Townsville for \$159, and much more.

Additionally, Jetstar has released discounted seats to Cairns, with up to 45% off starting from \$79 one-way from Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

"Tropical North Queensland communities and businesses have faced incredibly challenging circumstances during this holiday period," Qantas Chief Customer Office Catriona Larritt said.

"These special airfares will help boost the region's recovery and rally Australians to visit North Queensland in the coming weeks and months."

Tourism and Events Queensland Chief Executive Officer Patricia O'Callaghan shared, "this is exactly what our operators need up north to get back on their feet and to make up for lost revenue over their peak holiday season."

The Qantas and Jetstar sale fares are both available now, with the Flying Kangaroo sale on until 11.59pm AEDT 09 Jan, while the JQ sale only lasts 48 hours.

For more specials, head to the **back page**.

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VA requests AC codeshare



VIRGIN Australia has applied for the ability to codeshare with partner Air Canada on the Indonesia (Denpasar) route from 05 Feb 2024.

In Virgin Australia's application it pushed the merits of the codeshare, exclaiming that it would provide consumers with additional choice.

"The proposed codeshare routing allows Air Canada to place their marketing code on Virgin Australia operated services on the Australia - Denpasar (Bali) route, enabling increased customer choice for international travel to/from Australia and improving Virgin Australia's competitiveness," the application from Todd Reynolds, GM Govt Relations and Industry Services, read.

"Enabling Air Canada to market Virgin Australia services between Australia and Indonesia provides increased customer choice and alternative routings

for consumers for trips between North America and Indonesia (v.v.) via Australia," he continued.

In the application Reynolds also asserted that the current bilateral capacity share of Virgin Australia in the major cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth on the Australia-Indonesia route was less than 20%, meaning that this would enhance competition.

There has recently been a lot of activity on the route, with VA applying for extra capacity (**TD 18 Dec 2023**) and QF controversially applying to expand its codeshare with Garuda (**TD 11 Oct 2023**) . *DF*

Quark sales shuffle

TENILLE Hunt has been appointed as Quark Expeditions' Regional Sales Director APAC.

Hunt's promotion sees her bring more than 20 years of industry experience to the new role.

She is one of seven team members in a new position, which includes appointments in China and the Americas.

"We are absolutely thrilled to start 2024 by enhancing the best sales team in the expedition cruise industry with tremendous appointments supporting every market we serve," Chief Customer Officer Paul Brousseau said.

MEANWHILE, Quark is kicking off the new year with its Arctic Escape sale, offering select voyages this year in Spitsbergen and Greenland at 30% off.

There is also an added 10% off specific voyages if paid in full at the time of booking.

Win a Croatia trip

TRUTRAVELS has launched its global famil, giving top-performing Aussie agents the chance to win a seven-day sailing adventure in Croatia this May.

There are six places up for grabs, with two top-selling agents to enjoy included flights and the remaining four to receive a \$500 credit towards flights.

In order to qualify, agents must book a minimum \$5,000 of TTV sales between 01 Jan and 28 Feb 2024 - the winner will be announced 05 Mar.

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Riviera to sail to Africa and Asia



OCEANIA Cruises has announced new voyages on board *Riviera* (pictured) to Africa and Asia.

The ship will explore the two continents at the end of the year and into 2025 with three brand new itineraries between 27 and 59 days in duration.

The jewel of the season is a 59-day Grand Voyage, which offers guests the opportunity to discover off-the-beaten path ports.

Riviera will sail from Barcelona and call at the Canary Islands, before heading down West Africa, with days at sea punctuating calls in Senegal, Gambia, Ghana, and an overnight stay in Walvis Bay.

Guests will enjoy an overnight stay in Cape Town at the journey's southernmost point, before heading up East Africa via Madagascar, for an overnight stay in Dar Es Salaam, and then across to the Seychelles, the Maldives,

Thailand, and Malaysia.

The journey culminates with two nights in port in Singapore.

"These longer, destination-immersive voyages offer curious, well-travelled guests the chance to explore some of the most off-the-beaten-path ports in the world, all from the elegant surroundings of Riviera," Oceania Cruises President Frank Del Rio Jr explained. *MS*

Aircalin sale on now

AIRCALIN'S 'Happy New Caledoina' sale starts today, offering flights to the country from \$549 return.

Services depart from Sydney to Noumea, while Australians can also fly from Melbourne or Brisbane to New Caledonia from \$599 return.

The sale will end on 19 Jan - for more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

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TIME to get involved

THE Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) has announced its first intake for the year, commencing 13 Feb.

There is still time to apply and be part of the intake, with those interested urged to [CLICK HERE](#) and fill out the form.

For those preferring to pay in small, monthly instalments, TIME offers a payment plan from \$334 plus GST over six months.

The TIME program has successfully graduated almost 400 mentees since 2009.

Sth Qld sets record

SOUTHERN Queensland (SQ) Country experienced a record-breaking year in 2023, with the latest tourism data showing a significant increase in visitor nights for the region for the 12 months ending 30 Sep.

While individual visitor numbers were down 8.8% on 2022, there was a record number of visitor nights at 7.4 million - up 3.6% on 2022 and a massive 12.5% jump on pre-pandemic 2019.

Brisbane was the top source of visitor nights for SQ - up 29.7% on 2019 - while NSW saw the biggest increase, gaining 37.1% on 2019.

Parkroyal Jakarta

PARKROYAL Serviced Suites Jakarta is opening its doors next week, offering an elevated standard of comfort complemented by city panoramas.

The hotel is located in Thamrin Nine, spanning levels 73-82 of the mixed-use complex, which also contains retail outlets and a sports centre.

PARKROYAL Serviced Suites Jakarta offers connectivity to the city's key attractions, as well as seamless access to public transportation.

Pan Pacific **DISCOVERY** members can enjoy exclusive savings of up to 30% on flexible rates, available for booking until 29 Feb and stays from 08 Jan to 30 Jun.

AA ups reliability

AMERICAN Airlines cancelled the fewest flights among the major United States-based carriers during the winter holidays, while also operating significantly more on-time services than the 2022 period.

AA's on-time departure and arrival performances both improved by around 15% compared to 2022's holiday period, with American welcoming nearly 7.8 million customers across more than 71,000 flights since 20 Dec.

American did not cancel a single mainline flight for the first six days of the holiday period, and has cancelled only 16 mainline services in total.

Get well at Danang

INTERCONTINENTAL Danang Sun Peninsula Resort is inviting travellers to kickstart their New Year's resolutions with its new holistic wellness package.

The three-day 'Good Vibrations Reset' includes a stay in a Spa Lagoon Villa and two 90-minute sound therapy massages per person in the villa's own treatment room.

Travellers will also enjoy a 60-minute private coaching session to help them develop a full-year health and fitness plan, as well as hour-long private yoga and personal training classes.

Other free-of-charge activities include pilates, meditation, steam room and sauna sessions.

Available throughout 2024, the luxurious package also includes healthy daily breakfasts, a five-course vegan or vegetarian menu for two at La Maison 1888, access to the new InterContinental Club Lounge and more - book [HERE](#).



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CORPORATE UPDATE

Biz travel back with a twist

BUSINESS travel is making a comeback, but is evolving to adapt to post-pandemic landscape, according to CAPA - Centre for Aviation.

New findings revealed at CAPA's recent World Aviation Summit in Abu Dhabi showed that, while leisure travel has bounced back to pre-COVID levels in most parts of the world, the return of business travel has been slower and more sporadic.

Business travel spend continues to fall short of 2019 levels, and video conferencing, instant messaging and digital productivity platforms seem to have permanently replaced some corporate travel.

A panel discussion led by CAPA's Head of Analysis Rich Maslen looked at how the rise of hybrid, remote and flexible working arrangements had created new types of business travellers.

There's the 'digital nomad' who wants to be able to work from anywhere, the 'blended traveller' who mixes corporate and personal leisure travel, as well



as remote workers who travel to meet their coworkers, attend a company retreat, or participate in a trade show.

According to CAPA's analysis, trends driving the shift include reduced appetite for risk, increased focus on sustainability, smaller corporate travel budgets resulting in fewer but longer trips, and employee reluctance to travel, which, despite easing, has continued to persist. *JM*

Situ appoints Seage

CORPORATE accommodation booking agent, Situ, has announced the appointment of Jake Seage as its new Account Director of Business Travel.

Seage joins from serviced apartment brand STAY in the UK, where he held the title of Head of Sales and Reservations, and has also enjoyed stints at a number of other hospitality companies, including Marlin, Cycas Hospitality, and Go Native.

In addition to his new role, Seage is also currently the Deputy Chairman and an advisory board member of The Association of Serviced Apartment Providers.

EK ramps up Seoul

EMIRATES is preparing to boost its Seoul services with three additional weekly flights, beginning 19 Feb 2024.

Operated by a Boeing 777-300 ER, the new services will add more than 1,000 extra seats per week between Dubai and the South Korean capital.

The Chat

with Jenny

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A conversation with Lisa Pile

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ONYX adds three in Malaysia



ONYX Hospitality Group has announced its expansion, with three new properties set to open this year.

OZO Medini, Shama Medini, and Shama Suasana Johor Bahru are set to join ONYX's collection this year, which will make Malaysia only the second country to host all three ONYX brands.

The new hotels will result in a total of seven properties in Malaysia by the end of the year, joining ONYX's three current properties, Amari SPICE Penang, Amari Johor Bahru, Amari Kuala Lumpur, and OZO Georgetown Penang (pictured).

The openings form part of ONYX's strategy to drive significant expansion in the hotel, resort, and serviced apartment business in Southeast Asia.

ONYX is on track to operate more than 50 properties by next year, up from 44 at present, with a target of 70 by 2028. *MS*

Nova officially named

SILVERSEA Cruises has formally named its newest ship, *Silversea Nova*, during a ceremony in Fort Lauderdale yesterday.

Complete with bagpipes, blessings and bottle-breaking, the celebration saw Nina Compton, award-winning chef, restaurateur and TV personality, named as the ultra-luxury vessel's godmother.

"After years of research, development, and collaboration, we are all incredibly proud to officially welcome *Silver Nova* into Royal Caribbean Group's (RCG) fleet," President & CEO of RCG, Jason Liberty, shared.

Silver Nova departed on her maiden voyage from Venice on 14 Aug 2023, and will now undertake her first Grand Voyage, the Grand Voyage South America 2024.

Later, the 728-guest ship will head Down Under in the 2025/26 season (*TD* 20 Oct 2023).

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For a limited time, travellers can score up to \$3,000 worth of flight credit per couple on select **Viking** ocean voyages across the 2025 and 2026 sailing seasons. Cruisers can also take advantage of included flights on river journeys to Europe and Southeast Asia, as well as savings of up to \$4,000 per couple on expedition voyages. Offers end 28 Mar - book through Viking on 138 747.

Dubbed its "biggest sale" of the year, **Trafalgar** is offering up to 20% off on select worldwide tours. The Big Tour Sale includes the 10-day Contrasts of Italy journey from \$4,803 per person, instead of the normal listing price of \$5,650, while the 15-day Best of Spain from \$5,483pp has dropped from the standard price of \$6,450. More offers are available - call 1800 643 019 to book.

Cruise Traveller is now offering savings of up to AU\$6,200 per person, US\$300 (AU\$446) of onboard spending credit, as well as a future cruise credit of AU\$1,000 per twin stateroom for bookings made by 29 Feb. The 30-day Papua Discovery by Luxury Expedition, departing 30 Apr, is available from AU\$19,799 per person, twin share, and explores a series of small Papua New Guinea ports, including Kavieng, Rambutyto, Watam, Uratu, the islands of Garove, and much more - call 1800 507 777.

Enjoy the new year with savings of up to 15% off at **Sydney Airport's** domestic parking when you book your parking spot by 14 Jan and use it before 29 Feb. Use promo code "HAPPY2024" to apply the discount when securing your parking space. Limited time and spots are available; learn more **HERE**.

Low-cost carrier **Bonza** has announced a new promotion to celebrate the new year, with up to 24,000 seats on sale for \$59 or less. Available until 07 Jan unless sold out prior, Bonza customers can score low one-way airfares to and from the Gold Coast for travel periods until 30 Jan. Travellers are encouraged to use the Fly Bonza app to book - learn more on www.flybonza.com.

Valid for all sailors worldwide, **Atlas Ocean Voyages** is offering exclusive savings of up to US\$2,000 (AU\$2,974) for bookings made between now and 03 Feb on select 2024 expeditions. Eligible itineraries include the 13-night Bridgetown to Lisbon sailing, the nine-night Nice to Venice adventure, the eight-night Dublin to Reykjavik tour, and more. For all the details, **CLICK HERE**.

Air Malta's New Year, New Sale is currently on until 09 Jan, offering up to 50% off on airfares until 30 Mar 2024. Destinations to and from Malta include Berlin, Brussels, Madrid, Catania, Milan Linate, Milan Malpensa, Lyon, and so much more. The discount applies to tickets that are purchased through all public channels. More T&Cs apply - for more information, **CLICK HERE**.

Korean Air sets a safety first



KOREAN Air has become the first airline to create a safety video featuring virtual humans, in an effort to appeal to its diverse customer base of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

The inflight safety video features a virtual human, named Rina, in a Korean Air flight attendant uniform giving safety instructions within a virtual space dubbed the 'Korean Air Safety Lounge'.

The presentation, which will play on all Korean Air flights starting today and has also been released on the carrier's official YouTube channel, is designed to capture passengers' attention and increase engagement levels.

"This will become a great example of the synergy created between the aviation industry and digital technology," a spokesperson for the airline said.

"We intend to change perceptions of inflight safety videos with these new ideas, and make them more relatable and engaging for passengers."

Metaverse Entertainment of

Netmarble F&C created the virtual characters, which include a girl group of four, 'MAVE', who play the role of passengers following the safety instructions. Watch the video **HERE**. JM

Rydges has the jazz

RYDGES South Bank in Brisbane has launched a new 'All That Jazz' package for guests who are seeing the international award-winning musical, *Chicago The Musical*, at the QPAC.

Guests will be within walking distance of the venue, and can take advantage of the dedicated package, which includes accommodation in a room type of their choice and two 'A Reserve' tickets to the musical, on until 25 Jan, on the evening of arrival.

Priced from \$429pp, the offer also includes overnight parking for one car, daily buffet breakfast per person, and a Chicago-themed welcome treat.

The package is available to book **HERE** until 25 Jan.

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