

Australia's favourite travel news magazine

# Traveltalk

WWW.TRAVELTALKMAG.COM.AU SPECIAL EDITION - NOVEMBER 2020

## SPECIAL REPORT

How to make travel safe again

## COMPETITION

Win a pair of headphones

## REVEALED

The top 20 honeymoon destinations



*Plus:* Club Med reveal which agents have earned a free holiday!



## EDITORIAL

**Jon Underwood**

Managing Editor (print)

Email: jon@traveltalkmag.com.au

**Gaya Avery**

Managing Editor (digital)

Email: editorial@traveltalkmag.com.au

**Rebecca Lawson**

Sub Editor

## EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Russ Masterton, Stewart Moore,

Monica Sanchez

## ART DIRECTOR

**Vanessa Pribil**

Email: production@traveltalkmag.com.au

## ADVERTISING

Sydney: **Jenny Rowland**

Mobile: 0414 746 146

Fax: (02) 9969 3390

Email: jenny@traveltalkmag.com.au

Perth: **Debbie Sproule**

Mobile: 0403 833 295

Email: debbie@traveltalkmag.com.au

## DIRECTORS AND ASSOCIATE PUBLISHERS

**Jenny Rowland** (Sydney)

**Debbie Sproule** (Perth)

Perth Office:

PO Box 3104 Kingsley WA 6026

## DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Email: distribution@traveltalkmag.com.au

## PUBLISHED BY

**Pointer Publishing Pty Ltd**

ABN 92 150 111 701

PO Box 3104 Kingsley WA 6026

Website: www.traveltalkmag.com.au



Annual CAB audited circulation average: 5,944. Ave G/A annual emag downloads 540. TOTAL CIRC 6,484 PER ISSUE Oct 2018 to March 2019



While every care and precaution has been taken in the preparation of Traveltalk, no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions herein. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation by the reader. Views and opinions expressed in Traveltalk do not necessarily reflect those of the management.

All articles are fully protected by copyright. To obtain written permission to reproduce any material please contact the managing editor on editorial@traveltalkmag.com.au

# CONTENTS

- 4 AGENTtalk
- 11 BOOK IT NOW
- 15 COMPETITION
- 16 NEWStalk
- 17 SPECIAL REPORT
- 18 INDUSTRYtalk
- 23 CRUISEtalk
- 29 SKYtalk
- 30 PROPERTYtalk
- 32 DOMESTIC TRAVEL
- 38 OVERSEAS TRAVEL
- 40 TRAVELTEASE QUIZ

# Can you answer the million dollar question?

I WISH I had a flexible travel credit for every time someone has asked me the following question recently.

“When do you think we will be travelling overseas again?”

The words ‘long’, ‘string’ and ‘piece’ spring instantly to mind. Naturally, this has been a topic of much discussion in the Traveltalk office since we all rather abruptly discovered the true meaning of the words ‘global pandemic’.

Back in March, we hoped it would be September. In September, we speculated it would be March.

But with the UK now heading back into lockdown and ‘second waves’ crashing over countries around the world, the answer to that question seems as elusive as ever.

There have been some encouraging signs. The government talks of travel bubbles opening up across the Tasman, the South Pacific, and potentially Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

Qantas boss Alan Joyce believes it will be July next year before we can leave Australia’s shores, but this may

change if and when a COVID-19 cure is found.

What is for certain is that the travelling public will be extremely cautious when air travel is back on the radar again.

In an exclusive article for Traveltalk in this edition (P17), Stewart Moore from the Brisbane-based company EarthCheck, writes: “The needs of the tourist have now shifted from values centred on being carefree and adventurous to a focus on safety, wellbeing and hygiene.”

Clearly, post-COVID travel will be less about “wish you were here” and more about “did you pack the masks and hand sanitiser?”

Everyone in the travel industry is hoping and praying that once Aussies are cleared to take-off overseas, demand will be on such a scale that everyone will start to claw back some of the massive losses caused by coronavirus.

But just when will that be? Excuse me while I go and polish my orbuculum.



**COVER IMAGE:**  
Sand Cay, Haggerstone Island, Queensland. Picture courtesy Tourism Australia



# WALK IS WELL DONE



A NEW initiative promoting health and wellbeing within the Australian travel industry has been deemed a success.

The 'Walk for Wellness Challenge' was launched by Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) and ran throughout October.

The initiative utilised a free mobile phone app and encouraged travel partners to get active and track their steps while journeying around an interactive map of the world, reaching virtual global landmarks and completing fun weekly challenges, all alongside travel industry colleagues.

Pictured here are Ben Angell, NCL Vice President and Managing Director, APAC, and Damian Borg, NCL Director of

Sales, Australia and New Zealand, who led 19 of the company's Sydney-based team on a 45kms walk around the city.

"We're fortunate to be able to go for a walk in celebration of the health and wellbeing of our valued travel partners and add another 45 kms to the Walk for Wellness total at the same time," said Mr Angell.

"It's been great to see so many people getting into the spirit of Walk for Wellness, enjoying the challenges and sharing their experiences with the Walk for Wellness community on the app."

■ [ncl.com/au](http://ncl.com/au)

## Committed to your support

CELEBRITY CRUISES has unveiled a formal promise to the travel agent community of Australia.

'The Celebrity Commitment' focuses on providing access to their dedicated sales team, arming agents with solutions and investing in tools, the first of which being the introduction of their new trade support portal.

Housing both tools and resources to help agents learn about, promote and sell Celebrity Cruises with ease, the portal is designed specifically with the needs of Aussie agents in mind.

"We're committed to rebuilding the industry alongside our partners and are so excited for agents to add this tool to their arsenal," said Cameron Mannix, Sales Director, Celebrity Cruises AUNZ.

"Having been purpose-built to increase selling opportunities and help agents navigate their business recovery, the site reflects our commitment to investing in real tools and real solutions to support our partners."

■ [thecelebritycommitment.com.au](http://thecelebritycommitment.com.au)



## TIME TO GET CREATIVE

CREATIVE CRUISING is offering an extra point of sale commission on Celebrity Cruises' bookings deposited before November 30.

To support this exclusive offer, Creative Cruising has launched a number of tailor-made cruise holiday packages for their travel agency partners and their clients.

Agents will have the extra commission applied at point of sale and the offer highlights that there is no maximum booking limit, and will be applied to all deposited Celebrity Cruises bookings made during the campaign period.

■ [creativecruising.com.au](http://creativecruising.com.au)



## NOTHING TRIVIAL ABOUT THIS PURSUIT

THEY'VE HAD to endure more than most in recent months but a group of Victorian travel consultants have finally got something to smile about.

In tandem with their colleagues in Tasmania, the personal travel managers from Victoria have won a national State of Origin trivia competition, held to boost morale during the pandemic.

The event saw Victoria and Tasmania team up while Queensland joined forces with the Northern Territory. South Australia and Western Australia combined with New South Wales and the ACT also partnering up.

"We played a round-robin format so that each pairing went up against all of the other pairings, with points awarded to the individual three highest scorers in each round," said Noree Kahika, a TravelManagers' Business Partnership Manager, who organised the competition.

"We had around 230 PTMs participating throughout the competition and when the points were added up we were set for a Grand Final showdown between Queensland/Northern Territory and Victoria/Tasmania."

At the conclusion of the final, the points were totalled and the winning team finally revealed: Victorian PTMs placed first, second and third to secure the win for Victoria/Tasmania.

"As well as continuing with the quiz competition, there has also been talk of a national bingo game and other fun challenges," added Noree.

■ [travelmanagers.com.au](http://travelmanagers.com.au)



## Toolkit for travel tradies

VIKING IS supporting Aussie agents with additions and enhancements to its marketing centre plus a new sales incentive.

The company has introduced a purpose-built marketing toolkit to provide guidance on how to access and use the many assets Viking makes available through its existing travel agent portal.

In addition, a new section – 'About Viking' – has been added to provide easy to access information about the fleet, the Australian sales team and what makes Viking different.

"Our trade partners are the key to our success, and particularly in the current times, it is essential we continue to support them in driving business", said Erin Kramer, Viking's Trade Marketing Manager.

A new agent incentive will also see all new river, ocean and expedition bookings and re-bookings made and deposited in the month of November go in a draw to win a share of \$1,500 worth of Rewards by Viking points.

"To acknowledge the year we have all had, it's time to have a bit of fun, generate some business, and earn some rewards with our new "Rewards by Viking" incentive," said Michelle Black, Viking ANZ Managing Director.

■ [myvikingjourney.com/agent;rewardsbyviking.com](http://myvikingjourney.com/agent;rewardsbyviking.com)

## AGENTS HAVE A CLIA ADVANTAGE

TRAVEL AGENT members of Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia are being offered bonus commissions and rewards.

The CLIA Australasia travel agent rewards program will allow consultants to receive exclusive benefits when making eligible bookings with participating CLIA cruise lines throughout next year.

The new scheme involves an initial 21 CLIA cruise lines and will be available to all Australian agents who join CLIA or renew their membership for 2021.

"The new bonus commission and rewards available in 2021 can repay the cost of CLIA membership many times over," said Joel Katz, CLIA Managing Director Australasia.

"This is a significant and tangible benefit from CLIA cruise lines and creates a clear advantage for those who support their professional success with CLIA membership."

Rewards will be offered on eligible bookings made with participating CLIA cruise lines between January 1 and December 31, 2021.

The rewards total more than \$1,500 in combined indicative value, paid either as extra commission, a rebate or a gift card, depending on the cruise line.

"The global pandemic has had a devastating impact on travel agents. Together with all our existing member benefits including our education programs, events and certification program, this additional 2021 benefit will ensure CLIA agents are rewarded as our industry moves into recovery."

■ [info-aus@crusing.org](mailto:info-aus@crusing.org)





Belinda Beck (left) and Rebeca Carter

# Travel industry gets a timely Tahitian tingle

LIKE RIP Van Winkle awakening from his 20 year slumber, members of the travel industry have gathered for the first official 'live' function in eight months.

The first 'cab off the rank' since COVID decimated the industry was Tahiti Tourisme. *Traveltalk* was among a small, select group of travel media invited to a briefing in Sydney.

The event was held to launch the new online *Tahiti Specialist Program*, designed to educate and inform travel agents on the multiple offerings of the Pacific Island destination.

"We are committed to ensuring that agents in Australia have access to all the tools they need to recommence selling our incredible destination," said Caroline Brunel, Tahiti Tourisme Australia-New Zealand Account Director.

The online program supports agents by providing incentive-based

opportunities to start booking travel to Tahiti in coming months, in preparation for international travel resuming next year.

With Tahiti ranking as one of the hottest destinations to see in 2021 in research conducted by Vacaay, the roll out of the program is a commitment to ensuring travel agents are ready for the anticipated influx of enquiry about Tahiti once border restrictions are eased.

The official launch will be followed by a series of experienced-based training sessions, including the likes of Tahitian dancing and painting. There will also be ongoing destination training and booking support.

As agents progress through the various levels of the program, they will be rewarded with opportunities that include luxury and small group famils.

All agents who register before the end of November will go into the draw to win one of two pairs of return tickets to Papeete – with a winner from both Australia and New Zealand to be chosen.

"We know it has been an incredibly difficult time for many, but we also know how resilient agents are, and how imperative they are to The Islands of Tahiti," added Ms Brunel.

"The Tahiti Specialist Program has been designed to ensure agents are ready and able to take advantage of the high level of interest we are seeing in our destination, despite the inability to travel right now – and if travel agents end up getting to travel to our island paradise themselves as a result, what a bonus!"

■ [tahititourisme.com.au](http://tahititourisme.com.au); [tahitisppecialist.org](http://tahitisppecialist.org)

## AGENT TRAINING FINALLY GOES OTT IN AUSTRALIA

ONLINE TRAVEL Training (OTT) has officially launched in Australia.

Reaching 23 countries in 15 languages, OTT is the leading global product information and marketing platform for the travel and tourism industry. OTT's community has more than 185,000 travel agents and tour operators worldwide.

Providing an online travel training platform for suppliers and sellers to connect, it's the industry's largest e-learning

library for travel agents with destination, aviation, cruise and GDS courses.

"When we initially offered the platform in Australia, we found that the travel professionals were really engaged with the content, so we decided to proactively expand our training courses in Australia," said Julia Feuall, OTT Managing Director.

■ [onlinetraveltraining.com/au](http://onlinetraveltraining.com/au)

## FASHION BECOMES A PASSION

WITH THE shutdown of tourism due to COVID-19, Rebeca Espinoza was confronted with the reality facing many in the travel industry.

From representing luxury travel products for a host of companies through Unique Latin America, she was hit hard by the economic slowdown and loss of income.

Latin American borders shut very early in the pandemic, leading to mass closures of hotels and the tourist infrastructure that goes with it.

Unique Latin America was forced to move into a holding phase, to wait out the pandemic.

"March 2020 caught all of us by surprise," said Rebeca. "Despite the initial shock and associated work that came with it, the need for my services and for many representation companies was to momentarily close and wait for better times to arrive."

After some soul searching and thinking how she could put her eight years of experience in marketing in the travel industry and her 20 year marketing career to a good cause, she

teamed up with a friend who was also affected by the COVID shutdown.

The pair decided to open a consignment retail fashion business named Bec and Bel.

With a passion for sustainability, it was a natural move for Rebeca to pivot from the travel game to something that still gave people a unique buying experience, but that didn't affect the planet negatively, much in line with her ethos and clients at Unique Latin America.

"Along with travel, fashion has always been a passion for me," adds Rebeca. "Fashion has that feel good factor that we get when we arrive somewhere new and gives you the opportunity to do that every day!"

Rebeca highlights that consignment fashion aims to buck the fashion industry's harmful affect on the planet, pointing out that some 86 per cent of clothing items end up in landfill.

Bec and Bel focuses on curating and bringing new life to disused items in the wardrobe and providing designer labels at a fraction of the cost. The pair

has opened a store in Lane Cove in Sydney and purchases can be made via their website, with free shipping Australia-wide.

The enterprising entrepreneurs have also tried to employ others affected by the industry shutdown. Rebeca's advice to those in the industry facing financial issues, or struggling to motivate themselves is to look to their passions and re-channel the love they have for the industry into their other loves.

She has also tried to put a positive spin on the changes affecting travel by revealing that she did not realise how many skills she had developed over the years in the industry, which directly correlate to what she is doing with the new business.

As for Latin America, Rebeca cannot wait to share her passion for the destination and some new skills she has developed when travel comes back.

"After all, it is a pause. Nothing is forever."

■ [becandbel.com.au](http://becandbel.com.au) or follow them on Instagram at @bec.and.bel



# Mates who rate a welcome holiday

THE WINNERS in Club Med's 'Nominate a Mate' initiative offering free holidays to deserving travel industry workers have been announced.

The first recipient of a future Club Med holiday is Melissa Loynes, a TravelManager based in Victoria, who was nominated by her New South Wales contemporary Dana Brown.

While Melissa is going through life in lockdown in Victoria while running her travel business during a pandemic, she is also at the hospital day in and day out while her stepson goes through chemo.

"The most amazing thing about Mel is her bubbly personality that overflows with warmth and positivity in a time where she could have easily gone into victim mode," said Dana.

Other winners include Christine Ross-Davies from Attadale Travel in Western Australia, who has managed to secure \$3 million of targeted support specifically for WA travel agents.

On top of all this, she has also managed to continue her pro-bono work raising money for children's brain cancer research and juggling the fight both financially and emotionally through two very challenging family battles.

Christine was nominated by Jo

Francis from Global Travel Solutions in WA.

The final Aussie winner is Marie Sulda, the owner of Kaleidoscopic Travel in South Australia, who was nominated by Jane Cormack who is also from the same agency.

Jane told Club Med that Marie was a pillar of strength and a source of constant positivity for her staff as her businesses suffered.

Marie has fostered a real community among her team and nurtured them through this challenging period and is always cool, calm and kind.

Through all of this Marie has also had to deal with the personal tragedy of losing her daughter Sienna to a sudden brain aneurysm, suffered while she was at school.

"Marie continues to bring us together as a team, even if just for a walk and a coffee, and inspires us to focus on the future when borders open," said Jane.

"Thanks to Marie, Kaleidoscopic Travel and our group of specialist mobile travel designers will get through these difficult times and be ready to make travel dreams come true when people can get out into the world again."



Melissa Loynes from TravelManagers

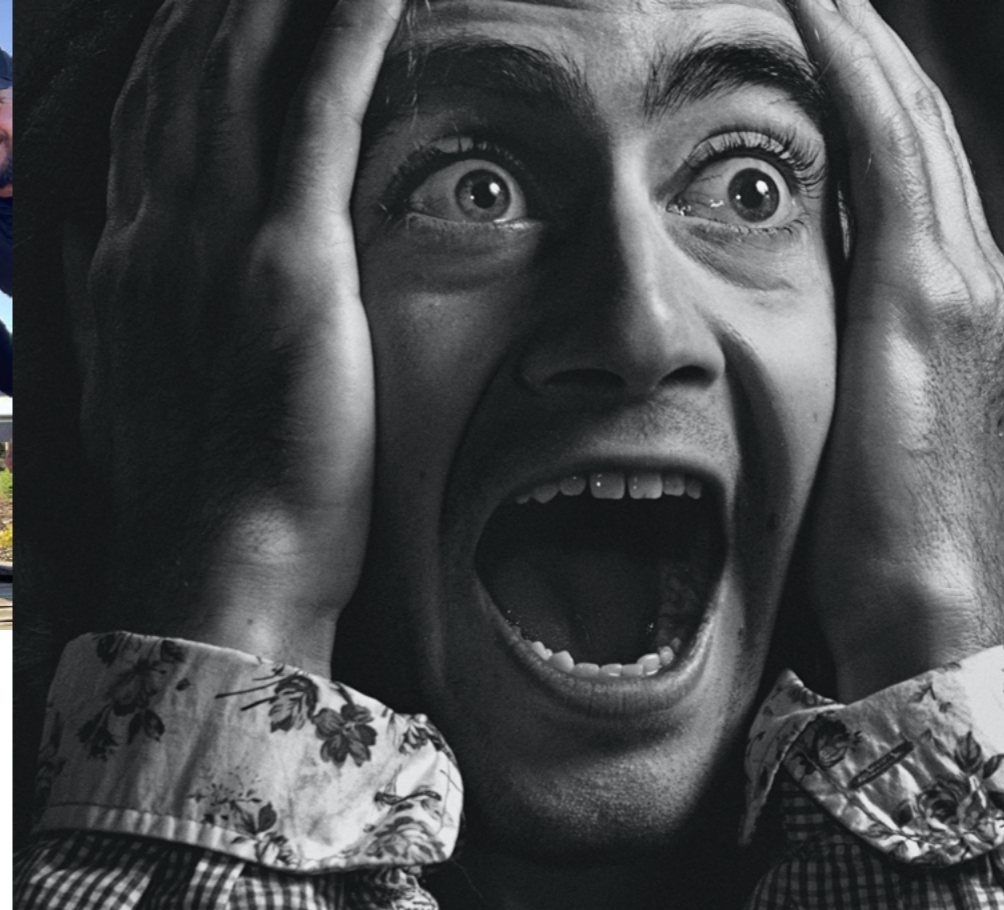
Meanwhile the company has also announced extra commission on the purchase of the Club Med Gift Card.

On top of offering 10 per cent commission on all gift card sales, Club Med are providing 10 per cent extra bonus credit for those who purchase a gift card from now until the end of December.

Valid for three years, the gift cards are redeemable for the full range of activities on offer at Club Med resorts; from invigorating spa treatments, to the Petite and Mini Club for little ones, or one-on-one private ski lessons.

"Whether you want to give the gift of a romantic resort getaway with a loved one, an action-packed skiing trip with friends, or a picturesque seaside family retreat, a Club Med Gift Card will allow travellers to choose their own unique experience," said Rachael Harding, General Manager Pacific, Club Med.

■ [clubmedta.com.au](http://clubmedta.com.au)



## SHOW US THE MONEY

Industry veteran RUSS MASTERTON has been a travel agency owner for more than three decades. In this letter to *Traveltalk*, he expresses his frustration at Qantas for delaying the refunds on customer tickets.

MY NAME is Russ Masterton and I have been an independent travel agent owner for 32 years in Victoria.

I have always been a supporter of local business and Australian companies. I have always booked Qantas and admired the airline and the service it offers.

I'm struggling to come to terms with the painful stalling which Qantas has currently in place on refunding customer tickets.

I'm sure this is just going to sound like a big whinge, but when you

have run out of options to get your customers a refund then we are left with no choice as an industry but to at least try to put pressure on Qantas to refund our customers' money.

“We are asked time and time again to buy Australian and support local companies. I will when Qantas refund the 100+ tickets back to my clients so they can start saving for their 2021 and 2022 holidays.”

Our office has been waiting more than six months for refunds now and we are certainly at a point where logic does not prevail.

Qantas jumped on the refund bandwagon early in the COVID-19 pandemic as a gesture of goodwill to all of their loyal customers.

They have not been able to operate any of the international services that we are now awaiting refunds for, yet they claim they are only up to March

2020 for processing refunds.

In addition to the frustrating delays, the airline is constantly changing the goalposts by saying that they will only refund if the sector was UN when the refund request was sent to QF.

AFTA have received many complaints from agents, which we are told they are trying to flag with Qantas.

Jetstar, a member of the Qantas Group, is refunding with 14 days and customers are very happy with the goodwill here.

Airlines such as Emirates, Qatar and Singapore are right on the mark with their refunds and have been very prompt and fair with getting funds back to customers.

Why are we waiting for Qantas? The changing of conditions and processes is unhelpful. The customer wants their money back and if refunds have been offered surely it is best to process them as quickly as possible to ensure goodwill.

We are asked time and time again to buy Australian and support local companies. I will when Qantas refund the 100+ tickets back to my clients so they can start saving for their 2021 and 2022 holidays.

I'm sure our industry grows tired of the negativity, but it makes it very difficult when one of our key partners won't support us and simply won't take our customers into consideration

when it comes to refunds.

Qantas, the stalling needs to stop. Do we really need to resort to highlighting how unhelpful you have become in industry press?

*Russel Masterton of Destination International Holidays in Melbourne.*

\*Have you been left frustrated by delays in getting customer refunds? Drop us a line at [editorial@traveltalkmag.com.au](mailto:editorial@traveltalkmag.com.au)

## Network quick to welcome Summer

TRAVELLERS CHOICE has announced the newest member of its award-winning national network.

Established 16 years ago in Port Adelaide, New Horizons Travel & Cruise relocated in early 2019 to Semaphore, a family-friendly beachside suburb in Adelaide's northwest.

Owner Debbie Summer, who acquired the agency in 2017, says that a desire for greater support and more freedom were key factors in her decision to join Travellers Choice.

"It's already clear from the welcome and encouragement I've received that Travellers Choice offers a different set

up from other groups – one in which independent agents are valued and the support offered is real, practical and personalised," said Debbie.

Christian Hunter, Managing Director, Travellers Choice, called the news a "powerful endorsement" of the group's focus and commitment during COVID-19.

"Travellers Choice has continued to provide an unrivalled level of support to all of our members throughout the current crisis and it is pleasing to see our diligence and dedication being recognised," he said.

■ [travellerschoice.com.au](http://travellerschoice.com.au)



Debbie Summer





## Upskill for the future

TRAVEL AGENTS are being offered access to a fee-free Customer Service Management skill set to support those working through the pandemic.

The *Statement of Attainment in Customer Service Management* will be delivered via connected delivery and is designed to provide agents with skills to manage existing customer relationships and manage conflict.

The program will also feature industry guest speakers who will share insights on rebuilding businesses. It is being offered by TAFE NSW to agents across the state.

"TAFE NSW, in consultation with industry, recently surveyed travel and tourism professionals to understand their skills and training needs to assist their business in the COVID-19 recovery," said Maryanne Metry, TAFE NSW Team Leader Travel, Tourism and Events.

"This industry research shared the pressures travel agents are facing in dealing with customer complaints, negotiating refunds and liaising with hotels and airlines.

"In response, TAFE NSW has developed a tailored customer service management training program to equip travel agents with the skills they need to navigate the current operating environment."

■ [tafensw.edu.au](http://tafensw.edu.au)

## Webinars with a twist

AURORA EXPEDITIONS are running two webinars as part of the official launch of their 2022 Arctic and Global program.

The company will showcase 12 new itineraries to destinations including Alaska, the Russian Far East, Baja California and Raja Ampat/West Papua Islands.

There will also be an exclusive look at new internal and external renders for Aurora's second purpose-built expedition ship, the *Sylvia Earle*, which is on track to be delivered in October 2021.

Hosted by Mark Lee, Product Manager, the webinars will reveal details on early bird offers and how agents can get the best cabin and price for their clients. Agents who attend the webinar can also win a \$10 voucher.

Session 1: November 10, 8pm-9pm.

Session 2: November 12, 9am-10am.

■ [attendee.gotowebinar.com/register](http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register)



Mark Lee

## UNPLUG IN PARADISE:

The Podcast

WITH STEPHANIE MYERS



## PARADISE FOUND IN PODCAST

ONE ENTERPRISING travel agent has switched from airlines to airwaves to combat the COVID blues.

Mobile Travel Agent Stephanie Myers has created and is hosting a new travel podcast called 'Unplug in Paradise: The Podcast!' which launched at the end of October.

Featuring some well-known travel industry guests, the podcast is dedicated to helping women learn and discover their unique travel personality with a special focus on travelling as an introvert.

"I've received such a positive response from guests invited to be part of the podcast," said Stephanie.

"It's really heart-warming especially during a time when the travel industry needs good news stories."

Guests have included Dan Coleman, G Adventures, Lisa Pagotto, Crooked Compass, Mandy Alderson, Intrepid Travel, and Janis McDonald and Michelle Nickelson, Outback Queensland.

The podcast also features inspiring travel stories, guest speakers' travel tips and advice on how to improve your motivation and mindset.

Search 'Unplug in Paradise' on your podcast app from your phone or tablet or follow Stephanie on Insta @unpluginparadise

Ooralba Estate



## OUR SURVEY SAYS: KEEP IT PRIVATE

ABERCROMBIE & KENT recently surveyed some of their top travellers to understand what their preferences would be once travel resumes.

The resounding message was that the luxury travel company's customers would be seeking privacy close to home.

"The valuable input and insights received from our guests has helped shape our recovery portfolio," said Sujata Raman, Regional Managing Director Australia Asia Pacific, A&K.

"It reflects the general desire of our travellers to stay in safe, secluded locations with close family and friends for company.

"There was a recurring message too that our guests are seeking travel experiences that allow reconnection with loved ones in intimate surrounds

and at a relaxed pace. Privacy is the new luxury and our latest collection of private villas, estates and islands here in Australia reflects just that."

Abercrombie & Kent's local travel experts have curated a collection of islands, estates, super yachts and beach havens for the exclusive use of one family or travelling party.

A&K's Journey Designers are on hand to help travellers determine which of these private travel experiences are best suited to their needs.

The company will frame each experience with co-ordinated travel plans from flights, transfers and car rental to in-house chefs, wine delivery and yoga instructors.

■ [abercrombiekent.com.au](http://abercrombiekent.com.au)

### The portfolio of exclusive stays includes:

- \* Private island stays in pristine wilderness that can accommodate as few as eight people
- \* Private homes in New South Wales and Queensland with panoramic views and often inclusive of housekeeping, chef and butler services
- \* A range of super yachts in Queensland, Tasmania and the Kimberley.

Amboseli National Park, Kenya



## Get more out of Africa

MW TOURS have launched their 2021 brochures, featuring a reduction in group sizes, new tours in Africa and maintained or reduced pricing.

The small, family-owned Australian business has also added additional departure dates for their most popular tours, as well as private touring options.

New tours include 'Enchanted Kenya Sky Safari' for those seeking the convenience and time-saving component of travelling by air to all the key sights in Kenya.

Experience the best of game viewing, culture and history within Amboseli, Samburu and Masai Mara National Parks.

The other new tour takes place during the key migration periods of July to September when travellers will visit the National Parks of Tarangire, Nrgongoro Crater and Serengeti while staying in deluxe lodges throughout.

'Tanzania Migration Safari Private Touring' is a must-do for those seeking an array of differing safari habitats and game that departs daily.

MW Tours can also personalise the above tours, with options to extend or combine them for the ultimate East Africa safari experience. The company also offers tours through China, Japan, the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, Korea and Taiwan.

■ [mwtours.com.au/brochures](http://mwtours.com.au/brochures)





Left: The pool aboard Mekong Serenity  
Right: Luke Nguyen



Above: Lemur, Madagascar. Right: Walpa Gorge, Australia. Left: Cuba



# HOW'S THE SERENITY?

APT HAVE launched their 2021/22 season for Vietnam and Cambodia with a new ship about to make its debut.

The *Mekong Serenity* boasts some of the largest entry-level suites among vessels cruising the Mekong River at 28 square metres. It features just 44 suites for a maximum of 88 guests.

Other amenities include the Harmony Lounge and bar, Wellness spa, salon and fitness centre, expansive sun deck, pool, gift shop, complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the entire ship and nightly entertainment, such as Apsara dance performances.

Bookings made prior to February 28, 2021, on trips of 13 days or more will save \$2,400 per couple.

The 13-day 'Vietnam and Cambodia Highlights' tour starts from \$5,995 per person twin share (including the discount). Guests will enjoy seven nights aboard *Mekong Serenity*, exclusive dining experience at Luke Nguyen's Vietnam House in Ho Chi Minh City and Freedom of Choice inclusions in three locations.

Travellers can also meet the celebrated chef aboard a special 14-day 'Luke Nguyen's Vietnam and

Mekong River Cruise', which departs on November 26, 2021, and is priced from \$8,095 per person twin share.

Within a private dining room set in the onboard 'Indochine by Luke Nguyen' restaurant, guests can enjoy an exclusive five-course menu designed by the man himself.

"I'm very proud that my authentic yet modern Vietnamese cuisine is so well received by diners and it gives me so much pleasure shaping the menu for this special cruise in my homeland," said Nguyen.

■ [aptouring.com.au/asia](http://aptouring.com.au/asia)

## Back on tour with Explore



Joe Ponte in the Dolomites

AFTER NEARLY six months of suspended trips, specialist tour operator Explore has resumed some of its European tours.

Joe Ponte, the company's Managing Director, joined the first trip to depart – a small group walking holiday to the Italian Dolomites.

"I'm so delighted to have joined our first trip back on the road and it's great to see first-hand how our COVID-related trip changes are natural and comfortable and don't detract from the fantastic group experience," he said.

Explore operated some 27 trips in September across Europe, with 19 more expected to go ahead in October.

The company has a specialist team reviewing trips week-by-week alongside the latest travel advice, regulations for each country and assessing each individual departure.

"With nearly 40 years' experience of organising adventure travel all over the world, we are very used to evolving situations and making quick changes to trips and itineraries, albeit never before on this scale," added Ponte.

"We are confident that we have robust policies in place to ensure that we and our trips are in a very strong position for when the market returns.

"When travel restrictions are lifted and people feel safe and confident enough to travel again, we are ready for them."

■ [exploreworldwide.com.au](http://exploreworldwide.com.au)

## New trips with a ring of confidence

G ADVENTURES HAS introduced four new itineraries to its new Travel with Confidence Plus collection.

The trips include surf beaches, rainforest hikes and wine tastings in Australia and New Zealand, local homestays and salsa lessons in Cuba, through to wildlife experiences such as seeing ring-tailed lemurs in Madagascar.

Launched in June, the collection features social distancing measures such as smaller group sizes, cheaper solo rooming options, en-suite bathrooms and private transportation.

The new itineraries bring the collection's number of tours to 41 trips in 28 countries, with departures running up to December 31, 2021.

"The Travel with Confidence Plus collection was created to offer reassurance and peace of mind to travellers, while still delivering all the great things we love about travel, from incredible destinations and hands-on experiences to delicious dishes and charming locally-owned accommodation," said Adrian Piotto, Managing Director at G Adventures.

"The great response we have

received following the launch of the collection, including many new bookings, is indicative of the desire for travellers to get back out and explore the world while feeling confident that their safety is well taken care of."

### The new tours are: Australia & New Zealand Encompassed – Plus:

This 34-day adventure visits the major cities and famous sites of Australia and New Zealand, while also venturing to some of the lesser-visited rural gems.

Highlights include walks through the rainforest in Great Otway National Park and taking an interpretive walk through the Daintree Rainforest, visiting the Sydney Opera House and activities in Rotorua, from white water rafting to geothermal spa visits. Prices start from \$11,372 per person, excluding flights.

### Highlights of Madagascar – Plus:

This two-week adventure is endorsed by world-renowned ethologist, Jane Goodall.

From visiting local communities in Fiadanana, where the group will listen to a ghost talker and enjoy dinner

with a local family, to visiting Anja Community Reserve, famed for its groups of ring-tailed lemurs, this tour will showcase the island's local gems.

In Ranohira travellers will swim in waterfalls before visiting the G Adventures-supported Soa Zara Tree Planting Project, which is helping to create green corridors to protect the biodiversity of Isalo National Park. Prices start from \$2,311 per person, excluding flights.

### Cuba Rhythms: Rum & Fun – Plus:

Going beyond the beach resorts, this eight-day trip is designed to get travellers out and about to explore the real Cuba.

Guests will mingle with locals at 'casa particulars', explore Havana's alleyways, sample local rums and cigars and learn about the salsa culture on the dance floor. Prices start from \$892 per person, excluding flights.

### Cuba Explorer – Plus:

The perfect combination of vibrant culture, history and architecture, this nine-day adventure sees travellers taking a car trip through the city, walking through the countryside in Viñales and swimming in the clear waters near Cienfuegos. Prices start from \$1,487 per person, excluding flights.

■ [gadventures.com](http://gadventures.com)





# Jet to Japan for free

WENDY WU Tours is offering free return flights to Japan on some of its best-selling tours of the country.

The tours cover departures from September 2021 to April 2022 for bookings made by November 13. Itineraries include the popular autumn leaves and cherry blossom seasons with savings of \$1,000 per person.

Also included are eight dedicated departures for solo travellers on popular tours including 'A Week in

Japan', 'Jewels of Japan', 'Discover Japan' and 'Japan Uncovered'.

Solo travellers will travel with a likeminded group and enjoy the comfort of their own room and no single supplement to pay.

The company also offers complimentary extras on the dedicated solo departures which include free chauffeur Australian airport transfers, airport lounge pass (SYD, BNE, MEL) and a welcome

cocktail reception in arrival city.

"With pent up demand for travel we are seeing positive signs and firm booking commitment for a range of destinations including Japan," said Andrew Mulholland, Managing Director of Wendy Wu Tours.

The operator has also just released their new 2021/22 Japan brochure also featuring Taiwan and South Korea.

■ [wendywutours.com.au/japan-fly-free](http://wendywutours.com.au/japan-fly-free)

## Some of the tours included in the fly free to Japan offer include:

### \* Jewels of Japan: 12 days from \$8,690 per person

This tour starts in Tokyo and ends in Osaka. Tour highlights include strolling through the Imperial Palace East Gardens, visiting the Meiji Shrine, ascending 2,000 metres up Mt Fuji's 5th station, exploring Japan's spiritual heart in Kyoto, learning how to make buckwheat soba noodles, trying origami and a visit the Fushimi Inari Shrine.

### \* Japan & the Scenic South: 14 days from \$9,290 per person

This tour uncovers the beauty of the lesser-known island of Kyushu, renowned for its active volcanoes, hot springs and beaches, before exploring the must-see sights of Hiroshima, Kyoto and Tokyo on the largest island of Honshu.

Tour highlights include a visit to one of Japan's famous hot spring resorts, gazing over Mount Aso (Japan's largest active volcano), strolling through an Edo-style garden in Kyoto and learning about brewing sake.

### \* Japan Uncovered: 18 days from \$10,690 per person

This extensive tour of Japan starts in Osaka and ends in Tokyo, taking in all the classic sights and key cultural activities.

Tour highlights include exploring 17th century Himeji Castle, reflecting in Hiroshima, taking part in a Japanese tea ceremony, learning how to make washi paper, watching snow monkeys play, a visit to Fuji Five Lakes and exploring in Hakone.

## Win a stylish pair of headphones

FROM THE motivated musician to the hardcore listener, the AFT2 True Wireless earphones from Audiofly deliver pro-quality sound derived from its music industry roots and available in a multitude of Australian earth colours.

With finely-tuned 6mm dynamic drivers, the AFT2s offer unmatched pro-quality sound as well as first-class comfort inspired by its heritage in moulded in-ear monitors for professional musicians.

Easily controlled by a touch interface that enables you to easily play, pause and skip songs all with a single touch, the AFT2s have 10 hours of play time, with the protective metal carry case also boosting it by a further 25 hours before needing a charge.

The shape of the AFTs, combined with cVc Noise Cancellation Technology, helps to reduce outside distractions while also ensuring clear calls, meaning that whether at work or at play, the Audiofly AFT2s have you covered.



### THE PERFECT TRAVEL COMPANION

Be among the first to own your own pair of Audiofly AFT2 True Wireless In-Ear Headphones.

The perfect travel companion, it provides industry leading play time, great sound – with even greater value.

For those living life on the go - the AFT2 are easy to carry, the protective metal magnetic locking case will keep your headphones safe during your travel adventures.

From long flights to your daily commute, immerse yourself with your favourite sounds with Qualcomm® cVc™ Noise Cancellation Technology to listen wherever and whenever you want.

Enjoy first-class comfort with more than 10 years of expertise in creating custom moulded in-ear monitors, the AFT2 headphones are made to have the most secure and ergonomic fit.

Inspired by Australia's rich landscape, the AFT2 (RRP: \$199.95) is now available in four vibrant colours: Gum leaf, Sunset, Sand and Granite.



## how to win

Simply head to our website ([www.traveltalkmag.com.au](http://www.traveltalkmag.com.au)) and tell us where in the world you would like to take your Audiofly AFT2 headphones. The most creative answer will win.

## Congratulations!

Traveltalk is renowned for its competitions and we are delighted to add another name to our long list of winners.

We had a fantastic response to our recent Sleepkeeper competition and the lucky winner was Rhian Lewis from CBC Travel in Port Kembla in New South Wales.

Rhian was naturally delighted with her prize and sent us this photo to prove it. She told us she couldn't wait to put her own pillow in the Sleepkeeper and to start travelling.







Vivonne Bay, Kangaroo Island



Walkabout Cultural Adventures, Daintree, QLD

# AUSTRALIA GETS THE CELEBRITY SELL

TOURISM AUSTRALIA is hoping that star power will inspire Aussies to book a domestic holiday in a new promotional campaign.

Husband and wife duo Hamish Blake and Zoe Foster-Blake are the personalities featured in the latest iteration of Tourism Australia's (TA) 'Holiday Here This Year' initiative.

First launched in January, the campaign aims to get Australians travelling safely across the country to provide a much-needed boost to tourism businesses and operators.

"It does feel special to be able to help promote our country because we love travelling, we love adventure and we love Australia. So we can't really think of anything that's a better fit," said Hamish and Zoe.

"We know everybody feels like a holiday right now so it's not exactly a tough sell, but hopefully we can help to convince those people who were putting one off or had planned something overseas, to book a holiday here.

"Not only will they create incredible memories, they'll be helping the tourism sector right across the country to bounce back."

The campaign follows the launch of a video voiced by Hamish Blake across TA's social and digital channels, which takes viewers on a journey across some of Australia's best landscapes.

Phillipa Harrison, Managing Director of Tourism Australia, said that with domestic restrictions lifting and

consumer confidence improving, now was the perfect time to inspire Aussies to plan and book their next holiday.

"With the peak summer travel period just around the corner, it is crucial that we continue to remind people of all the incredible destinations and tourism experiences that are right on their doorstep waiting to be explored," she said.

"This will be just the first of a series of initiatives that we will be implementing over the coming months to continue to drive as much domestic demand as possible, particularly to those regions and operators that are typically popular with international visitors.

"We're also excited to be welcoming Hamish and Zoe to our Friends of Australia program to help us tell our

story by sharing their love of travel and providing plenty of holiday inspiration to Australians of all ages."

The campaign will be rolled out across a range of channels including print, social media, search, radio and outdoor advertising.

It will be supported by a domestic media hosting program, campaign content across TA's social media and digital channels, and amplified through industry and content partnerships. Activity will be executed in phases across the states to reflect local travel restrictions.

Tourism Australia is also continuing to provide consumers with the practical resources and inspiration they need to book a holiday and travel safely around the country with tailored content, itineraries and industry offers on [Australia.com](http://Australia.com)

This includes a new online Australian COVID-19 travel portal that brings together key safety information, travel restrictions and guidelines from across the country.

■ [australia.com/holidayhere](http://australia.com/holidayhere); [australia.com/en](http://australia.com/en)



Hamish Blake and Zoe Foster-Blake



# How to make travel safe

Writing exclusively for *Traveltalk*, STEWART MOORE, CEO and Founder of EarthCheck, reveals how the tourism industry can be revived in a post-Covid environment.

THE IMPACT of COVID-19 to international tourism has been nothing short of devastating.

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) reports that the total loss of export revenue between January and May 2020 is estimated to be at least \$US320billion, or three times the total loss suffered from the 2009 global financial crisis.

The UNWTO Secretary-General is predicting a loss of at least \$US1 trillion over the full year, with at least 120 million tourism jobs at risk.

Globally, the Asia-Pacific region has fared the worst, with a 60 per cent drop in visitor arrivals between January and May.

At home, Australia's Tourism and Transport Forum estimates that the loss in tourism revenue to this country amounts to \$2billion per month nationally.

## Where to from here?

As borders begin to open to domestic travel and 'bubbles' are discussed across the South Pacific, how can destinations, venues and attractions position themselves to help build confidence and reassurance that they are now open for business?



**EARTHCHECK**

The needs of the tourist have now shifted from values centred on being carefree and adventurous to a focus on safety, wellbeing and hygiene.

After many months of lockdown, the appetite to escape to new environments is increasing, but travellers need reassurance they can visit destinations as safely as possible in a post COVID-19 environment.

Destinations can provide this peace of mind and reassurance with EarthCheck, a Brisbane-based company specialising in sustainable tourism and destination management.

EarthCheck has developed a new program called EarthSafe, which was released across the world last month.

The EarthSafe program can be



STEWART MOORE, CEO and Founder of EarthCheck

adopted by destinations and business operators providing destinations with a scientific framework to benchmark, certify and continuously improve their environmental, cultural, social and economic performance.

Most importantly, EarthCheck will also help destinations to navigate their way forward in a post COVID-19 tourism and travel environment.

EarthSafe has been developed to help operators and destinations across the world meet the new health, wellness and hygiene expectations now demanded in a COVID-19 recovery.

Certification under EarthSafe is about embedding real, tangible assurance practices which can provide confidence and reassurance to visitors, operators and the local community.

It is recognised that part of the transition to a post COVID-19 world is the need to create an environment which can help retain and sustain jobs and help build back business and consumer confidence under a recovery and regeneration age.

Hygiene, general visitor safety, cleanliness and sustainability can be expected to be front and centre in the psyche for all visitor markets as we move into a reset and recovery phase where travel restrictions and physical distancing are gradually relaxed.

Creating safe and comfortable spaces that align with traveller's core values and communicating this proposition to the market will be key to the recovery of destinations, attractions and venues alike.

■ [earthcheck.org](http://earthcheck.org)





# AFTA FIGHTS TO BANISH THOSE BUDGET BLUES

TRAVEL AGENTS have been left “distressed, disappointed and frustrated” by the lack of specific measures aimed at supporting them in the Federal Budget.

That’s the view of Darren Rudd, CEO of The Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA), following the budget announcement last month.

The organisation had asked the Government to provide a special Travel Agent Support Package worth \$125 million. While that was not forthcoming, the budget did contain a tax loss carry back initiative, as well as an increased investment in mental health, both of which AFTA have welcomed.

But Mr Rudd believes more is needed to support travel agents and the broader travel industry and says AFTA will continue to lobby for sector-specific support.

“We know everyone is distressed, disappointed and frustrated at the lack of specific measures in the Federal Budget but we need to remain constructive, strategic and focussed in our lobbying,” he said.

“The Federal Budget contains a number of new and innovative measures for small businesses that should provide much needed initial relief to travel agents, travel wholesalers and tour operators, businesses which will only be able to

recover after international travel is again possible.

“The door is still open for support to address our very specific needs and we are in detailed, data-driven dialogue with the Federal Government.

“There were close to 600 submissions made to Government in the pre-budget process. Ours is one of only a very few which the Government is still considering.”

Mr Rudd also praised the work of members through AFTA’s National Mobilisation Campaign, which has seen the plight of agents raised in parliamentary meetings in Canberra.

“Government at all levels is aware of the acute plight of members. If you haven’t already contacted your local member of parliament, now is the time. If you have, please get back in touch and reinforce the need for them to continue to champion specific support where it is needed most.”

Meanwhile, the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) says it is pleased with measures outlined in the Budget.

“What the tourism industry needs right now is support for businesses to get back on their feet and, where they are reliant on international borders being open, support to hang in there,” said Peter Shelley, Managing Director, ATEC.

“Our research has shown the industry is surviving on JobKeeper and its continuation through until international borders reopen will be crucial to the future of many Australian tourism businesses.”

■ [afta.com.au](http://afta.com.au); [atec.net.au](http://atec.net.au)

## IN BRIEF//

ADVENTURE TOURISM Victoria (ATV) has called for dedicated support of Victorian businesses.

The organisation, which represents more than 40 operators, says they are feeling the sting of extended lockdowns following a horrendous bushfire season.

“Our member businesses, some of which have been operating for 20 years, are hurting badly and this has been compounded by recent JobKeeper cuts,” said John O’Sullivan from Adventure Tourism Victoria.

“Until international borders open, adventure travel will continue to atrophy as overseas visitors are integral to Victoria’s visitor economy.”

■ [atv.org.au](http://atv.org.au)

# VIDEOS TO MAKE IMPACT STATEMENT



A NEW video series will highlight the devastation suffered by Australian businesses by the suspension of cruise operations.

Part of the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) #WeAreCruise initiative, the videos will highlight the economic impact suffered by local businesses and the 25,000 jobs that are at risk across Australasia while the cruise industry remains at anchor.

An initial four videos will be released on social media during October and November as part of a wider campaign that aims to raise awareness of the impact on the region’s \$5 billion-a-year cruise industry and tell the personal stories of people within the Australasian cruise community.

The organisation is urging travel agents and other industry supporters to join the campaign and help share the message.

Joel Katz, Managing Director CLIA Australasia, said cruise lines had committed to extensive new health measures to support future operations and that it was vital to plan for a phased and carefully controlled resumption of local cruising.

“Thousands of travel agents and other businesses across Australia and New Zealand have been devastated by the suspension of cruise operations and tens of thousands of jobs are at risk,” he added.

“While the suspension has been the right response to COVID-19,

## #WEARECRUISE

The cruise industry is worth **\$5.2 billion** to the Australian economy



## #WEARECRUISE

We support the safe resumption of cruise in our local region



it’s absolutely vital that we open a pathway towards resumption with extensive health measures in place, so we can bring an economic revival to communities around our region.”

The #WeAreCruise video series will tell the stories of an initial four businesses:

**Clean Cruising** – a family-owned Brisbane travel agency that specialises in cruising and has lost most of its income, despite a heavy workload processing refunds and making alternative arrangements for customers.

**Wijingarra Tours** – an Indigenous tour company catering to cruise visitors in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, which has been forced to cancel this year’s tour season.

**Hasslefree Tours** – a Christchurch tour company that offers an extensive range of shore excursions for cruise

visitors to New Zealand, whose operations have been suspended under current travel restrictions.

**Kollaras & Co** – an Illawarra beverage wholesaler and third-generation family business whose major clients include the cruise lines that source their wines and beers locally.

Mr Katz said agents and other industry supporters could join the campaign, help share its videos and amplify the industry’s voice to governments.

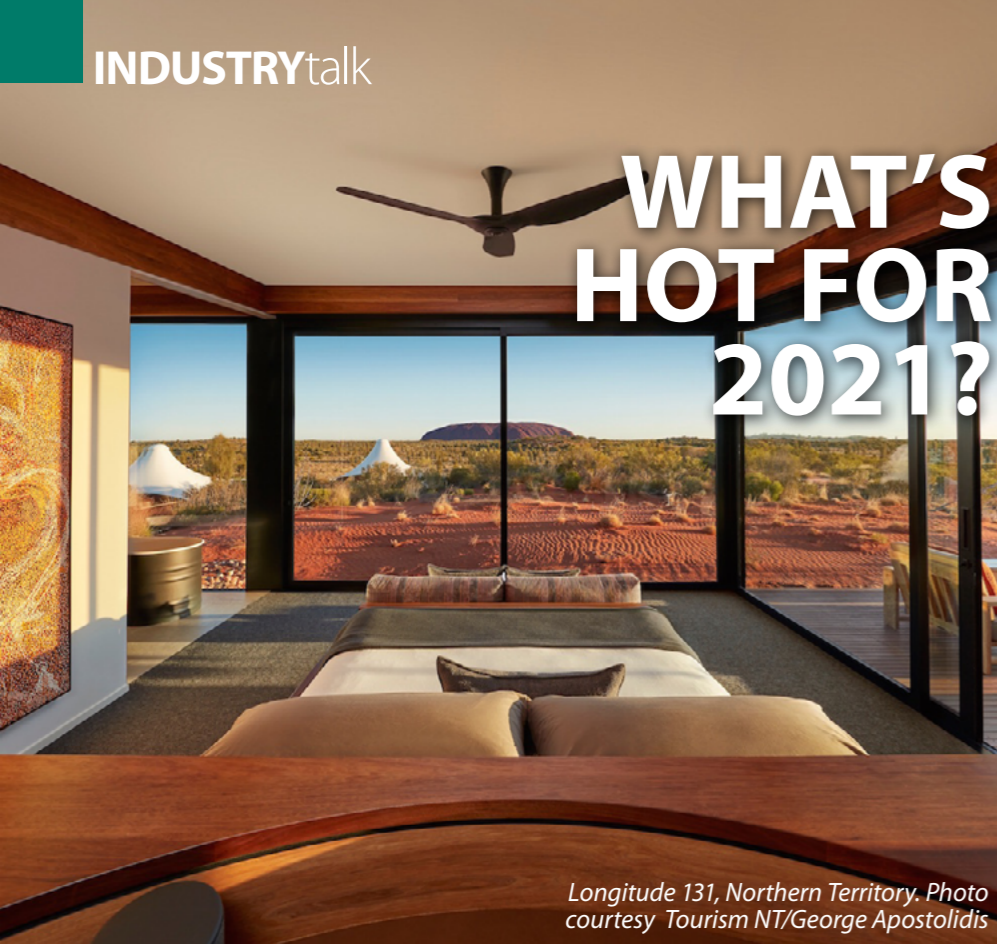
A website landing page has been created with more information, links to the videos, social media assets and guides on how to contact local MPs.

“CLIA is working closely with government agencies at many levels, but we need help to reinforce the true size of the cruise community and the thousands of people whose livelihoods are at risk.”

■ [WeAreCruise.org](http://WeAreCruise.org)



# WHAT'S HOT FOR 2021?



Longitude 131, Northern Territory. Photo courtesy Tourism NT/George Apostolidis

TRAVEL PLATFORM Vacaay has released a report revealing which destinations and travel trends will be on the radar for Australians in the New Year.

The *Future of Travel Report – 2021*, shows that the Whitsundays, Arnhem Land, Canterbury and French Polynesia will be among the hottest destinations to see in 2021.

According to the data drawn from more than 150,000 users, the top four travel trends of 2021 will be slow travel, offline adventures, splurge travel and restorative travel.

“By sharing our findings on consumer travel patterns, this report will help travel operators and destinations to identify new growth opportunities in line with customer demand,” said Pete McKeon, CEO of Vacaay.

■ [vacaay.com](http://vacaay.com)



Above: Park Güell, Barcelona  
Right: Cala S'Almunia in Mallorca



## Nothing plain about Spain

Here, MONICA SANCHEZ, Spain Tourism Board Director for Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand, shares the one thing she never travels without, and the best thing that can happen to you in Spain.



MONICA SANCHEZ, Spain Tourism Board Director for Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand

**Q: Besides your passport, what's one thing you never travel without?**

**A:** I never travel without the thrill to learn new things, to enjoy the local culture and to try new foods.

**Q: Why did you take up this particular role?**

**A:** I'm a civil servant at heart and working for my country and contributing to the wellbeing of the residents of Spain makes me wake up each day with renewed strength to try and do my best.

Adding to that, tourism is one of the most exciting industries in the world – there is little else to think about.

**Q: Tell us something people might not know about the Spain Tourism Board?**

**A:** We may be a very small organisation, but we are like a family. We support and help each other no matter where among the 33 offices we're based.

We are always open to suggestions and willing to work with the industry. Our job would make no sense without the continuous partnership with the private sector and other public institutions.

**Q: Tell us one thing coming up in Spain that's got you excited.**

**A:** Right now, opening Spain to tourism and to more visitors at the right time is what would really get me excited.

**Q: What are some of the things Spain is doing to make visitors feel safer during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

**A:** Spain has issued the *Guidelines for reducing the spread of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 in the tourism sector*.

These guidelines and protocols have been validated by the Ministry of Health and will be reference documents for the creation of standards and protocols at a worldwide level.

There are strict protocols for hotels, restaurants, museums, golf clubs, tourism attractions, all along the tourism supply chain. At the same time, we also ask visitors to follow these guidelines as well.

A proof of the quality of these measures is that there has not been any COVID cases this summer among tourists in Spain.

**Q: What's one travel experience that really stands out (in Spain or elsewhere)?**

**A:** I do not think there is one travel experience that stands out for everybody and that you can recommend. There is something for everybody, but that something depends on people's preferences, tastes and lived experiences.

For me standing in front of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela was something breathtaking, but for others it might be to rock climb in Picos de Europa, which I have very little interest in doing!

**Q: What's your top travel tip?**

**A:** Relax, slow down, enjoy your surroundings and do not be afraid to get lost. It's the best thing that can happen to you in Spain.

You will discover something new and awesome behind every corner and you will always have a 'spontaneous' Spaniard willing to give you directions or lead you on a new path to something you might not know about.

■ [spain.info/en](http://spain.info/en)

## Meetings forge much closer ties

AUSTRALIA'S PEAK cruise, touring and tourism export bodies have turned a negative into a positive, forging closer ties during the COVID pandemic.

The Council of Australia Tour Operators (CATO) has held meetings with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) with a view to confirming relevant cross-sector support and collaborating across areas of common concern and advocacy.

“Throughout the COVID crisis, CATO has vigorously advocated for industry unity and working together for the greater good,” said Dennis Bunnik, Chairman, CATO.

“These high-level meetings with CLIA and ATEC were an important part of this process.”

Through the series of meetings, conversations centred around joint concerns over border closures, government support, media coverage, COVID-safe travel protocols and the rebuilding of consumer confidence post-pandemic.

“Even though each association is dealing with its own unique challenges around COVID, there are common threads that are important to explore for the benefit of all of us,” said Brett Jardine, Managing Director, CATO.

CATO's discussions with CLIA acknowledged that the industry sectors they represent produce an enormous quantity of the product supplied to – and marketed cooperatively through – travel agents.

“CATO and CLIA members are heavily invested in retail distribution. It's clear that both sectors will play a vital role in leading the recovery of the outbound travel industry,” added Jardine.

The two bodies also shared information on government lobbying efforts around border issues and committed to continue working together on this and other areas of mutual interest.

CATO leadership also met with Peter Shelley, Managing Director, ATEC, to consider the travel industry's product distribution eco-system and the importance of tour operators, wholesalers and inbound tour operators.

“Whilst CATO is focused primarily on outbound travel, and ATEC focused on inbound, our needs are 100 per cent complimentary as our members' products and services underpin aviation capacity into and out of Australia,” said Jardine.

“It is vital that we join forces in supporting a coordinated plan to open our borders.”

■ [cato.travel](http://cato.travel); [cruising.org.au](http://cruising.org.au); [atec.net.au](http://atec.net.au)



From left: Joel Katz, CLIA, Gavin Smith, CLIA, Dennis Bunnik, CATO, and Brett Jardine, CATO





Rex and Lyn Burgess are touring Australia

# Opportunity knocks for travel industry

THE AUSTRALIAN tourism industry is being urged not to waste the opportunity to appeal to a new market of tourists, as international borders remain shut due to COVID-19.

Ben Hesketh, General Manager, Ingenia Holidays, said while the domestic industry has suffered during the pandemic, operators should be jumping at the opportunity to highlight the quality of domestic experiences to a group of guests who previously wouldn't have considered them.

"There are thousands of people visiting communities all over Australia who would never have considered a domestic trip if it weren't for the current circumstances," said Mr Hesketh.

"That means thousands of opportunities to secure loyal customers for years to come."

In 2018-19 more than 10 million Australians took overseas trips, spending \$65 billion, according to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Tourism Australia.

"It's incumbent on all tourism businesses – accommodation providers, tour operators, hospitality

venues – to show just how amazing a local experience can be," added Mr Hesketh.

"This is an opportunity for Australian operators to permanently secure a larger slice of the Australian tourism market."

A recent survey by the Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) found that half of Australians have plans to travel interstate by the end of 2020.

Couples like Rex and Lyn Burgess, who previously had plans to travel to South Africa and the United Kingdom this year, purchased a motorhome instead and set off on a trip through Queensland.

"Our plan was always to spend a few years ticking off our international holiday list and then travel around Australia during our retirement – COVID just accelerated that timeline for us," said Mr Burgess.

"We tied up a few loose ends in Sydney, picked up the van and just started heading north – we've been travelling around Queensland for a couple of months now.

"We've just left Hervey Bay, where

we stayed at the Ingenia Holidays Park for a week and it was one of the best places we've stayed so far."

Mourell Dunston, Manager, Ingenia Holidays Hervey Bay Park, said that travellers like Rex and Lyn are helping to revive tourism in towns like Hervey Bay.

"It's been an extremely tough year for the tourism industry so it's great to see domestic travellers 're-discover' Australia like this," said Ms Dunston.

"Over the past few months we've experienced a surge in bookings which is a positive sign for our local economy and hopefully this trend will continue so more Australians can experience this beautiful part of our country."

Mr Hesketh commented that the domestic demand also highlights an opportunity for those in tourism areas who found themselves out of work due to COVID restrictions to now be able to get back on their feet.

"Based on our existing bookings alone, quite a number of our parks are already in need of more staff and we expect this will only increase as summer approaches."

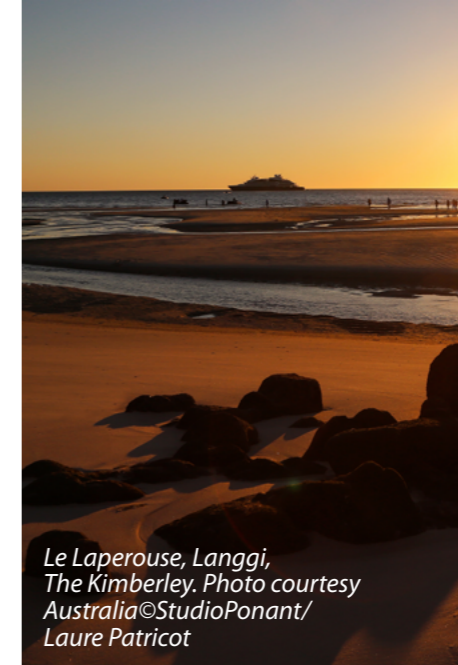
■ [ingeniaholidays.com.au](http://ingeniaholidays.com.au)

# Savings are just so suite

PONANT HAS launched a special sale on all new bookings made in any suite on four selected Australian 2021 coastal voyages.

The 'Australian Suite Sale' offers savings of \$2,000 per person when booked before November 19.

"The release of our much anticipated new 2021 season of 'close to home' voyages has seen amazing response from our past guests keen to cruise again, as well as a heartening number of new guests eager to try out our PONANT product, especially when so conveniently accessible in Australian waters," said Deb Corbett, PONANT General Manager Sales & Marketing Asia Pacific.



Le Laperouse, Langgi, The Kimberley. Photo courtesy Australia©StudioPonant/Laure Patricot

"The four voyages include our inaugural 12-night Southern Australia voyage from Melbourne to Fremantle aboard the beautiful luxury expedition ship *Le Lapérouse*, and three luxury expedition voyages in the Kimberley, two in partnership with National Geographic, including a very special focus on aboriginal art that includes the Tiwi Islands."

■ [au.ponant.com](http://au.ponant.com)



Infinity pool, Le Laperouse. Photo courtesy Ponant/Olivier Anrigo

The four applicable voyages are:

- \* 'Highlights of Southern Australia': 12 nights - Melbourne to Fremantle - departing March 27, 2021. This voyage also currently includes a \$1,000 per person flight credit
- \* 'Australia's Iconic Kimberley': 10 nights - Broome to Darwin - departing August 28, 2021
- \* 'The Essential Kimberley with National Geographic': 12 nights - Darwin to Darwin - departing August 6, 2021
- \* 'Aboriginal Art of the Kimberley and the Tiwi Islands with National Geographic': 13 nights - Broome to Darwin - departing September 17, 2021.



# OFFERS ARE IN PERFECT HARMONY

EMERALD WATERWAYS is offering savings on 2021 and 2022 Mekong River cruises through Cambodia and Vietnam aboard their new Star-Ship.

*Emerald Harmony* was launched in 2019, making it the newest, greenest and one of the most intimate ships in the fleet.

"There are many reasons to choose Emerald Waterways for a Mekong River cruise," said Angus Crichton, Director of Sales, Marketing & Product Australia & New Zealand.

"*Emerald Harmony*, our newest Star-Ship, is built to European safety and emissions standards, and is single-use plastic free, so guests will cruise on one of the cleanest, greenest and safest river cruise ships in the region."

Guests booking a 2021/2022 Mekong cruise tour itinerary of 13 days or longer will receive a bonus \$1,000 per couple travel credit which can be used towards a suite upgrade or DiscoverMORE excursions, on

top of the early bird savings of \$2,000 per couple. Bonus offers end November 30.

Emerald Waterways offers four itineraries from eight to 21 days, each designed to reveal the local way of life, regional cuisine and culture. The longer itineraries feature time to explore the temple complex at Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, the bustling city of Hanoi and Halong Bay.

■ [evergreentours.com.au/emerald-waterways](http://evergreentours.com.au/emerald-waterways)





# MAGNIFICENT SAVES ARE GAME CHANGERS

COUPLES CAN make savings of up to \$1,000 on Viking's 'Magnificent Mekong' itinerary if booked before November 30.

The 15-day adventure from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi (or vice versa) is now on sale, priced from \$7,695 per person (including saving).

From ancient pagodas and 12th century temples to dense forests and picturesque waterfalls, the cruise uncovers a part of Asia where natural and manmade wonders coexist in peaceful harmony.

Shop in old Hanoi, visit the ancient Angkor Wat temple where jungle vines embrace the ruins and discover a myriad of fishing villages, monasteries and floating markets.

Setting sail in September 2021, *Viking Saigon* accommodates just 80 guests and will be the most modern vessel on the Mekong.

Viking has also released new single departure itinerary – the 15-day 'Secrets of Southeast Asia', from Bali to Singapore, departing March 2023 onboard *Viking Orion*.

In this region of oceans, islands and coral reefs, cruise the ancient trade routes from Bali to Singapore and discover a melting pot of people and traditions.

Witness the beauty of Bali as you discover its intriguing world of temples and centuries old crafts that have spawned a thriving art scene.

Cruise the South China Sea and call on Ho Chi Minh City with its rich blend of Vietnamese traditions, Chinese influence and French colonial architecture.

Indulge in the white sand and turquoise waters of Koh Samui, one of the finest beaches in Thailand, before plunging into cosmopolitan Singapore, the "City in a Garden".

Priced from \$7,495 per person in a Veranda stateroom, the itinerary includes five guided tours across four countries.

■ [vikingcruises.com.au](http://vikingcruises.com.au)



## MOON ON THE RISE

SILVERSEA HAVE taken delivery of the ninth vessel in their fleet with the arrival of *Silver Moon*.

During the peak months of her construction in Italy, more than 1,000 skilled professionals were working on the ship simultaneously, with more than 390 companies contributing to her build.

"Each and every element of *Silver Moon's* interior spaces has been crafted to enhance guests' experiences and comfort," said Barbara Muckermann, Silversea's Chief Marketing Officer.

"We value the craftsmanship of our distinguished suppliers, each of whom was selected for their commitment to exceptional quality.

"From our Savoir beds to our Lalique crystal artworks, the fine details of our new ship are reflected throughout our entire cruise experience."

The new ship accommodates 596 guests in 298 ocean view suites, 96 per cent of which have a private veranda. She is due to be in Asia from December 2021 to February 2022.

"*Silver Moon* will push boundaries in the world of travel and I look forward to welcoming our guests aboard in the near future, as they discover the authentic beauty of the world in a new standard of comfort."

■ [silversea.com](http://silversea.com)

## Music tour hits all the right notes

CRUISE TRAVELLER is offering free flights and impressive savings on a double river cruise package that celebrates the roots of American music.

It's the first time the small ship cruise specialist has offered free air to the U.S. and has combined it with savings of \$7,750 per couple for bookings made by December 31.

The 'Grand Sounds of America' tour is with the American Queen Steamboat Company. Guests will sail on a luxurious paddlewheeler up the Mississippi, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers from New Orleans to Memphis and Nashville.

Along the way, travellers will learn about and celebrate the musical genres which the rivers gave birth to, including jazz, country, rock 'n' roll, blue grass and the blues.

The 20-night package begins on November 27, 2021, and includes a 14-night, double-cruise itinerary onboard the elegant, 166-guest paddlewheeler, *American Duchess*.

Visitors will see grand Victorian mansions, historic cotton plantations, charming river towns, American bald eagles, Civil War battlefields, the Graceland home of Elvis Presley and museums and recording studios that celebrate the greats of American music. The cruise ends in Nashville for a two-night stay including a music-themed tour of the city, plus concert and backstage tickets to the famous Grand Ole Opry country music show.

Fares are from \$6,995 per person twin share, a saving of \$3,875 per person.

■ [cruisetraveller.com.au/soundsofamerica](http://cruisetraveller.com.au/soundsofamerica)



## CHANCE TO GIVE FRANCE A GLANCE

CRUISERS CAN fly free to Europe and explore the best of France on two luxury river ships next year.

The 16-night 'All About France' fly, cruise and stay package is being offered by European river cruise operator, Riviera Travel.

The package showcases the famous wine regions, terraced vineyards and medieval towns of Burgundy and Provence in the south of France, the D-Day beaches of Normandy and the renowned Giverny garden of Impressionist painter, Claude Monet.

Travel begins with a night in the world's gourmet food capital of Lyon before guests board the five-star river ship *William Shakespeare* for a seven-night cruise along the Rhone and Saone rivers to Chalon and Avignon.

Highlights include the medieval villages and vine-cloaked hillsides of Burgundy and Provence, visits to wineries, the towering Roman aqueduct, Pont du Gard, and the majestic, 14th century fortified city of Avignon.

From here, guests will be transferred to Marseille on the French Riviera for a flight to Paris for a one-night stay in the world's most romantic city. Travellers then board another five-star ship *Jane Austen* for a seven-night return cruise from Paris along the Seine.

Two departure dates from Australia are available next year: September 4 and October 16. It is priced from \$9,665 per person twin share (October departure). Free return flights to France from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide or Perth are offered for bookings made by December 31.

■ [cruisetraveller.com.au/allaboutfrance](http://cruisetraveller.com.au/allaboutfrance)







Creek Street, Ketchikan, Alaska



## Get ready for a royal reception

ROYAL CARIBBEAN has announced updates to its 2021/22 Australian season as part of the cruise company's summer line-up.

*Quantum of the Seas* will now make her Australian debut from Brisbane's new International Cruise Terminal, replacing the previously scheduled *Radiance of the Seas*.

*Serenade of the Seas* will offer sailings from Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal, while itineraries aboard the state-of-the-art *Ovation of the Seas* departing Sydney remain largely unchanged.

Together, the three ships will offer

67 cruises for Australian travellers to choose from, ranging from two- to 15-nights to 33 destinations around the South Pacific and Australasia.

"Our industry is facing unprecedented challenges and we are encouraged by the solidarity and drive our travel partners have shown in these tough times," said Gavin Smith, Managing Director, Royal Caribbean International, Australia and NZ.

"Our 2021/22 summer season will be the most technologically-advanced fleet to ever sail Australia."

The announcement coincides with the launch of a new 'Royal Reignited'

travel partner campaign which will see the launch of revamped marketing toolkits and training.

Royal's online trade portal, HomePort, also enables easy access to updates, educational materials, offers and marketing tools.

Guests who book their 2021/22 cruise getaway before November 30 will be covered by the company's 'Cruise with Confidence' program, which allows for changes and cancellations up to 48 hours before the cruise begins.

■ [royalcaribbean.com](http://royalcaribbean.com)

## SISTERS ARE DOING IT DOWN UNDER



*Pacific Adventure and Pacific Encounter*

P&O CRUISES Australia have announced the next stage of their fleet transformation with two ships arriving Down Under in 2021.

*Pacific Adventure* is planned to begin sailing from Sydney on April 30 next year. In addition, the delivery of *Pacific Encounter* is being brought forward by at least six months to enable her to call Brisbane home from May 7.

The sister ships will sail alongside P&O's current flagship, *Pacific Explorer*, which has extended its operational pause until January next year.

"The arrival of these much-anticipated ships, *Pacific Adventure* and *Pacific Encounter*, in the first half of next year represents a step-change for the fleet and a sign of confidence in the market," said Sture Myrmell, President, P&O Cruises Australia.

"It is also a mark of respect for our many loyal guests as well as crew, fresh food suppliers, entertainers and musicians, shore tour operators and port logistics partners who are looking to be a part of the resurgence of the Australian cruise sector over time."

Both *Adventure* and *Encounter* will offer a range of inclusive dining options, speciality restaurants by renowned chefs Luke Mangan and Johnny Di Francesco, as well as family-friendly activities and night-time venues.

"Our pathway to a return to cruising may be unclear but we wanted to give our guests confidence about our future fleet and our commitment to Australia."

■ [pocruises.com.au](http://pocruises.com.au)

## Great time to see the Great Land

HOLLAND AMERICA Line is running a full season of cruises and land and sea journeys in Alaska and Glacier Bay in 2021.

From April through September, six ships will take guests on authentic experiences throughout the Great Land.

Itineraries sail roundtrip from Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, or one-way between Whittier (Anchorage), Alaska, and Vancouver.

"We're seeing strong interest for next summer's Alaska season as people anticipate being able to get out again, travel and spend time with family and friends," said Gus Antorcha, President, Holland America Line.

"Alaska has a natural beauty and an aura that are unmatched and it's right in our backyard."

New for 2021 are seven-day 'Glacier Discovery Northbound' and 'Glacier Discovery Southbound' itineraries between Whittier, Alaska, and Vancouver aboard *Nieuw Amsterdam* and *Noordam*.

Cruises include two glacier experiences to Glacier Bay and Hubbard Glacier or College Fjords and ports of call to Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway, Alaska.

■ [hollandamerica.com](http://hollandamerica.com)

## Quite a collection

REGENT SEVEN Seas Cruises has revealed its new 2022-2023 Voyage Collection featuring bucket list destinations around the world.

The collection consists of 148 sailings from April 2022 through to the end of April 2023.

Itineraries will cover Africa and Arabia, Alaska, Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Canada and New England, the Caribbean and Panama Canal, the Mediterranean, Northern Europe and South America, as well as trans-Oceanic crossings and five Grand Voyages.

Sailings range from seven-nights up to the recently announced 143-night 2023 World Cruise. The Voyage Collection boasts 17 maiden ports of call for the line and 105 overnight visits.

Highlights include *Seven Seas Splendor's* summer season in Scandinavia and the Baltics, *Seven Seas Explorer* in the Mediterranean discovering Turkey and Black Sea

ports and *Seven Seas Voyager's* tour of Africa and her winter season in South America, which includes the cruise line's first ever sailing to Antarctica.

"Launching a new Voyage Collection is always exciting, however knowing our guests' strong desire to get back on the oceans, as illustrated by our record breaking 2023 World Cruise launch, makes this one feel extra special," said Jason Montague, President and Chief Executive Officer, Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

Guests have access to more than 350 UNESCO World Heritage Sites across thousands of free unlimited shore excursions in the Voyage Collection.

In addition, 36 sailings in Africa, Arabia, Australia, Asia and South America offer free pre- or post-land tour programs which give travellers more time to experience the regions' sights, history, culture and flavours.

■ [rssc.com](http://rssc.com)

## INBRIEF///

MSC Cruises will be the first cruise line in the world to install a new and advanced innovative technology sanitation system called 'Safe Air' to further improve the quality and cleanliness of the onboard air for its guests and crew.

Meanwhile Uniworld has become the first river cruise line to employ the antimicrobial solution, ACT CleanCoat, across its fleet of ships. The product is renowned for its ability to render surfaces self-disinfecting after one application.





# Looking to a golden horizon

THE WORLD'S largest and newest square-rigged sailing ship will make its debut in Australia in December next year.

To be launched in May and accommodating 272 guests in 140 cabins, *Golden Horizon* will visit a record 36 destinations around Australia during her first visit.

Stops will include a host of small and remote places not visited by larger ships, including Noosa in QLD, Trial Bay, Batemans Bay and Jervis Bay in NSW, Darlington Bay in Tasmania, Coffin Bay and Head of Bight in South Australia and Bremer Bay, Jurien Bay, Kalbarri, Monkey Mia and Coral Bay in WA.

The record-breaking clipper will also visit every State capital as well as Darwin during her history-making 73-night circuit of the continent.

*Golden Horizon* will offer personal service, a fine cuisine dining room, three pools, gym, library, spa sanctuary, four inside and outside bars, a marina platform and a collection of kayaks, water skis and wakeboards. All 140 cabins will offer ocean vistas.

Cruise Traveller has released 14 cruise and stay packages from 14 to 73 nights, with departures from Bali, Cairns, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth. Sales were due to open on November 2 and bookings made by December 31 will receive a bonus saving of between \$100 and \$800 per person depending on the length of voyage.

■ [cruisetraveller.com.au](http://cruisetraveller.com.au)

## PORT DEBUT IS A DREAM COME TRUE

DREAM CRUISES will be the first brand to restart service in Singapore with *World Dream* as she makes her homeport debut on November 6.

She will also be the newest ship to homeport in Singapore, offering a series of new two- and three-night 'Super Seacation' experiences for local residents during the school and year-end holidays.

"Due to the invaluable support and confidence of the Singapore authorities in Genting Cruise Lines, the inaugural homeport deployment of *World Dream* in Singapore marks another important milestone in the recovery process post COVID-19 for the local cruise tourism industry," said Michael Goh, President of Dream Cruises.

"We are confident that the resumption of operations in Singapore will further contribute and benefit the various local supply and related network chain of the cruise tourism sector."

■ [gentingcruiselines.com](http://gentingcruiselines.com)



## GETTING IN ON THE SISTER ACT

CELEBRITY APEX has been welcomed into the fleet by five sister ships in a first-ever family reunion at sea.

The new ship sailed into Bahamian waters after completing a 12-day transatlantic crossing that began in France. She was greeted by *Celebrity Edge*, *Celebrity Equinox*, *Celebrity Reflection*, *Celebrity Silhouette* and *Celebrity Summit*.

"When I look at these images, I see three award-winning classes of ships, maneuvered by six incredibly skilled captains and their crew, to create one unforgettable family photo," said Lisa Lutloff-Perlo, President and CEO of Celebrity Cruises.

■ [celebritycruises.com](http://celebritycruises.com)



# AUSSIES TAKE FLIGHT OF FANCY

QANTAS HAS taken 150 Australians on a once-in-a-lifetime aerial tourism flight over some of our country's most famous destinations.

The seven-hour Great Southern Land flight onboard a 787 Dreamliner featured a number of low-level flybys of key locations along the New South Wales and Queensland coasts as well as Uluru in the Northern Territory.

The flight featured two ground-to-air satellite phone calls over the aircraft PA for passengers to hear first-hand facts from local experts as they flew over the Whitsundays and Uluru.

As the plane passed over Coolum Beach in Queensland, passengers also had a bird's eye view of a message – VISIT US FOR REAL – written on the sand with vinyl letters normally used for sign writing in the sky (see above).

Speaking before take-off, Captain Alex Passerini said that while they often pass over these landmarks as part of normal flying, it's at 35,000 feet rather than the circa 4,000 feet that the scenic flight would drop to at key points.

"We will angle the aircraft so that passengers on both sides get a great view, in particular of Uluru after we

were granted special permission for the flyover.

"It's going to be a really special day and we are excited to be back in the air again."

Passenger David Thompson said like many people he had numerous international and domestic travel plans thwarted in 2020 so getting on a plane and taking a sightseeing trip was the next best thing until he could visit the destinations in person.

"I'm absolutely pumped to be stepping on board a plane again and one good thing to come out of the COVID-19 travel restrictions is the opportunity to appreciate what we actually have right here in our own country.

"I will be seeing them from the sky today but can't wait to go back and land next time."

■ [qantas.com](http://qantas.com)



## IN BRIEF

AIR NEW Zealand flights operating between Brisbane and Sydney to Norfolk Island have been increased for travel between November 9 and March 23, 2021.

There will be an additional Monday flight from Sydney and an extra Tuesday flight from Brisbane, offering two flights per week from each port.

■ [airnewzealand.com.au](http://airnewzealand.com.au)

## Ribbon in the sky

QATAR AIRWAYS has shown its support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month by 'drawing' a symbolic pink ribbon in the sky.

The 'Think Pink' flight was operated exclusively by women – from the ground operations, technical and dispatch teams to the flight deck and cabin crew.

Flight QR9901 took a special route to create the ribbon image above Qatar while the female passengers received an exclusive 'Think Pink' service, including pink-themed food, 'Think Pink' wristbands and limited edition pink amenity kits.

■ [qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com)





Gladys Berejiklian, Premier of New South Wales, officially opens the new hotel

## Premier enjoys her crowning moment

AFTER A 10-year hiatus, the Crowne Plaza brand has returned to Sydney's CBD following a high-profile opening ceremony.

The Crowne Plaza Sydney Darling Harbour was officially opened by Gladys Berejiklian, Premier of New South Wales.

Standing 13-storeys tall, the property is located on the corner of Bathurst and Sussex Street and features 152 guestrooms.

Floor-to-ceiling windows are a feature in all guestrooms, each of which is divided into four distinct

zones: a desk space for work, a sofa area to unwind, king-size beds and spacious bathrooms replete with Antipodes amenities.

Leanne Harwood, Managing Director of IHG Australasia & Japan, said the opening was a strong show of unity and an indication of everyone's willingness to get the industry moving again.

"This is a tremendously exciting time for the industry, as well as for IHG and Crowne Plaza.

"And here in Australia, 2020 really is the year of Crowne Plaza, with the refurbishment of our existing estate

and the opening of new hotels in Hobart, Adelaide and Sydney Darling Harbour."

Other hotel facilities include a heated rooftop infinity pool with city views, a 24-hour fitness centre with state-of-the-art equipment and three food and beverage venues.

"From its sustainability initiatives to new technology in the rooms and restaurants, Crowne Plaza Sydney Darling Harbour is a wonderful addition to the brand's growth in Australasia."

■ [crowneplaza.com/darlingharbour](http://crowneplaza.com/darlingharbour)



## SWEET SCENT OF SUCCESS

RYDGES CANBERRA has completed its multi-million dollar renovation to deliver a contemporary new offer and invigorated guest experience.

The works have transformed the arrival lobby, reception, lounge and public areas as well as bar, restaurant, conference and function spaces, while all guest rooms have undergone new detailing and finishing.

Formerly Rydges Capital Hill, the property's renovations have drawn on 1950's style cues to make the most of the atrium space, using interior design to celebrate the architecture of the building.

At the heart of the design is the guest experience from the introduction of a signature scent – designed exclusively for the property – through to a modern pod-style reception and multiple immersive lounge and seating areas built around a pond and central fireplace, as well as luxe bar and dining areas.

The renovations are complemented by live forestry with mature trees, leafy canopies, foraging planters and a functioning chef's garden, curated seasonally and used by the chef in the property's new signature restaurant The George Bar and Grill.

"With this renovation our team is looking to create lasting memories, new levels of service and an unmatched experience for our guests, both corporate and leisure," said Steven James, General Manager, Rydges Canberra.

■ [rydges.com/accommodation/canberra-act](http://rydges.com/accommodation/canberra-act)



## It's holiday time, take two

ACCOR IS offering Aussie travellers the chance to have a 'Take Two' on their missed holiday plans and celebrations.

The company has launched a selection of flexible deals at hotels, resorts and apartments across Australia with room rates from as low as \$95 per night at ibis Adelaide. The deals will be supported by a multi-million dollar marketing campaign.

"As border restrictions ease, Australians are more than ready for a take two and to enjoy the best of our beautiful country," said Simon McGrath, Chief Executive Officer, Accor Pacific.

"With this campaign, we hope to inspire travellers to go on the holidays they've been dreaming of and to reunite with their families and friends."

Sample stays include Mantra Hervey Bay in Queensland which offers an outdoor heated lagoon pool, children's pool and easy access to the Urangan Marina, where fishing, diving and 4WD tours to Fraser Island are waiting. Guests can stay from \$180 per night.

In New South Wales, Fairmont Resort & Spa is located 90 minutes' drive from Sydney on the cusp of the Jamison Valley in the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park. Prices start from \$239 per night.

"We're delighted to be able to host travellers as they explore the world-leading holiday experiences that we have right on our doorstep."

Accor's Take Two deals are valid for new bookings made before January 31, 2021, for stays up until 13 months from the booking date.

■ [all.accor.com](http://all.accor.com)



## KEEPING IT LOCAL

STAYWELL HOLDINGS is rolling out a series of 'staycation' offers to encourage guests to explore their own backyard.

The 'Discover Your Local' campaign includes a deal for each of the company's participating hotels around the world, including in Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria.

Also on offer as part of the initiative are savings of up to 35 per cent off StayWell hotels' best available rates, at participating properties.

Guests must book by November 30 for stays before September 30, 2021.

■ [staywellgroup.com/staycation-offers](http://staywellgroup.com/staycation-offers)



## Packages are Fuller fun

THE FULLERTON Hotel Sydney is celebrating its first year anniversary with some special promotions.

Until December you can enjoy a special Sydney weekend 'Family Getaway' with rates starting from \$325 per night per family.

After a day exploring landmarks such as Darling Harbour, the Royal Botanic Garden, Barangaroo and the Sydney Opera House, return to the hotel where children can enjoy a special play zone complete with a kids' play tent.

Enjoy daily breakfast, complimentary self-parking and 20 per cent off dining at The Place with an option to add a second interconnecting room at 30 per cent off the best available rate.

There's also a 'Luxury Weekend' package, which includes a complimentary guided heritage tour and afternoon tea with champagne. Rates start from \$390 per night for two people.

■ [fullertonhotels.com](http://fullertonhotels.com)





El Questro Zebedee Springs

## Explore closer to home with Cosmos and Globus

AS PLANS to reopen state borders and create a trans-Tasman travel bubble start to firm up, Aussies are looking for new and exciting ways to explore closer to home.

Escorted tour companies Cosmos and Globus have risen to the challenge and launched a collection of new itineraries in Australia and New Zealand, created specifically for local travellers.

The itineraries showcase the very best the countries have to offer, from the best local produce and finest wineries to the breathtaking natural wonders on everyone's bucket list.

For those looking for some adventure, there are more than 40 active inclusions to choose from and the accommodation has been handpicked from boutique hotels to safari-style tented cabins, so guests can travel in complete comfort.

There are nine itineraries available to book in Australia and four in New Zealand, with more to be announced soon. Some of the highlights include:

### Magnificent North Island: Eight days

Kicking off in Auckland, this trip takes travellers on a cultural, culinary and scenic tour of New Zealand's North Island.

Guests will sample delectable

wines on Waiheke Island, bask in thermal mineral pools at Hot Water Beach, enjoy a TePuia Maori concert, and witness the thunderous power of Huka Falls - New Zealand's most visited natural attraction.

### Tassie Quick Bite: Seven days

This week-long tour will take travellers on a culinary journey from Hobart to Launceston.

Starting with a trip to the famous Salamanca Market, where guests will meet artisans and get a taste for the local produce and ending with a tour of Belgrove Distillery - one of the few whisky distilleries in the world that grows all its own grain and malts, and ferments, distils and barrels on site.

### Contrasts of the Kimberley: 10 days

Arriving in Darwin, this holiday will give travellers an insight into the breathtaking landscapes and diverse experiences waiting for Aussies in the Top End.

Travellers will join an art class with an indigenous artist, take a sunset cruise through Katherine Gorge and sleep under the stars in safari-style tented cabins at El Questro Station.

### Western Australian Discovery: Seven days

Discover Western Australia's rich



Hot Water Beach, New Zealand. Photo courtesy The Coromandel

history, culture and local produce with this week-long tour.

Explore Perth's thriving arts scene, before heading to the Margaret River region where guests can relax in the stunning surrounds and indulge in this epicurean playground. The tour ends with a cruise and overnight on Rottnest Island.

### Tropical Island Discovery: 10 days

From Noosa to Airlie Beach, this adventure packed tour takes travellers up the tropical North Queensland Coast.

Guests will overnight in Noosa before cruising to Fraser Island and taking a 4WD tour of the island. The trip ends with a three-night stay at Airlie Beach where guests can dive beneath the waves and explore the Great Barrier Reef.

Globus is offering 10 per cent off and Cosmos is offering five per cent off bookings made before January 31, 2021.

These bookings will come with a complimentary Safety Net package, giving guests the freedom to cancel with no penalties up to 30 days prior to their trip or amend their holiday up to 24 hours in advance of their tour departure.

■ [globus.com.au](http://globus.com.au); [cosmostours.com.au](http://cosmostours.com.au)

Left: Field of Light, Uluru  
Right: Longreach Qantas Founders Museum

## COME FLY WITH ME, AUSTRALIA

APT ARE taking off in a new direction with the announcement of their latest travel style, Private Air Tours.

The series of luxury holidays includes all flights aboard a privately chartered aircraft, designed for guests to travel with ease to some of the most remote and famous locations in Australia.

David Cox, CEO of APT Travel Group, said private air touring offers a genuine alternative to commercial airline travel in this uncertain era.

"Our itineraries are handcrafted around iconic Australian sights, both from the air and on the ground, and our selection of aircraft, schedules and flight paths match this, allowing guests to travel in comfort across vast distances in a short amount of time," he said.

"By chartering a private aircraft and designing itineraries to match our guests' needs, we can offer a unique holiday experience that is possible in

this new travel landscape."

The first departure took place in September and was a sell-out, with 58 guests spending nine days exploring Outback Queensland.

A second departure is now on sale and will depart Brisbane on November 18. It will take guests by private plane from Queensland to Kangaroo Island, Port Augusta and Uluru with two nights in each location.

■ [aptouring.com.au/aaby7](http://aptouring.com.au/aaby7)

## GET A TASTE OF TASSIE

WORLD EXPEDITIONS has launched a boutique culinary adventure in Tasmania to be escorted by chef and television personality, Peter Kuruvita (pictured).

On this 10-day itinerary, participants will go 'behind the scenes' to explore the rich variety of produce on offer and meet the people involved.

Guests will hear from a sustainable beekeeper, visit a salmon farm, chat to an oyster farmer at Coles Bay near Freycinet National Park, as well as enjoying visits to boutique vineyards, breweries and a tasting experience with a master cheesemaker.

Other tour highlights include a seafood seduction tour, cooking demonstrations by Peter and local chefs, and a local seafood dinner prepared by Peter at Bay of Fires Bush Retreat.

The 'Peter Kuruvita: Tastes of Tasmania Gourmet Experience' departs from Launceston on March 18, 2021, and costs \$7,890 per person twin share.

Price includes authentic hotel and lodge-style accommodation, breakfasts, dinners and most lunches, a Gordon River cruise, private transport, all national park fees and experiences listed in the itinerary.

Another Tasmanian culinary experience is the five-day 'Bruny Island - Food, Bike & Hike' tour, priced from \$2,495 per person twin share.

This combines cycling and walking to sample the produce at some of the region's unique food venues, including a 'drive through' oyster bar, a whiskey tasting, sheep's milk cheese sampling, a boutique chocolate factory as well as visits to wine and cider producers.

■ [worldexpeditions.com](http://worldexpeditions.com)





# DAY TOUR IS JUST DELICIOUS

The d'Arenberg Cube

GOURMANDS CAN discover some of the best food, wine, gin and beer in one of Australia's culinary hotspots on a new day tour.

The 'McLaren Vale & The Cube Experience' departs from Adelaide every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

First stop is the Stump Hill Cafe and an opportunity to sample produce from some of the region's smaller wineries that do not have their own cellar door.

Then it is onto the five-storey, multi-functional d'Arenberg Cube, which is nestled among the Mourvèdre vineyards. Enjoy a guided tour through the Alternate Realities Museum before indulging in a wine tasting and lunch.

Guests then visit the 28-hectare working vineyard of Beresford Estate Wines for a choice of one of three tastings in their elegant Tasting Pavilion.

The final cellar door is the newly renovated Wirra Wirra Vineyards where you will enjoy a short tour of the historic ironstone cellars before trying their quality wines.

Finish the day by exploring the main street of McLaren Vale, visiting the many shops and galleries including the famous Almond Train and Menz Fruchocs Shop before heading back to Adelaide.

The coach tour is priced at \$189 per adult and includes morning pick-up and evening set-down at selected Adelaide hotels.

■ [adelaidesightseeing.com.au](http://adelaidesightseeing.com.au)



Cowra Regional Gallery  
Container Art.  
Photo courtesy  
Zenio Lapka

Utes in the Paddock by Maryanne Jaques

## MAPPING OUT CULTURAL TREASURES

A NEW set of interactive online maps that pulls together the arts and cultural experiences in a popular Australian region has just been launched.

The Culture Maps Central New South Wales are ideal for travellers seeking to discover more than 400 cultural attractions from Bathurst and Orange to Parkes and Condobolin.

Covering 43 cities, towns and villages, the maps feature 130 museums, heritage sites and Aboriginal experiences and 80 art galleries, artist studios, craft shops and other places to buy handmade items.

The new resource highlights the public art at Forbes' *Somewhere Down the Lachlan* sculpture trail, Bathurst's new rail museum, The Dish telescope in Parkes and bushranger history and tours in Eugowra, Canowindra and Forbes.

Also included are the booming art galleries and artisan shops in Orange, the silo art murals in Portland and Grenfell, and places to connect with Aboriginal culture like the Wiradjuri Study Centre in Condobolin.

This is the first time most of these items have been mapped together in a regional way.

"This is a region that is full of art, culture and history, but those assets are not just fascinating to explore, they are a really important part of the regional economy," said Sam Harma, CEO of Regional Development Australia Central West.

The maps are themed so you can search by category or location within the Central NSW region and the website works on mobiles, tablets and desktop computers.

■ [centralnsw.com](http://centralnsw.com); [visitcentralnsw.com.au](http://visitcentralnsw.com.au)



Bantam Cottage, Berry



Algona Views

## IT'S GOLD FOR AUSTRALIA

ONE STATE has dominated in a competition to find Australia's best and most popular holiday home.

The gold medal in the ninth annual Stayz Holiday Home Awards went to a renovated cottage in Halls Gap in the Grampians National Park in Victoria.

The silver medal also went to a Victorian holiday home on the Mornington Peninsula while bronze was awarded to a cottage in Berry, New South Wales.

"Victoria is home to some of the country's best wilderness experiences, beaches, wineries, cities and towns," said Simone Scoppa, Travel Expert for Stayz.

"While we sadly can't visit right now, I think I speak for most travellers when I say we can't wait to return soon."

Set amongst the gum trees with mountain views to the Pinnacle and Boronia Peak, the wining cottage sleeps four and guests say they love the outdoor fire pit in winter and

deck for spotting local wildlife including kangaroos, red deer, kookaburras and cockatoos.

The top three were:

**GOLD MEDAL** Algona Views in Halls Gap, Vic.

**SILVER MEDAL** Capel Breeze Beach Apartment, Vic.

**BRONZE MEDAL** Bantam Cottage in Berry, NSW.

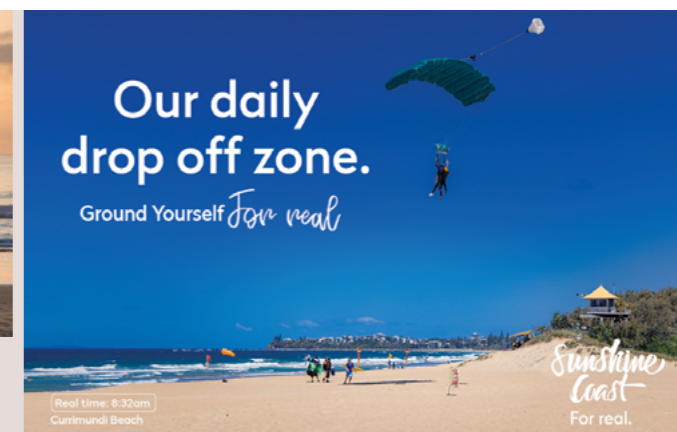
This year's awards also proved a boost for regional Australia with 95 per cent of homes outside of the main cities.

Scoppa believes regional tourism is set to boom as border restrictions continue to ease and Australians embrace the opportunity to hit the road and explore their own backyards.

■ [stayz.com.au](http://stayz.com.au)



Mudjimba Beach, Sunshine Coast



## Are you for real?

THE Sunshine Coast is showcasing its renowned natural attributes in a new destination marketing campaign called 'For Real'.

The initiative is all about the real experiences, real culture, real people and real nature that are available in the Queensland destination.

Phase one of the campaign showcases the Sunshine Coast in 'Real Time' and will be rolled out through social media advertising and digital billboards.

"Whether its swimming with humpback whales as they migrate their way up north with Sunreef Mooloolaba or taking on one of Australia's highest ropes courses at the TreeTop Challenge, the Sunshine Coast offers tremendous authenticity," said Craig Davidson, Interim CEO, Visit Sunshine Coast (VSC).

"It is where the natural environment meets innovative and respectful thinking – and our people are the crucial ingredient that makes the

Sunshine Coast such an attractive destination for all markets."

VSC has partnered with booking agents Wotif.com and Experience Oz for the campaign to further drive bookings to the region's accommodation providers and attractions.

"We are not about mass tourism, but rather emphasising our incredibly diverse geography and range of attractions."

■ [sunshinecoastforreal.com](http://sunshinecoastforreal.com)





## Expert shows you Howe

BOTANICA WORLD Discoveries has added a Lord Howe Island tour to its domestic touring portfolio.

The eight-day small group tour departs Sydney on April 18, 2021, and is priced from \$6,795 per person twin share. For solo travellers the starting price is from \$9,095.

Price includes return airfares, meals, sightseeing and seven nights' accommodation at the Leanda Lei

Apartments, or the opportunity to upgrade to the Arajilla Retreat.

The tour will be hosted by Dr Ian Hutton OAM, botanical guide and Lord Howe Island expert.

An author, photographer and naturalist, Dr Hutton has lived on the island for more than 40 years and will share his expansive knowledge of its biodiversity with its endemic plant species, diverse marine life and

tropical climate. "For me, living on Lord Howe Island is like living inside a David Attenborough documentary," said Dr Hutton.

"Outside my front door is the island's rainforest – alive with the calls of rare endemic birds."

Details of the trip can be found on the Botanica website and a second departure is being planned for October 2021.

■ [botanica.travel/btlhi8](http://botanica.travel/btlhi8)

## Time to get back to business

ECO-TOUR OPERATOR Kotahi Tourism has resumed business for the first time since the devastating bushfires and outbreak of the global pandemic.

Each tour and visit to the South Coast region of New South Wales will have a positive impact on the community, particularly the Conjola district where 83 houses were lost in the bushfires.

"Since we can't travel overseas, we can instead use this opportunity to explore our own backyards and experience what New South Wales has to offer," said Melinda Loe, Managing Director of Kotahi Tourism.

"The scenery, wildlife and beaches in the South Coast are unparalleled and there's so much to discover here, especially now as we see nature regenerating after the bushfires."

Popular trips include the 90-minute

'Conjola Tour', which takes visitors on a two-and-a-half kilometre guided walk through lakeside, bush and beach. During the tour you'll hear stories about the region's natural environment and history.

The route is home to diverse local wildlife, including some endangered and vulnerable beach-nesters. Visitors during migration season may also be lucky enough to spot whales.

The 'Fishermans Paradise Eco Walk' is a 90-minute tour through Fishermans Paradise, a small village at the head of Lake Conjola. It takes travellers along riverside, bush and village tracks, discovering more about the local eco-systems.

Binoculars are a must with the chance to sight local birdlife, kangaroos and eastern water dragons along the way.



"It's more important than ever that we support our local communities. Bringing visitors back to the area is a vital part of the region's recovery, as well as helping our community get back on its feet after such a difficult time with the bushfires, floods and COVID-19!"

■ [kotahitourism.com](http://kotahitourism.com)



## Holiday with a million dollar hook

THERE ARE more than a million reasons for Aussies to take a tropical summer holiday in Kakadu this year.

Apart from taking advantage of special, heavily-discounted holiday packages, guests can test their angling skills to be in with a chance of winning a million dollars.

Now in its sixth year, the Million Dollar Fish competition started in 2015 to encourage visitation and to give one person the chance to reel in a fish worth a million dollars.

Barramundi are tagged and secretly released right across the Northern Territory in five main fishing regions: Darwin, Kakadu, Arnhem Land, Katherine and Tiwi.

Since the competition launched, more than 45 people from around Australia have reeled in tagged barramundi and hundreds more

have won major prizes. Four \$10,000 tagged fish were caught in the opening week, including two in Kakadu's Yellow Water Billabong, but there are still seven \$1 million barra swimming in Territory waterways, along with 98 red-tagged fish worth \$10,000 each.

With rains having already started, this year's summer in Kakadu is set to be a remarkable season to see nature at its most dramatic. Waterfalls will be thunderous, crocodiles and other wildlife will be abundant, and evening storms will provide spectacular lightshows.

Visitors can still get around the region on sealed roads and visit rock art sites, waterfalls, waterholes and walking trails.

Million Dollar Fish runs until March 31, 2021.

■ [kakadutourism.com](http://kakadutourism.com)

## SPECIAL PACKAGES AVAILABLE

✦ A five-day 'Kakadu In-depth' self-drive package valued at \$934 per person is now available for \$539 per person and includes a two-night stay in Darwin and two nights at Coinda Lodge in Kakadu.

Extra inclusions include a two-hour Yellow Water Cruise in Kakadu, with more than 200 bird species and large numbers of crocodiles on view. The package includes five days car hire and other bonuses.

Bookings must be made before November 11 for travel up until March 31, 2021, including the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

■ [ntnow.com.au/tour/kakadu-indepth-C16P7](http://ntnow.com.au/tour/kakadu-indepth-C16P7)

✦ A seven-day 'Flight Centre Darwin & Kakadu Nature Explorer' is also available, offering a \$200 discount on the package price.

The package includes four nights in Darwin and an escorted two-day 'Kakadu National Park & East Alligator River' tour with AAT Kings.

Overnight accommodation is at the Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel and other inclusions comprise a Yellow Waters Billabong cruise, a Jumping Crocs cruise and a Corroboree Park tavern lunch.

Packages start from \$1,000 per person, but with the added bonus of \$200 off for every \$1,000 spent, package rates reduce to \$800 per person.

Bookings need to be made before December 2 for travel between December 17 and March 31, 2021.

■ [flightcentre.com.au/product/13329080](http://flightcentre.com.au/product/13329080)





# Offers to marvel at

## AUSSIES LOOK TO LINGER LONGER

EXPLORE HAS launched its new brochure for 2021, showcasing its range of classic discovery, walking and cycling adventures.

The operator has also launched seven new UK trips following the company's recent travel survey. This revealed that Aussie travellers are looking to take longer holidays than usual to make up for not being able to travel in 2020.

The new trips have been created in anticipation for customers to combine popular itineraries throughout Europe with an adventure trip in the UK that covers more than the well-trodden routes.

The trips include 'Walk the Lake District', 'Cycle Hadrian's Wall' and a 'Snowdonia Walking Short Break'.

"We're excited about the cross-selling opportunities this new 'combi' brochure will give agents, who may have customers

that have traditionally only looked at our classic discovery program in the past," said Ben Ittensohn, Head of Global Sales, Explore.

■ [exploreworldwide.com.au](http://exploreworldwide.com.au)



TRAVELMARVEL IS offering a range of early bird specials and fly free offers on its 2021/22 Egypt, Jordan and Israel program.

There are five itineraries ranging from eight to 19 days, as well as a three-day add-on to the historic port town of Alexandria.

Returning for 2021/22 is the most popular tour, 'Treasures of Egypt & The Nile with Hidden Jordan'. Starting at \$6,895 per person twin share, couples can save up to \$4,200 if booking early.

This is a 15-day journey through 5,000 years of history and includes a visit to the Great Pyramids and Sphinx of Giza, a premium four-star cruise along the Nile, time to float in the Dead Sea and a 4WD ride across the Wadi Rum desert.

For guests wanting even more out of their holiday, they can combine the 15-day trip with an Israel holiday.

After exploring Egypt and Jordan, head into the Holy Land and visit the Western Wall, share a Jewish Sabbath dinner with a local family and walk through the alleyways of Old Jaffa in Tel Aviv.

The 19-day 'Treasures of Egypt, Hidden Jordan & Israel' trip starts at \$9,895 per person twin share, but again couples can save up to \$4,200 through the early bird offer.

This season travellers will be staying in new accommodation at the Al Sultana Camp in Wadi Rum Desert. There's also an option to upgrade to a Dome Tent so guests can gaze at the desert night sky from the comfort of their tent.

Scratch beneath the surface of Egypt, Jordan and Israel with Travelmarvel's Insider Experiences. These include sailing around Kitchener's Island by felucca in Egypt, sharing a champagne toast at sunset in Jordan's Wadi Rum and a traditional Jewish Sabbath dinner in Israel.

■ [travelmarvel.com.au](http://travelmarvel.com.au)



Left: Aruba  
Right: New Zealand  
Below: Bali

# These honeymoon dreams make for Pinteresting reading

THE CORONAVIRUS pandemic has put paid to a lot of wedding plans, but nothing can stop couples from still planning their dream honeymoons.

To find out where the most popular spots are, luxury travel company Kuoni scoured tens of thousands of honeymoon boards on photo sharing platform, Pinterest.

It found the Indonesian island of Bali to be the most pinned

destination, followed by Italy, Hawaii, the Maldives and Ireland.

While most of the top 20 places are known for their warm weather and beaches, there was still room for a few cooler countries like Iceland, which is one of six European nations on the list.

"Pinterest and wedding planning goes hand-in-hand, so it is a really valuable resource to gain great insights on where the most dreamed

about honeymoon destinations are in the world," said Dean Harvey from Kuoni.

"At Kuoni we're well known for offering some of the most incredible honeymoons on the market and although COVID-19 is causing havoc with weddings at the moment, we've been hard at work rearranging and planning honeymoons for 2021 and beyond.

"We hope this research can inspire couples who are looking to make a trip of a lifetime."

The most popular honeymoon destinations were calculated by counting the number of Pinterest boards with the title '[destination] honeymoon' and similar variations.

■ [kuoni.co.uk/most-popular-honeymoon-destinations-on-pinterest#](http://kuoni.co.uk/most-popular-honeymoon-destinations-on-pinterest#)



## The top 20 most 'pinned' honeymoon destinations

- |                 |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Bali         | 8. Greece       | 15. Iceland  |
| 2. Italy        | 9. India        | 16. St Lucia |
| 3. Hawaii       | 10. Costa Rica  | 17. Aruba    |
| 4. The Maldives | 11. Japan       | 18. Bahamas  |
| 5. Ireland      | 12. Jamaica     | 19. Spain    |
| 6. Thailand     | 13. New Zealand | 20. Fiji     |
| 7. Mexico       | 14. France      |              |





# HOW SMART ARE YOU?

Our popular *Traveltease* quiz runs every week on our website, but we thought we'd give everyone a chance to see how much they know about travel. Can you get the correct answers without Google?

1. How many Zodiac signs begin with the letter A?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4

2. In which European city will you find Sacré-Cœur?

- a. Barcelona
- b. Paris
- c. Brussels
- d. Zurich

3. The 'black box' flight recorder used in aircraft was invented by an Australian.

- a. True
- b. False

4. Pop star Shakira was born in which country?

- a. Canada
- b. Spain
- c. Columbia
- d. Argentina

5. What was the world's most spoken language in 2019?

- a. English
- b. Arabic
- c. Hindustani
- d. Mandarin

6. The novel *Ashes in My Mouth, Sand in My Shoes*, is set where?

- a. Sweden
- b. Denmark
- c. Norway
- d. Finland

7. The mythical city of Winterfell featured in which popular TV show?

- a. Game of Thrones
- b. Deadwood
- c. Westworld
- d. Silicon Valley

8. How many hills was Rome said to have been built upon?

- a. 6
- b. 7
- c. 8
- d. 9



9. A 2014 study revealed the source of the Amazon to be in which country?

- a. Peru
- b. Brazil
- c. Argentina
- d. Columbia

10. Which of these African countries has the largest population?

- a. South Africa
- b. Ethiopia
- c. Egypt
- d. Nigeria



11. Where in Australia would you find the Gordon Dam?

- a. Queensland
- b. Western Australia
- c. Northern Territory
- d. Tasmania

12. Which of these world records does Switzerland NOT hold?

- a. Longest railway tunnel
- b. Highest consumption of chocolate
- c. Oldest vegetarian restaurant
- d. Tallest ice cream cone



13. In which Texan city will you find Michaelangelo's first painting?

- a. Fort Worth
- b. Dallas
- c. Austin
- d. Houston

14. The Coral Coast is in which Australian state?

- a. New South Wales
- b. South Australia
- c. Western Australia
- d. Queensland

15. In which country would you find the Princess Sewing Cooperative?

- a. Ghana
- b. Kenya
- c. Zimbabwe
- d. Morocco



For more quiz action, head to our website [www.traveltalkmag.com.au](http://www.traveltalkmag.com.au) or look out for *Traveltease* every Thursday.

ANSWERS: 1b, 2b, 3a, 4c, 5d, 6c, 7a, 8b, 9a, 10d, 11d, 12d, 13a, 14c, 15c.



Adventure is knocking®

COSMOS

# Adventure awaits. Just a stone's throw away.

Save  
**5%\***  
on tours  
+ free SafetyNet  
Booking Protection\*

## 2021 Australia & New Zealand tours out now!

From the cleanest air and freshest produce of Tasmania, to the unique thermal mineral pools of The Coromandel, a surplus of sights and experiences await right here, in our own backyard. As borders reopen, it's time for your customers to restart their travel adventures.

Check out Cosmos' new tours online and contact your BDM for a product update.



### TASSIE QUICK BITE 7-day tour | Hobart to Launceston

Highlights include: Bruny Island local produce tasting and lunch, Chocolate class, Belgrove Whiskey distillery, Bay of Fires Walk, Jam making class at Eureka Farm, Pyengana Dairy for a cheese tasting, Bridestowe Lavender Estate lunch, Jansz Estate wine tasting.

From **\$2,612\*** per person, twin share  
incl. discount (based on 16/04/21 departure)



### THE MAGNIFICENT NORTH ISLAND 8-day tour | Auckland to Wellington

Highlights include: Waiheke Island with lunch at Stonyridge Winery, Driving Creek Railway, make your own "hot tub" at Hot Water Beach, Huka Falls, Local guided tour of Napier, Visit Hawkes Bay Brewing and Mission Estate Winery, Cape Kidnapper.

From **\$3,495\*** per person, twin share  
incl. discount (based on 22/05/21 departure)

For bookings call 1300 130 134 or visit [CosmosTours.com.au](https://CosmosTours.com.au)

\* Terms & Conditions apply. 5% discount and free SafetyNet Protection applies to new 2021 bookings made and deposited by 31/01/21. 5% discount based on land-only portion of core tour on twin share price, not including extra night accommodations, extensions, upgrades, taxes/fees, tips and, supplements/reductions. Free SafetyNet Protection is only available on new bookings, cannot be added retrospectively or applied to a transferred booking credit. A non-refundable deposit of \$250 per person per tour is required within 7 days or by 31/01/21 (whichever comes first) to secure reservation and offer. Offer may be withdrawn or amended at any time without notice. Additional restrictions may apply. For full terms & conditions visit [cosmostours.com.au](https://cosmostours.com.au). Photo: Tourism Australia