

Australia's favourite travel news magazine

# Traveltalk

WWW.TRAVELTALKMAG.COM.AU  
SPECIAL EDITION - DECEMBER 2021

## COMPETITION

Win a fantastic  
Aussie getaway!

## THE FUTURE OF TRAVEL

Everything you  
need to know

## SPECIAL FEATURE

What's Hot  
for 2022

*We have lift-off!*

**TRAVEL IS BACK WITH A BANG**

*Plus:* The Aussie holiday that could net you a million dollars!

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COVER IMAGE:  
Picture courtesy iStock

# Grab your popcorn and your passport. *It's showtime!*

## HOW OFTEN have you heard the saying that the sequel is never as good as the original?

With the exception of *The Godfather Part II*, *The Dark Knight* and *Toy Story 4*, this is almost always the case.

A hastily cobbled together script, a dubious plot line and warmed-over characters trying to quickly cash in on the success of the predecessor.

Now, just in case you think you've stumbled onto *Filmink* by mistake, let me tell you where I'm going with this...

There's absolutely no doubt that *Travel Industry 2: Return of the Holiday* will be a worldwide blockbuster, a treat for the whole family.

We've all waited so long for its release that it's only natural some might be apprehensive that it won't be as good as we'd hoped. But having enjoyed a couple of sneak previews, we're here to tell you that it's going to be a smash hit.

Travel companies across the board are reporting record inquiries and surging ticket sales. Airlines are back doing what they do best and hotels are seeing occupancy levels starting to rise.

In short, confidence is finally returning to an industry that has had to climb off the COVID-induced canvas and the future is looking bright.

That's why we've dedicated a large portion of this issue to revealing just what will be some of the hot destinations, activities and attractions in 2022. From Britain to the Pacific Islands, Australia and across Asia, there's plenty to choose from as international travel becomes a reality.

So you can plan your trip with confidence, we've also explained just what you'll need to know and the steps you'll need to take when travelling in this brave new world of ours. It really is essential reading for anyone going on holiday.

And just to get you in the mood, we've got a fantastic competition where someone is going to win a five-night holiday somewhere in Australia, with flights and hotel accommodation included.

You'll also find all the latest news on cruising, new hotel openings and airlines, plus our ever-popular travel quiz. For a bit of fun, we've also been a bit cheeky with a story about the world's best nudist beaches, where you can dare to bare.

There's no doubt that over the past 18 months the world has gone through a situation we hope will never be repeated in our lifetime. It's been tough on everyone, but at last we can say...

Flights, camera, action!



*"The future  
is looking  
bright."*





# WIN A FANTASTIC AUSSIE HOLIDAY!

WE CAN finally start to dream of exotic destinations, intriguing cultures and life-changing experiences.

Thanks to our friends at Virgin Australia and Crowne Plaza, we have a fabulous trip to give away. Enter now and see if you can win an early Christmas present!

## VIRGIN AUSTRALIA

As the country emerges out of lockdown, Virgin Australia's award-winning cabin crew is ready to welcome passengers back on board and is proud to be supporting this year's *Traveltalk* competition.

Virgin Australia is an airline that knows how to bring joy to flying, offering customers great value fares to destinations across Australia and the world, all while providing the famous Virgin Flair and world-class service.

As the borders re-open, Australians

will be able to reconnect with their loved ones and experience the joy of flying again. Since September, the airline has launched 12 new domestic services, making it even easier for the tens of thousands of passengers to travel this summer.

Thanks to an expanding network and ongoing promotions, Virgin Australia is helping to provide a much-needed boost to local tourism in areas hardest hit by the pandemic. It's also helping more Virgin Australia team members return to the skies.

Virgin Australia is also ramping up the frequency on many of its services this busy holiday period to ensure more Australians get to enjoy a well-deserved break this summer.

The airline will also resume international services this month, with the airline scheduled to fly to Fiji, followed by Bali and New Zealand from early next year.

Virgin Australia is giving customers the confidence to make a booking now thanks to its Flexible Flying policy.

Customers can change the date of travel without incurring any fees for travel on domestic flights to April 30, 2022, and international flights to December 31, 2022.

In order to thank vaccinated Australians, Virgin Australia is running a national COVID-19 vaccination



competition, VA-X & Win, which is offering one fully vaccinated Velocity member the chance to become an overnight Points millionaire.

There are other great prizes such as return Business Class flights and Lounge memberships. Entries for fully vaccinated Australians close on December 31, 2021, and can be made at [virginaustralia.com/vaxandwin](http://virginaustralia.com/vaxandwin)

Virgin Australia is also rewarding Velocity members for their loyalty. From now until March 31, 2022, all Velocity Frequent Flyer members will receive up to 100 per cent bonus Status Credits when they fly on eligible bookings.

» For more information, visit [www.velocityfrequentflyer.com](http://www.velocityfrequentflyer.com)

» [www.virginaustralia.com](http://www.virginaustralia.com)

## CROWNE PLAZA

Crowne Plaza Hotels have entered a new era with the opening of a number contemporary design-led hotels and transformation of a few favourites.

**Crowne Plaza Hobart** offers inspired dining and innovative spaces to blend work and play.

The 235-room hotel offers a distinct sense of place with stunning harbour or Mount Wellington views from each room and includes Hobart's first Club Lounge that allows guests to cosy up with complimentary evening canapés and beverages.

The hotel's proximity to cultural landmarks is sure to attract those seeking Hobart's new undercurrent of creative edge and intrigue.

A stunning new edition to Adelaide's skyline is **Crowne Plaza Adelaide**. This design-led hotel features 329 guest rooms including 20 suites, a show stopping rooftop heated infinity pool with city views and a 24-hour fully-equipped gym with the latest in Technogym equipment.

Guests will revel in two food and beverage venues on level 10, including Adelaide's highest restaurant, Koomo, and Luna 10, Adelaide's hottest poolside cocktail bar.

Crowne Plaza Adelaide is brilliantly located in the city's East End, home of the premier dining scene.

Also opening in 2020, **Crowne Plaza Sydney Darling Harbour** offers guests a truly inviting sanctuary away from home. It is located on the corner of Bathurst and Sussex Street and features 152 guestrooms which showcase the very best in contemporary design.

Relax and unwind in the rooftop heated infinity pool with city views, a 24-hour fitness centre with state-of-the-art equipment and three food and beverage venues.

Just three minutes walk to Darling Harbour, five minutes to Pitt Street Mall and under 10 minutes to Barangaroo, the hotel is undoubtedly one of the most connected hotels in the city.

For three decades, the iconic **Crowne Plaza Melbourne** has played a definitive role in Melbourne's rich cultural history. An extensive transformation in 2020 was undertaken right across the hotel.

The 'New Modern' interiors sit proudly within the architectural façade that is innately recognised along the Yarra River and will continue to celebrate its unrivalled views of Melbourne's sprawling city skyline.

The transformation showcases a suite of brand new guest facilities including a re-imagined rooftop pool with designer cabanas, along with a 24-hour wellness centre filled with natural light overlooking the Atrium complete with state-of-the-art TechnoGym fitness equipment.

**Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley** resort is situated in Lovedale and occupies an ideal location in one of Australia's most celebrated wine regions.

Featuring scenic backdrops, a full-service spa, 18-hole golf course, resort swimming pool and waterpark, the resort offers a range of accommodation options including suites and villas, ideal for families and groups of friends travelling together.

» [www.ihg.com](http://www.ihg.com)



## HOW TO ENTER



We've hidden FIVE icons throughout the pages of this issue, related to airlines and hotels.

You're looking for a captain, knife and fork, luggage, a plane and a bed. All you have to do is find all five, head to our website and tell us which pages they are on.

All correct entries will go into a prize draw for two return economy class tickets with Virgin Australia to anywhere on their domestic network from the winner's closest port.

The winner will also get five nights in a standard room with breakfast for two included at a Crowne Plaza estate in either Melbourne, Sydney Darling Harbour, Hunter Valley, Adelaide or Hobart.

Terms and conditions apply, see our website for details. Good luck!

» [www.traveltalkmag.com.au](http://www.traveltalkmag.com.au)

# YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE FUTURE OF TRAVEL

After so long in isolation, Aussies will take time to get used to all the new rules, regulations and requirements regarding travel. As usual, *Traveltalk* has got you covered.

Over the next few pages you'll find helpful articles on a variety of topics designed to keep you up to date on everything you need to know when planning a trip.

Medical tests, vaccine passports and the importance of booking with a travel agent. We begin our guide with what to expect at the airport.

## How to navigate COVID-safe travel

AUSTRALIA'S MAJOR domestic airlines have developed a joint approach with airports to help travellers know what to expect as states and territories prepare to open their borders.

The initiative is aligned to the public health orders in each jurisdiction as well as COVID-safe practices that the aviation industry has had in place during most of the pandemic.

As the two states scheduled to open their borders to all other jurisdictions first, New South Wales and Victoria

have already indicated that people will need to be fully vaccinated in order to travel intrastate and interstate for a period of time.

Queensland has now outlined its roadmap with vaccination requirements and other states and territories are expected to introduce similar requirements as they reopen.

To help streamline the travel experience and keep people safe, the aviation industry has agreed the following approach:

Other COVID-safe measures, including mandatory mask wearing in terminals and onboard, will remain in place nationwide but may be relaxed in future, especially as national vaccination rates rise.

"No industry is more excited about reopening than aviation," said Alison Roberts, CEO of Airlines for Australia and New Zealand (A4ANZ).

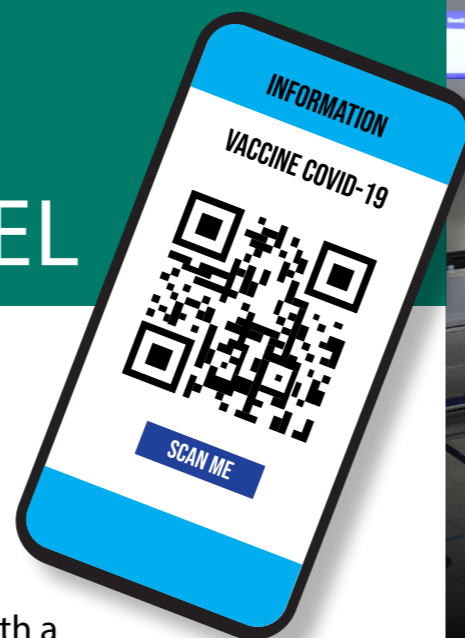
"Given different vaccination rates and levels of community transmission around Australia, we know that conditions will phase in and out at different times in different parts of the country.

"We're working with each state and territory government, as well as the Commonwealth, to help simplify the process for travellers as much as possible.

"Airlines and airports are thrilled to be welcoming travellers back. We do ask that people take the time to familiarise themselves with the requirements based on where they are travelling, and where relevant, have proof of vaccination or a medical exemption on hand.

"Australia is on track to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, so it's likely that many of the restrictions that will be applied over the next few months will eventually phase out."

[www.a4anz.com](http://www.a4anz.com)



## PASSPORT TO A NEW WORLD

Any Australian who is fully vaccinated can now access their vaccine passport, allowing them to travel in and out of the country.

Here, Professor JAYA DANTAS from Curtin University's School of Population Health discusses the implications of introducing vaccine passports.

**Q: Why do you believe vaccine passports are a move in the right direction for Australia?**

**A:** Vaccine passports, certificates or passes have already been initiated in many countries and by many airlines, and are being widely used.

They allow those who have been fully vaccinated (double dosed) to visit cafes, theatres, attend events (such as in France) and travel freely (as already introduced in the EU countries) as mandated by some governments and employers.

Vaccinations assist the community, prevent the severity of disease in breakthrough infections and prevent hospitalisations and ICU presentations.

**Q: What are the caveats and limitations to be understood when implementing such mandates?**

**A:** Mandates have to be based on the main principles that they are justified by demonstrable public health needs and they should be about protecting public health, and currently COVID-19 is a global pandemic with multiple virus variants.

Vaccines have made a difference in the rates of hospitalisations and deaths. Currently, those in hospitals

around the world with COVID are the unvaccinated.

There must also be considerations for medical, religious, or disability reasons. For those who are genuine vaccine objectors, mandates can make life restrictive. As well as barriers to access, people may also have vaccine uncertainty, hesitancy and an aversion to needles.

**Q: How do vaccine passports help control the potential spread of COVID-19?**

**A:** In most instances vaccine passports have a positive impact on stated intentions to get vaccinated among those who have not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Often after mandates there is an immediate surge of people coming forward to get vaccinated in countries (such as France, Italy and Portugal) where a passport policy has been introduced.

**Q: Will vaccine passports encourage more Australians to get vaccinated?**

**A:** Vaccine passports do encourage more people to be vaccinated because they realise that they may not be able to work as many employment areas have mandated vaccination.



Jaya Dantas from Curtin University's School of Population Health

Businesses like food services, travel, the arts and sports that have all been economically harmed by global public health restrictions rely on high vaccine coverage to facilitate a return to normal operations.

In some environments like healthcare, aged care, abattoirs and shipping there is high occupational risk of virus transmission. Thus these businesses have an ethical duty to keep their employees and clients safe. Clear information needs to be provided to the public so informed choices can be made.

Businesses in high-risk settings could require proof of vaccination as a condition of service, such as in long distance travel (plane, rail, bus), restaurants and entertainment (sports, movies, theatre).

Of course, in the travel sector if people want to fly internationally they need to be vaccinated and show proof of vaccination.

Local or state governments could also require vaccination as a condition of service. Linking vaccinations as a condition of providing people-facing services and working in high risk occupations could be an effective encouragement for vaccination.



# NEW SERVICE EASING YOUR PRE-FLIGHT STRESS

Here we speak to MICHAEL COHEN, who through his travel agency Blue Powder Tours has set up a testing service that takes all the stress out of pre-flight COVID checks.

**Q: What inspired you to set up your pre-flight COVID testing service?**

**A:** Last year I started working part-time with a diagnostic lab delivering COVID self-test kits to incapacitated patients all over Sydney. Before too long the second wave of COVID hit in Sydney and demand for the service grew almost overnight.

So I recruited all my Blue Powder staff and a few other travel industry orphans and all of a sudden we had a team of 12 couriers and admin staff servicing every suburb in Sydney with home COVID tests.

In June this year I realised that as COVID subsided and the vaccine rates grew we would all be travelling again before the end of the year.

This sparked an idea that given every traveller would need a COVID test prior to boarding a flight, why not combine our testing business with our travel business and help travellers in getting their pre-flight COVID testing done?

**Q: What type of testing options do you offer?**

**A:** We have something for everyone. Our courier service is a premium service where our fully-certified pathology collector comes to you and does the test in the comfort of your own home. Secondly, you can book a test to be performed at one of more than 15 pathology clinics all over Sydney. Of course, once the other states open up we will have clinics all over Australia.

**Q: Can users be totally confident in the results?**

**A:** Absolutely! Our testing partners only use PCR tests, which are the gold standard and accepted worldwide as the most accurate and best test for COVID 19. PCR tests are accepted by all airlines and governments around the world.

**Q: You're keen to partner with travel businesses. Why should they sign up?**

**A:** We would like to sign up every travel agent in Australia. We are fellow travel agents and know how hard it is to get the right information on



Michael Cohen, Blue Powder Tours

complex matters. We have provided this on our website, which is a one-stop shop to where they can find as much info as they need and make a simple booking, and of course we can pay them a commission for every booking.

**Q: Will travellers have to get used to testing for quite some time?**

**A:** I believe COVID-19 will be circulating for a long time so my feeling is that pre-flight testing may be with us for years to come. It will just be another thing we need to think about before we leave the country.

**Q: Finally, where is the first place in the world you'd like to go once international borders reopen?**

**A:** Whistler in Canada. It's my happy place and the biggest and best resort in the world. Canadians are great hosts and I know they are desperate to welcome back Aussies.

» [www.covidtest.com.au](http://www.covidtest.com.au)

# COVID TEST

BLUE POWDER TRAVEL

EARN \$\$\$ FOR EVERY PASSENGER



BOOK PRE-FLIGHT COVID-19 TESTS ONLINE  
EARN COMMISSION FOR EVERY PASSENGER

SIGN UP NOW!

COVIDTEST.COM.AU

# ALWAYS GO TO THOSE IN THE KNOW

It's been a tough couple of years for travel agents but they are expected to be in hot demand to help Aussies navigate the new rules and regulations surrounding domestic and international travel.

Here, Personal Travel Manager MARIA PANDALAI shares nine reasons why you should always seek the advice of a travel expert.



Maria Pandalai, Personal Travel Manager

## 1 TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

I RECENTLY heard stories about people being on hold for hours to airlines, tour operators and travel companies to amend their holiday plans.

As Personal Travel Managers we have our own dedicated phone numbers to these suppliers.

Yes, we may still be on hold at times given the current circumstances, but better we're on hold than you, right?

## 2 WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Definitely not *Ghostbusters!* As Personal Travel Managers, we have the skills, experience and most importantly empathy when it comes to dealing with our clients' travel emergencies.

Whether it is missed flights, flight cancellations, natural disasters or medical situations, we are here for you.

## 3 WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

We go in to bat for our valued clients. In most cases, coupled with a positive attitude, we are able to satisfy your travel needs when it comes to specific requests and problem solve any issues that may arise.

Over the years, we have formed strong relationships with our supplier partners. Whether it's airlines, tour operators, cruise lines or hotels, we have the right connections. It is who you know, right?

## 4 WE'RE IN THE KNOW

We know our stuff when it comes to travel. We know which products best suit our clients, because we take the time to get to know them.

With our extensive knowledge and experience, we tailor make the ultimate holiday itinerary to match our clients' personal wants and needs.

## 5 WE WALK THE WALK AND TALK THE TALK

We live and breathe travel. It's in our bones and runs through our blood. And we love to share our travel experiences with our clients.

It's not possible to have travelled everywhere (unfortunately), so we welcome valuable feedback from our amazing clients to pass onto others.

Honestly, would you arrange your travels with a travel consultant who hasn't travelled?

## 6 WE HAVE THE BUYING POWER

Sometimes there is an assumption that our pricing is more than online, but that couldn't be further from the truth. We often get feedback from our clients that our pricing is more competitive than online.

Being a part of an incredible network, TravelManagers have the ultimate buying power to negotiate exceptional rates with airlines, hotels, tour companies and cruise companies.

## 7 PROBLEM SOLVING

We may not be mathematicians, but our problem solving skills are on point. As we all know, things don't always go to plan prior to our holiday departure or while travelling.

But we have the learnt skills, patience (not to mention composure) to work around and resolve whatever comes our way.

## 8 LOGISTICS IS OUR THING

The logistical skills that we have learnt are second to none. We coordinate itineraries meticulously, while dealing with overseas time differences.

We happily manage our clients' flights, trains, accommodation, transfers, hotels and sightseeing bookings from start to end.

## 9 WE'RE A FUN BUNCH!

We get genuinely excited for our clients while arranging their holidays – especially when we make contact leading up to departure for their dream holiday.

Would you book your holiday with a travel consultant who didn't share your excitement?

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

# Loving this package deal

A \$530 MILLION tourism and events package has been described as a step in the right direction in the recovery of the travel sector.

The Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) has welcomed the move by the New South Wales government, particularly the \$60 million for an Aviation Attraction Fund to incentivise international airlines to re-commence flights to Sydney and \$6 million to bring business events back to the city.

However, AFTA points out that until international travel returns to normal levels, which won't be before the second quarter of 2022, the sector will continue to be in lockdown.

"The road to recovery for Australia's travel sector is a long one," said Dean Long, AFTA CEO.

"Travel expertise to navigate the complexities of COVID-travel is

### IN BRIEF///

11%

Prior to COVID, the industry had experienced year on year growth of 11 per cent and maintained growth of 7.25 per cent over the past five years.

\$46 billion

In 2018-19, Australians spent over \$46 billion on international travel, representing the largest import sector of the Australian economy.

70%

70 per cent of this international travel was booked through Australian travel agents.

\$28 billion

Each year travel agents collect taxes worth \$1 billion and contribute \$28 billion nationally to the economy.

needed now more than ever and as events and tourism begin to ramp up again, travel agents will be essential.

"Australia's travel agents and businesses have been in hard lockdown for more than 600 days and until airlines and cruise capacity return to normal levels, which won't be before the second quarter of 2022, we will need support.

"The 30,000 Australians who work in Australia's travel sector and the 3,000 agencies and businesses who employ them urgently need ongoing Government help so we can keep providing the expert support travellers need as tourism gets back on track and recovers."

[www.afta.com.au](http://www.afta.com.au)

## 2021 READER SURVEY

# Traveltalk, needs you!

In order to keep delivering the very best magazine, full of all the essential news, features and travel stories you want, we're asking our loyal readers to complete a short survey.

### WIN ONE OF 10 \$50 GIFT VOUCHERS

CLICK HERE

to complete the survey

# Hits from the Whits

TOURISM WHITSUNDAYS have released their latest travel deals as part of the Wonders Guaranteed campaign.

All deals have flexible cancellation policies to ensure travellers can book with peace of mind.

Explore this fascinating part of Australia aboard the only commercial Trimaran in the region. Ozsail's *Avatar* caters to guests of all ages with minimal lean while sailing, maximum deck space and a mixture of open plan bunks and private doubles.

Enjoy meals freshly prepared onboard, top snorkelling stops and great views on *Avatar's* two-day/two-night tours which depart every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

For a limited time only, guests can enjoy 30 per cent off this experience at a rate of \$350 per person.

Positioned along the Great Barrier Reef, Elysian Retreat is offering a deal on both of their accommodation types.

The boutique retreat is offering a complimentary night, a 20 per cent discount on additional nights and more for guests who choose to book the 'Secluded Island Escape' package for five consecutive nights.

The package features three gourmet meals per day, sunset canapes each evening, unlimited use of select recreation equipment, daily yoga classes and access to the Mineral Resort Pool.

Cost is either \$5,082 for two guests for Villa South (five nights), or \$5,775 for two guests for Villa North (five nights). Deal is available until March 31, 2022.

» [ozsail.com.au/avatar-whitsundays](http://ozsail.com.au/avatar-whitsundays); [elysianretreat.com.au/offers](http://elysianretreat.com.au/offers)



## Comp that has a million dollar hook

AUSTRALIA'S RICHEST fishing competition continues to make a splash, offering the biggest prize purse in the seven-year history of the event.

Running until March 31, 2022, Million Dollar Fish sees thousands of anglers flock to the Northern Territory for their chance to reel in a prize barramundi worth a million dollars.

Eight barra worth \$1 million and 100 tagged barra worth \$10,000 have been released across Top End waterways.

Every tagged fish will see an additional \$1,000 be donated to an official charity partner, with the Million Dollar Fish awarding \$10,000 to charity. They have been released in the NT's five main fishing regions: Tiwi Islands, Darwin, Katherine, Kakadu and Arnhem Land.

"With eight active Million Dollar Fish and ideal conditions for fishing, the chances of hooking the big

one have never been higher," said Brad Fanning, External Affairs Manager, SportsBet.

» [www.milliondollarfish.com.au](http://www.milliondollarfish.com.au)



## Wendy shows her Aussie dedication

WENDY WU Tours has released a dedicated Australasian brochure, featuring two new programs complementing their existing tour range.

The Australia collection has expanded to feature the seven-day 'Tasmanian Highlights' tour, focusing on the eastern coastline, including Freycinet National Park and Wineglass Bay as well as Cape Pillar.

Guests will also visit the historical town of Port Arthur and sample Tasmania's renowned local produce, including a visit to Freycinet Oyster Farm. It is priced from \$5,600 per person twin share.

Also new to the collection is the 'Glimpse of the Kimberley' tour, which combines relaxation, indulgence and adventure over five days.

Witness the sun set on Cable Beach, look up from your boat to gaze at Horizontal Falls and get your boots on to explore Kimberley cattle country. It is priced from \$4,750 per person twin share.

» [www.wendywutours.com.au](http://www.wendywutours.com.au)



## FLAIR IN THE AIR

APT HAVE expanded their range of private jet air tours to include a new itinerary covering Australia in depth.

The 16-day 'Icons of Australia by Private Jet' takes travellers to all the country's highlights, including Hobart, the Barossa Valley, Margaret River, Broome, Darwin, Cairns, the Whitsundays and Uluru.

En route, the privately chartered jet flies scenic figure-8 circuits over places such as Cradle Mountain, the Great Australian Bight, Kalgoorlie's Super Pit, the Bungle Bungle Range and Arnhem Land.

The tour is priced from \$15,495 per person twin share, which includes a saving of up to \$3,000 per couple when booked by March 31, 2022.

"In creating these tours I was thinking about bucket list items and hard to reach attractions and destinations: experiences such as

swimming with the whale sharks at Ningaloo Reef, seeing Uluru and the Field of Light, and visiting Cape York and Longreach," said Maureen Styles, APT's Product Manager for Australia and New Zealand.

Other tours include the nine-day 'Queensland Outback & Tropics by Private Jet', the seven-day 'Southern Ocean to Top End by Private Jet' and the eight-day 'West Coast & Kimberley Horizons by Private Jet'.

"Our west coast and Queensland sales and feedback have exceeded expectations and we are thrilled with the market and customer feedback. Directly in response to that sentiment, we now have Queensland Outback & Tropics departures from both Brisbane and Sydney."

» [aptouring.com.au/travel-styles/air-tours](http://aptouring.com.au/travel-styles/air-tours)



## MUCH ADO IN KAKADU



KAKADU TOURISM has launched a range of discounted cruise, accommodation and touring packages for the tropical summer.

The region is at its best during this period, which encompasses three Aboriginal seasons: Gungmeleng (pre-monsoon), Gudjewg (monsoon) and Bang Gereng, which arrives in March bringing clear skies to the area.

Visitors will experience light shows

as thunder and lightning roll in, waterfalls at their most dramatic, the dry land turning green and streams beginning to flow.

For those attending the Million Dollar Fish contest, Coinda Lodge Kakadu has a two-night package priced from \$889 per couple and \$1,244 per family of four.

It includes breakfast daily, a \$50 fuel voucher to be used at Coinda Lodge, \$100 dining credit for Mimi's Restaurant

and a Yellow Water fishing tour.

'Live It Up In Kakadu' includes two nights' accommodation including breakfast at Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel, a one-hour scenic flight with Kakadu Air, a Yellow Water cruise and a four-course degustation Kakadu Style dinner with a bottle of wine.

It is priced from \$1,259 per couple and both deals are available until March 31, 2022.

» [www.kakadutourism.com](http://www.kakadutourism.com)



Antelope Canyon, Arizona

## USA expansion packs a punch

G ADVENTURES HAS unveiled its expanded 'United States of Adventure' collection in Australia.

The additional 13 newly-developed tours double the size of the collection, which was initially launched in February 2021 for domestic travellers and now offers 28 trip options to national and Navajo Nation parks in America.

The new, small group trips have been developed with the traveller experience and local communities top of mind.

They include important Indigenous-led experiences such as in Monument Valley where a Indigenous guide will share their background and connection to the land, and a stop to the Native Grill food truck in Navajo Nation; a community tourism project that supports the local Indigenous community, while serving delicious Navajo tacos to travellers.

"We know our Aussie travellers love travelling to the United States and it's a known quantity as a travel destination, so we're super excited they can now plan their long-awaited bucket list U.S. adventure," said Sean Martin, Managing Director for Australia and New Zealand at G Adventures.

"This new collection also meets the increased desire for this market to get out in nature and be more remote, so we've really worked hard to make the experiences enriching and fulfilling for this audience."

The new tours depart from autumn 2022 and are a mix of Classic and 18-to-Thirtysomethings travel styles.

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

## Time to think small

COLLETTE IS providing Aussie travellers some future inspiration with the release of its 2022-23 *Small Group Explorations* brochure.

The digital guide includes 36 itineraries ranging from New Zealand to Costa Rica with dates through to May 2023.

Experiences include staying overnight in a monastery among Buddhist monks in Japan, listening to ancient folklore told by a traditional storyteller in Ireland or taking a dip in a geothermal spring in New Zealand.

All tours feature boutique accommodation and multi-night stays to ensure guests are able to enjoy the best experiences that a destination has to offer.

With only 14-24 guests per tour, travellers won't be part of the crowd: they'll be an integral part of a cultural expedition.

Apart from the monastery stay, 'Japan: Past and Present' includes the chance to meet the country's famed Ama Pearl divers and learn about their elite profession. It is priced from \$7,999 per person for the 13-day tour.

Old favourites including 'Italy's Treasures', 'The Northern Lights of Finland' and 'Countryside of the Emerald Isle' are also featured.

[www.gocollette.com.au](http://www.gocollette.com.au)



## IN BRIEF///

The Travel Corporation has launched its Costsaver brand in Australia with three new trips now available and an extensive collection soon to be unveiled.

Offering 77 trips across 56 countries, Costsaver provides the fundamentals – such as quality three- and four-star accommodation, comfortable transport, and the services of an expert Travel Director – alongside Choice Optional Experiences, enabling guests to customise their trip.

With more than 500 Optional Experiences on offer, guests can fully tailor just how much, or how little, they do on every holiday.

"For many travellers, independent touring is the way forward – and Costsaver gives them all the building blocks to tailor their dream trip – it's the ultimate unpackaged holiday," said Katrina Barry, Managing Director of Costsaver.

[www.costsavertour.com](http://www.costsavertour.com)

## SKINNY DIPPING

IT SEEMS we aren't shy about getting our kit off with Australia home to seven of the world's best skinny dipping spots.

In a study by dating reviews website *MyDatingAdviser.com*, the quality, safety, weather and lodging of 100 nude beaches across the globe were taken into account.

This was across seven key metrics of skinny dipping friendliness: (1) pollution (2) Blue Flag status, (3) weather (4) air temperature, (5) water temperature, (6) safety and (7) hotel cost.

Using the data points, each location was given a 'Skinny Dipping Index Score'. Maslin Beach in South Australia topped the local list with Wanggoolba Creek and Cronan Creek Falls in Queensland rounding out the top three.

"The past year has been difficult and we have all experienced lockdown, grief and disruption to our normal lives," said Amy Pritchett, Managing Editor at *MyDatingAdviser*.

"There is nothing more liberating and joyful than a skinny dip. Remember it's not a big deal and if the water is cold, even better!"

[www.mydatingadviser.com/best-nude-beaches-in-the-world](http://www.mydatingadviser.com/best-nude-beaches-in-the-world)

### Top 7 Skinny Dipping Spots in Australia

1. MASLIN BEACH, suburb of Adelaide  
Index Score: **72.75**
2. Wanggoolba Creek, Fraser Island  
Index Score: **71.75**
3. Cronan Creek Falls, Mount Barney, QLD  
Index Score: **65**
4. Lady Bay Beach, New South Wales  
Index Score: **60.75**
5. Tablelands, Queensland  
Index Score: **59.25**
6. Karijini National Park, WA Pilbara region  
Index Score: **54.25**
7. Cedar Creek Falls, Queensland  
Index Score: **43**



# SATURN RINGS IN THE CHANGES

VIKING'S AWARD-WINNING fleet is set to expand even further with the company announcing the arrival of a new ship in early 2023.

The 930-guest *Viking Saturn* will spend her maiden season sailing three new itineraries in Scandinavian and Nordic countries. In addition, the company will also be bringing back the popular eight-day 'Iceland's Natural Beauty' itinerary starting in August 2023.

The new itineraries include two 15-day journeys; 'Iconic Iceland, Greenland & Canada' and 'Iceland & Norway's Arctic Explorer', and the 29-day Greenland, Iceland, Norway & Beyond' voyage.

"These new itineraries are ideal for curious travellers and trace routes of the early Viking explorers to Iceland and other North Atlantic destinations known for their natural beauty," said Torstein Hagen, Chairman of Viking.

## MAKE A DATE

Viking has also released a number of new departure dates for some of its most popular ocean cruise itineraries for late 2023 and early 2024.

Cruises include Scandinavia, the Mediterranean, Alaska, the Caribbean, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and two new combination cruise itineraries in Scandinavia.

"These new departure dates are for some of our most popular cruise itineraries and provide more choice and certainty for travellers to plan ahead," said Michelle Black, Managing Director of Viking ANZ.

"In response to increased consumer demand for Scandinavian cruises, we've also released two new combination voyages allowing guests to enjoy extended time in this popular region," added Ms Black.

These combination voyages include a 27-day 'British Isles & Iceland Explorer' voyage from Reykjavik to London, which is priced from \$18,695 per person and includes savings of up to \$2,800 per couple. It departs in July 2023.

There's also the 29-day 'Scandinavia & the British Isles' voyage from Stockholm to London (or vv). It is priced from \$19,395 per person and includes savings of up to \$2,800 per couple. It departs in May and July, 2023.

## SALE ON SO YOU CAN SAIL ON

The 'Welcome Back to the World Sale' features impressive offers on an extensive selection of Viking's river, ocean and expedition cruises until December 24.

Delivering savings of up to \$8,000 per couple, the promotion also includes a selection of flight offers.

"We have new ships, new itineraries and we are proud to offer the industry's leading health and safety program, so our guests can travel the world with complete confidence," said Ms Black.

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



## OCEAN CRUISES IN 2023-2024 OPEN FOR SALE INCLUDE:

- \* A 15-day 'Australia & New Zealand' sailing from Sydney to Auckland or vice versa. It is priced from \$8,995 per person and includes savings of up to \$2,000 per couple. Departing Jan-Mar, Dec 2023; Jan-Feb 2024
- \* A three-day 'Mediterranean Odyssey' from Barcelona to Venice (or vv). It is priced from \$7,995 per person and includes savings of up to \$1,400 per couple. Departing Mar-Sep 2023
- \* A 15-day 'Viking Homelands' voyage from Stockholm to Bergen (or vv). It is priced from \$8,895 per person and includes savings of up to \$1,400 per couple. Departing Apr-Sep 2023
- \* An 18-day 'South America & The Chilean Fjords' voyage from Buenos Aires to Santiago (or vv). It is priced from \$9,995 per person and includes savings of up to \$2,000 per couple. Departing Jan-Feb 2023
- \* A 23-day 'North Pacific Passage' from Tokyo to Vancouver (or vv). It is priced from \$11,995 per person and includes savings of up to \$1,400 per couple. Departing Apr, Sept 2023; Apr 2024.



# WELCOME BACK TO THE WORLD

*New Ship, New Voyages*



## BALTIC JEWELS & THE MIDNIGHT SUN

STOCKHOLM – LONDON *or vice versa*  
 29 DAYS | 19 GUIDED TOURS | 10 COUNTRIES  
 SET SAIL JUL – AUG 2023  
 From \$19,995pp in Veranda stateroom  
 From \$24,595pp in Penthouse Veranda



## GREENLAND, ICELAND, NORWAY & BEYOND

BERGEN – NEW YORK CITY *or vice versa*  
 29 DAYS | 19 GUIDED TOURS | 5 COUNTRIES  
 SET SAIL JUN & AUG 2023  
 From \$18,795pp in Veranda stateroom  
 From \$23,995pp in Penthouse Veranda

## ENJOY, IT'S ALL INCLUDED

- PRIVATE VERANDA STATEROOM | NORDIC SPA FACILITIES | SHORE EXCURSIONS | CHOICE OF 8 DINING OPTIONS
- WINE & BEER SERVED WITH LUNCH & DINNER | 24 HOUR ROOM SERVICE | WI-FI & GRATUITIES
- NEWEST SMALL SHIP FLEET | INDUSTRY-LEADING HEALTH & SAFETY PROGRAM



NO KIDS | NO CASINOS | VOTED WORLD'S BEST

138 747 | [VIKING.COM](http://VIKING.COM)



\*Conditions apply. Prices are per person, in Australian dollars, based on double occupancy, subject to availability, includes all advertised discounts and correct at time of distribution. Guests are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at time of travel. Greenland, Iceland, Norway & Beyond based on 2 August 2023 departure. Baltic Jewels & the Midnight Sun based on 1 August 2023 departure. These offers are valid on new bookings made between 1 December and 24 December 2021 unless sold out prior. For full terms and conditions visit [viking.com](http://viking.com).



# LIVING ON THE EDGE

CELEBRITY EDGE will be making its first trip into the Southern Hemisphere to debut Down Under in Australian waters for the 2023/24 season.

The ship will offer an array of curated six- to 13-night itineraries from early December 2023 through to April 2024, designed to immerse guests in the coastlines of Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

Guests will be able to select from 12 bespoke itineraries visiting an impressive collection of 22 ports with departures from both Sydney and Auckland.

"She's a luxury boutique hotel, Michelin-quality dining, a luxurious spa retreat with the world at your service," said Lisa Lutoff-Perlo, President & CEO, Celebrity Cruises.

Regarded as one of the most innovative cruise ships on earth, Edge has two-storey villas with plunge pools, 29 distinct restaurants, bars and lounges, and a spa offering more than 120 treatments.

Highlights of the season include overnight stays in Cairns and Hobart, and a debut visit to Kangaroo Island.

"We are so excited to offer such a truly special vacation experience Down Under."

[www.celebritycruises.com/au](http://www.celebritycruises.com/au)

## Adventure takes a bow

THE LATEST addition to the three ship P&O Cruises Australia fleet has emerged from dry dock showcasing its sweeping Southern Cross bow livery.

Also boasting a host of onboard features, Pacific Adventure will call Sydney home once cruising resumes.

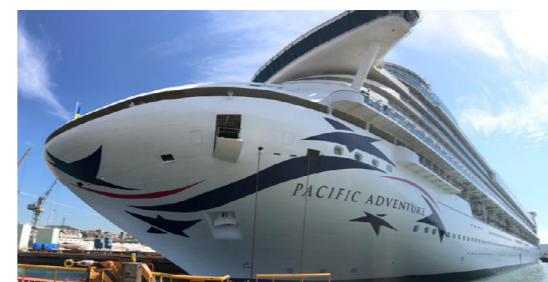
During her spell in dry dock a host of diverse dining experiences were added, including options developed with Australian chef and restaurateur Luke Mangan and award-winning Melbourne-based chef Johnny Di Francesco.

P&O's popular restaurant trio – the Italian fan-favourite Angelo's, Pan-Asian-inspired Dragon Lady and contemporary Australian dining outlet The Waterfront – were also installed.

Other additions included the international marketplace, The Pantry, offering classic, comforting and modern fresh food outlets.

"Throughout the pause in operations, we have never lost sight of our ultimate goal of transforming our fleet to continue P&O's unparalleled leadership of cruising in our region," said Sture Myrmell, President P&O Cruises Australia.

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



## Supply follows popular demand



POPULAR DEMAND has led APT and Travelmarvel to an early release of their Europe river cruise schedules for 2023.

Holidays include the most popular itineraries on Europe's waterways which cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest along the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers.

Popular city stay packages in places such as Paris and Prague, the Douro River cruises, as well as Russia cruises from

Moscow to St Petersburg are also available.

To celebrate the launch, APT is offering Superdeal savings when booked before December 31 with flights included. This deal is available on selected itineraries across 2023 departures.

Book selected holidays that include a river cruise of 14 nights or more in select suite categories and guests can fly business class for \$2,995 per person.

Travelmarvel's 15-day 'European Gems' cruise is priced from \$5,495 per person twin share with flights included.

Cruises will be onboard one of the company's new contemporary river ships – Travelmarvel Polaris, Vega and Capella – which will embark on their maiden voyages in 2022.

"We're delighted to be releasing our 2023 collection early, providing our guests with the opportunity to plan ahead and book in their future river cruises, giving them plenty to look forward to," said Mladen Vukic, General Manager Product.

[www.aptouring.com](http://www.aptouring.com)



## Links to the Sphinx

UNIWORLD HAVE released first images of their new Super Ship in Egypt, the S.S. Sphinx.

The ship offers two gourmet dining venues, including a private dining room and an al fresco dining experience on the upper deck, a swimming pool, massage room and 42 suites.

The menus reflect the destination guests sail through, with options including Egyptian beef liver, sweet corn soup, mulukhiya Egyptian bread and hawawshi.

"Everything from the artwork to the ceilings to the ship's bow was thought out and sourced by the local community," said Ellen Bettridge, CEO and President of Uniworld Boutique River Cruises.

The ship operates the 'Splendors of Egypt & The Nile' itinerary, a 12-day sailing to experience the country and the river's top sites starting and ending in Cairo. Rates start at \$5,999 per person.

Guests will explore the Temple of Karnak, the world's largest ancient religious complex, visit temples dedicated to Hathor and Horus, and step inside the Egyptian Museum to view artifacts including treasures recovered from the tomb of Tutankhamun.

[www.uniworld.com/au](http://www.uniworld.com/au)

## BROCHURE BECKONS IN LUXURY

PONANT HAS released a new brochure for Australia, focused exclusively on Luxury Expeditions for 2022 and 2023.

The brochure highlights some of the region's most in-demand itineraries, including the Kimberley, East Coast and Tasmania.

Guests can journey up the King George River Gorge in a Zodiac, culminating in the Twin Falls in the Kimberley, navigate the rugged coastline of the Tasman Peninsula or

explore the outermost corners of the Great Barrier Reef.

PONANT's new expedition itineraries also include Japan's Subtropical Islands, Zanzibar and an expedition to the Geographic North Pole onboard *Le Commandant Charcot*.

"This brochure brings out the essence of what a luxury expedition is, a reflection of the strength of the PONANT brand and growing demand for small ship discoveries in local markets," said Deb Corbett, Asia Pacific General Manager Sales & Marketing.

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



## THE WONDER OF IT ALL

THE WORLD'S largest cruise ship will make its debut next year as cruising continues to re-emerge from the COVID crisis.

*Wonder of the Seas* will debut in the U.S. and Europe, sailing from its home in Fort Lauderdale to the Caribbean on March 4. It will then make its way to Barcelona and Rome to kick off summer vacations in May.

The ship has eight neighbourhoods including all-new features such as the Suite Neighbourhood, a cantilevered pool bar named The Vue, and Wonder Playscape – an interactive, open-air kids' play area.

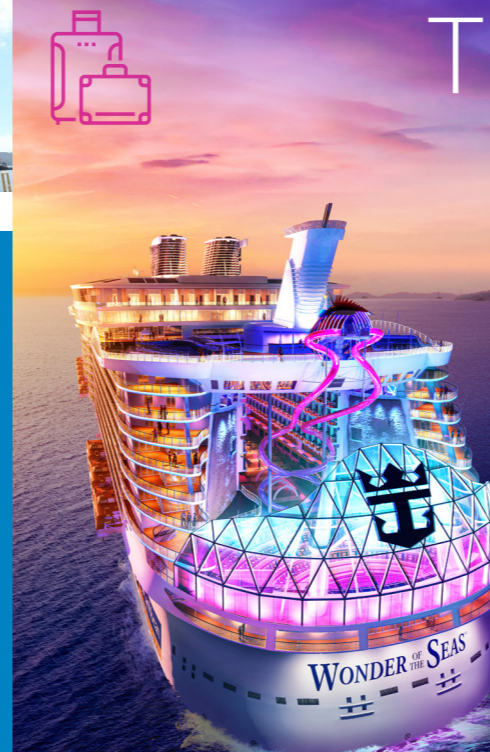
Returning favourites include The Ultimate Abyss, the tallest slide at sea, Central Park, filled with real plants from

end to end, and the vibrant Caribbean-inspired pool deck experience.

Meanwhile the company has introduced an interactive digital brochure that gives Australian travellers quick and easy access to adventures planned for the summer season, starting from October 2022 through to April 2023.

It offers real time updates and access to videos, images and information. Passengers will once again enjoy the beauty of Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Airlie Beach and Cairns as well as the option to explore New Zealand's Bay of Islands, Wellington and Auckland, with cruises starting at \$1,085.

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





# Collection makes its luxury Aussie bow

A NEW hotel is set to open in Tasmania this month, the first Australian showcase of the Luxury Collection brand.

The Tasman will offer 152 rooms, each one highlighting a distinct character and experience. Original artworks from local artists, fireplaces and island baths are some of the highlight features within.

The impressive heritage development connects Salamanca Place with an elegant fronting on Murray Street in Hobart's Parliament Square.

"We are overjoyed to be opening bookings for The Tasman and cannot wait to unveil a truly unique hotel that has been years in the making," said Stephen Morahan, General Manager at The Tasman.

"Whether travelling from near or afar, we want to create a quintessentially Tasmanian experience as much for visitors as for the locals who help make The Tasman the unique destination it is."

Guests will be able to experience three eras of design within the hotel; from walking the historic hallways of the original 1840s heritage building, admiring the understated luxury of the 1940s Art Deco building, or taking in views of the Hobart waterfront from the new glass ensconced Pavilion building.

Renowned Tasmanian chef, Massimo Mele, will helm signature restaurant Peppina, giving Italian inspired cuisine a local twist.

[www.thetasmanhobart.com](http://www.thetasmanhobart.com)

# WIN A WEEKEND AWAY

IHG HOTELS & Resorts have announced a competition to celebrate the return of travel and mark the launch of their summer campaign.

The promotion offers entrants the chance to win one of 52 weekend stays at one of IHG's properties, including InterContinental Hotels & Resorts, the new Kimpton Sydney Hotel, Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts, voco Hotels, Hotel Indigo, Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express.

"We're helping kick start the memorable experiences people have been waiting for – strengthening family bonds, celebrating milestone moments, uniting far-flung friends, forging business partnerships," said Dean Jones Head of Commercial, Japan, Australasia, Pacific.

The competition will be running until January 31, 2022. Entrants need to be an existing IHG Rewards Member or register to become an IHG Rewards Member during the competition period.

[www.ihg.com](http://www.ihg.com)

# SAY HI TO THIS HYBRID

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST five-star 'hybrid' hotel is set to open shortly, also marking this country's debut Oakwood Premier.

The \$150 million, 40-storey property is one of the tallest single-purposely built structures in Australia, boasting 392 apartments and a sky bar with 360-degree views.

Looking over the Yarra River in Southbank, Oakwood Premier Melbourne is the 10th location worldwide for the brand.

Catering primarily to executives and business travellers, guests will have access to innovative tech and communication devices in their rooms. The property will showcase art installations and a waterfall feature in and around the property, which pays homage to key Melbourne landmarks.

"We are in the final stretch of this four year-long development and are getting very excited to welcome guests to Australia's first Oakwood Premier here in Melbourne this December," said Andrew Donadel, General Manager, Oakwood Premier Melbourne.

"The location of Oakwood Premier Melbourne is so central; guests will have all of what Melbourne has to offer at their very doorstep."

[www.oakwood.com/premier-melbourne](http://www.oakwood.com/premier-melbourne)



# TIME TO FIND YOUR MOXY

TRAVELLERS WILL have a new option with the opening of the first Moxy Hotel in Australia for Marriott International.

The \$140 million hotel is located directly alongside Sydney Airport and will feature 301 guest rooms. It is promising to offer a design-led, fun and energetic brand.

The site is positioned on a major thoroughfare into both domestic and international terminals, catering to both corporate and leisure traveller demand. The Moxy Sydney Airport is due to open in early 2023.

"This project is a clear reflection of our confidence in the accommodation and travel sector," said Chris Boys, RF Corval's Director of Hotels.

"Along with our partners, we share a positive outlook for demand in the longer term, with a forecast recovery of travel and tourism following the opening of borders."

[www.marriott.com.au](http://www.marriott.com.au)

# IN BRIEF

STAYWELL HOLDINGS have launched a travel deal for fully vaccinated travellers, including extra benefits and discounts. Available until December 20, the 'Vaccination Perk' includes 25 per cent off best available rates, complimentary room upgrades and late check out.

[www.staywellgroup.com](http://www.staywellgroup.com)

A NEW 184-room Atura Hotel is planned in the Sydney suburb of Oran Park. Anchored within the \$500m Oran Park Podium and integrated within the lifestyle, retail and entertainment precincts, the resort is due for completion in late 2023. It will be a key offering for the south-west Sydney corridor and a gateway property for Western Sydney Airport.

[www.aturahotels.com](http://www.aturahotels.com)

AIDEN DARLING Harbour has just opened in Sydney, marking the inaugural Aiden by Best Western hotel in Australasia under BWH Hotel Group. Set in a remodelled 1930s Art Deco building, the property has 88 rooms with some featuring a private open-air balcony with outdoor furniture looking out to the harbour and the city skyline.

[www.aidendarlingharbour.com.au](http://www.aidendarlingharbour.com.au)

ACCOR HAVE announced plans to open Brisbane's first Mövenpick hotel. The 96-room Mövenpick Hotel Brisbane Spring Hill will open in 2024 and will contain art deco inspired interiors, a restaurant, bars, 25-metre pool, fitness centre and daily Chocolate Hour. It will be the brand's third hotel in Australia and first in Queensland.

[www.movenpick.com](http://www.movenpick.com)

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL will bring the Courtyard by Marriott brand to Perth. The new hotel will form part of the mixed-use Murdoch Health and Knowledge Precinct and is expected to open in early 2024. Courtyard by Marriott Perth, Murdoch will feature 150 rooms, an all-day dining restaurant with a semi-open kitchen concept, a café and bar.

[www.courtyard.marriott.com](http://www.courtyard.marriott.com)





# SAY ALOHA TO HAWAII

HAWAIIAN AIRLINES will resume its five-time weekly service between Sydney and Honolulu from December 15.

"We are thrilled to reconnect Hawaii and Australia and have been encouraged by the public's response to Australia's national vaccination program, enabling the reopening of borders," said Andrew Stanbury, Regional Director for Australia and New Zealand at Hawaiian Airlines.

Starting December 15, HA452 will depart Sydney on Tuesdays and Thursday until Sunday at 9:40pm with a 10:35am scheduled arrival in Honolulu.

Services from Honolulu to Sydney will operate as HA451 departing HNL on Mondays and Wednesday until Saturday at 11:50am and arrive at Sydney approximately 7:45pm the next day.

Hawaiian will continue to operate the SYD-HNL route with its 278-seat, spacious wide-body Airbus A330 aircraft, which features 18 Premium Cabin lie-flat leather seats, 68 of its popular Extra Comfort seats and 192 main cabin seats.

» [www.HawaiianAirlines.com](http://www.HawaiianAirlines.com)

# WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

VIRGIN AUSTRALIA has unveiled a new interior design, described as a prototype for the future.

The design features a refreshed seat experience which will initially be trialled on two of the airline's nine new Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

Mirroring the configuration of Virgin Australia's existing Boeing 737-800 fleet interior, eight new business class and 162 economy seats have been fitted with the distinctive new horizontal rib design, providing guests added support and comfort when they fly.

The airline's economy cabin features a seatback device holder, which accommodates everything from a small smartphone to a larger tablet, making the use of personal devices for entertainment in the air easier than it has ever been before.

"Virgin Australia is committed to being a customer-led business, so once we receive feedback from our guests and crew, we'll consider implementing elements of the new design as our fleet grows," said Paul Jones, Virgin Australia Group Chief Customer and Digital Officer.

» [www.virginaustralia.com](http://www.virginaustralia.com)



# Big bird is coming back early



QANTAS HAS announced that five A380s with upgraded cabins will return to service ahead of schedule.

The news follows the return of the airline's first A380, which landed in Sydney last month after almost two years in storage.

The national carrier is gearing up for the first two of the super jumbos to return to service next April following strong demand for international travel, particularly on key routes to Los Angeles and London.

Originally expected to remain in long term storage in the Californian desert until the end of 2023, two Qantas A380s will operate flights to Los Angeles from April 2022 and three will operate flights to London from November 2022.

The airline is now working to further accelerate the return of the A380s, with super jumbo flights to London brought forward to July 2022. In addition, a sixth aircraft will arrive before the end of calendar year 2022, with the remaining four A380s expected to return to service by early 2024.

"The early return is symbolic of how quickly demand for international travel has bounced back and this aircraft will play a key role in preparing our crew to return to A380 flying operations in the New Year," said Richard Tobiano, Qantas Chief Pilot Captain.

"Many of our crew have found other jobs during the pandemic doing everything from working in vaccination hubs and hospital wards to driving buses and tractors, and painting houses."

» [www.qantas.com](http://www.qantas.com)



# Putting fun back into travel



Cameron Neill

can be as exploratory in our product line as our travellers are with their travel interests."

The pair are initially kicking off with a range of tailored explorations in a variety of travel styles through Africa, the Middle East and South America.

"In 2022 there will be an enormous pent up demand for travel and we want to use our lengthy travel experience to bring back the fun into travel," said Edwards.

"We are passionate about avoiding the crowds and manufactured experiences. We prefer the real, the raw and the revealing.

"We believe in sustainability and the future of what travel could be."

» [www.theexplorersociety.com](http://www.theexplorersociety.com)

A NEW travel company has been launched for like-minded people looking to explore some of the most memorable destinations in the world.

The Explorer Society will offer tailor-made holidays and private tours for those seeking authentic experiences.

The company is the brainchild of Martin Edwards and Cameron Neill, who recently worked together at Bench Africa where they successively

held the position of General Manager.

"I'm excited for travellers to see what we have in store for them," said Neill. "And, without giving too much away, I'm even more excited to see the destinations and experiences that we are still finalising.

"By launching The Explorer Society we can truly offer destinations and experiences that we, and our travel community, are passionate about. We

# Black Sheep daring to be different

TRAVEL INDUSTRY veteran Trish Shepherd has launched a new company aimed at supporting the travel, tourism and hospitality industries.

Black Sheep Tourism brings brands and business solutions together, creating unique products and services.

The company's experienced team of experts will help businesses explore new solutions to maximise growth, leverage data in new ways and build cost effective, personalised customer engagement.

"Now more than ever, businesses need to know their customers, be flexible, swift and equipped – to be ahead of the game," said Trish, who has worked in travel and tourism for four decades.



Trish Shepherd, Black Sheep Tourism

"Black Sheep is built on offering better solutions across tourism, travel and hospitality by doing things differently.

"As we recover from COVID the funds supporting the big marketing campaigns will not be there. Black Sheep works with global brands and our company provides local solutions.

"The team at Black Sheep is committed to supporting the travel, tourism and hospitality industry in managing their data more efficiently and nurturing customer relationships.

"We know what works because we've been working in travel for decades and I know one of the tough parts of travel is identifying that point of difference that sets you apart from everyone else.

"We are delighted to launch our products and services, which have been purposely designed to suit the specific needs of our complex industry."

So what led to the company name?

"I've always loved being a black sheep, managed things differently and I want to help businesses stand out. We look at travel from every angle to understand what both suppliers and the travel consumer now wants the most.

"We support travel, differently."

» [www.blacksheeptourism.com.au](http://www.blacksheeptourism.com.au)



The Roman Baths, Bath. Picture courtesy VisitBritain

With travel restrictions finally easing, Australians can at last start to plan their long-awaited holidays. But after 18 months of inactivity, it's hard to know just what's out there. Once again, *Traveltalk* has the answer, highlighting some of the tours, activities and destinations to consider both at home and abroad as the world slowly returns to normal.

## BRITAIN

CULTURE VULTURES will be flocking to Britain in 2022 as a host of new attractions open up throughout the year.

**The Bath World Heritage Centre** will debut early next year in the heart of the city centre and will offer free access. It will be filled with imaginative interpretations that will demonstrate why the city was awarded its two World Heritage accolades.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, **Gaia** at Rochester Cathedral features detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface. The artwork provides the opportunity to see our planet floating in three dimensions alongside a specially made surround-sound composition.

**The Shakespeare North Playhouse** will make its debut in Knowsley, some 16 kilometres outside Liverpool. The 350-seat theatre will also feature an outdoor performance garden, exhibition and visitor centre

and educational facilities.

Britain's first Raffles property, the **Raffles London at the OWO** opens in 2022, located in the building which served as Winston Churchill's base during the Second World War and was the birthplace of Ian Fleming's James Bond.

When complete in 2022, **The England Coast Path** will be a long-distance National Trail that will follow the coastline of England. The 4,500 kilometres of signposted pathway will be the longest coastal walking route in the world.

Meanwhile seven new outdoor artworks by the world's leading artists will connect and celebrate the 1,400km coastline that spans from the Thames Estuary to the English Channel on England's south east and east coasts.

Observers can take part in the world's first art GeoTour using GPS-enabled technology to discover **England's Creative Coast**.

» [www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com)

## SINGAPORE

SLATED TO open in 2022, the **Hilton Singapore Orchard** will be centrally located in the heart of Singapore's famous Orchard Road.

Destined to become Hilton's Asia-Pacific flagship, the hotel will boast 1,000 rooms, five restaurants and bars, two club lounges and a variety of luxury suites.

**The Pullman Singapore Orchard** is set to claim the title as Singapore's first ever Pullman hotel. Opening next year, the hotel will feature 342 rooms, a rooftop bar and executive lounge with sweeping views over Fort Canning, the Singapore River and St Andrew's Cathedral, along with a vibrant lobby, health and fitness centre and pool.

**The Standard, Singapore** is slated to open in 2023 and represents the latest destination for the brand in Southeast Asia.

Situated on Orange Grove Road in the upper end of Orchard Road, The Standard with its 143 rooms intends to celebrate Singapore's robust Green Plan by creating a new sanctuary for the neighbourhood.

Mount Faber may be one of Singapore's oldest parks, but **Gai Gai Tours** has launched a two-hour walking adventure that will showcase it in a new light.

The tour comes with fully-guided content in the exclusivity of a private tour setting and a complimentary round-trip cable car ride on the Mount Faber Line.

» [www.visitsingapore.com](http://www.visitsingapore.com)



Hilton Singapore Orchard



Queen's Marquee, Halifax Harbour

## CANADA

**QUEEN'S MARQUEE** will be a dynamic new neighbourhood on the waterfront of Halifax harbour in Nova Scotia, set to be complete in September 2022.

The area is a community destination inspired by the historic, cultural and natural forces that have shaped the place and its people. It will feature the Muir hotel, private residences, 12 food and beverage destinations, office space and an extensive commitment to local artists.

**Cape Smokey** in Nova Scotia has welcomed visitors since the 1970s with skiing from mountains to ocean. The attraction is undergoing a \$CA100 million revamp that will transform it into a year-round destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

Here, visitors will find Atlantic Canada's first and only gondola, leading to sledding and tubing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing and heliskiing.

It also has the only brewery along the world famous Cabot Trail (opening in 2022) and North America's first tree walk, 30 metres above the top of the mountain.

The largest and oldest winter festival in the world takes place from February 4-22 next year. **The Quebec Winter Carnival** includes night parades, epic ice sculptures, ice canoe racing and Bonhomme's Palace, home to the furry bear mascot of the festival.

Watch dogsled races through the narrow, snowy streets of the Old City, canoe races across the ice-choked St. Lawrence River and stroll streets lit by Victorian lamps before dining in a

gourmet restaurant on local Quebec cuisine.

Winnipeg, the capital of Canada's central province of Manitoba, recently launched **Qaumajuq**, which houses the largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art in the world.

This first-of-its-kind centre is an innovative cultural campus housed within the Winnipeg Art Gallery in the heart of the city.

» [www.keepexploring.com.au](http://www.keepexploring.com.au)

## IRELAND

TOURISTS WILL be able to boldly go where no tourist have gone before when a new immersive solar system sculpture trail opens next year.

The 10km **Our Place in Space** walking installation will take visitors on a journey through the solar

system without leaving the ground. It will make its first appearance on the shores of Lough Foyle in Derry~Londonderry in April, staying for two months.

It then moves to Divis and the Black Mountain in Belfast, Cambridge in England, then back to the Ulster Transport Museum and North Down Coastal Path in Northern Ireland.

The trail will feature various four-metre high sculptures, including scale models of the sun and each of the planets in our solar system. Its purpose is to invite exploration of what it means to live on Earth in 2022 and consider how we might better share and protect our planet in future.

The installation has been commissioned as part of the Unboxed creativity festival taking place throughout the UK in 2022.

One of the biggest and best traditional music festivals in Ireland is back in January.

**Tradfest Temple Bar** returns from January 26 to 30 with a full program of artists playing live against Dublin's famous backdrops.

Talent appearing includes Dervish, Fairport Convention, Four Men and a Dog, Altan and the Lost Brothers.

» [www.Ireland.com](http://www.Ireland.com)



Our Place in Space

# MALAYSIA

## Sail the Kimberley like a king

AFTER SO many months in limbo, Aussies can be forgiven for wanting to splurge when travel restrictions are finally lifted.

Cruise Traveller is offering you the chance to see one of this country's most fascinating areas in the lap of luxury aboard a superyacht.

The small ship specialist has three

all-inclusive Kimberley superyacht cruises in conjunction with YOTSPACE in June and July, 2022, lasting from six to 10 nights. Each voyage will be enjoyed by just eight guests.

Exempt from COVID restrictions affecting larger vessels, YOTSPACE's celebrity-like, book-by-the-cabin superyachts flaunt exclusivity, intimacy, privacy and bespoke itineraries.

Each sailing is aboard the *Phoenix One*, which has four deluxe cabins, plush lounges and deck-top Jacuzzis. Guests will enjoy gourmet, chef-made meals and open bar drinks all day.

Off-ship adventures are included in the fare, as are the use of sea scooters, clear-bottomed sea kayaks, sea biscuits, stand-up paddle boards, water skis and

fishing and snorkelling gear.

The itineraries will showcase the Kimberley's world-renowned scenery, including secluded bays, remote islands, pristine wilderness areas, waterfalls, indigenous rock art, wildlife and coastal cliffs that glow flame-red at sunset.

The six-night sailings between Broome and Darwin on June 13 and June 19 are available from \$12,365 per person twin share, including a private airport transfer in Darwin.

The 10-night sailing from July 18 is available from \$19,420 per person twin share. Light plane/seaplane transfers to the yacht are also included in Darwin and Broome.

» [www.CruiseTraveller.com.au/YOTkimberley](http://www.CruiseTraveller.com.au/YOTkimberley)



## Time to join the Rat Race

IT'S ONE of the world's most loved adventure challenges and now it's coming to Australia in 2022.

Rat Race has been operating in Europe for 17 years and thousands of people have already enjoyed individually curated bucket list experiences.

Adventures are not created for Olympians, SAS or action heroes, but have been designed to make taking part in adventure activities accessible for all. They are ideal for people who have a passion for outdoor adventures combined with the luxury of supports such as accommodation, meals,

transport and transfers, equipment and medical assistance.

"Australians are going to fall in love with our Rat Race challenges," said Joel Stephens, General Manager of Rat Race Australia. "We are all about delivering extraordinary adventures for everyday people."

Rat Race challenges range from four to seven nights and take participants on adventures that include some of the most memorable and remote wilderness areas and scenery.

The company will be undertaking test pilots in 2022 to fine-tune and

perfect the adventures before they commence in 2023.

Bookings are being taken for the test pilot adventures at discounted rates. Those that take part will provide important feedback on the ultimate adventures once they kick-off.

"The timing is perfect to launch Rat Race in Australia. As part of our arrival we have developed four stunning adventure challenges that will take place in 2023. These include challenges in New Zealand, north Queensland and Tasmania."

» [www.ratraceaustralia.com.au](http://www.ratraceaustralia.com.au)



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[www.malaysia.travel](http://www.malaysia.travel)

facebook.malaysia.travel | instagram.malaysia.travel



# Malaysia

Malaysia  
Truly Asia



Mantanani Island, Sabah

THERE'S NO doubt Malaysia will be on the radar for most Australians now that international travel is returning. Here's a look at some of the attractions you can enjoy in this fascinating country next year.

## PENANG

If you're looking for unique experiences found nowhere else on the planet then the 'Seven World Wonders of Penang' are definitely for you.

At 248 metres above sea level, the Rainbow Skywalk at The TOP Penang offers seamless views of George Town and beyond and is the world's first tower curved skywalk.

The Gravityz is a high-level obstacle course perched 239 metres above ground on the 65th floor of Menara Komtar in George Town. There are six stages that daredevils can attempt on the world's highest rope course challenge.

Feel the sheer pull of gravity as you take a plunge down G-Drop, the world's first and tallest free-standing vertical drop slide located at the Tech Dome.

Nature lovers can make the journey up to a 130 million-year-old ancient rainforest via the world's steepest tunnel track — Penang Hill's funicular train. Then enjoy fantastic views 40 metres above the forest floor at The Habitat's Langur Way canopy walk, the world's highest altitude stressed ribbon bridge.

For a bit of relaxation, tackle the world's longest water slide at ESCAPE's Waterplay. Finally, explore Entopia by Penang Butterfly Farm, where you can walk into a living garden vivarium where thousands of butterflies and insects fly freely. It is the world's first tropical butterfly and insect sanctuary.



Semenggoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

## SARAWAK

Sarawak has taken various steps to create a sustainable tourism industry since 2011.

Their tourism partners adapt eco-friendly practices in their tourism products, such as encouraging bicycle rides in rural areas or enjoying bird watching in Sarawak's lush rainforests.

Sarawak promotes homestays, encourages consumption of local food and highlights local handicrafts and arts.

Such community-based tourism can be found in areas like Nanga Sumpa in Batang Ai where travellers can gain an insight into the lifestyle of the various tribes of Sarawak who have lived in remote regions for generations.

Sarawak's biggest and renowned orangutan rehabilitation centre, Semenggoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, which is only 20km from Kuching City, is a sanctuary for the conservation of the animals in their natural habitat.



## SABAH

This is a bio-diverse destination that focuses on the conservation of its nature and wildlife and offering sustainable signature products, making it enchantingly unique.

Sabah has begun amplifying its community based tourism initiatives to add more cultural immersion into local travel options. Indirectly, this has allowed the local community to be more involved in this thriving industry and to continue to preserve and share their culture with others.

Some 12 new hotels and resorts are in the pipeline for Sabah, including Hyatt Centric, Crowne Plaza, Club Med, Citadines, Sheraton Hotel, DoubleTree by Hilton, ECharm Plus Hotel, Avani and Alila Resort. This will provide more than 2,300 additional rooms beyond 2022.

In addition, Kinabalu Park, home to the famed Mount Kinabalu, is on track to be recognised as a UNESCO Global Geopark site, which will draw even more visitors to this enchanting region.

## LANGKAWI

Known for its landscapes, beaches, mangrove forests and jungle vistas, Langkawi is also home to an attraction hundreds of millions of years in the making.

Southeast Asia's first UNESCO Global Geopark is one of only 147 worldwide. It features Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park, Kilim Karst Geoforest Park, Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park and Kubang Badak BioGeo Trail.

Each of these geoforest parks showcases significant geological, biological and cultural heritage. Visitors can check out the abundance of natural wonders, from ancient rock formations and dramatic mountain peaks to a wealth of flora and fauna.

For more information, visit: [www.malaysia.travel](http://www.malaysia.travel)

## HOW TO GET THERE

Travellers can book confidently with Malaysia Airlines. Its Economy Flex offering unlimited free date change and tickets are also fully refundable without a fee if your travel plans get interrupted.

You will also enjoy exclusive perks of priority check in, priority boarding and priority baggage and 35kg checked-in baggage. Economy Flex is available in every fare class within the same cabin.

The airline's 'Fly Confidently' health and safety protocols ensure all crew are fully vaccinated, air filters remove microbes while flying and customers are offered a complimentary hygiene kit which comes with a non-surgical face mask, hand sanitiser and sanitary wipes.

» [www.malaysiaairlines.com/au](http://www.malaysiaairlines.com/au)

## WHERE TO STAY

Sunway Resort has embarked on an \$80 million transformation that will elevate it to become one of Asia's leading integrated resort destinations.

The revitalisation of the five-star property at Sunway City Kuala Lumpur will embrace the latest design and cutting-edge technology. Once transformed, it will feature 477 environmentally friendly rooms and suites, an international celebrity chef restaurant and extensive family, leisure and wellness facilities.

"We can't wait to reveal the new-look Sunway Resort," said Alex Castaldi, Senior General Manager, Sunway City Kuala Lumpur Hotels.

"This hotel has been a Malaysian icon ever since it opened in 1996 and this dramatic transformation will restore it to its rightful place at the forefront of Asia's travel and hospitality sector."

» [www.sunwayhotels.com](http://www.sunwayhotels.com)

Opening in June 2022, **PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala Lumpur** will be in the heart of Bukit Bintang and will feature biophilic landscaping and practical eco-chic design.

The 535-room hotel will showcase



1,200 square metres of plants and trees, forming a distinctive lush landscaped façade.

With lifestyle and wellness as its key ethos, guests can also look forward to a holistic wellness floor, comprising a St Gregory Spa, a modern gym and fitness studio, as well as a pool. This mixed-used complex will also house the luxurious Pan Pacific Serviced Suites Kuala Lumpur.

» [www.panpacific.com](http://www.panpacific.com)

For something a little different, the **Terrapuri Heritage Village** is a conservation and restoration project of Terengganu Malay classic houses. It is located right on the beach at Terengganu.

Guests can stay in heritage villas that are between 100 and 250 years old. Each one has been refurbished as luxurious accommodation with such mod-cons as air conditioning, ceiling fans, rain showers and wooden bathtubs.

» [www.terrapuri.com](http://www.terrapuri.com)

One of the world's top resorts, **The Datai Langkawi** is situated on the northwest tip of the island. It is located in an ancient rainforest rich in wildlife and overlooking Datai Bay, awarded by *National Geographic* one of the top 10 beaches worldwide.

All of the 121 rooms, villas and suites, including the five-bedroom The Datai Estate Villa, offer uninterrupted views of the surrounding nature.

» [www.thedatai.com](http://www.thedatai.com)



Prachuap Khiri Khan, Koh Sang

## NEW CHAPTERS IN THAILAND'S BIG TRAVEL STORY

THE LATEST marketing campaign from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has been unveiled, designed to encourage visitors back to the kingdom.

The 'Visit Thailand Year 2022' initiative was premiered at the World Travel Market in London. The campaign will offer three 'Amazing New Chapters' the world's travellers can experience in Thailand.

Chapter 1, or 'The First Chapter', will see TAT highlight tourism products and services that will awaken the five senses of travellers. These will include delicious local cuisine and the natural scenery that can be discovered throughout the kingdom.

In Chapter 2, titled 'The One You Love', TAT will focus on specific segments like families, couples and friends and invite them to create wonderful memories together in Thailand.

Bangkok, Phuket and Chiang Mai in particular will be promoted as popular destinations for weddings and honeymooners, with their fantastic beaches, mountain resorts and vibrant city appeal.

Chapter 3, 'The Earth We Care', will highlight how nature's chance to revitalise due to the COVID-19 situation has increased eco-tourism awareness among the world's travellers and how their behaviour has impacted the environment.

The emergence of travel segments like Wilderness Tourism (Escapers)

and Cult-Vacation (Conscious) will also show that visitor behaviour has changed towards spending more time in nature and being conscious of their impact on natural resources.

Other segments to be highlighted will include gastronomy, health and wellness, and a 'work-ation', which has become a growing trend with the COVID-19 pandemic allowing people to work remotely and enjoy a vacation.

» [www.amazingthailand.com.au](http://www.amazingthailand.com.au)

### NEW HOTELS

Opening in mid-2022, the 76-room **Avani Chaweng Samui Resort** is located to give guests direct access to the island's best shopping, dining and entertainment venues.

Situated along Chaweng Beach Road, just steps from the surf, the resort's design is inspired by the glitz and glamour of travel in 1950's America. It will feature a pool with multi-level deck cabanas, a 24-hour gym and a social bar that doubles as a check-in area for guests who want to keep things casual.

The opening will follow that of **Avani+ Khao Lak**, which is due to welcome guests at the beginning of the year. The property will have 250 rooms, 78 one- and two-bedroom villas, all-day dining restaurant and views of the Andaman Sea.

Recent additions include the 101-room **Capella Bangkok**, which boasts

## THAILAND REOPENING

SINCE NOVEMBER 1, 'Thailand Reopening' has been welcoming fully vaccinated visitors from 63 countries and territories via the Exemption from Quarantine (TEST & GO) entry scheme, and from around the world under the 'Living in The Blue Zone' (17 Sandbox Destinations) program.

Partially or unvaccinated visitors from countries and territories are also welcome via the 'Happy Quarantine' requirements.

It is expected that this year's various entry schemes will bring at least 700,000 visitors to Thailand. For 2022, TAT expects Thailand's tourism to generate 1.58 trillion Baht, which includes 818 billion Baht from international tourists and 771 billion Baht from domestic tourists.

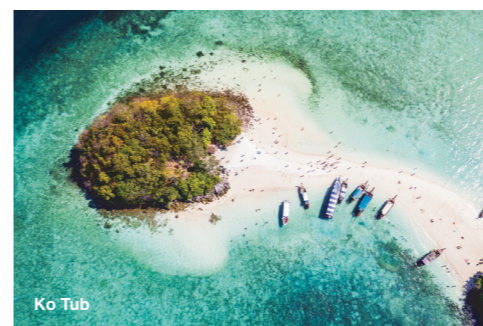
Effective from November 1, 2021, all travellers arriving in Thailand by air are required to register with Thailand Pass in order to travel into Thailand. It is required that applicants submit their registration at least seven days before their intended travel date.

Register for a Thailand Pass at:  
» <https://tp.consular.go.th>

private villas, a Capella Culturist for every room and fine dining overseen by a Michelin-starred chef.

The 299-room **Four Seasons Bangkok** is surrounded by galleries, boutiques, restaurants and cafés. Take in sweeping views of the Chao Phraya River from the outdoor lap and infinity pools, or enjoy a collection of restaurants.

Opening this month, **Centara Reserve Samui** is the completely re-imagined and upgraded former Centara Grand Beach Resort Samui. This new luxury property retains and integrates its celebrated colonial design aesthetic with contemporary flair.



Ko Tub



Bamboo Island



Ao Nui, PhiPhi Island

## Do you remember the last time you took a time-out to laze in a pristine, white paradise?

Relax on Thailand's stunning, hidden beaches once again.

Even more amazing experiences await on your return as you can enjoy your favourite destinations in Thailand.







## Plenty of room in Fiji

Fiji's resorts are among the best in the world and the good news for visiting Aussies is that post-COVID they are likely to be better than ever. Here we round up all the latest updates and developments.

THE **NAWI Island** project in Savusavu on Vanua Levu, Fiji's second largest island, is easily accessible by sea and air and is due for completion next year.

The island will feature a super-yacht marina and shipyard facility, a lifestyle yacht club facility, freehold private island homes and a world-class resort and spa. It will provide a luxurious and cultural experience combined with social and environmental responsibility.

The marina is home to 130 yachting berths, including 13 super-yacht berths and six mega-yacht berths, making it one of a kind in the country and the South Pacific.

» [www.nawiisland.com](http://www.nawiisland.com)

**Malolo Island** and **Likuliku Lagoon** resorts have announced their long-awaited re-emergence after being closed for 20 months.

Malolo is renowned for providing family island holidays for more than 20 years, while Likuliku opened in 2007 with Fiji's first and only overwater bures, catering to the luxury adults-only market.

To welcome back guests again, both resorts are offering special packages. At Malolo, stay five nights and pay for three plus meals included. It is valid for travel from January 15 to March 31, 2022.

At Likuliku, stay for five nights and

pay for four including a one-hour couples' massage, two-hour private picnic on a private island and a FJD\$500 beverage credit. It is valid for travel from February 1 to March 31, 2022.

"We have waited and worked hard towards this day for a long time," said Tony Whitton, Fijian owner and Managing Director.

"There are probably not enough words to explain the feelings of excitement, relief and joy we have, that we can finally get our staff back to work and once again, welcome our valued guests to our shores."

» [www.maloloisland.com](http://www.maloloisland.com); [www.likulikulagoon.com](http://www.likulikulagoon.com)

Re-open to international markets from December 1, **Castaway Island, Fiji** is a four-star resort on a private island located in the heart of the

Mamanuca Islands group.

The island's 70 hectares are covered in tropical rainforest and surrounded by white sand beaches and coral reefs. Sixty five spacious 'bures' (bungalows) feature traditional Fijian-style thatched roofs while there are myriad activities on land and sea.

"Australians have always found a special place in their hearts for Castaway Island, Fiji and this has been reflected in the decisions to choose Fiji and Castaway Island as their annual holiday resort time and again," said Ben Johnson, Area Director of Sales and Marketing, Fiji Islands, Outrigger.

» [www.castawayfiji.com](http://www.castawayfiji.com)

To deliver a more sustainable guest experience, **Turtle Island Resort** has expanded its island farm and vegetable gardens, adopting new techniques to enhance the quality of the fresh produce and elevate menu offerings.

Staff are busy developing new products that utilise the garden produce and natural environment to further reduce the resort's carbon footprint while providing new employment opportunities for the local community.

The resort recently harvested their first batch of peanuts which Chef Kini roasted with island-grown herbs, making a healthy and mouth-watering snack.

They have also begun making herbal tea recipes from hibiscus flowers, soursop leaves and lemongrass to add to the breakfast menus to provide a nourishing start to the morning.

» [www.turtlefiji.com](http://www.turtlefiji.com) [www.fiji.travel](http://www.fiji.travel)



Likuliku Lagoon Resort



WWW.FIJI.TRAVEL





# A VIEW TO A SUITE RIDE

AS THE world opens up, it's all go on Avalon Waterways with new ships, new itineraries and new celebs, offering one-of-a-kind and relaxed luxury cruise experiences in 2022 and beyond.

Setting sail for the first time in 2022, the *Avalon View* is the latest addition to Avalon's fleet of Suite Ships. True to its name, the *Avalon View* will offer the widest views of Europe's waterways.

Passengers can choose from two full decks of award-winning Panorama Suites, all of which feature wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows that transform the luxurious living space into a unique open-air balcony, in suites that are 30 per cent larger than the industry standard.

As travellers look forward to returning to the rivers once again, the *Avalon View* offers guests a gold standard winning combination of suite vistas, ship amenities and

sensational itineraries.

Celebrating the latest Suite Ship launch, a new for 2022 Danube exploration from Germany to the Black Sea will be on offer, traversing an incredible eight European countries, including the gems of Vienna and Bucharest – the Paris of the East.

Avalon Waterways will also be sharing a story or two with an array of living literary legends on the new and exclusive Storyteller Series.

Sailing through storybook settings, travellers will get to listen to candidly from chart-topping talent themselves, including international bestsellers Candace Bushnell (*Sex in the City*), Cheryl Strayed (*Wild*) and Gillian Flynn (*Gone Girl*), among others.

World-renowned musicians will also be guiding guests on the Suite Ships, with singer-songwriter Edwin McCain serenading romantic melodies along the Rhine.

For travellers who would rather let loose on an adventure once again, look no further than Avalon's Active & Discovery collection.

Untethered and full of opportunities to infuse interests and passions into each cruise, Avalon's Active & Discovery holidays feature extraordinary – and included – Avalon Choice excursions.

With 47 departures available next year on the Danube, Rhine, Rhône,

waterways of Holland and Belgium, two new itineraries will also be setting sail on the Seine and Moselle rivers, offering guests an ultimate, one-of-a-kind and customisable cruise.

To ensure that guests feel safe and ready to set sail once again, Avalon has introduced a range of Book With Confidence measures.

The complimentary Peace of Mind Travel Plan gives travellers the option to move their holiday to any 2022 or 2023 date, destination or brand in the travel portfolio, for as long as the pandemic is affecting travel, without incurring cancellation fees – as long as the booking is moved before the final payment date.

Avalon also offers SafetyNet Booking Protection for \$95 per person, offering guests the opportunity to cancel their holiday up to 30 days prior to their trip or amend their holiday up to 24 hours in advance of their cruise departure, with no penalties.

Avalon Waterways' new Cruising with Confidence policy features new health and safety procedures, designed to safeguard all passengers' health and happiness on every cruise holiday, meaning wherever in the world – all cruise goers can travel easy.

As well as the brand's commitment to safe sailings, Avalon has also put sustainable and responsible river cruising efforts first.

In 2022 and 2023, a bio-fuel pilot program will commence, aiming to reduce total carbon emissions by 50 per cent and the line will invest even more with partner The Ocean Cleanup to help fulfill their mission of removing 90 per cent of the world's ocean plastic.

[www.avalonwaterways.com.au](http://www.avalonwaterways.com.au)



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# Through a glass brightly

ABERCROMBIE & KENT have re-evaluated what travel will look like in the new COVID age.

For many, escaping the confines of an urban existence is going to be fundamental when making travel plans. Others will seek the unexpected and go where few have gone before, inspired by faraway lands and new frontiers.

There will be a desire to travel sustainably, protecting what is valuable in the places and communities visited and collectively contributing to a better world.

The slow travel movement will gather ever more momentum as guests choose to linger longer, meet the locals, hear their stories, be completely immersed in the destination and be welcomed as a friend.

Cultural appreciation will also influence holiday choices as travellers seek to broaden their minds, understand complex traditions and appreciate the artistic and epicurean elements and events which define a place.

Finally, the new bucket list will be framed by lost time and an urgency to reconsider what's important. Guests will make the commitment to climb that mountain, swim that channel, hike that forest trail or take that epic rail journey.

Here's a selection of destinations and tours that will inspire you in 2022.

## Northwest Passage

Geoffrey Kent, the founder of A&K, will accompany this expedition through the rarely-transited Northwest Passage, from western Greenland through the Canadian Arctic to Nome.

On this 24-day expedition guests will see icebergs, visit remote Inuit villages and historic islands, and witness geological wonders.

Learn about the Fort Ross Hudson Bay Trading Company outpost from explorer David Reid, who worked at the station, and see the grave sites of the crew of the *Erebus* on Beechy Island alongside historian Russell Potter.

**TOUR:** The 24-day 'The Northwest Passage: From Greenland to the Bering Sea'. Priced from \$48,845 per person twin share.



## Antarctica

For more than 10 years, A&K has hosted a climate change-focused expedition cruise to Antarctica with Dr. James McClintock, a professor of polar and marine biology at the University of Alabama.

Amid icebergs and glaciers, travellers can attend lectures on the challenges faced by this fragile ecosystem.

Aboard *Le Lyrial*, guests journey from Ushuaia in Argentina across the Drake Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula where daily Zodiac excursions reveal multiple penguin species, humpback whales and the giant albatross.

**TOUR:** The 13-day 'Antarctic Cruise Adventure: A Changing Landscape'. Priced from \$18,770 ppts.

## Torres Strait Islands

Lying between the tip of the Cape York Peninsula and the coast of Papua New Guinea are the 16 remote Torres Strait islands that are inhabited by 19 indigenous communities.

Impacted by erosion, rising sea levels and extreme weather events, these island communities and ecosystems are under threat.

On a journey through north Queensland, guests pay a visit to Thursday Island for a glimpse into the local culture, gaining insights to the challenges faced by the community as well as its rich pearling heritage, shipping history and its importance in Australia's strategic defences.

**TOUR:** The eight-day 'Cairns to Cape York: FNQ Adventure'. Priced from \$3,165 ppts.

## Egypt

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by British archaeologist Howard Carter. Both the boy king and his treasure have been important influences in Western art, music, architecture and fashion.

Guests will discover this ancient land on a journey from Cairo to Upper Egypt with a cruise aboard the *Sun Boat IV*, pausing in Luxor for two nights where Tutankhamun's tomb and the home of Howard Carter are revealed.

The much-anticipated Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza is also scheduled to open next year. Some 22 prized royal mummies have been relocated from Cairo to their resting place in the new facility near the pyramids.

**TOUR:** The 14-day 'A Portrait of Egypt'. Priced from \$10,965 ppts.

## Italy

The ghosts of ancient Rome are etched upon hand-carved stonework in the Colosseum, the Pantheon and the Spanish Steps. Florence, the home of the Renaissance, is brought to life through the works of Botticelli, Raphael and Da Vinci. And don't forget the romantic traditions kept alive by modern day gondola builders in Venice.

Italy has more UNESCO World Heritage culture sites than any other country, as well as memorable landscapes, island havens and a rich culinary tradition.

**TOUR:** The 12-day 'Rome to Venice: A Connoisseur's Italy'. Priced from \$18,160 ppts.



## Peru

It's more than a hundred years since American explorer Hiram Bingham rediscovered Machu Picchu and brought it to the attention of the outside world.

The ancient Inca citadel perched high on an Andean peak has been a beacon for travellers for decades and the mysteries which surround it continue to inspire debate and discussion.

**TOUR:** The 14-day 'Peru in Depth'. Priced from \$13,295 ppts.

## Kenya

Joining the A&K stable in 2022 is Sanctuary Tambarare, nestled in the shadow of Mount Kenya. With just 10 luxurious tents, this haven offers views across the grassy plateau of the award-winning Ol Pejeta Conservancy, 36,000 hectares of unspoiled wilderness where Africa's extensive species roam, including the last two northern white rhino on earth.

**TOUR:** The 11-day 'Wildlife & Warriors'. Priced from \$18,105 ppts.

## Iceland

Volcanoes, geysers, lava fields and waterfalls. Iceland is blessed with dramatic landscapes and packs a punch at any time of the year.

Discover hot springs, seek out the Northern Lights or bask under the Midnight Sun, stroll black sand beaches and explore volcanic lava tubes deep in the earth.

Honour local Icelandic produce and savour paddock to plate cuisine, meet the curious Icelandic horse and admire inspiring art and architecture.

**TOUR:** The seven-day 'Land of Fire & Ice'. Priced from \$11,510 ppts.

## Namibia

This African jewel offers a safari for the senses, with rugged landscapes, desert-adapted wildlife, vast sand dunes and the legendary Skeleton Coast.

Discover rare wildlife among the salt pans of Etosha, the desert dunes of Sossusvlei and the lush oases of Kaokoland, plus proud people and vibrant tribes with a rich tapestry of traditional culture.

**TOUR:** The 11-Day 'Luxury Namibia: Safari by Air'. Priced from \$16,390 ppts.

## Madagascar

This is an undiscovered destination, with a culture far removed from any of its neighbours. National parks shelter many varieties of lemur and chameleon while the spiny forest habitat showcases 500-year-old baobabs.

Bird watching, boating, hikes and photography make this destination one to bookmark when the time is right.

**TOUR:** The 13-day 'Madagascar: Otherworldly Marvels'. Priced from \$9,295 ppts.

## Bwindi National Park, Uganda

On the fringes of this park, where the mountain gorilla population is a drawcard for vital tourism dollars, there is a small community which A&K Philanthropy (AKP) has been actively supporting for nearly 20 years.

Recognising the challenges in health care and education faced by the locals, AKP has been instrumental in establishing a community hospital which now has 112 beds and cares for 40,000 patients annually.

In addition, a school has been established to train nurses addressing the ongoing shortage of certified health care workers. AKP supports scholarships to ensure the program's success.

**TOUR:** The five-day 'Gorillas of Bwindi'. Priced from \$7,035 ppts.

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



# Seeing the trees for the good

AVALON WATERWAYS will offset the carbon footprint of every guest's cruise experience in 2022 by donating tens of thousands of trees to Trees4Travel.

The move follows the launch earlier this year of the Lighthouse Project by the Globus family of brands (Gfob), which includes Avalon, Globus, Cosmos and Monograms.

"Our goal with the Lighthouse Project is to illuminate a path for a better tomorrow. Our new partnership with Trees4Travel certainly does that," said Gai Tyrrell, Managing Director Australasia of Globus family of brands,

The Lighthouse Project is focused on three give-back categories:

**\* Planet:** Gfob makes every effort to conserve and preserve in each destination visited. To protect waterways and wildlife and shine a light on organisations that do the same.

**\* People:** Gfob is dedicated to protecting, respecting and supporting the extraordinary communities of the world as well as improving the individual lives within them.

**\* Places:** The parks, palaces, museums and monuments we enjoy today are the result of previous generations passionately committed to preservation.

"Working towards the globe's greater good, we're shining a light on the need – and opportunity – to offset travel's carbon emissions by donating trees to be planted on behalf of every Avalon Waterways' guest in 2022. We're also inviting all of our travellers to get involved," added Tyrrell.

In addition to donating trees to automatically offset all Avalon Waterways' cruises, those travelling with Globus, Cosmos or Monograms will also have the opportunity to quickly, easily and impactfully offset their flights and holidays through Trees4Travel via URLs available on each brand's website.

The Globus family of brands is also working with the non-profit organisation to offset office facility emissions and staff travel.

"Through our Lighthouse Project, Avalon is charting an ambitious course toward zero emissions and sustainability in every aspect of cruising.

"Our state-of-the-art fleet of Suite Ships and top-of-the-line technology limit energy, consumption and emissions.

"Plus, Avalon's waste and recycling programs reduce our environmental footprint. This is just the beginning. We're aiming to have the first, fully electric river cruise vessel by 2027."

[www.globus.com.au](http://www.globus.com.au)



Zuccardi Valle de Uco, Argentina

# Having a vine old time

THE TOP 50 vineyards in the world have been revealed in a ceremony in Germany.

Argentina's Zuccardi Valle de Uco topped the list, making it three years in a row that the Andean winery has taken the crown.

The Bodegas de los Herederos del Marques de Riscal in Spain's Rioja region took second place and was closely followed by Chateau Margaux in Bordeaux, France.

Three Australian vineyards made the top 50. Henschke was the highest placed in 25<sup>th</sup> spot, with d'Arenberg in 31<sup>st</sup> and Penfolds Magill Estate in 37<sup>th</sup>.

The aim of the list is to highlight the sheer diversity across both established and emerging wine tourism destinations and is voted for by 600 global wine and travel experts.

The competition is organised by the *World's Best Vineyards* website. The rankings contained 16 countries and included first-time entrants from Lebanon and Russia.

This year saw 10 new destinations in the top 50 with Karam Wines in Lebanon becoming the highest new entry, reaching number 14.

There were two new Russian entries from the Krasnodar region with Sikory Winery, famous for its rocky clay soil, entering the list for the first time at number 20 and the Lefkadia Valley hitting number 23.

"Wine tourism is hugely important to the global economy and local economies, creating jobs directly at the wineries but also encouraging

visitors to the area and the associated revenue which that generates," said Andrew Reed, Managing Director Wine and Exhibitions at William Reed. "This is more important than ever with the recent global situation and we know that by shining the light on wine tourism as we do with the World's Best Vineyards the message gets out to more people to come and

discover the uniqueness of wine and where it is made."

Craggy Range in New Zealand was the highest ranked vineyard in Australasia, coming in at 11. Other countries to make the list included Uruguay, Austria, Japan and the United States.

[www.worldsbestvineyards.com](http://www.worldsbestvineyards.com)

## TOP 10 Vineyards

PLACE	VINEYARD	COUNTRY	POSITION IN 2020
1	Zuccardi Valle de Uco	ARGENTINA	1
2	Bodegas de los Herederos del Marqués de Riscal	SPAIN	6
3	Château Margaux	FRANCE	22
4	Bodega Garzón	URUGUAY	2
5	Montes	CHILE	4
6	Antinori nel Chianti Classico	ITALY	9
7	Catena Zapata	ARGENTINA	11
8	VIK Winery	CHILE	10
9	González Byass – Bodegas Tio Pepe	SPAIN	18
10	Creation	SOUTH AFRICA	n/a

# SIGN UP TO JOIN A HERO

AURORA EXPEDITIONS is calling for applications to join the world's first Antarctic Climate Expedition in 2023, led by Dr. Sylvia Earle.

Described as a 'Hero of the Planet', Dr Earle is a renowned oceanographer, marine biologist, explorer and conservationist.

Limited to about 100 guests from around the world, this by invitation Climate Summit will comprise conservationists, high-profile personalities and ocean luminaries to raise public and government awareness of the splendour and importance of the Antarctic.

The expedition welcomes registrations of interest from thought-leaders in the fields of science, art, education and economics, alongside teenagers and corporate executives.

"This will be a climate expedition like no other that can



have a real impact on the future of our relationship with life on earth," said Dr. Earle (pictured above).

The 12-day trip starts on February 13, 2023, with two-nights and a full day conference in Ushuaia, Argentina followed by a nine-day voyage onboard Aurora Expeditions' new ship, the *Sylvia Earle*, and ends with a post-voyage night in Punta Arenas, Chile.

"This can be your legacy; you can help change the current course from a catastrophic outcome to a healthy, habitable planet. Please do this for the next generation, for the future of humanity," added Dr Earle.

[www.auroraexpeditions.com.au/antarctic-climate-expedition-2023](http://www.auroraexpeditions.com.au/antarctic-climate-expedition-2023)

# Why travel is turning Japanese

The Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics put Japan firmly back on the world stage. Now the country is likely to be on Australia's "green list", making it one of the first places we'll be able to visit once international borders re-open.

Here's a roundup of some of Japan's most popular must-see attractions, as well as some of the more off-the-beaten-path destinations.

## TOKYO

One of the most exciting cities in the world, Tokyo is like a microcosm of Japan. It evokes visions of the old and new, neon-lit and fast-paced, genteel and spiritual – and everything in between.

Not just the political and economic centre of Japan, it has also emerged as a powerhouse of the global economy and a cultural hub where tradition and modernity co-exist in harmony.

**Why we love it:** Asakusa's ancient temples and traditional stores, the balance of Michelin-starred restaurants and cheap and cheerful ramen shops, Shinjuku's thumping laneway bar scene and nearly 300 parks and gardens.

**What's new:** Mustard Hotel opened its first property in Shibuya in 2018 and its second property in the cool neighbourhood of Shimokitazawa. Expect a clean, modern aesthetic with plenty of greenery.

» [www.mustardhotel.com/shimokitazawa](http://www.mustardhotel.com/shimokitazawa)  
» [www.tokyotokyo.jp](http://www.tokyotokyo.jp)

## OSAKA

Known as Japan's food bowl, this is the best place for street eats that include omelette-like pancakes (okonomiyaki) and fried octopus balls (takoyaki).

**Why we love it:** Osaka is a city with attitude and straight-talking, friendly locals. It has exciting nightlife, delicious food and fascinating architecture, including the otherworldly beauty of Osaka Castle.

Shinsaibashi, the main shopping area in Osaka, has trendy boutiques and luxury department stores while Nishinomaru Garden is the best spot to take in manicured lawns, sculpted topiary and, at the right time of year, cherry blossoms.

**What's new:** Super Nintendo World has opened at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka. The themed area of the park allows you to experience the game

world of Nintendo in a life-size fashion and interact with characters beyond their traditional home of video game consoles.

» [www.usj.co.jp/web/en/us](http://www.usj.co.jp/web/en/us)  
» [www.osaka-info.jp/en](http://www.osaka-info.jp/en)

## HOKKAIDO

Just a short flight from Tokyo, Japan's icy northernmost island has world-class powder snow, delicious seafood and natural hot springs.

Much of Hokkaido is wild and unspoiled, with volcanic lakes and a fascinating indigenous culture.

**Why we love it:** Hit the high slopes of Niseko and Rusutsu in winter. Alternatively, scour markets for fresh sushi, sashimi and other seafood delights, or hike and explore the island's many national parks in summer.

**What's new:** The Unkai Terrace is centred around the concept of enjoying unkai (sea of clouds) views in nine different ways.

» [www.snowtomamu.jp/summer/en/unkai](http://www.snowtomamu.jp/summer/en/unkai)  
» [en.visit-hokkaido.jp](http://en.visit-hokkaido.jp)



Cloud Walk Unkai Terrace, Hokkaido.  
Photo courtesy Hoshino Resorts Tomamu

## KYOTO

Steeped in history, Kyoto is the epicentre of Japanese culture. Temples and shrines such as Kiyomizudera Temple and Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion draw the crowds, as do the bamboo groves of nearby Arashiyama.

Kyoto is considered the birthplace of Geisha culture and has more World Heritage sites per square kilometre than anywhere else in the world.

**Why we love it:** Kyoto is postcard-perfect Japan, with traditional ryokan accommodation and authentic experiences. Beyond the city limits, Miyama is one of the last towns with thatched roof farmhouses, many of which are still inhabited.

**What's new:** The four-star Karasuma Rokkaku's authentic machiya (traditional townhouse) structure is a prime example of traditional Kyoto architecture.

» [www.candehotels.com/en/kyoto-rokkaku/](http://www.candehotels.com/en/kyoto-rokkaku/)  
» [www.kyototourism.org/en](http://www.kyototourism.org/en)

## TOHOKU

Japan's north-eastern wilderness, which encompasses six rural prefectures, is bound by custom, heritage and more recently, the tragedy of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

The region's picturesque Ginzan Onsen town is like stepping back in time to the early 20th century.

**Why we love it:** The region's bountiful nature, expansive rice paddies (famous for its rice paddy art) and villages immerse visitors in dramatic rural landscapes.

An hour from Tokyo by bullet train, the area has history-rich sites, craft sake and a host of outdoor activities like rafting, hiking and skiing.

**What's new:** The Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art just opened in a historic brick warehouse built a century ago as a sake brewery.

It can be found in the castle city of Hirosaki, famous for cherry blossoms and for apple production.

» [www.hirosaki-moca.jp/en](http://www.hirosaki-moca.jp/en)  
» [www.tohokukanko.jp/en](http://www.tohokukanko.jp/en)

## KINOSAKI ONSEN

About three hours from Osaka, Kinosaki Onsen has maintained its serene atmosphere and authentic old Japan allure.

Enjoy the town's preserved architecture and authentic hot spring ambience along every street and alleyway.

**Why we love it:** Visitors are encouraged to wear yukata and geta, stroll through the town and enjoy the many outdoor onsen.

On either side of the Maruyama River are numerous Japanese inns, or ryokan, most of which have their own onsen baths.

**What's new:** The Kinosaki Ropeway was recently awarded one star in the *Michelin Green Guide Japan*. The observation deck offers a panoramic



Kashiwajima, Kochi  
Photo courtesy Kento Hirasue

view over the town as well as out onto the Maruyama River and Sea of Japan.

» [www.kinosaki-ropeway.jp](http://www.kinosaki-ropeway.jp)  
» [www.visitkinosaki.com](http://www.visitkinosaki.com)

## WAKAYAMA

Close to Osaka's Kansai International Airport, this is Japan's spiritual heartland, while the prefecture's towns are home to some of the country's best ramen, hot springs, beaches, shrines and temples.

**Why we love it:** From the calm, spiritual atmosphere at the ancient temple complex of Koyasan to the ancient Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route through dense and misty forests, Wakayama will reboot body and soul.

**What's new:** A local rickshaw driver will guide you through Koyasan's historical temples and streets while offering many details and tips in English about one of the most sacred sites of Japanese Buddhism.

» [www.koyasanexperience.com/en](http://www.koyasanexperience.com/en)  
» [en.visitwakayama.jp](http://en.visitwakayama.jp)

## KOCHI

Located on the Pacific Ocean, Kochi has become a gathering place for surfers and divers from across Japan and all over the world.

Kashiwajima features coral reefs around the four-kilometre long island. The Muroto area of its rugged coast has recently earned UNESCO Global Geopark status for its geological formations.

**Why we love it:** Historical Kochi Castle, sake breweries and traditional markets in the region are well preserved and worth exploring.

The people of Kochi are known for their love of dorome (fried baby

sardines) and craft alcoholic drinks. Every year a dorome festival sees people eat fresh sardines, pray for a bountiful harvest and have a sake 'chugging' competition.

**What's new:** The first zipline in the prefecture has opened at Shimanto River, one of the longest rivers in Japan. Far removed from urban areas and development, its waters are pristine, making it popular with nature enthusiasts.

» [www.visitkochijapan.com/en/activities/10416](http://www.visitkochijapan.com/en/activities/10416)  
» [www.visitkochijapan.com/en](http://www.visitkochijapan.com/en)

## OITA

Situated in Kyushu, Japan's third largest island, Oita is an unspoiled area with a rich artistic and spiritual heritage, and natural wonders like Yabakei Gorge.

Jutting out to the north of Oita, Kunisaki Peninsula is home to historic spiritual sites nestled against lush mountainsides, while inland Kokonoe is a town full of rustic countryside charm and plenty of rare flora and fauna.

**Why we love it:** The Hyotan hot spring baths are some of the most highly regarded in all of Japan. Beppu is overflowing with Bohemian charm and is home to Japan's famous eight 'bubbling hells.'

**What's new:** Kai Beppu is a new hot spring ryokan offering a contemporary spin on the traditional Beppu experience. The vibrant aesthetic extends to the rooms, which all offer expansive ocean views.

» [www.kai-ryokan.jp/en/beppu/discover-oita.com](http://www.kai-ryokan.jp/en/beppu/discover-oita.com)

» **For more information, visit:**  
» [www.japan.travel/en/au](http://www.japan.travel/en/au)





# 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. The French flag features which three colours?

- a. Green, white and red
- b. Blue, white and red
- c. Yellow, blue and red
- d. Black, blue and red

2. Where was singer Julio Iglesias born?

- a. Spain
- b. Mexico
- c. Argentina
- d. Portugal

3. Outside which UK city will you find the Angel of the North sculpture?

- a. Newcastle
- b. Edinburgh
- c. Leeds
- d. Sunderland

4. Which of these Canadian provinces does NOT border Hudson Bay?

- a. Manitoba
- b. Ontario
- c. Quebec
- d. Alberta

5. The ancient trade route connecting China to Western Europe was called what?

- a. The Gold Road
- b. The Jewel Road
- c. The Silk Road
- d. The Spice Road

6. Which of these cities is the capital of Azerbaijan?

- a. Baku
- b. Bratislava
- c. Bucharest
- d. Belgrade

7. Where is the National Library of Australia?

- a. New South Wales
- b. Victoria
- c. ACT
- d. Queensland

8. How many countries are there in South America?

- a. 10
- b. 11
- c. 12
- d. 13



9

9. In which Italian city did pesto originate?

- a. Venice
- b. Milan
- c. Florence
- d. Genoa

10. In which U.S. state is the famous cowboy town of Deadwood?

- a. Wyoming
- b. South Dakota
- c. Texas
- d. Montana

11. The Caucasus Mountains intersect North and South America.

- a. True
- b. False

12. If you have a wallet full of kips, which country are you in?

- a. Laos
- b. Lebanon
- c. Liberia
- d. Libya



14

13. The Five Cross Flag is the national symbol of which country?

- a. Lesotho
- b. Switzerland
- c. Georgia
- d. Bhutan

14. Where is the largest goldmine in the world in terms of production?

- a. South Africa
- b. China
- c. Russia
- d. Uzbekistan

15. Where will you find the Tocantins River?

- a. Uruguay
- b. Brazil
- c. Chile
- d. Peru



1



10

6



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

