

Australia's favourite travel news magazine

Travel *talk*

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SPECIAL REPORT

All the winners
at the 2022 NTIA

QATAR

Time to catch
World Cup fever

HONG KONG

Three must-visit
neighbourhoods

COMPETITION!

WIN A TRIP TO MALAYSIA

Plus: The 10 tell-tale signs you need a holiday

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Email: distribution@traveltalkmag.com.au

PUBLISHED BY

Pointer Publishing Pty Ltd

ABN 92 150 111 701

24 Chandos Street,

Manly Vale, NSW. 2093

Website: www.traveltalkmag.com.au



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



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It's been a long time between champagne flutes but the travel industry finally got to dust off its glad rags and party like it's 2019. The first NTIA 'night of nights' in two years was a glittering affair and we've got all the action and reaction as the industry celebrated its COVID survival.

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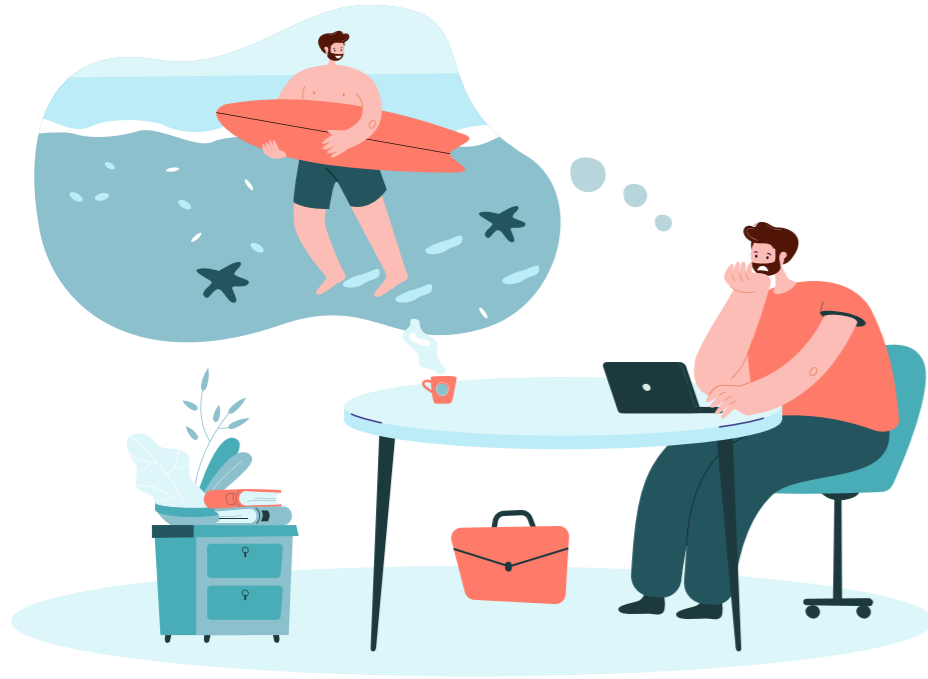
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Why you really need a holiday



PEOPLE WHO take regular holidays are less likely to suffer from heart disease, and mental and physical illnesses.

That's the opinion of mental health coach Dr Hana Patel, who believes it's important we take regular breaks and use our annual leave entitlements.

"Regular holidays also help to prevent burnout, a condition that is defined as emotional, mental and often physical exhaustion brought on by prolonged or repeated stress—usually stress caused by work."

Dr Patel was commenting on research by *ParkSleepFly*, who have compiled their top signs that you need a holiday.

1. ALWAYS LOSING YOUR TEMPER

If you're constantly stressed and seem to be making a bigger deal out of problems you could usually solve with ease, time away will typically help you to cool down, while providing you with the opportunity to come back with a clear head, ready to tackle whatever comes your way.

2. MAKING UNHEALTHY CHOICES

Stress can be associated with tiredness, which often comes with a lack of motivation. Spending too much time on your phone can likewise come from a lack of motivation.

This can lead to making less healthy dietary choices, for example, not sticking to your meal plans.

3. MAKING MISTAKES

If your brain continuously feels as though it's going at a million miles an hour and you're finding it hard to focus, it can become a lot easier to make frequent mistakes – mistakes that perhaps you would never usually make.

4. YOU CAN'T SLEEP

Do people in the office keep telling you that you look tired? Are you finding yourself taking hour-long naps in the afternoon? Are you struggling to sleep at night?

This is your body telling you that you need to make a change and look after yourself.

5. NEGLECTING YOUR PERSONAL LIFE

If you find yourself regularly missing family gatherings and cancelling on friends, you may need to re-think your work-life balance and take time to reset.

It's important that your identity doesn't become wrapped up in your work and you can remember who the 'real you' is.

6. YOU'VE GOT 'HOLIDAY ENVY'

If your friend's holiday pics used to bring you joy and inspire you, but now they only make you jealous and frustrate you, it might be time to get away and make your dreams a reality.

7. YOU'VE LOST YOUR SPARK

If you're dreading the Monday's you once looked forward to and are struggling to 'find the funny' in anything, give yourself time to rediscover your life passions and the motivation will start coming out of nowhere.

8. YOUR LAST HOLIDAY IS A DISTANT MEMORY

Do you struggle to remember the last time you got those dust-covered suitcases out for a trip? Are you constantly dreaming of drinking cocktails on a beach at 2pm? Yes? You need a getaway.

9. TIME OFF ISN'T EXCITING

If you're not using your time off to do things that excite you and instead are only managing to drag yourself to the sofa, this is a sign that your energy levels are majorly depleted.

You need to make sure you are making the most of the health and wellness benefits from your off time.

10. BARGAINING WITH YOURSELF

Many people keep their time off banked away as a safety blanket, but this can often do you more harm than good, as you become worn out.

Bite the bullet and take time off when it's genuinely needed – you'll thank yourself for it.

 parksleepfly.com



First-time famil fears

Journalists and travel agents are usually well acquainted with etiquette and procedures on hosted trips. But what about a first timer?

Here *Traveltalk* Publisher JENNY EVANS reveals her fears ahead of her inaugural 'famil'...and whether they came true.

AT THE age of 50, I was a very late entrant into the travel industry...and I joined right in the middle of COVID too!

After a challenging year keeping TT on the right track I finally received my first invite on a famil, Tourism Malaysia kindly enticing me for one week in Sabah.

I used to live in Singapore and absolutely love Malaysia. While living nearby I visited regularly and even went on a trip to Borneo, so I have some familiarity with the location, but that was more than 20 years ago. I was excited!

I asked my fellow *Traveltalk* staff what tips they had for a first timer.

"Don't get drunk and sleep with someone," said our Managing Editor (good advice, though probably not such a concern nowadays. I think he was joking...?).

"Focus on the food," suggested our Digital Editor.

Perhaps most importantly, my

business partner warned that: "there's always that *one* person on a famil. If you don't know who it is, then it's probably you!"

So, my takeaways:

- Don't get drunk
- Enjoy the food
- Try not to be annoying

What else was worrying me?

Well, I always book my own flights and am very particular about where I sit on a plane (specifically because I'm 1.91metres tall!).

Am I going to be stuck in the middle seat of a middle row? What if they sit us all together and we have to be polite to each other for the eight-and-a-half-hour flight? Small talk is not my strongpoint.

Are we going to have our own rooms? What if everything is awful and I can't find anything interesting to write about?

Dealing with what I can before I go, I ask for an emergency exit seat and

am kindly granted one. The rest of it can wait.

Arriving at the airport, I find I can sail past the check-in queue as Brendan (our Tourism Malaysia host) is waiting at the business counter ready to assist us.

We're not sitting together (phew!). Elisa (my fellow famil-iar?) has access to the AmEx lounge and gets both Brendan and I in for a drink or two prior to take-off. All good so far.

We meet our remaining familiars in Kuala Lumpur, Monique from Perth and Hanna from Tourism Malaysia HQ, and head off to Borneo.

It turns out that my fears are unfounded. Everyone is determined to enjoy themselves and get the most from our trip. We all get on well and everyone is happy to support the others (thanks for the photos!).

So much is packed into our itinerary that there is plenty to write about, we didn't have to share rooms, I didn't get drunk, mostly enjoyed the food and don't think I was too annoying...

So no longer a first time familiar, I'm looking forward to the next one where I'll be an old hand, although will no doubt find a raft of new things to worry about.

 malaysia.travel

Q1 What star rating did Malaysia Airlines receive for its COVID-19 health and safety measures?



MEKONG MAGIC & SUPER SAVINGS

AUSSIE TRAVEL consultants have enjoyed a week-long cruise from Cambodia to Vietnam aboard the *Mekong Princess*.

The fam for 18 agents was organised by Cruise Traveller in conjunction with Mekong Princess Cruises.

Designed to reflect the French colonial era in the region, the *Mekong Princess* offers French balconies in all staterooms, a fine dining restaurant, lounge, day beds for sunset cocktails on the alfresco sun deck, gym and spa centre.

The ship offers year-round, eight-day, one-way voyages between Siem Reap and Ho Chi Minh City.

"Some agents had never been on a small ship cruise before but are now converts to the more personal and relaxed experience," said Julie Donaldson, Cruise Traveller Key Partnership Manager.

"What makes Mekong Princess Cruises special is their

unique excursions which allow you to visit people in their homes and children in their schools so you can really experience the local way of life.

"We also got to see silk weaving and how traditional hats and boats are made and we loved the sampan boat trips, tuk-tuk rides and temples and the whole agent group even got blessed by a Buddhist monk so it's a very authentic, immersive and rewarding way to experience Cambodia and Vietnam."

Cruise Traveller is offering savings on its 12-night 'Mekong Majesty' all-inclusive cruise tour package from Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City, available on 11 departure dates between January and December 2023.

The package is priced from \$5,695 per person twin share in a junior suite, a saving of \$350 per person.

» CruiseTraveller.com.au

Kimberley cruise is your just reward

LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS has launched its new advisor training platform with rewards and incentives on offer for those who sign up.

The Expedition 360° program is offering advisors \$100 bonus commission on the first new booking made within 120 days of completing the course, special booking bonus opportunities throughout the year and a listing in the Find a Travel Advisor section of the Lindblad Expeditions website.

In addition, there are exclusive fam opportunities for graduates, sales and marketing support for consumer events, exclusive Expedition 360° logo available for email signatures and dedicated social media toolkits.

Participants will also have access to Lindblad Expedition-National Geographic's dedicated Travel Advisor Facebook community and will receive a certificate of completion.

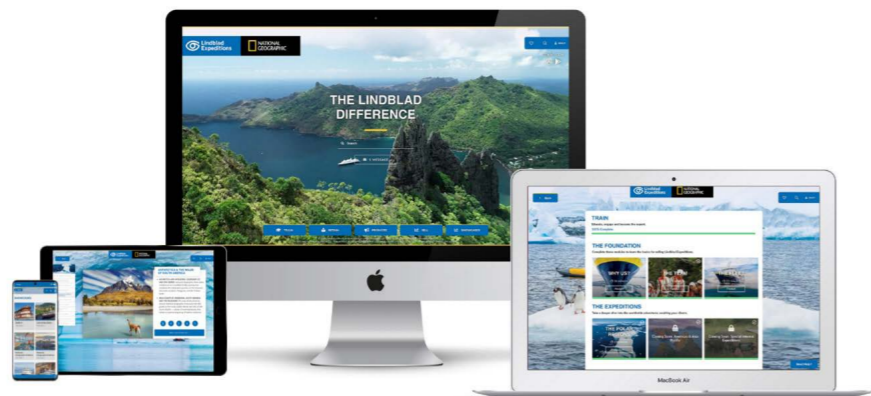
"This program is not just a new world-class training program, but a year-round sales companion with deep sales and marketing resources included, updated regularly to make it as easy as possible to stay current, inspire clients and book more of Lindblad's exceptional experiences," said Cherie Bowman, Lindblad's Industry Account Manager, Australia & New Zealand.

Agents who complete any five

modules before November 22 will go into the draw to win one of fifty \$50 gift cards.

In addition, each Lindblad guest advisors' book and deposit during the incentive period qualifies to go into the draw for the major prize – a cabin on a Kimberley 2023 departure aboard *National Geographic Orion*.

» expeditions.com/landing/learn-book-win



WIN PRIZES AT THE SHOWCASE

EXPEDITION CRUISING will be in the spotlight this month during the latest online education event for travel agents.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia is hosting the Expedition Cruising Virtual Showcase from November 7 to 10. CLIA members who take part will have the opportunity to win prizes and earn CLIA points.

"Expedition Cruising has become one of the most exciting areas of the international cruise sector and its rise in popularity presents fantastic opportunities for travel agents," said Marita Nasic, CLIA Australasia Director of Membership & Events.

"The Expedition Cruising Virtual Showcase will help agents understand the latest developments in this area and allow them to hear about the unique style and attributes of different expedition cruise operators."

Seven cruise lines will present practical insight into their expedition offering and explain recent developments including new ships, technologies, advances in sustainability and new experiences for the expedition traveller.

Presenters will include Aurora Expeditions, Silversea, Ponant, Heritage Expeditions, Quark Expeditions, Scenic and Coral Expeditions.

» cruising.org.au/CLIA-Events/CLIA-Expedition-Showcase



How much can one polar bear?

UNIQUE SCENERY, excellent service and polar bears were the highlights for one lucky consultant during a recent fam to Scandinavia and the Arctic.

Jennifer Dwyer from Monash in the ACT was joined by six other travel agents from Australasia on the fam with Silversea. Jennifer from TravelManagers has held Master Cruise consultant status for more than 20 years.

Having embarked from Tromsø in the north of Norway, the ship headed even further north to Bear Island.

The 10-day itinerary also included further stops within the remote Svalbard Archipelago, before cruising south through the Greenland and Iceland Seas, disembarking in Reykjavik.

"We were blessed with mostly calm seas and stunning weather, with each day's activities something of a surprise because you never really know what sort of conditions the Arctic might throw at you," said Jennifer.

Highlights of the trip included two sightings of polar bears, the scenery and the hospitality of the staff onboard.

"Overall, it was like travelling with friends we had known for years who were constantly on the lookout for ways to enhance our experience.

"I'm planning a client function to share my experience in the Arctic, with the intention of putting together a group to visit Antarctica in 2024."

» travelmanagers.com.au

» silversea.com

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TIME TO SEEK A TRIP

AS PART of a global trade famil, 10 travel agents from Australia will have the chance to visit New Zealand next year.

The giveaway follows the launch of the 100% Pure New Zealand global campaign, 'If You Seek', the country's invitation to international visitors.

To gain a single entry into the draw agents must become a bronze status 100% Pure New Zealand Specialist, register for the 100% Pure New Zealand marketing hub and download a minimum of five 'If You Seek' assets.

Entrants must also subscribe to Tourism New Zealand's Australia trade newsletter.

To gain a double entry into the prize draw, consultants must complete the tasks listed above (Tier One) and become a silver status specialist, along with finishing the Seats to Suit training module on Air New Zealand's training and engagement hub, thereby earning Tier Two status.

For three entries in the draw, agents must complete Tier Two and attend at least one TNZ event or webinar, either in person or live virtually.

Agents have until March 3, 2023, to complete the checklist. Winners will be informed the following week and the famil will take place in April 2023.

➤ traveltrade.newzealand.com/au/ifyouseek/if-you-see-global-famil

COMMITMENT TO A PRIZE

CELEBRITY CRUISES are offering agents the chance to win a cruise.

The company has launched a revolutionised trade portal, 'The Celebrity Commitment', to coincide with the debut of *Celebrity Eclipse* in local waters.

Enhanced features of the upgraded portal include new dedicated landing pages to support marketing activity, including customisable digital resources offering a one-click 'share' feature to easily communicate with clients direct from the platform.

There's also new selling guides and toolkits, and a new brand campaign, enhanced by imagery designed to inspire future holidays with Celebrity Cruises.

"We have an ongoing commitment to empower our partners with the tools they need, because when we succeed, we succeed together," said Cameron Mannix, Director of Sales of Celebrity Cruises Australia and New Zealand.

To celebrate the arrival of *Celebrity Eclipse* and the launch of the revolutionised trade portal, the company is running a competition through their trade agent loyalty program, Celebrity Rewards.

The top 10 agents to claim the most points through Celebrity Rewards until the end of the year will win a variety of prizes, with the top earner winning a luxury cruise of their choice in 2023.

➤ thecelebritycommitment.com.au



COMPLETING YOUR EDUCATION



THE COUNCIL of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) has concluded an education seminar series in partnership with the Korea Tourism Organization Sydney Office (KTO).

"These events have provided some incredible education and insights for our members as support while they recover from the pandemic and rebuild their businesses," said Brett Jardine, CATO Managing Director.

"We will continue to provide more of these initiatives, which combine education and valuable networking opportunities, and I would like to thank KTO Sydney for their wonderful support."

Events were held in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, where attendees were treated to a Korean style banquet and a demonstration of making somaeok (combination of soju, Korean rice wine and maekju, Korean beer).

➤ cato.travel ➤ english.visitkorea.or.kr




CANADA ONE OF A KIND



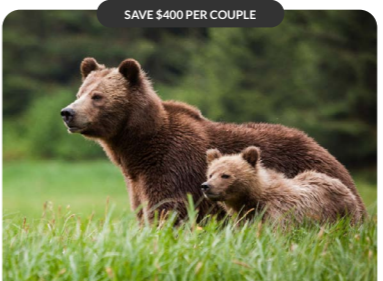

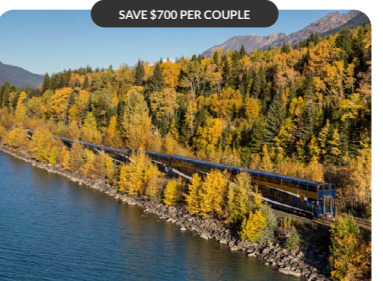



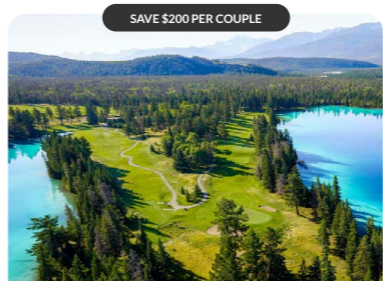





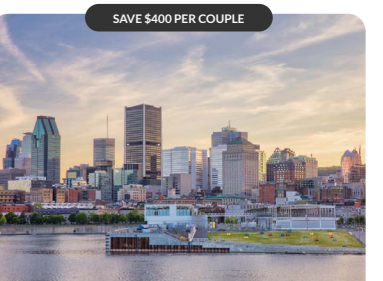



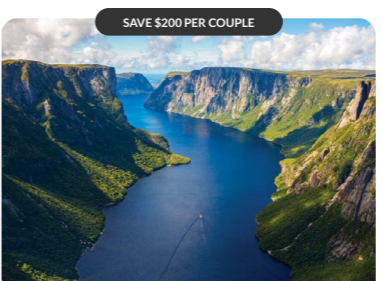

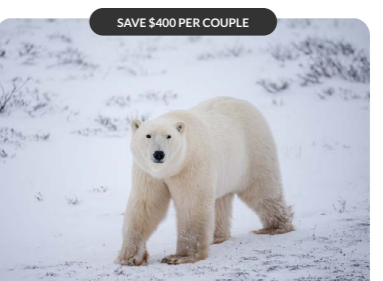

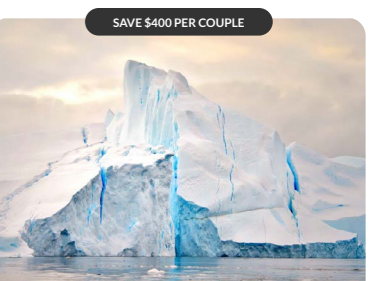

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Back where we *Belong*

It's been a really, really long time between champagne flutes but after a two-year hiatus the National Travel Industry Awards finally reappeared on the travel calendar. Staged at the Sydney Convention Centre, the best of the best were honoured on a night when just surviving COVID was celebrated and the industry looked ahead to a much brighter future.



IT'S DOUBTFUL those in the audience picked up on the symbolism of the aerialists performing at the 2022 National Travel Industry Awards.

Climbing off the floor, they soared high above the ballroom at the Sydney Convention Centre, thrilling and entertaining the 1,200 guests gathered for travel's big night.

For an industry that has been through hell and back in the last two years, the analogy was palpable.

Rarely has an awards ceremony come to mean so much to all those gathered to celebrate the achievements of others. Competitors became companions and "family" was the buzz word of the evening.

"There's just something about the whole industry coming together, everyone being in one room and staging the largest travel event since the pandemic in Australia with 1,200 travel professionals present. It's going to be an awesome night," said Dean Long, AFTA CEO in an interview with *Traveltalk*.

Some 31 award categories were featured encompassing 149 finalists. In the Most Popular categories, more than 6,000 industry votes were cast while some 11,000 stories were received about members through the Australia People's Choice Competition.

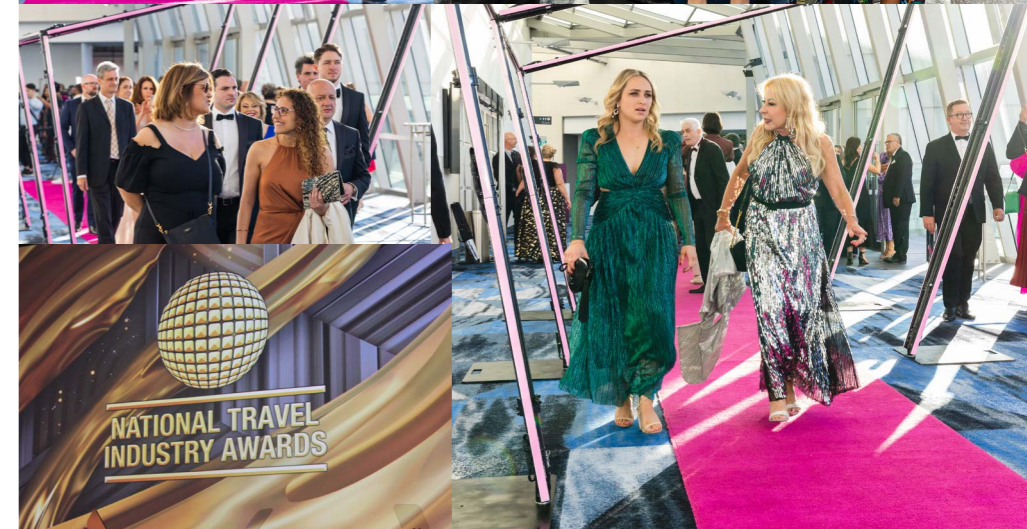
"It's above brand, it's above commercials, it's why we're in the industry. The people make the industry, we are the industry and by God it's good to be back," added Long.

The crowd certainly agreed, greeting each winner enthusiastically as MC Richard Reid kept proceedings tickling along nicely. Prizes included business class flights with major sponsor Singapore Airlines with big winners on the night such as Norwegian Cruise Line, TravelManagers and Travellers Choice.

"If revenues are anything to go by in the last three months alone it's going to be a great 2023. I think that's wonderful news for suppliers, tour operators, wholesalers, retail and online agents."

Pictures courtesy Event Photos Australia

» #NTIA2022





Managing expectation

IT WAS a special night for TravelManagers, picking up both an overall and an individual award.

Rose Febo, a PTM from Hawthorne in Queensland, walked off with the 'Most Outstanding Mobile/Home Based Travel Advisor' award while the company bagged 'Most Outstanding Mobile Advisor Network'.

For Rose, the award was particularly bittersweet.

"When I thought the world was caving in on all of us, I dug really deep. I said this is not going to crush me or my business and I'll still put food on my table.

"That's a quality my mum and dad and my grandparents taught me through entrepreneurship with their own businesses.

"Dad died suddenly in June, so this means the world to me, because he taught me so many skills that I now put into practice, like hard work, honesty, tenacity and a don't give up attitude."

Rose was quick to point out that everyone on the night was a winner because they'd shown the resilience to come through COVID.

"I really shaped my business through COVID and now I have a particular niche and market that I am focused on. And that was one of the things that COVID allowed me to do and now I'm

reaping the benefits and the awards."

Michael Gazal, TravelManagers Executive General Manager, said winning the network award back-to-back (albeit the last time was 2019) was a great tribute to the organisation.

"We kept 95 per cent of our team in a job through the worst crisis the industry has been through so this is just a tribute to them."

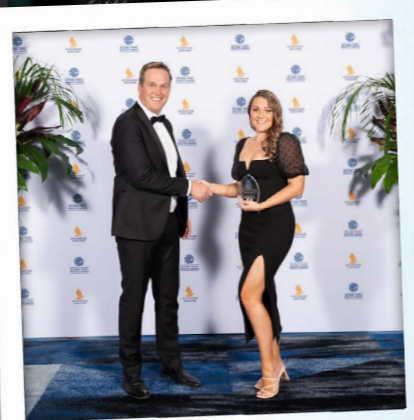
Discussing the return of the awards, Mr Gazal said everyone in the room was a "survivor" and predicted a bright future for the industry as a whole.

"People are spending more, they're staying longer, they're upgrading. So, I think in 2023 we're going to see a lot of the population who were holding back on travel because they were a little bit nervous getting on a plane and branching out.

"I think, touch wood, that it's smooth sailing ahead and we're heading in the right direction."

Questioned by *Traveltalk* on the effect of the pandemic on the home-based agent, Mr Gazal said pre-COVID it was almost looked upon as a "cottage industry".

"But now the whole world's gone home base, whether you're an accountant or in IT, so our USP of working from home is no longer really a huge point of difference.



BELLA KING, *Rookie of the Year*

WHAT THEY SAID

BELLA KING, *Rookie of the Year*

"This is what I aimed for. I came into an industry I'd never worked in before and said I'm going to be the best at it.

"I think the industry is rebounding remarkably and one of the challenges that we have is keeping up with it.

"It's taking off faster than we can manage and that's exciting because it means that there's new things to explore and you get to be involved in recreating it."

"People are now dealing with home-based travel business and saying that's the real McCoy because they can provide high levels of personal service.

"So, in a lot of ways it's put more light on the mobile network as part of what I think the future will be."

travelmanagers.com.au



Keeping it real

FOR CHRISTIAN Hunter, the last few years have been all about helping agents trapped in the eye of the storm.

The Managing Director of Travellers Choice spoke to *Traveltalk* moments after picking up the award for 'Most Outstanding Non-Branded Agency Group'.

"I did feel coming into this that we had a really great story to tell," he said.

"Our members have done it harder than anybody. It's not about just

keeping the business afloat – it's about putting food on the table. It's real-life stuff and these guys were absolutely in the eye of the storm.

"To see how they have adapted, to see how they've been so creative, with people working multiple jobs just to keep the shop open. And now they're moving back into the industry full time, it's great to see."

Discussing the NTIA awards, Mr Hunter said the atmosphere within

the room was the best he'd ever experienced.

"Whether you're competitors, or whether you're in completely different sectors of the industry, it's a warm embrace from everybody.

"It's about really celebrating the fact that we're here to survive. We've just been through the absolute worst that we'll ever see. We've been to hell and back. And we're still here."

Looking ahead to 2023, Mr Hunter said there were "unknowns" which might hamper progress but momentum was gathering.

"Currently the demand for travel is just untapped. People are prepared to go overseas who haven't been for several years. They've got money saved and they're going to go. Long may that continue."

So, what does the award mean to TC?

"We did a huge amount of work over the last couple of years in making sure our members got the support they needed and when they needed it most. We're a small group of people that have gone above and beyond wherever we could."

travellerschoice.com.au

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF NCL'S NEW REWARDS PROGRAM

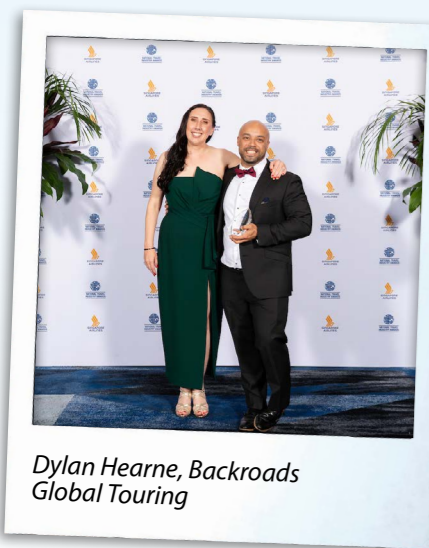
VISIT PARTNERSFIRSTREWARDS.COM TO SIGN UP TODAY

NCL NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE®

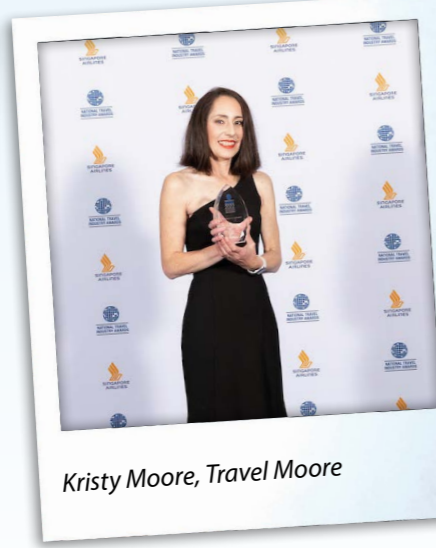
PARTNERSFIRST REWARDS



And the winners are...



Dylan Hearne, Backroads Global Touring



Kristy Moore, Travel Moore



Rose Febo, TravelManagers

Rookie of the Year
BELLA KING, American Express Global Business Travel

Most Outstanding Travel Consultant Leisure
EMILY KADINSKI, itravel Carlingford

Most Outstanding Travel Consultant Corporate
LYNETTE WELLS, American Express Global Business Travel

Most Outstanding Travel Industry Training Institution
CLIA Australasia

Most Outstanding Employee Engagement and Recruitment Program
American Express Global Business Travel

Travel Consultant Scholarship
KRISTY MOORE, Travel Moore

Most Outstanding Wholesaler
Creative Cruising

Most Outstanding Tour Operator
Chimu Adventures

Sustainability Award – Agency
Reho Travel

Sustainability Award – Supplier
Air New Zealand

Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign – Agency
Ignite Travel Group - My Cruises

Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign – Supplier
NCL (Norwegian Cruise Line) - Walk for Wellness

Most Outstanding Consumer Travel Reporter/ Journalist
FIONA CARRUTHERS

Most Outstanding Industry Support – Accommodation
Quest Apartment Hotels

Most Outstanding Industry Support – Air
Singapore Airlines



Charlie Trevena (second from right)



Tenille Hunt, Quark Expeditions (right)

Most Outstanding Industry Support – Cruise
Norwegian Cruise Line

Most Popular Travel Support Service
Amadeus

Most Popular Tourism Office
Singapore Tourism Board

Most Popular Travel Support Service by an individual
Charlie Trevena

Most Outstanding Sales Executive – Land Supply
Dylan Hearne, Backroads Global Touring

Most Outstanding Sales Executive – Air
NICOLE LAURIE, Delta Air Lines

Most Outstanding Sales Executive – Cruise
TENILLE HUNT, Quark Expeditions

Most Outstanding Travel Agency Manager
JACINTA BLUNDELL, Helloworld Travel Buderim & Caboolture

Most Outstanding Mobile/ Home Based Travel Advisor
ROSE FEBO, TravelManagers

Most Outstanding Travel Agency – Leisure
Helloworld Travel Mackay, Mt Pleasant & Townsville

NewsCorp Australia People's Choice Award
LINDA FORSTER, TravLin Travel

Most Outstanding Online Travel Agency
MyCruises

Most Outstanding Mobile Advisor Network
TravelManagers Australia Pty Ltd

Most Outstanding Travel Management Company
Corporate Travel Management (CTM)

Most Outstanding Non-Branded Agency Group
Travellers Choice

Most Outstanding Travel Agency Group
Flight Centre Travel Group





Emily Kadinski,
itravel Carlingford

FROM DESK NAPS TO TRAVEL AWARDS

EMILY KADINSKI remembers the days when she would sleep under her mother's desk in the travel agency where she worked.

From those early days travel got into Emily's blood and mum was there to see her daughter pick up the award for 'Most Outstanding Travel Consultant – Leisure'.

"This win means everything to me because it's recognition from our peers," she told *Traveltalk*.

"We've had a terrible few years but we're still here and thank God because those that are here in this room live and breathe travel.

"It's also the fact that travel is back and it's back with a vengeance."

Emily, who works at itravel Carlingford in New South Wales, added that the awards night showed that the industry was a strong, unified community.

"I think we're the one industry out there, that even though we're technically all competitors, we still treat each other like family and will still help each other out, even if they're not our client.

"It's the fact that everyone in the room is screaming when you're walking down the aisle and technically, they're in the shop next door to you, selling the same product and fighting for the same customer."

» ncl.com

» itravelcarlingford.com.au



Corporate Travel Management

The Quest for success

A DEDICATION to collaboration was identified as the reason Quest Apartment Hotels was named 'Most Outstanding Industry Support – Accommodation'.

"We are transparent and team players who work to ensure the clients of our travel business partners are always satisfied – not just with their rooms, but the depth of understanding we have around their needs," said Anthea Dimitrakopoulos, GM Sales and Marketing.

"Ultimately, Quest's national accounts team are the safe pair of hands at the other end of a call for our travel business partners.

"We've taken calls at all hours to help accommodate anyone from athletes to police in the middle of the night – that's the strength of our industry support."

In the first six months of 2022, Quest sold 190,595 room nights

to travel management company partners, an eight per cent increase on 2019, and has just delivered its highest group revenue since inception.

"Quest's local business owners and their intimate community knowledge is the bedrock we've used to build the accommodation partnerships that drive record success for our franchise family," said David Mansfield, Managing Director at Ascott Australia.

* Meanwhile Corporate Travel Management (CTM) has been crowned 'Most Outstanding Travel Management Company – Corporate' for the 14th time.

CTM's achievements throughout the pandemic and during the recent travel rebound were acknowledged across five award categories spanning travel management, technology, sustainability, training and employee performance.

Natasha Haans was recognised for

her 'impeccable client support service', being named as a finalist in the 'Most Outstanding Travel Consultant – Corporate' award.

The company was further acknowledged as a finalist of the 'Most Outstanding Travel Industry Training Institution' award, demonstrating the success of the recently launched CTM Academy.

This travel consultant training program is designed to attract and fast-track the learning and onboarding process for travel industry newcomers in response to industry-wide resourcing challenges.

Further finalist nominations came in the new 'Sustainability Award' and the 'Most Outstanding Online Travel Agency' category.

"I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of our CTM team who were able to not only support our business operations during a difficult time for the travel industry but excel in doing so," said Greg McCarthy, CTM's Chief Executive Officer, Australia/New Zealand.

"We offer our sincere thanks to all our employees, customers and partners for their support over the past two years. Our spirits remain high as we work towards an exciting future for the travel industry and an enhanced travel experience for our customers."

» travelctm.com

» questapartments.com.au



The people's champion

JUST UNDER 11,000 clients voted for their favourite ATAS accredited agencies in this year's inaugural NTIA People's Choice Award.

The eventual winner was Linda Forster from TravLin Travel in Langwarrin in Melbourne.

"The award means the world because it's the clients that we work for that have voted for us and one particular client who was heartfelt and thought that I would win.

"Travel is back and this is the full stop on the bad times. It's just onwards and upwards from here. It is rebounding really well and next year it'll just go through the roof."

» travlintravel.com.au

Q2 Which award did Malaysia Airlines win at the 29th World Travel Awards?

POLY WHAT A CRACKER

PAUL GAUGUIN Cruises has launched sales for its 2024 small ship adventures across Polynesia.

The company has 33 sailings to seven destinations, including two new itineraries crafted by their destination experts.

Le Paul Gauguin, which joined the PONANT fleet in September 2019, was designed to sail in Polynesian waters with a shallow draught allowing her to sail through shallow lagoons.

The vessel has 165 staterooms and suites and invites guests to discover the traditional way of life and customs of Polynesia and the South Pacific.

The onboard program includes swimming, scuba diving, kayaking, paddleboarding and snorkelling, discovering local traditions and visiting UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Fine cuisine aboard takes inspiration from the local lifestyle and is combined with moments such as a traditional Polynesian barbeque on private islet Motu Mahana off the protected Taha's Island.

» au.ponant.com/paul-gauguin



Felicity Aston

Heroic endeavours rewarded with honour

A CELEBRATED polar explorer, author, television presenter and climate scientist has been named Godmother of a new expedition ship.

Felicity Aston became the first woman to ski solo across Antarctica in 2012, as well as the first person to traverse the continent by muscle power alone.

Aston has since been awarded the Polar Medal and has been appointed MBE for services to exploration.

She will officially name Silversea's new *Silver Endeavour* as part of a ceremony in Antarctica to be held in the days before the ship's inaugural voyage, departing on November 21.

"With each of my expeditions, I am driven to push boundaries, to explore new frontiers, and to experience the planet's most spectacular places," said Ms Aston.

"She is a vehicle for discovery in every sense of the term and I am excited to sail to the Polar Regions in such comfort."

» silversea.com

Brief encounter welcomed in PNG

CRUISING HAS officially resumed in Papua New Guinea with *Pacific Encounter* making its maiden visit to the nation recently.

The ship, which joined P&O Cruises' fleet in August, made its inaugural visit to Alotau, followed by calls to Kiriwina, Rabaul and the Conflict Islands.

The calls are the latest in a series of Pacific visits as countries across the region reopen their maritime borders to cruising.

Pacific Encounter's sister, *Pacific Explorer*, became the first cruise ship to return to New Caledonia recently and led the resumption of cruising to New Zealand and Fiji in August. Vanuatu is set to reopen to cruise ships this month.

Marguerite Fitzgerald, President of Carnival Australia and P&O Cruises Australia, thanked the government and the community of Papua New Guinea and the Milne Bay Province for their continued support of cruising.

"P&O Cruises first started operating dedicated cruises to Papua New Guinea

in 2013 so we are thrilled our guests can once again enjoy the nation's beautiful scenery and vibrant culture," she said.

"Cruise tourism makes a valuable economic contribution to Papua New Guinea and we're excited to be working with our partners there as we recommence our cruises to Alotau, Rabaul, Kiriwina and the Conflict Islands."

Ships from three Carnival Australia brands – P&O Cruises Australia, Princess Cruises and Holland America Line – are scheduled to make 14 port calls to Papua New Guinea over the remainder of 2022.

» pocruises.com.au



GO DEEP BENEATH THE WHITE CLOUDS

SCENIC HAS announced the release of its new 2023/24 'Pristine Wonders of New Zealand' collection.

The portfolio encompasses eight luxury land journeys, including a new 22-day immersive itinerary from Auckland to Christchurch.

Starting in the 'City of Sails', the new tour travels through mythical 'Middle earth' to some of the famous movie backdrops before taking in the geothermal treats of Rotorua.

Guests will then discover the coastal and mountainous region of New Plymouth, which is dominated by Mount Taranaki, a dormant volcano and the second highest point in the North Island.

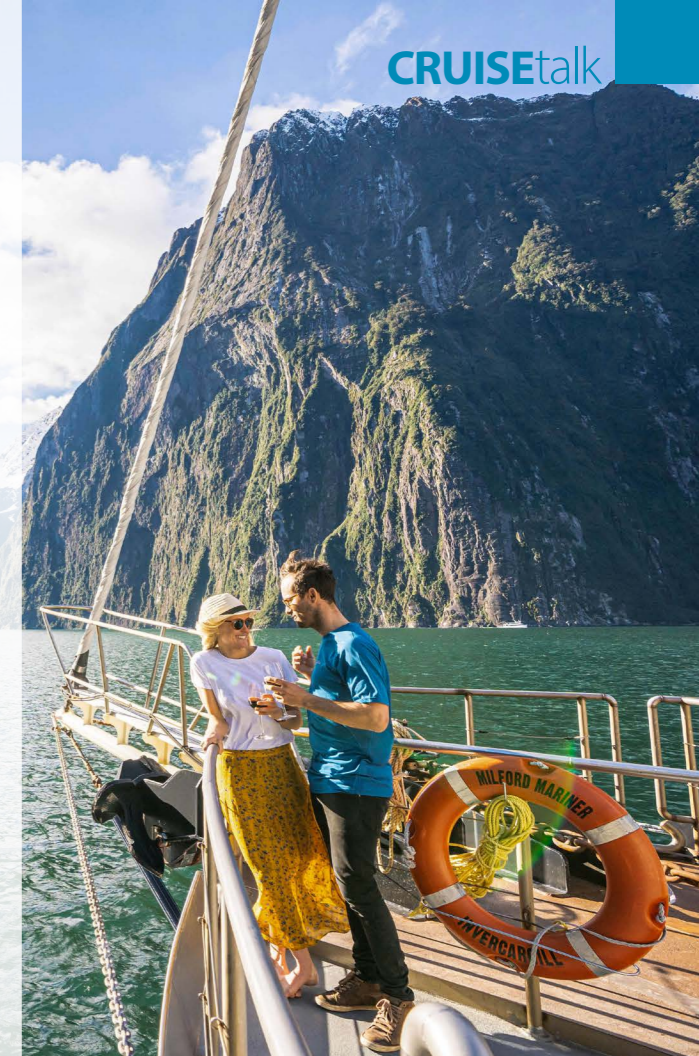
Continue to the capital Wellington before hopping on a ferry to the South Island to sample Sauvignon Blanc in Marlborough and enjoy the diverse marine life along the east coast before arriving in Christchurch.

Highlights include an overnight stay on the *Milford Mariner*, a traditional Māori Hangi dinner, sailing on an America's Cup yacht in Auckland and an exclusive Scenic Enrich experience in New Plymouth, exploring the gardens of the Taranaki.

Departures are available in October 2023 and January to February 2024.

The 22-day 'New Zealand Revealed' is priced from \$11,595 per person, including savings of up to \$800 per couple with Earlybird offers valid until March 31, 2023.

» scenic.com.au



New mysteries as the world extends

UNIWORLD HAS introduced new 2023 mystery cruises, its first cruise and rail trip in India and extended its family-focused sailing to Egypt.

Departing on June 18, 2023, the first 10-day mystery cruise will be a roundtrip sailing along rivers throughout Amsterdam. On July 7, 2023, the second 10-day trip will start in Nice and end in Lyon.

On-trip excursions, special events and overall itineraries will remain a complete mystery to cruise passengers. Prices for the June itinerary start at \$10,699 per person and the July tour starts at \$11,199.

Following the success of the inaugural season of its cruise and rail itinerary in Europe, Uniworld is teaming up with Maharajas' Express to offer a new 16-day immersive journey through India.

The trip combines seven nights' sailing aboard the *Ganges Voyager II* from Kolkata, with a seven-night

luxury private train journey through the Golden Triangle and Rajasthan to Mumbai, spending an additional two nights in Oberoi Hotels in New Delhi and Mumbai.

Guests will visit the Taj Mahal, Amber Fort and Ranthambore National Park – home to one of the world's largest populations of Bengal tiger – alongside more local encounters, stopping at smaller temples and villages along the way.

Departing on October 28th, 2023, prices start from \$29,589 per person double occupancy.

Uniworld's new dedicated Generations departures will introduce guests of all ages to Egypt's ancient wonders, vibrant capital and welcoming people.

Combining seven nights aboard the all-suite *River Tosca* sailing round-trip from Luxor with a four-night land stay at The Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Cairo, the trip mirrors the popular 12-day

'Splendors of Egypt and the Nile' itinerary with additional experiences.

Departing on December 16, 23 and 30, 2023, the Egypt Generations trip starts at \$9,299 per person double occupancy.

"We constantly strive to anticipate guests' needs and innovate accordingly, and we know these new itineraries are really going to resonate," said Ellen Bettridge, President and CEO Uniworld.

» uniworld.com/au



ROYAL CARIBBEAN: EVERYTHING BUT THE EXPECTED

INTRODUCING THE Icon of Vacations: *Icon of the Seas*, arriving early 2024.

This is more than a vacation upgrade. It's the best family vacation in the world. Introducing the new *Icon of the Seas* – a first-of-its-kind Royal Caribbean® adventure where your clients will have the time of their life, multiple times a day.

Let their adrenaline surge at the largest waterpark at sea. They can pick from seven unique pools to satisfy any mood.

Fuel bolder bonding at Surfside, the ultimate stay-all-day family neighbourhood right onboard.

And delight their appetite with 40 ways to dine and drink.



POOL HOP NON-STOP

Save room for some extra splash because this adventure has an all-you-can-swim buffet of pools to plunge into.

Take your pick of seven different pools, plus nine whirlpools, all with next-level ocean views.

Like The Hideaway, the first suspended infinity pool at sea, or Cloud 17, your adults-only poolside oasis in a new stratosphere of chic.

Find frozen cocktails on tap at The Lime and Coconut® bar spanning multiple levels, or dive into the largest swim-up bar at sea, Swim & Tonic.



DIAL UP THE DARING

Take your best-ever vacation experience and crank it up — way up. This is a whole new class of adventure.

Test your courage and brave six record-breaking slides at Category 6, the largest waterpark at sea.

Conquer your fears at the Crown's Edge, a test of bravery suspended high above the ocean.

And discover adventure for all ages at Surfside, an entire neighbourhood that opens the floodgates on family fun.



MAKE ROOM FOR AWESOME

Bring the whole family onboard to discover new room layouts that give everyone their own space to hang, like Family Infinite Ocean View Balconies or Surfside Family Suites.

Or upgrade to upscale from a selection of elevated accommodations, including the new Sunset Suites and Infinite Grand Suites.

For the most over-the-top VIP stay, the Ultimate Family Townhouse maximizes your family vacation on three different levels with an in-suite slide, cinema and a private patio with exclusive entrance to Surfside.

royalcaribbean.com



EVERYTHING BUT THE EXPECTED

Technology and artistry merge on the new *Icon of the Seas*.

Perched at the crown of the ship, the shimmering AquaDome is a first-of-its-kind space that opens up a world of possibilities.

From performances that push the bounds of bravery beneath a towering waterfall, to gourmet grazing and mixology magic against a background of wraparound ocean views.

And bold feats unleashed at Absolute Zero our biggest ice arena ever, where high-resolution digital projections from ceiling to rink instantly transform everything around you from one moment to the next.

ICON OF THE SEAS

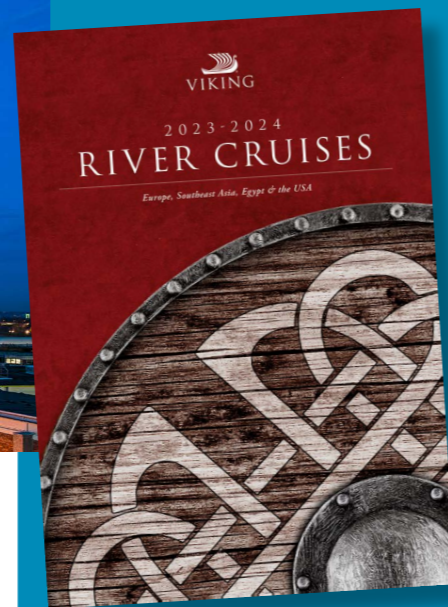
ARRIVES 2024



OPEN FOR SALE



BOOK NOW



RIVERS OF CHOICE FROM VIKING

VIKING HAS released its 2023-2024 *River Cruises* brochure offering guests the chance to explore the world's unique cultures and fascinating destinations.

The carefully curated collection of itineraries and experiences has extensive options – from Central Europe and Southeast Asia to Egypt and the United States of America.

The brochure features three new European itineraries, including a 15-day journey that combines the popular 'Rhine Getaway' and 'Lyon & Provence' itineraries and two new Christmas cruises along the Main, Moselle and Rhine.

The new 15-day 'Lyon, Provence & the Rhineland' itinerary from Amsterdam to Avignon (or vice versa) explores the Rhine and France's Rhône, revealing a rich tapestry of diverse cultures and inspiring landscapes.

Guests will discover the grand cathedrals, historic cities, medieval towns and spectacular scenery of the Middle Rhine—a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before enjoying a taste of France, including Avignon's Palace of the Popes and the capital of French gastronomy, Lyon.

Sailing from March 2024, this journey is priced from \$5,895 per person in a Standard stateroom including savings of up to \$4,600 per couple (*).

"Rhine Getaway and Lyon & Provence are two of our most popular itineraries exploring two very different regions of Europe, so this new combo itinerary

provides an opportunity for guests to experience both unique regions in one seamless journey," said Michelle Black, Managing Director Viking ANZ.

Celebrating the festive season in Europe is an experience like no other, immersing you in the spirit and traditions of Christmas.

The yuletide season in Europe transforms beautiful squares into delightful Christmas markets offering hand-carved toys and ornaments, spicy glühwein and aromatic gingerbread.

Two new 12-day itineraries allow guests to indulge their senses in the festive cheer along the Rhine, Main and Moselle. New itineraries include:

- * 12-day 'Christmas on the Main & Moselle' from Paris to Prague (or vice versa) and priced from \$5,895 per person in a Standard stateroom including savings of up to \$2,000 per couple*.

- * 12-day 'Christmas on the Rhine & Moselle' from Paris to Zurich (or vice versa) and priced from \$6,195 per person in a Standard stateroom including savings of up to \$2,000 per couple*.

"Off the back of the success of our new 2022 and 2023 Christmas cruises launched earlier this year, these two additional Christmas itineraries give guests even more opportunity to explore Europe's famed rivers but for a longer period of time over the festive season, which is an altogether different experience," added Ms Black. *Conditions apply.

Viking is encouraging guests to book sooner rather than later with some of their most popular 2023 departures already sold out.

Booking early will ensure guests can secure their preferred departure date and stateroom category.

2023 and 2024 popular itineraries:

- * 15-day 'Grand European Cruise' from Amsterdam to Budapest (or v.v.) and priced from \$3,995 per person in a Standard stateroom, including savings up to \$5,600 per couple*.

- * Eight-day 'Rhine Getaway from Amsterdam to Basel' (or v.v.) and priced from \$2,995 per person in a Standard stateroom, including savings up to \$2,000 per couple*.

- * 15-day 'France's Finest' from Paris to Avignon (or v.v.) and priced from \$4,695 per person in a Standard stateroom including savings up to \$4,600 per couple*.

- * 12-day 'Pharaohs & Pyramids' from Cairo to Cairo and priced from \$7,295 per person in a Deluxe stateroom including savings of up to \$3,400 per couple*.

- * 15-day 'Magnificent Mekong' from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi (or v.v.) and priced from \$5,995 per person in a French Balcony stateroom including savings of up to \$3,250 per couple*.

(*Conditions apply)



IT'LL BE ALRIGHT IN THE NIGHT

JON UNDERWOOD reviews his flight from Sydney to Kuala Lumpur with Malaysia Airlines

THERE'S A distinctly different feel about a night flight.

During the day you can just kick back, catch up on a few movies you may have missed while enjoying your favourite adult beverage and a (hopefully) tasty meal or two.

But when your plane takes off at a time most self-respecting individuals are tucked up in bed in their jammies, it's a different story.

For a start: do you eat at 10:45pm or not? Should you enjoy a glass or two or will that have you scurrying to the bathroom all night?

And perhaps most importantly of all, will you have enough seat space to manoeuvre your body into some sort of position where it can attempt to shut down for a few hours?

These were some of the thoughts coursing through my mind as I boarded Malaysia Airlines flight MH140 for its 10:10pm take-off to Kuala Lumpur.

Being 1.8metres tall, I'd paid a little extra (about \$80) for a seat with extra legroom and it turned out to be well worth the investment.

My seat (10K) was in a semi-cabin just behind business class and consisted of about 20 seats. To my delight the seat next to me was vacant. Time to spread the load.

Once in the air a snack was served almost immediately and clearly MA

had thought about the comfort of passengers, with a warm chicken pasty and a bag of peanuts enough for that time of night.

I chose to watch one of the excellent selection of movies on the airline's extensive entertainment channels. If I was looking for something to send me to sleep, the latest Hollywood dinosaur flick certainly did the trick...

And so, to bed. I made use of the complimentary blankets and pillows and built myself a small nest in the corner, propping myself up against the bulkhead.

For the next four or five hours I slept pretty soundly, awakened only by the serving of a hearty and tasty breakfast. We landed half an hour early and while I didn't gambol off the plane like a spring lamb, I was nowhere near as tired as I've experienced before.

It's obviously hard to give a blow-by-blow review of a flight when you've spent most of it asleep.

But the cabin crew were warm and friendly, typifying the renowned Malaysian hospitality, and for a night flight it was one of the most enjoyable I've had.

If only the same could be said for that movie...

[malaysiaairlines.com](https://www.malaysiaairlines.com)

Malaysia Airlines has launched its Bonus Side Trip campaign where passengers can add an extra leg to their journey from Australia to experience the country's cultural gems at minimal costs.

Through the promotion passengers can fly to one of seven destinations on offer: Penang, Langkawi, Johor Bahru, Kuala Terengganu, Kota Bharu, Alor Setar and Kuantan.

To qualify passengers must book a flight with MA departing from Australia to one of 18 destinations: Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Qatar, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and the United Kingdom.

The offer is valid from now until December 31 for travel up to March 31, 2023.

AIRLINE: Malaysia Airlines

FLIGHT NO: MH140

ROUTE: Sydney to Kuala Lumpur

SEAT: 10K

CLASS: Economy

DURATION: 8 hours 30 mins



Picture courtesy Tauck

Solo's have something special to Tauck about

WITH THE world now re-open to travel, Tauck is making sure that solo travellers aren't left behind.

The company has announced its solo traveller savings for 2023, waiving the single supplement on nearly 250 river cruise departures next year.

Tauck has also reduced the single supplement by \$1,300 on other selected cabin categories on 63 departures of 20 different river itineraries.

On its land journeys, the company has reduced the single supplement by up to \$1,350 on 113 departures of 43 tours visiting five continents. In Europe, the single supplement on tours has been reduced by up to \$550 on 48 departures of 19 different land itineraries.

In the 'Exotics' portfolio, the supplement price has been cut by up to \$800 on 22 departures of nine trips in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

"We're excited to eliminate or dramatically reduce the single supplement on so many of our journeys, yet the financial savings are just one of several reasons why Tauck is so popular with solo travellers," said Dan Mahar, Tauck CEO.

» tauck.com

Package up the savings

A NEW luxury rail, sail and stay package in Europe has just been released offering savings and bonuses when booked by November 30.



The 17-night 'Ancient Aegean and Timeless Train' itinerary features a journey with Regent Seven Seas from Greece to Israel and a trip aboard the *Venice Simplon-Orient-Express* train from Paris to Prague.

The adventure begins on October 2, 2023, with a night in a five-star hotel in Athens before guests board the all-suite, all-balcony, *Seven Seas Voyager* for a 12-night, nine-destination, all-inclusive cruise through the Aegean and Mediterranean seas to Haifa, Israel.

The ship boasts teak decks, five speciality dining restaurants, a pool with Jacuzzi, fitness centre and theatre with nightly entertainment. Guests also enjoy complimentary onboard beverages and shore excursions throughout the voyage.

A night in Jerusalem and two in Paris follow before the overnight train trip to Prague.

The package is available from \$24,895 per person twin share in a deluxe veranda suite, a saving of \$465.

» CruiseTraveller.com.au/regent23

JAPAN SET FOR TRAVEL BOOST

FOLLOWING THE long-awaited easing of restrictions, Japan is set to benefit from pent-up demand from eager travellers.

With this in mind Abercrombie & Kent have just announced a new raft of itineraries and experiences.

The portfolio features four suggested tailor-made journeys, an intimate luxury small group journey and a cherry blossom luxury expedition cruise, with two new journeys: 'Art & Culture in Japan' and 'Winter in Hokkaido'.

With these tours guests can take a behind-the-scenes visit to a sumo stable, enjoy a kodo taiko drumming workshop, an itamae master sushi class, private tea ceremonies in historic Zen gardens, geisha performances and hands-on demonstrations in the arts of samurai and ninja.

"Our team in Tokyo have gone above and beyond to create a 'truly A&K' selection of insider experiences that are immersive and experiential," said Debra Fox, Managing Director, A&K Australia TOC.

"More than ever our guests want the 'real' Japan to shine through, with that extra touch of authenticity."

» abercrombiekent.com.au



Q3 How many rooms and suites does PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala Lumpur offer?

AUSTRALIA GOES ON BIG SALE

LUXURY ESCAPES is offering eight weeks of exclusive hotels, holiday packages, tours, cruises and experiences across Australia.

The 'Great Australian Escape' promotion will enable customers to access deals from leading travel and lifestyle brands at up to 60 per cent off, as well as receive bonus offers and exclusive inclusions when booking.

Guests can take part in a once in a lifetime outback retreat, listening to stories of First Nations culture during a 'Bush Yarns' session and immersing themselves in the sounds of the didgeridoo.

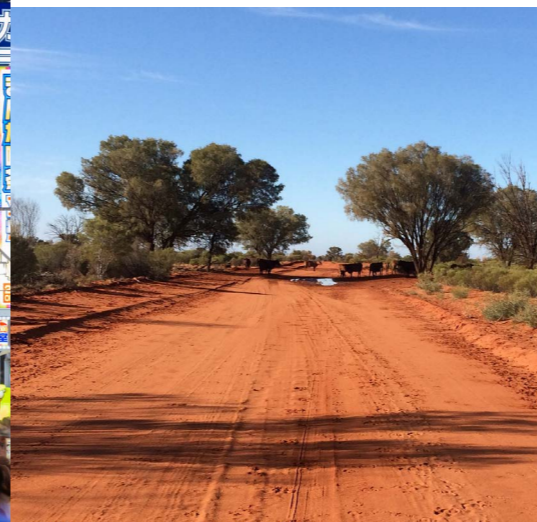
If Australia's new world wine regions are of interest, hot air ballooning through the Yarra Valley, winery tours in Margaret River and paired degustation dining on the Mornington Peninsula are all available.

Adam Schwab, Luxury Escapes CEO and co-founder, says the campaign aims to boost the Australian tourism industry, being open to both locals and international travellers alike.

"From Tasmania to Darwin, our country is one of the most diverse and beautiful on earth, with something for every kind of traveller," he added.

"With The Great Australian Escape, Luxury Escapes customers can book anything from five-star beach holidays to one-of-a-kind glamping under the stars in the outback – experiencing more of what we have on offer here in Australia, for less."

» luxuryescapes.com



FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR RAIL JOURNEYS

JOURNEY BEYOND has announced additional departures on *The Ghan* due to unprecedented demand across the 2023 season.

Additional departures have been scheduled from Adelaide to Darwin or vice versa throughout October 2023 and are already booking out quickly.

The demand for the journey shows domestic travel is recovering with Australians continuing to seek connection to country with a quintessential experience, no passport needed.

With international visitors also starting to return, the future for travel in and around Australia looks bright.

"We're delighted with the amount of interest shown for this iconic rail journey, by both Australians and returning international visitors," said Peter Egglestone, Chief Revenue Officer, Journey Beyond.

"We're also proud of our team, who have put in a great deal of effort to extend *The Ghan's* capacity, working closely with ARTC and Pacific National to provide these additional departures."

» journeybeyond.com

NEW WATER TOUR RUNS ON PADDLE POWER

THERE'S A new way to get up close and personal with the famous ships and historic sites in and around one of Australia's most popular harbours.

Sydney Harbour Kayaks have partnered with the Australian National Maritime Museum to create a unique experience.

Viewed from the water and under expert guidance, guests can paddle their way around some of the city's historic wharves and waterscapes, soaking up stories, viewing impressive vessels and new vistas.

Tour the hidden corners of Darling Harbour and Cockle Bay, and capture one-of-a-kind images of Luna Park, the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House.

The museum's heritage fleet impresses from a completely new vantage point as you paddle past historic vessels including *HMAS Vampire*, *HMAS Onslow* and tall ships, the replica *Endeavour*, *James Craig* and the *Duyfken* – one of the rarest replica ships in the world.

Located onsite at the Maritime Museum, the tours in double kayaks are suitable for adults and kids aged 10 and up. Tours depart regularly throughout the day.

» sydneyharbourkayaks.com.au





W IS WORTH THE WAIT

A LUXURY hotel brand will make its debut in Australia next year, opening its first property Down Under in October 2023.

Set in Darling Harbour, W Sydney has been conceived and created by award winning interior specialists, Bowler James Brindley.

The rooms, suites and ultra-luxe suites echo the curves and lines of the property's architecture. No two rooms are the same, embracing their asymmetry with sleek, modern décor.

In addition to its 585 luxury rooms and suites, W Sydney will feature a two-storey rooftop bar, heated infinity pool overlooking Darling Harbour, AWAY Spa, gym, restaurant, bar and event spaces.

"There have been delays, but trust me, it will be worth the wait," said Craig Seaward, General Manager of W Sydney.

"It's a luxury hotel with a new perspective, one that not only connects deeply with its host city and its urban setting but is also imbued with a sense of freedom and possibility.

"To cross the threshold of W Sydney will be to enter an exciting new world of creativity, design, culture and connection."

» [whotels.com](https://www.whotels.com)



Appealing special in Apple Isle

GUESTS CAN take advantage of an opening special at Accor's new flagship property in Tasmania.

Novotel Devonport overlooks the Mersey River and offers 187 rooms, including standard, superior and deluxe, with a choice of city or river views, along with a selection of executive suites.

Coinciding with the hotel's debut is the opening of the Mr. Good Guy restaurant and bar, which is set to become one of Devonport's gourmet destinations.

Diners will experience Southeast Asian street food with a modern twist, utilising the best of Tasmanian produce.

The hotel also features 24-hour room service, 24-hour fitness centre, a meeting room and direct access to the

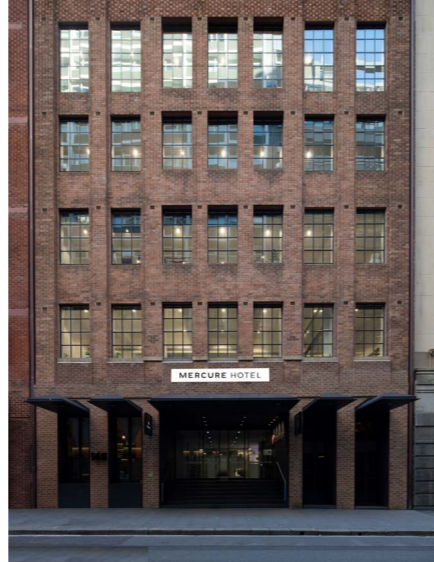
Paranple Convention Centre.

"It is an exciting time for Devonport; the city is on the verge of a tourism boom, with several major infrastructure works underway to revitalise the city," said Sarah Derry, Accor Pacific CEO.

"Regional Tasmania holds great appeal for visitors and the presence of Novotel Devonport will contribute to the region's ability to attract conferences and events."

The opening special is priced at \$269 per night in a standard king room, including two-course dinner for two at Mr. Good Guy and buffet breakfast. It is on sale until February 28, 2023.

» [ALL.com](https://www.all.com)



CHOOSE A NEW OPTION

BUSINESS AND leisure travellers seeking an inner city hotel with modern facilities now have a new option.

Situated on Phillip Street, the four-star Mercure Sydney Martin Place has 86-rooms that include kitchenettes with microwave and tea and coffee making facilities.

The property also has 24-hour reception, high-speed, unlimited Wi-Fi, parking and laundry facilities.

"As the warmer months approach and Sydney's season of events commence, Mercure Martin Place will be a smart choice for those wanting to soak up all there is to love about our harbour city," said Sarah Derry, CEO Accor Pacific.

To celebrate its launch, Mercure Sydney Martin Place has an opening special. Guests can stay from \$339 per night when booked before December 31.

» [ALL.com](https://www.all.com)

WHY THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOWM

There's a new player on the Australian hotel scene who is daring to be different. It's got a sexy name and a definite gameplan.

Could Selina be the hotel of the future for the young and the restless traveller? We sent JON UNDERWOOD (who is neither of those) to find out.

DID YOU know that half of the world's workforce was predicted to be office free by 2020?

What's more, that forecast was made before the full effects of COVID were even considered.

Forward-thinking entrepreneurs Rafael Museri and Daniel Rudasevski certainly believe working remotely from anywhere in the world is here to stay.

They founded the Selina brand in 2014 and their portfolio now includes more than 163 open or secured properties across 25 countries and six continents. A float on the stock exchange is imminent.

Their credo is about well designed, affordable accommodation offering co-working spaces, recreation, wellness and local experiences, all with a generous helping of sustainability.

"We believe that there is a shift in the workforce where more and more companies are starting to operate with remote teams, facilitating and even incentivising travel while working," says Dean Leibowitz, Selina's Destination Director for Australia and New Zealand.

"The concept of Selina is that it's a place where you can travel, work,



explore, meet new people and live a holistic lifestyle while on the move."

While there are rooms for families and couples, Selina properties are aimed specifically at digital nomads, along with Gen Z and Millennial travellers.

Selina Brisbane is the latest property to open in Australia, following on from the brand's launch in the Melbourne CBD and St Kilda. Another hotel is slated to open on Magnetic Island within months with Western Australia and Sydney very much on the radar.

Checking in to the Brisbane venture in George Street, I notice immediately that everyone around me is about a third of my age. Chloe behind the desk is warm and welcoming and soon explains the nuts and bolts of the property.

My room on the fourth floor is a Private Plus and although the palette is a little non-descript it is clean, spacious and comfortable. The vintage record player is a nice touch, along with some interesting artwork, with a functional ensuite bathroom and toilet.

We all know that hotel rooms are all about the bed and my king size is fitted out with a range of pillows and quality linens and affords a great night's sleep.

However, the Selina way is to get



out and meet people rather than spend time in your room, so I decide to explore.

I come across a couple happily enjoying a movie on the cinema deck and the communal kitchen is doing a sizzling trade with all kinds of delicious smells emanating through the hallways.

The centrepiece of the property is the HOWM bar (as in, a Selina hotel makes you feel like you're at home), where fun activities take place every night to bring guests together.

"The mission of the company is to inspire authentic and meaningful connections with people, places and cultures around the world," adds Dean.

"The two founders are visionaries of course, but they live and breathe this lifestyle. So it's authentic and they're building a product that they themselves would have wanted to use and still do use."

While I'm probably *not* Selina's target audience (too old, too tech-dinosaur-y), I can't fault the concept, nor the unwavering cheerfulness and enthusiasm of the staff.

If only I was 30 years younger...

» [selina.com](https://www.selina.com)



Check out these neighbourhoods

Hong Kong is regarded as one of the must-visit destinations in the world, with its vibrant mixture of culture and cuisine, sightseeing and shopping.

What is less commonly known is about the various neighbourhoods contained within its boundaries, which offer visitors a different side to Hong Kong. Here we look at three of the best.

WEST KOWLOON

Explore the unique and artsy side of West Kowloon – one of the most fascinating districts in Hong Kong – with its characterful architecture, distinctive craftsmanship and extensive dining options.

Visitors can discover the heart and soul of the West Kowloon Cultural District at M+.

With collections encompassing 20th- and 21st-century visual art, design and architecture, moving images and the thematic area of Hong Kong visual culture, M+ is Asia's first global museum of contemporary visual culture.

For a touch of world-class performing arts, the Xiqu Centre is Hong Kong's premier venue for Chinese opera, hosting performances and musical concerts as well as

film screenings and various related educational activities

West Kowloon was the stomping grounds for a lot of master craftsmen back in the day and many survive today, making goods as varied as copperware, chopping boards, fans, scales and cutlery.

Opened in the 1920s, Chinese bridalwear store Koon Nam Wah specialises in intricately embroidered cheongsam and kwan kwa (traditional gowns).

These often bear an auspicious dragon and phoenix pattern, which were considered as regal motifs favoured by Chinese emperors as well as brides and grooms.

A family business spanning six generations, Kwok Kee Woodware Sculpture specialises in hand-carved wooden crafts such as memorial tablets and custom statues, run by

fifth-generation artisan Master Kwok.

From traditional sweets and desserts to handmade noodles and preserved foods, West Kowloon will satisfy your taste buds

Established in 1946, the Kam Hing Noodles Food Company is a Hong Kong institution.

It is a mainstay in the city's thriving food and beverage business, supplying more than 600 restaurants as well as world-renowned hotel chains.



SHAM SHUI PO

Sham Shui Po is a colourful district with plenty of things to see and do, from historical landmarks to creative modern design stores and from bustling shopping streets to popular eateries.

Start your tour at the Kung Wo Beancurd Factory, which has been in Sham Shui Po since 1960. The old-school store sells various soy products, including the signature beancurd puddings. The beancurd puffs, deep-fried tofu and homemade sugar-free soy milk are also worth trying.

Fuk Wing Street, also known as Toy Street, is the place for affordable stationery and party accessories while the local brand Doughnut offers backpacks and hipster-esque luggage.

Locals love the homemade Chinese sweets at Kwan Kee Store, which is famous for its bowl puddings that are made from white or brown sugar and studded with red beans. Other traditional treats include white sugar cakes and black sesame rolls.

Bargains are to be had at Apliu Street, specialising in electronic goods, including mobile phone accessories, home appliances and even vintage typewriters.

Two temples in one complex, Sam Tai Tsz Temple is a Grade II historic building originally built in 1898 by Hakka immigrants to honour their patron deity, Sam Tai Tsz.

After exploring this site, head next door to Pak Tai Temple – a Grade III historic building built by local fishermen in 1920 to honour the Emperor of the North, the eponymous Pak Tai.

Moving on you'll encounter Bead Street (Yu Chau), Button Street (Ki Lung) and Brothers Leathercraft (Tai Nan) before arriving at Pei Ho Street.

This bustling fresh food market is the perfect place to experience Sham Shui Po like a local as it is lined with stores and stalls that sell fresh fruits and vegetables, meats and daily necessities along with snack stalls.

OLD TOWN CENTRAL

Encompassing the sloped streets and small alleys of Central and Sheung Wan, Old Town Central is Hong Kong's

most quintessential neighbourhood.

It is one of the oldest yet also most dynamic districts in the city, combining the city's modern-day spirit with its old-world charm.

Originally perched on the waterfront, Possession Street was given a new lease of life through reclamation and now features hip restaurants and boutiques alongside historic stores.

At Chu Wing Kee you can find old-school crockery and teapots, bamboo baskets dangling from the ceiling and feather dusters and kerosene stoves tucked away in corners.

The highlight of Upper Lascar Row is the antique stores, offering an eclectic collection of Chinese calligraphy, arts and vintage furniture.

This runs parallel to stalls that sell an array of bric-à-brac collectibles, such as Mao Zedong alarm clocks and Bruce Lee posters. In recent years, local designer boutiques and vintage clothing stores have also popped up nearby.

A five-minute walk from Tai Ping Shan Street, Man Mo Temple is a complex built more than 150 years ago, comprising of three blocks.

The namesake structure, Man Mo Temple, pays tribute to the God of Literature and the God of War, while Lit Shing Kung was created for all heavenly gods. Finally, Kung Sor was an assembly hall for resolving community disputes.

Walk down Graham Street and Hollywood Road and you'll come across the most photographed example of street art in Hong Kong.

Local graffiti artist Alex Croft's colourful mural of old townhouses shines a light on the city's famous tong lau tenement buildings.

No visit to Hong Kong would be complete without an aromatic egg tart so call in at the 60-year-old Tai Cheong Bakery on Lyndhurst Terrace before heading to Tai Kwun, a former police station compound that now houses 16 heritage buildings.

The historical site been transformed into an arts and culture hub, housing galleries, shops and various bars and restaurants. It also hosts curated art exhibitions, performances, workshops and guided tours.



When the world comes to play



The eyes of the world will be on Qatar this month as the 2022 FIFA World Cup kicks off.

In this essential four-page feature, we look at five top things to do in this fascinating country, present some travel offers and focus on an imaginative new agent program that offers plenty of tips and trips.

FIVE OF THE BEST

1. SOUQ WAQIF

Built on the site of Doha's century old trading market, Souq Waqif's winding alleys offer a tableau of traditional street life, perhaps the last remaining traditional souq in the Gulf.

Here you can hold a falcon, see camels and beautiful Arabian horses at the Emiri Stables, or indulge in some retail therapy shopping for gold, shoes, antiques, handicrafts, fabrics and rugs.

Also located here is Shay Al Shoomos, one of the best places for a traditional Qatari meal.

Diners can sample a range of local specialties including margoga, small pieces of bread mixed with sauce and cooked vegetables, and regag, a traditional Arabic crêpe.

» souq-waqif-doha.com

2. INLAND SEA (KHAWR AL UDAYD)

Qatar is one of the few places in the world where the desert meets the sea.

The dunes are at their most spectacular out by Khawr al Udayd, also known as the Inland Sea, where a unique ecosystem has developed, with flamingos, turtles, foxes and the country's national animal, the Arabian Oryx.

Located in Al Wakrah Municipality in southeast Qatar, on the border with Saudi Arabia, it is about 35 kilometres long and 20 kilometres wide and is recognised by UNESCO as a natural reserve.

Visitors can book a trip to the Inland Sea for a small fee and include exhilarating dune bashing in a 4x4 to get there off the beaten path.

3. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF QATAR

The National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) gives voice to Qatar's rich heritage and culture. It was completed in 2019 from a design by French architect Jean Nouvel.

In addition to the unique architecture and gallery spaces, the building features a 220-seat auditorium, two restaurants, a café and a traditional food forum.

For scholars and students, the museum offers a new research centre and laboratories along with access to digital archives.

A landscaped park also provides visitors with a chance to explore and learn about Qatar's indigenous plants and their role in Qatari culture.

» nmoq.org.qa

4. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART

The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) represents Islamic art from three continents over 1,400 years.

The museum houses one of the most comprehensive collections of Islamic art in the world, with masterpieces from every corner of the globe representing the diversity found in Islamic heritage.

The online collection features more than 400 museum highlights, including metalwork, ceramics, jewellery, woodwork, textiles, coins and glass.

It will shortly feature a new visitor-focused layout that will accommodate a larger audience and attract more tourists to Qatar.

» mia.org.qa

5. KATARA CULTURAL VILLAGE

The Katara Cultural Village Foundation is a project of hope for human interaction through art and cultural exchange.

It was made possible thanks to the vision and leadership of HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir of the State of Qatar.

With theatres, concert halls, exhibition galleries and cutting-edge facilities, Katara aims to become a world leader for multi-cultural activities. As such, it hosts international, regional and local festivals, workshops, performances and exhibitions.

» katara.net



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Stopover in Qatar



Turn one holiday into two with the world's best value stopover in Qatar, the perfect destination for a taste of local culture, desert adventures, world-class shopping, fine dining, and much more.

Make the most of your journey with our amazing packages, starting from AUD19* per night, including up to four nights in a hotel, tours, and memorable experiences.

Choose from a range of 4 and 5 star hotels

4-Star Standard Packages

From **\$19 AUD**
pp per night

5-Star Premium Packages

From **\$28 AUD**
pp per night

5-Star Luxury Packages

From **\$106 AUD**
pp per night
(Inc breakfast)

*Rate mentioned is per person per night based on double occupancy on a 1 night stay.

Inclusions



Accommodation of choice



24-hour check-in and check-out



Breakfast included for luxury option

To book stopover packages, please visit partner.discoverqatar.qa
For more information, please contact your local Qatar Airways or Discover Qatar Account Manager.

PACKAGES STARTING FROM \$19 AUD*

STANDARD STOPOVER HOTELS 4*	PREMIUM STOPOVER HOTELS 5*	LUXURY STOPOVER HOTELS 5*
Al Liwan Suites	Al Najada Hotel by Tivoli	AlRayyan Hotel Doha
Ezdan Hotel West Bay	Alwadi Hotel Doha Mgallery Hotel	Grand Hyatt Doha
Four Points By Sheraton	City Centre Rotana	Hilton Doha
Grand Regal Hotel	Concorde Hotel Doha	Intercontinental Doha
Holiday Inn Doha Business Park	Crowne Plaza Doha Business Park	JW Marriott Marquis
Holiday Villa Hotel & Residence	Crowne Plaza Doha West Bay	La Cigale Hotel
Horizon Manor Hotel	Dusit Doha Hotel	Le Meridien Doha (Opening TBA)
K108 Hotel	Dusit D2	Mondrian Doha
Millennium Central	Fraser Suites Doha	Park Hyatt Doha
Plaza Inn Doha	Golden Tulip Doha	Sealine Beach Hotel
Ramada Encore	Hyatt Regency Oryx Doha	Steigenberger Hotel Doha
Retaj Al Rayyan Hotel	InterContinental The City	Sheraton Grand Doha
The Royal Riviera	Marriott Marquis City Center Doha	The Westin Doha Hotel & Spa
	Millennium Hotel Doha	W Doha
	Millennium Plaza Doha	Banyan Tree
	Mövenpick Hotel West Bay Doha	Hilton Salwa Beach Resort
	Pullman Doha West Bay	Simaisma, A Murwab Hotel
	Radisson Blu Hotel Doha	Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva Som
	Saraya Corniche	Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha
	Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels	
	Souq Al Wakra Hotel Qatar by Tivoli	
	The Avenue, A Murwab Hotel	
	VIP Hotel	
	Warwick Hotel	

To book stopover packages, please visit partner.discoverqatar.qa
 For more information, please contact your local Qatar Airways or Discover Qatar Account Manager.

Why agents will love this programme

QATAR TOURISM has launched a new, interactive online training course for travel trade partners.

The Qatar Specialist Programme is designed to enhance knowledge of the country's diverse product offering and provide a recognised qualification for its global partners.

The programme, which uses the latest technologies in digital learning, replaces the current Tawash programme and supports Qatar's mission to become a leader in service excellence.

Available in 11 languages, the Qatar Specialist Programme equips trade partners with the relevant knowledge and tools to promote and sell Qatar internationally more effectively.

Comprising several modules, each focusing on a particular aspect of Qatar's tourism offering, the programme allows participants flexibility, letting them complete each module at their own pace, supported by an intuitive, engaging educational tool.

Features include interactive maps and knowledge check quizzes.

"The Qatar Specialist Programme is another step towards supporting the global travel trade industry in working alongside Qatar Tourism to help drive significant growth in annual international visitor arrivals and welcoming six million visitors a year by 2030," said Philip Dickinson, Vice President of International Markets.

The Qatar Specialist Programme focuses on various aspects of Qatar's tourism offering, covering history, heritage, attractions and experiences.

Partners who complete the full course will receive exclusive Qatar Specialist benefits and receive insider tips, itineraries and the latest information on accommodation and attractions.

qatarspecialist.qa



BECKS BACKS A STOPOVER STAY

QATAR TOURISM has launched a new stopover holiday campaign featuring David Beckham.

The campaign reveals Beckham's action-packed adventure around the country over the course of 48 hours, showing how Qatar can be a great stopover break for all visitors.

From exploring the winding spice markets of Souq Waqif, soaking up local street art, cooking tacos, camping in the desert, and sightseeing around Doha by motorbike, Beckham accompanies local personalities to discover a country of countless surprises.

More than 80 per cent of the world's population live within a six-hour flight from Qatar, making the destination an excellent place to turn a stopover into a mini break.

"Qatar has surprised me with a wide range of great experiences you can have in just 48 hours," said Beckham.

"The people are warm and welcoming, and it is a great place to spend a few days.

"The people of Qatar are really passionate about their culture and the mix of modern and traditional creates something really special.

"I saw so much during my trip from spice markets to museums to enjoying a ride on my motorbike, which was one of the highlights."

Through this new campaign, Qatar Tourism seeks to raise awareness of the world's best value stopover packages, which are on offer from Qatar Airways.

Packages start from £12 (approx. \$AU21) per person per night for a four-star hotel, and £17 (approx. \$AU30) per person for a five-star hotel.

"I encourage the millions who transit through Qatar every year to follow in David's footsteps and create their own exciting adventure and memories," said His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, Chairman of Qatar Tourism and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive.

"We have something for everyone at incredible value, whether it's sun sea sand, rich heritage and culture, surprising nature, or a modern and fun city break."

Holidaymakers can book now at:

qatarairways.com/stopover

WIN A TRIP TO MALAYSIA



Looking for an impressive destination that offers it all? Then look no further than Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur!

Whether you're a shopaholic, foodie, culture fiend or nature lover, Malaysia's cosmopolitan, fashionable capital seamlessly blends its colonial past with modern trends.

The city offers everything from exquisite shopping malls to tall and glitzy towers to luxurious hotels all the way to mouth-watering cuisines – all of which make it the perfect destination for the business or leisure traveller.

MALAYSIA AIRLINES

As international travel resumes and passenger demand increases, Malaysia Airlines soars to new heights offering increased flights from Melbourne and Sydney to some of the most captivating and vibrant Malaysian destinations all while offering its world class 'Malaysian Hospitality' to its most welcomed onboard guests.

Recently voted Asia's best airline for Business Class at the 29th World Travel Awards and with one of the highest On Time Rating's in the world now is the time to book a memorable trip with Malaysia Airlines.

Weekly full-service flights are now departing from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide flying direct to Kuala Lumpur.

While onboard with Malaysia Airlines, you'll experience exceptional full-service hospitality in economy,

business class and business suites.

In economy class select your favourite seat in advance, savour delicious meals and enjoy hours of in-flight entertainment.

Malaysia Airlines business class is recognised for providing an unrivaled premium end-to-end experience, from its exclusive priority check-in counters, priority luggage handling and access to the beautiful Golden Lounges at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, to its board-anytime flexibility.

In business suite avoid queues with priority boarding at the check-in lounge and experience fine dining onboard and order from the Chef on Call for the best gourmet cuisine.

Relax & stay connected at the exclusive Golden Lounges in Kuala Lumpur International and enjoy spacious Lie-flat seats offering all the comfort you need. Business suite is only available on all A350 and A380 flights.

If you're feeling peckish, order your favourite meal with the Dine Anytime service. As its name suggests, it allows Business Suites and long-haul Business Class customers to enjoy meals at their convenience.

This is in addition to the popular signature satay, which has been served onboard since the first flight and has been produced by the airline's caterer since 1973.

Offering greater flexibility

Malaysia Airlines recognises the significant changes to the daily lives and travel needs of its customers since the global pandemic began.

As a leading world airline, Malaysia Airlines proudly introduces a range of services to further accommodate its customers' needs by including enhanced flexibility and full refundability on economy flex becoming more responsive to last minute changes in travel plans.

Economy flex fare also includes priority boarding, baggage and check-in and 35kg checked in baggage to ensure more comfortable flights.

All designed to make travel with Malaysia Airlines a seamless and enjoyable experience throughout.

Sustainability on high priority in the sky

Sustainability remains a key focus for Malaysia Airlines who are committed to leading the way towards a more sustainable future.

In 2021 Malaysia Airlines introduced the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) on selected flights to significantly reduce aviation emissions in the near term.

Using SAF is a monumental step forward towards a more sustainable future in the aviation industry.

Seven-star rating for COVID-19 safety

Malaysia Airlines is proud to be awarded the full 7-star rating by AirlineRatings.com for our COVID-19 health and safety measures.

As they remain committed to offering the highest standards of safety and hygiene, all passengers to comply strictly to the measures in place so that you can fly confidently with us.

As a member of oneworld®, Malaysia Airlines and its partners in the global alliance offer a seamless travel experience to more than 1,000 destinations across the world.

malaysiaairlines.com

PARKROYAL COLLECTION KUALA LUMPUR

A new chic hotel for the capital, showcasing an eco-wellness concept enhanced by luxurious design and inspiring experiences.

PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala Lumpur has proudly opened its doors to welcome guests. The hotel marks a momentous first for Pan Pacific Hotels Group, as it expands the PARKROYAL COLLECTION brand to Malaysia.

PARKROYAL COLLECTION hotels are designed with the environment and wellness of being in mind.

Located in the heart of Bukit Bintang, PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala Lumpur comprises 527 rooms and suites, roof terrace greenery making up 1,200 square metres of lush plants and a vertical garden façade with sky planters.

Amid the hustle and bustle of urban life, PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala Lumpur is a welcome hideaway in a world of biophilia nestled among city skyscrapers.

Guests can immerse themselves further in relaxation and nature with the in-house wellness facilities, comprising St Gregory spa, a modern gymnasium, fitness studio, as well as a resort-like swimming pool surrounded by lush greenery.

Beneath its biophilic design, the hotel features environmentally conscious operations including sustainable bathroom amenities,

biodegradable packaging, filtered drinking water solution in every guestroom and a food-waste management system.

Three innovative food and beverage venues promise an exciting addition to the dynamic local gastronomic landscape.

Thyme is a culinary theatre with live cooking stations, serving a sumptuous selection of local and western cuisine sustainably sourced.

The Botanist Lounge and Bar celebrates Malaysian fauna diversity in its design along with innovative drinks with a focus on local ingredients, while Skye Chill celebrates a serene space of wellbeing by day and a relaxing terrace lounge by night.

With 1,664 square meters of versatile meeting and event spaces, PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala

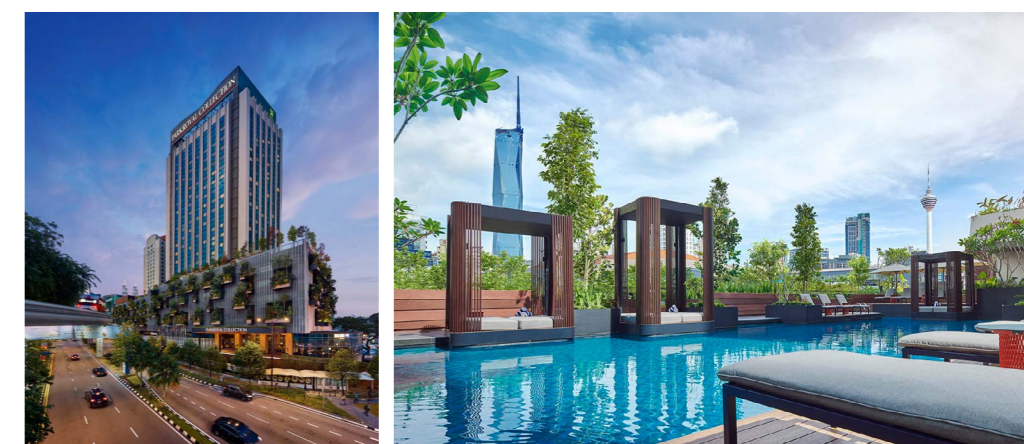
Lumpur is the destination of choice for inspiring events and celebrations.

Experienced Celebration Curators and culinary teams are on hand to execute each event to precise detail, with epicurean menus, chic decor and refined settings ensuring every celebration is truly memorable.

"PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala Lumpur will be the new eco-chic icon and social hub of the city, providing a refreshing green surrounding for guests to reconnect with nature, the community and themselves," said Cristian Nannucci, Complex General Manager, PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala Lumpur.

"We look forward to delivering inspiring experiences, memorable stays and heartfelt celebrations."

panpacific.com



HOW TO ENTER

We've hidden **four questions** based on the information on these pages within the November issue. All you have to do is find the questions, work out the answer and head to our website to enter.

The winner drawn after the competition closes will win two economy return tickets to Kuala Lumpur with Malaysia Airlines and a two-night stay at the PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala Lumpur. For full terms and conditions, see our website. Good luck!

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)



