

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page.

## Last day for comp

**CRAFTY** industry people, it's nearly time to down those tools!

Today is the last day for entries in this month's *Travel Daily* competition, with an exclusive opportunity to win an A-ROSA European river cruise.

Entry details are on **page six**.

## 737-MAX testing

**THE** US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has given the go-ahead for flight-certification testing of the Boeing 737 MAX, which has now been grounded globally for more than 15 months after two fatal crashes.

The flights, operated by FAA pilots, will test Boeing's changes to the automated flight control system blamed for the crashes.

## Emerald's brand launch

**EMERALD** Waterways will become a stand-alone brand in the Australian market from next month, parent company Scenic Group has revealed (**TD** breaking news).

Emerald Waterways has been marketed under the Evergreen Cruises and Tours brand since 2014, with guests booked through Evergreen, but travelling on Emerald ships.

Evergreen Director - Sales, Marketing and Product Angus Crichton told *Travel Daily* the move would set up Emerald Waterways and Emerald Yacht Cruises to be one-stop brands for small ship cruising.

"Not only would you be able to do small ship cruising on the rivers, but with the start of Emerald Yacht Cruises with *Azzurra* which will be launching in 2021, you'll be able to use one brand...and people feel comfortable with the one brand."

He flagged the benefit of guests being able to deal with the one brand in the instance of linking river cruising and small yacht cruising, which he said could be possibility in the future.

"Very much like how Scenic works with its river cruising and *Eclipse*," he explained.

Emerald Waterways will release its cruising brochure and new product in coming weeks, with agent phone numbers to remain the same.

Crichton said the move would be a transition, with Emerald to launch a new website soon.

He also reinforced that the brand would have the same commitment to travel agents, noting that it remained under Scenic's ownership, it just hadn't been marketed in Australia as a brand.

Evergreen Tours will continue to offer its land-based touring.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

## Ellison to Chair SLK

**FORMER** SeaLink Travel Group CEO Jeffrey Ellison has been appointed as the company's Chairman, replacing Andrew McEvoy who has taken a new role based in Saudi Arabia (**TD** 17 Apr).

SeaLink thanked McEvoy for his "valuable input and advice" since he joined the board in 2015.

After engaging an executive search firm to seek his replacement, the board has now appointed Ellison to act as Chair "to ensure successful delivery of the company's strategy whilst it continues to review the expertise and characteristics required to lead the board for the future".

SeaLink has also appointed former Aurizon MD Lance Hockridge as a new non-executive Director, saying he has "extensive international experience in the transportation, manufacturing and logistics sectors with a focus on safety, operational and financial transformation of businesses".

#LoveNSW

# LOVE NSW



The time has come to hit the road and reboot 2020... one unforgettable experience at a time! After months of inspiring travellers to dream about their next adventure, we can finally encourage people to plan and take their next NSW holiday. Thank you for helping them turn those dreams into a reality.

**Click here to receive all the latest news and information on travel in NSW**



visitnsw.com/love-nsw





**LIVE from Istanbul Turkey!**

Meet Alp from Age Tourism & Events on our Instagram LIVESTREAM, Wednesday 1st July at 5pm (Melbourne time).



## QF lounges to open

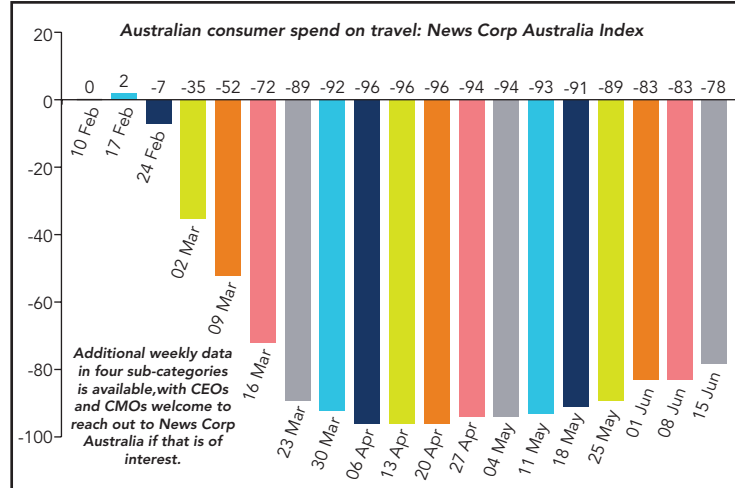
**QANTAS** has announced it will reopen some of its domestic and regional lounges across the country in line with the easing of COVID-19 travel and venue capacity restrictions.

All of QF's lounges have been closed since 23 Mar due to the government requirements which shut down the majority of domestic and international flying.

The phased reopening will see 11 of the airline's 35 domestic lounges open tomorrow, with a range of measures including caps on numbers, a hosted All Day Snacking Station instead of self-serve buffets and drink areas, disposable coffee cups, sanitising stations and additional cleaning protocols.

All lounges have been deep cleaned during the closure.

## Spending uptick continues



### EXCLUSIVE

**CONSUMERS** continue to gradually open their wallets for spending on travel, with the latest News Corp Australia figures (pictured) once again showing an improvement from the depths of a few weeks ago.

The index is up five points on last week's figures, with News Corp's MD Food & Travel Fiona Nilsson saying the results include the "first significant growth in cruise spend for more than three months".

She said News Corp had also observed a strong correlation between growth in travel spend and the number of travel

advertisements in the market, with both displaying increases from early May.

"Accommodation, cruise, airlines and travel agents, in that order, all showed strong growth," Nilsson said.

The data is an index of consumer spend with major brands across accommodation, air, cruise, OTAs, agents and tour companies.

## VA tax statement

**THE** Administrators of Virgin Australia today formally advised investors that there is "no likelihood that shareholders of VAH will receive any distribution for their shares".

Deloitte said on the basis of the statement shareholders may be able to claim capital losses in respect of their holdings in the carrier, subject to independent legal and taxation advice.

The declaration also notes that under the new Sale and Implementation Deed entered into with Bain Capital (TD 26 Jun) "we do not expect there will be sufficient recoveries to repay creditors in full".

## Emirates adds more

**EMIRATES** has announced the addition of flights to Glasgow, Male, Cairo and Tunis to its network during Jul, with the expansion bringing the EK destination portfolio to 52 ports across the Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Americas.

## HTA CEO search

**THE** Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) has announced it is seeking a new President and CEO, with incumbent Chris Tatum having announced he will retire at the end of Aug 2020.

Tatum joined the HTA in Dec 2018 after a 37-year-career with Marriott International.

Applications are being taken by Honolulu exec search firm Bishop & Company, with submissions due by 15 Jul and more info at [hawaiiourismauthority.org](http://hawaiiourismauthority.org).

## TripAdvisor "Reco"

**TRIPADVISOR** has soft launched a new platform called Reco which aims to connect consumers with travel agents.

Described as a "personalised travel service that connects you with a curated community of expert trip designers," the system allows users to share details of where they'd like to go.

Based on the selections a curated list of travel advisors is provided, and the consumer can then hire one of them for US\$199 who will then "use their insider knowledge and connections to get you the most value for your travel investment".

TripAdvisor said as destinations reopen it want to provide its users with a trusted source to "help you get back out there and travel confidently" - [helloreco.com](http://helloreco.com).

## GET YOUR MESSAGE TO LISTENING EARS



The *Travel Daily* News on the Fly weekly podcast offers a fantastic platform to keep your customers informed.

**CLICK HERE FOR INFO ON PODCAST SPONSORSHIP**

Travel Daily

## The itravel Group

# YOUR BUSINESS YOUR WAY

**Join the itravel family**

**MOBILE | FRANCHISE | LINK**

**FOR A CONFIDENTIAL CHAT CALL STEVE**  
0409 287 547  
[steve@itravel-au.com](mailto:steve@itravel-au.com)



## Halfpenny steps down at Aurora

EXCLUSIVE

**AURORA** Expeditions Managing Director Robert Halfpenny has resigned from his role at the cruise line, with Chairman Neville Buch stepping into an executive role while a longer-term replacement is sought.

Halfpenny, who joined Aurora in late 2016 after a range of other senior industry roles at Virgin Australia, Globus and Rocky Mountaineer, had overseen the company's significant expansion with the debut of the new *Greg*

*Mortimer*, sister ship *Sylvia Earle* and a third vessel now on order.

During his tenure Aurora's gross sales increased from \$13 million in 2016/17 to \$58 million in 2019/20.

He actually resigned in early May, but the company has now confirmed his departure, saying yesterday that Halfpenny is still discussing future opportunities with the Aurora board.

More details in today's *CW*.

## Europcar safety

**EUROPCAR** Mobility Group has announced a new 20-point vehicle hygiene check will be carried out between each rental using a specially formulated sanitiser, as part of a new Safety Program developed in partnership with Bureau Veritas.

Europcar MD Australia/NZ Ron Santiago said measures including social distancing in branches, stringent cleaning procedures and plexiglass safety screens meant the company is "delivering above and beyond what others in the industry have rolled out".

## Skal virtual lunch

**SYDNEY'S** Skal International industry networking club will host a "virtual lunch" on Wed 08 Jul, with participants encouraged to share their best French-themed item in a Bastille Day themed online event.

As well as general conviviality via Zoom, the session will feature some special guests joining from across the globe to share the experiences of Skalleagues near and far dealing with COVID-19 - to register [CLICK HERE](#).



## Dream restart plan

**GENTING** Hong Kong has announced the restart of cruise operations for Dream Cruises, with *Explorer Dream* to operate two and three-night Taiwan Island-Hopping itineraries beginning 26 Jul.

The cruises will depart from Keelung, and call at Penghu, Matsu and the Kinmen Islands.

The announcement comes after months of planning alongside authorities to ensure the safety and health of guests and crew.

During the past few months Genting has completely re-examined and enhanced all of its health and hygiene operations, including learnings from the charter of two vessels in Singapore to house foreign workers during the pandemic.

## Jetstar Asia cuts

**JETSTAR** Asia will cut five Airbus A320s from its fleet, and jettison 180 staff as part of measures to survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

The move will reduce the carrier's fleet to 13 aircraft, with the decision made in consultation with its 49% owner Qantas.

The job cuts equate to about a quarter of the Jetstar Asia workforce, while the majority of those who remain will continue to be stood down until Dec, according to the carrier's CEO Bara Pasupathi.

## G Adv extends

**G ADVENTURES** has further suspended its tours to include Aug departures.

All travellers booked and fully paid on a tour departing up to 31 Aug will receive a 110% travel credit on all booked tour services, including pre- and post-night accommodation and transfers, to be used on any tour departing up to two years from the end of the month of their tour's suspension.

Travellers who haven't yet made their final payment will have their Lifetime Deposit kept on file to put towards a future tour.



## Window Seat

**COVID-19** quarantine and lockdown is tough on everyone - but spare a thought for a Florida man who has been isolated for more than three months with just 200 parrots for company.

But rather than coronavirus, Majid "Magic" Esmaeli is "trapped" by a court order which has landlocked him on his five acre Zaksee Florida Bird Sanctuary in the city of Tampa.

Not quite the Tiger King, but perhaps the Parrot Prince, he recently sent an email to the *Tampa Bay Times* with a simple subject line: "SOS".

"I am prisoner in my own property with over 200 parrots. No way to get in or out," he said.

The court order means none of his staff or volunteers are able to help, meaning he's been caring solo for the birds.

"I get up before the sun and all day I am cleaning, fixing cages, feeding parrots until night."

Esmaeli, whose "Magic" nickname apparently comes from an uncanny ability to safely handle aggressive birds, is battling a judgement which has blocked the only access to the sanctuary, through a neighbouring property.

A video he posted appealing for help was accompanied by a cacophony of shrieks and squawks from his feathery friends, with Esmaeli saying "It's like living near the airport, you get used to the sound".

## Cirque restructure

**CIRQUE** du Soleil has filed for bankruptcy protection, and will "restructure its capital" under a proposed rescue deal.

The company runs six shows in Las Vegas, and has struggled to keep its business running amid COVID-19 restrictions, which have also seen it lay off about 95% of its workforce.



Move over  
meatballs,  
cocktails  
are coming!

With COVID continuing to have an impact on the travel industry, now more than ever, we need a drink!

Send us your unique cocktail recipes to lift our spirits for our weekly feature.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Travel Daily

## Hitting the ground running...



**NEWLY** appointed AFTA CEO Darren Rudd (**left**) has wasted no time since taking up the role yesterday, heading straight out to the Sydney suburb of Blacktown to meet some of the industry.

Rudd dropped in at the office of Breakaway Travel, where three generations of the Vella family are involved with the business.

He also met with local member Michelle Rowland, highlighting the plight of the industry in the grips of the COVID-19 crisis.

### Caribbean closure

**COVID-19** has led to the demise of Caribbean airline LIAT, with the countries of the region likely to “come together to form a new entity”, according to Gaston Browne, the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.

Browne told the *Jamaica Observer* a relaunched carrier, which will retain the LIAT name, would be significantly smaller, with hundreds of job losses.

LIAT, formerly known as Leeward Island Air Transport, was established in 1956 and then relaunched in 1974 under the joint ownership of 11 Caribbean governments.

The airline’s three ATR planes have been grounded for several months amid widespread regional border closures due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### H.I.S. agencies shut

**JAPANESE** travel agency group H.I.S. Travel has announced the closure of about a third of its 263 retail outlets across Japan.

As many as 90 shops will cease operating over the next 12 months to reduce costs in response to plummeting demand.

The company said many of the outlets to close are in major cities with overlapping territories.

H.I.S. will shift its focus to online sales and domestic touring products while demand for international trips is suppressed.

### Tassie bookings

**THE Spirit of Tasmania** is now accepting bookings for cruises across the Bass Strait in line with the planned reopening of Tasmania’s borders on 24 Jul.

Full refunds without any cancellation fees are available until midnight on 23 Jul, with the operator outlining a range of health and hygiene measures at [spiritoftasmania.com.au](http://spiritoftasmania.com.au).

### HX resumptions

**HONG** Kong Airlines is set to recommence flying on seven routes from 08 Jul, with GDS indicating the addition of services from Hong Kong to Bangkok, Beijing, Haikou, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Sanya and Taipei.

## Explore COVID refunds

**ADVENTURE** holiday specialist Explore Worldwide will offer full refunds for any customers forced to cancel holidays because they cannot travel due to COVID-19 self-isolation requirements.

The COVID-19 Refund Promise will also cover the cost of any flights booked through Explore.

The policy covers any clients booked to travel on one of Explore’s escorted group or self-guided trips (excluding Polar trips) and are unable to do so because they or a travelling companion is either diagnosed with COVID-19 or is required to self-isolate

because of government guidance.

Customers can cancel for a valid COVID-19 reason within four weeks of departure, up to and including the day prior to leaving, with cash refunds provided.

MD Joe Ponte said “there is a need to restore trust and faith in the travel sector,” with the promise aiming to give travel agents and their clients some reassurance that “we’ll keep them safe, that their money is safe with us and that, if they are diagnosed with COVID or are required to quarantine, they’ll get their money back”.

## AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

**THIS** week, AFTA is delighted to welcome to the helm new Chief Executive Officer Darren Rudd.

Darren’s background lies in management and stakeholder relations but he began his career in the travel industry, building and operating hotel management information systems.

We are pleased to welcome him back to the travel industry and at a time when his expertise is needed most!

Darren joins AFTA committed to working with members, the Board and industry stakeholders as together we work our way through the current economic challenges.

A key focus of AFTA continues to be that governments and regulators understand that unique position that our members are in and the critical role travel agents play in the travel supply chain.

Every ATAS travel agency, be they in-store or online is critical to the recovery of our sector.

It’s only day two on the job, and already Darren has taken to the streets, meeting with some of our members in the Blacktown area, and bringing along the local member Michelle Rowland (ALP).

This visit is the first of many in various electorates, and forms part of AFTA’s grassroots activation strategy, providing the new AFTA CEO with the opportunity to meet and listen, and learn, directly with AFTA

members.

Darren looks forward to meeting with members and key industry partners in due course. In the interim the AFTA team continue to be at the disposal of members.

AFTA travel agent members are invited to join AFTA’s Weekly Update this Friday to meet Darren Rudd - to register for attendance **CLICK HERE**.

For those that would like to know Darren a little bit more, here’s a few of his favourite things...

*Favourite holiday destination in Australia?* Depends on the time of year and my mood!

*Overseas?* All of Europe but in particular London and the Greek Islands.

*Favourite cuisine?* All types of cuisines (I’m a big foodie).

*Movie genre?* I enjoy history/spy thrillers (i.e., John le Carre).

*Coffee or Tea?* Flat white until 3pm, Green or Peppermint Tea in the afternoon.

*Do you follow any sports?* Rugby League, AFL and Tennis.

*What do you like to do to unwind?* I enjoy reading and heading to ‘the farm’ – a property that I own with my brother in the Upper Hunter.

*Favourite social beverage?* For celebrations I enjoy Ruinart Champagne from a Champagne house in Reims, France. For a casual beer with friends I’d choose a beer like a pale ale.



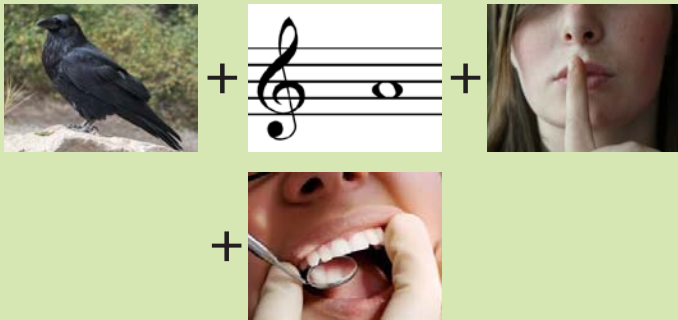
afta  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION  
OF TRAVEL AGENTS





## Pub quiz

1. What is the smallest island nation in the Indian Ocean?
2. Which pole would you find polar bears in the wild?
3. Which island is home to the widest variety of lemurs?
4. What is the capital of Lithuania?
5. Which country is home to the Devils Marbles Conservation Park?
6. Which country are you travelling in if you are visiting the famous Spanish Riding School institution?
7. Which country is famous for its sweet dessert Aletria?
8. What is the smallest ocean in the world?
9. Which island in New Zealand is home to the capital of Wellington?
10. What fun adrenaline activity did Kiwi entrepreneur AJ Hackett pioneer as a tourist attraction?
11. What country is this collection of pictures spelling out?



## Whose flag is this?



**CLEARLY** the person who designed this flag envisioned it being displayed in large format, because the coat of arms in the centre is very small.

Before the country became independent the colours weren't alternating with the top all being blue and the bottom red.

Do you know whose flag it is?

## Sudoku

MEDIUM

**THE** aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes.

6					5	4		
	9	8						
		1				5		8
		3		6		8	7	
1				3				5
	6	9		7		3		
9		5				6		
						2	8	
		4	2					9

www.sudokuoftheday.com - visit them and get a new Sudoku every day!

## Funnies Flashback



**WE'VE** trawled through the **TD** Window Seat archives to give you blast from the past. Here's some gems from 06 Jul 2012:

**WHO** says sport is healthy?

A Chinese soccer fan has died after depriving himself of sleep for 11 straight nights in order to stay up to watch every match from the Euro 2012 football tournament, which recently concluded in Poland & Ukraine.

Following a match between Italy and the Republic of Ireland, Jiang Xiaoshan went back to his home in Changsha, took a shower prior to going to work, passed out and was unable to be revived.

Doctors stated that alcohol, tobacco and the lack of sleep combined to cause the man's untimely demise.

### ANSWERS 29 JUN

Unscramble: abaft, abate, abet, bait, baiter, bare, barf, barite, bate, bear, beat, befit, beta, bier, bite, biter, brace, bract, brae, brat, brief, cabaret, caber, creab, crib, fabric, FABRICATE, fibre, tribe

Pub quiz: 1 The Real, 2 Uruguay, 3 b) 21,000km, 4 Wear it (it's a hat), 5 2,000 (2,435), 6 Nepal's, 7 True - named after Saint Lucy of Syracuse, 8 Kenya, 9 Ring of Fire, 10 The Yuan

## INTRODUCING THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY

A NEW SOLUTION TO GROW KNOWLEDGE IN THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY.

[CLICK HERE TO ENQUIRE](#)

Travel Daily

## Lufthansa 50% back

LUFTHANSA Group has announced 50% of its fleet will return to the skies in Jul.

Following on from demand for longer-term bookings, the company has published flight schedules through the end of Oct, encompassing Europe's autumn holidays.

The plans will see 380 aircraft back in service by Oct, which is 200 more than what is operating this month.

## BYO coffee cluster

NEXT month's BYO Coffee Cluster webinars have been announced, with a mix of tour operators, wholesalers, tourism offices, resorts, cruise lines and more scheduled to take part.

The webinar series is designed for travel agents, and takes place on Thu at 11am EST.

This week's session includes updates from Scenic, St Regis Bora Bora and Tahiti Tourisme - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

## The Surf House opens



BYRON Bay's newest accommodation The Surf House opened yesterday (pictured).

The property boasts the town's first open-air rooftop bar, and is in the heritage-listed Byron Council Chambers building, located two streets back from Main Beach.

Drawing inspiration from old-school Californian beach towns and Northern New South Wales surf culture, The Surf House is the third Byron Bay property from Millett Group, who also own The Lord Byron boutique hotel and premium hostel Wake Up! Byron Bay.

## MONEY

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

**AU\$1 = US0.685**

THE Aussie dollar held steady overnight as the Dow Jones rebounded from six-week lows.

Despite big gains in US share markets, which saw the Dow jump 2.3%, the Aussie maintained its pace.

However, the AUD is enjoying nine-month highs against Britain's pound, which fell following market concern about the economic impact of a proposed big-spending bill.

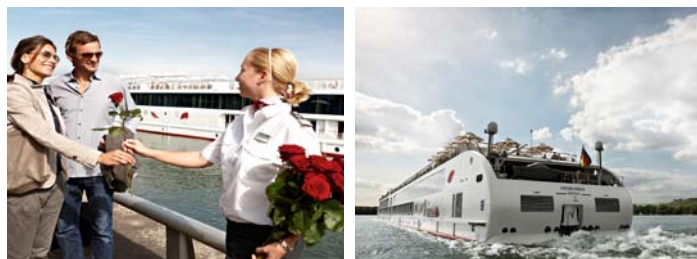
Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.685
UK	£0.557
NZ	\$1.061
Euro	€0.609
Japan	¥73.86
Thailand	฿21.06
China	¥4.803
South Africa	11.77
Canada	\$0.932
Crude oil	US\$41.02

## MEETINGS 2021

CONVENTIONS and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) has revealed the dates for MEETINGS 2021, which will be held 30 Jun to 01 Jul 2021 at Te Pae Christchurch, the city's new convention centre.

CINZ postponed this year's MEETINGS event until further notice in Mar, following restrictions from the New Zealand Government on public gatherings (TD 17 Mar).



## Build an A-ROSA Ship & Win a 7-night European River Cruise

This month Travel Daily has partnered with A-ROSA River Cruises to give you the chance to win a 7-night European river cruise.

Captivated by vibrant cities like Antwerp and Amsterdam along the northern section of the RHINE or picturesque towns like Koblenz or Strasbourg on the southern route?

To win visit A-ROSA's website [www.arosa-cruises.com/au](http://www.arosa-cruises.com/au) & check out which of their 12 ships operates the cruise of your dreams.

**Pick your ship and use your imagination to draw, paint or build it!**

Find any utensils suitable to create the A-ROSA ship that operates your favourite cruise on Rhine (Main/Moselle), Danube, Seine or Rhône.

Take a selfie with your creation send it to [arosa@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:arosa@traveldaily.com.au). Don't forget to also tell us in 25 words or less why you chose this particular A-ROSA cruise.

**AROSA**

Cruising differently

Terms & Conditions + full prize details

For confidential tip offs, connect with Travel Daily via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)

Travel Daily

Travel Daily

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

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

Produced each weekday since 1994, Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

### EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Editor – Jasmine Hanna

Contributors – Adam Bishop, Nicholas O'Donoghue, Myles Stedman, Jenny Piper, Christian Schweitzer  
[info@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:info@traveldaily.com.au)

### ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Hoda Alzubaidi  
[advertising@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@traveldaily.com.au)

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper  
[accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia  
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8213 6350)

Travel Daily operates by paid subscription to people within the travel industry - sign up at [www.traveldaily.com.au](http://www.traveldaily.com.au).

CRUISE WEEKLY

travelBulletin

business events news

Pharmacy Daily

Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of Travel Daily no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.