

Shangri-La special

SHANGRI-LA Hotel, The Marina in Cairns is offering 30% off for travel agents, airline staff and other tourism professionals.

Rates are subject to blackouts and industry ID is required on check-in - call 07 4031 1411.

Global role for Londregan

VIRTUOSO has promoted Michael Londregan to become the organisation's Senior Vice President, Global Operations, almost exactly seven years after he was appointed to lead the network's expansion in Australia, NZ and Asia (**TD** 23 Jan 2014).

Londregan will continue to be based in Sydney, leading the local team in Australia and NZ, but will also have responsibility for the brand in other parts of the world and will be part of Virtuoso's senior leadership team.

Virtuoso Chairman and CEO Matthew Upchurch said Londregan's appointment was "another move to strengthen our global focus and growth," with the group continuing to lay the groundwork for its future.

Virtuoso has also announced the appointment of Nicole Chalwell as its new Account Director Australia and NZ, following previous roles with Hotelbeds, CWT, The Star and 12 years with British Airways.

Londregan said Chalwell's appointment strengthened Virtuoso's commitment to the local market, its members and product partners.

"Our member agencies are utilising the hiatus in

international travel to prepare the business for recovery," he said.

"We believe Virtuoso will play a vital role as our member network leads the way forward," Londregan added, noting strong interest in membership and expectations of significant local expansion through the year.

The updates come alongside Zoe Dean's new role as Virtuoso's Marketing Manager for Australia and NZ (**TD** 22 Jan) - more appointments on **page five**.

AFTA, Tehan meet

A MEETING yesterday between AFTA and Tourism Minister Dan Tehan was a "constructive one in which the issues and concerns of the sector were discussed in great detail," according to AFTA Chairman Tom Manwaring.

Tehan confirmed that \$61 million had already been paid out from the \$128m Travel Support Program, with another 1,010 applications in progress.

Manwaring and AFTA CEO Darren Rudd said they had detailed the challenges being faced by the sector, confirming the Minister was "committed to continuing to work with AFTA to support the industry".

MEANWHILE the Save the Travel Industry petition urging an extension of JobKeeper has so far garnered 23,000 signatures, claiming 90% of agents will collapse in the absence of support.

Qantas most trusted

QANTAS has emerged as the most trusted travel brand in Australia, according to the latest data published by Roy Morgan.

The flag carrier ranked fifth overall between Apr and Sep, with Woolworths taking top spot.

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Today's issue of TD

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

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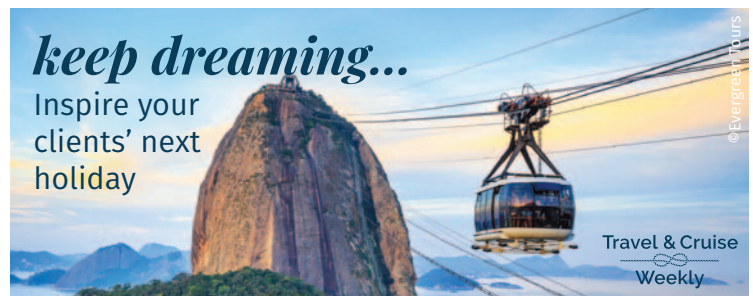
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Scenic invites you and your clients, to join our Virtual Travel Showcase series over the coming weeks. Join us 11 February for interactive sessions on Tasmania and Norfolk Island with the Scenic Sales team and expert Journey Designer.

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Cruise lines tested

AMERICAN Queen Steamboat Co (AQSC) and Victory Cruise Lines have made it mandatory for pax to get COVID-19 vaccinations to board their ships, as well as mandating all crew & tour coach drivers be vaccinated from 01 Jul.

Regent, Oceania look to home

THE rapid evolution of Australia's travel sector through the COVID-19 pandemic has seen Regent Seven Seas and Oceania Cruises adapt strategies towards supporting home-based advisors, as well as honouring industry partnerships which have endured through both good & bad times.

Steve Odell, Senior VP and MD Asia Pacific for Regent and Oceania, told **TD** yesterday the approach had seen Martine Nunes deployed to a dedicated Oceania role serving home-based agent networks in Australia (**CW** 30 Nov 2020), while Elsa McLean has this week taken up a similar new position for Regent.

The shift recognises the key role of individual advisors and their relationships with clients, he said, complementing more traditional arrangements through travel agency groups and wholesalers.

"We want to support the strong and loyal partners who have stuck with us all the way," Odell added.

The SVP said despite current border closures, the brands were seeing exceptional demand particularly for longer cruises with departure dates further out, as consumers make aspirational plans for when restrictions end.

Record bookings for the recently launched Oceania and Regent world cruises had "simply blown us away," he said.

Odell said the luxury sector was well positioned for the recovery, with successful vaccine rollouts

raising expectations that cruising will once again well and truly be under way in 2022.

Regent and Oceania have returned to running face-to-face events, and are planning to operate "cluster meetings" for home-based advisors from a variety of groups.

Regent is also stressing its "unrivalled all-inclusive offering" which now features free valet laundry, as well as the significantly larger personal space on offer across its fleet, with some of the biggest balconies and suites at sea, as well as expansive public spaces and small group excursions.

The company's team is now back full-time and ramping up activity in expectations of a boom once cruising returns, Odell said.

Club Med appoints

CLUB Med has appointed Lisa Bacon to the newly created role of Head of Sales - Trade and MICE for Australia and New Zealand.

Bacon returns to the brand after a 15-year absence, where she held major sales roles with companies like Radisson Hotel Group and The Hotel Connection, and had previously worked with Club Med across various departments including finance, reservations, operations and meetings and events.

More appointments sponsored by Club Med are on **page five**.

Uniworld flexibility

UNIWORLD customers can now make changes to cruises up to 60 days prior to departure without incurring any fees and also get a full refund for cancellations made 120 days before departures in 2022 when customers pay in full.

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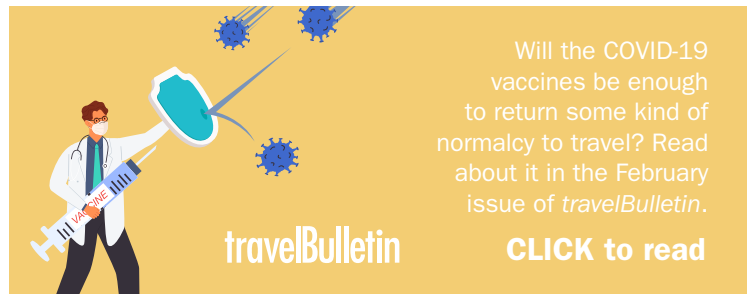
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Will the COVID-19 vaccines be enough to return some kind of normalcy to travel? Read about it in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin

CLICK to read

Robu grabs wheel

MELBOURNE Star Observation Wheel has been purchased by Swiss company Robu Group.

The ferris wheel's first day under its new ownership was Mon, with a master plan being drawn up now to create new visitor activities and experiences, both in and around the attraction.

Robu Chief Executive Officer Ronald Bussink has been the lead designer on more than 100 ferris wheels globally.

Referral discounts

SILVERSEA Cruises is now offering its Venetian Society loyalty members \$650 in savings per suite when they refer a new guest to the line by 31 Mar.

The new Sail With Us promotion also offers the referred friend the same \$650 discount per suite, with even greater reductions of \$2,000 per suite available when a person is referred to book on Silversea's full World Cruises.

QF inks new capacity deal

QANTAS has agreed to terms with Alliance Airlines on a new capacity agreement which will see the carrier access up to 14 Embraer E190 aircraft from mid-2021 (**TD** breaking news).

The three-year wet lease agreement was motivated by a need for Qantas to utilise jets that better meet the size and range needed to service select regional Australian city routes as domestic demand begins to ramp up around Jun.

The Embraer E190, 16 of which were only acquired recently by Alliance Airlines for \$85 million (**TD** 18 Dec 2020), can seat up to 94 passengers and have a maximum flight range of five hours, with routes linking Adelaide, Darwin and Alice Springs flagged as the likely initial Qantas deployment.

Qantas is tipping domestic travel volumes to return close to pre-COVID levels by Jun, which is the

time the airline says it will need greater flexibility in its fleet to service the upswing in demand.

"We know this current climate of snap border closures will pass and we want to be ready for the recovery and for what is a structurally different market to what we had pre-COVID," said QantasLink CEO John Gissing.

"The E190 is a perfect mid-size regional jet for routes like the ones in northern Australia.

"It has longer range than our 717s and it's about half the size of our 737s, which means the economics work well on longer flights between cities and towns outside of the top five population centres," he added.

The agreement allows Qantas to deploy its international pilots and crew on the jets, with many still furloughed during the prolonged overseas travel shutdown.

Embraer E190s offer 10 Business and 84 Economy class seats.



Window Seat

FINALLY, someone said it, but we didn't think it was going to be Tourism New Zealand to raise it first quite frankly.

The tourism agency, known for its tongue-in-cheek approach to inspiring travel, has playfully asked social media influencers to halt the countless narcissistic selfies and be more original.

Stop travelling "under the social influence", a new video from Tourism NZ implores, with comedian Tom Sainsbury forming part of a Social Observation Squad to clamp down on pedestrian tourism photos - see the full video **HERE**.



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Know your brands

LOGOS are the main way that companies distinguish themselves, and some logos are so famous that you don't even need to see the company's name to know who it is.

See if you can identify these four logos.

1



2



3



4



Whose flag is this?



THE Union Jack is the official flag of this state, but there are a variety of flags used throughout the territory.

This flag pictured is what the nation uses at the Olympic Games and similar international events, and has done since 1969.

It includes the Union Jack, along with the territory's coat of arms.

The woman in the coat of arms is St Ursula, who was a legendary leader of 11 (or 11,000, depending on the source) virgins who were martyred in Germany in the 4th century.

This country was named for St Ursula by Christopher Columbus when he sighted it in 1493.

Do you know whose flag this is?

ANSWERS 03 FEB

Pub quiz: 1 India, 2 Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, 3 United Kingdom, 4 a) 370 million, 5 Apples, 6 Uruguay, 7 Denpasar, 8 Egypt, 9 Jordan River, 10 Aalborg, Dawson City, Newcastle, Riga, Szczecin, Tromso, Warsaw

Seen it at the movies: Muriel's Wedding

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

Whose animal is this?



KEEL-BILLED toucans are known for their great, canoe-shaped bill, and brightly coloured green, blue and orange feathers.

These toucans are native to Latin America, found in tropical jungles from southern Mexico to Columbia, and they are the national bird of one of the

countries in this region.

They eat fruits, seeds, insects, invertebrates, lizards, snakes and small birds.

Toucans are very social creatures and live in groups, often sharing living quarters in holes in trees.

Do you know whose national bird this is?

Theme parks search

T	E	M	M	Q	R	Y	B	I	W	D	D	V	W	G
G	I	Z	X	S	E	O	V	L	A	L	N	D	F	K
N	W	R	F	E	B	P	V	Z	L	I	A	L	E	S
Q	B	A	D	A	U	Z	A	C	T	W	L	R	R	I
O	D	G	L	W	S	V	Y	K	D	N	Y	O	R	X
R	K	I	R	O	C	T	R	D	I	T	E	W	A	F
L	R	N	O	R	H	D	R	N	S	E	N	M	R	L
E	A	G	W	L	G	O	E	A	N	W	S	A	I	A
G	P	W	E	D	A	O	B	L	E	Z	I	E	W	G
O	A	A	I	K	R	W	S	Y	Y	T	D	R	O	S
L	N	T	V	P	D	Y	T	E	W	T	O	D	R	E
A	U	E	O	K	E	L	T	N	O	P	Y	K	L	P
N	L	R	M	M	N	L	O	S	R	Q	K	B	D	W
D	C	S	W	J	S	O	N	I	L	D	O	V	T	C
E	U	V	G	G	X	D	K	D	D	L	T	F	W	Q

SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

DISNEYLAND
SEAWORLD
DREAMWORLD
MOVIEWORLD
SIXFLAGS
WALTDISNEYWORLD
TOKYODISNEYLAND
DOLLYWOOD

WETNILD
LUNAPARK
BUSCHGARDENS
KNOTTSBERRY
RAGINGWATERS
FERRARIWORLD
LEGOLAND

The art of storytelling



ARCADIA Expeditions has announced the launch of a new 15-day private air safari to remote regions of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The latest tour, called **Indigenous Immersion: The Art of Storytelling**, is an expert-led adventure taking travellers to some of the country's most fascinating rock art and landscapes, as well as meetings with Indigenous elders for in-depth learning about each area.

"Aboriginal Australians remain one of the most misunderstood Indigenous populations in the world," said Arcadia Expeditions co-founder David Adams.

"This expedition is aimed

at people who are curious to learn about the complexity and spiritual depth of Indigenous Australia," he added.

Guests will stay at the regions' most luxurious camps and lodges, and take a ride on a flying boat in the Kimberley, hop aboard various cruises and be led by experts on bush tucker walks.

Prices for the tours lead in at \$35,000 per person, with departures available across a range of dates in 2021 and 2022.

Pictured: A tour examines some Indigenous rock art.

Exodus pledges planet promise

EXODUS Travels has partnered with Rewilding Europe as part of a new sustainability agreement which will see 100m² of Italian Apennine land rewilded for every person that books a new trip with the operator.

The latest deal adds to a long list of environmental initiatives for Exodus, which has previously revealed the goal of halving its carbon footprint per pax by 2030.

Princess rolls dice

PRINCESS Cruises has unveiled new real-time sports gambling options aboard its MedallionClass vessels, allowing pax to punt on sports such as NFL, basketball, baseball and hockey.

Ocean Sportsbook is operational where gambling is legal, or in int'l waters, and will be on offer when Princess is allowed to sail again.



Rex links with Sabre

REGIONAL Express (Rex) has enhanced its long-term SabreSonic passenger solutions suite deal to power its rapid domestic and regional expansion.

The agreement will see Sabre provide enhanced IT capabilities to Rex, particularly around the airline's sales and operations procedures, as part of Sabre's commercial platform.

SabreSonic will assist Rex's inventory, reservations, ticketing, ancillaries, and check-in support.

The Top End tops up

THE NT's Territory Tourism Voucher Round 3 has once again gone gangbusters, with 10,000 residents snapping up the coupons within five minutes.

Valued at up to \$200, the vouchers are redeemable on a \$1 for \$1 basis, and can be used on multiple tourism experiences in the Red Centre, Katherine and Barkly regions.

Territorians who travel further will be able to apply for an additional \$200 bonus claim.

APPOINTMENTS

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which is brought to you by **Club Med**. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.



TriPADeal has named **Matt Wolfenden** as its new Chief Operating Officer. Wolfenden was most recently the company's Head of Product, and before that, served as Head of Product & Operations, Operations Manager, and General Manager Wholesale.

Club Med has appointed **Lisa Bacon** to the role of Head of Sales - Trade and MICE for Australia and New Zealand. Bacon returns to the brand after a 15-year absence after roles with companies such as Radisson Hotel Group.

Nell Harrison has taken on a new Managing Director role with **The Association Specialists**. She joins the event management company, taking over the role from TAS owner Francis Child, who will move into the position of Executive Chair.

TFE Hotels has announced the appointment of **Sai Amani** as General Manager of **Vibe Hotel Melbourne**, moving from his current role as GM of Vibe Hotel Marysville. Supporting him in his role is **Vanesa Kaya**, who joins Vibe Melbourne as Executive Assistant Manager from her position as Adina Apartment Hotel St Kilda Melbourne Hotel Manager.

Nigel Morrison is joining the new-look **Crown Resorts** board in the role of Non-Executive Director. Morrison was formerly the Chief Executive Officer for SkyCity Entertainment Group and continues to be a Partner at St Lewis Capital.

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