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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

AUSTRALIAN COASTAL CRUISES

1 NOV 2019 7 NIGHTS BRISBANE TO BRISBANE

Brisbane - Sydney - Newcastle - Gladstone - Sunshine Coast - Brisbane

Inside from \$1367 pp; Oceanview from \$1511 pp; Balcony from \$1780 pp

8 NOV 2019 7 NIGHTS BRISBANE TO BRISBANE

Brisbane - Sydney - Newcastle - Gladstone - Sunshine Coast - Brisbane

Inside from \$1367 pp; Oceanview from \$1511 pp; Balcony from \$1780 pp

22 NOV 2019 6 NIGHTS BRISBANE TO BRISBANE

Brisbane - Sydney - Newcastle - Gladstone - Brisbane

Inside from \$1180 pp; Oceanview from \$1295 pp; Balcony from \$1525 pp

28 NOV 2019 8 NIGHTS BRISBANE TO BRISBANE

Brisbane - Sunshine Coast - Sydney - Newcastle - Gladstone - Mooloolaba - Brisbane

Inside from \$1574 pp; Oceanview from \$1728 pp; Balcony from \$2034 pp

CRUISE TO NEW ZEALAND

6 DEC 2019 7 NIGHTS BRISBANE TO WELLINGTON

Brisbane - Sydney - Milford Sound - Doubtful Sound - Dunedin - Wellington

Inside from \$1222 pp; Oceanview from \$1356 pp; Balcony from \$1625 pp

6 DEC 2019 9 NIGHTS BRISBANE TO AUCKLAND

Brisbane - Sydney - Milford Sound - Doubtful Sound - Dunedin - Wellington - Gisborne - Auckland

Inside from \$1562 pp; Oceanview from \$1735 pp; Balcony from \$2081 pp

**For bookings & information contact your preferred travel partner,
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All prices are per person twin share in AUD. Offer is subject to availability. Prices are inclusive of port & handling taxes. Valid for bookings until 31 Mar 2019. Valid for departures between 1 Nov 2019 and 6 Dec 2019. Offer is subject to change and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Gratuities are charged daily to guests' account and payable on board.

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New AAT, Trafalgar MDs

THE Travel Corporation today confirmed the appointment of long-time Trafalgar Australia chief Matthew Cameron-Smith as the MD of AAT Kings and Inspiring Journeys (**TD** breaking news).

Cameron-Smith will replace Hans Belle, who has resigned as head of AAT Kings after just over two years (**TD** 17 Nov 2016).

In his new role, Cameron-Smith will lead the AAT Kings team of over 400 staff across an Australian and NZ portfolio of guided holidays, short breaks and day tours, alongside the Inspiring Journeys small group offering.

TTC CEO John Veitch said Cameron-Smith had "played an integral role in the triumphs of Trafalgar over the last eight years." "His strong commercial

skills and business acumen, strategic thinking, internal and external stakeholder relations, motivational leadership style and passion for our brands will be a real asset to AAT Kings and Inspiring Journeys," Veitch added.

Cameron-Smith said he was thrilled to take the next step in his career while remaining within the Travel Corporation family, while Belle thanked the Tollman family for their support.

"Being part of the TTC and AAT Kings family was incredibly rewarding...having the opportunity to really explore and share the beauty of my Australian backyard with AAT Kings was an absolute privilege," he said.

TTC now commences a search for a new MD for Trafalgar, with Cameron-Smith taking up his new position effective 01 Apr.

Dream Bris cruises

DREAM Cruises is today highlighting the upcoming series of Brisbane departures of its newly refurbished *Explorer Dream*, which will cruise out of the Qld capital in Nov and Dec this year - for details see the cover page of today's **TD**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news and photos, a front cover wrap for **Dream Cruises**, plus full pages from:

- TMS Talent
- Windstar

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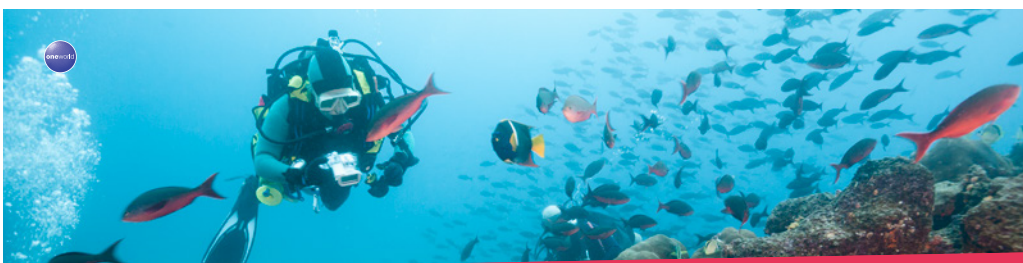
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QR expands UK

QATAR Airways is set to significantly boost capacity between Doha and the UK over the upcoming peak travel season.

Cardiff services will increase to daily from 30 May, while QR's Manchester and London Gatwick flights will go triple daily from Jun.

Ireland is also in the mix, with Doha-Dublin flights lifted to 11 weekly and the period seeing QR have a total of 119 weekly services out of the UK & Ireland.

QF, CX defend codeshare

QANTAS and Cathay Pacific have lodged a robust defence of their plans to expand their codeshare agreement on routes between Australia's east coast capitals and Hong Kong (**TD 09 Jan 2019**), in response to an invitation from the International Air Services Commission (IASC) to provide further information.

The application, which has been strongly opposed by rival Virgin Australia (**TD 24 Jan**), would see Cathay offer codeshare services on selected flights operated by Qantas from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to Hong Kong.

However in all cases the sectors would be only sold in conjunction with through journeys to "behind/beyond destinations," Qantas noted.

If approved, the expanded pact will see Qantas add its code to a total of 34 one-way routes operated by Cathay Pacific/Cathay Dragon from Hong Kong to India, Japan, Myanmar, Vietnam, South Korea and Sri Lanka, and on select Cathay services from Hong Kong to Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

In turn Cathay will add its code to a total of 57 one-way routes in the Qantas Australian domestic network, as well as selected Qantas flights to Hong Kong from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

The updated agreement prohibits either party from selling airfares on respective codeshare flights for the origin/destination routes where both airlines fly - namely point-to-point routes between Hong Kong and Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

QF noted that routes between Australia and Hong Kong are

growing in terms of passenger demand, while intense competition has driven a range of innovation and improved options from Qantas, Virgin Australia, Cathay and the Virgin/HNA Group/Hong Kong Airlines alliance.

"The proposal represents a pro-competitive expansion of each carrier's ability to sell and market itineraries, and will not substantially lessen competition on any relevant market," Qantas and Cathay claimed.

The response highlights a range of public benefits, including boosting tourism and trade, while also giving QF better options to India given changes to the distribution platforms of Jet Airways & Air India (**TD 23 Nov**).

Further submissions are now sought by the IASC, with a deadline of 25 Feb.

Agent sued over waterslide injury

THE British offshoot of Australian law firm Slater & Gordon is involved in a case where a woman is seeking damages from Thomas Cook after being "almost crushed to death" by an obese woman on a hotel waterslide.

Jemma Joslyn, aged 32, says she was on a Thomas Cook package holiday in Turkey when, having just come down the slide, the woman crashed into her at "around 30 miles per hour," leading to a range of injuries.

Slater & Gordon's Magdalena Knez said "every British holiday maker has the right to be protected by their holiday provider who should provide adequate care while they are abroad".

Alaska Qantas deal

ALASKA Airlines will launch its first inter-continental passenger codeshare service next month, with GDS screens confirming an expansion of its longstanding agreement with Qantas.

Effective 01 Mar the AS code will be added to Qantas services from Los Angeles to Brisbane and Melbourne, as well as the Melbourne-San Francisco, Sydney-Honolulu and Sydney-San Francisco routes.

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THE FUTURE OF EXPLORATION TRAVEL

Discover the lesser known Hawaiian islands. Read more in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

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UK crackdown on hotel sites

AUTHORITIES in the UK have secured a formal commitment from major online hotel booking sites to change their ways, after concerns were raised about misleading discount claims.

Booking.com, Expedia, Agoda and Hotels.com are among OTAs that have voluntarily agreed to a range of measures, including making it clearer how hotels are ranked after a customer has entered search requirements - and in particular highlighting when results are impacted by commissions paid to the site.

The OTAs have also agreed to stop giving a false impression of the availability or popularity of a hotel, or rushing customers into making a booking decision based on incomplete information.

The Competition and Markets Authority said it saw examples of sites strategically placing sold out hotels within search results to put pressure on people to book more

quickly and noted sites have now committed not to do this.

Sites will also now display all compulsory charges such as taxes, booking or resort fees in the headline price, while discount claims must compare "like for like" offers, rather than weekday versus weekend rates or between different room types.

All changes must now be implemented by 01 Sep.

MEANWHILE, airline OTAs in Britain are also under the microscope after a consumer investigation accused some of boosting their bottom lines by adding additional fees to ancillary items such as seat selection and baggage charges.

In one example, OTA Opodo was found to be doubling airline baggage fees, while others have been charging extra for customers wanting priority after-sales service, such as a fee of £19.90 for an answer within eight hours.

Qantas credit card

QANTAS has released a new ultra-premium credit card that offers benefits such as Qantas First Class Lounge access, Status Credits, flight discounts and the highest Qantas Points earn rate of any Mastercard or Visa credit card currently on the market.

Specific advantages of the new Qantas Premier Titanium Mastercard include: two Qantas First Lounge Invitations, two lounge Invitations, 20% bonus Status Credits on Qantas flights, 10% off Qantas flights for up to two bookings per year, and a whopping 150,000 bonus Qantas Points when you spend \$5,000 within 90 days of card approval.

Qantas Loyalty CEO Olivia Wirth said the Titanium card is targeting its growing high-spend members.

"We're seeing more and more of our members with points balances in the millions through strategic...use," she said.

View more information **HERE**.



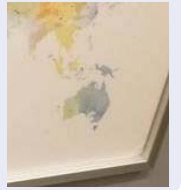
Window Seat

BAD luck Kiwis - maybe your country really doesn't exist.

Scandinavian furniture giant IKEA has been forced to issue a public apology after selling world maps that unfortunately have New Zealand missing.

The blunder was highlighted in Washington DC, where a person who purchased the BJORKSTA map (**pictured**) posted the massive error on social media.

Comedian Rhys Darby, who previously launched a campaign alongside PM Jacinta Ardern to investigate the absence of NZ on world maps, said the conspiracy against the country "is bigger than the moon landing and Loch Ness combined".



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ETC bags Tripfuser

EVOLUTION Travel Collective (ETC) has welcomed a new partner with the signing of online travel marketplace, Tripfuser.

Launched in 2017, Tripfuser is active in over 46 countries and allows travel professionals to connect with in-destination local agents who want to showcase their country by designing personal itineraries for each customer.

“We want to support travel agents and improve on the work they are already doing when putting together bespoke itineraries, by continuing to look at ways we can simplify, yet add value to that process,” said Matt Beard, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Tripfuser.

“To leverage off the enormous experience Pete and the team have within the retail network space will allow us to work closely with travel agents in providing an even more seamless experience.”

Bench Africa prog

BENCH Africa has announced it has shortlisted the top 50 applicants in this year’s Safari for Change program, with final winners to be revealed in coming days for a Jun departure.

The program, which is now in its third year, has raised over \$40,000 for charity programs in Zimbabwe since its inception.

JQ, AY codeshare

QANTAS has lodged an application with the International Air Services Commission (IASC) seeking to vary an existing determination on the Japan route to allow Jetstar to operate code share services with Finnair.

Qantas also wants to codeshare with Finnair on the New Zealand route from 31 Mar 2019.

The IASC is seeking submissions about the applications, with submissions set to close by 25 Feb 2019.



QUEENSLAND’S Ucango Travel & Cruise has become the first member of the Travellers Choice (TC) network to surpass one million dollars’ worth of bookings in one calendar year via its online partner TripADeal.

The arrangement, which sees members of the Travellers Choice network serving as fulfilment partners for TripADeal, offers members exclusive access to a range of unique travel packages which “attract a broad range of new customers”.

“More than 90% of our TripADeal customers had opted in to our marketing database, but they had never actually booked

with our agency,” said Ucango Travel & Cruise Centre owner Dave Hulsman.

“Travellers Choice’s preferred arrangement with TripADeal has allowed us to convert those prospects into confirmed bookings...we can now confidently offer our customers a full suite of products and services, from well-priced packages that appeal to those on a budget right through to full-service, high-end products,” he added.

Pictured: Ucango Travel & Cruise Centre’s Dave and Monique Hulsman celebrate passing the million dollar milestone with TripADeal.





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Explorer's maiden

ROYAL Caribbean's *Explorer of the Seas* made its maiden call to the Port of Newcastle on 10 Feb.

Accommodating up to 4,000 guests and 1,200 crew, *Explorer of the Seas* is the "third largest cruise ship based in Australia".

Her visit injected more than \$600,000 in a single day into the Newcastle, Hunter and Port Stephens regional economies in passenger spend alone.

Port of Newcastle CEO Craig Carmody said *Explorer of the Seas'* visit is an important milestone for the port in its biggest cruise season to date.

"*Explorer of the Seas'* maiden visit to Newcastle signifies the attraction of Newcastle as a destination port with its proximity to the Newcastle coastline, Hunter Valley wine region and Port Stephens," he said.

Explorer of the Seas visits Newcastle twice this season, returning on 16 Feb.

Adv World 2019/20

ADVENTURE World Travel has released its 2019/20 USA Collection, focusing on speciality lodgings and North America's national parks.

The collection's highlights include Utah's "Mighty Five" National Parks with the brand's new Under the Desert Sky itinerary, along with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where travellers can stay at Under Canvas Smoky Mountains or in Capitol Reef, Utah.

The brand also predicts New England as an emerging destination for 2019, encouraging travellers to explore the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Acadia National Park in Maine.

Visitors heading to New England can also explore the heritage of Colonial America and enjoy regional produce, such as clam chowder and pumpkin, peach and apple pies.

MOBILE Travel Agents' (MTA) met the Prime Minister Scott Morrison at a small gathering of Brisbane-based business leaders recently at the home of Executive Chairman of Australian private wealth management group Ord Minnett and Chairman of the Brisbane Broncos, Karl Morris.

Also in attendance were Treasurer, Joshua Frydenberg; Home Affairs Minister, Peter Dutton, and Australian Liberal Party President Nick Greiner.

Pictured are Mobile Travel Agents' (MTA) Co-Managing Directors, Karen and Roy Merricks with the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison.

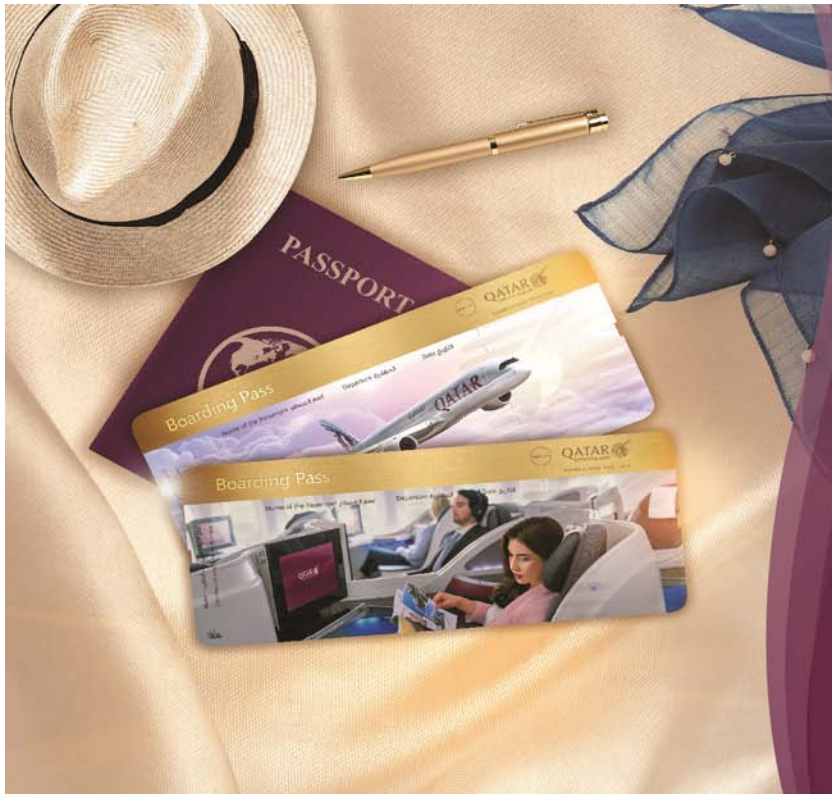
Tomorrowland inc

AGENTS can win a trip to EDM festival Tomorrowland for them and a friend as part of Busabout's latest incentive.

As the official travel partner of Tomorrowland, Busabout is offering an Unlimited Hop-on Hop-off pass and a Tomorrowland camping package for the winning agent and a friend.

To qualify, agents must be the Top Agent in Australia for overall sales in Feb or sell three Hop-on Hop-off passes (Europe, USA or Small Group Adventures) for one entry into a random prize draw.

CLICK HERE for more.



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* Offer valid until 18 February 2019, unless sold out prior. Fares (AUD) quoted above, including \$5,899* pp from Adelaide to Istanbul, are the lowest adult return prices per person (pp) including taxes, fees, and airport charges departing from Adelaide. *Companion refers to a minimum of two (2) and maximum of eight (8) people travelling together on the same booking for the entire journey. Business Class companion fares shown above are for travel between 1 March - 11 December 2019. Other sale fares are also available departing from Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Adelaide, and Canberra on other travel dates. Fares may vary due to currency fluctuations. Seasonal surcharges, weekend surcharges, and blackout periods may apply. A credit card transaction fee of 1.5% applies, with a maximum of AUD \$70 per person for bookings. There is no charge for debit card and other forms of payment. For all other terms and conditions please review at time of booking. For more information, visit the Qatar Airways website. Malta flights start 4 June 2019.

** To be eligible for the bonus Qmiles offer, Privilege Club members must register by 5 March 2019 or at least 24 hours prior to travel, whichever is earlier.

Govt probes refunds scheme

THE Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) is seeking feedback from stakeholders on a review of the Tourist Refund Scheme, looking at whether it is being effectively administered, with the appropriate management of risks.

Open for input until 03 Mar, the audit proposes to examine whether the Department of Home Affairs and Australian Taxation Office systems and procedures support the scheme well.

The ANAO is also looking at whether the government bodies have established suitable controls to “identify and mitigate delivery risks” in connection

with the program, which allows international visitors to Australia to obtain GST refunds on items purchased while in Australia.

Retailers using the Tourist Refund Scheme, along with travellers that frequently use the program, are being encouraged to lodge submissions.

The report from the probe is due to be tabled in Jun 2019, with submissions now accepted online at www.anao.gov.au.

Intrepid specials

INTREPID Travel is offering a range of discounts on select itineraries in Asia & the Americas.

Deals include a saving of \$1,171ppts on a 10-day Patagonia Trekking trip departing 17 Mar.

The adventure explores Chilean and Argentinian attractions.

A \$263 discount is also available on a 15-day south east Asia tour.

For more info call 1300 149 284.

Discover LA comp

DISCOVER Los Angeles is currently running a comp to win a trip for two to LA when they complete LA Insider by 12 Mar.

For further details on how to register, [CLICK HERE](#).

APT welcomes Canadian spirit



THE APT Travel Group’s head office recently welcomed a host of Canadian representatives who were in Australia to promote the many must-see attractions the country has to offer.

The group, who were in town for Canada’s Corroboree Showcase, included reps from Great Bear Lodge, Atlantic Tours, Discover Banff Tours, Churchill Wild, Tourism Manitoba, Grouse Mountain, Emerald Lake Lodge, and Calgary Stampede.

The APT and Travelmarvel teams were enchanted by the group’s many tales about bears, mountains, lakes and much more.

“It is a privilege to work so closely with our fabulous

suppliers and to share the benefits of those relationships with our guests,” said Travelmarvel’s North American Product Manager Brooke Rolley.

Pictured: The ATG Victorian sales team with Jonathan Welsh, Discover Banff Tours; Doreen Booth, Churchill Wild; Marg Leehane, Great Bear Lodge; Melanie Swenarchuk, Tourism Manitoba; Lynn Chappell, Grouse Mountain; Richard Arnold, Atlantic Tours; Allison Dean, Emerald Lake Lodge; Alison Lindsay, Butchart Gardens; Astokomii Smith, Calgary Stampede First Nations Princess; and Lindsay Jardine, Calgary Stampede.

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Pictured: Renee and Mel,
Journey Beyond Business Development Team



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SilkAir seat upgrade

SINGAPORE Airlines subsidiary SilkAir has announced an upgrade to the Business class seating on board its Boeing 737 MAX 8 fleet.

The carrier has selected Thompson Aero Seating to supply the seats, with the replacement to take place in May 2020 and offer new lie-flat models in a forward-facing staggered layout.

The new seats will be retrofitted onto aircraft already in the fleet, and installed at the time of arrival in Singapore for aircraft not yet delivered.

The upgrades are part of an investment program that will see SilkAir merged into SIA.

PNG DFAT warning

DFAT is advising Australian travellers to Papua New Guinea's Sogeri and Variarta National Parks to exercise a high degree of caution in light of new information relating to armed robberies of day trekkers.

Etihad A380 Seoul

ETIHAD Airways has announced it will operate an Airbus A380 on its daily service linking Abu Dhabi and Seoul from 01 Jul.

The airline's double-decker 486-seat A380 will provide passengers with nine private First Apartments, 70 Business Studios and 405 Economy Smart seats - including 80 Economy Space seats with a seat pitch of 91cm.

Hayman res open

RESERVATIONS are now open for the upcoming Hayman Island by InterContinental resort which is scheduled to open 01 Jul.

The 166-room luxury property has undergone a multimillion dollar refurbishment and will feature new restaurants, bars, spa, and meetings & event spaces.

A newly built beach house is another addition to the resort, boasting three suites and multiple private pools.

For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

Cunard doubles down on Oz



CUNARD President Simon Palethorpe was in Sydney yesterday to formally announce that the 2020/21 season will be the biggest ever for Australia.

Queen Elizabeth will once again service the local market, undertaking a record 118-day season which will include more than 60 itineraries.

Speaking about the decision to beef up the Aussie program for the third year in a row, Palethorpe said the growth of the domestic market was the primary driver.

"The growth is predominately coming from Australian guests, if you look at how much our Australian numbers have grown from 2016 to 2019, Australian passenger numbers have increased by 62%, which we are obviously delighted by," he said.

"This year we are 54 days in Australian waters which...gave us confidence last year to expand the program to almost double that to 101 days and that too is now selling really well which has given us the confidence to expand even further," he added.

New sailings set to be offered are 12- and 13-day cruises between Sydney and Auckland calling at a number of ports in New Zealand, as well as new calls to Tasmania and Victoria.

Another big announcement for the 2020/21 season includes visits from its flagship *Queen Mary 2* and *Queen Victoria*, both of which will sail to Australia during their respective world cruises, with the trio spending an unprecedented 49 days in local ports between them.

The latest program also reflects a further investment in Sydney, a shift Palethorpe said Cunard is actively working on to achieve.

"I would like to see us with more of a balance between Sydney and Melbourne - that would be ideal," Palethorpe said.

"We feel Melbourne and Sydney are both really strong markets for Cunard and if you look forward to 2020/21, we will be calling in at Melbourne nine times and calling at Sydney seven times - I like the balance of that," he added.

Cunard also flagged it would look to take advantage of the upcoming port terminal in Brisbane, opening up destinations such as PNG.

Full details of the 2020/21 program will be released 05 Mar, with sales opening 12 Mar.

Pictured: Cunard President Simon Palethorpe; Cunard Senior Manager ANZ Katrina McAlpine; & Cunard Vice President of International Development and Planning Matthew Gleaves.

SIGN UP

FOR 2019 FOOTY TIPPING

Footy tipping is back for 2019 with the grand prize of flights from Emirates for each code, plus weekly prizes from Expedia.

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Meet the Magpies winners



EMIRATES has announced the winners of its “Meet the Magpies courtesy of EK” competition, with Ben Guinane from APTI Melbourne and Michelle McCracken from APT Travel scoring the chance to meet the Collingwood AFL team on 05 Feb. The “Money can’t buy”

opportunity saw two lucky **Travel Daily** readers meeting members of the team and getting their photo taken for correctly answering three quiz questions.

The Q&As included:

- 1) How many A380s does Emirates currently operate in its fleet? A) 109
- 2) How many years will Emirates celebrate being a Collingwood Premier partner in 2019? A) 20
- 3) How many UK gateway airports does Emirates now fly to? A) Eight.

Pictured: Dean Cleaver, Emirates (far left), with winner Ben Guinane (far right).

In the middle are: Magpies coach Nathan Buckley flanked by guest Peter Fekete and winner Michelle McCracken.

Sky Princess team

PRINCESS Cruises has announced a new leadership team on board *Sky Princess*, including the appointment of Captain Heikki Laakkonen, who will take the helm and steer the ship into services from Italy’s Fincantieri shipyard on 20 Oct. He will be joined by Captain Michele Tuvo, who has been with Princess since 2000.

Also new to the *Sky Princess* team is Chief Engineer Officer Fabio Braccelli; Chief Engineer Officer Mladen Ratkovic; Hotel General Manager Terri Cybuliak; Hotel General Manager Richard Harry; Staff Captain Giovanni Cardile, and Staff Captain Brian Whelan.

WIN WITH HEBRIDEAN ISLAND CRUISES



This week Hebridean Island Cruises and Travel Daily are offering readers the chance to win a \$50 Visa gift card everyday!

Hebridean Island Cruises is unique and elegant way to cruise remote and off the beaten track locations. Carrying just 50 guests, *Hebridean Princess* has an enviable reputation for exceptional service, fine food and wine and the very warm welcome extended by her dedicated crew of 38. She has thirty spacious, elegant and well-appointed cabins, 10 designed especially for the single traveller. Discover Hebridean’s Exclusive Agent Offer online now at [Agent World Australia!](http://AgentWorldAustralia.com)

To win, be the first agent to send the correct answer to the question to hebridean@traveldaily.com.au.

2. Taking place during our Gala Dinners, what Scottish tradition would no cruise be complete without?

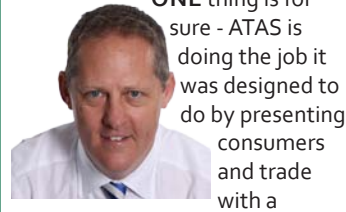
HINT: The answer can be found in the 2019 Hebridean Princess Cruises Directory [HERE!](#)



HEBRIDEAN ISLAND CRUISES

AFTA UPDATE

from Jayson Westbury



ONE thing is for sure - ATAS is doing the job it was designed to do by presenting consumers and trade with a clear difference between travel businesses that put themselves forward for accreditation, and those that don't.

The numbers are strong, and as at last year 1,400 travel businesses representing some 2,800 locations nationally have elected to participate in the scheme. This is important for two reasons. The first is that these businesses have met the criteria agreed by industry, for industry, and have met the standards that have been applied. The second, and equally important point, is that these businesses have elected to support their own industry body to ensure that AFTA remains relevant, robust and capable of responding to the many things that government and other stakeholders may choose to inflict upon travel businesses in Australia.

CLICK HERE to get the latest full report and stats on ATAS participants, & **CLICK HERE** to get all the latest info on complaints.

In relation to complaints, the report shows that in 2018 AFTA received 120 more complaints than in 2017, and more than double that was received in 2016. While this may be a worry for industry, we believe that this is a reflection of awareness as consumers become more informed of the scheme and the way in which the scheme can assist to mediate complaints

without the need for legal intervention or expensive cases in the Administrative Tribunals around the country - a true and valuable benefit of being an ATAS participant.

As the wake of the Banking Royal Commission comes into force and the government considers what to do with the findings, rumblings circle about whether travel agents should be in some way included in this mire of fall out, and AFTA strongly believes that it should not be inflicted with more red tape and rules when it relates to commissions.

The NSW Government has taken the first step and has passed legislation upon which those businesses who earn a commission may have to disclose this to consumers. AFTA has made a strong case for why this should not include travel agents and the submission can be found **HERE**. The point being, that the way a travel agent earns its income is very different to financial planners, real estate agents and other true commission-based industries. The AFTA submission explains this in full detail.

So the link between participating in the industry body by way of ATAS and the advocacy work that AFTA takes on behalf of all travel business is very clear, which is why those who are not yet ATAS accredited should take another look and join today. The more united travel intermediaries are, the better chance we have as a force for good to make a difference and ensure that the rules of the land remain fit for purpose and reasonable.

New snack for MH

MALAYSIA Airlines has launched a new “hot handheld snack” that has been developed exclusively for the airline.

The menu item includes two pastries and a calzone, which “draw upon the cultural heritage of Malaysia by bringing together Malay, Chinese and Indian flavour influences”.

Passengers on select flights between Australia and Malaysia will be able to enjoy the lamb rendang, Chinese BBQ chicken and tandoori paneer trio, with a vegetarian option also available.

Bookeasy tie-up

DESTINATION management system Bookeasy has partnered with holiday rental booking management system YesBookit to offer users real-time instant access to thousands of holiday rentals in over 150 destinations.

The new arrangement “streamlines the booking process of holiday rentals” for both trade and consumers by increasing the range and quality of offerings for booking centres, providing immediate confirmation for travellers, and reducing booking admin for property managers.

Boeing forecast

BOEING projects the Middle East will require \$745 billion in aviation services through to 2037 to “keep pace with growing passenger and freight traffic in the region,” based on a new report released by MRO Middle East in Dubai.

The high value services market is driven by the demand for nearly 3,000 new commercial airplanes in the Middle East over the next 20 years, more than tripling the existing fleet.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US0.704

THE AUDUSD fell back to lows overnight as weakness in int'l sharemarkets caused investors to move into the so called “safe haven” US dollar, which has been supported thanks to its relatively high interest rates.

The Aussie was stronger in other markets with the AUDCHF up 0.1% and AUDJPY up 0.2%.

The Aussie's best gains were against the British pound after Dec economic growth fell 0.4%.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.704
UK	£0.547
NZ	\$1.041
Euro	€0.624
Japan	¥77.87
Thailand	฿22.04
China	¥4.725
South Africa	9.684
Canada	\$0.932
Crude oil	US\$62.10

The Rietel refresh

THE Rietel Matane hotel complex overlooking the St Lawrence River in Canada has been provided with CA\$155,400 (AU\$165,300) by the Canada Economic Development (CED) for Quebec Regions to enhance the property's tourism offering for domestic and foreign markets.

The Rietel Matane hotel has seven meeting rooms, a restaurant, two swimming pools - one indoor and one outdoor, and a health centre.

“This financial support will allow us to give our rooms a more contemporary character that combines comfort and distinction,” said Group Rietel President Francois Rioux.

THAI appointment

THAI Airways International (THAI) board of directors has appointed Nattapong Samit-ampaipisarn as Executive Vice President of Finance and Accounting Department.

Samit-ampaipisarn was formerly the Senior Vice President of International Banking Group Treasury, Bangkok Bank.

United changes

UNITED Airlines has filed additional changes to its planned international operation for the northern summer season, effective 31 Mar to 26 Oct.

Schedule updates include Houston-Sydney which will reduce from seven to four weekly from 30 Mar for the northern summer season, utilising the 787-9.

WIN A CRUISE

AND EXPERIENCE THE VIKING DIFFERENCE

This month Viking Cruises is giving *Travel Daily* readers the chance to win a deluxe veranda stateroom on New York, Bermuda & the West Indies departing on 10 October 2019 on *Viking Sun*.

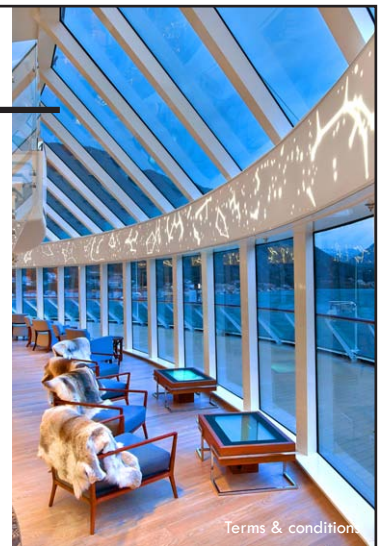
To be in the running to win all you need to do is these two simple steps:

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Send us a photo showing your favourite Viking ocean cruise inclusion.

2. REGISTER FOR REWARDS BY VIKING

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Terms & conditions

haven't already, register at www.rewardsbyviking.com.

The most creative entry will win! Send your entries to viking@traveldaily.com.au



Cathay Barcelona

CATHAY Pacific has moved forward its planned Airbus A350-1000XWB operations on the Hong Kong-Barcelona route, from 02 Jun to 07 Apr.

The A350-1000XWB is increasing from once a week to four times weekly from 02 Jun.

Etihad expand MRO

ETIHAD Airways Engineering, the commercial aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services provider has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with TARMAC Aerosave, a industrial group specialising in aircraft maintenance, storage & recycling.

Etihad Airways Engineering CEO Abdul Khaliq Saeed said the collaboration “enhances our ability to support our customers and represents a key milestone on our journey to add the A350 to our extensive range of MRO capabilities”.

Regent Vero water

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises will start serving guests Vero still and sparkling water fleetwide from Apr 2019.

The transition from bottled water to Vero water would “eliminate approximately two million plastic bottles annually” across the cruise line's fleet.

Vero's on-board purification and filling process will also enable the cruise line to purify, chill and serve in Vero glass bottles.

Hawaii language

HAWAIIAN Airlines has marked a cultural milestone by establishing an “olelo Hawaii” (Hawaiian language) certification program for employees.

Launched in time to celebrate olelo Hawaii Month, the certification broadens the carrier's “commitment to honour and perpetuate Hawaii's rich culture throughout its operations”.

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