

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page and a full page from CLIA.

Royal delays to Feb

ROYAL Caribbean International has extended its suspension of sailings in Australia and New Zealand until at least 31 Jan next year, citing a need to secure the health and safety of its guests.

"We will be reaching out to our guests and travel partners to share further details and address any questions or concerns," the cruise line said, also stating it was continuing to work closely with government authorities to co-ordinate the best return date.

Qld Tourism Minister

THE Queensland Government has appointed a new Tourism Industry Development Minister, with Stirling Hinchliffe charged with taking on the key portfolio after a Cabinet reshuffle.

The incoming Minister was previously in charge of multicultural affairs, local government and racing, and replaces Kate Jones in the role who announced her retirement from politics in Sep.

"Minister Hinchliffe is a proven performer in a diverse range of previous portfolios... we look forward to working to develop a plan of recovery," said Queensland Tourism Industry Council CEO Daniel Gschwind.

Just 12,000 Sep trips

THERE were only 11,890 international border crossings into and out of Australia in Sep this year, with the latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics confirming the ongoing impact of COVID-19 restrictions.

The Sep results included 8,170 "resident returns" and 3,720 short-term foreign visitors to Australia, with both figures

down more than 99% on Sep 2019, when almost one million Australian residents returned from overseas trips.

In terms of visitor arrivals, the largest source country was the USA with 610 trips, followed by the UK with 430 and then New Zealand at 350.

Decreases of more than 99% were recorded for each of the top ten source countries when compared to the corresponding month of the previous year, apart from Vanuatu which was down 91% with 170 inbound visitors to Australia.

For Australian residents returning from overseas, the largest cohort came in from the UK (1,080 trips) followed by New Zealand (940 arrivals) and then the US (750 returns).

The majority of returning residents were from NSW, with 4,550 trips, followed by Qld with 1,220 and then Vic at 1,080.

VA boosts numbers

VIRGIN Australia will increase the number of flights it operates across several domestic routes in Australia as border restrictions continue to ease.

The changes include the doubling of flights between Newcastle and Brisbane from three to six per week effective immediately, while the SYD/MEL route will move to four times weekly from 23 Nov and continue to be boosted further ahead of the Christmas holidays.

The carrier will also bring forward the rebooting of four-times weekly services between MEL and Newcastle from 15 Dec to 24 Nov, and from 23 Nov, VA will increase frequencies from MEL to CAN to four times weekly.

With WA finally making some concessions on its hard border, the airline will bump services between BNE and PER from five to six times weekly from 22 Nov, with plans to progressively increase frequencies ahead of the Christmas holidays.

Oceania incentive

OCEANIA Cruises will reward travel agents with a \$150 e-gift card for every booking made on the line's 2022 Europe & North America Collection.

The program goes on sale today and the incentive is scheduled to run through to 18 Nov, with the promotion valid on sailings departing from 01 Jul 2021.

Group booking transfers are not applicable with this offer and deposits must be taken by 31 Nov, with agents needing to register **HERE** to be eligible.

Air NZ new CFO

AIR New Zealand has appointed Richard Thomson to be its next Chief Financial Officer.

He arrives from the publicly-listed Metlifecare where he has spent the last three years and worked closely on the company's recent takeover by Asia Pacific Village Group.

More appointments on **page 6**.

EMERALD CRUISES

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CX service updates

CATHAY Pacific has enhanced a range of services as it prepares to ramp up services once restrictions begin to ease.

Updates include faster wi-fi on flights, with its Airbus A350 aircraft already fitted with the new Deutsche Telekom tech, while the carrier's Boeing 777 and Airbus A330 aircraft to be enabled in the coming months.

CX is also trialling a new COVID-19 safety app, enabling more efficient cross-border travel and medical documentation capabilities.

To learn more about the CommonPass app, [CLICK HERE](#).

MEANWHILE The Hong Kong Tourism Board and the Singapore Tourism Board have today unveiled the Hong Kong-Singapore Air Travel Bubble.

The new bilateral agreement will allow for quarantine-free travel between the two countries from 22 Nov, with both regions boasting low infection rates.

Flexible quarantine model

A MORE flexible approach to the quarantining of international arrivals could reduce the time needed in isolation without significantly increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission, according to a new report compiled by the Burnet Institute in Melbourne.

The *traQ Study: Transparent Risk Assessment of Quarantine* report has proposed a tiered model of quarantine that would see international arrivals spend less time in isolation overall, depending on the level of COVID risk associated with the country they are flying in from.

The study recommends that 14-day quarantine measures remain in place only for countries deemed high risk, while eight days would be sufficient for moderate risk, seven days for low risk and the abolition of quarantine altogether when travellers depart very low risk destinations such as New Zealand

or Thailand.

The Burnet Institute also suggests the timing of testing in quarantine could lower the risk of travel-related infections, recommending two tests "near the end" as the most effective testing strategy.

Win a trip to Fiji

A GROUP of South Pacific tourism and travel companies have teamed up to offer agents the chance to score a free trip to Fiji when they complete 10 five-minute education sessions.

Agents will need to register **HERE** and nominate 10 code words from each webinar to be eligible to win, with the prize of two return Economy class tickets to Nadi flying Fiji Airways and seven nights accommodation to be drawn 30 Nov.

Entries close by 5pm (AEDT) next Fri 20 Nov.

G, only \$1 deposits

G ADVENTURES is running a 21-day sale on a selection of 2021/22 departures, offering discounts of up to 21% on more than 450 options, with only a \$1 deposit needed to secure the deal.

Destinations available under the promotion include a nine-day adventure in Costa Rica and a 15-day Everest Base Camp trek.

Discounted prices lead in at \$987pp, with 21% reductions also on offer for the company's My Own Room options on tours.

Call 1300 853 325 for details.

Groups back report

ONEWORLD, SkyTeam and Star Alliance have all pledged their support for the International Civil Aviation Organization's Council on Aviation Recovery Task Force report released on 10 Nov, which contends global govts need to adopt a unified approach to testing and tech to help the aviation sector bounce back.

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AFTA frustrated at delay

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents has acknowledged the “frustratingly slow” process as it continues to have ongoing dialogue with the Federal Government about a travel sector rescue package.

CEO Darren Rudd today wrote to AFTA members in response to multiple emails, calls and feedback to his team, saying “it’s slow because there are multiple Government agencies, processes and approval processes involved”.

“The process is still very much underway and we are all working extremely hard to secure this critical funding with meetings and the ongoing provision of data and extensive modelling to assist with scenario planning,” he said.

A number of **Travel Daily** readers have noted emails from their local MPs in recent days confirming that an update from the Government is pending, but

it’s unclear what timeframe that will actually involve.

Rudd’s update today highlighted that “importantly, we know that there is executive Government engagement from the Prime Minister down.

“We have again had direct confirmation that several Government MPs have again raised the need for tailored support with the Prime Minister and Treasurer and received assurances that work was under way on a package to the unique situation of travel agents, and that an announcement was imminent,” he wrote.

The AFTA CEO promised to let members know as soon as there is something more to say.

Earlier this week the Federation said it would provide members with a detailed update later this month, with a webinar tentatively scheduled for two week’s time.



Discover more today

DESTINATION management company Discova has launched guides for travel agents to use and advise clients about a range of destinations in Asia and South America in 2020/21 in places such as Thailand - more details [HERE](#).

Reef gets pontoon

EXPERIENCE Co has been awarded a \$3m contribution by the Qld Govt to build a pontoon on the Great Barrier Reef.

Set to open in early 2022, the \$6.7m pontoon will offer visitors a science and sustainability-themed holiday destination with indigenous education elements, and will act as an extension of Experience Co’s existing Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel tour.

The project currently has the working title of “Dreamtime Island” and will be based at Moore Reef, which is roughly 45km offshore from Cairns.



Window Seat

SOME people have been very productive during lockdown, just take mega Disney fanboy Sean LaRoche from California who spent the time in home detention knocking up a replica of Disneyland in his backyard.

The architecture major constructed a fully functional roller coaster that zips around his hedges and flower beds at breakneck speed.

“[People] talk about all the negatives of COVID, but one of the benefits of COVID is you have all this time,” he screamed.



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Great Southern extends tracks

JOURNEY Beyond has extended its Great Southern season through to 11 Feb, with the Adelaide to Brisbane rail service initially only scheduled to run until Jan.

Leaving the stop for the first time this summer on 04 Dec, the revised route for the journey this year bypasses Victoria and instead tracks its way through South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland over two nights and three days to Brisbane.

The rail service will also feature JourneySafe, the company's new operational plan aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19.

MEANWHILE The Ghan will resume its journeys between Adelaide and Darwin on 31 Jan 2021, while The Indian Pacific's suspension has been extended to 15 Feb 2021 in line with ongoing border restrictions.

Jayride lifts Oct

AIRPORT transfer company Jayride Group has posted an increase in net revenue of \$10,000 for Oct, a 27% spike on the previous month's results.

The business also reported gross profit was up by 46% for Oct when compared with Sep, boosted by a recent raising of \$1.5 million (**TD** 21 Oct).

Net revenue per trip also moved towards historical norms in Oct, rising to \$8.29 per ride.

Gladys drops by Revesby



NEW South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian dropped in on Flight Centre Revesby this week to wish agents good luck in what continues to be a challenging environment for the travel sector.

And the timing couldn't have been any better for Senior Travel Consultant Yasemin Dursun (**pictured** centre), who was embarking on her first day back in the office after a six-month stand down period.

Pictured: Flight Centre Revesby staff welcome the Premier to their office this week.

Etihad faces forward

ETIHAD Aviation Group's engineering arm has been commissioned to manufacture 1.3 million facemasks at its production facility in the UAE, distributing masks to workplaces in need & its own entire network.

A&K appoints

ABERCROMBIE & Kent (A&K) has appointed Martin Froggatt to the role of Executive Vice President, Destination Management, where he will manage the company's global stable of DMCs across 55 offices in more than 30 countries.

He arrives in the position with more than 25 years' experience in travel, most recently holding the role of Managing Director and Chief Sales Officer for experiential travel company Travelopia.

Froggatt's new role will be based in London.

Sylvia Earle design

AURORA Expeditions has unveiled its first look at the upcoming *Sylvia Earle* expedition ship (**pictured**), with the vessel boasting an inverted bow design and a two-level glass lounge.

Amenities on board the 132-passenger ship includes an outdoor swimming pool (heated by repurposing engine heat) as well as 70 cabins, a modern lecture lounge, Zodiac launch platforms and a wellness centre.



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Thank you again for all your support throughout 2020.

Keep well and stay safe,

Sarah Built – Etihad Airways, Vice President Sales, Australia and South Asia

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Travel Daily

Pub quiz

1. Naarm is the indigenous name for which Australian city?
2. Tamworth is situated on what river?
3. In terms of yearly visitors, what is the most popular tourist attraction in Western Australia?
4. Norfolk Island was formerly a part of which Australian state?
5. "Speedbird" is the callsign for which airline?
6. British low-coast airline easyJet is headquartered at which of London's six airports?
7. By population, what is the largest settlement in the Whitsunday Islands?
8. When did Rhodesia become Zimbabwe?
 - a) In the 1970s
 - b) In the 1980s
 - c) In the 1990s
9. If you were exploring South Bank Parklands, which Australian city would you be in?
10. Chapel Street and Commercial Road are well-known arteries in which trendy Melbourne neighborhood?

Sudoku

EASY

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

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

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

Where in the world?



THIS stadium has a number of claims to fame, but one of the standouts is the fact that it is the only stadium in the world built entirely out of marble.

It's an astounding claim but makes sense when you consider that it was built in 144 AD.

The stadium was largely abandoned after the 4th century

but was excavated in 1869 and after being refurbished it was the site of the very first modern Olympics in 1896.

It has since been used for a number of different sporting activities and events and was once again an Olympic venue in 2004.

Do you know where in the world this is located?

Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the **TD** Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 06 Mar 2014:

BETTER wear the brown-coloured Speedos for this one.

Thrillseeking holidaymakers in the USA are apparently eagerly awaiting the debut of the world's highest waterslide, set to open in late May at the Schlitterbahn water park in Kansas City.

The highly anticipated "Verrückt" ride is 17 storeys high - taller than Niagara Falls!

It requires four brave riders who are strapped into a raft, and after they plummet down the initial slope, they are then blasted uphill on a multi-storey "water coaster" to complete the experience.

Appropriately, Verrückt is German for "insane", with the four-person requirement of the ride said to make it "more fun because someone is screaming in your ear".

ANSWERS 11 NOV

Where in the world: Glenorchy, Queenstown, New Zealand

Know your brands: 1 Formula 1, 2 QBE Insurance, 3 BiC, 4 Taco Bell

Whose animal is this: Lynx - Serbia and Romania

Ho ho ho, happy travels!



WHO says you need to wait until Christmas Day to enjoy the vibes of the festive season?

Certainly not the Managing Director of Fantastic Aussie Tours and Blue Mountains Accommodation and Tourism Association President Jason Cronshaw (pictured), who recently donned his festive best to promote all of the Christmas holiday action that can be enjoyed in the Blue Mountains.

"With most international destinations still out of bounds, now's the ideal time to see for yourself what all the overseas visitors have made a fuss about right on Sydney's doorstep," a rosy-cheeked Cronshaw said.

Bushwalks, the Blue Mountains Explorer Bus and a visit to The Gingerbread House in Katoomba are just some of the amazing adventures travellers can enjoy this holidays, Cronshaw enthused.

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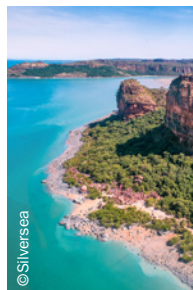
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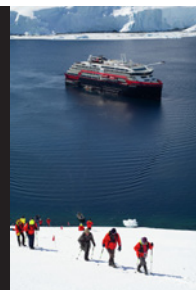
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* Terms and conditions apply.



Hear how Hurtigruten and Silversea are planning for future travel and more in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin



The future of travel

ACCOMMODATION featuring office facilities is just one of the predictions for the Australian travel sector in 2021, according to a new study of close to 1,000 Aussie travellers compiled by Booking.com.

The report also predicts Australians will want hotels and tourism companies to take "extra precautions" in terms of health and safety protocols, while the data also showed travellers want more convenient technology embedded on their trips as well.

These include better self-service functionality for all touch-points on a holiday, as well as improved online experiences using VR tech.

Booking.com is also forecasting a desire for eco-friendly trips.

New Arctic sailing

ADVENTURE Canada has added a second Arctic Explorer Expedition to its 2021 season following popular demand for the operator's first itinerary.

Savings of 15% are also available on the latest sailing, with Adventure Canada altering the dates of its Iceland to Greenland: In the Wake of the Vikings so there is the option of combining it with the Arctic Explorer itinerary.

If clients elect to join the two cruises, dates will run from 14 Jul to 05 Aug and create a total discount of 25%.

Prices for the Arctic Explorer Expedition lead in at US\$6,456pp quad share, boasting visits to Beechey Island and Western Greenland - **CLICK HERE** for info.

APPOINTMENTS



WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

QT Auckland has expanded its food and beverage team, appointing Ruby Binning as its Food and Beverage Manager, Roberto Giampaolo to be its Bar Manager for the Rooftop venue and James Laird to the role of Executive Chef for restaurant Esther.

A new Executive Chef has taken charge at **The Anam Cam Ranh** in Vietnam, with Peter Sheng recently assuming the position and bringing with him more than 20 years of experience. He has worked in several high profile roles such as head chef at InterContinental South Africa.

Gay and Lesbian Tourism Australia has welcomed CaPTA Group Director of Sales & Marketing Ben Woodward to be its new Vice President. Woodward's latest cap joins other roles, including being President of Skai International Cairns.

The International Air Transport Association has appointed Abhilash Raju as its new Travel Agency Commissioner to look after the Australian market. Raju will also look after Asia and the south west Pacific regions.

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



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