

Flights resume between Vic & Tas

WITH border restrictions due to lift between Victoria and Tasmania on 27 Nov, Jetstar and Qantas have announced a resumption of flights.

Qantas will restart flights on three routes, with 14 weekly services between MEL and LST, 13 between MEL and HBA and 12 between MEL and Devonport.

Meanwhile Jetstar will reboot services between MEL and LST with 19 weekly flights, and boost frequencies between MEL and HBA to 26 weekly services from the previous five on offer in Oct.

SQ raises \$871m

SINGAPORE Airlines has raised S\$850 million (A\$871m) via a convertible bond issue, with the carrier stating the additional funds would be used to shore up its liquidity position and fund future capital expenditure.

Fly365 liquidators seek funds

EXCLUSIVE

CREDITORS of the collapsed Fly365.com online travel agency (TD 24 Feb) are being asked to help fund investigations of the company and its directors, according to an update issued this week by Aston Chace Group.

The circular to creditors and customers comes more than nine months after the business ceased trading, amid allegations of shonky ticketing practices (TD 28 Feb) and millions of dollars sent out of the country in the days leading up to the liquidation.

The Administrators reiterated that they were unable to provide any refunds for cancelled trips.

"We have been attempting to work with airlines, ticket consolidators and merchant facility providers to determine the most appropriate refund process.

"A number of complex legal issues must be resolved...due to

the nature of liquidation and the contractual relationship between these stakeholders and Fly365.

"This requires a significant amount of legal analysis from solicitors and likely an application to Court...as we are unfunded, we are seeking assistance from creditors to fund this process," said the company's Joint and Several Liquidator, Ian Niccol.

The update also detailed public examinations of the directors in Aug, with Mustafa Filizkok claiming that a \$5.5m transfer to related entities was "for the purpose of discharging liabilities".

In order to recover the funds as voidable transactions, again Aston Chace would need to obtain funding, the update noted.

Niccol also confirmed that a Deed of Company Arrangement proposed by the Fly365 directors had been discontinued, after it was opposed by Aston Chace in the Supreme Court of NSW.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news including our PUZZLE page and a photo page from Atout France.

Oceania sets record

OCEANIA Cruises has set a new daily sales record for its Europe & North America Collection of voyages, with its 2022 program eclipsing its previous best day by more than 20%.

The strongest sellers in the latest collection were cruises to the Mediterranean and Baltic regions, as well as the line's longer Grand Voyages.

"More than 90% of the reservations were new, cash bookings with less than 10% using future cruise credits issued for previously cancelled voyages," the cruise line said.

Close to one third of bookings were also first-time cruisers with the brand - see program **HERE**.

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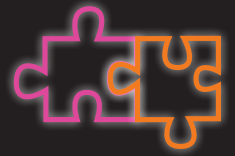
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*Valid for departures between October 2021 to March 2023. 'From' price based on RS cabin on 7/3/22 departure. Book by 18 December, 2020. Departure Cities: SYD/MEL/BNE/AKL/CHC. Other T&Cs apply.

**NEED A DISTRACTION
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Travel Daily

Wendy woos pairs

WENDY Wu Tours has introduced its Partner Flies Free promotion, offering savings of up to \$1,200 per couple and up to \$600pp off the single supplement on tours to South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam in 2021 and 2022.

The deal applies to 30 itineraries, with all product backed by the operator's Book with Confidence guarantee.

This includes deposits of \$99 per person, one free date change and no more to pay until 75 days prior to departure.

Prices incorporate flights, meals, and stays - call 1300 727 998.

MSC WC is on sale

MSC Cruises' World Cruise 2023 has gone on sale, featuring visits to 53 destinations across 33 countries and six continents.

The 119-day voyage will take place on board *MSC Poesia* from 05 Jan 2023, departing Genoa in Italy bound for popular cruise destinations such as Puerto Limon in Costa Rica, San Francisco, Tokyo and Da Nag in Vietnam.

The global journey will also make a stop closer to home in Sydney as part of its Pacific leg, which will also visit Maui in Hawaii, Samoa, Fiji, Auckland, the Gold Coast, Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef.

Prices include a dine and drink package, 15 shore excursions, and 30% off laundry - for more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Emirates US\$3.8b loss

EMIRATES has recorded a US\$3.8 billion loss for the first half of the 2020/21 financial year, a staggering drop from the US\$320 million profit it made during the same period last year.

The carrier said the major loss, the first of its kind in its more than 30-year history, was due to "unprecedented flight and travel restrictions worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic".

Revenue for Emirates was also down significantly, plummeting by 74% to US\$ 3.7 billion, a result that could have been much worse had the airline not shifted towards its cargo division during the shutdown.

"As passenger traffic disappeared, Emirates and dnata have been able to rapidly pivot to serve cargo demand and other pockets of opportunity," said

Vaccine boosts 2021 Olympic hopes

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) says it is now "more confident" that the delayed Summer Olympic Games in Japan will see more travellers able to attend the event next year following several promising COVID-19 vaccine trials.

"I think we can become more and more confident that we will have a reasonable number of spectators at the venues," said IOC President Thomas Bach.

Emirates CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum.

"This has helped us recover our revenue from zero to 26% of our position same time last year."

Despite the grim figures, the airline has managed to maintain a relatively stable cash position, noting a US\$1.4 billion decline between Mar and Sep from US\$7 billion to US\$5.6 billion.

"We have been able to tap on our own strong cash reserves, and through our shareholder and the broader financial community, we continue to ensure we have access to sufficient funding to sustain the business and see us through this challenging period," Sheikh Ahmed added.

The results follow strong moves by Emirates to implement new technology to make the resumption of travel run more smoothly, including a new integrated biometric path at Dubai International Airport, offering pax a fully contactless airport experience (*TD* 26 Oct).

Dunk Island back on the market

PLANS to make Dunk Island off the coast of Cairns a major tourism site have suffered a big setback after investment fund Mayfair 101 failed to finalise the \$31 million purchase.

The island has now been placed back on the market for sale.



Window Seat

THE sooner we all adhere to strict health protocols, the sooner we can all start travelling around the world again.

So maybe the Indonesian Government is on to something with their latest suite of bizarre punishments for citizens caught not wearing a face mask - they have to drop and give them 20!

Yes, in a bid to curb the spread of COVID-19, Indonesian authorities are demanding people perform menial push ups in the street in order to get the health message across.

But as much as a bit of physical exercise never hurt anybody, there are also reports of police ordering people to perform more cruel and unusual punishments, from having to pull weeds in gardens, cleaning river banks, digging graves, and even being made to lay in an open coffin.

Despite the innovative policies, there is no data to suggest the punishments are an effective incentive to make people wear face masks.



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Coral expands Kimberley in 2021

CORAL Expeditions has unveiled an expanded schedule of sailings for the Kimberley region in 2021, introducing three vessels and more than 40 departure dates.

The extended program will run from Mar to Oct 2021, and features its *Coral Discoverer* and *Coral Adventurer* vessels, in addition to the debut of its *Coral Geographer* ship.

Highlights of the program include Zodiac rides to the Horizontal Falls, and visits to the King George River and Montgomery Reef.

MEANWHILE, Coral's 2022 Kimberley season is now on sale.

Ponant eclipse cruise

PONANT has launched its Total Eclipse in the Weddell Sea sailing aboard *Le Commandant-Charcot*, with the 15-night cruise departing Ushuaia on 30 Nov 2021 and priced from A\$25,340pts.

Price is not top priority

THE manner in which a country's government is handling the global health crisis is a more important consideration for travellers when booking a holiday than price, a new survey by international travel marketing alliance Travel Consul has found.

The study of more than 1,000 tour operators and travel agents, including advisors in Australia and NZ, concluded that "destination trust" had overtaken thriftiness when planning a trip, with 74% concerned with govt health efficiency, while only 40% listed price as the number one concern.

Close to two thirds of respondents also noted destination health and safety certification was a major consideration for a holiday.

Further insights included social distancing being a priority when choosing what type of holiday to book, with self-catered rental accommodation (22.6%),

caravans/camping trips (20.8%), small group touring between eight and 15 people (18.5%) and fly-drives (16.9%), all polling well.

Travel agents said continued border closures had led directly to a decrease in bookings, while 72% stated most clients are "still waiting to decide" when to make travel plans, and 12% of advisors believe their clients will be ready to take a trip in roughly seven months time.

Most agents also said modifying cancellation policies would be a major undertaking in 2020/21, while selling insurance policies was also on the rise.

From the supplier side, the survey observed many companies were tweaking their business models, with close to half investing in new tech, while one in five were exploring new destinations altogether.

GTI Tourism is the Australasian member for Travel Consul.

Points for the test

HAWAIIAN Airlines has announced that its customers can now use their HawaiianMiles points to take a pre-travel COVID-19 test, becoming the first United States airline to introduce the initiative.

HawaiianMiles members will need to redeem 14,000 of their points to obtain a mail-in test kit by Vault Health, a trusted medical partner of the carrier.

NZ cruise impact

THE latest episode of the Cruise Line International Association (CLIA) Australasia's #WeAreCruise video series is shining a light on the impact the ongoing cruise shutdown is having on local New Zealand businesses.

Front and centre in the awareness campaign is Mark Gilbert, owner of Hassle-free Tours, who has cut nearly 60 staff due to the suspensions.

Watch the latest video [HERE](#).

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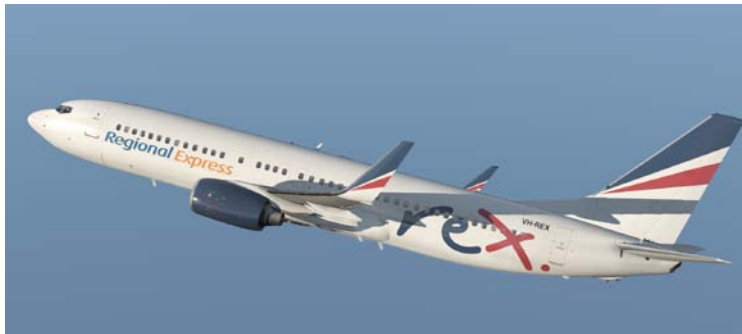
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A graphic for a podcast episode. It features a dark blue background with a white and yellow airplane flying upwards. To the left, the text 'NEW EPISODE AVAILABLE TODAY!' is written in white. Below it, a yellow starburst contains the text 'SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE'. At the bottom, the 'Travel Daily' logo is shown with a small airplane icon, followed by the text 'NEWS ON THE FLY' in large white letters.

CORPORATE UPDATE

Rex plans to target SMEs



THE fledgling jet operation planned by Regional Express on the “golden triangle” between Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane (**TD 30 Sep**) will offer a Business class product actively targeting price-sensitive small and medium enterprises (SMEs), according to the carrier’s Executive Chairman, Lim Kim Hai.

Speaking at the CAPA Live digital event series earlier this week, Lim confirmed that the new operation expected to have five Boeing 737s flying by the end of Mar, and then adding additional aircraft at the rate of “one every month or one every six weeks”.

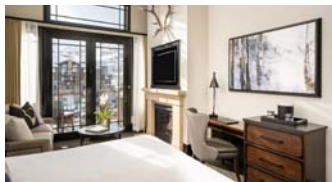
He noted that Rex already had lounges in three capital cities, and “may even improve on them,” with initial frequencies of nine

Hilton office more

HILTON Hotels & Resorts has introduced WorkSpaces by Hilton, a new “work-from-hotel solution” targeting corporate travellers seeking a private office space feel to improve work efficiency.

The new day-use rooms are currently available at select properties in the United States, the UK and Canada, and feature a spacious desk, ergonomic chair enhanced wi-fi connection and a selection of coffee and teas to keep workers stimulated.

For more details - [CLICK HERE](#).



return services between Sydney and Melbourne each day.

This month’s two-day CAPA Live event (**TD 09 Oct**) wrapped up yesterday, with other presenters including the CEOs of KLM and Ryanair as well as a host of other aviation experts and panellists.

The next CAPA Live event is themed “2021 Outlook” and is scheduled for 09 Dec with speakers including Jetstar CEO Gareth Evans and Jayne Hrdlicka, who will by then have taken the reins at Virgin Australia - sign up at capalive.capaevents.com.

flydubai bids for Biz

DUBAI-BASED carrier flydubai has launched a new service that allows passengers to bid for an upgrade to Business Class before their upcoming flights.

The new system will work by alerting Economy Class passengers on eligible flights via email when the bidding has kicked off, and then once a bid is successful, the winning customer will be charged for an upgraded seat in Business class.

No fees will be charged for unsuccessful bids.

QF Tassie lounges

QANTAS has revealed it will reopen its Club Lounge in Hobart and Regional Lounges in Devonport and Launceston from 02 Dec.

The move is in line with the rebooting of flights between MEL and Tasmania announced today - more details on [page one](#).



Read about Cover-More’s COVID insurance and Webjet’s thoughts on those ads in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin

TMCs “vulnerable” - O’Shea

PRICING models for travel management companies (TMCs) may need to evolve to ensure their survival, with a significant number of corporate travel agencies vulnerable to the ongoing evolution of the market.

That’s the bleak assessment of John O’Shea, the highly respected Ord Minnett travel and tourism specialist financial analyst, who spoke to the industry at last week’s btTB-GBTA conference.

O’Shea noted the big changes to the TMC landscape due to the pandemic, including revenue pressure from suppliers, efficiency and technological change and new demands from clients in the COVID-19 world.

He said health and safety was now a major concern for business travellers, leading to opportunities for TMCs to become more relevant as clients

focus on duty of care.

However corporate travel agents need to figure out how to provide additional service without boosting costs, with technology likely to play an important role going forward.

At the same time, pressure from suppliers including airlines is extreme, with commissions and overrides obvious targets to reduce costs along with the launch of NDC platforms also smashing TMC GDS rebates.

Simpler, more convenient digital solutions will be key for clients, meaning TMCs will need to invest in technology to both keep customers and expand margins.

That may leave some corporate agencies caught in a vise with downward pressures on revenues but at the same time needing to invest in IT solutions.

O’Shea said he believes there are too many TMCs in some markets, meaning there are opportunities for rationalisation and consolidation.

“Many players are under the pump, both big and small,” he said, citing the recent Corporate Travel Management acquisitions of Tramada (**TD 29 Oct**) and Nebraska-based Travel & Transport (**TD 29 Sep**) as examples of consolidation.

The analyst said he believed that TMCs with high yielding customers and the ability to sell ancillaries were those likely to be best positioned in the future.

CX pre-ordering

CATHAY Pacific is now allowing business and first class passengers to pre-select their inflight dining via a newly launched “Choose My Meal” option which is available via its booking management portal.

Meals can be ordered from between 10 days and 24 hours prior to departure, on eligible long-haul flights.

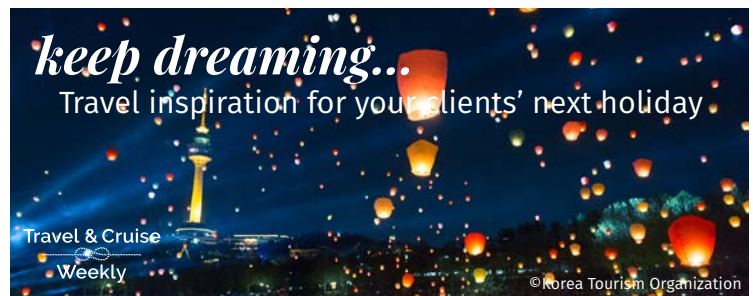
Initially it’s believed the pre-order service covers one of the six main meal options.

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Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the *TD* Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 04 Mar 2014:

TOURISTS may soon be able to pay for a ticket to explore the deepest parts of the world's oceans, including the Mariana Trench - 11km below sea level.

French visionary Jacques Rougerie has announced he has secured funding for the development of SeaOrbiter, a scientific centre and vessel capable of reaching the furthest depths of the world.

Believe it or not, monies have been sourced via Crowdfunding websites, with Rougerie inviting the Top 600 donors on board once the project is completed.

The mammoth undertaking will include accommodation for 22 research scientists to carry out their experiments, deploying research craft to gather data on millions of estimated life forms never before observed.

Construction of the laboratory is expected to be completed within two years and if popular, additional SeaOrbitors could be built for different oceans.

A pressurised space simulator will be used to prepare people to travel to the sea floor, with no indication SeaOrbiter won't be available for commercial operation in the future.

Whose flag is this?



THIS country first had a flag which was red with two horizontal light blue stripes when it was part of an empire.

The country declared independence in 1991 and looked for a new flag design, which was introduced in 1992.

The flag includes a vertical stripe of Bordeaux red and has five carpet motifs, each associated with different tribes which have used these traditional patterns in

their carpets for centuries.

The green of the flag is taken from Islam, which is a dominant religion of the country.

The crescent symbolises faith, while the five stars are for the senses and the five points on each symbolise different states of matter.

The flag was slightly modified to the current one in 1997, with the addition of an olive wreath.

Do you know whose flag this is?

Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

T	L	G
I	Y	P
N	H	A

Good – 16 words
 Very good – 24 words
 Excellent – 32 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

Pub quiz

- Of the six airports which service London, how many are actually within the city limits?
- Mount Beauty is known for being the town nearest to which Australian holiday destination?
- Which Australian state refers to itself as 'The Education State'?
- Seattle is situated on an isthmus between Lake Washington and what other body of water?
- Name any of the five founders of Star Alliance.
- What is the world's most populous Muslim-majority country?
- Which city is sometimes known as the Paris of the East?
- According to the United Nations, which European country's people enjoy the longest lives?
- Which country has by far the world's fastest internet, consistently over 5 megabits per second faster than the next-fastest?
- WestJet is the second-largest airline in which country?

ANSWERS 12 NOV

Pub quiz: 1 Melbourne, 2 Peel River, 3 Kings Park, 4 Tasmania, 5 British Airways, 6 London Luton, 7 Hamilton Island, 8 b) In the 1980s, 9 Brisbane, 10 South Yarra

Where in the world: Panathenaic Stadium, Athens, Greece

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

Burgundy uncorked by Atout France

TRAVEL industry partners were recently invited to an intimate lavish Burgundy Gourmet dinner gathering at the Sofitel Darling Harbour's exclusive Club Milleime.

Fifty guests turned french for an evening, thanks to Atout France, the Burgundy Tourism Board & Magimix. It was an affair of fun activities and delicious gourmet wines and food to promote a very popular region for Australian travellers, in particular for cycling and barge holidays.

The Burgundy Wine Society and Magimix donated a bottle of vintage Burgundy wine and \$1,000 worth of products for Cancer Research.



DEB Corbett, Managing Director, Ponant and Gai Tyrrell, General Manager, Globus family of brands.



PATRICK Benhamou, Atout France and La Dame Bourgogne.



MAEVE O'Meara, French Food Safari and Marc Pilcer, France Tourism.



BURGUNDY Wine Society inducting Anne Boillon, the French Consul General in Australia, and Simon McGrath, CEO, AccorHotels.



FRENCHIES singing the traditional Burgundy Wine Society song.



MEG Reyes and Flore Vallery from Magimix, and Sophie Almin, Claire Kaletka-Neil, Sarah Elfassy from Atout France.





Indigenous funding

APPLICATIONS are now open for the second round of funding for the NT Government's Aboriginal Tourism Grant Program, which aims to bolster the depth of indigenous tourism offerings in the Top End.

Aboriginal-owned tourism businesses can apply for up to \$20,000 of funding to improve infrastructure, create new feasibility plans or develop future interpretation projects.

"We know that domestic travellers value the opportunity to visit the Northern Territory specifically for the cultural experiences our Aboriginal tourism operators' offer," said NT Minister for Tourism and Hospitality Natasha Fyles.

Applications close 29 Jan 2021.

WA eco proposals

THE Western Australian Government is calling for proposals to develop ecotourism and adventure activities in Wellington National Park near Collie in the state's south-west.

The initiative is part of the \$10 million Collie Adventure Trails initiative to establish Collie as a premier tourist attraction.

"This Government is working to ensure a brighter future for the people of Collie-Preston by creating a recreation and conservation hotspot, boosting regional tourism and creating jobs alongside existing adventure start-ups already in progress," said WA Sport and Recreation Minister Mick Murray.

Submissions for new developments close 03 Dec.

THE opening up of Australia's domestic borders is finally giving plenty of people something to sing about, not least of all Opera Australia which has announced its return to Uluru from next year.

There will be four operatic performances on display across one weekend in Sep 2021, featuring the grand vocal stylings of arias from the final act of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, all set to the backdrop of the beautiful Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

The unique event is a collaboration between Opera Australia and Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, with travellers able to choose their own musical journeys from a range of packages and concerts.

Experiences on offer include an open-air welcome dinner which

highlights native bush ingredients of the area, as well as intimate dawn performances for 90 people maximum, and an afternoon set from a string quartet performing a selection of Brahms' love songs.

"Opera Australia is thrilled to be teaming up with Voyages and returning to Uluru in 2021 with an expanded program," said Opera Australia Artistic Director, Lyndon Terracini.

"Our first concert there last year proved such a success, we knew we were onto something really special and we were really touched by the feedback we received from guests who were visibly moved by the experience."

Tickets to the Sat evening Gala Concert can be purchased as part of a two- or three-night package, with prices starting from \$825ppts, including accommodation at Ayers Rock Resort, return airport transfers and in-room wi-fi.

TRAVEL SPECIALS



WELCOME to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au

Savings of \$500 per couple are on offer with **Adventure World Travel** for trips to Peru in 2021 and 2022. The seven-day Discover Peru adventure explores the heritage of Lima, Cuzco, Aguas Calientes and the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu, with prices leading in at \$2,434ppts. The discount is valid for travel between 02 Jan and 31 Mar 2022. Call 1300 363 055.

Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection is currently offering discounts of up to \$1,500pp on select cruises in 2022. The deal applies to sailings on the Rhine and Danube rivers in Europe, with rates leading in at \$8,500ppts. The deal is valid until 31 Dec. Call 1300 780 231 for info.

Oaks Hotels, Resorts & Suites has released a new summer offer called Ready.Set.Summer. The deal gives guests the option of saving up to 30% on bookings made before 31 Jan 2021, for stays before 30 Jun 2021. For further details on the promotion, [CLICK HERE](#).

Collette has introduced a new global booking incentive, offering guests 10% off all 2021-22 tours taking place anywhere in the world. The sale runs until 31 Dec and includes experiences on every continent. All bookings are fully refundable for 30 days. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

Zero Boeing orders

SALES have remained grounded for Boeing in Oct, with the company recording no new orders for any of its aircraft for the second month in a row.

The aviation manufacturer delivered a miserly 13 aircraft last month and removed 37 more of the troubled 737 Max jets from its backlog of orders.

In 2020, Boeing has axed more than 400 737 Max orders.

Disneyland says no

ALL three Disneyland California hotels have put a hold on taking any more reservations through to 31 Dec as the United States continues to grapple with high rates of COVID-19 infection.

Disney is waiving change and cancellation fees to accommodate the shutdown.

Got a confidential tip? Contact *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or [click HERE](#)