

Fancy a schnitzel?

THE last two modules of the new Austria Travel Expert Program have gone live today, and they offer some expert tips on where to find the country's very best Wiener Schnitzel.

The latest additions cover Austrian Food & Wine and Accommodation in Austria, and travel advisors who complete all eight modules will automatically go into a draw to win a week-long trip to Austria for two complete with flights, Eurail Passes and accommodation at top hotels.

Astrid Gruchmann-Licht, Director of the Austrian National Tourist Office said the lucky winner will stay at the Hotels Altstadt Vienna, Hotel Sacher Salzburg, Das Edelweiss in Grossarl and the Astoria Resort in Seefeld - all part of the Austrian Hotel Collection.

For more on the exclusive Austria training see [page seven](#).

UK travel chief dies

JOHN Hays, the founder and MD of British travel agency chain Hays Travel, has died after collapsing at work on Fri.

The Hays business, which was founded in 1980, transacted almost A\$700m in sales in 2018 across its 190-strong retail store portfolio, and then grew enormously in scale last year after acquiring the 500-plus travel agency outlets operated by Thomas Cook after its collapse.

The company said Hays had died while doing the job he loved.

Hunt optimistic on travel

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt today confirmed that phase 3 clinical trials of a new COVID-19 vaccine from the University of Queensland will commence before the end of the year.

"We are ahead of schedule," the Minister said, citing initial data clearly showing the vaccine has a strong safety profile and a positive antibody response, particularly in the elderly.

If the trials are successful it "opens up the possibility of travel for Australians so they can travel safely, they can return safely," the Minister said.

"It reduces the need for hotel quarantining, if somebody has been vaccinated...these are really profound differences," he said.

Hunt said the vaccine could be potentially available to the public

by early in the third quarter of 2021, in line with a goal of a national immunisation program by the end of next year which could see international travel beginning to return to normal.

"We can add progressive layers of safety...we have opened a travel bubble with NZ, we are looking at opening travel bubbles with other low-risk countries.

"In an ideal world, if the vaccination strategy is completed as we anticipate, then by the end of 2021 we'll be very close to, I would put it this way, widespread international travel," he said.

ATAC expands

THE Australian Travel Agents Co-Operative (ATAC) has added two new members.

Nirvana Travel in South Australia and World Wide Travel & Cruise in Vic have joined the ranks, swelling ATAC's numbers to 111 agencies across Australia.

Vale Anne Arnold

THE Travellers Choice family lost one of its own earlier this month with the death of Anne Arnold, former co-owner of Globetrotters Travel & Cruise in Toowoomba.

As well as running Globetrotters, Anne and her husband Clive also operated Safaris into Africa, offering a range of specialised and unique itineraries across their native continent.

Travellers Choice MD Christian Hunter said Arnold was a "matter-of-fact, strong woman and she will be recognised as a 'doer,' a compassionate person and a hard worker."

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page and full pages from:

- Austrian National Tourist Office
- Tourism Authority Thailand

Thailand learning

TRAVEL agents are invited to become experts in Thailand, with new modules in the Amazing Thailand Specialist program released every two weeks - for details see the **last page**.

New P&O role

ANGUS Mackay has been named as the new Key Account Manager for P&O Cruises, in conjunction with the line's Flagship Concierge Service for travel agents (**TD** 23 Sep).

Mackay was previously P&O's BDM for northern NSW - lots more of the latest cruise news in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.



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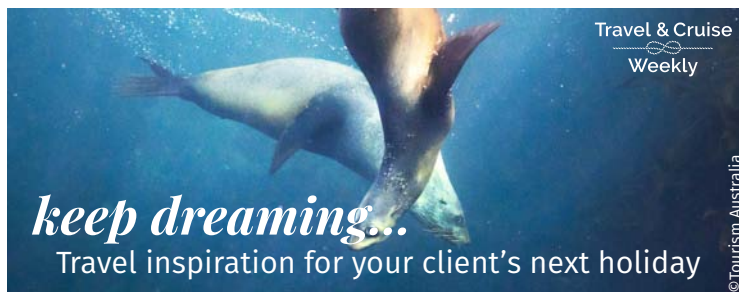
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MORE INFO >



It's Scotty from tourism?

PRIME Minister Scott Morrison should personally take charge of Australia's Tourism portfolio by the end of the year to steer it through the challenging COVID period, the Australian Tourism Industry Council (ATIC) believes.

With current Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Simon Birmingham accepting the role of Finance Minister last month following the retirement of Mathias Cormann, it is unlikely he will continue to hold the tourism portfolio in addition to his new duties beyond 2020, representing an opportunity, ATIC contends, for the Prime Minister himself to step in & make tourism a priority.

"With the PM's past tourism experience, we believe nobody is better equipped inside the Federal Government to guide our industry so heavily impacted by the virus and in bushfire recovery," said ATIC Executive Director Simon Westaway.

"It remains a challenging period for the tourism industry that had employed one in 12 Australians before COVID-19 and faces no meaningful international border re-opening until well into 2021.

"We believe the Prime Minister taking the portfolio is innovative and necessary as tourism's total economic contribution and job creation can be well driven from the very top of government," Westaway added.

If he were to take personal responsibility for the tourism portfolio, Morrison would bring a wealth of professional experience to the table, having formerly served as Director of the New Zealand Office of Tourism and Sport from 1998 to 2000 and as the Managing Director of Tourism Australia from 2004 to 2006.

ATIC added that if Morrison did not want the job, tourism should at least be kept at the Federal Cabinet table in any restructure.

Hunter leads charge

THE Hunter region's accommodation sector is "leading the charge" in travel recovery in NSW, according to Tourism Accommodation Australia NSW CEO Michael Johnson.

Speaking at a gathering of hotel general managers last week, the industry body chief said the Hunter had recorded a 12% increase in revenue per available room compared to the same period last year, testament to the state's willingness to embark on intrastate travel.

"It is pleasing to see NSW residents are holidaying in their own backyard and as state borders begin to open we hope to see these numbers get even better," Johnson said.

The NSW north coast region has so far fared a lot better than Sydney's CBD area, which has seen occupancy rates plummet by 70% on the corresponding period last year, a figure that is tipped to improve as restrictions ease.

Scenic savings 22/23

SCENIC and Emerald Cruises have introduced a range of earlybird promotions on select Antarctica, Asian and European cruises in 2022 and 2023.

Offers include up to 20% savings on a selection of 2022 Antarctica and Europe departures and new 2022/23 global voyages to be released in Dec, as well as up to 30% off select *Emerald Azzurra* voyages in the Mediterranean, Adriatic Coast and Red Sea.

All bookings are backed by the lines' deposit protection plan and 60-day flexible booking policy, which allows for cancellations up to 31 days prior to departure and 100% refunds.

Murray trail boost

THE Victorian Govt will inject \$10.3 million to upgrade walking and cycling tracks along the Murray River Adventure Trail in a bid to attract an extra 55,000 visitors a year.

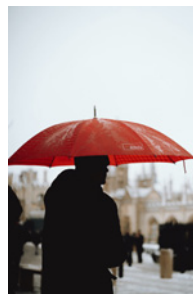
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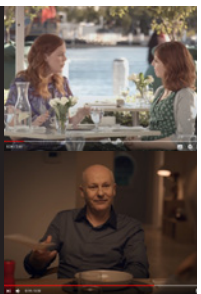
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*"Always Included" Pricing Packages apply to sailings booked and departing on or after 17 November 2020, excluding Galapagos cruises, in an Inside through AquaClass stateroom ("Eligible Bookings"). All guests in an Eligible Booking who choose the "Always Included" pricing package will receive a Classic Beverage Package and Service Charges, plus an unlimited Surf Internet package for the 1st and 2nd guest. All guests in a stateroom must choose the same pricing package. Visit [celebritycruises.com/au](https://www.celebritycruises.com/au) or [celebritycruises.com/nz](https://www.celebritycruises.com/nz) for complete details. ©2020 Celebrity Cruises Inc. Ships' registry: Malta and Ecuador.



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

travelBulletin



Trafalgar heroes

TRAFALGAR has today launched a "Local Heroes" initiative, inviting Australians to nominate someone worthy of winning one of two holidays valued at up to \$9,000 each.

The winners will enjoy a trip to Europe courtesy of Trafalgar in partnership with Singapore Airlines, including a \$5,000 Trafalgar voucher and two Economy class SQ return flights.

Trafalgar MD Katrina Barry said 2020 had been an especially tough year for Australians.

"We are so grateful to the selfless individuals in our communities that have helped Australians get through this year and look forward to being able to recognise and reward these Local Heroes for their efforts with this campaign," she said.

Nominations are open until 11 Dec at trafalgar.com/local-heroes.

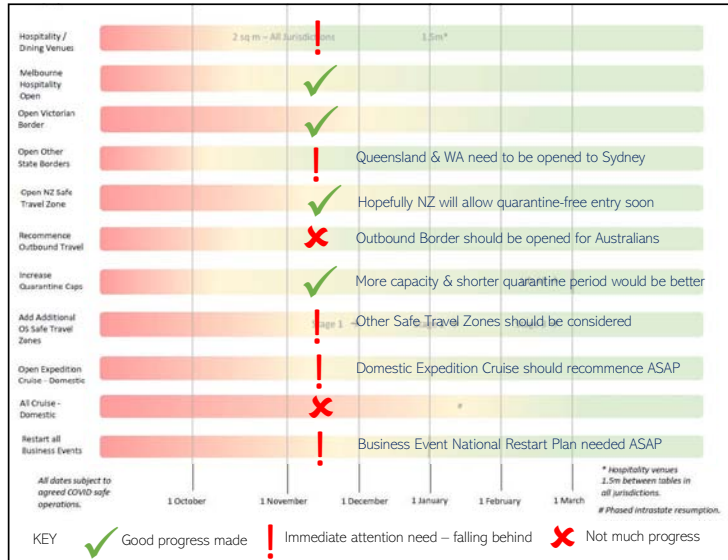
60 seconds of Skal

SHARYN Van der Veen from Room-Res.com features in a lighthearted new video from the Melbourne Skal Club.

She's the latest face of "60 seconds of Skal" during which she is interviewed by Richard Kellaway about her travel industry career, music preferences, lockdown activities and her questionable tastes in reality TV.

Others interviewed in the series include Graham Smith, Keiran Cromie and Jacqui Rogers - see traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Tourism scorecard still a fail



THE Australian Chamber - Tourism has welcomed recent easing of COVID-19 restrictions, but has warned that there is still work to be done as a matter of urgency to ensure that a Dec target for opening can be reached.

The organisation's Executive Chairman, John Hart, has released details of the current progress towards the various goals on the Tourism Restart Taskforce's proposed timetable (**TD 26 May**), noting some breakthroughs around border openings, hospitality venues increasing their capacity and quarantine caps being increased.

He's also hinted that NZ is likely to allow quarantine-free entry from Australia soon.

Areas of concern include the opening of Queensland and

Western Australia to Sydney residents, the opening of the outbound border to Australians and the addition of other international safe travel zones.

The scorecard (**pictured**) also urges that "domestic expedition cruise should recommence ASAP," although Coral Expeditions Commercial Director, Jeff Gillies has noted that Coral and *True North* were already operating - more in *Cruise Weekly* tomorrow.

Hart noted that Australians do not pose a global public health risk and so should not be stopped from leaving Australia.

"All aspects of tourism restart are linked and need to be activated in sequence to ensure an effective road out...there are no jurisdictions in Australia that could be considered anything but low risk."



Window Seat

ONE of Uganda's biggest tourist attractions was subject to a major drug bust last week, with authorities raiding a 200-acre marijuana crop grown illegally in the picturesque Queen Elizabeth National Park.

The area is normally a haven for safari tours to observe the native hippopotamuses, elephants and buffaloes, but during COVID, the park has suffered a significant downturn.

Marijuana remains banned in Uganda, pending proposed legislation, with several firms applying to the Ugandan Ministry of Health for licenses to export the drug - making this business pivot a tad premature.

On a related note, marijuana tourism is being touted as a possible driver of global recovery for the struggling sector, with the Seychelles recently hinting it would investigate it as a possible avenue of growth, stating "marijuana tourism is an untapped market for Seychelles with many tourists flocking to destinations considered to be weed-friendly."



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Love it like you mean it Sydney

DESTINATION NSW has launched a new marketing campaign that implores Sydneysiders to "Love It Like You Mean It", by dining out, visiting an attraction, museum, gallery, or simply by having a staycation.

The marketing push will run across print, radio, social media, digital and YouTube - **CLICK HERE** for your travel inspiration.

New Bamboo shoot

VIETNAMESE carrier Bamboo Airways has been approved to operate nonstop services to the United States from as early as next month.

The launch date will depend on the state of COVID recovery in the US, with the service to be the first nonstop route linking the nations.

Bamboo Airways plans to launch a Melbourne to Hanoi route next year (**TD** 28 Nov 2019).

Fraser Island fire

FIREFIGHTERS are currently battling to save two townships on Fraser Island as a bushfire continues to ravage the major Queensland tourist attraction.

The fire has been burning for close to a month after campers allegedly lit a cooking fire and failed to extinguish it on 14 Oct.

SA gets isolated

A GROWING cluster of COVID-19 cases in South Australia has led Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Queensland and Tasmania to revise their border policies with the state.

The current number of new COVID cases in SA has grown to 17 today, with Western Australia the first to tighten border controls and mandate COVID tests on arrival from SA and require 14 days of self-isolation.

The NT, Queensland and Tasmania have since implemented similar protocols.



QANTAS will mark 100 years of operation today by conducting a low level flyover of Sydney Harbour later this evening.

The flight path is expected to pass near Rose Bay where the airline's Empire Flying Boats took off for Singapore between 1938 and 1942.

"We want to use this moment to say thank you to all those who have supported Qantas over the years, and in particular, to the many people who have dedicated some or all of their careers to this great company," said Qantas Chairman Richard Goyder.

Initial plans to celebrate the centenary have been significantly scaled back due to the ongoing

impact of COVID-19.

Qantas started life in 1920 by carrying mail between outback towns in Qld and the NT, before becoming nationalised in the 1960s and remaining one of the world's oldest and continuously-operating airlines.

Pictured: Pilot Lester Brain admires one of Qantas' first planes to operate in 1920.

Vanuatu first case

VANUATU has confirmed its first case of COVID-19, prompting the small nation to extend its State of Emergency to 31 Dec.

More than half of all tourists to Vanuatu are from Australia/NZ.

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Sudoku

TRICKY

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

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

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

Whose flag is this?



THIS country's flag began with lion and sun emblems displayed on a plain white background.

In the late 19th century the red and green stripes were added, making the flag similar in design to many other national ensigns which featured a tricolour.

The colours of the stripes are reflective of the country's

religion, peace and valour.

In 1979 the government was overthrown and the flag was modified to the current one, with the sun and lion emblems removed and replaced with a new coat of arms, while a stylised inscription was added to the top and bottom of the stripes.

Do you know whose flag this is?

Who needs a drink?



AS IT says in the name, today's cocktail, The Signature, is one of the highlights of Le Chai de l'Hippodrome, a wine bar and restaurant in New Caledonia's Noumea.

The cocktail is inspired by the bright, tropical flavours of the Pacific, as well as New Caledonia's French roots.

As always, please keep sending your recipes to cocktails@traveldaily.com.au.

xx *Jenny*

Jenny Piper
Owner,
Business
Publishing
Group



The Signature

INGREDIENTS

- 20ml vanilla syrup
- 20ml Cointreau
- 20ml lemon juice
- 40ml strawberry concentrate
- 8-10 ice cubes
- Crushed ice (to serve)
- Pinot noir champagne
- A slice of fresh pineapple, for garnish

METHOD

Combine vanilla syrup, Cointreau, lemon juice, strawberry concentrate and ice cubes in a cocktail shaker. Shake well, and strain into a wine glass. Add crushed ice until glass is approximately 2/3 full, then top up with champagne. To serve, garnish with pineapple slice.

ANSWERS 13 NOV

Whose flag is this: Turkmenistan

Pub quiz: 1 Two: Heathrow and London City, 2 Falls Creek ski resort, 3 Victoria, 4 Puget Sound, 5 Air Canada, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Thai Airways International or United Airlines, 6 Indonesia, 7 Beirut, 8 Italy, 9 South Korea, 10 Canada

Unscramble: aptly, gally, glyph, haying, hiya, hying, hyping, inaptly, inlay, laity, laying, lint, litany, lying, nightly, nighty, paying, piny, pithy, pity, play, PLAYTHING, plying, tangly, tanga, thinly, tingly, tiny, tying, typing, yang

Monday 16th November 2020

voco Doha 2021

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has signed an agreement to debut its voco brand in Qatar.

The inking of the management agreement with Al Rabban Hospitality will build on the brand's success in the region.

voco Doha West Bay Suites will feature 396 rooms and suites, and is expected to open in the first quarter of next year in Doha's commercial district.

Set to cater to a variety of needs, "voco was designed for emerging guest segments that appreciate the informality and charm of an individual hotel as well the quality and reassurance of a global and respected brand," said Managing Director, India, Middle East and Africa Pascal Gauvin.

He added the signing also reaffirmed the optimistic outlook for the accommodation industry.

A road to recovery

THAILAND'S Department of Rural Roads and Ministry of Transport is crafting three new scenic tourist routes located in the south, centre and northeast of the country.

The Southern Coastal Road, the Naga Withi route and the Burapha Khiri route are set to begin construction in 2022, with the new projects designed to boost visitation in the wake of the global health crisis.

Taiwan's got Moxy!

MOXY Hotels is continuing its expansion in the Asia Pacific with the debut of a hotel in Taiwan.

Said to combine "stylish, industrial-chic design with sociable services", Moxy Taichung will be located at the intersection of the city's Uptown and Downtown districts.

Say hello to the new Minister



THE Queensland Government's new Tourism Industry Development Minister Stirling Hinchliffe (**TD** 12 Nov) has been welcomed to his new portfolio by Tourism & Events Queensland (TEQ) Chief Executive Officer Leanne Coddington (**pictured**).

The two greeted each other in a video posted by Tourism & Events Queensland (**CLICK HERE**), in which Coddington also ruminated on the significance of last week's NAIDOC Week and the work TEQ is undertaking to support reconciliation and indigenous tourism efforts.

"It's a great honour to become the Queensland Minister for Tourism Industry and Development...the tourism industry in this state is so vitally important and core to who we are as a state and we will continue to grow and improve upon the great state that we live in," Hinchliffe enthused.

TG losses continue

THAI Airways International has posted a third quarter loss of nearly \$21.53 billion (A\$980 million), a result almost quadruple the figure reported in the same period last year.

Acting President Chansin Treenuchagron said load factor was down to just 35% during the quarter from 80% in Q3 2019, with the number of passengers flown down by 92% from 490,000, as Thai International undergoes a court-approved restructuring process (**TD** 17 Sep).

"This is one of the steps in the preparation stage to subsequently sell the used aircraft under the business reorganisation proceedings," Thai said.

"The sale of the planes would require relevant stakeholders and the bankruptcy court's approval."

Thai has 34 of its airplanes for sale and is also poring through its warehouses to see what else they can sell, including salt & pepper shakers, wine glasses, seat covers, aircraft tyres and alcohol.

Mel hotels impacted

REFLECTING the adverse impact of a second lockdown, Melbourne showed continued lower hotel performance last month when compared to the year prior, according to preliminary data from hotel industry market data firm STR.

Year-over-year declines remained significant, with occupancy down 69.1% to 26.3%, average daily rate falling 47.2% to \$99.39 and revenue per available room (REVPAR) down 83.7% to \$26.12.

The absolute levels across the three metrics were the lowest for Melbourne for any month in STR's database, with Oct the second consecutive month occupancy and REVPAR were below 30% and \$30.00 respectively.

BROCHURES

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Oceania Cruises - 2022 Europe & North America Collection

Oceania Cruises has gone to press with its 2022 Europe and North America Collection. The program showcases 110 itineraries, of which 76 are brand new. There are also 10 new ports to explore, such as rising Danish destination Aarhus, the Irish village of Killybegs, and Norway's Lofoten Islands. Connoisseurs of food and wine will be pleased with the six itineraries that focus on Western Europe's wine countries, and a further four devoted to the culinary treasures of the United Kingdom.

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

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