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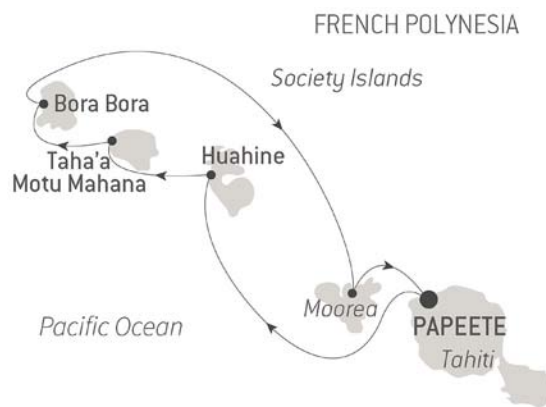
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Paul Gauguin 2021

SAVINGS of up to \$2,600 per couple are on offer for bookings on a series of 15 week-long Tahiti and Society Islands Paul Gauguin trips between Apr & Dec 2021.

As well as the price reductions, the voyages aboard the *Paul Gauguin* out of Papeete offer the option for children aged one to 17 to travel free in shared accommodation with adults.

Highlights of the cruises include visits to Huahine, Moto Mahana, Bora Bora and Moorea, and family groups can take advantage of the inclusive, no-charge Moana Explorer Programme of naturalist-led activities and excursions which is offered in partnership with Te mana o te moana, a South Pacific marine education and conservation foundation.

The special offer is valid for bookings confirmed by 06 Nov 2020 - see the **cover page**.

Coffee cluster sesh

TOMORROW'S BYO Coffee Cluster webinar will see the Tourism Authority of Thailand award three \$50 Coles vouchers.

The webinar takes place at 12pm (AEDT) and explains why Thailand is a safe destination for families and foodies.

Also presenting at the webinar will be cruise line Viking and wholesaler Island Escapes, with a 15-minute Q&A from each presenter.

Register **HERE** for more details on the session and to attend.

Ombudsman "inundated"

THE office of the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman (ASBFEO) says it has been "inundated" with more than 1,000 responses from travel agents since launching a survey on Fri asking about the industry's travails (**TD** 19 Oct).

The poll was launched after a meeting between Ombudsman Kate Carnell and travel agents Jo Francis from WA's Global Travel Solutions and Christine Ross-Francis from Attadale Travel, both of whom have remained vocal about informing important decision-makers about the plight of Aussie agents.

Carnell noted the high volume of concerned agents who communicated the details of financial hardship experienced since the health crisis struck.

"In just a few days, we have heard from hundreds of travel agents - 98% of which say they have seen their revenue plunge by more than 75% since COVID restrictions were introduced in Mar," she said.

"More than half have told us their revenue had plummeted by over 100%, meaning they have been paying more out in refunds.

"These travel agents are working around the clock to negotiate refunds from travel companies and airlines for their customers.

"In fact, 56% of these small businesses have said they would have already closed down, if not

for their commitment to ensure their customers were refunded for holidays they could no longer take," she added.

Cornell said the ASBFEO would be further consulting with the sector to see what assistance is required, confirming a targeted government response is needed.

MEANWHILE, the Member for Dunkley in Victoria, Peta Murphy, has affirmed the plight of agents in Federal Parliament this week following a meeting with local agents, including meeting organiser Linda Forster.

Murphy called on the government to create a "specific, tailored assistance" package for agents who were neglected in the latest Federal Budget.

Jayride raises \$1.5m

JAYRIDE has successfully raised \$1.5 million after entering a trading halt on Mon (**TD** 19 Oct).

The placement of 100 million fully paid ordinary shares at \$0.15 each was made to "sophisticated investors", with shareholders now offered the opportunity to participate in a purchase plan to raise a further \$1 million.

MD Rod Bishop noted the funds would be channelled towards capturing market share via new growth opportunities, with the company noting in its most recent financial report it would be investing \$21 million in more tech and talent (**TD** 28 Aug).

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page plus a front full page from **Paul Gauguin Cruises**.

Kakadu master plan

A DRAFT tourism master plan for Kakadu National Park is outlining ways to improve tourism visitation and lend continued support to indigenous employment in the region.

The draft includes proposed upgrades to visitor infrastructure, new accommodation, new mountain biking trails, family holiday parks, and more.

See the full plan **HERE**.

Chimu's cool flights

CHIMU Adventures is offering flights to see the aurora australis over Antarctica.

Departing and returning to Australia's major domestic terminals, pax fly over the Southern Ocean towards Antarctica on board a Qantas Boeing 787-9 for a viewing of the aurora - more information **HERE**.

Hertz grabs lifeline

HERTZ has secured US\$1.65 billion in debtor-in-possession financing, and has since filed a motion for approval with the US Bankruptcy Court (**TD** 25 May).

CEO Paul Stone said the new financing would provide additional financial flexibility.

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Sky's the limit for APT

APT Travel Group has unveiled a brand new touring division called Private Air Tours, allowing travellers to take private charter flights to a range of popular Australian destinations.

The new range of tours enable travellers to circumnavigate traditional commercial routes to remote locations, many of which have been interrupted by the travel shutdown.

APT Travel Group CEO David Cox said its new private charter touring product offered a "genuine alternative" to commercial airlines during a time of uncertainty in Australia.

"As we all know, the travel industry has changed dramatically, many scheduled commercial flights have been cancelled and the reality is we don't know when they will resume," he said.

"By chartering a private aircraft

and designing itineraries to match our guests' needs, we can offer a unique holiday experience that is possible in this new travel landscape," Cox added.

The first departure for the new Private Air Tours offering took place last month, taking Queenslanders to explore outback Queensland for nine days - the first tour to take place for the company since Mar.

The full 2021 range and brochure is due to be released in Nov, with a return trip from BNE to Kangaroo Island, Port Augusta and Uluru now on sale from \$6,695 per person.

For further information on the flight, [CLICK HERE](#).

APT's product follows similar moves in the domestic market by other operators, with Crooked Compass launching Adventure by Air in Sep, introducing eight curated journeys (**TD** 15 Sep).

Fire out of Dragon

CATHAY Pacific Group is reportedly closing down its Cathay Dragon subsidiary as part of a dramatic cost-cutting plan.

The regional airline will reportedly be merged into the main business, a move that will directly result in an estimated loss of 5,000 jobs.

Cathay Pacific Group posted a record HK\$9.87 billion (A\$1.8 billion) loss for the first six months of 2020.

Scoot to MEL/SYD

SCOOT has revealed it will restart SYD and MEL flights from next month.

Boeing 787 services to the cities will commence from 01 Nov, joining flights to Perth and sister Singapore Airlines' services to Sydney and Melbourne.

The move will see the two cities become the two most served cities on the group's network by the end of the year.



Window Seat

ELEMENT Melbourne Richmond has launched a new ultimate sleepover experience, featuring free arcade games, karaoke, cinema rooms, foodie demonstrations and more.

Designed to celebrate the impending easing of Melbourne's lockdown, the experience will be available to book from 02 Nov.

Much like the themed hotel rooms of yore, the experience includes retro appeal such as a Nintendo and foosball room.

[CLICK HERE](#) for further info.



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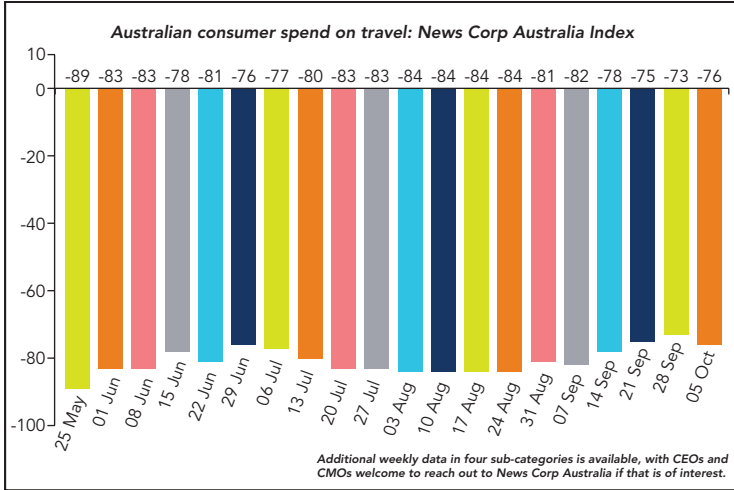
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Accommodation rebounds



DESPITE the travel index not painting the most positive picture of the industry's recovery, the accommodation sector has enjoyed one of its strongest weeks in recent memory, News Corp Australia statistics show.

The media conglomerate's Head of Travel, Dwayne Birtles, believes the positive number was driven

by increasing consumer demand to travel and border openings between NSW & SA, as well as northern NSW and Qld.

However, Birtles also warned that while border restrictions are still in place and international travel closed, cruise lines and travel and tour agencies would continue to be impacted.

Aussies love a beach getaway and those heading to NSW's North Coast are spoiled for choice. Read more in the October issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

We're all in this together



THE Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC), Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) and Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) have been busy forging closer ties during the pandemic, with recent meetings confirming unified support between the respective sectors.

Taking advantage of the recently reopened border with New South Wales, CATO's South Australia-

based Chairman Dennis Bunnik visited Sydney for one of their recent gatherings.

Conversations covered border closures, government support, media coverage and more.

Pictured melding minds are CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz and Chairman Gavin Smith with CATO Chairman Dennis Bunnik and Managing Director Brett Jardine.



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Club Med gift cards

CLUB Med has launched new gift cards to the market which earn a 10% sales commission for travel agents.

The company is also offering an extra 10% bonus credit for travellers who purchase a gift card between now and the end of Dec, with credit applicable to other Club Med promotions such as its 30% discount earlybird deal for travel taken in 2021.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

SA seeks NZ deal

SOUTH Australia Premier Steven Marshall has written to New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to request a reciprocal travel bubble.

The proposal from the state leader follows the sanctioning of Kiwis to travel freely within the state from this week.

MEANWHILE, Victorians within 70km of the border can visit SA, but must self-isolate for 14 days.

Seeking new individuals

RADISSON Hotel Group has introduced a new brand to its portfolio, Radisson Individuals, a “conversion brand” that offers independent hotels the opportunity to join its network.

The company stated that hotels which join its ranks will benefit from accessing its global distribution channels, sales and marketing departments, and generally increase the visibility of the property with travellers worldwide.

“Joining Radisson Individuals is an ideal first step for individual hotels with strong service scores who wish to remain independent or may be considering transitioning to one of our successful core brands, as well as a strong proposition for local, regional hotel brands seeking to explore additional distribution channels,” said Radisson Hotel Group CEO Federico Gonzalez.

To obtain entry to become a

Radisson Individuals-branded hotel, applications will need to meet a criteria involving strict health and safety compliance and the ability to connect to the group’s main operating systems.

Radisson added that “a number” of hotels had already agreed to join the new brand as foundation members, including properties across Asia & Europe.

WTTC welcomes airport testing

THE World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has embraced COVID testing on departure trials being conducted at Charles de Gaulle in Paris and Heathrow in London, labelling them “a step in the right direction” for rebooting the struggling travel sector.

The WTTC has been active in calling for govts around the world to implement standardised and rapid testing on flight departures.

Contamination fears in quarantine

RETURNING travellers to Victoria who had their blood glucose levels tested while in quarantine are now being screened due to a risk of cross-contamination and infection.

Safer Care Victoria has contacted 243 people who had a blood glucose level test between 29 Mar and 20 Aug over concerns the body of blood glucose monitor needles were used for multiple people.

“The needles can be changed between use, but the body of the devices can retain microscopic amounts of blood,” Safer Care Victoria said.

Safer Care Victoria also noted it would be conducting a full review as to how and why the device came to be in use to administer the blood tests.

Any concerned parties who have not yet been contacted are encouraged to call 1800 356 061.

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An insider’s guide to eating and drinking in New Zealand

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Pub quiz

- Which city do South Africans refer to as the 'Mother City'?
- When did Maori tribes first settle in the area which is now Auckland?
 - 14th century
 - 15th century
 - 16th century
- An automated teller machine (ATM) first appeared in which city?
- The final of the next Rugby League World Cup will be held in which city?
- Until gaining its independence in 1971, Qatar was ruled by which country?
- As the crow flies, is Cairns closer to Brisbane or Darwin?
- What is the name of the South Australian peninsula located immediately south of Adelaide?
- The border between which two countries runs across the summit of Mount Everest?
- Standing at 875m, what is the highest point on Lord Howe Island?
- Which airline is headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas?

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.

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

Whose flag is this?



THIS nation has had many flags during its history.

The first flag, used in 1921, had black, white and green horizontal stripes with a red triangle on the left.

It was then modified with the triangle being truncated and two white seven-pointed stars being added.

In 1959, the rulers were overthrown and a new flag was established with the same

colours but in vertical rather than horizontal stripes and central yellow sun with eight red rays.

Finally, something very similar to this flag, first flown in Egypt, was introduced in 1952, except with three green stars as well as the Arabic script.

The stars were removed in 2004 to leave this flag as the official ensign, and it was adopted formally in 2008.

Do you know whose flag it is?

Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the TD Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 28 Jan 2014:

LOUNGE access privileges have been revoked for a man who allegedly used VIP facilities offered by China Eastern Airlines almost every day for a year.

The passenger appears to have purchased a fully refundable first class ticket expressly for the purpose of accessing free food at the China Eastern lounge at Xian Xianyang International Airport in China's Shaanxi province.

According to Malaysia's *Kwong Wah Yit Poh* Chinese-language newspaper, the man changed his itinerary over 300 times during the year to access the facilities, and eventually cancelled the ticket and obtained a full refund when it was about to expire.

ANSWERS 20 OCT

Where in the world: Mount Rushmore, South Dakota, USA.

The monument depicts George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

Unscramble: aged, aglet, agree, agreed, degree, delegate, deterge, drag, dreg, eager, eagle, eaglet, eagre, edge, edger, egret, gale, gate, gated, gear, geared, geed, geld, glad, glade, glare, glared, glee, grade, grate, grated, great, greed, greet, greeted, lager, large, ledge, ledger, legate, legatee, leger, rage, raged, regal, regale, regaled, relegate, RELEGATED

Pub quiz: 1 China, 2 Hispaniola, 3 Scandinavian Airlines, 4 Table Bay, 5 Tokyo, 6 Croatia, 7 Singapore, 8 Salt Lake City, 9 Air India, 10 b) 54 hours



Gold Coast left out?

GOLD Coast-based Queensland state Parliamentarian David Crisafulli has labelled Tourism Australia's decision to leave the city out of their latest promo videos a "slap in the face".

Tourism Australia defended its decision, saying similar initiatives to the in-question Experience Australia in 8D Sound promotional campaign (**TD** 28 Sep) were being rolled out in the coming weeks, and the Gold Coast would be featured.

NSW voucher plan

A VOUCHER scheme is needed to better promote the accommodation sector, Tourism Accommodation NSW CEO Michael Johnson believes.

New South Wales' leading accommodation body has called on the State Government to introduce a holiday voucher scheme to help kickstart the sector, especially in Sydney.

Johnson said it would encourage more local residents to "holiday in their own backyard".

Transition is rock solid



VOYAGES Indigenous Tourism Australia has marked its "changing of the guard", with new Chief Executive Officer Matt Cameron-Smith (**TD** 16 Jun) and his predecessor Grant Hunt taking a trip to Uluru and Ayers Rock Resort last week (**pictured**).

It was the first opportunity for the two to catch up, given flights have now resumed from Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide into the Northern Territory.

During the visit, Cameron-Smith met the Ayers Rock Resort team and perused its extensive

refurbishment, which was completed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The works encompassed extensive upgrades at the five-star Sails in the Desert, including all guest rooms and suites, the lobby, pool and restaurant; completion of upgrades to The Lost Camel, and the replacement of toilet blocks and bathrooms at Ayers Rock Campground.

Improvements to infrastructure at Ayers Rock Airport were also completed during the reno.

ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



In collaboration with chef Sean Connolly, **QT Auckland** has unveiled its signature restaurant, Esther, and the city's newest rooftop bar, Rooftop at QT. Combining locally sourced ingredients with design-led interiors and signature service, the hotel

hopes Esther will become one of the pillars of Viaduct Harbour's dining scene, while aspirations for the Rooftop at QT include becoming a must-visit for travellers to Auckland.



Autograph Collection Hotels has introduced **The Prince Kyoto Takaragaike, Autograph Collection Hotel** to Japan. The new hotel is designed to showcase Kyoto's culinary, cultural and community traditions to travellers. It is located within walking

distance to Kokusaikaikan Station, and is situated in the heart of the city's Rakuhoku district, adjacent to Takaragaike Park and Shugakuin Imperial Villa.



Cosa Hotel, which recently opened in Christchurch, spans five storeys and 88 rooms, most of which have city views. The boutique central Christchurch hotel includes a cafe and a conference room. The property is located just a few minutes' walk to

restaurants, bars, shopping, Christchurch Town Hall, the Terrace, Hagley Park, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, and the Te Pae Convention Centre, which is due to open in 2021.

SQ resumes NY

SINGAPORE Airlines is resuming its New York service on 09 Nov with thrice-weekly non-stop flights to John F. Kennedy International.

An Airbus A350-900 will be utilised, configured with 42 Business class, 24 Premium Economy and 187 Economy seats.

The airline added that it would continue to review its international operations to the United States.

New SA wine tour

A NEW McLaren Vale and The Cube day adventure has been introduced by the Adelaide Sightseeing tour company.

The tour will help travellers to discover some of the best food, wine, gin and beer in the region.

Departing Adelaide every Mon, Tue and Thu, the exploration is priced from \$189pp, with departures starting on 02 Nov.

CLICK HERE for more details.