



NZ departure tax

AUTHORITIES in New Zealand are considering a new report which urges the imposition of a new departure tax to help fund environmental initiatives such as research into low emissions aviation technology.

Simon Upton, New Zealand's Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, said the proposed levy would reflect the "environmental cost of flights from New Zealand," adding \$25 to the cost of a flight to Australia or \$155 for an economy long-haul sector to Europe.

The plan could raise up to \$400 million a year, and would "show the world we are serious about aviation's impact on climate change and make people more comfortable about travelling here," Upton said.

Emirates to charge GDS fee

EMIRATES has become the latest carrier to impose fees on bookings through travel agent GDS platforms, with a fee of up to US\$25 per sector to become effective from 01 Jul.

The new EK "distribution surcharge" starts at US\$14 for shorter flights, with the carrier urging agents to access content via the Emirates Gateway to avoid the impost (**TD** 08 Oct 2020).

Emirates Chief Commercial Officer Adnan Kazim said the move marked a milestone in the carrier's plans "to cater to a dynamic marketplace by providing trade partners with a choice of connection options and differentiated products and benefits across channels.

"Our goal is to empower our trade partners to deliver even better customer experiences, and we are pleased to introduce the next batch of new exclusive features and benefits for them on Emirates Gateway," he said.

Kazim said the platform had been launched to address the limitations of current legacy systems and provide a wide range of additional content and options for travel agents.

Effective from 01 Jul - the same day the new fees for GDS bookings are implemented - the Emirates Gateway will offer access to differentiated ticket pricing such as dedicated promotional fares and pre-sales.

Agents will be able to sell excess

baggage, have access to rich content, and be given "faster access to new ancillary products," the carrier promised.

The NDC content can be accessed via an online web portal in 16 languages connected directly to the EK res system; via a direct gateway connection through "standard NDC APIs," and via Emirates Gateway Sync, a facilitated link to EK products and services provided by IATA-registered and Emirates-certified technology partners.

"Agencies not signed up to the Emirates Gateway can continue to access Emirates' EDIFACT legacy content through the airline's GDS partners Amadeus, Travelport, Travelsky, Infini and Sirena," the airline said, with the new distribution surcharge aiming to "mitigate the higher cost Emirates incurs through GDS distribution".

New name for LAS

MCCARRAN International Airport in Las Vegas is set to be renamed as Harry Reid International Airport, in honour of a long-serving Democratic Senator for Nevada.

The new moniker is still subject to approval by the FAA.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page.

Rex axing routes

REGIONAL Express says it has no choice but to suspend five routes once government support through the Regional Airline Network Support (RANS) ends at the end of next month.

Operations will cease on flights from Sydney to Cooma, Bathurst, Lismore and Grafton, as well as Adelaide-Kangaroo Island, with the carrier saying it's part of a "major revamp of its regional route network in response to aggressive predatory moves by Qantas into thin regional routes serviced by Rex".

Rex will "stand its ground" on other routes where QF has entered the market, with Deputy Chair John Sharp accusing Qantas of deliberately attempting to damage Rex in the lead-up to its new capital city jet services.

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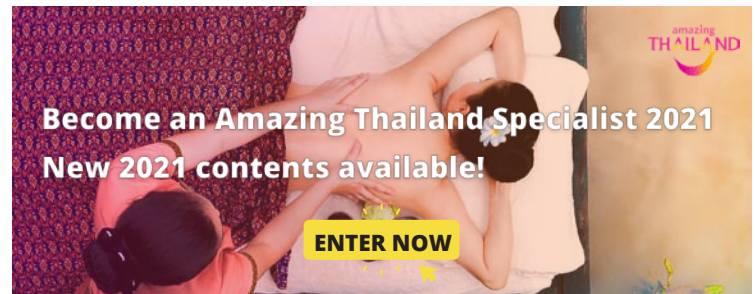
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Duffy to chair USTA

CARNIVAL Cruise Line President and CEO Christine Duffy has taken on an additional role as Chair of the US Travel Association.

Duffy was previously the organisation's vice-Chair, and succeeds Destination DC CEO Elliott Ferguson as Chair after the conclusion of his term.

EY, GF agreement

ETIHAD Airways and Gulf Air have announced a new Strategic Commercial Cooperation Agreement, which will see the carriers expand existing codeshare agreements beyond their respective Abu Dhabi and Bahrain hubs.

The wide-ranging pact will also see them optimise connections on the Abu Dhabi-Bahrain route, offer reciprocal lounge access and loyalty program benefits and empower the airlines to "offer a more elevated experience to passengers," the carriers said.

NZ digital travel pass trial

AIR New Zealand will be among the first carriers to trial an electronic Travel Pass app developed by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), with a planned pilot on flights between Auckland and Sydney.

The IATA Travel Pass app is set to launch on the Apple and Google App Stores in Apr, and will provide a verified repository for passengers to store all their health credentials, according to Air NZ Chief Digital Officer, Jennifer Sepull.

"Once borders reopen, travel is going to look very different, with customers' health data needing to be verified at check-in.

"It's essentially like having a digital health certificate that can be easily and securely shared with airlines...this will give customers peace of mind that they meet all travel requirements for the different countries around the world before they even get to

the airport," Sepull said.

Rather than a central database storing personal information, customer privacy is at the heart of the design, giving travellers complete discretion in what is being shared.

IATA Senior VP for Airport, Passenger, Cargo & Security, Nick Careen, said the Travel Pass trial was an important milestone towards restarting travel.

"Air NZ is demonstrating its industry leadership, being among the first airlines in the world to offer its passengers a digital travel pass," he said.

"Air NZ's trial of IATA Travel Pass will help give governments the confidence to re-open borders and passengers the confidence to travel," Careen added.

The trial will run for three weeks, with the carrier in discussion with govt agencies about options for validation of testing and vaccination.

NIB Travel losses

NIB Health this morning confirmed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its travel insurance business, with its operating income down more than 90% year-on-year.

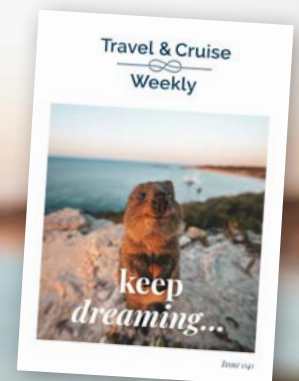
The travel division recorded a \$7.3 million half-year loss, while NIB has also taken a further \$7 million non-cash impairment charge against the NIB Travel intangible assets "reflecting the more difficult outlook for travel".

CEO Mark Fitzgibbon said "it's all a bit gloomy at the moment, yet COVID-19 will pass and our travel business is well positioned for recovery and growth when travel restrictions are relaxed or borders re-open," with NIB taking the opportunity to "recalibrate and modernise the business".

NIB's international inbound health insurance products for students and workers had also been impacted by COVID, shedding members and experiencing much higher claims.

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Skal Mad March

SKAL Adelaide has announced it will host a Mad March event next Thu 04 Mar at The Stag Hotel on Rundle Street.

Skal members can book tickets from \$35, while there are also Young Skal/TAFE and student prices of \$20 on offer.

The organisation has focused on wellbeing and connectedness over the last 12 months, with Skal Adelaide managing to increase its membership base.

CLICK HERE to book tickets.

P&O names Arvia

SET to join the fleet in Dec 2022, P&O Cruises UK has revealed the name of its anticipated ship as *Arvia*.

The cruise line's President Paul Ludlow said P&O's second LNG-powered Excel class ship had been designed to maximise ocean and shore views from on board, taking advantage of planned year-round, sun-laden voyages.

Vic "Circuit Breaker" funds

THE Victorian Government has unveiled a \$143 million "Circuit Breaker" support package designed to help tourism businesses in the state impacted by last week's multi-billion dollar snap COVID-19 lockdown.

The cash injection includes a new \$92 million Business Costs Assistance Program which provides grants of up to \$2,000 for businesses in sectors such as tourism and events with an annual payroll of up to \$3 million.

Victoria's support package also features \$16.2 million for tourism accommodation providers in Greater Melbourne that lost business due to restrictions.

Companies that experienced 10 or fewer cancelled nights due to the statewide lockdown will be granted \$2,250 in compensation, while \$4,500 will be allocated for accommodation providers which lost 11 nights or more.

Another pillar of the funding

package will see 40,000 new travel vouchers issued to residents over the age of 18 to support travel in greater Melbourne, as well as an additional 10,000 \$200 vouchers to encourage Victorians to plan an intrastate holiday.

The vouchers can be spent on accommodation, tours and entry fees to regional attractions, and will be granted only for a minimum two nights in paid accommodation in regional Victoria locations, such as the Yarra and Dandenong Ranges or the Mornington Peninsula.

"We welcome this acknowledgment from the Victorian State Government of the devastating impact of its coronavirus circuit-breaker strategy and look forward to continuing to work closely to get the balance right," said Accommodation Association Chief Executive Officer Dean Long.



Window Seat

VIRGIN Australia hosted a wedding in the sky last week, with newlywed couple Luke Serdar and Elaine Tiong (pictured) saying "I do" at more than 40,000 feet.

The flight from Melbourne to Sydney saw 150 surprised passengers witness the couple tying the knot in a wedding which was originally scheduled for Valentine's Day, until Victoria's lockdown scuttled their marriage plans.

Virgin's first-ever mid-air wedding saw Australian actress and singer Tottie Goldsmith solemnise the nuptials.



Help us discover chocolate

AROUND THE WORLD

In the lead up to Easter, submit your chocolate recipes from around the world for our weekly feature. They can be desserts, snacks, savoury dishes or beverages.

CLICK HERE

Where in the world?



THIS interesting structure hosts a museum, one of four that make up the institution.

It is one of the largest museums of modern and contemporary art in the world, and holds a collection of works from 1900 to the present day.

It is housed in a former power station, which consists of a

turbine hall 53m high by 152m long, alongside a boiler house and a single central chimney.

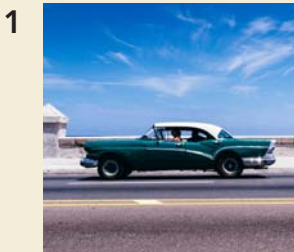
The gallery opened in 2000 and since then it has become one of the country's top three tourist attractions.

Do you know the name of this museum and where in the world it can be found?

Pick the nation

COUNTRIES have unique geography, ethnicities and cultures which come together to often form very distinctive symbols.

Based on the four different symbols and famous faces, see if you can figure out which country they represent.



Sudoku

MEDIUM

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

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

Whose mascot is this?



BENNY the Bull is one of the longest-tenured mascots in all of sports, having been entertaining his team's fans since 1969.

Unlike many other mascots, Benny is known to intimidate

and bully the opposition team's players and is known for his cheekiness of stealing parts of a player's uniform.

Despite this, he is often listed as one of sport's best mascots.

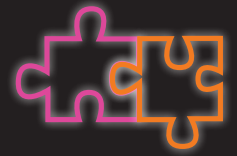
ANSWERS 19 FEB

Test your airline knowledge: Airport codes - 1 Manila, Philippines, 2 Nairobi, Kenya, 3 Port Hedland, Australia, 4 Belfast, United Kingdom, Airline liveries - 1 US Airways, 2 Cebu Pacific, 3 Air France

Pub quiz: 1 Norway, 2 Paris Orly Airport, 3 True, 4 Las Vegas, 5 Addis Ababa, 6 Juneau, 7 Strait of Gibraltar, 8 Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, 9 Tagus River, 10 Norway

Icon under a microscope: Pyramids of Giza, Egypt

**NEED A DISTRACTION
AMID THE DOOM
AND GLOOM?**



Check out our daily puzzle page.

Travel Daily

NZ bubble resumes

THE Safe Travel Zone that allows quarantine-free flights from New Zealand to Australia to operate resumed yesterday.

Passengers travelling on a green zone flight and who have been in Auckland in the last 14 days will need a negative COVID-19 test in the 72 hours prior to departure.

The additional testing measures will apply until at least 01 Mar, with Australia's CMO Paul Kelly suggesting Kiwis presented only a "low risk" of COVID transmission.

Quark ramps up

IN AN encouraging sign of recovery for the cruise industry in Australia, expedition line Quark is currently looking to bulk up its local sales and client teams.

The company is recruiting for a Client Experience Manager to be based in Melbourne, as well as three Business Development Managers to be located in Australia and the United States.

Quark said pent-up demand and the soon-to-launch *Ultramarine* were the primary drivers.

Together through thick & Finn



WHAT does second-hand fashion with a Nordic twist have in common with the Australian travel industry? Well, at the very least Satu Raunola-Spencer and Minna Monaghan (**pictured**).

The pair of experienced travel identities have launched a boutique in Sydney's Mosman called Venla as part of a pivot away from travel while the shutdown continues.

The Finnish born Raunola-Spencer and Monaghan, who most recently represented AirHelp in the Australian market, are looking to take advantage of a growing Nordic movement that aims to reduce the waste caused by fast fashion.

"While our business was doing well until mid-2020, with international flights grounded and travel agencies mothballed, we had to look elsewhere for business," Raunola-Spencer said.

"When we looked at the trends from Nordic countries that

had yet to make their way to Australia, we noticed the lack of rent-a-rack second-hand stores that are a mainstay of Finnish fashion retail," she added.

The founders of Venla claim Australian households generate around 247,000 tonnes of textile waste a year, with 85% of the clothes Aussies buy each year ending up in landfill.

Venla's mission is to encourage consumers to recycle and resell the fashion items they have in their wardrobes, with customers able to rent a rack that fits approximately 40 items and pricing is decided by the sellers themselves.

"We have not given up travel, however we cannot wait until international flights to resume to pick up our lives," Raunola-Spencer conceded.

"We wanted to start something totally new, focusing somehow on sustainability and making a small but positive contribution."

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.



BKB Holidays - 2021/22 Christmas Island

Broome, Kimberley & Beyond Holidays (BKB) has released its inaugural 2021/22 Tasmania brochure, offering a selection of packages from self-drive holidays, guided walking holidays to short-breaks. The brochure features food experiences, from small markets to gourmet culinary experiences, as well as wineries, artisan cheeseries, distilleries, oyster farms, local markets and historic country pubs.

One itinerary includes a three-night Launceston getaway including accommodation, plus a winery experience from just \$399 per person, twin share.



Aurora Expeditions - 2021-23 Antarctica

Aurora Expeditions is detailing a range of its new Antarctica itineraries in its 2021-23 Antarctica brochure. With earlybird offers for 2022 and 2023 already available, Aurora is bringing back some of its most popular voyages travelling to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, the Falklands-Malvinas and the Weddell Sea on board its two purpose-built expedition ships. One of the keystones is the 23-day Antarctica Complete voyage, which transports

guests to the Subantarctic Islands, and ventures south of the Antarctic Peninsula, crossing the Antarctic Circle.

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

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