

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a full page from **Get Local**.

## Get Local speakers

**THE** line-up for next month's Get Local expo, scheduled for 24-25 Aug at ICC Sydney, has been released - see **page seven** for details and to register.

## ATAS cancellation

**HELLOWORLD** Travel Plenty Valley (ABN 60 627 253 516) has had its participation in the AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme cancelled, due to a breach of s2.5(d) of the ATAS charter.

The agency's parent company was placed into liquidation earlier this month (**TD** 16 Jul).

## Tucan Travel IP For Sale



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Contact for more information

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## Baillie Lodges SA purchase

**LUXURY** Barossa Valley Lodge The Louise has been acquired by Baillie Lodges for an undisclosed sum, with the 15-suite property to join the collection in Sep.

The company's founder James Baillie said The Louise was a natural fit within the Baillie brand portfolio, "representing the culmination of many years of industry association, collaboration, and shared friendship".

All staff members will be

## Excite debt proofs

**THE** Administrators of the collapsed Excite Holidays and associated companies (**TD** 09 Jan 2020) have given notice that creditors whose debts or claims have not already been admitted have until 12 Aug to make submissions.

The companies, which are subject to a Deed of Company Arrangement, will have a dividend from the administration process declared on 27 Aug, according to the KPMG administrators, Phil Quinlan, Morgan Kelly and Amanda Coneyworth.

Impacted companies include Excite Holidays (Australia) Pty Ltd, Global Travel Specialists, Events NG and Travel Serv Co.

## MH A380 sell-off

**CASH-STRAPPED** carrier Malaysia Airlines is in the process of selling all six of its A380 aircraft, according to the company's LinkedIn page.

The open tender to sell the planes invites interested parties to submit a proposal by 12 Aug, and follows similar sales decisions made by airlines like Air France and Etihad to phase out the large passenger aircraft.

In Apr, British Airways was one of only a few major carriers to back the A380, with CEO Sean Doyle confirming it had the up-to-853-passenger jets firmly in BA's future plans (**TD** 16 Apr).

retained for a "seamless transfer" Baillie confirmed, with the lodge to continue being led by General Manager, Kylie Mansfield.

The property joins a host of luxury Baillie properties in Australia, including Longitude 131° at Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Capella Lodge on Lord Howe Island and the Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island, which is currently being rebuilt after bushfire damage 18 months ago.

Baillie also owns the iconic Huka Lodge in New Zealand and the Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge on Vancouver Island, Canada, with purchase of The Louise the latest step in the company's acquisition which follows a "substantial investment" in the business by US private equity group KSL Capital Partners (**TD** 20 Dec 2018).

The group's co-founder Hayley Baillie is also on the Tourism Australia Board.

## UK "Freedom Day"

**TODAY** marks a major shift in policy within the United Kingdom, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson significantly easing COVID-19 restrictions, including opening up the nation's borders.

The changes reflect increasing vaccination levels across the country, with UK-based Aussie travel executive Joe Karbo providing an exclusive insight into the situation on **page four** of today's *Travel Daily*.

## G Adv confidence

**G ADVENTURES** is celebrating its 250th trip since the pandemic began with a new Book with Confidence policy for Australians.

With 165 trips scheduled to operate in Jul, and over 200 Aug departures planned, the operator is encouraging Australian travellers to "book their own comeback tour" to beat the inevitable rush of bookings when restrictions are lifted.

The updated policy enables travellers to cancel and rebook their trip up to 14 days before departure - call 1300 853 325.

## Air NZ boosts Board

**AIR** New Zealand has appointed Alison Gerry, Claudia Batten and Paul Goulter as directors.

The carrier said the trio would add further digital, strategic and employment relations expertise to its leadership team.

Gerry is currently a Director at ANZ Bank New Zealand, Goulter is a Director of the Co-operative Bank, while Batten is the Chair of listed travel tech firm Serko.

## Victoria extension

**APPLICATIONS** for support under the Vic Government's Sustainable Business Events Program can now be lodged up to 23 Jul, with the scheme offering up to \$250,000 to organisers of events significantly affected by the restrictions that began in late May - [business.vic.gov.au](https://business.vic.gov.au).

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## Window Seat

**WE'VE** all suffered from scheduling conflicts at different times in our lives, but imagine a prior engagement affecting your rare booking into space.

But that's just what a ticketholder on Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin space mission has claimed, with the US\$30 million auction winner pulling out of the flight at the last minute.

But one person's loss is another's gain, with 18-year-old Oliver Daemen (**pictured**), who only graduated from high school last year, named the former traveller's lucky replacement.

Launching into space this week certainly beats Surfer's Paradise as a schoolies destination, let's just hope there aren't too many space toolies on board.



## AZ Europe, US travel issues?

**THE** World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) has urged global agreement on reciprocal recognition of all approved COVID-19 vaccines, with the issue seen as yet another hurdle to the restart of international travel.

A lack of commonality on approvals was highlighted last week when a group of British holidaymakers were rejected entry into Malta because the AstraZeneca vaccines they had been given had originated at a manufacturing facility in India.

Similar issues are likely to be faced by Australians attempting to enter Europe if they have received the locally-made AstraZeneca immunisation, because CSL's Melbourne factory where it is manufactured is not registered with the European Medicines Authority (EMA).

Regulations governing travel across the EU currently allow freedom of movement right across the 27-nation group, as long as passengers have been vaccinated with one of the four EMA-authorized immunisations. It's understood that similar

issues may arise once America opens its borders, because the AstraZeneca vaccine has not been authorised in the US at this stage.

The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) currently has specific travel advice for incoming passengers who are "fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine", which currently only includes the Pfizer, Moderna and Janssen jabs.

However the CDC also recognises "vaccines authorised for emergency use by the World Health Organization" which currently includes the AstraZeneca, Serum Institute of India and SinoPharm vaccines.

The WTTC's plea for reciprocal recognition of all vaccines and vaccine batches aims to help build confidence in the sector, with reports of travellers being turned away further damaging the already struggling travel and tourism sector across the globe.

The organisation is also pushing for harmonised protocols for vaccinated travellers, including no need for testing or quarantine for those who are fully vaccinated, the global adoption of digital health passes, and a data-driven, risk-based and internationally agreed approach to re-establishing freedom of movement.

## Air ticket price hike?

**INTERNATIONAL** air travel prices are expected to soar post-pandemic, former American Airlines President & Chairman Robert Crandall predicts.

Speaking at a CAPA Centre forum late last week, Crandall argued that cap numbers on flights and growing environmental concerns about the impact of an international travel return would likely precipitate a price hike in overseas flights.

"We are going to see limitations of that kind and we are going to see even more people worrying about the environment," he said.

## Vaccination not essential says WHO

**PROOF** of vaccination against COVID-19 should not be the only prescription for resuming overseas travel, the World Health Organization (WHO) believes.

At a recent crisis meeting, the health body concluded that limited and inequitable access to vaccines made compulsory jab-based travel an unattractive option, instead advocating for a risk-based approach to int'l travel by lifting testing/quarantine measures when appropriate and in line with WHO guidance.

Wearing masks, testing, isolation/quarantine and vaccination should all factor into travel risk assessments, WHO said, adding that countries should also avoid placing a financial burden on international travellers where possible.

Further recommendations included relaxing measures such as testing and quarantine for travellers who are fully vaccinated or have had a confirmed previous COVID-19 infection within the past six months and are no longer infectious, as well regularly review testing policies.

## Hotels in fast lane

**PORSCHE** Design Group and Steigenberger Hotels AG have partnered to launch a new luxury hotel brand called Steigenberger Porsche Design Hotels.

The new entity has flagged its intention to "open a number" of locations around the world, with Porsche Design CEO Jan Becker stating the upmarket accommodation concept will aim to create "a completely new hotel experience."

"We demand the highest standards of quality and exclusive design and strive for continuous development," Becker said.

The newly formed company is yet to reveal where its debut location will be, with new-build announcements to be made in due course.

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## Guide app raises \$360k

TRAVEL startup FreeGuides has raised \$360,000 in seed funding, leaving the business with an estimated \$2.5 million valuation.

The tranche of funding for the self-guided tour app has been sourced from a range of backers, including Scalare Partners, Little Fish VC and noted American tech investor Malik Irfan.

Available on iOS and Android, travellers can currently access more than 160 self-guided tours on the platform which are curated to meet a range of niche interests, from nature, foodies, photography, to architecture.

FreeGuides says its model helps empower locals to capitalise on their unique knowledge of their home city, offering Aussies with a passion for local travel the opportunity to generate an income while managing a novel travel experience.

Creators get \$10 for any approved adventure, plus a portion of fees paid by travellers who complete the tour, based on how much the user thinks the experience is worth.

"We use a unique technology

that encourages and incentivises explorers to see the true value of the experience and enables you to offer additional value even after the experience ends," FreeGuides notes on its website.

The company has so far sealed four partnerships with hostels and activity suppliers and is now seeking to grow its collaborations over the next year in preparation for a global launch in 2022.

The app currently has 850 active users and more than 80 guides creating local experiences - for more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Relook and Book

**TOURISM** WA is encouraging travellers to "relook and book" a holiday in the state, particularly to intrastate destinations which were previously booked out.

As part of the new campaign, Webjet is offering a \$100 discount to the first 3,000 flights booked on its platform.

The new campaign will run across radio, print and social media platforms to support regions with vacancies.

## Keep up to date with Travel Daily on the go



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## LATAM spirit an Aussie first



**LATE** last week LATAM Airlines successfully repatriated 120 Australians from Santiago to Brisbane - the first time the carrier had flown non-stop between the two cities.

Thanking xtravel NZ and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, LATAM's Country Manager - Oceania Christopher Ellis said despite the hardship caused by the pandemic, the repatriation flight that reunited passengers with family and loved ones was a

proud day for the airline.

"Moments like these are what makes everything worthwhile and extremely grateful to be in the aviation industry," he said.

**Pictured:** The flight arriving in Brisbane last week.

## Local cruise sector left isolated: Katz

**FOLLOWING** the Canadian Government's decision to lift its ban on cruising from 01 Nov, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz believes Australia has been left "isolated" as the only major cruise nation in the world not making progress towards revival.

"Like Australia, Canada has taken a very conservative and risk-averse approach to cruising, but they've worked hard with industry to develop a detailed pathway towards resumption and economic recovery," Katz said, adding that by contrast Australia had made "no progress" towards establishing a framework for future cruise operations.

The ongoing suspension of cruising has so far cost Australia over \$6 billion since early 2020 and has put more than 18,000 jobs at risk, including travel agents, tour operators, farmers and food suppliers and transport workers, Katz argues.

More details in today's **CW**.

## \$1.1m for Pathway

**THE** Accommodation Association of Australia has welcomed a Federal Govt move to fund its Pathway Partnership program to the tune of \$1.1 million over the next 12 months.

The industry body's initiative aims to match interns to employers based on vacancy and skill level and address ongoing skills shortages, with participating properties eligible for wage subsidies if the intern is successful in securing employment.

"We're incredibly proud to develop this program for Australia's hotels to address the ongoing skills shortage in our sector and provide long-term employment opportunities to Australians at a time when many are looking for work," outgoing Accommodation Association CEO Dean Long said.

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## UK Freedom arrives - but here seems further away than ever

### OPINION

Joe Karbo is COO of UK-based Moresand Group, one of the country's largest independently owned travel businesses.



Got an opinion to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to [feedback@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:feedback@traveldaily.com.au).

**FREEDOM** Day has arrived... After almost 17 months of lockdowns & social restrictions, the UK is finally opening up again on 19 Jul, back to pre-Covid days we once knew (almost).

I say almost, as things aren't quite the same as they were back in early 2020 and many will say, will never be.

Whilst being thousands of miles apart, the one similarity of both the UK & Australia is that both our societies are divided.

One side is the private sector, where your livelihood depends on society & borders being open. The other side is if you're either in the public service, health, teaching, media sectors etc where your income isn't affected (or is even enhanced).

I'm not suggesting that public servants want a lockdown, they are probably just like all of us, have family and friends abroad that they would desperately like to visit.

It just doesn't seem fair that one sector of the community is struggling more than others, especially politicians and bureaucrats who are on full pay.

Simple analogy - as the enemy is dropping bombs over London, Sydney, Melbourne etc it was

pure luck or fate if you survived or were injured (as was the case in WW2 in London) then YES, you can then say "we're all in this together".

The next day, all of the people would be out on the streets helping clean up the rubble and helping the injured.

Not so the case with where we're at today, in our generational version of war with an invisible virus enemy.

When the British PM Boris Johnson announced early in the month that on 19 Jul restrictions were to be lifted and personal responsibility bestowed on the

individual and not government coupled with lifting the 10 day quarantine for double jabbers from 'amber' countries, the travel industry couldn't quite believe it.

There were protests leading up to the announcement, including

industry walkouts and threats of class action litigation.

And that only got worse when daily COVID cases continued to climb, now hitting 50,000.

This was in the same week of packed crowds at Wimbledon and the Euro Football final with England playing - it was a surreal moment indeed.

As an Aussie, I was just lapping up all the sporting euphoria, and was also lucky enough to experience the British Grand Prix last weekend with 140,000 people attending.

"Make the most of it while it lasts," some are saying, and even "we'll be in another lockdown in Sep".

In the UK, there has definitely been a shift from focusing on

daily cases to now reporting on hospitalisations and deaths, as you would normally associate with a flu season.

This would probably not be the case if there wasn't the level of vaccinations in the UK.

With 82 million doses already given and 36 million people fully vaccinated, this has been the backbone of the decision.

I know quite a lot of people who have caught the virus - including myself. In my case it was nasty and intense with a continuous fever - mainly over the following three to four days.

In summary, it was a strong flu and most get over it.

Regardless if you're vaccinated, you can still catch it.

With the UK legal requirement of wearing masks now gone, hence begins the new societal divide on masking: The maskers versus the non-maskers.

Let's see where this goes...

Only time will tell whether Boris' courageous decision is a defining "Churchill moment" or a powder keg.

From a travel industry perspective, it was encouraging news through the traffic light system on the lifting of the mandatory 10-day quarantine from amber countries of pax who have been double jabbed.

However, it continues to be overshadowed by lingering testing costs associated now with all travel, where you have the situation of a £40 return airfare to say Majorca, Spain but with a £100 PCR test cost.

Some pax are still hesitant on short-haul travel (especially families) with these new costs,

in addition to the ever-changing rules on the traffic light system.

Small steps in the right direction, but still a long way to an ideal place where the travel industry would like to be.

A silver lining within the madness is with the constant changing of travel regulations between borders and the need of ongoing support, there's emerged a new reliance of the travel agent to navigate the customer with their myriad of global border movements and booking needs.

That famous line from AFTA "without a travel agent you're on your own" resonates well, and

you can only imagine what it's going to be like when travel finally opens up in Australia.

Finally, I simply can't resist sharing an observation from abroad.

The Australian media has gone

rogue, salivating with their live crosses to multiple reporters in multiple cities, the continual fear mongering for views and clicks.

The daily press conferences from State Premiers and CHOs - there's got to be a better way.

There needs to be a united national stance first instead of state first.

It's un-Australian...

Remember the good old days of Prime Ministers Bob Hawke and John Howard, leaders with conviction and courage... I'm sure they'd have a proper national plan by now.

Strength to my colleagues and friends in Australia dealing with lockdowns, stay strong, this nightmare will hopefully end soon...

“It just doesn't seem fair that one sector of the community is struggling more than others. Especially politicians & bureaucrats on full pay”

“Remember the good old days of Bob Hawke and John Howard, leaders with conviction and courage... I'm sure they'd have a proper national plan by now”

## Where in the world?



**THESE** incredible lava tubes were once part of a volcano which has long been extinct - it erupted violently and the lava flowed quickly with the top outer layer forming a crust and the molten lava draining out.

Today the tubes form one of the longest lava tube systems in the world, and certainly the largest in

Australia.

There are massive caves in places and some, like Bayliss Cave, are considered one of the world's most important, biologically diverse caves.

Do you know where travellers need to go in Australia in order to see and experience these incredible natural structures?

## Pick the nation

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

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

1



2



3



4



## Pub quiz

- Which is older, Chicago Midway International or O'Hare International Airport?
- What are the three largest national parks in the contiguous United States?
- Lake Eola Park can be found in which Floridian city?
- IMAX Melbourne, Melbourne Museum and the Exhibition Building can all be found in what World Heritage Site?
- Which Australian town was known for playing home to the Twofold Bay killers, a group of killer whales known for their cooperation with human hunters throughout the 19th century?
- What is the largest religious monument in the world?
- The Great Lakes connect to the Atlantic Ocean through which river?
- The Saguenay River runs through which country?
- Michigan is often said to be shaped like what article of clothing?
- Minnesota is known as the land of how many lakes?

## Sudoku

BEGINNER

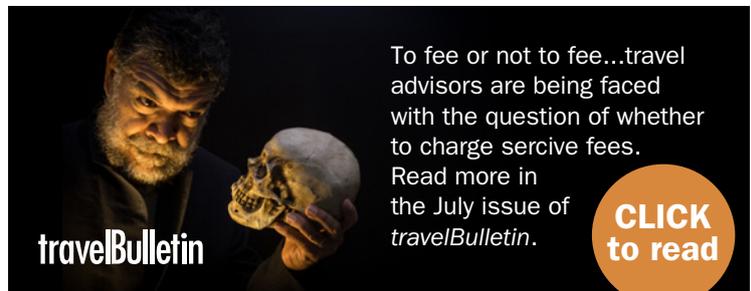
**THE** aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes.

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

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

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

ANSWERS 19 JUL  
Where in the world: Undara Lava Tubes, Queensland, Australia  
Pub quiz: 1 Chicago Midway, 2 Death Valley, Yellowstone and Everglades, 3 Orlando, 4 Carlton Gardens, 5 Eden, 6 Angkor Wat, 7 St. Lawrence River, 8 Canada, 9 Mitten, 10 10,000  
Pick the nation: Ireland



To fee or not to fee...travel advisors are being faced with the question of whether to charge service fees. Read more in the July issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read

## Canadian support

A SURVEY from Canadian polling firm Mainstreet Research has shown the country is largely in favour of continued aid for travel advisors.

More than half (59%) of the 1,300 Canadians surveyed support continued wage and rent subsidies for travel agents.

The survey, commissioned by the Association of Canadian Travel Agencies, examined the impacts of the pandemic on travel plans, and what voters want to ensure the security of the country's travel sector.

## ACI airport warning

AIRPORTS Council International (ACI) World has warned of a long and difficult recovery for airports from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACI foresees a "lasting adverse impact" from coronavirus on air travel, with five billion fewer passengers expected to fly this year compared to pre-COVID forecasts.

"Compared to 2019 levels this is expected to be -47.3% by the year's end with domestic passenger traffic recovering faster than international traffic," ACI said in its latest forecast.

## Skal squeezes in lunch



THE Skal Club of Melbourne snuck in their Jul lunch last Thu at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, just before news of the Victorian lockdown broke.

Attendees reported the chef put on a "gastronomical experience to rival some of Melbourne's premier restaurants", as two new members were formerly inducted into the Club, which will celebrate its 60th year in Nov.

Pictured at the event are Expedia Area Manager Alex Dugdale, Platinum Group

Properties Director Harry Isen, Bedsonline Key Accounts Manager Victoria Frederik Paal, Ponant National Business Development Manager Craig Farrell, GET Educational Tours Managing Director Anne Marie Mitchell, Crown Currency Exchange Victoria Supervisor Renee Rowland, and 13cabs Head of Client Services Simon Purssey.

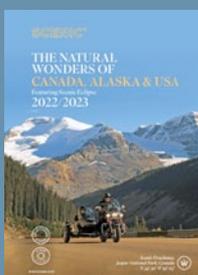
## BROCHURES

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](mailto:brochures@traveldaily.com.au).



### Lindblad Expeditions- Indonesia, New Zealand & the South Pacific

Lindblad Expeditions has gone to press with its Indonesia, New Zealand and the South Pacific brochure. The program details lands explored by the early Polynesian explorers, as surveyed through the lens of the 126-guest *National Geographic Resolution* and the 102-guest *National Geographic Orion*. New itineraries are available in each locale, including a Bali, Raja Ampat & Papua New Guinea route, a Coastal New Zealand: Auckland to Milford Sound journey, and an Under the Southern Cross: New Zealand to Melanesia program.



Scenic - 2022/2023 Canada, Alaska & the USA Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours' new 2022-2023 Canada, Alaska & the USA brochure provides travellers with a continent of awe-inspiring landscapes and an abundance of nature. The tour operator's programs for the season take in the iciness of Alaska, the panoramas of the Rocky Mountains, and the cosmopolitan cities of the continent's east coast. New itineraries include the America's National Parks & Rockies to the Red

Rocks tour, the Majestic Rockies & Colors of Eastern Canada cruise-tour, and the Adventures Through the Inside Passage voyage.

## Pilot sues Delta

A DELTA Air Lines pilot is suing the carrier for US\$1 billion, claiming the airline stole his app.

Captain Craig Alexander says Delta stole technology he developed and used in an application for text messaging between flight crews.

Delta was sued in Georgia's state court last week, with Alexander claiming he spent US\$100,000 of his own money to develop his QrewLive app, which he pitched to the airline as a way to address crew communication snafus after disrupted flights.

Delta turned him down but went on to launch its own identical tool, Alexander claims.

## Japan tourism ties

THE Australian Government has confirmed plans to strengthen tourism ties with Japan, one of our largest visitor markets.

Federal Minister for Tourism Dan Tehan met with government and tourism industry stakeholders in Tokyo on Fri to promote Australian tourism and discuss the importance of a strong two-way travel market between the countries.

In 2019, almost half a million Japanese travellers visited Australia, spending \$2 billion.

### EDITORIAL

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TOURISM AUSTRALIA

▶ **Hon John Sharp AM**  
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▶ **Alexi Boyd**  
INTERIM CEO, COUNCIL OF SMALL  
BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS AUSTRALIA  
(COSBOA) - PRESENTED BY THE  
ASSOCIATION SPECIALISTS



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