

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page and a full page from **Tourism Authority Thailand**.

Thai this out!

HAVE you got what it takes to become an Amazing Thailand specialist?

The Tourism Authority of Thailand is inviting travel agents to sign up to its new learning platform, hosted on the **Travel Daily** Training Hub, where a series of modules are available to increasing destination skills.

New modules have been released every fortnight, covering a range of different aspects of the Southeast Asian country.

Head to **page seven** for more.

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goPassport safety plan

AN AUSTRALIAN-developed software platform called goPassport is set to form the foundation of a new "Managed Travel" strategy promoted by the Australian Tourism Export Council to allow the resumption of some parts of the travel industry.

Dubbed goPassport, the system is described as a "world leading digital health passport" which provides a comprehensive real-time COVID-19 alert system for inbound international travellers.

The platform monitors and audits multi-level government policy on a range of pre-travel and in-country testing, quarantine and health measures for each individual visitor.

It's being developed by a consortium including Cairns-based digital tourism media company Didgigo alongside analytics consultancy AlphaZetta, based in Singapore, and Knowesis, which specialises in large real-time analytics environments, with major Australian customers

ASTW resignation

SASKIA Baker has resigned from the committee of the Australian Society of Travel Writers (ASTW), four months after remaining on the committee as a PR member representative amid a major makeover of the organisation's leadership (**TD** 01 Apr).

"Unfortunately in recent months it has become apparent that my position on the current committee is no longer valued," she said in a Facebook post on Fri.

Baker stayed on the committee amid major upheaval following the sudden resignation of five former committee members (**TD** 25 Mar), including the organisation's then President, Vice President, Secretary and a PR and writer representative.

Subsequently an internal investigation into the 2019 ASTW awards highlighted "considerable areas of concern" into how they were conducted (**TD** 05 May).

including Telstra.

Initially the platform is targeting the resumption of international student arrivals, with the technology initiative flagged last week by Jacqui Walshe from The Walshe Group in her role as a member of the Tourism Restart Taskforce (**TD** 30 Jul).

"By using the goPassport platform, countries can establish a reputation as a safe destination and be a preferred global destination for international students, tourists and other travellers without increasing the risk to their local population," according to a blurb on the consortium's website.

"goPassport mitigates the potential risk posed by international travel and builds on existing border controls, health management capabilities, existing and new technologies."

The real-time COVID-19 alert system incorporates a real-time engine which manages each traveller's pathway to safe entry into a country, with a continuous risk score highlighting any risks or non-compliance.

An associated app for travellers guides them safely, prior to departure and during their journey, while travel managers can have live visibility of the status, location and risks of every traveller, with the platform currently undergoing initial testing - more at alphazetta.ai.

TG postpones

THAI Airways International has further extended the suspension of its global operations, with GDS screens now indicating a planned resumption from 01 Oct.

Schedules loaded currently include five weekly flights from Bangkok to both Sydney and Melbourne, as well as three services per week to Brisbane, Perth and Auckland.

AC34 out until Oct

AIR Canada has closed reservations for its AC34 service between Sydney and Vancouver through until the end of Sep.

The airline has not operated scheduled services locally since suspending flights to Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne in Mar.

Lord Howe plan

LORD Howe Island has announced a revised opening date of 31 Aug.

The update is in line with a new public health order issued by NSW Health late last Fri.

The order means that until 31 Aug, Lord Howe Island is limited to residents, essential and medical service workers and those providing services to the island, with those wishing to access needing approval.

Those approved will also have to complete 14 days of quarantine on the Island.

The destination was previously set to reopen today.

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QF border policy

QANTAS has issued a new commercial policy covering domestic interstate border closures, for QF customers holding valid 081 tickets issued on or before 29 Jul, for travel through until 31 Aug.

Passengers must provide valid proof of being impacted by restrictions such as proof of address in a lockdown area.

Qantas is offering fee-free rebookings to an alternative flight, or the ability to retain the value of the ticket in credit through until 31 Dec 2022.

The policy is not applicable if the borders are open but passengers no longer wish to travel because of a state government-imposed self-isolation requirement on entry.

The commercial policy does not allow for refunds to be paid.

Rebooked flights must be endorsed with authority number 638321 to avoid an ADM.

Hurtigruten hit by coronavirus

HURTIGRUTEN has confirmed 36 crew members and one passenger aboard *Ronald Amundson* have tested positive to coronavirus.

Following the news, travellers on Hurtigruten's two most recent voyages to Svalbard have been ordered to self-quarantine, with the guest who tested positive having travelled on the voyage which departed on 17 Jul.

Initially, four crew members, who were unwell with "non-coronavirus symptoms", tested positive, with subsequent testing returning 32 additional positives among the 158 crew members.

The initial four infected are now in hospital, while the ship remains docked in Tromsø along with the remainder of the crew members, all of whom are asymptomatic.

Ronald Amundson's upcoming departure has been cancelled,

with the next cruise aboard the ship not scheduled until Sep.

Hurtigruten is in contact with about 400 guests from the two voyages, assisting them with transport, accommodation, food and other needs.

"We are now focusing all available efforts in taking care of our guests and colleagues," said VP Global Communications Rune Thomas Ege.

"We work closely with the Norwegian national and local health authorities for follow-up, information, further testing, and infection tracking."

32 of the 34 confirmed cases are from the Philippines, and all of the line's overseas crew members were required to submit two negative tests before leaving their home country to join the ship.

Hurtigruten became one of the first lines to restart cruising, just over six weeks ago (**TD** 12 May).

Crystal cancels '20



CRYSTAL Cruises has announced the remainder of its 2020 ocean and yacht voyages will be cancelled.

The cruise line cited "the constantly changing variables related to COVID-19, coupled with differing restrictions for international travel" for the extended outage.

The cancellation extends to voyages aboard *Crystal Serenity* and *Symphony*, as well as yacht voyages aboard *Esprit*.

Crystal has committed to providing affected guests with credits equal to 125% of the cruise fare paid on fully paid reservations, along with a refund of port charges, taxes and fees paid, and any air and hotel packages booked through Crystal.

For guests who have not fully paid, the credit will then be based on the deposited amount, with credits valid for use on any Crystal experience.



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Alliance snaps up planes

ALLIANCE Aviation Services will significantly expand its fleet, having entered into a US\$79.4m (A\$111.1m) agreement with aircraft leasing company Azorra Aviation to acquire 14 Embraer E190 aircraft.

The deal will be funded from proceeds of the \$91.9m placement & share purchase plan which raised \$3.8m (**TD** 14 Jul).

Alliance MD Scott McMillan said the deal was the result of many years of considered planning.

"With many airlines not flying and the increased demand for a 100-seat narrow body configured aircraft in the Australian market, this acquisition is more than opportunistic, it underpins our expected growth phase," he said.

The deal also includes a significant package of related inventory, group support equipment, tooling and training devices and the purchase of six spare General Electric CF34 engines.

Alliance has the option to acquire a further five E190 aircraft and a full flight simulator and related training equipment.

Aircraft will be progressively delivered over eight months from Sep and will undergo repainting with Alliance livery, prior to being delivered to Australia.

Financial settlement will be matched against deliveries and the first revenue from an E190 is expected to be realised in Feb.

The company is expecting the new E190 aircraft to predominantly fly regional routes.

"Given the reduced pax on mainland routes due to COVID-19, the E190 has the potential to be the perfect aircraft type for some mainline routes," he said.

McMillan said Alliance's Fokker planes remained the core of the Alliance fleet and would stay in service for many years to come, but noted that with limited Fokker acquisition opportunities it was "the time to acquire a newer aircraft in order to position us for our next growth phase".

The ACCC is currently investigating Qantas' acquisition of a 19.9% stake in Alliance last year (**TD** 01 Jun) which blindsided the carrier and its regional partner VA (**TD** 01 Feb 2019).

NEED A DISTRACTION AMID THE DOOM AND GLOOM?

Check out our daily puzzle page.



NZ winter push

AIR New Zealand and Tourism New Zealand have collaborated on a new winter tourism campaign, aimed at encouraging locals to take a ski holiday.

Forming the second phase of Air NZ's "Do something new, New Zealand" marketing push, popular ski destinations such as Taupo, Christchurch and Queenstown will be promoted through social media and digital channels.

The country has enjoyed a recent upswing in domestic tourism after successfully mitigating the spread of COVID-19, with the objective now to sustain that growth.

"The challenge now is to encourage Kiwis to continue to travel domestically, outside of the peak holiday period," said Air NZ GM Marketing Jeremy O'Brien.

Qld leads road trips

A NEW road trip index generated by data from travellers using TripTech apps has shown Queenslanders are leading the way when it comes to taking intrastate road trip holidays.

The figures revealed a 28% week-on-week growth for road trips taken in the region that contain popular holiday spots such as Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Longreach, Birdsville, Bioela, Charleville and Cunnamulla.

The data also showed that car trips to the Tropical North had risen by 12.2% each week over the last month, while the Darling Downs also rose by 8.7% each week during the same period.

Virgin BNE-MEL

TRAVEL Daily would like to clarify that Virgin Australia will not be adding a thrice weekly A330 service between Brisbane and Melbourne from Sep, as was reported on Fri.

A spokesperson said the airline currently doesn't have any new services between the two cities to announce at this time.

Window Seat



WELL ladies, it looks as though there might be a silver lining to all of this travel disruption, with A-list actor and Hollywood heartthrob Zac Efron hinting he might want to reside in Australia permanently.

The star of films like *The Greatest Showman* and *Hairspray* has been living in Byron Bay during the travel shutdown, a destination that has reportedly made quite the impression, so much so that he plans to list his LA mansion in the coming months to call Australia home, *TMZ* reports.



Pymont is progress

THE NSW Government's recently announced strategy to turn Pymont into a major tourism hub (**TD** 31 Jul) will attract new investment and lead to increased domestic visitation and new tourism jobs, claims Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) CEO Margy Osmond.

"Tourism has been dragged from pillar to post in recent months, as parts of Australia continue to grapple with containing COVID-19 and borders open and close from one week to the next," Osmond said.

"This all about the future of Pymont and Sydney as domestic visitor destinations...this drives forward new projects like the new Sydney Fish Markets and Ritz-Carlton hotel at The Star, and restores demand over the long term at venues like ICC Sydney."





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Airbus revenue slide

AIRBUS has posted a significant 39% slide in revenue for the six months to 30 Jun, recording an €11.92 billion decline when compared to the previous corresponding period.

The manufacturer's slide has been dented by the dwindling demand for jets in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic, with the company flagging its intention not "to not consume cash" before mergers and acquisitions and customer financing moving forward as a means of recovery.

"The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our financials is now very visible in the second quarter, with H1 commercial aircraft deliveries halving compared to a year ago," said Airbus Chief Executive Officer Guillaume Faury.

Omniche webinars

SOUTH Pacific wholesaler Omniche Holidays has teamed up with Cook Islands Tourism to host a new webinar on 2021 holiday packages to Rarotonga & Aitutaki.

The session will take place on Thu 06 Aug at 12pm (AEST) covering deposit offers, special interest travel and group tours.

Register for the webinar [HERE](#).

Pax traffic slide

THE Airports Council International (ACI) World has revealed that global passenger traffic declined by more than 91% in May when compared to the same month in 2019.

The latest figures represent the second worst decline in global passenger numbers in the history of the aviation industry, the ACI said, only eclipsed by the worst fall in Apr (-94.4%).

The slight uptick in May was driven by a slowly increasing domestic passenger demand in China and the United States, with the Asia Pacific also showing some signs of "early improvement".

Tourism Tas tool

TOURISM Tasmania has introduced a new forward booking tracking tool that allows accommodation operators to gain insights into consumer behaviour.

The tool is free to sign up to and will offer companies access to regular reports, as well as marketplace intelligence such as occupancy rates, average daily rates and revenue per available room rates.

Operators can sign up [HERE](#).

Rudd nudges more support



NEW Australian Federation of Travel Agents CEO Darren Rudd was pounding the pavement again late last week, this time meeting with Wentworth Liberal MP Dave Sharma and travel agents in the electorate in eastern Sydney to hear about their concerns and ideas about how the travel sector can best recover from the global pandemic.

Rudd has taken a very active role in meeting with agents since taking on the leadership role with AFTA, over the last month meeting up with several senior politicians on both sides of the aisles to campaign on behalf of

the industry.

Pictured: Rudd and Sharma exercise proper COVID-safe greetings, **inset** Sharma and Rudd present a united front with travel agents in Wentworth.

UnCruise to resume

UNCruise Adventures has declared it is now the only small boat operator sailing in Southeast Alaska after resuming cruises from the state's capital Juneau on 01 Aug.

The voyages include a raft of enhanced hygiene protocols on board, such as physical distancing measures, daily activity rosters, and a thorough testing regime.

UnCruise Adventures said it believes it was able to relaunch so quickly because it pivoted quickly as a small business, and established conversations early with government officials and leading the Small Boat Operators Coalition.

Dine in at WILD LIFE

WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo in Darling Harbour will offer an after-hours dining experience where visitors can enjoy a meal with a pair of friendly koalas.

Groups of 10 people maximum can be booked at a cost of \$200 per person, with the package including a private tour of the zoo, animal encounter experiences, and food & drinks.

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

40% eased: UNWTO

THE UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has noted that close to 40% of destinations have eased some of the restrictions placed on int'l tourism in response to COVID-19 - up by 22% of countries back in Jun.

submit your
cocktail
recipes!

We want your recipes from around the world for our weekly feature.

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Travel Daily

Where in the world?



IN A city with this many canals, it's not surprising that there are a lot of bridges.

This bridge is one of four spanning the city's main waterway, and is the oldest of the group.

It has actually had to be rebuilt several times and the first bridge in the spot was a pontoon bridge.

Do you know where in the world this is and what the bridge is called?

Sudoku

DIABOLICAL

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.

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

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

Who needs a drink?

THIS week's cocktail comes to us from the Northern Territory – with Uluru being a place every Australian should visit, and with the recent re-opening of Ayers Rock Resort, what better way to dream about a visit than with this Davidson Plum Daiquiri in hand?

Please keep sending your recipes to cocktails@traveldaily.com.au.

xx *Jenny*

Jenny Piper
Owner,
Business
Publishing
Group



Davidson Plum Daiquiri

INGREDIENTS

- 30ml White rum
- 30ml Triple sec
- 30ml Davidson Plum puree
- 15ml Sugar syrup
- 15ml Freshly squeezed lemon juice
- Lime wheel to garnish

METHOD

Add four cubes of ice & all ingredients in a cocktail shaker. Shake thoroughly.

In a separate jug or shaker, add four cubes of ice and crush. Place crushed ice into a chilled Margarita glass.

Strain the cocktail mix into the glass.

Garnish with lime wheel.

ANSWERS 31 JUL

Pub quiz: 1 Weaponry, 2 Australia, 3 Africa, 4 Oxley Beach, 5 Botswana, 6 Switzerland, 7 Singapore Airlines, 8 Avianca, 9 Pan American, 10 China, 11 Apia (a [note] + pea + ah)

Unscramble: cent, centre, cert, cite, civet, client, clint, cretin, elect, elite, enter, enteric, entice, enticer, entire, erect, event, evert, evict, inert, inlet, inter, invert, lectern, lectin, lent, lentic, lint, lite, litre, nitre, recent, recite, relent, relict, rent, rete, reticle, rite, rivet, teen, tercel, tern, tier, tierce, tiercel, tile, tiler, tine, tire, tree, trice, trine, veinlet, vent, venter, VENTRICLE

Whose flag is this: Barbados

La touche finale



PONANT'S *Le Commandant-Charcot* (pictured) has entered the final stages of construction, arriving in Saint-Nazaire to be fitted with Azipod propulsion systems.

The hybrid electric-LNG polar expedition vessel was primarily constructed in Norway, but has now arrived in France, where her hull will also be painted, before returning to Norway for a final fitout.

Delivery is scheduled for 2021, ahead of her inaugural polar

voyages in the Bellingshausen Sea in Antarctica, and three expeditions to the North Pole, each departing Longyearbyen in Jul and Aug in 2021.

Le Commandant-Charcot cruises will also offer hot air ballooning, kayaking, hiking, a dog sled ride, ice fishing, exploration on electric snowmobiles and polar diving.

Aer Lingus support

ALMOST 13,000 signatures have been received on a Change.org petition to compel the Government of Ireland to support flag carrier Aer Lingus as it battles through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Titled 'Save our Shamrock', the petition details point to the airline operating under the most stringent travel restrictions in Europe, despite the petition asserting the airline is the continent's only major carrier to have received no govt assistance.

CLICK HERE to view.

New Rosewood

ROSEWOOD Shanghai will break ground in 2022, joining six other ongoing developments by the international luxury hotel and resort company across the continent.

The operator currently has nine properties in Asia, with Rosewood Shanghai set to open its doors in 2028.

Distancing dispute

A MAN has fired gunshots in a Miami hotel lobby over a social distancing complaint.

The 29-year-old was arrested, and the shots at the Crystal Beach Suites Hotel did not injure anyone.

The man confronted a family in the lobby, complaining of their inability to socially distance, before discharging the gun.

Avani committed

AVANI Hotels has confirmed it plans to proceed with projects currently in its pipeline, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The hotel & resort chain plans to open 10 new projects in the next two years, including in new destinations such as Kenya, the Maldives, Myanmar and Oman.

Perisher update

NSW Health has added Perisher Ski Resort to its list of venues linked to COVID-19, after the virus was detected during wastewater analysis conducted across the state on 22 Jul.

The department said further analysis was needed to determine how significant the result was.

A spokesperson for Perisher's parent company Vail Resorts said "we understand from NSW Health that the positive sewage result can be due to shedding of the virus by someone who may have previously had the illness, with the virus 'shedding' through their system for up to four weeks later.

"As we have throughout this pandemic, we will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our employees, guests and communities."

BROCHURES

THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by **Ponant Cruises**. 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.



Ponant - *Le Commandant-Charcot* 2021-22

Ponant has gone to press with its 2021-22 inaugural season *Le Commandant-Charcot* brochure. The program showcases the ship's maiden season, which will take place in the Arctic in the 2021 European summer. *Le*

Commandant-Charcot's 2021-22 Antarctica itineraries are also detailed, including the Emperor penguins of the Bellingshausen Sea itinerary, and Ross Sea Adventures. Other highlights of the brochure include itineraries that take travellers to the North Pole, and a wide variety of Arctic itineraries, including Greenland and Iceland.



Wendy Wu Tours - Explore in 2021

Wendy Wu Tours' new Explore in 2021 brochure provides itineraries for next year, encouraging keen travellers to get planning now. Included in the brochure is a range of Japanese adventures, with tips from Wendy Wu experts. Also detailed in the publication is the extension of payment terms for Wendy Wu's low \$99 deposit, and a limited time 2021 offer, with travellers able to save \$500 per person on over 70 different tours and 600 departures.

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