

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page and a product profile from **Okinawa Tourism**.

Okinawa is OK!

THE Japanese island of Okinawa is being showcased in a special product profile as part of today's issue of *Travel Daily*.

The sub-tropical playground features stunning scenery, intriguing culture and fascinating history - see the **last page**.

CATO discussion

HUNDREDS of people tuned in to yesterday's *Travel Daily* live interview with CATO Chairman Dennis Bunnik, hosted by The Travel Industry Hub.

Those who missed it can catch up at thetravelindustryhub.com, with next week's session to feature CLIA Australasia MD Joel Katz - **REGISTER HERE**.

FCTG home-based focus

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has confirmed several key "transformation priorities" as it navigates through to the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic, including "developing a leading commercial, product and technical offering tailored for independent travel entrepreneurs (home-based agents)".

The move was announced as part of the company's full-year results (**TD** breaking news), with an \$849 million statutory loss.

MD Graham Turner also flagged the rejuvenation of the Flight Centre brand while at the same time growing its online sales which had been increasing strongly before the pandemic.

Other priorities included growth in the premium/luxury sector represented by Travel Associates in Australia and Laurier du Vallon in Canada, Turner said, while e-commerce growth will be driven through the Jetmax and

StudentUniverse OTA brands.

The company generated almost \$1.2 billion in leisure e-commerce revenue in 2019/20, mainly via the Flight Centre brand websites, BYOjet, Aunt Betty and StudentUniverse, which is currently leading the company's recovery to date with TTV back to 30-40% of prior year levels.

"The company continues to invest in e-commerce capabilities and will soon introduce a new packaging tool, along with other enhancements, to fast-track its online market share growth," the results announcement noted.

FCTG has seen a consistent uplift in demand since Apr, but ongoing travel restrictions and border closures "continue to hamper a more meaningful industry-wide recovery".

Flight Centre's "liquidity runway" means it will also be ready to "capitalise on industry consolidation," Turner added.

RCI, Celebrity canx

ROYAL Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises this morning advised travel agents they are extending their suspension of sailings to include those departing from Australia and NZ on or before 31 Oct 2020.

The announcements followed other cruise pause updates from Carnival Australia's local brands (see **page 2**), while Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings offshoot Oceania Cruises has also now suspended voyages aboard its *Insignia* from 10 Nov through to 26 Apr 2021.

More info in *Cruise Weekly* today and tomorrow.

Centara expands

CENTARA Hotels & Resorts has signed new hotel management agreements with three additional properties in Mandalay and Hpa-An in Myanmar, boosting its overall global portfolio to over 17,000 rooms in 81 properties.

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P&O, Princess, Carnival pauses

THE three Carnival Australia brands with local homeporting operations this morning all announced an extension of their current cruising pauses.

Princess Cruises has now cancelled all of its Australian and NZ voyages departing through until 12 Dec 2020, as well as the *Island Princess* round-the-world voyage and the local season of *Pacific Princess*, which included an ex-Australia voyage to South America.

P&O Australia has extended its rolling pause in operations until 02 Dec, and extended its flexible payment and cancellation policy for sailings departing through until 31 Jan 2021.

Carnival Cruise Line has also extended the pause on voyages aboard *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Splendor* until 02 Dec.

More information in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

JobKeeper is not enough

A TOURISM support package in addition to JobKeeper is vital, given that the restart of tourism in Australia is now "well behind the three-step reopening timetable" laid out by National Cabinet, according to the Tourism Restart Taskforce of leaders established by the Australian Chamber - Tourism (TD 26 May).

The latest meeting of the group was held last week, discussing proposals for additional cash support to cover ongoing costs for tourism businesses that are "too important to fail" due to their key role in attracting visitors to states and regions.

The meeting was attended by Nev Power, Chair of the National COVID-19 Commission Advisory Board, who highlighted the importance of COVID-safe approaches by tourism businesses as well as the need to maximise domestic tourism.

The Taskforce responded that

"although marketing domestic tourism was important, it was not possible for it to replace anything like the international spend, and particularly with the state border closures the spend is severely impacted".

Members also expressed frustration at recent border closure announcements, such as a Qld comment the ACT was a hotspot despite having no cases.

Tasmania's closure was also a concern, announced despite the state being so dependent on interstate tourism and most states and territories experiencing few new cases.

The Taskforce also noted little progress in achieving the Australia/NZ travel bubble, with efforts shifting to "seeking a greater understanding on what health status would be expected and the protocols that may apply to get any safe corridor up and running".

VS rescue deal tick

CREDITORS of Virgin Atlantic Airways have voted in favour of a £1.2 billion plan to help it survive the next 18 months.

The carrier said the move was a "significant milestone" to secure its future, with 99% of almost 200 trade creditors - each owed more than £50,000 - approving the deal which will see them receive an 80% of the pound payout.

The rescue plan also includes the closure of the VS base at London Gatwick Airport, 3,500 job losses, aircraft retirements and a £200 million injection from founder Sir Richard Branson.

HKG bubble talks

HONG Kong authorities are in discussions with counterparts in Thailand and Japan about new "travel bubble" agreements, under which travellers would take mutually recognised COVID-19 tests prior to being allowed to board international flights.



BACK ONBOARD

JOURNEY BEYOND ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THE GHAN AND CRUISE SYDNEY ARE RECOMMENCING SERVICES THIS SUNDAY. WELCOME BACK TO OUR GUESTS AND CREW, WE'VE MISSED YOU.

FIND OUT MORE

FIND OUT MORE



Aussies flag intent

AUSTRALIAN travellers have identified the US, NZ and Japan as their top three planned holiday destinations when restrictions are lifted, according to new data compiled by research companies Dynata and Blackbox Research.

The report also showed that more than half of Aussies would be willing to embark on a long-haul trip within 12 months of lockdown ending, while 62% would be willing to go on a trip to neighbouring countries, and an overwhelming 93% flagged intentions to travel domestically.

Further findings showed that 94% of Aussies believe the travel industry to be crucial for the economy, while 72% said the country was well prepared to resume tourism operations.

Air NZ profit plummet

AIR New Zealand has posted a net loss after tax of NZ\$454 million for the 2020 financial year, a massive 254.5% slide from the NZ\$276 million net profit the carrier recorded during the same period last year.

Operating revenue for the airline also slumped by 16.4% to NZ\$4.84 billion, down from the NZ\$5.79b posted in 2019, while its overall cash position also took a major hit, dwindling from NZ\$1.06 billion to NZ\$438 million.

The grim numbers were largely driven by COVID-19-related travel restrictions which pushed down Air New Zealand's passenger numbers by 74% from Apr to the end of Jun.

The figures were made even more stark by the strong state the airline was in prior to Apr, with the carrier reporting an interim profit of NZ\$198m for the first six months of the financial year,

as well as seeing early signs of growth for domestic and North American markets.

Air NZ said that despite the profit slump it remained optimistic of a rebound after acting quickly to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, including securing additional liquidity, reducing its cost base, ramping up its cargo division, and deferring capital expenditure projects.

"These actions, along with the strategic review of the airline undertaken in parallel to managing this crisis, ensures that Air New Zealand remains in a strong and competitive position when travel restrictions lift," said the airline's Chair Therese Walsh.

The Board also approved a refresh of its strategy, which will now focus on "sustaining competitive strengths", but declined to provide a specific outlook for 2021 in light of uncertainty around restrictions.



TIMES are tough in travel, and they could well be about to get a whole lot tougher in the Land of 1,000 Smiles.

Thailand's Justice Minister is preparing to "bust out" a plan to partially open the country's prisons to tourists.

Motivating the move is a need for Thailand to reboot its ailing tourism economy, as well as allowing inmates to earn some extra Baht while serving time.

Ideas suggested include a prison *Masterchef* concept and stalls selling craft goods.

Just watch out for the large clay kettle with the metal hacksaw inside - gulp!



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SA social campaign

SOUTH African Tourism has launched its #ShareSouthAfrica social media campaign to encourage Australians to reminisce about their future travel to the country.

Launching alongside the campaign is a new video, the Greatest Story of Them All - which can be viewed [HERE](#).

FC teams with Sabre

SABRE has achieved level 4 certification as an aggregator under the International Air Transport Association (IATA) NDC Certification Program.

The achievement was unlocked in collaboration with Flight Centre Travel Group, and will help Sabre increase its access to content for all participants in the travel value chain.

Flight Centre Global Head of Supply John Beauvais lauded the Group's partnership with Sabre and their collaborative work on the Beyond NDC initiative.

TRAVEL DAILY AWARDS

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

Tell us who has gone above and beyond in these challenging times and how they have supported you.

Nominations are open to both those who are currently employed and those who are seeking new roles.

Click here to nominate someone now!

Nominations close Monday

Know your brands

LOGOS are the main way that companies distinguish themselves, and some logos are so famous that you don't even need to see the company's name to know who it is. See if you can identify these four logos.



Whose animal is this?



THIS cute little creature is a fennec fox, which is a crepuscular animal, meaning that it is active mostly during twilight.

Their large ears help to dissipate heat, which is necessary for them to survive and thrive in the Sahara desert

and Sinai Peninsula, which they are native to.

This is a large region, so do you know which country has this little guy as its national animal?

Fennec fox is also given to the country's national football team as a nickname.

Where in the world?



YOU could be forgiven for thinking this was located in Rome or Athens - it's columns and statue wouldn't be out of place in those cities.

But in fact this landmark was built much more recently, being completed in 1791.

The statue at the top depicts the goddess of victory driving a chariot with four horses and the monument is positioned at what used to be a key entry point to the city it is located in.

Do you know where in the world you could visit this?

ANSWERS 26 AUG

Pub quiz: 1 Queensland, 2 KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, 3 Sydney, by 120 kilometres, 4 Miami, 5 a) 18%, 6 Aer Lingus, 7 He spent his last years living in and painting French Polynesia, where the cruise line operates, 8 Ritz-Carlton, 9 Tokyo Bay, 10 Thessaloniki

Whose flag is this: Indonesia, flag with the same design but different ratio - Monaco, flag with colours switched - Poland

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

All things Scottish

R	F	R	C	S	G	S	J	Q	W	N	J	E	S	S
Y	E	R	O	C	E	X	P	O	L	K	I	E	A	T
T	D	T	S	B	X	P	G	O	H	E	M	S	I	O
A	I	E	S	K	E	S	I	A	R	A	C	S	L	C
R	N	J	S	N	A	R	G	P	G	R	C	E	A	S
T	B	T	T	L	O	G	T	D	G	U	A	O	R	N
A	U	W	G	F	I	M	N	B	T	A	Y	N	O	E
N	R	O	I	S	M	A	S	T	U	J	B	T	M	E
R	G	C	B	I	L	F	Y	S	S	R	O	Y	L	U
G	H	K	T	H	I	S	T	L	E	F	N	X	A	Q
S	F	O	G	A	A	H	V	Y	K	N	T	S	B	Y
S	Q	I	P	R	Q	G	Z	Y	V	J	H	U	G	R
W	H	G	K	Y	K	S	I	H	W	C	U	C	H	A
B	I	L	L	Y	C	O	N	N	O	L	L	Y	O	M
G	N	I	L	R	I	T	S	I	C	F	Z	Q	J	L

SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

BAGPIPES
BALMORAL
BILLYCONNOLLY
CUTTYSARK
EDINBURGH
GLASGOW
HAGGIS
HIGHLANDGAMES

LOCHNESSMONSTER
MARYQUEENSCOTS
ROBERTBURNS
SPORRAN
STIRLING
TARTAN
THISTLE
WHISKY

Women on a mission



TO SAY thank you to one of their strongest inspirations, TravelManagers power duo Adela Backhouse and Emma Ross recently invited the company's Business Partnership Manager Karen Dowling out for a night of good wine and fancy food.

It was Dowling the women first called upon when they came up with the idea for Belle Adventures, a travel enterprise specialising in tailored holidays exclusively for groups of women.

"Karen has been right there beside us, coaching us and prompting us to explore new ideas and to adapt to a new world," Ross beamed.

"The support we have continually received from Karen and the rest of the National Partnership office team has been amazing," she added.

Dowling is no stranger to travel, having worked for TravelManagers in her role as

BPM for Queensland for over ten years now, arriving with a wealth of experience in the Australian travel industry.

When Ross and Backhouse first presented her with the idea of a female-focused group tourism venture, Dowling felt the pair were on to a winner from the start, fulfilling an important demand in the market.

"I thought Belle Adventures was a great concept for a niche business and they are two great PTMs who work hard on their business and juggle their families successfully too," she said.

"They both have different strengths that complement each other and a great network to support...their concept."

Pictured: TravelManagers' Emma Ross and Adela Backhouse wining and dining Karen Dowling (centre), as an expression of gratitude for her ongoing support with Belle Adventures.

SA hints at easing

SOUTH Australian Premier Steven Marshall has indicated the state is looking to ease travel restrictions between NSW and the ACT, and hopes the 14-day quarantine currently in place can be lifted soon.

Speaking yesterday afternoon at a media event, the Premier pointed to the heartening decrease in COVID case numbers in NSW, as well as the continued suppression of outbreaks in SA.

"Nobody has a crystal ball but we have put ourselves in the very best position in South Australia by working with the public to adhere to the very strict restrictions we put in place," he said.

Dusit India debut

THAILAND-BASED Dusit International has announced its expansion into India, with plans to open at least two Dusit-branded hotels a year from 2021 onwards in major city locations.

AA backs Travelodge

THE Accommodation Association (AA) has called on governments to deliver "greater transparency" to assist hotels participating in COVID-19 quarantine programs.

The request was made following the demotion of Sydney Travelodge Hotel after a NSW Government audit found the property was not meeting the criteria for a participating hotel, the details of which have not yet been made public.

"There has been not one safety breach that the hotel has been notified of, if there has been an issue which resulted in the decision to rotate the hotel out of the Isolation Program, the hotel needs to know so that it can make sure its frontline team members are safe," said AA Chief Executive Officer Dean Long.

Since Mar, Travelodge Sydney has hosted 2,000 rooms, receiving more compliments than complaints, Long added.

APPOINTMENTS



WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong Beach Resort has appointed **Daryn Hudson** to the role of General Manager, only months out from the property's opening in Oct. Hudson was appointed to his first GM role in 2013 at Marriott Executive Apartments Sathorn Vista, Bangkok.

Keith Massey has taken the reins of the General Manager position at **The Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, Gold Coast**. Massey was previously the GM of the JW Marriott Khao Lak Resort & Spa in Thailand, and boasts more than 25 years' experience in the hospitality sector.

A new Managing Director has been appointed at **The Langham, London**, with **Doris Greif** taking charge of the role. She has also been made Regional Vice President of Operations, Europe and Middle East for Langham Hospitality Group.

NH Hotel Group has appointed **Luis Martinez Jurado** to the position of Chief Financial Officer, where he will report directly to Ramon Aragones, the Group's Chief Executive Officer. Jurado arrives with an esteemed resume, having enjoyed an extensive career in corporate finance roles.

The wellness factor has been boosted at the **New Melia Koh Samui** resort in Thailand, with **Kantima Chompoolad** taking on the new role of Wellness Manager. She will be charged with developing YHI Spa's menu featuring an array of treatments, as well as organising yoga activities.

For confidential tip offs, connect with *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click **HERE**





Discover Okinawa

Wellness beyond the beaches

Discover Okinawa and experience the unique blend of Japanese and Ryukyu culture through century old traditions, cuisine and festivals surrounded by the beauty of these stunning sub-tropical islands ready to explore!

Travellers often forget that Japan has its very own sub-tropical island playground. From the spectacular blue waters of the Kerama Islands to the untouched and pristine beauty of the sub-tropical forests of Iriomote Island, Okinawa caters for a wide range of

traveller interests like no other.

Okinawa is well known for the long-life expectancy of its people and more recently having been recognised worldwide as one of the “blue zones” – an area where people live exceptionally long lives. The three elements (or secrets) that support this healthy diet, the approach to food, using simple recipes for good nutritional balance and the use of superfood ingredients work together to provide Okinawa with “Nuchigusui” the medicine of life.

A vast array of adventure activities are available such as diving, snorkelling and kayaking, however away from the water, travellers can experience unique activities where they can learn to

cook traditional Okinawan dishes like Okinawa Soba in Naha, see the earliest cherry blossom bloom of Japan in January, try their hand and attempt some Minsah weaving on Ishigaki Island or just relax and soak in the natural hot springs of the southernmost onsens in Japan – Okinawa truly is an island paradise ready to explore.

Wellness beyond the beaches.

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