

Elegant, Alquemie to merge

CONCIERGE Travel Group has announced that its longstanding Elegant Resorts & Villas brand will be merged into sister operation Alquemie, which operates as a DMC across Australia and the South Pacific region.

Elegant Resorts & Villas has been running for the last 15 years, while Alquemie was established in 2001 to create “magical, high-end experiential travel and tailor-made luxury itineraries for international travellers,” according to Concierge CEO David Greenland.

“Now with the merge, we can offer Australian travel agents our expertise and access to the most exclusive properties and experiences in Australia.

“We aim to help domestic

agents sell luxury Australian holidays in the same way they would sell those to Africa, South America or Europe - with high quality guiding, Australian-style safaris and experiences that can't be found on the internet,” he said.

“Most Australians have no idea how many world-class experiences are in their own backyard and we want to help agents get this message out.”

Greenland said when international travel reopens the company will once again offer the individually tailored island experiences for the sophisticated traveller for which Elegant Resorts was well known.

An upcoming Alquemie webinar aims to update Australian agents with its offerings, with expressions of interest now open by [CLICKING HERE](#).

SeaLink BNE win

SEALINK Travel Group has been awarded the contract to operate Brisbane City Council's CityCat, CityHopper and Cross River Ferry networks for up to 15 years.

It's the first major marine public transport deal acquired by SeaLink since the company's merger with Transit Systems earlier this year (**TD** 17 Jan).

Total revenue over the initial decade-long term of the contract is estimated at \$390 million, with the Brisbane services set to commence from 04 Nov.

Once the new Qld business is in place, SeaLink will be operating over 100 vessels across Australia.

Air NZ May stats

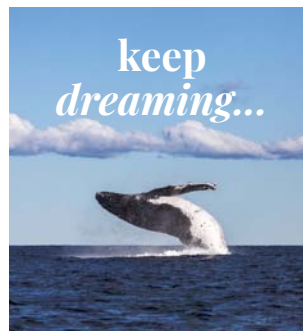
TRAFFIC figures released by Air New Zealand this morning showed its May passenger numbers were down 94.8% year-on-year to just 67,000.

The overall load factor for the month was 34.2%, a full 50 percentage points lower than the previous corresponding period.

The vast majority of operations during the month were on NZ's domestic network, with the airline carrying just 4,000 long-haul passengers during the month on its Asian and Americas/UK flights.

Dreaming of whales

Travel & Cruise Weekly



Issue 012

THE 12th edition of our sister publication **Keep Dreaming** from **Travel & Cruise Weekly** is out today, with tonnes of travel inspiration including whale-watching, cruise ship culinary highlights, oyster ideas, a Hawaii holiday feature & more.

Click on the **image** to view, and for the full agent marketing kit go to traveldaily.com.au.

Emirates expands

EMIRATES has announced the addition of seven more cities to its list of passenger destinations.

The airline's network is now at 48 cities, with the addition of Khartoum, Amman, Osaka, Tokyo, Athens, Larnaca and Rome.

Operations to the new cities will commence from Fri this week.

Passengers will also now be able to travel to Dubai from across the network, with the city reopening to visitors from 07 Jul (**TD** 23 Jun).

A4A to refund

AIRLINES for America (A4A) members have pledged to refund tickets for passengers who are denied flying, if Transportation Security Administration begins checking temperatures at airports.

The trade association last month announced its support of the screenings (to also cover customer-facing employees), which will be one of several public health measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Earlier this year (**TD** 04 May), A4A's members announced they would require both passengers and customer-facing employees to wear facial coverings over their nose and mouth from check-in to disembarkation.

IATA intention down

CUSTOMER expectations of international flying any time soon continue to decline, according to new data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The figures show the number of people who expected to take to the air within one-to-two months of the COVID-19 pandemic coming under control had fallen 14 percentage points to 35% since a similar survey in Apr.

There was an 8% increase in the proportion of respondents who said they would wait at least six months before recommencing travel, while the Jun survey also showed 5% of people would “not travel in the foreseeable future”.

Norway

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SQ incentive

SINGAPORE Airlines is offering travel agents the opportunity to exercise their way to Singapore, offering two return Economy tickets.

The incentive runs until 24 Jul, for those who run, hike, or take their pet for a walk for a total of 10 hours during the promotion period, and answer a question in 50 words or less.

[CLICK HERE](#) for full details.

UK "traffic lights"

AUTHORITIES in Britain are set to relax the requirement for a 14-day mandatory quarantine for incoming travellers, instead implementing a "traffic light" system for different countries.

Only passengers arriving from "red" countries will have to self-isolate, with a full list of nations expected to be released in the next few days under the new risk-based approach to allowing travel to resume.

Virgin 2.0 details revealed

BAIN Capital is set to relaunch Virgin Australia under its new ownership in Sep, with expectations that the carrier could be profitable as soon as Feb according to Mike Murphy, who led the successful bid announced on Fri (**TD** 26 Jun).

Murphy told the *Australian Financial Review* that plans are for an all-domestic operation initially with 60-70 aircraft flying from the existing Virgin Australia base in Brisbane.

He said a survey of "six or seven thousand customers" over the past couple of months had confirmed that scheduling and convenience were the top priority.

"Things like a fancy club and fancy meals and all of that are relevant to a very small portion of customers," he said, indicating somewhat of a shift in strategy for the relaunched airline.

"I think largely the positioning

from a customer perspective will be very similar to where it is, but maybe a little more value-focused," he told the *AFR*.

The domestic rollout is likely to be followed by short-haul international and then long-haul, all based on customer demand, alongside a commitment to regional routes.

Virgin Australia will also feature on the ABC's *Four Corners* tonight, promising an exclusive insight into how the carrier ended up in voluntary administration.

As well as the airline's Chair Elizabeth Bryan, the program includes an interview with former VA executive John Thomas, who was heir apparent to former CEO John Borghetti but abruptly left the carrier after less than a year as 2IC (**TD** 03 Jul 2017).

The sale to Bain is still subject to creditor approval, at a meeting to be convened before 31 Aug.

CZ to add platinum loyalty status

CHINA Southern Airlines is believed to be in the process of rolling out a new Platinum tier to its Sky Pearl Club loyalty program.

No official confirmation has been forthcoming, but a number of social media posts have referred to the enhancement which also looks set to include a refreshed membership card.

CZ left the SkyTeam alliance at the beginning of 2020 after a year-long exit process (**TD** 16 Nov 2018) and at this stage has not revealed whether it plans to join a rival airline group.

However there's speculation that the addition of the new Platinum tier would allow China Southern to more easily align with the Oneworld alliance.

The carrier already has codeshare partnerships with several Oneworld members including AA, CX, BA, AY, JL, QF and its 5% shareholder QR.

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Dream extends

DREAM Cruises has extended its Cruise As You Wish policy for *Genting Dream* sailings through until Apr next year.

The policy extension allows all new and existing bookings made for *Genting's* sailings prior to or on 09 Apr 2021 to have the flexibility to cancel up to 48 hours prior, and receive a 100% future cruise credit to be redeemed on any Dream or Star Cruises sailing embarking up to 30 Sep 2021.

Eiffel Tower opens

PARIS' Eiffel Tower reopened to visitors on Thu after a three-month shutdown, the longest closure since World War II.

Initially tourists can climb the 674 steps up to the second observation deck with strict physical distancing, but from 01 Jul lifts will also start operating progressively, with the top level not expected to open until later in the season.

TripTech data reveal

TRAVEL technology provider TripTech has released a new travel index based on real-time data from road travellers across Australia and New Zealand.

The inaugural Independent Road Travel Index shows that while consumers are beginning to get out and about once again, the domestic industry has a long way to go with numbers down about 60% on 2019 results.

TripTech is headed up by former Tourism Australia marketing chief Nick Baker, who said the live information allowed the company to collate rich details of actual traveller movement & behaviour.

"This is now informing and inspiring our tourism industry and authorities with actionable insights," he enthused.

Use of TripTech's most popular travel apps - custom branded for car hire, RV rental and accom providers, had doubled over the last two months, Baker added.

10 years with The Travel Authority



THE Travel Authority (TTA) celebrated Jenine Lewis' 10-year anniversary as a Cruise and Travel Specialist with the company last week.

Lewis was surprised with a delivery straight to her door of fruit, chocolate and champagne.

The TTA team said it was "looking forward to a more personalised celebration later in the year and wish to thank Jenine for her hard work and loyalty over the years".

Lewis is **pictured** with her cornucopia of goodies.

Keep your clients dreaming of their next trip with *Travel & Cruise Weekly*

A weekly e-magazine with destination features, puzzles and more, to inspire your clients' next escape.

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CAPA summit on

CENTRE for Aviation Australia Pacific's (CAPA) Aviation Summit will be held on 05 and 06 Aug in Adelaide, and will be a mixture of an in-person & virtual event.

It will be the region's first aviation event since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a main live component taking place at the Adelaide Convention Centre, and a new virtual component beaming in local and international speakers from across the globe.

A range of in-person speakers will also be present, with delegates able to participate in-person or virtually.

Speakers will include Virgin Australia Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director Paul Scurrah, Tourism Australia Managing Director Phillipa Harrison and Australian Chamber Tourism Executive Chair John Hart, all of whom will present live in Adelaide.

CLICK HERE to register for the summit.

Accor says thanks



ACCOR Pacific has thanked the "healthcare heroes" at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney on Fri by presenting them with a well-deserved one-night break in their choice of Accor's 360 hotels.

Over 2,000 of the workers, including doctors, nurses, cleaners and administration, were surprised with the gesture live on

Seven's *Sunrise* program.

Accor also awarded a major prize to Operational Nurse Unit Manager Amy Matthew, which included a seven-night family escape for four people to any Australian destination, including flights, accommodation and an Accor Plus membership.

Matthew was nominated by Ashley Richardson for the instrumental role she played in the hospital's COVID-19 response, and her unwavering dedication.

Pictured: Accor presents the heroes with their prize.

Tourism Tribe grant

THE parent company of Tourism Tribe, Digital Coaching International has been named the successful applicant to a \$1.9 million government grant to empower small businesses across Australia.

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Karen Andrews made the announcement Fri, with Tourism Tribe founder & Chief Executive Officer Liz Ward hailing the government's investment in the venture's future.

"When we set out on the Tourism Tribe journey we knew that one day we could expand the features and benefits of the platform to other industry sectors and now we're ready to do that," she said.

Window Seat



"THERE'S an app for that".

Japan has been telling the world how keen it is to return to normality following the COVID-19 pandemic, and it seems the country's developers are putting their money where their mouth is.

Those shopping in the Daimaru department store in Tokyo are now being offered a real-time application showing restroom availability.

Titled Throne Service, the app has been developed to help prevent the potential health risks brought about by lines, and of course, to deliver quicker relief for shoppers.

Unfortunately, the app is currently only available in Japanese, so you may have to brush up on your kanji before arriving.

The news we needed

TOURISM & Transport Forum CEO Margy Osmond believes winning the right to host the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023 (**TD** 26 Jun) will provide a "welcome boost" for Australia's tourism sector after enduring a profusion of misfortune over the past year.

"To have the world game of football coming to Australia in 2023, we can only lick our lips as to the sheer volume of international visitors that will travel here, not only for the tournament but in the years to follow," she said.

Osmond also noted the tournament would provide a guiding light for the travel sector to channel its energy and recovery efforts towards.

"The tournament is exactly three years away and provides us with a realistic mark in the ground as we continue to rebuild the tourism industry towards recovery," Osmond said.

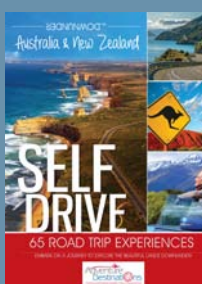
BROCHURES

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.



Hong Kong Tourism Board - Hong Kong Embraces New Norm of Travel

The Hong Kong Tourism Board has produced a new booklet to highlight efforts taken in the region in preparation for a tourism revival. The nine-page document showcases the efforts of the public and private sector to right-side the destination for post-COVID travel, as well as the role Hong Kong's technology industry is playing in helping control and eradicating the pandemic.



Adventure Destinations - Self Drive ANZ

Adventure Destinations' new Self-Drive Australia & New Zealand brochure provides 65 road trip experiences for travelling in a COVID-19 world. Ranging from two- to four-day holidays, the itineraries feature hotels and resorts, with all trips able to be modified. Cars are included but optional, with guests also most welcome to drive their own vehicle. Itineraries tailored to travellers' preferences can also be arranged, as can fully-included tours.

Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

R	E	C
A	B	A
F	T	I

Good – 15 words
Very good – 22 words
Excellent – 29 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

Pub quiz

- What is the currency of Brazil?
- What is the smallest independent country in South America by area?
- Approximately how long is The Great Wall of China?
 - 15,000km
 - 21,000km
 - 35,000km
 - 350,000km
- What would someone from Mongolia do with their Buryat?
- To the nearest 1,000, how many passengers could the *RMS Titanic* carry before its unfortunate accident?
- Which country's flag is comprised of two triangular shapes with one sitting on top of the other?
- True or false: St Lucia is the first country to be named after a woman?
- Lamu Island is home to the oldest constantly occupied settlement of which African country?
- What is the name of the area in the Pacific basin where many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur?
- What is the currency of China called?

ANSWERS 26 JUN

Pub quiz: 1 Abuja, 2 Milan, 3 The Balearic Islands, 4 Ulm, 5 The Andes, 6 Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, 7 American Airlines, 8 Damascus, 9 Cornwall, 10 The Caspian Sea, 11 Milwaukee ([wind]mill + walk + E [note])

Where in the world: Le Pouce de Cesar, Paris, France

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

Travel the world with mince and meatballs



THIS week we have another couple of home-grown recipes.

Both are really easy to chuck together after a long day at work and perfect for families.

Chow mein comes from Tess O'Shea from MTA Travel and

Inese from Consolidated Travel has submitted her spinach and rice recipe.

xx *Jenny*

Jenny Piper
Owner,
Business
Publishing
Group



Spinach and Rice

INGREDIENTS

- 1kg mince meat
- 1 large packet baby spinach leaves
- 4 tbsp beef stock powder
- Juice of 6-8 lemons (depending on your tastes)
- Water
- Rice to serve

METHOD

Fry mince meat with a little bit of olive oil in a large pan (draining off the mince fat as you cook). After about 5 minutes add in the beef stock powder, stir and cook further 2 minutes. Add the lemon juice to the meat mixture and simmer on low heat for about 4-5 minutes. Add the spinach leaves and mix into the meat mixture. Then add a few cups of water to just cover the whole mix, and simmer for about 20 minutes. Serve over rice.

Aussie Chow Mein

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

- 500g beef mince
- ¼ cabbage chopped roughly into small pieces
- 2 sticks of celery, sliced
- 1 carrot, roughly chopped
- 1 onion, chopped roughly
- 2 tbsp curry powder
- 1 packet chicken noodle soup
- Splash of soy sauce
- 2 cups of water

METHOD

Brown mince and onions, add curry powder, stir 2 minutes then throw in all of the other ingredients including the water. Bring to boil then simmer, stirring occasionally until vegetables are cooked through (usually ready in 30 minutes). You can add broccoli, beans at the end and chilli if you wish. This recipe is even better the next day too if you have leftovers!

Egypt update

SMARTTRAVELLER has advised Egypt will begin accepting international flights on 01 Jul.

Arriving travellers will need to provide evidence of a negative PCR test taken within 48 hours of travel.

The country currently has a nationwide partial curfew in place from 12am to 4am, and face masks are mandatory in public.

There are also restrictions on cafes, bars, clubs and more.

Temperature checks

TEMPERATURE tests are being provided across Victoria to provide safety and security for travellers over the school holidays.

About 4,800 infrared thermometers will be available at holiday locations, with coronavirus testing clinics to also be established at popular destinations on Great Ocean Road and in the Alps, such as Apollo Bay, Falls Creek, Lorne and more.

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Double the excitement



THE Blue Mountains Explorer Bus has expanded its route from 29 to 37 stops this school holidays, meaning families will be able to see even more cliff-top views from the top of the company's iconic red double-decker bus.

The family-owned Fantastic Aussie Tours bus trip will operate a hop-on/hop-off service every 45 minutes every day of the school holidays until 20 Jul.

Highlights along the bus journey include explorations through the towns of Katoomba and Leura, where passengers can disembark and check out the view from Cahill's Lookout overlooking the Megalong Valley and Narrow Neck peninsula.

Activity books for the kids are also on offer, with the little tots able to work their way through various fun topics in each destination such as Honeymoon Lookout, Echo Point, Gordon Falls, the Pool of Siloam and Wentworth Falls.

The service has also recently

enhanced its hygiene protocols to cater for concerns around COVID-19 transmission, with every bus cleaned and sanitised regularly throughout the day, hand sanitiser available aboard, and social distance seating measures in place.

Managing Director Jason Cronshaw believes the service is a great way for families to travel who may not have a big budget.

"Like many others, our business has been hard hit by the virus restrictions, but we have used the time of hibernation to make the big red bus bigger, better and even more value for budget-conscious families," he said.

The bus services operates between 9.15am and 5.30pm.

Anantara Koh Samui

ANANTARA Lawana Koh Samui Resort will reopen Wed with a focus on families.

The property has new dining and beverage concepts and a raft of fresh healthy options.



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