

## Italy borders to relax

**AUTHORITIES** in Italy have confirmed the relaxation of COVID-19 border restrictions, with PM Giuseppe Conte signing a decree on Sat which will open regions up from 03 Jun.

Anyone entering Italy from an EU country thereafter will not have to undergo quarantine, with officials hoping the move will help revive Italy's tourism sector in time for the summer peak.

Shops, restaurants and bars will reopen, and restrictions may be reimposed if there are further outbreaks of coronavirus.

Other countries in Europe are also set to ease their lockdowns, with a Baltic "travel bubble" opening up between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on Fri.

## Canopy closure

**CAIRNS-BASED** Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours has been placed into administration, according to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, with the company having ceased trading after being heavily impacted by the COVID-19 slump in travel demand.

Operating in the heart of the Daintree Rainforest, the company operated a series of tree platforms connected by ziplines, with tours departing up to 12 times a day from Cape Tribulation.

In late Mar the company's shareholders resolved that it be wound up and that John Goggin be appointed as liquidator.

## Village may go private

**VILLAGE** Roadshow Limited, the listed parent company of the Sea World, Wet'n'Wild, Paradise Country and Warner Bros. Movie World on the Gold Coast, has confirmed it has entered negotiations with private equity firm BGH Capital over a potential 100% takeover.

Melbourne-based BGH Capital bills itself as the "pre-eminent private equity firm in Australia and New Zealand," and has also recently been touted as one of the suitors for Virgin Australia.

Village Roadshow this morning provided details of a "Transaction Process Deed" which gives BGH the opportunity to undertake exclusive due diligence and negotiate a deal over the next four weeks.

BGH is offering up to \$2.40 per share for Village Roadshow, including a base price of \$2.20 plus an additional 12c per share in the event that Sea World and Warner Bros. Movie World have reopened when the deal closes.

A further 8c per share is on the table if the majority of Village's cinema locations have also reopened.

The price is a 25-36% premium to Village's closing price of \$1.77 last Fri, and a 51-64% premium to the volume weighted average price of the shares since 19 Mar, when the company updated the market on the initial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The theme parks remain closed,

with the company saying it continues to monitor the easing of Government restrictions and social distancing policies.

"The company will make the decision to reopen its venues as soon as practicable ensuring the safety of its patrons, employees and the community," an ASX update earlier today noted.

In the meantime Village Roadshow is incurring operating cash costs of \$10-15m per month after the JobKeeper subsidy, and is in advanced discussions with lenders to increase its debt financing facilities which currently have about \$284 million owing.

If the BGH offer proceeds, it is currently the intention of the existing major shareholders to "remain as significant, committed shareholders in the privatised business," with Clark Kirby to continue as CEO and his father Robert Kirby as Executive Chairman.

## Chimu helps out

**CHIMU** Adventures has pivoted to support its key supply chains in South America, launching a fundraising bid to assist operators left behind with no tourists due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite Chimu's team themselves being on JobKeeper, a shout-out to staff saw the company's relationship manager for Qld, James McAlloon, pipe up to attempt a massive trek across Australia with the aim of raising funds for those hardest hit.

McAlloon will undertake the "Footsteps for Food" trek, walking from the Gold Coast in Queensland to WA's Margaret River departing on 01 Jul.

Donations to the project and distributions to those in need will be managed by Chimu's in-house charity, Mad Project.

Greg Carter, Chimu Co-Founder, said the company would support McAlloon 100% of the way - info at [www.chimuadventures.com](http://www.chimuadventures.com).

## Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLES.

## DL extends pause

**DELTA** Air Lines has extended the suspension of its non-stop flights between the US and Australia, with GDS screens now indicating no availability on DL40/41 through until 30 Jun.

## Fijian phase-in

**FIJI** Airways will gradually resume some of its domestic routes in the coming days, including services from Nadi to Labasa which will recommence twice weekly from 22 May.

FJ is also boosting frequencies from Suva to Savusavu & Taveuni.



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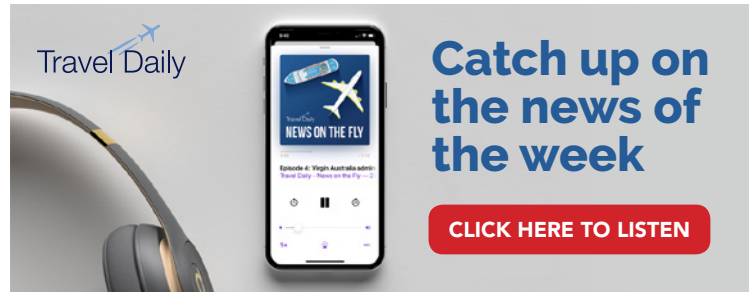


**VIKING**

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## IATA dashboard

**THE** International Air Travel Association (IATA) has created a dashboard to help easily obtain country-by-country travel restrictions.

Powered by Timatic, the resource has been designed to enable airlines to securely manage the passenger document verification process.

The information will be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis by IATA staff.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the portal.

## NCL launches series

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) has launched a News & Network webinar series for travel partners.

The new series offers additional resource for travel agents, including regional sessions hosted online by NCL's team of Business Development Managers, each with a unique theme.

The first in the series will take place on Fri, focusing on the cruise line's newly unveiled sailings for 2021 and 2022 (**TD** 12 May).

To register for your local webinar [CLICK HERE](#).

## Virgin buyers shortlisted

**VIRGIN** Australia's Administrators are a step closer to securing the future of the carrier and thousands of employees, with a "small number of parties" shortlisted to enter the next stage of the sale process (**TD** breaking news).

Administrators could not reveal who the parties are due to confidentiality restrictions, however multiple news outlets are reporting the shortlist contains private investment firm Bain Capital, private equity firm BGH Capital, US aviation firm Indigo Partners and global investor Cyrus Capital Partners.

Lead Administrator Vaughan Strawbridge said they would work to secure binding offers by mid Jun after receiving "more interest than anticipated," from well-funded bidders with deep aviation experience.

He added that each party had a plan for the business "which can secure the future for thousands of Virgin Australia employees.

"These parties enable us to seek the best available commercial solution which we are all

looking for, while meeting our responsibility to maximise the outcome for creditors and see the airline continue as one of the country's two carriers serving Australians across cities and regions," Strawbridge said.

The next step will see more detailed financial and operational information shared, along with management workshops and meeting with many of the financiers, landlords, suppliers, unions and other stakeholders of the business.

Virgin Australia is expecting the administration process to be finalised by mid-Aug.

**MEANWHILE** Virgin Australia reopened some redemption options for its Velocity Frequent Flyer program on Fri.

Domestic Reward Seat and Any Seat bookings are available for travel from 01 Sep to a limited number of redemption destinations in the hope that travel restrictions and border lockdowns will have eased.

Reward Seat or Any Seat bookings made before 01 Sep for travel after this time will have fees waived for any changes or cancellations made until 01 Sep.

In addition, if travellers or Virgin Australia cancels the flight before 01 Sep, the carrier said it would refund points or cash in full to the original form of payment, minus any booking or credit card fees.

For more info on Velocity redemption options, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Swiss giveaways

**SWITZERLAND** Tourism is kicking off a series of live webinars tomorrow, which will see spot prizes up for grabs along the way.

The webinars will take place bi-weekly at 3pm AEST up until 09 Jun and provide product updates and new developments, advice on Switzerland's recovery plan and other tips.

They will be recorded for replays, but only live participants will be able to win prizes, which include Victorinox backpacks, Victorinox toiletry bags and Victorinox table knives.

To register for the webinars or for more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

## G Adv training

**G ADVENTURES** has announced a National Geographic Journeys Specialist program.

The free online course offers multiple benefits and special agent rewards, and is designed to enhance knowledge and boost sales of G's small group trips offered in partnership with National Geographic Expeditions.

The one-hour course is organised into four learning modules, and can be accessed from any desktop or mobile device at any time.

It includes videos, quizzes and a final test that will help travel professionals boost their product knowledge, while gaining insights into the core customers who are most likely to book - [CLICK HERE](#).

# Love donuts?

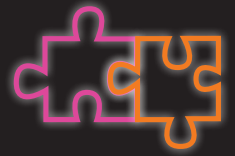
## So do we! Send us your donut poem, song or ditty to win.

The best donut ditty will be read out on our podcast weekly and the best overall will win themselves some of the real delicious deal.

Send your entries to [donuts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:donuts@traveldaily.com.au)

Travel Daily





## Regent Forward

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises has launched a new travel advisor initiative called Regent Forward.

The website is a means for agents to stay connected with Regent by providing news, info on its policies, access to Regent Connects and online resources such as toolkits and flyers.

It will also will offer suggestions, tips and thought-starters from the Regent Seven Seas Cruises team, including tips on how to stay focussed, how to market to affluent customers, working with Future Cruise Credits and how to leverage existing marketing tools.

Regent VP & GM Australia and NZ Lisa Pile launched Regent Forward in a video.

"We continue to face uncertain and challenging times during this evolving global health situation, but we want advisors to know that we are here for them," she said.

To watch the video, [CLICK HERE](#), and [CLICK HERE](#) for the website.

## Cruiseco's positivity

**CRUISECO** Chairman Kevin Dale has dismissed questions about the future of the travel industry and criticisms of agents, with a recent survey conducted by Cruiseco member and Your Travel & Cruise MD Les Farrar suggesting there is every reason for optimism in the industry.

In an opinion poll of around 1,600 consumers, 62% said they would consider booking domestic travel again this year, with 71% no less likely to book with a travel agent despite the negative publicity brought on by COVID-19.

However, Dale stressed that although half (50%) of all respondents' thought the reputation of agents had not been affected, the cruise industry still needed to win public confidence by adopting robust COVID-safe protocols.

Despite 91% saying they would consider taking a cruise holiday in the future, their patronage

assumed the implementation of stricter health measures both before boarding and onboard.

Only 42% of respondents said their current perception of cruising was positive, with 30% answering "neutral" and 28% "negative".

"As [Cruise Lines International Association] has highlighted, ships are neither the cause nor source of coronavirus, which can be transmitted in any social environment where people come together," Dale said.

"Appropriate embarkation and on-board monitoring protocols can control the problem."

Cruiseco Chief Executive Officer Nic Cola added: "Cruiseco members have been working tirelessly, to bring their guests home through the many obstacles of border and port closures and disappearing flight operations, processing refunds and re-bookings".

## SQ down 99.6%

**TRAFFIC** figures for Apr 2020 released today by Singapore Airline Group (SIA) confirmed a whopping 99.6% decline in pax carriage, as demand was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe.

Actual SIA capacity was down 95.5% with a "skeletal network" in operation connecting Singapore to 14 key cities.

However even those planes were almost empty, with a passenger load factor of just 9.3% for the month.

## RAC Parks reopen

**RAC** Parks and Resorts has today reopened its nine parks and resorts in line with the WA State Government easing some intrastate travel restrictions.

Each of the resorts are accepting travellers who live in particular regions, in line with government advice.

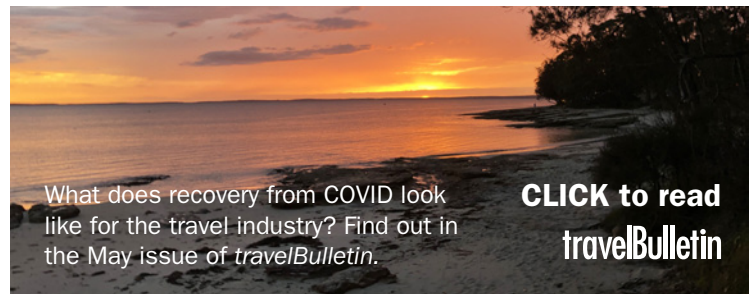
For more details [CLICK HERE](#).

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What does recovery from COVID look like for the travel industry? Find out in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

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**travelBulletin**

## Wyndham restructure

**WYNDHAM** Hotels & Resorts has rejigged its regional structure as part of an initiative to consolidate and realign its operations for post-COVID-19 recovery.

The hospitality giant has restructured its South East Asia & Pacific Rim and Greater China regions to form the new operating region of the Asia Pacific (APAC).

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts APAC will continue to operate with regional offices in Singapore and Shanghai, supported by satellite offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Gold Coast, Beijing, Hong Kong, Xi'an, Bangkok, Seoul, Jakarta, Manila & Kuala Lumpur.

APAC will be led by the current South East Asia and Pacific Rim President and MD Joon Aun Ooi, who will step into the role of APAC President on 01 Jun.

The current President of the Greater China region, Leo Liu, will step down from the company.

Ooi has nearly two decades of experience in the hospitality industry and joined Wyndham in 2013 as Vice President, Openings

and Operations, Greater China.

Under the new structure, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts APAC will become one of the region's strongest operating hospitality portfolios with more than 1,700 hotels in approximately 16 countries and territories across 13 of its brands.

"These are extremely challenging times for the hotel industry and it is more crucial now than ever for Wyndham Hotels & Resorts to be agile in adapting to the evolving situation to be able to drive greater value for our owners and partners," explained Ooi.

"Across APAC, the consolidation will enable the company to leverage on a broader pool of resources - allowing it to strengthen its strategic positioning to support existing operations, drive further expansion and create additional opportunities for cross-border collaborations.

## Boeing confidence

**BOEING** has named Mike Delaney to lead its Confident Travel initiative.

The company is aiming to minimise air travel health risks amid the COVID-19 pandemic by using a multilayered approach, which will see Delaney's team work with and consult with the industry to enhance safety and reduce illness transmission.

"As air travel slowly begins to resume and restrictions ease around the globe, health and safety remain our top priorities for our teams who design, build and service the airplanes and all those who fly on them," said Boeing President & Chief Executive Officer David Calhoun.

"Mike's deep technical expertise, leadership skills, industry knowledge and great passion for our customers make him uniquely qualified to lead this effort."

## Hertz cleans up

**CAR** rental giant Hertz has unveiled a new 15-step process for cleaning and disinfecting vehicle interiors and exteriors.

The procedures aim to reassure customers in a post-COVID-19 world, with cars undergoing the process to be formally certified and then sealed as "Gold Standard Clean".

"Sealing each vehicle is a first-of-its-kind practice in the car rental industry and one we believe will give customers added peace of mind knowing they are the only person to enter the vehicle after it's been thoroughly cleaned and sanitised," said Hertz CEO Kathryn Marinello.

The process includes sanitisation of all contact surfaces such as steering wheels and door services - **CLICK HERE** for details.

## PER & Qantas deal

**PERTH** Airport and Qantas have settled their differences over airport fees, after PER last week threatened to "evict" the airline (**TD** 13 May).

The airport claimed Qantas owed \$20 million in fees and rent, a figure that QF disputed, but after a week of negotiations, a deal has been agreed.

Details haven't been disclosed, but a joint statement said "the agreement provides greater certainty for Perth Airport on the payment of aviation and lease charges while Qantas has secured a partial abatement of payments".

## Accor medical deal

**ACCOR** has partnered with insurance provider AXA to provide medical support to guests across its network.

The deal will give guests access to free access to medical teleconsultations and to AXA's medical networks.

Accor said the service complements its overall global recovery plan for the post COVID-19 rebound & is included in its enhanced health protocols.



## Window Seat

**TO HAVE** not heard of COVID-19 yet, you'd have to have been living under a rock...or just have been out at sea for the past three months.

Canadian sailor Bill Norrie, who arrived in New Zealand last week having set out from South Africa on 11 Feb, had only heard of "coronavirus" via basic e-mail and satellite phone communications from his wife back home.

He returned to land from the open ocean at Lyttelton Harbour on Thu evening, to a vastly different world, and once clearing customs, was quick to find a steak and beer.

He joked he was the "safest man on the planet" by being at sea while the outbreak was worsening, and was sure to make known he was very thankful to New Zealand for letting him in.

He will leave to sail back home in a fortnight.

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## Pub quiz

1. What annual Spanish event has killed 15 participants since 1910?
2. Labrador is a region in which country?
3. India produces the most feature films per year. Which country produces the second-most?
4. The Cu Chi tunnels are a 250km long network of underground chambers beneath which country?
5. The Venetian landmark the Ponte dei Sospiri is also known as the Bridge of \_\_\_\_?
6. Bolivia is named after which hero and liberator?
7. Since 2017 Saudi Arabia, the UAE and four other countries have refused to allow flights to or from which other Arab country?
8. The national motto of which country literally translates to 'liberty, equality, fraternity'?
9. True or False: the first Oktoberfest was a celebration of a royal marriage in 1810.
10. 'Hasten' is an anagram for which city?
11. What city does this collection of pictures spell out?



## Sudoku

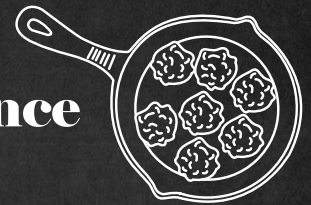
TRICKY

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, column, 3x3 box.

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

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

## Travel the world with mince and meatballs



THIS weeks meatball recipe was sent to us by Jayde Kincaid from Fifty Degrees North.

These traditional Finnish Fish balls are from a family living in Saimaa – the largest lake in Finland part of the majestic Finnish Lakeland.

I can't wait to give these ones a try.

Keep sending in recipes to [meatballs@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:meatballs@traveldaily.com.au)

xx Jenny

Jenny Piper  
Owner,  
Business  
Publishing  
Group



### Finnish Fish Balls (*Haukipullat*)

#### INGREDIENTS

- 500g fresh pike fillet
- 1-1½ tsp salt
- (NOTE 1)
- 2 eggs
- ½ lemon, juiced
- 20ml cream
- Small handful chopped dill

#### METHOD

Cut fish fillet into small pieces.

Mash all ingredients in a blender so that the dough is smooth (NOTE 2).

Roll the balls by hand. Water your hands a bit in between rolling the fish balls. That way the dough does not stick to your hands.

Bake 200°C for 15 minutes or cook in a frying pan in butter 2-3min on both sides (NOTE 3).

Serve fish balls with mashed potatoes and sour cream dill sauce for a traditional Finnish dinner.

NOTE 1: This recipe can also be made with salmon

NOTE 2: Making fish ball dough can be a tough job for your blender. Add a little bit of fish and liquid alternately to get a nice and smooth dough.

NOTE 3: Baking fish balls in the oven is the healthier option, but frying on a pan gives fish balls better look and buttery flavour.

#### ANSWERS 15 MAY

Pub quiz: 1 False, 2 Agra, 3 India, California, 4 One. All of China is (UTC+8), 5 The gift of the gab, 6 The Alps, 7 France, 8 Iran, 9 Monaco (18,960 people per m<sup>2</sup>), 10 Switzerland, 11 Puerto Rico (poor + toe + re[ply] + CO [carbon monoxide molecule])

Whose flag is this: Albania

Word jumble: host, beverage, family, jaunty, return, wander, outdoors, voyage, fancy, ENJOYMENT

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

## Ovolo in-room dining to Syd



**OVOLO** has brought its "Restaurant In Room" concept to Sydney's Ovolo Woolloomooloo, offering private dining from Alibi Bar and Kitchen in hotel rooms on Thu, Fri and Sat nights.

The experience (pictured) debuted in Sydney on Fri following strong demand at Ovolo Nishi Canberra with Monster Kitchen & Bar (**TD** 04 May), which

has seen the hotel open up double the number of bookings.

A five-course dinner for two guests is priced at \$130, with matching beverages available for an additional \$220.

An overnight stay can be added on, from \$269 in a Deluxaroo Loft through to \$999 in an Ultraroo Suite, which comes complete with a bar and bartender.

## NT visitor funding

**THE** Northern Territory Government has invested in its tourism industry, with 17 local businesses receiving grants totalling nearly \$500,000 under the New Visitor Experience Program.

The initiative aims to support operators to bounce back from the impacts of coronavirus and improve the visitor experience.

Projects include expansion of Alice Springs Brewing Company to create Brewery Tours for visitors.

## Walk around Cook

**PACIFIC** Resort Group is bringing its resorts to agents and travellers around the world by inviting them to take a virtual walk through its Cook Islands resorts.

**CLICK HERE** to look around the Pacific Resort Aitutaki, **CLICK HERE**, for Te Manava Luxury Villas & Spa, **CLICK HERE** for Little Polynesian Resort & **CLICK HERE** for Pacific Resort Rarotonga.

The Cook Islands declared it had no COVID-19 in Apr (**TD** 23 Apr).

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## Brisbane progress

**BRISBANE** Airport is busily preparing for the opening of its new runway, with new flight paths to come into effect on Thu.

The move marks the last significant milestone for the project and will see airspace changes installed into aircraft navigation systems and air traffic control systems so they are ready to use the runway.

The new runway is schedule to open on 12 Jul and in the meantime interim flight paths will be used.

## Auckland flts in Mar

**AUCKLAND** Airport's total passenger volumes slid by 42% in Mar, compared to Mar 2019, following the country's escalation of COVID-19 measures during the period.

International passengers were down 43.2% during the month, transit passengers slid 49.5% and domestic pax fell by 40.1%.

After New Zealand, Australia held the top spot for arrivals, followed by the US, China, United Kingdom, Japan, Germany and South Korea.

## 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).



### MoaTours - Small Group Escapes

MoaTours has released its latest e-brochure of small group escapes, which are designed for mature New Zealand travellers. The program includes all-inclusive tours between four and seven days in length, with a total of 25 itineraries exploring regions from Northland, Great Barrier Island, Stewart Island and Doubtful Sound. Four garden tours are available, showcasing Canterbury Gardens, Taranaki Rhododendron Gardens, Country Roads & Cross Hills Gardens Fair and Otago Farmhouse Gardens.



### Vanuatu Tourism Office - Destination Guide

The latest destination guide from Vanuatu Tourism Office showcases "Vanuatu moments" across the country's 83 islands, each which offer visitors unique experiences. The guide includes a map of the country and highlights the spread of key attractions, experiences and events in anticipation of when the destination will be able to welcome back visitors. It also features a handy "top 10 facts" about the destination and information on getting to, and around the country.

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