

SQ MEL hiatus

SINGAPORE Airlines has confirmed that it will not operate inbound passenger services from Singapore to Melbourne until at least 21 Nov, due to the continuation of inbound arrival restrictions to Victoria.

However Melbourne to Singapore outbound flights continue to operate and are available for sale, subject to passengers meeting applicable Government travel requirements.

NT event funding

THE Northern Territory Major Events Company has today opened a new round of funding grants, with up to \$30,000 available for community events that "share the Territory's rich history and culture".

Separate "Event Development" funding offers up to \$100,000 for events that will attract new audiences and encourage visitors to book an NT trip - [CLICK HERE](#).

QF confirms agent talks

EXCLUSIVE

QANTAS has promised to "keep the agency community updated" as it conducts ongoing discussions with resellers over their remuneration, after CEO Alan Joyce on Fri confirmed that the carrier was renegotiating its arrangements with third party distributors (**TD** 23 Oct).

Qantas Executive Manager of Global Sales & Distribution, Igor Kwiatkowski, told **Travel Daily** the carrier was looking for ongoing cost savings and efficiencies across the entire business.

"As part of this, we're reviewing our supplier agreements and our distribution costs to ensure Qantas remains competitive as the market recovers," he said.

"We've been having constructive conversations with our agency partners about these changes for a number of months now," Kwiatkowski said.

Possible areas for consideration

include BSP base commission, changes to back-end head office volume deals and the timing of incentive payments to agents, according to industry sources.

Kwiatkowski said "one thing that won't change is our commitment to our agency partners and mutual customers...we're continuing to progress our NDC program and will be launching a number of new features over the coming months, all designed to better support the industry in selling and servicing their bookings with Qantas".

MEANWHILE Joyce's speech at the Qantas AGM also confirmed expectations that QF flights to the US and Europe are unlikely to resume until there is a widely available COVID-19 vaccine.

In the meantime the carrier continues to assess options for routes to lower-risk destinations such as the Pacific, South Korea and Southeast Asia.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page and a full page from **Tokyo Tourism**.

Tassie opening up

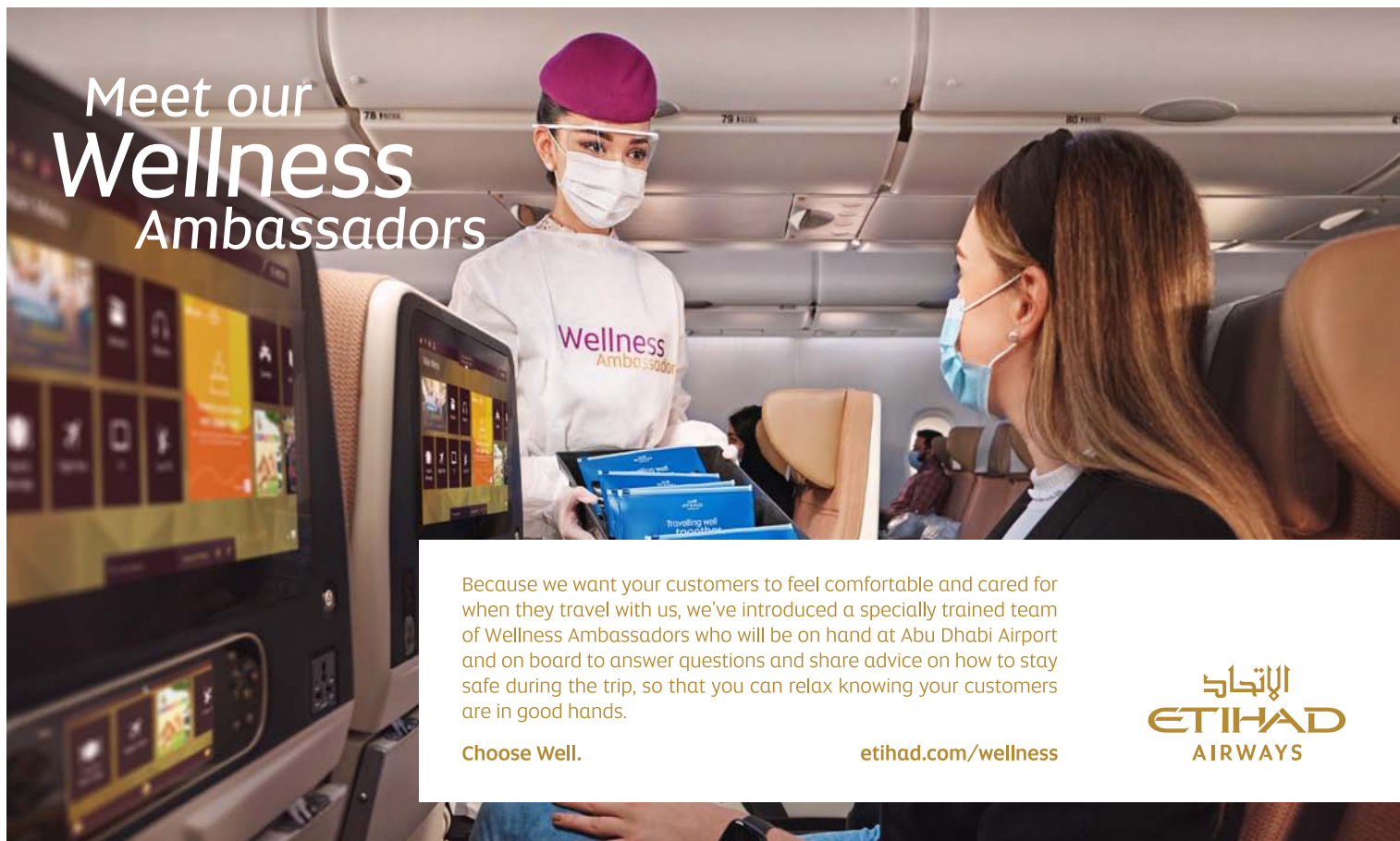
TRAVELLERS to Tasmania from "low risk jurisdictions" including New Zealand, the ACT, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, will not need to quarantine effective from today.

Visitors will be health screened including temperature checks and symptom questionnaires, and all arrivals must complete the new Tas e-Travel registration system which went live on Fri.

While NSW is still classed as a medium-risk area with a requirement to quarantine on arrival, effective immediately this can be done at private residences.

Arrivals into Tasmania from Vic and on cruise ships are still considered high risk.

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AIRWAYS

With five more ships leaving Carnival Corporation's fleet, read more about how the company is coping with COVID-19 in the October issue of *travelBulletin*.



CLICK to read

travelBulletin

Expedia unlocks reviews for partners

EXPEDIA Partner Solutions has today announced it will give resellers access to tens of millions of traveller reviews and ratings.

The initiative follows a change by rival TripAdvisor in Nov last year, which ceased sharing its reviews with the industry.

Expedia says it's "now filling that gap for partners," enabling resellers such as online travel agents, retailers and corporate agencies to share property ratings and reviews with their customers.

"User-generated content is hugely influential in booking decisions, especially at this time," said Expedia Partner Solutions VP Ian Knox, citing figures claiming 70% of travellers read online reviews before they book.

The company said giving access to transparent health and safety content was also key to boosting confidence, with properties seeing higher bookings when traveller reviews show how hotels deal with coronavirus mitigation.

Ratings and reviews are now available through the latest version of the Expedia API.

Airbnb regional platform

ACCOMMODATION giant Airbnb is providing \$70,000 in funding for a new Australian Regional Tourism (ART) platform to help rural communities develop "world class farmstays".

The system will be available on ART's online The Tourism Hub portal, providing hands-on agritourism workshops to help regional communities diversify their local economies and build

sustainable tourism.

ART Chair Coralie Bell said "this partnership comes at a critical time for regional Australia, and firmly demonstrates Airbnb's commitment to regional tourism".

Airbnb spokesman Derek Nolan said the initiative was a long-term investment in the capacity of regional operators which will "help the bush bounce back".

"Our guests are always looking for unique experiences that take them off the well-beaten path and give them a true sense of Australia beyond the big cities," he said, with the partnership being showcased now at airbnb.com.au.

Stoeckel to sunshine

OUTGOING Tourism Fiji chief Matt Stoeckel (**TD** 22 Oct) was this morning announced as the new CEO of Visit Sunshine Coast.

Stoeckel will take on his new role at the beginning of 2021, taking over from Interim CEO Craig Davidson.

AA selling MAX

AMERICAN Airlines has opened reservations for flights on the currently grounded Boeing 737-MAX 8 aircraft, with GDS screens indicating plans to operate daily services between New York and Miami from late Dec.

Back-Roads flexible

BACK-ROADS Touring has launched a new COVID-19 Assurance Policy, which includes a provision for a 100% refund if customers are diagnosed with COVID-19 or a sudden government-enforced lockdown.

To be eligible for the policy, customers will be required to produce a positive COVID-19 PCR test certificate within 14 days and 24 hours of departure.

Travel companions registered under the same Back-Roads booking reference number will also receive a full refund or travel credit if they choose not to go.

The policy also features unlimited changes and cancellation protection up to 60 days prior to departure.

Science goals locked

INTREPID Travel has announced new emissions reduction targets to be achieved by 2035, with the new goals approved by the Science Based Targets initiative.

The tour operator said it would be taking a "series of actions" to help lower its carbon footprint, such as replacing flights with high-speed rail on select China trips, changing to 100% biodegradable lunch containers on Peruvian trekking itineraries, as well as 100% renewable energy for all of its global offices.

Intrepid will also be rolling out a number of "closer to home" trips in 2021, requiring domestic travellers to take less flights.

"Setting science-based targets is widely considered the most effective way for companies to take significant climate action, and we're proud to be building our business towards a 1.5°C future," said CEO James Thornton.

EK biometric path

EMIRATES has launched a new integrated biometric path at Dubai International Airport, giving both incoming and outbound passengers a fully contactless airport experience.

The system utilises a mixture of facial and iris recognition, with customers able to check-in, pass through a world first "Smart Tunnel" contact-free immigration facility, enter lounges and board their aircraft "simply by strolling through the airport".

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Travel Daily

Govt plots digital visas

THE Government's plan to take incoming passenger cards online (**TD** 19 Oct) is part of an overarching "permissions capability" which would digitise and unify a range of immigration systems including visa processing.

Formal tender documents have now been released for the project, which it's envisaged will be awarded in Mar next year.

The Department of Home Affairs is seeking a qualified provider to "collaboratively design the Permissions Capability architecture, suitable for whole of government applications".

The first "use cases" for the new system would be the previously announced Digital Passenger Declaration, as well as a Simple Visa Type application.

The Digital Passenger Declaration would be delivered in the third quarter of 2021, while the Simple Visa system would be implemented before Dec 2021,

the briefing document suggests.

The Department noted the existing ageing technology systems which underpin current visa processing, with a lack of flexibility, limitations on fraud detection, data sharing limitations, manual processing & "multiple customer pain points".

The proposed Simple Visa product would be an easy-to-use digital application available for non-citizen travellers who meet certain criteria, facilitating movement across borders and supporting processes such as identity management, risk profiling and health information.

Other possible future uses for the platform would cover more complex visas, aviation security accreditations, police checks and tobacco import licences.

An industry briefing will be convened via video conference from Canberra next week - more info at tenders.gov.au.

WA still holding out

NATIONAL Cabinet has agreed to open all domestic borders by Christmas, with the exception of Western Australia.

After a meeting on Fri Prime Minister Scott Morrison said a plan had been agreed with the states, with only Western Australia not participating due to "economic concerns".

Each state will have different open dates, decided by the individual state governments.

The Prime Minister's office also expressed hopes that quarantine-free travel between New Zealand and other low-risk countries should happen by Christmas.

MEANWHILE caps in international arrivals will be increased, with the PM saying he hoped 26,000 Australian wanting to return from overseas would be home by Christmas.

Qld has agreed to take 150 more monthly international arrivals, and Western Australia has agreed to take a further 140 next month.



Window Seat

IN A world brought to a virtual standstill by COVID, cities are crying out for new tourist attractions to reboot things.

Well, be careful what you wish for mayors and governors, because it just might be a gigantic inflatable likeness of Sacha Baron Cohen's irreverent character Borat (**pictured**).

Toronto recently found out what this was like, with a massive barge of Borat floating through its waterfront area last week to promote the film, *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm*.

We liiiiiiiiike!



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cocktail recipes!

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from around the world for
our weekly feature.

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Travel Daily

Where in the world?



THIS bridge is a double-decked metal arch bridge spanning across a river and connecting two cities.

When it was constructed in the late 19th century its span (172m) was the longest of its type in the world.

It was originally designed to just have a single deck to facilitate

ships moving up and down the river but was changed to a double deck due to the growth of the population.

Today the bridge carries both metro trams and pedestrian traffic but no motor vehicles.

Can you name the bridge or the city it is found in?

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, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes.

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

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

Who needs a drink?



THIS recipe comes from Oceania Cruises' Director of Culinary Enrichment & Executive Chef Kathryn Kelly.

The flavours of limoncello will transport your tastebuds to the beautiful, sunny Amalfi Coast in Italy.

Although the recipe does take 10 days to make, it's

not too labour intensive and is well worth it.

Keep sending your recipes to cocktails@traveldaily.com.au.

xx *Jenny*

Jenny Piper
Owner,
Business
Publishing
Group



10-Day Homemade Limoncello

Makes 1 x 750mL bottle

INGREDIENTS

- 6 unwaxed lemons (preferably organic)
- 1 (750-millilitre) bottle vodka, preferably Belvedere
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup water

METHOD

Wash the lemons well and remove their rinds (don't include any of the pith). Combine the lemon rind with the vodka in a large sterilised jar, seal and let stand in a dark place for six days. After six days, in a small saucepan combine the sugar and water over medium heat until it simmers and the sugar dissolves. Let cool then transfer the lemon rind from the vodka to the syrup. Reseal the vodka jar and transfer the syrup and rind to a new sterilised jar and seal. Let both jars stand in a dark place for three more days. Remove the rind from the syrup and add the syrup to the vodka (you don't have to use all of it, add it to your desired sweetness). Strain the combined vodka and syrup into a sterilized bottle and enjoy chilled!

ANSWERS 23 OCT

Pub quiz: 1 c) 1940s, 2 b) 500 years, 3 Spencer Gulf and St. Vincent Gulf, 4 Delta Air Lines, 5 Sri Jayawardenepura, 6 Nairobi, 7 Broome, 8 Ballarat, 9 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, 10 Australia, Malaysia, and Singapore

Unscramble: acute, aunt, caul, clue, cult, cute, eluate, elute, lucent, lunate, lute, nucleate, peanut, peculate, penult, PETULANCE, puce, pule, punt, taupe, teacup, tuna, tune, ulna, unapt, uncap, uncle, unlance

Whose flag is this: Bhutan

Monday 26th October 2020

Massive GC promo

DESTINATION Gold Coast has launched a \$3.5 million campaign urging Australians to "Come Back and Play," with the promo timed to capitalise on the hoped for reopening of the Queensland border next month.

The organisation's Chairman Paul Donovan said it was the region's biggest ever investment in the domestic market, with an eight week rollout in Brisbane, regional Qld, ACT, SA and NSW.

World Exp training

WORLD Expeditions is offering a Best Australian Summer Adventures training program for travel agents.

With regional tourism booming and border restrictions between states beginning to lift, the training aims to instruct agents about the best adventures on offer this summer in Australia.

To register your interest in this and future online sessions, **CLICK HERE** to e-mail your details.

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.



Explore - 2021 Unforgettable Adventures

Explore has gone to press with its 2021 brochure. The program celebrates Classic Discovery, Walking and Cycling trips, with Explore's best-selling trips returning for 2021, as well as some new product. Explore has launched seven new trips in the United Kingdom, include Walk the Lake District and Cycle Hadrian's Wall following the company's recent travel survey, which revealed that Australian travellers are looking to take longer holidays than usual to make up for not being able to travel in 2020. The brochure also details a range of cross-selling opportunities for travel agents.



Regent Seven Seas Cruises Voyage Collection

Regent Seven Seas has released its 2022-23 Voyage Collection, featuring a total of 148 sailings from Apr 2022 until the end of May 2023 across Africa and Arabia, Alaska, Asia, Australia and NZ, Canada and New England, the Caribbean and Panama Canal, the Mediterranean, Northern Europe and South America. Also in the program are five Grand Voyages and several trans-oceanic crossings, with cruises ranging from seven nights through to the recently announced 143-night 2023 World Cruise. The full brochure is available by calling 1300 455 200 or online at rssc.com.

Agents pivot to polling



PROVING that travel agents can succeed at anything they turn their hands to, a number of Victorian home-based consultants have helped out the state's Electoral Commission over the past few months.

Represented by travel advisors from Travel Counsellors, TravelManagers and Travel Partners, the group has had close to 10 weeks of work as the core of the overflow call centre for the local council elections which took place on the weekend.

Located on Collins Street in Melbourne, the group were on the phones answering all manner of questions leading up to the poll,

as part of a team led by ex-Qantas manager Jordan Thomaidis.

Over 40 people were responding to calls in the peak weeks leading up to the elections.

The masked-up team are **pictured**: Danielle Pirrie, Ben McDowell, David Jackson, Carolyn Pitt, Tina Millington, Sally Johnson, Andrea Friend, Bev Edwards and Chriss Perry.

IPW to be cheaper

THE US Travel Association has flagged "dramatically reduced rates" for international buyers wanting to attend its IPW 2021 trade show in Las Vegas.

The event is now scheduled for 18-22 Sep 2021, with registration costs cut to just US\$250 "in recognition of the tough financial situation many of our global travel colleagues are also facing," organisers said - ipw.com.

New Bangkok IHG

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group (IHG) has signed a new Crowne Plaza hotel for Bangkok.

The location will be the brand's largest in Thailand, having inked an agreement with Sukhumvit Centre Point to take over the Grand Sukhumvit Hotel Bangkok.

The new hotel will open in late 2021 after a refurbishment.

HA resumptions

HAWAIIAN Airlines will resume flights to its full 13-city US mainland network from Dec, including services to New York and Boston, with quarantine-free arrivals in Hawaii now possible with proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hrs of departure.

Qatar strip probe

AUSTRALIAN Foreign Minister Marise Payne has slammed an "offensive, grossly inappropriate" incident in Qatar where women boarding a flight to Australia were subjected to a humiliating search after a newborn baby was found in a bathroom at Doha Airport.

Reports allege that 13 Australians who had boarded a Sydney-bound flight were taken off the plane and forced to go "invasive physical searches" in an ambulance parked on the tarmac.

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

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