

Voting closes today



VOTING CLOSES TODAY!

Travel Daily has seen a massive number of nominations for the awards from across the industry for agents and suppliers who have gone above and beyond during this extremely challenging time.

Nominations have now closed and we have whittled it down to the finalists.

Voting is now open for the supplier categories. Vote now for those who you believe have best supported the industry and deserve to be recognised specially for their hard work. Voting closes today 14 September at 5pm.

Click here to vote for the finalists!

**More information at
awards.traveldaily.com.au**

TD awards voting

TODAY is the last day for the industry to cast votes in the 2020 *Travel Daily Awards*, which aim to highlight the way the industry has come together to support one another through the COVID-19 crisis this year.

Thousands of votes have already been cast in the supplier categories, while the finalists in the agent categories are currently being judged by our panel of independent experts.

Voting in the supplier section of the awards closes at 5pm AEST today - for more information see today's **cover page**.

[CLICK HERE to vote](#)

Hotelbeds tidies up

ACCOMMODATION aggregator Hotelbeds has confirmed that a previous "internal reorganisation" will see the shutdown of various entities including a company called Tourico Australia Pty Ltd.

Hotelbeds acquired Tourico almost four years ago (**TD 09 Feb 2017**) and then expanded further by taking over GTA/Travelcube (**TD 24 Apr 2017**) and ultimately incorporated the B2B trade-facing operations under the Bedsonline brand (**TD 22 Jan 2019**).

Australian Securities and Investment Commission last week confirmed the appointment of RSM Australia Partners as liquidator of Tourico Australia.

A spokesperson for the company told *Travel Daily* that the combination of the three businesses meant that Tourico Australia had been dormant for some years now.

"We are winding it up together with many other entities that are no longer active in Hotelbeds' current setup," the spokesperson said, adding "this in no way affects Hotelbeds or our partners (be they ex-GTA or Tourico partners); it also in no way reflects the current economic challenges of the industry, this would have happened regardless".

Gucsic slashes WEB stake

WEBJET CEO John Guccic has sold more than half of his stake in the company, which today confirmed the on-market sale of 5,521,468 shares last week, worth over \$21 million.

The company said the proceeds from the sale would be used to partially settle previously disclosed funding arrangements with merchant bank UBS AG, which Guccic had used to buy Webjet shares when they were trading at a significant premium to the current share price.

"Given the significant impact COVID-19 has had on the global travel industry and value of the company's shares since acquisition, upon expiry of these funding arrangements Mr Guccic does not consider the cost of extending them to be appropriate," the company said.

The number of shares sold by Guccic represent about 1.6% of Webjet's total share capital.

He still remains a significant shareholder in Webjet, with an interest in about 5 million shares.

Guccic confirmed his commitment to Webjet as MD and his intent to remain a long-

term shareholder in the business.

"Along with the rest of the management team, I remain resolute in my determination to steer the business through what has been a devastating period for the global travel industry.

"I remain a long-term, committed shareholder in the business and am encouraged by the significant opportunities for returning to profitable growth when COVID-19 subsides," he said.

Earlier this month Webjet announced the introduction of a new Long Term Incentive Plan (**TD 02 Sep**) including options for Guccic to acquire 4.5 million fully paid ordinary shares in Webjet over a period of three years with a base price of \$3.08 and a targeted 10% annual increase.

States open wallets

FUNDING for tourism and travel businesses has been announced by various state jurisdictions over the last few days, including grants of up to \$500,000 for South Australian operators as part of a \$20 million Tourism Industry Development Fund.

The SA initiative will fund up to 30% of a new project such as a tourism experience, visitor transport or renovation project.

In Victoria, the shattered economy is being supported by \$3 billion in coronavirus business packages, including targeted funding for ski resorts and hospitality operators.

A \$251 million Licensed Venue Fund will provide grants of \$10,000 to \$30,000 to pubs, clubs, hotels and restaurants, while the state's snowfields will receive grants of up to \$20,000 to help cover resort fees.

Other measures in Vic include deferral of payroll tax, stamp duty discounts and grants of up to \$20,000 for members of local business groups and chambers of commerce, along with \$20 million for small businesses to access digital platforms for online sales.

TFE Perth opening

TFE Hotels has announced the opening of Vibe Hotel Subiaco next month, with the move seeing the first-time introduction of the Vibe brand into WA.

The 168-room hotel in the heart of Perth's inner west is part of a mixed-use precinct, with the property featuring a pool, gym, conference space, restaurant and versatile guest rooms that can transform into three bedroom suites.

TFE CEO Antony Ritch said the company had "every confidence in the strength of the Western Australian tourism market, and its ability to bounce back post-pandemic," with the new Vibe Subiaco officially opening for sale from today for stays from 01 Oct.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page, a full page from **Tourism Authority of Thailand** plus a front full page regarding the *Travel Daily Awards*.

Be a Thai specialist

UPSKILLING opportunities currently available include the Amazing Thailand Specialist which has been launched by the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

The learning platform gives travel consultants the ability to boost their knowledge of Thailand from "good to great", with the eight different modules providing the opportunity to earn prizes for agents from both Australia and New Zealand.

See the **last page** for more info.

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Trace the demise of CMV and its impact on the Australian market in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

Paul joins CLIA

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has become a member of Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia.

The Tahiti-based operator has joined as a Regional Cruise Line, Australasia, joining its parent company Ponant.

CLIA Australasia MD Joel Katz said the addition of Paul Gauguin as a regional member was a sign of long-term confidence and resilience in the cruise industry.

More details in today's issues of *Cruise Weekly*.

TEQ membership

A **FREE** 24-month Australian Tourism Data Warehouse membership is available via Tourism & Events Queensland (TEQ) in partnership with the state's regional tourism organisations.

The offer is available to all tourism and events operators in Queensland - more info [HERE](#).

Orbit joins Travel Leaders

US-BASED Travel Leaders Network has today extended its international footprint via a partnership with Orbit World Travel in Australia and NZ.

Travel Leaders is North America's largest travel agency organisation, with over 42,000 travel advisors, with Orbit one of over 70 TMCs across the globe which have joined the group over the last few years.

Lisa Story, Orbit World Travel Executive Director, said the move allowed the company to offer a highly personalised service model to international organisations, with the backing of a leading travel industry company.

"We will continue to service our clients in a highly personalised manner while providing them with the benefits of Travel Leaders' consolidation of global and regional travel programs and a number of travel management tools," Story said.

Orbit World Travel has six locations in Australia which formerly traded as World Travel Professionals (**TD** 04 Jul 2016) and nine in New Zealand, where its majority owner House of Travel is based.

Travel Leaders Network offers a comprehensive suite of tools and hotel programs including Bonotel Exclusive Hotels, Select Hotels & Resorts and Worldwide Hotels.

The portfolio also includes an international DMC network and education/training resources, while Orbit World Travel will complement its existing tech platform with Travel Leaders systems to support both international corporate accounts and local customers.

Travel Leaders Network President Roger E Block said the organisation was excited about its partnership with Orbit and "the opportunity to expand our services to travellers in Australia".

WHM extension call

INBOUND tourism operators are urging a 12-month extension for backpacker visas under the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program, with plummeting numbers due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing significant issues for regional industries.

Simon Westaway, Executive Director of the Australian Tourism Industry Council (ATIC), said there were about 70,000 backpackers still here - about half the usual levels - with the drop being "harshly felt through the dual loss of usual working holiday maker spending and dwindling seasonal workers inside many tourism businesses and towns".

Earlier this month Tourism & Transport Forum chief Margy Osmond told the Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Migration that backpackers spend much more than locals on domestic travel, with up to \$20,000 per trip.

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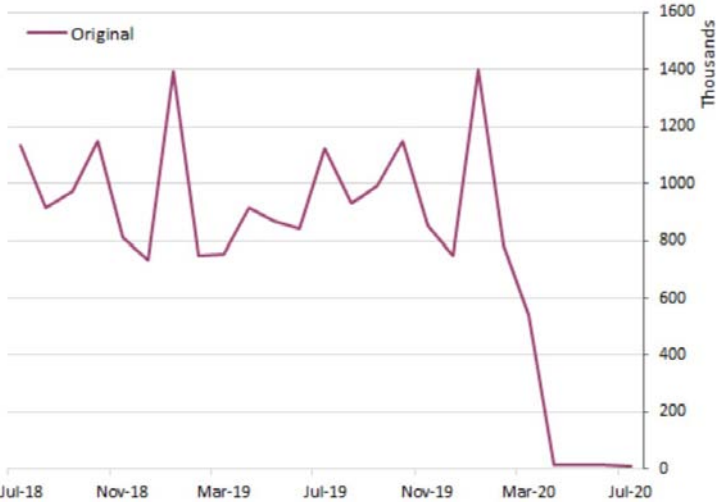


GET YOUR MESSAGE TO LISTENING EARS

CLICK HERE FOR INFO ON PODCAST SPONSORSHIP

Travel Daily

ABS confirms travel flatline



AUSTRALIAN Bureau of Statistics figures released on Fri have confirmed the dramatic ongoing impact of border closures on travel into and out of Australia, with the caps on arrivals and international border closures meaning the Jul results were down 35% on the prior month, and more than 99% compared to 12 months ago. The graph for short-term resident returns (pictured) reflected Australians coming home from the top five countries

of New Zealand (1,230), the USA (1,160), the UK (960), China (610) and India (390). Visitor arrivals, presumably reflecting essential workers, totalled just 3,530 trips during Jul, with the USA being the largest source country, accounting for 15% of the total, at 540 trips. That was just ahead of visitors entering Australia from NZ (500) and the UK (410), with smaller numbers coming in from Hong Kong (150), the Philippines (140) & Singapore (140).

Travel flaws found

BRITISH consumer choice brand Which? has exposed what it labels “serious” security issues at a number of major travel brands. Which? found via an investigation of 98 travel companies’ digital assets that brands such as British Airways, easyJet and Marriott International had “serious data security vulnerabilities” on their websites, with the latter possessing the most susceptibilities. The consumer choice company found the identified flaws gave hackers a backdoor into the system which could be used to mount a range of attacks. “Our research suggests that Marriott, British Airways and easyJet have failed to learn lessons from previous data breaches,” said Which? Travel Editor Rory Boland.

Aviation farm pivot

FACEBOOK group Pilots4Harvest2020 is offering pilots and other aviation members the chance to get in touch with farmers requiring harvest work during the COVID-19 travel downturn. The group encourages aviation workers to “come out bush” and fill needed jobs in the sector. **CLICK HERE** for further details about the job opportunities.

GC operator sinks

GOLD Coast sailing trip firm Tallship Island Adventures has gone under. The business had been running for 16 years and offered adventure day trips, whale watching and private parties. Rodgers Reidy has now taken control of Tallship Island, which operated two vessels, with the business forced to shut down earlier this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Australian Securities and Investments Commission earlier this year instigated a strike-off action against the company.



Window Seat

WELL it seems the consternation for Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk’s stringent border policies has reached new heights, with a Brisbane-based lawyer opting to fly a pointed message across Qld’s capital city every day until the state’s election. James Stevens emphasised he was not engaging in the stunt for political reasons, rather he is objecting to the border policies on compassionate grounds. “I’m not political, I’m not affiliated in anyway, I’ve voted for Liberal and Labor before but this has got to stop,” he said.



Diabetes push

TOURISM Whitsundays has formed a partnership with Diabetes Queensland that will see two prizes of accommodation, cruises and tours awarded to the winners of a new membership incentive competition. Any person who joins or refers a friend to become a member of Diabetes Queensland before 30 Nov will be in the running to win a prize, with first place to score seven-night’s hotel accommodation and a Great Barrier Reef Adventure with Cruise Whitsundays for two adults and two children.

Fiji trips delayed

AWESOME Adventures Fiji has announced the decision to further extend its temporary suspension of operations through to 30 Nov after determining that key source markets are unlikely to return before that time. Affected bookings can change dates for free up to 31 Mar 2022.

Keep your clients engaged and planning their next trip with *keep dreaming...*

A weekly e-magazine with destination features, puzzles and more.

Travel & Cruise Weekly

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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.

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

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

Where in the world?



THIS spot is the largest of its kind in the country where it is located and during certain holiday periods can be visited by up to 41,000 people a day.

The complex is massive, so it makes sense that the building is home to the world's biggest

chandelier and the biggest carpet, both of which are handmade.

The architecture mixes styles from Turkey, Morocco, Pakistan and Egypt.

Do you know the name of this landmark and where in the world it is located?

Who needs a drink?



THIS week's cocktail is a gin-based drink and hopefully will bring you a bit of zen.

The recipe was submitted by Jannette Beedell from Targeted Program Management.

The cocktail combines matcha with gin and lime and even better, doesn't require any special cocktail-making equipment - a smoothie shaker

or blender bottle will do.

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

xx Jenny

Jenny Piper
Owner,
Business
Publishing
Group



Zen Time Gin

INGREDIENTS

- ¼ cup mint leaves
- ¾ oz honey
- ¾ oz lime juice
- 1 ½ cups water
- 2 ½ oz gin
- 1 tsp matcha
- Ice cubes

METHOD

Add ingredients to cocktail shaker (or smoothie shaker or blender bottle) and shake until all the matcha is dissolved. Strain into a glass and add ice cubes and extra mint to garnish.

ANSWERS 11 SEP

Pub quiz: 1 Han dynasty, 2 Danube, 3 Hong Kong, 4 Alaska Airlines, 5 Austria, 6 140 years, 7 Sydney Opera House, 8 Mediterranean, 9 St. Lucia, 10 Botswana

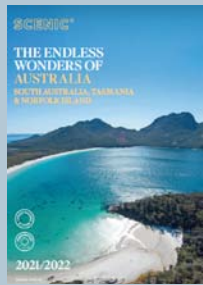
Unscramble: agate, agave, AGGRAVATE, area, aver, avert, eggar, gage, garage, gate, gave, gear, grate, grave, great, rage, rate, ravage, rave, tare, tear

Whose flag is this: Madagascar



BROCHURES

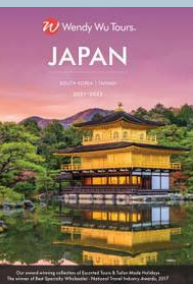
WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Scenic - South Australia, Tasmania & Norfolk Is
Scenic's latest domestic travel brochure features a range of tours exploring some of Australia's best hidden gems and must-do activities. In South Australia you can see what makes Kangaroo Island unique, enjoy wine in the Barossa and venture to see the hub of the state's seal colony at Seal Bay. Another highlight is the 13-day Ultimate Tasmania tour where travellers can sample some of the local artisan whisky at the Hellyers Road Distillery, learn all about the lives of convicts at one of Australia's earliest penal colonies in Port Arthur, and cruise through the Franklin Gordon Rivers National Park. Norfolk Island is also covered in the brochure, featuring a fully escorted tour and a choice of nine activities.



Inspiring Journeys small group tours - 2021/22
The AAT Kings brand showcases some of the best travel treats in Tasmania, New Zealand, Margaret River in Western Australia and the Top End such as Kakadu and Uluru in its latest 2021/22 brochure. Highlights include a 10-day tour taking in the Katherine Gorge, Alice Springs, the Mary River and the Litchfield National Park. The trip encourages travellers to appreciate the many local indigenous artistic attractions at the Kakadu National Park at its many galleries. Tours of New Zealand on offer includes the 19-day Long White Cloud adventure, incorporating trips to the Craggy Range Winery in Hawke's Bay, as well as a chance to learn about the local indigenous culture at the Tamaki Maori village & the option to unwind at the Te Waonui Forest Retreat.



Wendy Wu Tours Japan, South Korea - 2021/22
Wendy Wu Tours has released its 2021/2022 Japan brochure which is packed full of new cultural experiences and exclusive new solo departures. Highlights include the 18-day Japan Uncovered package which encourages travellers to reflect on the solemn history of Hiroshima, take a ride on the country's famous bullet train, & gives the chance to take part in a traditional tea ceremony where you can learn how to make washi paper. Prices for the tour leads in at \$11,690 per person. Solo incentives include cocktail parties with other solo travellers & chauffeur transfers.

Ovolo's South Yarra push



OVOLO Group has announced a further expansion push on the Australian market, revealing plans to build the Ovolo South Yarra hotel in Melbourne as its next local property for the brand.

Scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2021, the 123-room hotel will feature amenities and stylings that blend the past, present, and future, a concept the company refers to as "retrofuturism".

"Ovolo South Yarra...embodies our philosophy of connecting with its customers emotionally and will complement the local cultural scene through its art, design and unique restaurant concept," said the company's CEO Girish Jhunjhnuwala.

Pictured: A render of the upcoming South Yarra property.

COMO'line soon

COMO Hotels & Resorts is hosting Keep Connected webinars in Sep and Oct.

Beginning on Wed 16 Sep, the sessions will update the travel trade on COMO's locations in Bali ([CLICK HERE](#)), Bhutan ([CLICK HERE](#)), the Maldives ([CLICK HERE](#)) and Thailand ([CLICK HERE](#)).

HK eyes Oz bubble

HONG Kong is considering adding Australia to its travel bubble plans.

The Government of Hong Kong said it had reached out to Australia and 10 other countries, including France, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand and Vietnam, to discuss the possibility of a travel corridor arrangement.

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

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