

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page brought to you by **Tourism New Zealand** & a full page from **Tourism Malaysia**.

AAT Kings upgrade

AAT Kings is offering special upgrade savings from Adelaide to the Northern Territory.

The promotion is available on the Outback Discovery Short Breaks, with travellers able to upgrade to Superior from Budget for just \$20 per person, representing savings of up to \$600 per couple.

Travellers can also book their accommodation in Alice Springs and Uluru, including two nights at five-star Sails in the Desert hotel - [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.



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"Gap year at home" push

AUSTRALIAN young people about to graduate from Year 12 and university may be urged to take a gap year at home in 2021, as a way of filling gaps in the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program due to COVID-19.

Border closures mean there are currently only about half of the usual 150,000 foreign young people taking advantage of the scheme, putting severe pressure on Australia's agricultural, healthcare and tourism sectors.

The 'Have a Gap Year at Home' plan is a recommendation from the Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Migration which has been undertaking an inquiry into the WHM program.

The Committee said the initiative should appeal to young Aussies' patriotism and sense of adventure, enabling them to see their own country and earn money along the way, with consideration to also be given

Azamara 2022/23

AZAMARA has released the remainder of its itineraries for 2022, as well as Q1 of 2023, offering a total of 275 ports of call in more than 70 countries - see azamara.com.

Oceania trade hub

OCEANIA Cruises has launched Oceania Trade Connect, a "one-stop-shop" of online resources for trade partners with agent support initiatives, tools, insights, and information to help consultants learn about, promote and sell Oceania successfully.

To find out more about Oceania Trade Connect, [CLICK HERE](#) for an explainer by VP ANZ Jason Worth.

Malaysia expertise

TRAVEL advisors wanting to boost their expertise on Malaysia and Malaysia Airlines can try their hand at the new Malaysia Travel Expert platform - see the [last page](#).

to a HECS/HELP discount for undertaking the work.

The Committee has also urged the government to enable WHM workers to stay on JobSeeker payments for the next 12 months while undertaking low paid agricultural work, as well as a one-off payment to help with travel and accommodation costs.

Amendments to the existing WHM visa are also recommended including enabling any visitor working in key industries in some areas to count this towards qualifying for a second and/or third year visa, and allowing backpackers to work for the same employer for over six months.

It's also suggested that current WHM visa holders who have had to leave the country be given priority for any reapplications, extend age limits for current visa holders, and consider a sponsorship program requiring peak bodies, businesses or governments to help sponsor quarantine arrangements for Working Holiday Makers.

Carnival ships out

CARNIVAL Corporation has confirmed it now expects to sell or otherwise dispose of a total of 18 of its older ships as it deals with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The company reported a US\$1.7 billion loss for the three months to 31 Aug - more details in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

CCL extends pause

CARNIVAL Cruise Line this morning announced a further extension of its ongoing suspension of cruise operations in Australian waters.

The latest update sees the cancellation of *Carnival Splendor* departures up to and including 07 Jan 2021, while *Carnival Spirit* cruises are being suspended right through until 16 May next year.

At this stage there's been no update from sister brand P&O Cruises Australia.

Return pax boost

THE Federal Govt has proposed plans to raise the number of Aussies returning from overseas from 4,000 to 6,000 a week.

The government revealed today it would now write to state and territory leaders to work out specific passenger numbers.

Intrepid's fam affair

INTREPID Travel has launched new retreats for parents and kids as family travel booms.

The company has created four new retreat-style tours in England, Morocco and Turkey, with safety and quality as top priorities - [CLICK HERE](#) to view.

A quarter of Intrepid's top 25 itineraries booked by customers globally over the past three months have been family themed, which represents an increase of 12% from the same period last year.

Earn Commission on Hot Deals & Holiday Homes



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CVFR adds cargo offering

AIRLINE Rep Services, the GSA division of CVFR Travel Group, continues to expand with the addition of a new Airline Rep Services Cargo operation.

The company said the move reflected the increasing importance of cargo business for airlines through the COVID-19 pandemic, with a number of potential airline cargo clients currently close to finalisation.

"It was all about being able to

provide airline customers with a full passenger and cargo GSA solution, or in some cases one or the other," said CEO Ram Chhabra.

"Post pandemic, airlines will be ensuring they have a good balance of revenues from passenger and cargo sales."

Other recent expansion by CVFR includes the launch of CVFR Payments in partnership with Mint Payments (**TD** 23 Jul), as well as a charter service offering (**TD** 21 Jul) and the appointment of the company to represent Malindo Airlines and Myanmar Airways in Australia and NZ.

W Melb recruiting

MORE than 100 "hospitality rockstars" are being sought to join the staff team at the new W Melbourne hotel, with a virtual casting call scheduled for 12 Oct.

Roles include the W Insider (concierge) and the in-house Music Curator (DJ) along with front desk, hospitality, finance and engineering positions - see careers.marriott.com.

UA extends cuts

UNITED Airlines has further extended the suspension of some of its Australian routes, including Melbourne-Los Angeles and Sydney-Houston, both of which are now unavailable for reservation until Apr 2021.

WTM goes online

THIS year's World Travel Market in London will operate as a virtual-only event, with organisers Reed Exhibitions stating the decision was made in consultation with partners, sponsors, delegates and staff.

WTM Virtual will replace the physical show, taking place 09-11 Nov from 7am-10pm (GMT) to facilitate different time zones.

"Our main objective has always been to deliver a global show bringing together travel professionals from the seven continents, but the increasing number of travel restrictions and the uncertainty around the world means it will not be possible for many overseas visitors to attend in person," said Reed Exhibitions.

The online format "will allow us to create an outstanding, large-scale digital event," the company said, offering virtual meetings, conference sessions, networking and more - see london.wtm.com.



Window Seat

ON 23 Sep, a new Sherlock Holmes film is due to be released on Netflix in Australia, so this month VisitBritain is running a virtual Sherlock Holmes famil to celebrate.

The initiative highlights a number of the famous sleuth's London hangouts, and will be conducted in partnership with London Walks.

Hosted by actor Richard Burnip, the famil visits West End locations such as the Strand and Covent Garden, and will take place on 29 Sep.

CLICK HERE to investigate!



Etihad Wellness

An extensive range of wellness initiatives to give you peace of mind when you travel.

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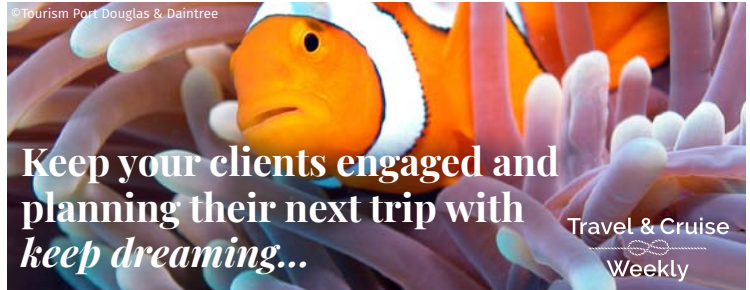
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- Social Distancing
- Refreshed Cabins
- Deep Cleaning
- Equipped Crew
- Enhanced Hygiene
- Wellness Kits
- Booking Flexibility
- Refreshed Meal Service
- Lounge Initiatives
- Vehicle Sanitisation
- Sustainability Focused





TAT responsibility

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) will host the final session of its Friday Morning with Amazing Thailand on Fri 18 Sep at 11am (AEST).

By attending the upcoming webinar, agents can learn more about responsible travel in the popular Asian country.

Prizes are also up for grabs attendees, including three \$50 Coles gift cards - register [HERE](#).

SIA shuts CBR, WLG

SINGAPORE Airlines has today announced the closure of its stations in Canberra and Wellington as well as Stockholm and Dusseldorf as part of a review of its network due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During Aug the carrier operated a “skeletal” network of flights to just 28 cities, reflecting a 90.5% decline in capacity compared to last year.

Passenger carriage was down 97.9%, resulting in a load factor of just 19% for the month.

Tripadvisor tool

ONLINE travel site Tripadvisor has announced the launch of Tripadvisor Navigator, a first-party data platform that allows advertisers to more efficiently market their ads to users.

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi has signed on as one of the foundation clients, utilising the new data marketing solution in its upcoming campaign which will launch at the end of the year.

Expedia TAAP Marriott deal

EXPEDIA Group is now offering dedicated B2B rates for Marriott properties across the globe via the Expedia Travel Agent Affiliate Program (TAAP) platform.

The move is a consequence of the wholesale distribution deal between Expedia and Marriott 12 months ago (*TD* 18 Sep 2019), meaning agents using the platform automatically have access to higher margin rates from Marriott.

The special B2B rates will appear in the platform like any other Expedia TAAP pricing, with the agreement also meaning tour

SA opens up ACT

THE South Australian Government is now allowing travel to happen across its border with residents from the ACT, with the policy coming into effect from midnight this morning.

Travel from the ACT to SA will no longer require a 14-day quarantine period, however, the state stopped short of approving the same policy for NSW.

The state’s Premier Steven Marshall had hinted earlier this week that restrictions to NSW may be lifted soon, but according to SA Police Commissioner Grant Stevens that will only happen when cases decrease further.

“We’re hopeful the situation in NSW will continue to improve ... but for the time being people travelling from the ACT, they must travel by air straight from the ACT and not through NSW,” he said.

Marriott deal

operators and bed banks will be required to deal with Expedia, rather than Marriott, to access the hotelier’s wholesale rates.

Expedia says the “high margin rates” apply to more than 7,400 properties, with last year’s agreement resulting in Expedia Group Partner Solutions being the “exclusive global optimise distributor of Marriott’s wholesale rates”.

As well as simplifying the distribution of wholesale rates for Marriott and using Expedia’s technology to provide a consistent display of hotel descriptions, rates and fees across a range of resellers, the pact aims to ensure that B2B pricing does not incorrectly appear on direct to consumer websites.

Other hotel chains participating in the Expedia wholesale program include Highgate and Club Quarters, with the company saying the rates offer agents “very competitive compensation, helping you to maximise profits”.

Traveller test option

HEALTHCARE company Healius is offering COVID-19 screening services for travellers preparing to embark on an overseas trip.

The company has already administered more than one million tests, which can be undertaken by any of its accredited pathology labs.

The test costs \$150pp and results are returned by email prior to departure - details [HERE](#).

Jetstar NZ relaunch

THE easing of restrictions in New Zealand has seen Jetstar announce the recommencement of its domestic operations in the country from tomorrow.

This week NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern confirmed the relaxation of previous rules which now allow airlines to utilise the middle seat (*TD* 14 Sep).

JQ has been out of the sky in NZ for the last four weeks, and will now resume services on six key routes with mandatory masks and other COVID measures in place.

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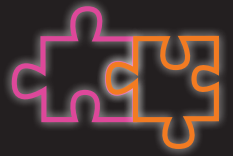
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Travel Daily

Grampians for champions



AS RESTRICTIONS in Victoria finally start to ease amid a gradual decline in COVID-19 cases, Grampians Tourism is encouraging regional Victorians to get out and explore some of the region's big tourism attractions. "With Metropolitan Melbourne still unable to travel outside of their immediate area, there is no better time for our regional neighbours to enjoy the Grampians and embrace the beauty of the area and support the local tourism industry and

jobs," said Grampians Tourism CEO Marc Sleeman.

Major tourist drawcards in the region include the varied flora nature walks of Mount Zero and Mount Stapleton, bushwalking around the picturesque Mount Abrupt, the lovable animals of Halls Gap Zoo, as well as a wide range of wineries where visitors can enjoy a tasting along with some locally produced cheese.

Pictured: A friendly rhino enjoys some tasty tucker at the Halls Gap Zoo.

DL loyal to raising

DELTA Air Lines has revealed plans to raise US\$6.5 billion using its loyalty program as collateral.

The airline will sell senior secured notes backed by its SkyMiles program, with money raised to be used for general corporate purposes and to improve its liquidity position.

Luxury appetites

CLOSE to a third of Small Luxury Hotels of the World's 6,000 Invited members have indicated they are currently planning a luxury trip in 2021, according to a new survey compiled by the independent hotel group.

Only 6% of respondents said they would reduce spending on short breaks over the next 12 months, with holidays ranking above other personal purchases such as clothes, electronics, furniture and fine dining.

Close to 42% of Oceania-based members flagged they were keen to take a luxury domestic trip, while 17% globally indicated they would take a staycation in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Rex up for regional

REGIONAL Express has reinforced its intentions to stand up for the "abandoned" regional communities of Australia following the withdrawal of Virgin Australia on eight routes.

"These communities are concerned about their future as they face the prospect of being left with Qantas as the sole monopoly provider, especially at a time when their regional economies have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, bushfires and drought," the carrier's GM for Network Strategy Warrick Lodge said.

"When Virgin Australia withdrew from the monopoly routes of Perth-Esperance and Perth-Albany in 2016 due to heavy losses on these routes, the WA Government turned to Rex to pick up the pieces," he added.

THE HOME BASED ADVANTAGE

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Independents Day



IF YOU'RE one of the many agency owners out there who have been forced to work from home, you might be

considering making the move permanent.

But working from home, or perhaps just a smaller commercial space, doesn't mean you have to change your business to being a 'one man band'.

You can restructure and retain your staff and quite possibly come out the other side of this pandemic with a better business model.

In countries where home-based consultants, or Independent Contractors (IC), are the norm – like the US – most agencies will have at least two or three ICs operating as part of their business.

All you need is the right systems and processes in place and both the agency and contractor can reap the rewards.

The consultants can earn a lot more than what they would on a basic salary, and the agency costs are minimal and spread across a small team who are committed to maximising their sales.

The IC model is worth considering for any existing agency looking for a post-pandemic change.

As has been the case with many industries, the rise of ICs is yet another example of COVID bringing forward an inevitable change.

Find out more about becoming a home-based agent at:

www.join.yourtravelcentre.com.au

**Les Farrar, Managing Director,
Your Travel Centre**





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Where in the world?



A **GEOTHERMALLY** heated stream that you can play, bathe and relax in all year round? Surely not.

Set amongst lush native bush this 2m waterfall is surrounded

with natural hot pools, perfect for those travellers who want to get off the beaten path and relax in nature.

This is definitely a hidden gem, but the question is where?

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.

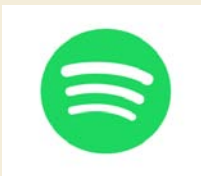
1



2



3



4



Romance & relaxation in NZ

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I	B	W	X	E	E	T	O	E	H	K	B	V	D	P

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

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| BODY | RELAXING |
| LUXURYLODGES | RETREATS |
| MIND | REVITALISE |
| NATURE | ROMANCE |
| NEWZEALAND | SPA |
| PAMPERING | STARGAZING |
| RECONNECT | THERMAL |
| REJUVENATE | YOGA |

ANSWERS 15 SEP

Unscramble: dank, dark, darken, drake, drank, drunk, duke, dunk, eged, eureka, kart, keen, knead, kneader, knee, kneed, naked, nark, narked, nuke, nuked, rake, raked, rank, ranked, reek, retake, retaken, take, taken, taker, tank, tanked, tanker, teak, trek, trunk, UNDERTAKE

Pub quiz: 1 Canada, 2 Hawaii, 3 Chi, the 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet, 4 Gold Coast, 5 Lesser Sunda Islands, 6 Hong Kong, 7 Canadian Airlines, 8 2006, 9 Gawler and Mount Gambier, 10 *Crociera*, 11 Brunei (brew + night - tea)

Whose flag is this: Portugal

Today's puzzle page brought to you by 100% Pure New Zealand

100% PURE NEW ZEALAND



SE Asia investment

AQUARIUS International Development has commenced rolling out a five-year, US\$250 million tourist expansion plan in South East Asia, encompassing luxury resorts, yacht charters, premium gourmet and dining venues and online travel booking and membership services.

The first two projects to open in the coming months are a pair of luxury Thai resorts in Koh Chang and Koh Man in Thailand.

EU extends waiver

THE European Commission has agreed to an extension of the slot rule waiver until the end of the 2020-21 winter season.

The 80/20 rule, that requires airlines to use slots at least 80% of the time was waived for the first time in Mar (**TD** 16 Mar).

The announcement came as air traffic manager EUROCONTROL said it unfortunately expects the total flights in Europe to be down 55% for the year.

Sydney's Luna Park turns 85



CATO backs border opening call

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) has added its voice to the chorus of industry groups calling for the urgent reopening of domestic borders.

This week heavyweights including Flight Centre, Qantas, HelloWorld and Virgin Australia have been undertaking a round of mainstream media interviews highlighting the devastating impact of the closures which are still in place despite low or nil infection rates.

CATO MD Brett Jardine said many of the organisation's 120 members had created domestic programs when international borders were closed.

"Many of these programs are now being re-assessed and cancelled due to unnecessary domestic border closures, putting even further financial pressure on travel businesses and impacting their ability to save jobs," he said.

CATO is also calling for travel bubbles with nearby countries with similar low infection rates.

LUNA Park Sydney will celebrate its 85th year on 04 Oct, with the venerable attraction hosting a big birthday bash right through the upcoming school holidays.

Having reopened in Jul, Luna Park (**pictured**) is currently operating on weekends (and daily during school holidays) with COVID-safe procedures in place including a cashless environment and a requirement to pre-purchase tickets online, including a \$50 flat rate unlimited ride pass - see lunaparksydney.com.

Parrtjima 2021

PARRTJIMA, which kicked off last week, will return to Alice Springs in 2021 from 09-18 Apr.

The 10-day festival commenced with a welcome to country at Alice Springs Desert Park and continued with music by Stuart Nuggett, the first of the Deep Listening talks with journalist Tracey Holmes, and a showing of the film *Babakieria*.

This year's Parrtjima was moved from 03-12 Apr to 11-15 Sep due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Delivering new suites, an additional salt water pool, and a Khmer-inspired Visaya Spa, **FCC Angkor by Avani** has reopened, unveiling its new second wing. To celebrate the relaunch, the property has a new promotion, which includes a free upgrade to

the next available room category, all-you-can-eat a la carte breakfast for two, daily set lunch or dinner for two at The Mansion restaurant, early check-in from 10am and late check-out until 4pm and welcome cocktails for suite guests.



A new lobby has just opened at contemporary apartment accommodation **East Hotel**, located in the Manuka Shopping Precinct in Kingston, ACT. The space has been designed by Sydney-based interior design firm Kelly Ross, and alongside

Agostinis restaurant and Joe's Bar, completes the hotel's "trptych of [elegance]". The lobby now features new furnishings, lighting, textures and colours.



RAKxa Fully Integrative Wellness & Medical Retreat, which was announced earlier this week, is being billed as a development which will cement Thailand's position as a world-class medical wellness destination. The luxury villas will launch in

Dec and was conceived as a fully sustainable medical wellness retreat aiming to deliver bespoke healthcare in a relaxing environment on the artificial island of Bang Krachao, on the Chao Praya River.



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