

Vale Isi Leibler

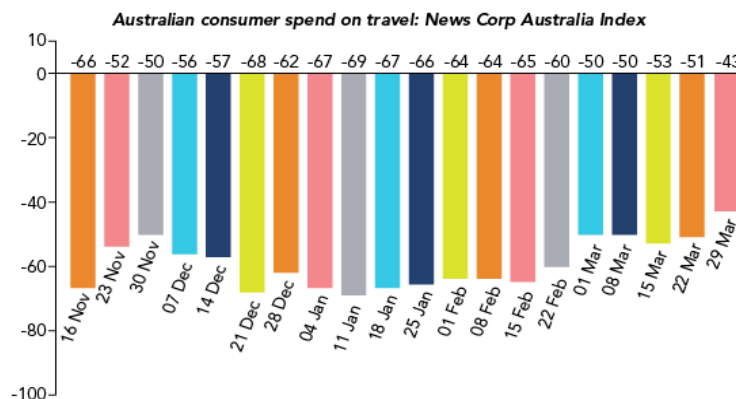
THE Australian travel industry is today mourning the passing of Jetset Travel founder Isi Leibler, who passed away this week at the age of 87 in Israel.

Leibler founded Jetset Tours in 1965 which went on to become the country's largest travel agency, and according to UTS Tourism Professor and former Jetset staff member David Beirman, Leibler's contribution to the local travel sector was "vast".

"Isi was a strong character, with very strong opinions and was never afraid to express his views in what we may charitably call very salty language," he said.

"He made many friends in the tourism industry but had more than his fair share of critics, however, under his management Jetset was a success story."

Strong jump in spending



Additional weekly data in four sub-categories is available, with CEOs and CMOs welcome to reach out to News Corp Australia if that is of interest.

EXCLUSIVE

THIS week's News Corp Australia consumer travel spending figures have provided a rare moment of relief from the doom and gloom, showing an overall 10 point week-on-week improvement.

The results (pictured) are now sitting at -43% on the reference period of Mar 2019 - the first time spending has been in the "minus forties" since the start of the pandemic.

Even more encouraging is that these numbers coincided with the week of the short-lived pre-

Easter Brisbane lockdown, which appears not to have dented the pent-up desire to travel over the long weekend.

The Government's half-price airfare frenzy also saw flights "selling like hotcakes" during the reported week - and although an improvement was always on the cards because of Easter and school holiday demand, "the weight of increases does represent genuine improved consumer demand and confidence," according to News Corp Australia Head of Travel, Dwayne Birtles.

The main two categories driving the spike were Accommodation, up a hefty 31 points, and Airline spend under \$350 which increased 16 points, edging close to the positive as it is now sitting at minus 6%.

However the Travel Agent & Touring category was flat on the prior week at -67%, while the Cruise category dipped to -82%.

Next week's figures will reflect the announcement of the trans-Tasman travel corridor which is hoped to see spikes across most categories - tempered by concerns over the vaccine rollout.

Birtles said opening up travel between Australia and New Zealand meant new opportunities for the avid Australian traveller "busting at the travel seams" for that long-awaited travel experience that will now extend beyond our shores.

Sth Africa in focus

THE time has come to become well acquainted with all that South Africa has to offer, and South African Tourism is giving you the chance to do just that accompanied by esteemed comedian Urzila Carlson.

By participating in the tourism body's education modules, agents have the chance to score gifts and prizes including local wine or a South Africa coffee table book.

South African Tourism believes now is the perfect time to brush up your knowledge of the African nation because so many Aussies have listed taking a safari on their bucket list for when international travel finally opens up.

Modules will cover adventure and wildlife experiences to name just a few - see the **back page**.



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News Corp Australia

AC expands refunds

AIR Canada has expanded its refund policy to allow customers who purchased non-refundable tickets for travel on or after 01 Feb 2020 a full refund if the flight was impacted by COVID-19.

Affected travellers are advised to submit a request online or with their travel agent.

The revised policy also covers tickets and Air Canada Vacations packages purchased before 13 Apr 2021 for flights cancelled by customers for any reason.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a full page from **South African Tourism**.



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Hawaiian points to infinity

HAWAIIAN Airlines has scrapped the 18-month expiry date for members to use its HawaiianMiles points, announcing they now last forever.

The decision is effective immediately and means the airline's loyalty members no longer have to worry about posting account activity within 18 months to preserve their miles.

"Removing mileage expiration is one of many changes we're making to better serve our guests and members," said HA's Senior VP of Marketing Avi Mannis.

"The hard times we have gone through as an airline have challenged us to ask ourselves how we can be an even better airline, for our guests, our employees and our communities.

"We are committed to emerging from this crisis a stronger airline, even more deeply committed to guests and our purpose of connecting people with aloha."

The scrapping of loyalty points expiry is just the latest move by HA to shore up its loyalty base during the travel shutdown, having previously offered HawaiianMiles members the option of redeeming miles for pre-travel COVID-19 tests, as well as removing some of the barriers to reach Pualani Gold or Pualani Platinum status by cutting qualification requirements.

HA had also temporarily suspended HawaiianMiles expiration between Mar and 31 Dec 2020 to assist loyalty members who were unable to take flights due to restrictions.

MEANWHILE, Hawaii lawmakers are working to approve the use of vaccine passports to enter the US state and eliminate the need for travellers to quarantine, with Gov Josh Green stating he was hopeful of offering it to trans-Pacific travellers later this year.

CLIA showcase

CRUISE Lines International Association's (CLIA) online Ocean Debut Showcase will welcome more than a dozen new cruise ships set to debut this year.

The inaugural Showcase to CLIA's travel advisor members will run each day between 10 and 14 May, and will include cruise line presentations - [CLICK HERE](#).

Vax is no guarantee of travel: Hunt

AUSTRALIA'S Health Minister Greg Hunt has cautioned that international borders may not reopen even when 100% of the country's population is vaccinated against COVID-19.

"Vaccination alone is no guarantee that you can open up, and this is a discussion I had with Professor (Brendan) Murphy in just the last 24 hours, that if the whole country was vaccinated, you couldn't just open up the borders," he said.

Resurg recovery

TRAVEL industry consultancy Resurg has today launched a new Agency Recovery Monitor, which will gather data to create an industry benchmark and allow agencies to see how they are tracking against other businesses coming out of COVID.

Travel Daily will provide regular updates from the platform to give insights on the downturn and recovery across air, land and cruise sectors.

Sign up to the monitor for free at resurg.com.au.

Line marks bubble

SILVERSEA Cruises has launched a trip to celebrate Christmas and New Year's Eve and to mark the upcoming trans-Tasman bubble.

Sailing for 17 days from Sydney to Auckland, *Silver Muse* will spend Christmas Day in Milford Sound and New Year's Eve in Picton - [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

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Travel Daily



NEWS ON THE FLY

Episode 4: Virgin Australia adorns Travel Daily - News on the Fly

Catch up on the news of the week

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IATA reacts to ban

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has hit back at the French Government's decision to ban select short-haul domestic flights because of carbon concerns (**TD** 13 Apr).

"Govts must be prepared for the unintended consequences of a blanket ban on short-haul domestic aviation," IATA told **TD**.

"Air connectivity is a vital support for economic development and communities which do not have strong rail connectivity could suffer if denied access to regular air travel.

"As airlines build out emissions-reducing tech to fly more sustainably, we hope that govts will match these efforts by reforming air traffic management to eliminate inefficiencies that... increases fuel-burn on routes."

Love is in the Ayer



WHILE flying far above Australia's most famous rock, APT guest Jasmin Gabrielli was presented with her very own by romantic beau Mark Christoffelsz, and yes folks, she said yes!

Reminding us all that travel is the perfect time to experience the gamut of amazing emotions, this loved-up couple chose a special APT helicopter ride over Uluru to prove this sentiment, leaving everyone on board gushing with positivity.

"APT wishes them both the best of luck and were delighted to share in such a momentous



occasion and wonderful celebration on tour," the tour operator said this week.

Pictured: The pair celebrating the lofty proposal and **inset**, the engagement ring that sent guests' hearts fluttering.

Window Seat

FACEBOOK'S algorithms for removing unsuitable content hit a snag last week after the internet giant inadvertently deleted the official home page of a destination in France.

The town of Bitche in the Moselle was outraged at the removal of the "Ville de Bitche" page, which was apparently due to confusion with the English derogatory term.

"The name of our town seemed to suffer from a bad interpretation," said Mayor Benoit Kieffer.

The incident prompted an apology from the head of Facebook in France, advising that the page had been reinstated.

Another nearby village called Rohrbach-les-Bitche has also renamed its page "Ville de Rohrbach" to avoid removal.

Kieffer issued an invitation to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to visit Bitche and "discover our pretty fortified town".



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Smooth boarding

TOKYO'S Narita International Airport will soon be introducing new biometric technology that will allow travellers to reduce the need to show passports and boarding passes.

The new tech has been produced in collaboration with Amadeus and NEC Corporation and uses face recognition to complete every step in the airport journey, starting with a facial image taken at a biometric kiosk, which is then used at subsequent check points such as boarding, luggage pick up and security.

Following a successful initial trial, the biometric infrastructure will soon roll out to all international departures.

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Pub quiz

1. The former Bankside Power Station now houses what famous London landmark?
2. Cecrops is a mythical serpent-man who was said to be the founder and first King of where?
3. Which is the second-largest city in Morocco after Casablanca?
4. Is Key West the northernmost, southernmost, easternmost or western-most city in the contiguous United States?
5. The Frioul archipelago is a group of four islands located off the coast of which French city?
 - a) Marseille
 - b) Cannes
 - c) Honfleur
 - d) Biarritz
6. Bali is the only Indonesian province where which religion is most prominent?
7. What is the name of MSC Cruises' current flagship?
8. Canary Wharf is considered which city's secondary downtown area?
9. Gold Coast Airport was formerly known by what name?
10. What city is known as the Marriage Capital of the World?

Sudoku

EASY

THE aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Numbers can only be used once in each row, column, and 3x3 box.

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

Seen it at the movies



SHOOTING locations for this British spy instalment included many famous tourist landmarks in Germany, France, Thailand and Mexico, including some amazing sequences shot at the Peyragudes ski resort in the

French Pyrenees.

The feature sees the Ian Fleming-created hero trying to stop evil media baron Elliot Carver from provoking a war between China and the UK.

Can you name the movie?

Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the **TD** Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 23 Jul 2014:

ADDING the suffix "gate" at the end of a word these days often implies some sort of scandal or injustice, with the term coined by the infamous Watergate Republican cover-up of 1972, but not in this instance.

Helsinki Airport is helping travellers limber up for a long flight by launching "Yoga Gate" at Gate 30 this week.

Open around the clock, guests can take advantage of regular yoga instructional classes using provided yoga mats, or by using instructions on posters mounted on the wall.

The Finnish airport is the first facility outside of the US to offer a dedicated space for travellers to get their "downward dog" on.

ANSWERS 13 APR

Celebrity faces: Eyes - Matt Cameron-Smith, Voyages, Nose - Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, Mouth - Kim Kardashian

Pub quiz: 1 Fleet Street, 2 b) Valetta, Malta, 3 Acropolis of Athens, 4 Latvia, 5 Port Campbell National Park, 6 River Isar, 7 Yosemite National Park, 8 Colorado River, 9 Wales, 10 Mount Whitney

Unscramble: engine, geeing, gene, genet, genie, gent, gentile, gentle, glen, glint, inlet, lenient, lent, lien, line, linen, ling, linnet, lint, NEGLIGENT, niggle, nine, teeing, teen, tine, ting, tinge, tingle

SkyCity cans junkets

SKYCITY Entertainment Group has axed junkets amid ongoing scrutiny of links between casinos and organised crime.

The company said it would stop dealing with international gambling tour operators at its Adelaide, Auckland, Hamilton and Queenstown properties.

SkyCity added that under the revised operating model, it will deal directly with int'l business patrons after appropriate "know-your-customer" due diligence.

LA health security

LOS Angeles has launched an initiative to become the first Sharecare Verified destination in the United States.

The health security of all hotels with 50 or more rooms in Los Angeles will be verified through a comprehensive process that assures guests and travel planners that its hotels have appropriate safety procedures in place.

Verified covers more than 360 health & hygiene standards and cleaning products.

In Mint condition

MARKETING and branding agency The Mint Partners has picked up a number of travel clients in recent weeks, with Virgin Australia, Tourism Tasmania and Marriott International all signing on for its services.

The agency will be helping to relaunch Marriott's Sheraton Fiji Resort to the market, while Virgin Australia has tasked Mint with PR and activation around its Velocity Frequent Flyer loyalty program.

VA has been bullish in its approach to growing its loyalty members since relaunching under new owner Bain Capital, previously introducing initiatives to poach Qantas members (**TD** 07 Dec 2020).

Meanwhile, Tourism Tasmania has partnered with Mint for the PR and influencer component of its 2021 winter campaign to entice visitors to the state.

Tauck restarts US

TOUR operator Tauck has announced it will make a full restart of operations in the United States by 01 Jul, with a phased-in approach already underway with the launch of its Southern Charms: Savannah, Hilton Head and Charleston itinerary this month.

Tauck said travel agents can keep abreast of which tours will be relaunching in the coming months by checking in **HERE**.

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 a sophisticated hilltop accommodation located above Ibiza's capital, **Hotel La Torre del Canonigo** is set to reopen 30 Apr. The hotel offers 25 rooms perched high on Dalt Vila, marrying three unique historical buildings with a solarium terrace, all just five minutes' walk from Ibiza's bustling centre. The property redesign from its previous incarnation was handled by interior designer Lazaro Rosa-Violan with a more relaxed Mediterranean style.



Set to be Venice's only luxury hotel opening this year, **Ca' di Dio**, located at the Arsenal entrance, features 66 rooms including 57 suites, layered over three floors in a Venetian palace. Opening in Jun, part of the hotel's setting dates back to 1272, and has

the feel of a Venetian house, being set around three courtyards which offers lounging for hotel guests, and an all-day dining offering, the Essentia Restaurant.



Meliá Koh Samui in Thailand has unveiled a new "resort within a resort" concept called The Level, featuring 55 luxurious rooms and suites as well as a private lounge and a raft of bespoke privileges. The Level Pool Access Rooms also boast private terraces that

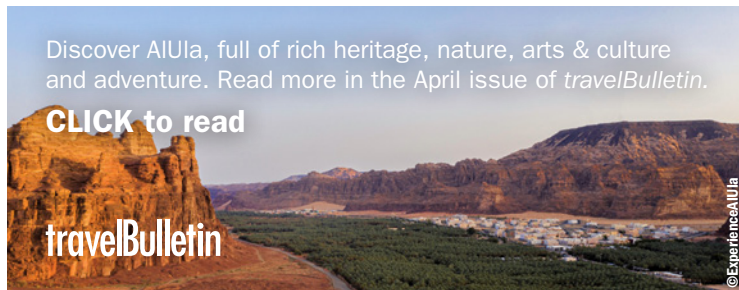
segue to a 700 metre-long lagoon pool that flows through the resort's grounds like a river. At the top end of the range is the Presidential Suite featuring a large living space and private balcony with amazing views.

PARKROYAL opens

PARKROYAL Monash Melbourne has opened its doors to the public this week.

Based within the vibrant M-City Monash, PARKROYAL Monash's 250 rooms and suites are located next to more than 60 retail, dining and wellness offerings, including a new Village Cinema complex, an outdoor swimming pool surrounded by landscaped gardens, a 24-hour fitness centre & pilates studio, a nail salon, a masseuse and a hairdresser.

Guests can currently enjoy up to 15% savings on best available rates with PARKROYAL Monash's Opening Offer, and additional 10% savings when booking as a DISCOVERY member - for more information, **CLICK HERE**.



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Day 3 questions:

1. What is the name of the life-sized skeletal replica of a Muttaborrasaurus found at the Flinders Discovery Centre in Hughenden?

2. Where can you see an address book made entirely of stones?



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