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MALAYSIA Airlines and Tourism Malaysia have teamed up to invite agents to discover the country's natural wonders and score prizes.

Agents can discover, learn and be rewarded as a Malaysia travel expert with the chance of winning a \$50 gift card, while those who complete all of the modules on offer will go into the draw to win a \$100 gift card.

Head to the **back page** for all of the exciting details.

Airlines map growth plan

AUSTRALIA'S two largest airlines have unveiled plans to significantly ramp up domestic capacity this year as they both scramble to cater for an increase in local travel demand.

This morning Qantas revealed it would be restoring group domestic capacity to roughly 90% of pre-COVID levels by Q4 2021 (**TD** breaking news), adding that its subsidiary Jetstar would exceed pre-COVID passenger capacity volumes by 120% before the end of 2022.

Jetstar will deploy up to five of its Boeing 787-8 aircraft on domestic routes from approximately Jun this year through to the mainstream return of international travel.

Tickets for the aircraft's flights go on sale today and will in the first instance service routes between Melbourne/Sydney and Gold Coast, as well as Melbourne/Sydney and Cairns.

Qantas reiterated its short-term strategy remained generating positive cashflow rather than returning to pre-COVID profit margins, which will likely result in only mild a positive impact on its FY21 earnings.

Furthermore, Virgin Australia has also moved to shore up its domestic capacity volumes, this morning announcing the introduction of 10 additional Boeing 737-800 aircraft to facilitate network growth.

The move will see the carrier add 220 additional weekly return services by mid-Jun, equating to roughly 80% of the airline's pre-pandemic capacity, with new services to launch between Melbourne and Hamilton Island and Melbourne to Darwin.

VA revealed it would also extended its Brisbane to Launceston and Melbourne to Ballina Byron seasonal services.

"More aircraft means more flying, and with easing travel restrictions, there are more opportunities to further support

domestic tourism and the nation's economic recovery from COVID-19," said VA's Chief Executive Officer Jayne Hrdlicka.

Staff at both airlines will be beneficiaries of the increases in capacity, with VA to bring back 220 cabin crew from the airline's discontinued long-haul international, ATR regional and Tigerair Australia divisions, while Qantas flagged that all of its furloughed staff will be back at work as a result of the move.

MEANWHILE, Qantas and Accor have inked a new seven-year agreement extension for the hospitality group to manage Qantas lounges in both Australia and overseas.

The refreshed deal will see Accor take charge of food, beverage services and staff training across the airline's entire lounge network.

The timing of the tie-up coincides with the reopening of Qantas' flagship international First class lounges in time for the first trans-Tasman bubble flight departing 19 Apr.

For further details about Qantas' commitment to restarting its international services, see **page two**.

G Adv's 100th trip

G ADVENTURES last week safely completed its 100th trip globally since Sep.

The tour departed on 02 Apr in Costa Rica, one of eleven countries G has been able to run tours in since the pandemic.

All 100 trips run have operated with G's Travel with Confidence policy, which ensures the most up-to-date health and safety measures are implemented on every tour to protect travellers, staff members, and local communities.

Australian travellers are encouraged to "book now for travel later" with 15% off a range of trips.

Events' \$4m boost

THE Australian Government has announced it will provide the country's events industry with an additional \$3 million in financial support to help prop up efforts to attract more international events.

The Government will also extend the Business Events Bid Fund Program by a further 12 months, and provide an additional \$1 million in support to industry-led business events and distribution projects.

"Our additional support to attract int'l business events to Australia complements our \$50m Business Events Grants Program that supports local businesses to attend local business events, conventions, trade shows and conferences and the \$1.2 billion aviation," said Tourism and Investment Minister Dan Tehan.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page plus a full page from **MH Malaysia Expert**.

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QF sticking to 31 Oct start

QANTAS CEO Alan Joyce is adamant that the false starts to Australia's wider vaccine rollout have not impacted QF's plans to resume most of its international flying at the end of Oct this year.

Speaking during a CAPA Live session yesterday, Joyce confirmed the airline was maintaining that target, saying "we are getting ready and it's our best guess that at the end of Oct the borders will open".

"There are a lot of things that have to be worked through before the international borders open up but we haven't walked away from Oct...we're of the view that there's still a possibility."

He noted next Mon's reopening of trans-Tasman travel, saying "only a couple of months ago we were talking about July for NZ and it's happened much earlier."

"It's a huge international market for us, and that's ahead of our forecasts despite the delay of vaccinations," he said.

Joyce also suggested openings could take place "bubble by bubble and market by market," depending on the outcome of the current National Cabinet considerations regarding a startup framework (**TD** 12 Apr).

"Qantas and business groups are having input to this process... the Government has also put in a support package for us to activate aircraft, to get ready for that opening, and that's still targeted for everything to open up in Oct." Joyce said it was still unclear

how effective the vaccines are in stopping transmission of COVID-19, what the rollout looks like and what proportion of the population will be vaccinated.

Other key factors include the success of immunisation programs in other countries, such as the US, UK and Israel where case numbers are plummeting.

"We just have to keep flexibility and plan on a range of different scenarios," the QF CEO added.

MEANWHILE Joyce also spoke about the longer term plans for the airline, confirming a definite intention to one day have Qantas A380s flying again.

"We can reactivate the A380s within three to six months - that's the level of flexibility we have - and we think we will reactivate all of the A380s, we spent a lot of money on them...once demand is there they are good aircraft to get back into the air," he said.

Joyce also reiterated his commitment to the Project Sunrise ultra-long-haul project, which was close to having aircraft orders placed when COVID-19 hit.

He said a decision was likely to be made in the next year after revisiting the business case.

"One advantage is there are not many people ordering aircraft at the moment so the slots will be there with manufacturers."

"We believe there will be strong demand from people not wanting to fly through hubs; it's a great strategy for the new environment post-COVID," he concluded.

Fiji bubble chances?

FIJI'S Minister for Trade and Tourism, Faiyaz Koya, said starting a travel bubble with Australia would largely depend on his country's ability to get the local population fully vaccinated as soon as possible.

"Quite a few people have actually registered for the vaccine and I urge all Fijians to get registered so that we can get the vaccines to them because it is a very important tool for us if we are going to open up our borders," Koya said.

Koya added that at least 630,000 Fijians would need to be vaccinated in order to ensure the country was protected against the virus from inbound travellers.

MEANWHILE Australia's High Commissioner to Fiji, John Feakes, said the government was holding "regular talks" with the Fijian Government about the prospect of starting a green lane, citing an urgent economic need to reboot the island nation's ailing tourism sector.

"We recognise that reopening travel with Fiji will have a profound effect on Fiji's economy and local employment," he said.

NCL docuseries

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is set to launch its docuseries **EMBARK** tomorrow.

The series chronicles the real-time "work in progress" decisions and preparations being made as the brand prepares to redeploy its fleet - gear up to see it **HERE**.

Qatar expands deal with jetBlue

QATAR Airways and jetBlue have expanded their strategic partnership, with the American low cost airline's passengers now able to book travel on nine of QR's routes between the United States and Doha.

JetBlue passengers will also enjoy connections via Hamad International to destinations in Africa and Asia.

Sales encompassing the expanded partnership have already commenced, with the additional codeshare flights starting from Mon between the United States and Doha, and from May this will expand to destinations beyond DOH.

Naumi's NZ trio

THREE new properties by Naumi Hotels have recently been opened in Queenstown and Wellington.

The Central by Naumi Hotels; The Dairy Private Hotel by Naumi, Queenstown; and Naumi Studio Hotel Wellington, each possess "joyful, quirky, and colourful" interiors, just in time for the trans-Tasman bubble.

The trio join the brand's first New Zealand property, Naumi Auckland, which opened in 2018 (**TD** 26 Nov 2014).

Naumi Australia & New Zealand Chief Executive Officer Gaurang Jhunjhnuwala is asking guests to "expect the unexpected" with the triumvirate of "iconic" hotels being introduced.

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Travel Daily

Tehan bubble hints

AUSTRALIA needs to open up more travel bubbles in order to sustain the travel sector until pre-pandemic volumes return, Australia's Tourism Minister Dan Tehan believes.

Speaking with the *Today Show* yesterday, Tehan expressed the need to secure more green lanes with low risk countries so that travel and tourism can open up more sources of revenue.

"We have obviously got New Zealand in place at the moment, but if there's the potential for Singapore, Vietnam, Japan, South Korea down the track - we will look at those," he said.

Tehan added that although domestic spend is up and has been a lifeline to struggling sectors like travel agents, it was important to encourage Australians to continue spending as much on local trips as they would normally spend overseas, predicting a net benefit of \$7.5b for the industry if it is achieved.

Feb pax numbers dip 22%

PASSENGER traffic for short-term arrivals and departures through Australia's international gateways dropped by more than a fifth month-on-month in Feb, with ever-changing Government restrictions and caps continuing to impact the ability for airlines and airports to operate efficiently.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures for the month released yesterday showed overseas visitor arrivals fell 21.7% to 6,260 trips, while Australian resident returns declined 26.1% to 8,390 trips.

The number of Australians who returned from short-term trips during the month was down a whopping 98.9% on the corresponding month of the previous year, with New Zealand the most popular destination country, accounting for 19% of all resident returns with 1,630 trips.

The next most popular destination was India, with 670

Australians returning, followed closely by the UK with 600.

Other countries in the top ten destinations for returning Australian travellers were the USA (490), China (420), Papua New Guinea (340), Singapore (290), Hong Kong (250), Pakistan (230) and Indonesia (190).

There were decreases of over 95% recorded for each of the top ten destination countries when compared with Feb 2020.

New Zealand also led the pack as the main source destination for international visitor arrivals to Australia, with 1,570 trips, followed by the USA with 670 and then the UK with 630.

Also in the mix for international visitors to Australia in Feb were arrivals from India (320), Tonga (270), China (250), Singapore (210) and the Philippines (200).

The ABS also noted that in Feb there were just 200 international student arrivals to Australia.



Window Seat

HOTELS and resorts around the world should sit up and take notice, there just might be a unique guest activity you are missing out on.

A couple who were recently doing some home renovations pulled up some old carpet to discover a giant Monopoly board painted on the ground underneath.

Let's hope they excavate even further and find the bank of cash, but only if they pass Go.



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Viva supports Samuel



VIVA Travel's new sister company Supported Travel eXperiences (STX), which specialises in arranging bespoke travel for people with intellectual & physical disabilities, recently organised a trip for Samuel Thorne and his family (pictured). STX organised the night away at Meriton Suites Herschel Street, Brisbane for his birthday.

The logistics and set-up for all of the required medical equipment was arranged by STX to help give the family a much needed break. A special fundraising initiative called Campaign for Samuel has been set up for the 15-year-old who contracted a neurological condition called transverse myelitis - campaignforsamuel.org.au/html_public/home.

Send your pie recipes from around the world to pie@traveldaily.com.au

Travel Daily

All eyes are on pies!



First DoubleTree in New Caledonia

DOUBLETREE by Hilton has opened its first property in New Caledonia. Surrounded by a 200-hectare marine reserve, it is the only establishment in New Caledonia to offer overwater bungalows, and is the fifth DoubleTree by Hilton in the South Pacific.

Ponant expertise

PONANT will offer a series of small ship expeditions with cultural & educational tour operator Smithsonian Journeys. The selection of 19 departures will explore Antarctica, the British Isles, the Great Lakes, Iceland, Japan, the Mediterranean, Norway's fjords, and will feature Smithsonian-crafted Cultural Experiences for passengers both on board and on land. For more details on the tie-in between Ponant and Smithsonian, [CLICK HERE](#).

Welcome to Sydney

MELBOURNE-BASED work and travel company Welcome to Travel has announced its expansion to Sydney. In line with its Melbourne tours, the company is offering two NSW products perfect for working holiday arrivals in Sydney. Guests will need to provide a bank account, SIM card and tax file number to take the new tours, created for working travellers who want to experience the city and surrounding areas. The new product includes the eight-day Welcome to Sydney adventure, featuring a South Coast getaway, a surf lesson, a dolphin cruise, an Aboriginal cultural experience, a cocktail-making class and much more. Sydney tours will start in Nov, and Welcome tours in both Sydney and Melbourne will run weekly through Apr, then fortnightly between May and Aug, which will again change to weekly from Sep.



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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



Whose animal is this?

ALTHOUGH storks are migratory birds, spending time in central and southern Africa, they are actually the national animal of two European nations.

During summer white storks can be found throughout Baltic waterways, and the two countries which celebrate it as their national animal are both in this region and in fact are neighbours.

One nation celebrates the national bird on 25 Mar, and in both countries it is considered good luck to have storks nest on your property.

Can you name these two European nations?



ANSWERS 14 APR

Pub quiz: 1 Tate Modern, 2 Athens, 3 Fez, 4 Southernmost, 5 a) Marseille, 6 Hinduism, 7 MSC Grandiosa, 8 London, 9 Coolangatta Airport, 10 Las Vegas

Seen it at the movies: Tomorrow Never Dies

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

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

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NZ great outdoors search

M	E	S	R	Q	C	B	V	E	A	E	T	R	W	I
Q	C	C	A	B	E	L	T	A	S	M	A	N	B	P
X	N	E	N	O	I	T	A	V	R	E	S	N	O	C
S	E	N	M	V	D	I	X	S	P	N	R	K	Z	N
K	I	I	T	X	S	I	K	I	R	A	T	A	M	M
L	R	C	Y	Y	D	G	L	A	C	I	E	R	Y	M
A	E	F	D	N	T	Y	K	S	K	R	A	D	Z	P
W	P	L	I	C	A	N	T	E	R	B	U	R	Y	Z
T	X	I	S	K	I	R	E	S	O	R	T	K	E	F
A	E	G	G	T	Y	X	G	H	I	K	I	N	G	A
E	G	H	D	F	O	R	E	S	T	B	A	T	H	G
R	R	T	P	U	O	N	R	B	K	D	A	H	F	Y
G	S	N	O	W	B	O	A	R	D	I	N	G	V	J
E	K	I	B	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M	V	Q	U
R	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	P	A	R	K	W	O

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

ABELTASMAN
CANTERBURY
CONSERVATION
DARKSKY
EXPERIENCE
FORESTBATH
GLACIER
GREATWALKS

HIKING
MATARIKI
MOUNTAINBIKE
NATIONALPARK
SCENICFLIGHT
SKIRESORT
SNOWBOARDING

Where in the world?



THIS beautiful location is one of the ultimate havens for walking enthusiasts.

Located on New Zealand's South Island coast, it provides easy tracks for all types of walkers and is also stroller- and wheelchair-friendly.


In 2020, the Department of

Conservation opened a second suspension bridge separate from the existing bridge.

At 90 metres, it is one of New Zealand's longest suspension bridges and the vivid turquoise water surrounded by lush native bush makes it well worth a visit.

Can you name this unique spot?

Travel Daily



Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

MH sustainability

MALAYSIA Airlines has launched its Sustainability Blueprint, a wide-ranging document that outlines a number of environmental objectives, including achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

These include an investment in fuel conservation, carbon offsetting initiatives and using more biodegradable materials.

A stay to suit all needs



WITH the opening of A by Adina Sydney only weeks away, the property has lifted the lid on what guests should expect when they stay at the hotel described as being “a little laid back and a little bit luxe”.

The hotel’s new General Manager Head of Brand Experience, Amanda Cottome (pictured), said one of the major drawcards of the upcoming hotel is its ability to appeal to a wide range of guests.

“What’s exciting is A by Adina deliberately defies any concept of a hotel category, instead giving guests the ultimate freedom to redefine ‘house rules’ perfectly suited to individual needs, travel purpose and style,” she said.

“A premium stay-your-way blend of hotel and apartment living, where no detail, service or amenity is overlooked, our promise is that guests will... instantly feel a deep sense of belonging,” Cottome added.

The TFE Hotels-owned brand

debuted in the market in Canberra earlier this year (TD 16 Feb), with the larger 194-room Sydney property to be the brand’s local flagship.

Hilton goes Gangnam style

HILTON Hotels & Resorts has announced the signing of the first Hotel Garden Inn in South Korea.

Set to open later this year in the northern summer, the hotel company has signed an agreement with JOON TOWER to operate the Hilton Garden Inn Seoul Gangnam.

The property will contain 208 guest rooms, a full-service restaurant & bar, meeting facilities, an outdoor pool, a fitness room, and The Shop, where snacks, local beverages and self-service coffee are available 24 hours a day.

Located in the centre of Gangnam District, Hilton Garden Inn Seoul will be located close by to Gimpo International airport.

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Day 4 questions:

1. Where would you find ‘Beautiful Betsy’ the WWII bomber?
2. Where can you see a large Indigenous serpent running across the Outback?



APPOINTMENTS

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily’s* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Xavier Simonet has been appointed as the new CEO of Austrade, a position that will work closely to provide assistance to Australian tourism operators during the current COVID challenges. Simonet was previously Group CEO and Managing Director of Kathmandu Holdings.

Video production and event management company **Damn Good Productions** has welcomed the addition of **Wendy Addinsall** to its team, where she will be charged with promoting and managing the company’s in-house studios.

British Airways has promoted **Moran Birger** to be its next Head of Sales for South Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Birger will be based in London and said his first priority will be to bring safe and hassle-free air services to customers in the region.

Destination NSW has appointed **Kathryn Illy** to the role of General Manager Consumer Marketing, joining the group from PwC Australia where she held the position of Director of Brand for four years. She will be charged with shaping the direction of future visitation strategy.

For confidential tip offs, connect with *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)



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