



Neil Kirby
Travel Masters

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Malta is on board

MALTA is now recognising Australia's digital COVID-19 vaccination passport.

However, a certificate is only valid if the holder has been inoculated by one of the vaccines approved for use by the European Medicines Agency – AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, or Pfizer/BioNTech.

Australia joins a select list of vaccine certificates recognised by Malta as it phases out a host of COVID proof of travel.



CTM's signs of recovery

CORPORATE Travel Management (CTM) posted a "rapid return" to profitability in the final quarter of the financial year, recording an underlying EBITDA profit of \$13.6 million, a striking turnaround from the \$5.5 million loss noted last quarter.

Overall, CTM delivered an EBITDA loss of \$7.2 million for the full year, however the company believes the next reporting period will be much brighter as it continues to see a strong recovery in the progressively restriction-free European and

North American markets.

"Significant progress in administering vaccines and reopening the economy in these regions gives us reason to be optimistic about FY22," CTM MD Jamie Pherous said.

"Jul has delivered a record revenue result during COVID and the integration of Travel & Transport is progressing well and has helped us to capitalise on momentum in North America."

The rebound is a timely one for CTM, which was down across most key metrics for the 12 months to 30 Jun, seeing Total Transaction Value (TTV) slide by 65% to \$1.6 billion, and a slip in underlying net profit after tax from \$28.4m to a loss of \$33.4m.

However, CTM has managed to maintain a solid liquidity position despite the challenges of COVID, revealing zero debt and \$99 million in cash reserves.

The ANZ region also remained profitable, noting an underlying EBITDA of \$7.7 million and \$42 million in revenue for the FY.

QF mandates job

QANTAS announced this morning that it will require all its employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as part of the carrier's commitment to safety.

Cabin crew, pilots and airport staff have been given the deadline of 15 Nov to be fully inoculated, while the remainder of its workforce will have until 31 Mar 2022 to get both jobs.

"One crew member can fly into multiple cities and come into contact with thousands of people in a single day," the airline's CEO Alan Joyce said.

"Making sure they are vaccinated given the potential of this virus to spread is so important and I think it's the kind of safety leadership people would expect from us," he added.

A recent survey conducted by Qantas revealed that 92% of travellers expect the airline's crew to be fully vaccinated.

Workers with valid medical reasons will be exempted from the policy.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page.

Tassie welcomes Qld

TASMANIA has reopened travel with Queensland after its downgrade during the Sunshine State's coronaviurs outbreak.

However, Qld travellers who have been in a listed "high-risk" premises still face restrictions.

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NT Now



Holidays of Australia & the World

OTA to take on agents

BOOKING Holdings CEO Glenn Fogel has confirmed Booking.com's intention to improve its competitive edge with travel agents by enhancing its dynamically packaged holiday booking options for users.

Speaking during a webinar about the company's financial results earlier this month, Fogel indicated that a new technology initiative continues to explore opportunities the OTA has in regard to creating more connected trips for travellers.

"When you're planning a trip you need a flight, a hotel and ground transport, you don't want to go back and forth," he said.

"You want it all connected and when something goes wrong you want one place to call."

Fogel conceded that travel agents currently handle these types of issues better than the digital space, however he also stated that with the right

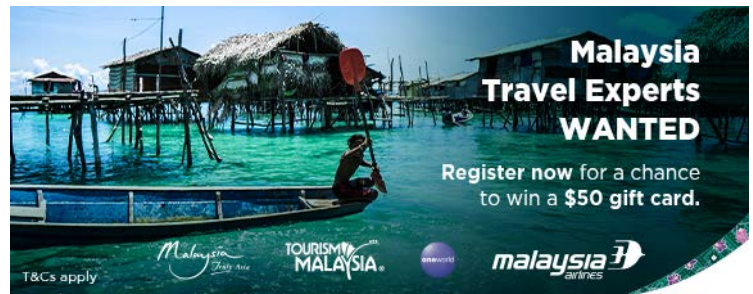
software mix, ultimately "digital can do it better".

"This gives a great opportunity for suppliers to give us different services at different prices that we put together - that is what we're working on," he said.

The first stage of Booking.com's connected travel push appears to be leveraging the growth of its air ticket platform to increase cross-sell opportunities.

"The top priority on this front has been to scale up our robust flight platform which will give us the ability to engage with flight bookers early in their travel journey and allow us to cross-sell our accommodation and other services to these bookers," Fogel noted, adding that its flight product had now been launched in six new markets since the last quarter, totalling 12 live markets.

Flight bookings growth has continued to "meaningfully exceed" expectations, Fogel said.



RSSC reveals 23/24

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has announced its new 2023-2024 Voyage Collection, with reservations opening tomorrow.

Featuring captivating new ports of call and immersive cultural experiences in destinations throughout the globe, the sailings include the recently announced 132-night 2024 World Cruise, and four Grand Voyages, which includes an Asia-Pacific 59-night sailing from Sydney to Tokyo.

Call 1300 455 200 for details.

Points for meals

CATHAY Pacific and OpenRice are presenting a new dining and digital payment experience for loyalty members, offering them the option to purchase meals at select restaurants with Miles Plus Cash, and earn up to three miles for every HK\$4 spent.

Open to Asia Miles and Marco Polo Club members in Hong Kong, members can search for partner restaurants & make reservations.

Flight Centre Foundation returns

THE Flight Centre Foundation (FCF) has been reactivated after an 18-month hiatus, with the company conceding its charitable arm may "look a little different" while the company strives to return to profitability.

The next step of the relaunch will see the FCF select which philanthropic cause it wishes to support, with Flight Centre flagging the final decision would be determined on the basis of "the biggest impact in the places where we work, live and travel".

The foundation had previously encouraged its employees to donate to charities by matching their generosity dollar-for-dollar, as well as running a paid program for staff who want to volunteer their time to various charities and community organisations.

Up until 2015, FCF had donated up to \$7.7 million since its inception, for more details on the initiative, [CLICK HERE](#).

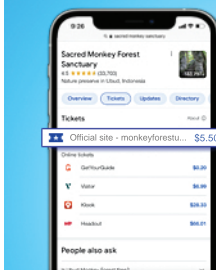


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A new rocky road to see

A SEVEN-MONTH season is planned in 2022 for Rocky Mountaineer's new route in the Southwest United States which launched this week - its first foray into the United States from its base in Western Canada.

The train journey between Denver, Colorado and Moab in Utah made its first trip on Mon,

marking the start of a season that will continue through to 19 Nov.

Including an overnight stay in Glenwood Springs in Colorado, the luxury rail service's latest Rockies to the Red Rocks product is a two-day journey boasting all of the typical premium Rocky Mountaineer elements such quality cuisine and onboard storytelling, as well as new sceneries alongside the Colorado River through canyons & vistas.

"This route is a celebration that has been several years in the making as we continuously seek unique locations with incredible scenery," said the company's Interim CEO Peter Armstrong.

Prices for the new route start from US\$1,250pp - details [HERE](#).

IHG Halong Bay

IHG Hotels & Resorts has unveiled plans to open the 208-room Holiday Inn Resort Halong Bay hotel in 2023 (render **pictured**), the second property for the brand in Vietnam following the Holiday Inn Resort Ho Tram Beach.

Features will include three restaurants and bars, an infinity pool, an indoor kids' adventure pool and a fitness centre and spa. More accom updates on [page 5](#).



NZ locks it down

NEW Zealand entered into a nationwide lockdown yesterday following a new case of COVID-19 discovered in Auckland.

"A hard and early response is the best tool to stamp out any potential spread and everyone in New Zealand is asked to stay calm, be kind and play their part while we gather more information on the potential case," the country's Department of Health said.

Brissy quarantine

THE Queensland Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Government regarding the construction of the Pinkenba quarantine facility, infrastructure aimed at reducing the reliance on options like hotel quarantine.

"Following countless breaches from the nation's hotel quarantine system, it's clear there is an urgent need for more fit-for-purpose facilities throughout Australia," Qld Deputy Premier Steven Miles said.

"With NSW and Victoria in lockdown, we cannot afford more leaks from hotel quarantine."

The facility will feature 1,000 beds on an army barracks located in the area of Pinkenba, just metres from Brisbane Airport, with construction to be completed in mid-2022 if final approvals are met.

The world right here

WORLD Expeditions has expanded its special interest domestic range of tours, introducing three new itineraries in 2022, including a new culinary adventure in Tasmania, escorted by TV chef Peter Kuruvita.

Also on offer is a cold climate gardens tour escorted by Aussie author and presenter Mary Moody, as well as an immersion into the culture and craft of the Northern Territory hosted by textiles expert Barbara Mullan. Call 1300 720 000 for details.

THAI posts profit

THAI Airways has posted its first net profit since the start of the pandemic, with the US\$333 million half year surplus a big turnaround from the previous half's loss of US\$840 million.

The carrier was able to achieve the result on the back of major cost-saving initiatives, which saw total expenses slashed from US\$1.7 billion to just US\$180 million, mainly as a result of its 50% reduction in staff.

Window Seat

A BATTLE royale of sorts has erupted on TripAdvisor in the United Kingdom after the site was inundated with complaints about a new Buckingham Palace garden experience.

Promoted as representing "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to picnic on the lawn", visitors have flocked to vent their displeasure at not being given the royal treatment, with the thrust of grievances attacking the high price of £16.50 while having to endure long queues and the loaded looks of overzealous security guards.

"What I experienced was first a long queue to security check and then seeing a piece of a lawn surrounded by standing stewards watching you every step and ropes segregating the rest of the garden," one visitor complained, while another took aim at the palace's expensive tea, cake and prosecco, claiming they felt "robbed by the royals".

Despite the flurry of recent negative reviews, the tour's official website appears to advertise what is being delivered, which is to follow a route around the garden at your own pace and experience the beauty and calm of the walled oasis in central London.

Highlights are not exactly adrenaline-inducing, such as the chance to observe the Plane trees planted by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, but we're not sure what extra bells and whistles visitors are expecting for this one - off to the Tower of London with them perhaps?



Show us your best pineapple!

The much-loved Big Pineapple on the Sunshine Coast is turning 50! To celebrate this icon's birthday, the team at Visit Sunshine Coast invite you to submit your best holiday photos at the attraction.

Photos will be judged by the team with prizes for gold, silver and bronze. The first prize will be awarded a Sunshine Coast prize pack featuring Sunshine and Sons Gin, Diablo Pineapple Liqueur and a few other surprises! Second and third place will also be sent a box of Sunshine Coast goodies featuring Diablo Pineapple Liqueur.

Please send your submissions to trade@visitsunshinecoast.com by close of business Monday 23 August.



Keep up to date with Travel Daily on the go



Travel Daily



Peru word search

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

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

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| AMAZON | LAKETITICACA |
| ANDES | LIMA |
| AREQUIPA | MACHUPICCHU |
| COLCACANYON | MIRAFLORES |
| CONDOR | NAZCALINES |
| CUSCO | POTATOES |
| GUINEAPIG | SACREDVALLEY |
| INCAS | SOL |

Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

L	E	C
U	P	U
S	T	R

- Good – 17 words
- Very good – 25 words
- Excellent – 34 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

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 flag is this?



THIS nation's flag was adopted officially in 1963, after it gained independence from its colonial ruler, Britain. The black, red and green colours of the flag are based on those used by the main political party which led the fight for

freedom and independence. After this was won, the white was added to symbolise peace and unity, and the shield was also included, which is based on the shape and design of traditional Maasai shields. Do you know whose flag this is?

ANSWERS 18 AUG
 Know your brands: 1 Youfoodz, 2 Carnival Cruise Line, 3 Royal Flying Doctor Service, 4 Kia Australia
 Whose flag is this: Kenya
 Unscramble: crept, cusp, cutpurse, erupt, letup, lupus, pett, pert, pest, plus, puce, pulc, pulc, pulse, pure, purest, purl, purse, pursue, pustule, scruple, sculpt, SCULPTURE, scup, slept, slurp, spec, spelt, spruce, spur, spurt, step, super, upset, usnrp



Dubai shows plenty of heart



DUBAI Tourism has launched the second instalment of its blockbuster trailer series featuring Hollywood mega stars Jessica Alba and Zac Efron, this time showing off the city's playful side in the style of a quirky romantic comedy.

The novel marketing push highlights the UAE city's many tourism charms for couples planning a future visit, including the historic Al Fahidi neighbourhoods, boutiques and Creekside cafes in Al Seef to the peaceful desert camp areas.

"For travellers, this campaign offers a sneak peek into the experiences, hospitality and infrastructure that have firmly placed Dubai amongst the world's most visited destinations," Dubai Tourism CEO Issam Kazim said.

The Dubai Presents campaign will see a series of new trailers rolled out in the coming months, offering a unique lens into the diversity of experiences on offer in Dubai, with gastronomy, active holidays, nature and outdoors and self-indulgent holidays the next to feature.

To watch the full length rom-com tourism trailer, [CLICK HERE](#).

Pictured: Efron and Alba strut their romantic comedy chops in a plot that sees a baggage mix up lead to love blossoming.

Saint Tropez escape

THOUSANDS of people have been evacuated as a precautionary measure in the French tourist town of Saint Tropez as close to 800 firefighters continue to battle a major blaze in the area.

The south of France is the latest European region to be impacted by blazing wildfires fuelled by hot temperatures, forcing firefighters to rapidly evacuate residents and tourists, sometimes by sea when road routes are unsafe.

A ticket to recovery

THE Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) has announced tourism and events ticketing agency Local Tickets as a new corporate partner, which will help the state lead its local events recovery back into the black after its most challenging period ever.

Father's Day gifts

OVOLO has joined forces with men's grooming brand **MISTR** to invite travellers to give dad some extra love this Father's Day.

The first 100 people to purchase a Wonder. Full. gift card valued at \$300 or more will receive a **MISTR** luxury gift pack valued over \$150, which can be delivered directly to your dad's door.

Exclusively developed in partnership with Ovolo, the **MISTR** set is ideal for even the most discerning dads.

Auckland upswing

AUCKLAND Airport's total passenger volumes increased by almost 200% in Jun versus the same period last year.

Excluding transits, international passengers were up almost 500%, reflecting the operation of trans-Tasman, quarantine-free travel, while transit passengers still remained down almost three quarters (71.3%).

Domestic passengers were up by 171.2%, reflecting a solid increase in domestic travel.

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.



JW Marriott makes its debut today in North Carolina with **JW Marriott Charlotte**, located in the city's bustling Uptown neighbourhood. The 381-room luxury hotel includes 34 custom suites and offers discerning guests an urban retreat with inspired surroundings. Influenced by Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the city's namesake, JW Marriott Charlotte draws inspiration from the sumptuous textiles of both her royal clothing and her palaces.



A new look is set to be launched in Nov at **Naladhu Private Island Maldives**. Home to 20 houses, the resort is undergoing a full renovation, including the top suite, as well as the two-bedroom pool residence, which will reopen with its own 20-metre private beach. The redesign is being led by New York-based designer Yuji Yamazaki, with new sleeker furniture throughout and a much brighter colour palette.



Soneva Fushi, the Maldives' original barefoot luxury resort, has revealed a new addition to its portfolio of sustainable innovations, **Makers' Place**. A fully carbon-neutral island studio that recycles plastic and aluminium into works of art, the **Makers' Place** studio was built in collaboration with British artist Alexander James Hamilton, and has been built from the ground up by he and his team.