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Time 4 Travel

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Today's issue of TD

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

Bubble in trouble

AUSTRALIA has paused the trans-Tasman bubble for New Zealanders entering Australia, marking the complete suspension of the green lane after Kiwis canned travel in the other direction last week.

Any travellers flying from New Zealand to Australia will now need to undergo 14 days in hotel quarantine on arrival until at least 24 Aug, when the policy will be formally reviewed.

Australia made the decision out of an abundance of caution in light of the current cluster of COVID cases in Auckland.

Orion cuts Oz

VIKING has cancelled a number of sailings in 2022 due to ongoing uncertainty over travel restrictions, including the line's planned itineraries in Australia and New Zealand.

The affected voyages in 2022 were all scheduled to take place aboard *Viking Orion*, with impacted guests to receive a 110% platinum voucher with a book and sail by date of 31 Dec 2023, while clients who desire a refund can do so before 31 Aug.

The US strikes back

THE US Department of Transportation has imposed a 40% cap on Chinese airlines flying into the US, following a similar move by China regarding United Airlines flights, with Beijing citing risks from COVID as the reason.

VA launches seat only tix

VIRGIN Australia has restructured its Economy ecosystem by creating three new fare types - Economy Lite, Economy Choice & Economy Flex.

The trio of new categories will each offer different booking options for flyers but will all include staples such as in-flight entertainment and carry-on bags of up to 7kg.

Among the key changes of the overhaul is the cheapest Lite category which doesn't offer customers checked baggage or seat selection (unless purchased at an extra cost) and is only available to purchase on the airline's site directly.

The new seat only Economy option was driven by an internal review at VA which found nearly one in three customers don't bring a checked bag with them when they travel.

QF Norfolk pledge

QANTAS has announced it will extend flights to Norfolk Island until at least 30 Jun 2022 in a major commitment to maintaining passenger connectivity with the mainland.

The carrier has been operating flights to Norfolk Island since late Jan as part of a contract with the Federal Government and following the suspension of Air New Zealand flights between Norfolk Island and Australia due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Qantas will operate up to six flights per week, three from Sydney and three from Brisbane and will be serviced by Boeing 737 aircraft, equating to 2,000 seats across the routes each week.

Lite will also come with a higher degree of booking risk, with travellers incurring an \$80 fee plus any fare difference for date changes made before their flight, and the loss of the fare altogether for changes made on the date of departure.

The move sees VA steer towards budget airline territory, an accusation owners Bain Capital were forced to fend off vigorously (*TD* 14 Oct 2020) when it acquired the airline last year.

Meanwhile Choice and Flex categories will offer up to 23kg of checked-in luggage, bonus Velocity Frequent Flyer points and status credits, as well as booking flexibility for changes made up to 14 days prior to departure without paying a fee, with the major difference between the fares being zero fees paid for any flight changes for customers who elect the Flex option.

The airfares were opened for sale yesterday for any travel dates, except for Economy Lite which will take off on 20 Sep.

Ireland Virtual Expo

CLOSE to 30 Ireland travel partners are gearing up to meet with travel agents in Australia and New Zealand as part of Tourism Ireland's upcoming Virtual Expo 2021 taking place on 07-08 Sep.

The tourism body will facilitate an exhibit hall as well as a series of one-on-one pre-scheduled video appointments where advisors have the opportunity to connect with the exhibitors and learn about the country's latest news and experiences.

Register to attend [HERE](#).

No jabbie, no Tassie?

THE Tourism Industry Council Tasmania's (TICT) board has unanimously agreed that only vaccinated tourists should be allowed to enter the state quarantine-free.

Speaking on the final day of its yearly conference, the council's Chair Daniel Leesong said the vaccination policy would give local operators certainty so long as borders remained open to travellers as a result.

"Once we do hit those targets, we will see free travel amongst the states and amongst Tasmanians as well," he said.

"As an industry we're committed to being responsible, we're committed to ensuring that we remain open and providing the services we all love, but we have to do it with the backup of the knowledge that people that are coming to visit are doing it in a way that can keep us safe."

Leesong added that the TICT was also advocating for all Tassie tourism staff to be vaccinated.

Noosa's stoicism

TOURISM Noosa has unveiled the Noosa Resilient Leadership Program, a new initiative designed to assist businesses in the region in becoming more resilient and prepared to face up to challenges that may impact them in the future.

The Noosa Resilient Leadership Program will provide twenty participants with access to full-day workshops, one-on-one coaching and a final networking event to build social networks.

For more information on the program or to register your interest, [CLICK HERE](#).

25%

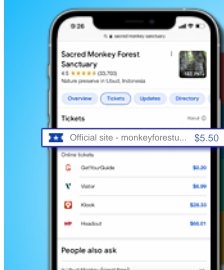
will book trips last minute -
2 weeks out

Source: Survey commissioned by nib Travel Brands N=1044, Australian respondents asked about when they would book their trip.

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Window Seat

WELL this kid is just rubbing it in our faces, right?

With so many of us house-bound, 19 year-old Belgian Zara Rutherford has just taken off on a record-breaking attempt to fly around the world solo.

If she is able to pull off the high-flying feat, she will become the youngest woman to fly around the globe by herself.

The current record holder is Shaesta Waiz who did it at the age of 30 back in 2017, while the youngest man to hold the title is Travis Ludlow, who did the trip when he was just 18.



COVID hits SYD results

THE ongoing impact of travel restrictions have been laid bare in Sydney Airport's latest financial results for H1 2021, with the aviation hub recording a 33.2% drop in revenue to \$341.6 million when compared to the previous corresponding period.

The latest revenue figures looked even bleaker when contrasted with pre-COVID numbers, showing a close-to 60% drop on 2019, while H1 2021 also witnessed a 30% decrease in EBITDA to \$210 million.

Most of the income for the period was generated through aviation (\$110.8 million), while \$87.4 million was delivered via its retail arm and \$84.6 million arrived through property and car rental revenue.

Total operating expenses were sheered down from \$187.5 million in H1 2020 to \$153.7 million in the latest period, while capital expenditure also dropped

by over half to \$65.2 million.

Australia's largest airport has reported a net debt of \$7.5 billion as of 30 Jun 2021, with its liquidity books revealing \$500 million in available cash reserves and \$2.4 billion in undrawn bank debt facilities.

The half did see a solid rebound in domestic air traffic however, recovering 43% of pre-COVID volumes, including a peak in Apr which saw a 65% improvement.

Sydney Airport also revealed plans to open 12 new luxury retail brands including a stand-alone Louis Vuitton store in 2022.

Win a very cool trip

HURTIGRUTEN is offering two lucky Australians the chance to score a free cruise to Antarctica in 2022 or 2023 when they enter a new comp the line is running.

Fill out the form **HERE** to have a chance of winning.

Tahiti holiday homes

TAHITI Tourisme is inviting travel agents to attend an upcoming webinar about holiday rentals, a mode of leisure travel that has seen a significant spike in popularity in recent times.

Holiday rental properties are located across the country's 118 islands, offering a mix of accommodation types including villas and bungalows.

Register to attend the online event **HERE** which takes place at 10am AEST on 31 Aug.

Bali out until 2028?

INDONESIA Institute President Ross Taylor has warned Western Australia that its elimination COVID-19 policy may prevent the state's residents from travelling to Bali for up to seven years.

The comments follow WA Premier Mark McGowan's recent pledge to restrict travel beyond its borders even when 80% of its population had been vaccinated.

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\$1000

up to **\$1000** per person

BONUS DISCOUNT

FLEXIBLE COVID-19 POLICY

FOR SALE UNTIL 30 SEP 21. FOR TRAVEL NOW UNTIL 30 APR 22.

CONDITIONS APPLY

CORPORATE UPDATE

SIA seeks out Highflyers

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has announced plans to integrate its corporate travel programs under the one HighFlyer brand from 01 Sep, a move designed to offer clients “greater value, benefits, and options for corporate customers of all sizes”.

The current HighFlyer program focuses on small and medium enterprises while the airline’s Corporate Travel Program is aimed at large corporates, but the merger of the brands will see new features for clients introduced while all benefits currently available in both programs will be retained.

Flexibility is at the heart of the restructure, with companies able to choose between a full-service or low-cost offering and enjoy convenient connections on the complementary network of destinations, while new features are set to include more eligible booking classes for HighFlyer points accrual on non-corporate discounted flights.

Additional benefits will also include customer rewards for reaching specific milestones in customer spend and the expansion of the rewards catalogue for HighFlyer members, which will introduce more options for members to redeem

with HighFlyer points.

“The revamped HighFlyer program will support seamless business travel at every step of the journey, customers can access a convenient one-stop corporate portal for booking flights, redeeming rewards, and managing their travel with ease,” the airline said.

SIA is also planning to introduce new HighFlyer “earn and burn” options with non-air partners such as hotels and car rental services, which are key to business travel needs and will support customers beyond the flight journey.

Sustainability take-up is poor: report

SUSTAINABILITY practices have had a poor take-up in the B2B travel space, according to a new report by corporate travel PR company Belvera Partners.

The figures show only 43% of organisations mentioned sustainability (or a similar term) on their websites, while just 17% produce a sustainability report.

Only one in four B2B travel businesses have created a publicly available policy, with larger companies performing better than smaller organisations.

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.



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Welcome itravel Darwin



IN AN encouraging sign for the travel sector, itravel Darwin has become the newest franchise for the itravel Group, bucking the trend of shrinking travel agency numbers across the country.

Despite all the doom and gloom around COVID-19, Managing Director of the new itravel Darwin Nicola Maurirere said her decision to join was driven by a desire to work with a brand that has a focus on people at its core.

“I was looking to join a brand that would help us stand out from the rest in the Darwin market, give us the support, credibility and opportunity,” she said.

“After meeting with [Managing Director] Steve Labroski and hearing all about the itravel journey and his passion and enthusiasm for his brand and people, I knew this was the franchise for me.

“Since joining itravel the support my team and I have received has been outstanding, not only the head office team of itravel but also other agents, franchisees and suppliers - I feel as if we have joined a family.”

itravel’s Steve Labroski said he was pleased with the addition of the Darwin team and believes the signs look reassuring for 2022.

“We’re excited for Nicola and we’re excited for what 2022 will bring for the group,” he said.

“itravel has also added five new mobiles and link affiliates during the COVID period.”

Pictured: Nik Gerakios, Jaimie Hourdas and Nicola Maurirere.

Health milestones the key to rebound

PUBLIC health milestones are the most influential factors driving American businesses to restart their corporate travel programs, a new report compiled by Deloitte claims.

Health indicators such as vaccination and infection rates are being closely monitored by travel planners, the data showed, with about 40% of respondents ranking both among the top three developments that could boost their travel volumes.

The reopening of clients’ offices was also viewed as a major factor.

CTM UK kicks goal

CORPORATE Travel Management’s (CTM) division in the United Kingdom has landed the signature of English Premier League football team Arsenal FC to be the sporting organisation’s team’s official travel provider.

The agreement will see CTM facilitate Arsenal supporters with travel to away domestic fixtures.

Icon under a microscope



THIS landmark is iconic and easily recognisable when you see the whole picture, but can you identify it from this small portion of the image?

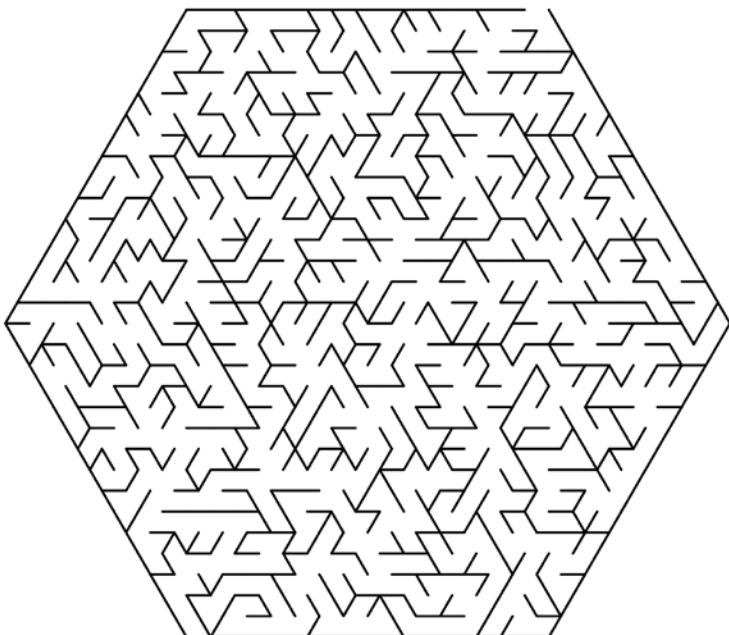
This structure is part of the world's largest art museum and

is a central landmark in the city where it is found.

Parts of the museum were built as a palace in the 12th and 13th centuries, but this section pictured was added in the 1980s and is now the main entrance.

A-maze-ing

CAN you find your way through this maze? Start at the top and finish at the bottom.



Keep up to date with Travel Daily on the go



Travel Daily



Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the *TD* Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 09 Sep 2014:

MANY marketing experts will tell you that if you're promoting a major global sporting event, not to omit the defending world champions from the advertising.

Late last week, organisers of next year's Rugby World Cup in England sent out new promo material to email databases pushing the sale date for match tickets at three weeks to go.

Unfortunately, the graphic included a world map which accidentally omitted New Zealand entirely.

Further ignominy was caused when a new TV advertisement for the tournament failed to include any Kiwi players.

If it's any saving grace, New Zealand wasn't the only nation missing from the map, with Japan, Ireland and all the Pacific island nations also absent.

Famous faces



THERE are three different faces that make up this picture.

They are a mixture of famous celebrities and travel names.

Can you figure out who the

eyes, nose and mouth in this picture belong to?

And don't worry if you can't guess them all, two out of three ain't bad!

Celebrity faces: Eyes - Patrick Benhamou, Atout France, Nose - Rihanna, Mouth - Jeff Bezos

Icon under a microscope: The Louvre, Paris, France

ANSWERS 20 AUG

Cheers to that dad!



ULTIMATE Winery Experiences Australia is reminding families across Australia that a Father's Day gifts need not be the standard drill kit or golf clubs. There are wine tasting experiences available to book across the country to let dad know exactly how you feel, from behind-the-scenes winery

experiences, masterclasses and yummy gastronomic adventures. Highlights include a night out at Burning of the Vines at Sirromet in Qld to enjoy a curated three-course paddock-to-plate menu, paired with wines and live music. Also on offer is a guided sparkling wine tour at Printhe Wines in Orange NSW, which also includes a private tasting and a three-course alfresco lunch in the rustic Chaff Shed. See the full list of options **HERE**.

World Tourism Day

THE Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) is reminding people that its World Tourism Day event is set to take place soon on 23 Sep in Brisbane, a day dedicated to highlighting the importance of the sector to the wider global community. The theme for 2021 is Tourism for Inclusive Growth, with the event featuring discussions led by prominent industry voices, designed to generate conversation about how incorporating inclusive practises will build a more resilient industry in a post-COVID-19 world. Attendance is free for members and \$40 for non-members.

UK agent campaign

A CONSORTIUM of independent travel agents in the United Kingdom have launched a new marketing campaign trumpeting the value of booking through an advisor during the current complicated environment caused by COVID-19. The Advantage Travel Partnership's Hello Suitcase ad push is designed to increase the confidence of travellers, reassuring Brits that leisure and business trips are still possible so long as they have the right advice.

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NEW EPISODE

Greener airports

AUCKLAND-BASED enviro-tech company CarbonClick has signed up two new airports to use its services, allowing passengers to offset the carbon of their travel. Travellers passing through Ljubljana Airport in Slovenia can now use CarbonClick services to calculate and offset their flight emissions, as can people entering Galapagos Ecological Airport. "More than half of all travellers fly on airlines that don't offer a carbon offsetting program and where they do, conversion rates are low, the role of airports is proving pivotal in the fight against climate change," CarbonClick CEO Dave Rouse said. "95% of [pax] emissions come from the flight so for airports who truly want to do more for the environment, this is an opportunity to tackle the impact."

NT events value

NEW research from the Northern Territory Major Events Company (NTMEC) shows that its eight events held during the 2020/21 financial year injected \$109.8 million into the territory's economy and generated 257,590 visitor nights. The data also demonstrated a high satisfaction rating from visitors to events in the Top End, with attendees and organisers scoring the destination 8.2 out of 10, while 93% noted the positive impact that events had on the local community. Events included in the survey included Parrtjima 2020 and 2021, Red CentreNATS 2020, Darwin Supercars 2020 and 2021, BASSINTHEGRASS 2021 and Million Dollar Fish Season 6. To see more info on upcoming NT events, **CLICK HERE**.

TRAVEL SPECIALS

WELCOME to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au

Creative Cruising has launched four new 2023 Star Clippers European packages combining air, land and sea with bonus value of up to \$1,800 per person. Highlights include a Greece, Montenegro & Croatia sailing on board *Star Flyer* which visits a host of popular destinations such as Piraeus, Venice and Athens. Prices start from \$7,259ppts and comes with \$600 of added value. Call 1300 362 599 for more details.

South Australia's boutique Oval Hotel within Adelaide Oval is offering a city stay package when booked through **Phil Hoffmann Travel**. Valid for bookings made by 07 Sep, the deal includes two nights in a double Parkland King Room, a complimentary upgrade to a double Studio King Room, late check out at noon and a welcome beverage on arrival. **CLICK HERE** for further information.

Book a 2023 expedition cruise with **Victory Cruise Lines** with a new zero down payment offer and receive savings of up to USD\$2,000 per couple. The promotion is valid for bookings until the end of Oct. Call Victory's Australian representative Cruise Traveller on 1300 680 374.

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