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## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a front cover page from CVFR.

## Virgin announces job mandate

**VIRGIN** Australia has today commenced consultation with staff and union groups over a proposal to require COVID-19 vaccination for all team members.

The policy envisions frontline staff will be required to be immunised by 15 Nov, while all office-based team members must be jabbed by 31 Mar 2022.

CEO Jayne Hrdlicka said the current outbreaks had shown that "it only takes one person to create a knock-on effect which creates significant impacts for our employees and the community more broadly".

"Vaccination is the only solution to the situation Australia currently finds itself in, and something we have determined is vital to keep our team safe, given the high public exposure most of them encounter day by day."

## ANZ Constellation

**CONSTELLATION** Journeys says it's already receiving strong levels of enquiries for a new Australian and NZ journey scheduled for May 2022 aboard a privately chartered Qantas Boeing 737.

The nine-day itinerary ex Sydney takes in Queenstown, Norfolk Island and Hayman Island, and is priced from \$11,890 per person.

CEO Dan Kotzmann said he was delighted at the early response from travellers "who like us are looking ahead with confidence".

## CLIA pushes for restart

**THE** upcoming 17 Sep expiry of the current Biosecurity Emergency Period which bans international outbound travel for Australians and foreign-flagged cruise ships in local waters is very likely to be extended, but Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is optimistic about a possible easing of restrictions that could allow a Dec resumption of domestic cruising.

Speaking at a major CLIA Cruise Forum on Fri, CLIA Australasia Chairman Gavin Smith said rather than the three month renewal which has now occurred six times since the pandemic's onset, rising vaccination rates could potentially see the ban renewed on a rolling 30-day basis this time.

The day-long forum, which saw over 1,800 registrations over four sessions, highlighted the significant process which had been made in ensuring the safety of cruising, including the contribution of Singapore Tourism Board Director of Cruise Development, Annie Chang,

who noted that just one case of COVID-19 had been detected on board during the island nation's successful restart with Dream Cruises and Royal Caribbean.

Participants noted the strong partnerships in other jurisdictions where cruising had already resumed, including MSC Cruises CEO Gianni Onorato, who attributed the line's ability to recommence cruising to the company's close relationship with the Italian Government.

Sessions also highlighted the key role cruising can play in securing the future of travel agents, with Virtuoso Senior VP Michael Londregan speaking about cruise being an area where advisors have the ability to add significant value for their clients.

More from the CLIA forum in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

## P&O pax vax plan

**P&O** Cruises Australia will restart operations with voyages for fully vaccinated guests and crew, under a new policy announced by CEO Sture Myrmell during Fri's CLIA Cruise Forum.

Myrmell said P&O's plan "is an indication that everything possible is being done to support the resumption of cruising in a way that provides further reassurance for our guests and the authorities that public health and wellbeing are our top priority".

However he said it was still unclear when the vaccinated-only voyages would be able to operate, in the absence of an agreed pathway for the resumption of domestic cruising.

## CVFR NDC live

**CVFR** Consolidation's enhanced TravelTech platform featuring NDC Ticketing (*TD* 16 Aug) is now rolling out, with all agents moved to the new system from today.

Supporting training video content is now available once agents log into the CVFR website, or on the company's YouTube Channel - see the **cover page**.

## BA plots subsidiary

**BRITISH** Airways has confirmed plans to debut a new low-cost offshoot based at London Gatwick Airport, where it has ceased all domestic and European operations through the pandemic.

The unnamed subsidiary was flagged in an update to BA staff, who said while short-haul activity had previously been a highly competitive market, "for us to run a sustainable airline in the current environment, we need a competitive operating model".

The offshoot would run alongside BA's existing long-haul LGW operation, serving shorter routes from summer 2022.

Talks are underway with union groups over the proposal.

## TA reappoints UM

**TOURISM** Australia has reappointed IPG Mediabrands Universal McCann continue managing its global media buying services across 15 key markets, including Australia.

The new contract will run for up to five years starting Sep, with an initial three year contract and two one-year extension options.

Universal McCann first took on the Tourism Australia account five years ago (*TD* 31 May 2016).

## RED CENTRE 'MATES RATES' SALE

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## Border closures slam THL

**AUCKLAND-BASED** campervan rental company Tourism Holdings Limited (THL) has delivered a net after tax loss of NZ\$14.5m for the 12 months to 30 Jun, a significant slide on the NZ\$27.4 million profit noted in the previous period.

EBITDA dwindled by NZ\$71.3 million to NZ\$40.4 million, while revenue also saw a dip of NZ\$42 million to NZ\$359 million, however tangible assets were maintained at NZ\$261.5 million.

The biggest factor driving down profits over the last year has been the fortress state of borders in New Zealand and Australia, with

THL's business model heavily reliant on international visitors.

Despite the challenging conditions created by travel restrictions, the company said its outlook in the long-term looked "positive", revealing its RV category to be growing globally as it continued to optimise its operational costs.

The company also stated it would continue to invest more in modernising its fleet and improving its revenue share in each of the markets it operates in, which also includes the US.

The report also stated that the Australian market delivered a positive EBIT result despite the many lockdown periods, and that domestic demand in the country looked strong as travel returns over the next year.

## Murray walking trail

**A PLANNED** 450km-walking trail stretching from the Riverland to Coorong National Park in South Australia should create renewed tourism interest in the Murraylands region, Mid Murray Council believes.

A tender has been released this week to design the trail, which will cost around \$16 million to construct, and boost visitor expenditure in the area by about \$7.6 million annually.

"We would be creating a unique destination, not just for our region but for South Australia and for everyone from across the world," Mid Murray Community Services Director Amy Loechel said, adding the anticipated 27-stage trail would focus on delivering more overnight spend.

## Singapore will be ready to go: Tehan

**AUSTRALIA'S** Tourism Minister has confirmed a travel bubble with Singapore will be "ready to go" as soon as Australia achieves the milestone of 80% of people fully vaccinated.

Dan Tehan indicated a green lane with Singapore is expected to operate in a similar fashion to how the trans-Tasman bubble did previously, with the Asian country most likely to be the first market for international travel when Australia hits stage four of its resumption plan.

## Marketing Executive - APAC (Mandarin Speaking)

The Hurtigruten Group is on the hunt for a Melbourne based bi-lingual (Mandarin) Marketing Executive. The role will be supported by APAC marketing team but will work closely with agency and sales teams based in China, and with other marketing departments around globe to drive best practice marketing initiatives and sales performance.

\*\*This is initially a 12 month maternity contract with the possibility of extension

[Click here for more information.](#)



## How do you like them pineapples?



**TO CELEBRATE** the 50th birthday of Aussie icon The Big Pineapple, Visit Sunshine Coast recently invited agents to submit their best holiday photos snapped at the giant attraction.

Three winners were chosen, with first prize going to Caroline Moit from MTA Travel for her family selfie (**pictured top**), while



## Qld enhances appeal

**FRESH** tourism attractions will soon be coming to Queensland thanks to the state's Tourism COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan, with a \$1.4 million expansion of Brisbane's Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary the latest site to receive funding.

Upgrades will include a new Wild Walk experience, 581m board walk through bushland and night tours that will see visitors issued thermal imaging scanners to show nocturnal animals.

The project is expected to be completed by the middle of 2022.

**MEANWHILE** popular nature tourism destination Conway National Park near has reopened following \$356k of repair works.

Upgrades saw the mountain bike trails restored and infrastructure added, and should ensure increased visitation.

second prize went to Amanda Graham from Travel Associates for the lofty retro shot (**inset**).

Third prize was awarded to Club Med's Dana Broekhuizen for her great sun-kissed photo.

The lucky first prize winner has been awarded a Sunshine Coast prize pack featuring Sunshine and Sons Gin, some delicious Diablo Pineapple Liqueur, while the two runners up have walked away with a box of Sunshine Coast goodies.

## QR kicks up a gear

**QATAR** Airways Holidays will soon launch new FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 travel packages for its Privilege Club members, which will bundle match tickets, accommodation and flights.

There are seven packages to choose from, which also include priority tickets access to games.

## Major losses for Crown

**THE** troubled Crown Resorts has seen its profits tumble to new lows during the 12 months to 30 Jun, posting a \$261.6 million net loss after tax for the period.

The result for the resort and casino operator was a far cry from the \$81.9 million profit posted in the previous year, with its close to \$2 billion worth of expenses outstripped by a diminishing revenue figure, which was down more than \$700 million to \$1.536 billion for the year.

## Oceania resumes

**FOR** the first time in 524 days, Oceania Cruises recently welcomed passengers aboard its ships as *Marina* departed the port of Copenhagen in Denmark. "Today is one of those days we will all remember for a lifetime as we reunite with our shipboard families and our guests to start exploring the world once again," the line's President and CEO Bob Binder said.

All of Oceania Cruises' voyages now require 100% vaccination rates of guests and crew.

The company was also heavily impacted by closure costs of \$120.6 million, which included expenses incurred at Crown Melbourne, Crown Perth and Crown Aspinalls while operations were forced to close due to COVID restrictions.

Crown Sydney was able to open select operations from 28 Dec 2020 at a restricted capacity, with the property's non-gaming revenue taking in \$68.6 million in total revenue and an EBITDA after significant items of \$123 million.

The last year has been a turbulent one for Crown, which is still awaiting the outcome of Royal Commission inquiries into its Melbourne and Perth locations, while the gaming licence for its Sydney location has been suspended after an independent inquiry in NSW (*TD* 10 Feb) found it was unsuited to operate a gambling licence, concluding Crown had been utilised by crime syndicates.

The company has now embarked upon several reforms, including linking transactions to recognised financial institutions.

## KTO agency move

**MARKETING** agency Innocean Australia has been selected by Korea Tourism Organisation to carry out activations in the Australian market as part of a new foray into tourism for the automotive-focused agency.

Innocean CEO Jasmin Bedir told *Mumbrella* the it was exciting to start work in the recovering tourism sector.

## Singapore fitness

**THE** Singapore Tourism Board (STB) has linked with health and beauty app ClassPass to promote the country as an attractive destination for travellers seeking wellness holidays.

The tie-up will see ClassPass and STB collaborate on a series of new video content across STB's social media channels.

The partnership is the first since Singapore announced plans to become a leading urban wellness haven at the Tourism Industry Conference in Apr.

## Hurti adds Russia

**HURTIGRUTEN** Expeditions has expanded its list of itineraries to Russia, offering a new 17-day cruise to the country's White Sea waters from Bergen, Norway.

The sailing is scheduled to depart on 06 Oct 2022 and will visit modern-day Russian cities in addition to historic ports with expedition landings, coming ashore at rarely visited villages such as Arkhangels and Solovetsky Island.

Prices lead in from \$9,435ppts - more details available [HERE](#).

## New Crown Chair

**ZIGGY** Switkowski has been named as the new Chairman of Crown Resorts, replacing Helen Coonan who has been in the role since Feb 2012.

Switkowski is an experienced corporate operator, previously holding the CEO positions of telcos Telstra and Optus.

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## Window Seat

**TOURISM** Ireland is confident the star comedic power of actor Bill Murray will be able to put the country's many golf courses on the map, with the American conducting a recent visit to film a new season of a golf series called *The Links Life*.

The latest season, which will air on various streaming platforms around the world later in the year, will cover Ireland's many and varied luscious green fairways and sand traps that inhabit some of its best golf courses.

The tourism body believes publicity and broadcasts like these are a key element of its continued push to keep Ireland front and centre in the minds of visitors from around the world.

"Our aim is to remind viewers that Ireland offers some of the very best golf in the world...the episodes filmed here will help ensure that Ireland stays top-of-mind among golfers," Tourism Ireland CEO Niall Gibbons said.

Let's just hope Bill managed to catch that cheeky gopher while shooting the series (big shout out to *Caddyshack* fans).



## Guten tag Singapore

**A VACCINATED** travel lane is set to launch from Germany into Singapore for the first time for fully vaccinated travellers entering for any purpose, including leisure, from 08 Sep.

The new agreement will see tourists visit Singapore without the need for any quarantine.

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## Where in the world?



**THIS** impressive tower is a belfry and was built to hold a bell, as well as formerly housing a treasury and the archives of the city.

Its height also meant it served as an observation post for spotting fires and other dangers in the city.

It was built around 1240 and is one of the most prominent symbols of the city which it is found in.

Standing at 83m tall, you'll need to climb 366 steps to reach the top.

Do you know where in the world this bell tower is found?

## Pick the nation

**COUNTRIES** have unique geography, ethnicities and cultures which come together to often form very distinctive symbols.

Based off the four different symbols and famous faces, see if you can figure out which country they represent.

1



2



3



4



## Pub quiz

1. What number President was Abraham Lincoln?
2. Dupont Circle is a traffic circle, neighbourhood and historic district in which American city?
3. Which two countries have won the most rugby tests in a row?
4. Garaanngaddim is the local indigenous name for which Kimberley-based attraction?
5. Is Bendigo, Vic population over 100,000 people or under?
6. Dunsfold Aerodrome has been the main site used by what television show since 2002?
7. What was the largest city in the Dutch East Indies?
8. True or false: the cassowary is only found in Australia?
9. Does the population of Broome roughly double, triple or quadruple during its peak tourist season?
10. What is the northernmost point of Australia?

## Sudoku

### BEGINNER

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

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

www.sudokuoftheday.com – visit them and get a new Sudoku every day!

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

**ANSWERS 30 AUG**  
 Where in the world: Belfry of Bruges, Bruges, Belgium  
 Pub quiz: 1 16th, 2 Washington, 3 England and New Zealand, 4 Horizontal Falls, 5 Over – 100,991, 6 Top Gear, 7 Surabaya, 8 False – it is also found in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, 9 Triple, 10 Bramble Cay  
 Pick the nation: Mexico



## Plaza expands Brazil

**HONG** Kong-based Plaza Premium Group has announced plans to open Plaza Premium Lounge at Brazil Sao Paulo/ Guarulhos International Airport from mid-Sep.

The location will be the company's second in South America after the debut of Plaza Premium Lounge in Rio de Janeiro International Airport in 2016, and will accommodate up to 335 passengers, comfortable spaces for rest, a host of entertainment options, culinary experiences, and private meeting rooms.

## More ice cool deals

**AURORA** Expeditions is offering discounts of up to 25% on a select number of its global journeys setting sail in 2022/23.

Applicable voyages include the 17-day Greenland Odyssey departing Iceland 10 Aug 2022 and visiting a series of Greenland coastal towns such as Tasiilaq, Skjoldungen Island, Nuuk, Ilulissat and Paamiut.

Also available in the line's latest suite of specials is the 13-day Across the Antarctic Circle sailing, departing roundtrip from Argentina on 07 Jan 2023.

## Noosa hosts major update



**QUEENSLAND** continues to fill the void for travel gatherings as lockdowns continue in NSW and Victoria, with Abercrombie & Kent, Silversea and Azamara jointly hosting an agent breakfast in tropical Noosa Heads to share exciting information about inspiring new products and journeys available for travellers.

Held at the luxury Noosa Springs Golf and Spa Resort, travel advisors were keen to learn about the latest news from all of the brands, which

included new luxury summer family adventures and private air safaris from A&K, Silversea's new collection of voyages in 2023/24 and new ship *Azamara Onward*, which is gearing up for its 2022 deployment in Europe.

**Pictured:** Sianna Gesch, Gregor and Lewis; Jacqueline Tufala, Silversea Cruises; Emma Smith, Abercrombie & Kent; and Melinda Gregor, Wendy Hopping, Kristen Cahill from Gregor and Lewis.

## BROCHURES

**WELCOME** to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to [brochures@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:brochures@traveldaily.com.au).



### Australian Air Safaris 2022

The recently rebranded **Australian Air Safaris** has released its 2022 air tour guide to the market, featuring an expanded range of small group tours by private aircraft. Air tours now depart from the Gold Coast and Bankstown in Sydney, as well as Moorabbin in Melbourne. The larger range of tours offer travellers a choice of 23 different trips taking off throughout the country, with over 100 departures available, including the Cape York Air Safari and Kimberley & Pilbara and Taste of the Outback journeys. Earlybird savings on next year's trips are available until 30 Sep.



### European Waterways Luxury Barge 2022

**European Waterways** has released its new 2022 hotel barge cruising brochure - a comprehensive guide to cruising the canals and smaller waterways of Europe and the United Kingdom. The brochure features new excursions to charming cultural attractions, as well as enhanced experiences that offer more immersive, "deep dives" into the various cruise regions. All sailings include easy-to-navigate guides that allow travellers to effortlessly find their perfect cruise from the ideal itinerary, to the time to travel, to which barge style best suits their travel interests and needs.

## Princess reshuffles

**PRINCESS** Cruises has confirmed updated restart schedules for its *Island Princess* and *Diamond Princess* vessels.

*Island Princess* will now return with a series of cruises to the Caribbean from Mar 2022, while *Diamond Princess* will also return during the month to undertake a season of Japan sailings.

The line also confirmed it has cancelled its 2021/22 South America & Antarctica Program on *Diamond Princess*, as well as its 2022 World Cruise.

## DL jabs hip pocket

**DELTA** Air Lines has revealed it will charge more for health insurance from employees who refuse to get vaccinated.

"We've always known that vaccinations are the most effective tool to keep our people safe and healthy in the face of this global health crisis...that's why we're taking additional, robust actions to increase our vaccination rate," the airline's CEO Ed Bastian said.

From 01 Nov, staff without the jabs will pay an extra US\$200 per month if they stay in DL's plan.