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Caravan tax break?

THE Caravan Industry Association of Australia has called for the Federal Government to make caravan and camping holidays eligible for tax deductions in order to bolster the country's battered tourism sector.

The industry body has proposed the idea above other stimulus measures such as travel vouchers, arguing it would be a "more sustainable model" for the longer-term recovery of travel.

"The govt is only forgoing the opportunity of a tax take while people are going out and spending money in the community, and that money rolls around many times," said spokesperson Stuart Lamont.

APT grand slam

APT has confirmed it will continue its long-term association with the Australian Open tennis tournament, sponsoring the Channel Nine broadcast of the event for the eighth year running.

The sponsorship will showcase APT's new *Live the dream* campaign which encourages Australians to start to lock in future travel plans once again.

The activity will be supported by press advertising, billboards and a new TVC which can be viewed at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

The tournament kicks off on Mon 08 Feb, with assets for the campaign available to agents via the ATG connect portal at atgconnect.com.au.

Sell New Zealand easier

TOURISM New Zealand has introduced a new marketing hub targeting Australian travel advisors, designed to keep New Zealand top-of-mind as a holiday destination with Aussie travellers.

The one-stop shop features complimentary marketing tools such as videos, email templates, images, sharable Facebook posts, Zoom backgrounds and sales flyers to help "empower travel agents" to better sell the country as a tourist destination.

"Last year, Australians made up over 40% of international arrivals to New Zealand and Australia's close relationship with New Zealand makes it a key market to keep preference high," said Tourism New Zealand Head of Trade - Australia Sandra Etter.

"We've developed this new self-service marketing hub for the travel industry to arm them with the right tools to masterfully engage their customers.

"Now more than ever it's

important to support travel agents, with around 48% of bookings made through traditional channels," she added.

The new hub features 100% Pure New Zealand marketing collateral, as well as access to the "Messages from New Zealand" campaign assets.

Agents also have access to themed travel experience content such as luxury, food & wine, wildlife, adventure, Maori culture, the great outdoors, family and multi-gen travel, winter and ski and road trips.

Access to the new hub can be made **HERE**, with an online introduction session scheduled to take place on Thu 11 Feb at 11am (AEDT) so that agents can learn more about the new tool and to keep up-to-date with latest trade news in NZ - register **HERE**.

EK suspends UK/Oz

EMIRATES has been forced to suspend all its flights between the United Kingdom and Australia "indefinitely", following a UK Government decision to prohibit all air travel to and from the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE has been added to a "red list" of countries blocked for travel, which includes South Africa, Portugal and Brazil.

Ponant visa blow

A DECISION by Immigration NZ not to grant visas to 61 of the 90 crew on board Ponant's *Le Laperouse* has left the New Zealand travel sector reeling, coming just over a week before the highly anticipated planned start of a domestic season.

NZ Cruise Association CEO Kevin O'Sullivan joined other industry figures in blasting the move, which the country's Immigration Minister Kris Faafoi said was vital to protect the health of Kiwis.

The ship, which was about 400 nautical miles off the NZ coast when the decision was confirmed, is now en route to New Caledonia while negotiations continue to hopefully salvage part of the season.

More details in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Today's issue of TD

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

Rex funding ticked

REGIONAL Express (Rex) shareholders have endorsed the airline's investment deal with PAG (*TD* 22 Sep 2020) to fund its growing domestic operations, which are set to begin from Mar.

The approved funding deal, which will see PAG inject Rex with up to \$150 million, was approved by shareholders at the airline's AGM held on Fri afternoon, and a first tranche of \$50 million will be disbursed within two weeks.

"This is the final major step in Rex's preparation for launching domestic services to all the major cities," enthused Rex Deputy Chairman John Sharp.

"It's an historic moment for Rex and for Australian aviation, providing Australians for the first time a premium reliable service at affordable fares," he added.

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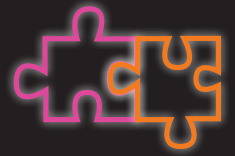
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* Famil includes an amazing experience on The Ghan. Terms and conditions apply.

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Travel Daily

TA pushes for domestic

THIS week's \$5 million activation of Tourism Australia's Holiday Here This Year campaign (**TD** breaking news Fri) aims to inspire people to take a well-deserved break while providing much-needed support for tourism operators and communities across the country.

Tourism Australia (TA) MD Phillipa Harrison said the promo had been timed for the end of the traditional summer holiday period, inspiring people returning to work to book their next break.

"Despite the recent disruptions, consumer confidence remains high," she said, citing TA research which found sentiment at an eight-month high, with more than half of all Australians considering or planning interstate travel, despite the challenges of border closures and restrictions.

"This nationwide campaign is really about converting as much

of this demand as possible into actual bookings," Harrison said.

"Australians looking for further inspiration to plan their next Australian holiday should visit australia.com or talk to their local travel agent," she added.

The Tourism Australia website provides the opportunity to "Find a Travel Agent Near You", linking to a list of advisors who have completed the Aussie Specialist training program, sorted by country (unfortunately defaulting to agents in the USA) as well as by state and city.

QF symptom policy

QANTAS has issued a new commercial policy for domestic and trans-Tasman travel, allowing fee-free changes to travel dates if passengers feel they cannot fly due to COVID-19 symptoms.

Changes are allowed from seven days prior to departure.

Canada quarantine

CANADIAN PM Justin Trudeau has introduced mandatory pre-departure PCR testing and hotel quarantine for incoming international passengers.

All flights from Canada to Mexico and the Caribbean have also been suspended until 30 Apr.

Uluru NT charter

AYERS Rock Resort has announced two charter flight and accommodation packages from Darwin to Uluru, giving NT residents the opportunity to explore their own backyard.

The trips will operate on the weekends of 16-18 Apr and 23-25 Apr including direct flights from DRW to AYQ and two nights' accommodation, transfers, National Park passes and more.

Prices start at \$1,197 and the NT Government's \$400 Territory Tourism Vouchers can be applied to the booking - more info at discovercentralaustralia.com.

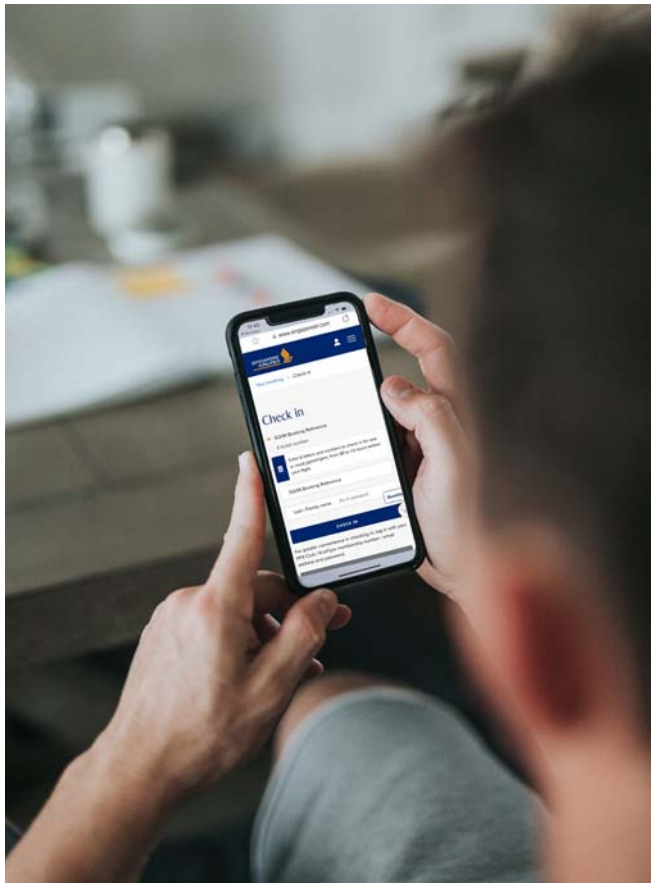
HNA bankruptcy

CHINESE aviation and travel conglomerate HNA has confirmed its creditors have lodged a bankruptcy petition, and says it may be forced to sell all of its non-aviation businesses.

The company, which was also a major shareholder in Virgin Australia prior to the airline's administration earlier this year, has also confirmed yesterday that almost US\$10 billion had been embezzled by shareholders and other related parties.

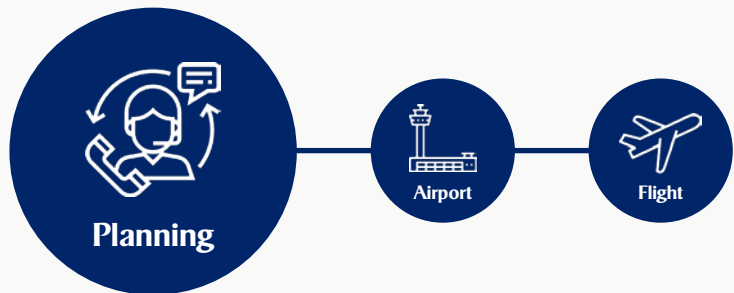
HNA will now undergo a formal court-supervised restructuring program, with the company saying it will cooperate with the review and "support the court to protect the legitimate rights and interests of creditors".

Chinese media reports say HNA's assets include stakes in more than 2,300 companies including Hong Kong Airlines, Air China, Beijing Capital Airlines and Tianjin Airlines.



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Old eyes trip spike

THE Queensland Government is expecting "a bumper Easter" of holiday bookings after it downgraded Sydney as a COVID hotspot from today.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said Queensland's focus had turned to getting those from interstate to take a holiday in the Sunshine State.

"Opening the border to Greater Sydney could result in a \$350m tourism windfall alone - that's what 370,000 Sydneysiders spent in 2019, visiting Queensland for Easter," Palaszczuk said.

"We know that regions largely reliant on tourism are continuing to do it tough, particularly with the international border still closed to overseas visitors."

Data released this week by Tourism Research Australia revealed the impact coronavirus has had on the tourism industry last Easter, with spending down more than 80% in Queensland.

ATEC calls for support

THE Australian Tourism Export Council's (ATEC) is calling on the Australian Government to provide more financial support for export tourism businesses, which are unable to operate at anywhere near their previous levels.

ATEC said that domestic travel bookings have replaced less than 20% of the revenue typically received from international visitors, with JobKeeper crucial in achieving any of the success achieved so far.

With borders closed and export tourism businesses unable to access international markets, 60% are running at less than 50% of their staff and service capacity.

Almost all (95%) of inbound tour operators (ITOs) have revenue of less than 10% compared to 2019, while 55% of tourism businesses will not survive until Sep without some kind of government support while international borders

remain closed, ATEC warned.

"Australian tourism businesses have hung on with the support of JobKeeper but face annihilation once the program ends next month if the government fails to provide further support," ATEC MD Peter Shelley said.

"State and territory governments need to provide certainty in the way they respond to COVID outbreaks and a clear path to reopening international travel that appropriately manages the health risk and effective roll out of vaccines in order to give our industry certainty into the future," he added.

US rebukes testing

THE US Travel Association has labelled proposed COVID testing on all domestic flights impractical, calling instead for mandated mask wearing and physical distancing measures.



Window Seat

MORE than 160 travel partners, including Aussie travel agents, recently attended a virtual event aimed at bolstering the travel relationship between Australia and India.

Among the treats for attendees was an appearance by Australian cricket royalty in Brett Lee (pictured top left), who beamed in from the Paddington End to chat about some fun sports anecdotes between the two cricket-mad nations over the years - howzat for travel camaraderie!



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NZ resumes bubble

AUSTRALIA'S Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt announced the quarantine-free bubble with New Zealand is back on, recommencing from yesterday.

The decision follows a temporary suspension of travel by the Australian Government following several positive cases of COVID in New Zealand.

DFAT has reaffirmed that to qualify for quarantine-free travel, travellers must have been in New Zealand for 14 days, not including time spent in isolation, and will be subject to pre- and post-flight COVID screening.

A site fit for a Queen

THE American Queen Steamboat Company has refreshed its website for the Australian market, offering users improved search functionality across regions, vessels, dates and special themed sailings.

View the revamped site [HERE](#).

Chefs hit by cruise

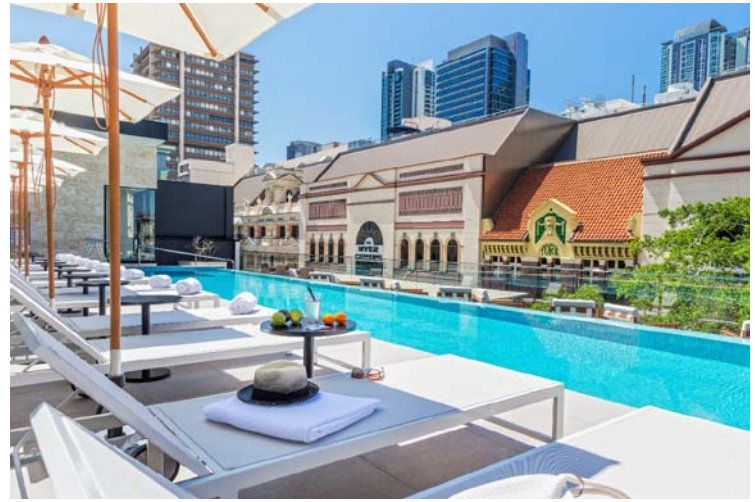
AUSTRALIAN chefs have highlighted the impact of the cruise shutdown on Aussie food suppliers, in the latest instalment of the #WeAreCruise video series.

P&O Cruises Australia Corporate Executive Chef Uwe Stiefel and Meat & Livestock Australia Corporate Chef Sam Burke are the subjects of the video, produced by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), which can be viewed in full [HERE](#).

Qantas to the rescue

QANTAS has come to aid of Aussie travellers who were left stranded on Norfolk Island because of the temporary closure of the New Zealand/Australia travel bubble.

Air services to the popular island destination have been operated only by Air NZ until the travel arrangement was halted, with QF making the mercy dash & returning tourists to SYD & BNE.



HYATT Hotels Corporation has announced plans to open the Hyatt Regency Brisbane, the first hotel for the brand to be constructed in the city and the eighth location in Australia.

To be located in the heart of the CBD near the Queen Street Mall, the 292-room property will feature an outdoor infinity pool and bar, a 24-hour fitness centre, an all-day restaurant, as well as more than 100m² of flexible meeting and function space.

The hotel will be rebranded from an existing hotel and refurbished before formally becoming the Hyatt Regency Brisbane, a project the hotelier is conducting in partnership with

fund manager Salter Brothers.

"We are grateful to work with Salter Brothers on the first Hyatt hotel in Brisbane and look forward to bringing the premium service and energizing experiences that the Hyatt Regency brand is known for to this vibrant city," said Hyatt Group President, APAC David Udell.

"With Brisbane being one of the fastest growing cities in Australia, Hyatt Regency Brisbane is a strategic addition to our growing portfolio in the country."

An opening date for the new location has not yet been confirmed by time of press.

Pictured: A render of the infinity pool and sundeck area.

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Where in the world?



THIS colourful neighbourhood has become a key stop on any tourist's visit to the city, with the vibrant houses offering many influencers an excellent backdrop for that perfect selfie.

The colourful houses have an important history however, with the area previously populated

by Muslim slaves, tradesman, craftsman and artisans.

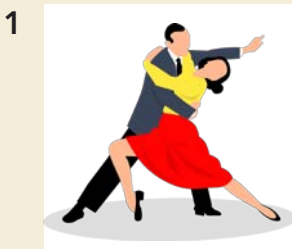
The houses were painted white while they were leased, but when they were purchased by newly liberated slaves after 1834, many painted them colours as an expression of their freedom.

Do you know where this is?

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.



Sudoku

MEDIUM

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.

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

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

Whose mascot is this?



PIRATE Parrot was introduced due to the popularity of a similar mascot introduced by his team's biggest rival the year before.

He was literally hatched during a game at the team's stadium in

1979, with the team going on to win the championship later that year, but never since.

Some fans believe the mascot to be a blessing and others believe it to be a curse.

ANSWERS 29 JAN

Test your airline knowledge: Airport codes - 1 San Francisco, USA, 2 Melbourne Avalon, Australia, 3 Stuttgart Airport, Germany, 4 Chhatrapati S Maharaj Airport, Mumbai, India, Airline liveries - 1 Volaris, 2 Vietnam Airlines, 3 Swiss International Air Lines

Pub quiz: 1 Peru, 2 Farm Cove, 3 108 years, 4 Argentina, 5 Yemen, 6 Golf, 7 New Taipei City, 8 The Rip, or The Heads, 9 Marble, 10 Kyoto

Icon under a microscope: Burj Al Arab, Dubai

WA clamps travel

THE Western Australian Government has locked down metropolitan Perth and the regions of Peel and the South West for five days commencing 6pm (AWST) last night, following a single hotel worker testing positive to COVID-19.

The government has mandated that nobody enter or leave the affected areas unless it is for essential health and emergency services reasons.

Travel also remains prohibited in remote Aboriginal communities.

Airports ask for cash

THE Australian Airports Association has formally asked the Federal Government to extend financial support to the sector by at least six months, as aviation hubs continue to feel the pinch of the travel shutdown.

The industry body's CEO James Goodwin fronted a Senate Committee on Fri, informing the government that airports have haemorrhaged more than \$320 million a month and that support is running out at the time the sector needs it the most.



MARRIOTT International has laid down the challenge to raise money for staff in the South Pacific who have been greatly impacted by the closure of international borders.

Three general managers from Australia recently donned a tutu for the day to raise funds for school essentials in Fiji and Samoa for impacted colleagues and their families, raising more than \$26,000 for their efforts.

Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park's Krister Svensson and Pier One Sydney Harbour's

Kim Mahaffy (pictured) were nominated for the challenge, as was JW Marriott Gold Coast Spa & Resort's Ravinder Dhesi.

Marriott Multi Property Vice President Fiji & Samoa Neeraj Chadha said the closure of international borders had greatly impacted the local economies of South Pacific nations.

"A number of our associates had their jobs impacted through redundancy, limited or no working hours," Chadha said.

"Although they were able to access a portion of their retirement funds, for most, this is not enough to help their families with basic necessities," he added.

BROCHURES

THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by Club Med. 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.



Club Med Sun and Snow 2021

Club Med has introduced a new digital brochure to the market in anticipation of the company's sun and ski resort sale for 2022 travel, offering agents the chance to save up to 30% off premium all-inclusive packages for their clients. Asia and Indian Ocean resorts are already open for sale for travel dates between 01 Nov and 10 Jun 2022, while the much awaited North American and European resorts will open for sale on 10 Feb. The brochure also features new resorts such as Club Med Quebec Charlevoix in Canada, Club Med La Rosiere in France and Club Med Seychelles.



Viking River Cruises 2022/2023

Viking has released its 2022-2023 River Cruises brochure to the market, boasting more than 230 pages of travel itineraries across destinations such as central Europe, Russia, Egypt, Asia and the United States. Highlights include the debut season of the line's custom-built *Viking Mississippi*, which departs for the first time along the iconic American river from Aug 2022, as well as trips aboard *Viking Saigon* in Vietnam & Cambodia.

VA slashes HQ staff

VIRGIN Australia is expected to cut its head office staff in Brisbane by 350, as the carrier continues to restructure following its purchase by Bain Capital.

"We are exploring redeployment opportunities and we will be supporting those team members who will be leaving us, including through outplacement and other support services," a VA spokesperson confirmed.

MEANWHILE VA's loyalty members can now earn bonus points when they buy food directly through online meal delivery company YouFoodz, as part of a new partnership deal.

Singapore bursts travel bubble

A RECENT surge in COVID-19 cases in the region has led to the suspension of a three-way travel bubble between Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea.

The agreement will be paused for at least three months, Singapore's government has confirmed, with rising cases in Malaysia in particular thought to be the primary health concern motivating the move, recording 5,725 new COVID cases on Fri.

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