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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a full page from Singapore Travel Specialist.

DL ups Sydney

DELTA Air Lines will increase its frequencies between Sydney and Los Angeles to six flights per week effective from 08 Mar.

The services operate using DL's flagship Airbus A350 featuring the Delta One Business class suite.

Emerald showcase

EMERALD Cruises will host a series of upcoming "virtual travel information webinars" which include the opportunity for a client to win \$2,500 towards a voyage with Emerald Cruises.

The agenda will feature the company's European and Southeast Asia river cruises as well as the new Emerald Azzurra luxury super yacht.

Both agents and their customers can participate, and travel advisors who make a booking within 14 days of their clients attending can access a \$250 per person discount - see emeraldcrises.com.au/events.

New Globus vaccine policy

THE Globus family of brands will require proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test result from passengers as they depart on its tours, river cruises and independent holiday packages in Australia and abroad.

The new policy, which will become effective in Apr, will see travellers provide proof in digital or printed format of COVID-19 immunisation at least 14 days prior to travel; or proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of departure; or proof of recovery from a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis within three months of travel.

"Without one of these verifications, travellers will not be able to join a planned holiday with Globus, Cosmos, Avalon Waterways or Monograms," the company said.

Globus said it would also facilitate - and cover the cost of - additional COVID-19 testing

if required for guests to return to their home country, as well as tests during a trip if guests show symptoms.

"The health and safety of our travellers is our number one priority," said Gai Tyrrell, the group's MD Australasia.

"We have continued to enhance on-trip safety standards throughout the pandemic to ensure we're ready to welcome guests back to travel when the world is ready," she said.

The company has also shortened the final payment window for all brands to 45 days prior to departure, with the aim of giving customers even more confidence about booking.

This measure complements the Globus family Peace of Mind Travel Plan which gives clients the flexibility to move trips to any other 2021 or 2022 date, destination or itinerary without penalty.

Shorten urges help

FORMER ALP leader Bill Shorten has written to Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg urging the Government to "not leave travel agents left behind and stranded by extending JobKeeper beyond 31 Mar".

Shorten, who spoke in favour of the industry in Parliament last week (TD 05 Feb), noted that with international borders closed until late 2021 at the earliest "a considerable number of travel agencies will not start receiving cash flow until 2022," with the planned cessation of JobKeeper likely to see many small businesses close.

He also urged the clarification of "inconsistencies" in the \$128m Consumer Travel Support Program.

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Explore The World even more in 21/22

EXPLORE Worldwide has introduced four new European tours to the market for travel later this year and in early 2022.

The new adventures include a 13-day Winter in Turkey tour visiting small villages and the snowfields, leading in from \$2,230 per person, as well as an opportunity to explore the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone near the border of Ukraine.

Budding photographers can take snaps led by expert David Short and meet with residents who lived through the infamous nuclear disaster.

Further new tours include an eight-day trip to Malta and an 11-day exploration of Greece - call 1300 439 756 for details.

Crown loses a big hand

HOSPITALITY and casino operator Crown Limited is scrambling to deal with the fallout of a NSW Government report which has recommended that a gambling licence to operate within its new billion-dollar property at Sydney's Barangaroo should be denied.

Two Directors of Crown, Guy Jalland and Michael Johnston, resigned this morning, with the report from the NSW Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority finding significant corporate governance and risk management problems, which included the alleged facilitation of money laundering and fostering of a poor work culture for staff.

The report said for Crown to be considered a viable operator of

a gambling licence at the site in the future, major reforms of the company's culture would need to take place, as well as a "wide-ranging audit" of its accounts.

In its response, Crown stated it would consider the findings and work with the relevant authorities in relation to the report.

The findings have also triggered calls from the Victorian State Opposition for Daniel Andrews to launch a judicial inquiry into Crown's suitability to continue to operate Crown Melbourne.

Israel and Greece form COVID deal

ISRAEL and Greece have agreed to terms on a travel deal that will allow citizens from both countries to travel in a green lane so long as they are vaccinated for COVID.

No specific percentages have so far been outlined in terms of how much of each country's population would need to be inoculated before a travel bubble could commence.

Speaking at a press conference overnight, Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis said health certificates for travel would likely be the template for other nations who have advanced their vaccination programs to an acceptable level of safety.

"I expect what we will be doing with Israel to be a trial run for what we can do with other countries," he said.

Club Med Canada now open for sale

CLUB Med's first resort located in Canada, Club Med Quebec Charlevoix, is now taking reservations for the property which opens its doors on 03 Dec.

Located on a waterfront panorama, all-season experience offers a diversified portfolio of activities, in addition to a winter ski-in, ski-out setup.

Earlybird offers include seven-night stays from \$1,850 per person, all inclusive.

SIA defers spend

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has deferred over S\$4 billion in capital expenditure on aircraft delivery agreements, reaching a pact with both Airbus and Boeing to revise its delivery schedules.

The new agreements will result in some of the airplanes in the SIA orderbook delivered over a longer period than the originally contracted five years.

This will enable SIA to defer capital expenditure and recalibrate the rate of capacity as necessary during the pandemic.



Window Seat

THE life of a busy hotel operations executive can be hectic at times, just ask Meriton Suites' Head of Operations Benjamin Nesbitt who shared a funny story of creativity on his LinkedIn this week.

Balancing the needs of playing with his two sons and taking numerous work calls at home, the company's Talent and Culture Manager Riley Mackenzie whipped up some 'work passes' (pictured) so the kids don't feel left out when dad needs to take a call while they are dressed up as action hero batman or playing the xylophone.

"My little lads wear these passes and join "Team Meriton Suites" if and when daddy gets a call, and by staying silent, they help daddy 'solve the problem and save the day' (in their eyes anyway!)," Nesbitt mused.

We hope these two land a promotion soon for all of their hard work in the toy box.



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NORTHERN TERRITORY

Tehan soaks up opinions



TOURISM Minister Dan Tehan was in Airlie Beach yesterday to meet with a range of local tourism leaders to learn more about how border closures and the pandemic has decimated the tourism sector.

“Thanks to MP for Dawson and George Christensen for getting everyone together to work on solutions,” Tehan said.

Tourism jobs growth

THE hospitality and tourism jobs sector demonstrated strong signs of year-on-year growth last month, increasing by 30.5% when compared to Jan 2020, according to the figures in the latest *Seek Employment Report*.

Most in-demand roles in Jan included management positions, front office and guest services, however the sector did lose ground on Dec 2020 by 2.5%.

Pictured: Tehan (centre) and Christensen (far right) meeting with tourism leaders representing Queensland’s The Whitsundays to discuss the best ways for the sector to manage COVID-19.

Cheaper than a taxi

REGIONAL Express (Rex) is looking to make its inaugural flights on the east coast “cheaper than the taxi ride to the airport”, this morning announcing cheap promotional fares when tickets are booked before the end of Feb.

Economy fares on the Sydney to Melbourne route in Mar are on offer from \$49, while Business class rates are priced from \$199.

The special \$49 fares include free 23kg check-in and 7kg carry-on baggage, a commemorative gift pack & certificate, as well as refreshments on board.

CLICK HERE for more details.

Will the COVID-19 vaccines be enough to return some kind of normalcy to travel? Read about it in the February issue of *travelBulletin*. **CLICK to read**

WA to relax rules?

WESTERN Australia has hinted it may seek to relax its 28-day community spread rule to open its borders for interstate travel.

As it stands, other states must record 28 days without community coronavirus spread before travellers from the state are considered for entry to Western Australia.

WA authorities are now considering slashing that time to two or three weeks over the coming days, following advice from WA’s CHO Andy Robertson.

He said states which reached 14 days without community spread usually go on to hit 28 days.

A bridge to England

FANS of the hugely popular Netflix period drama *Bridgerton* can now register their interest for a special Contiki tour of the show’s filming sites in England when overseas travel restarts.

However, the operator says it needs the help of Millennials and Gen Zs to make it a reality, calling on them to tag a friend on Contiki’s *Bridgerton*-themed Instagram post.

“We’re confident the trip will go ahead as the concept was supported by data from our recent Voice of a Generation survey,” said MD Katrina Barry. Show your interest **HERE**.

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Pub quiz

1. Malabar is a suburb in Sydney, but is also a coastal region in what country?
2. What five cities most prominently lay claim to the title "the Paris of the South"?
3. Rome is the capital of Italy as well as what region within the country?
4. Malindo Air is an airline from which country?
5. Kakadu National Park contains Ranger Mine, which quarries what metal?
6. In what decade did the British Raj (Britain's rule over India) begin?
 - a) 1840s
 - b) 1850s
 - c) 1880s
 - d) 1890s
7. What is the capital of Sri Lanka?
8. How many of the world's 10 tallest mountains are located in Nepal?
9. Union Square Park can be found in what city?
10. Chengdu in China is most closely associated with what animal?

Seen it at the movies



THE arid US states of New Mexico and Texas were used as the primary shooting destinations for this Cohen brothers classic starring Josh Brolin and Javier Bardem.

The stark and beautiful scenery almost serve as a central role in this critically acclaimed movie, with the main character on the run from drug lords and hired

killers who want to reclaim millions of dollars he found in the desert.

Interesting trivia, a border crossing scene between the US and Mexico was actually filmed at a freeway motorpass in Las Vegas, with a set built on the site to recreate the depiction.

Can you guess the movie?

Sudoku

BEGINNER

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

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

Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the **TD** Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 19 Jun 2014:

THIS could be huge for inbound tourism - Australian men have been chosen as the "sexiest on the planet" in a poll conducted by dating site MissTravel.com.

More than 60,000 US women using the site voted in the so called "Sexy World Cup" survey, with Aussie males coming out on top ahead of Italians, Brits, Scots and Spaniards.

MissTravel founder Brandon Wade said: "It seems that American women are drawn to a distinct type of man.

"This man is handsome, sophisticated and the accent doesn't hurt either," he said.

Men surveyed voted Brazilian women as the most sexiest, followed by Russian, Colombian, British, Filipino and Spanish females, with Aussie women coming in seventh spot.

ANSWERS 09 FEB

Celebrity faces: Eyes - Tom Manwaring - Express Travel Group, Nose - Meryl Streep, Mouth - Peter Dinklage

Unscramble: amber, armed, barm, beam, berm, bomb, bombard, BOMBARDED, bombe, bombed, bomber, bream, dame, demo, demob, dome, domes, dorm, dram, dream, madder, made, mare, mead, mobbed, mode, more, ombre, radome, ream, roam, roamed

Theme park help

A NEW bill is being introduced into the California Assembly this week that aims to get major theme parks in the state to open earlier than currently prescribed, citing a need for a level playing field between small and large parks as the reason.

Large parks like Disneyland, which has a capacity of 15,000, may only reopen when the county it is located in reaches a minimal COVID threat level of yellow, despite smaller parks being able to reopen under the moderate threat level of orange.

Judge people not countries: WTTC

THE World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) is imploring governments around the world to focus on high-risk travellers and not high-risk countries when implementing travel restrictions.

"We cannot continue labelling entire countries as 'high-risk' which assumes everyone is infected," WTTC CEO Gloria Guevara said.

"Not only does it stigmatise an entire nation, but it also halts travel and mobility," she added.



THE wait for the highly anticipated launch of W Melbourne is finally over, with the property formally opening its doors to the public on Thu.

The W Hotels Worldwide property, part of Marriott International, marks the first luxury lifestyle hotel in the city, featuring 294 guest rooms, 29 suites, a cocoon-inspired cocktail bar called Curious, pool area, fitness centre and a large pillarless ballroom for events.



To mark the occasion, members of the hotel's new team posed outside the flash looking property in a special W salute for the exciting times ahead.

Pictured: The newly assembled Sales and Marketing team Kerrie Mulholland, Casey Au, David Do, Michael Fletcher, Kristy-Lee Graham, Mardina Sheilds and Sharon An, and inset the stylish pool and wellness area.

ACCOMMODATION

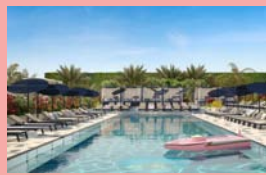
WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Delivering longer stays on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, the **Residence Inn by Marriott Cancun Hotel Zone** opened last month. Each of the accommodation's 158 guest suites features separate work, living, and sleeping spaces complete with a fully equipped kitchen. The hotel also features a complimentary grocery service which allows guests to shop and cook at their own convenience.



Micro-Weddings Packages have been launched at **Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas**, located on Las Vegas Boulevard near the Strip. Aimed at couples tying the knot or renewing their vows, the packages start at US\$2,900, and are available up to 60 days prior to the wedding date. The Micro-Weddings Packages include the ceremony venue, the wedding officiant, a personalised bridal bouquet, and a 90-minute photo session with editing and image rights.



Moxy Miami South Beach, set to open later this week, is the first resort-style property within the Moxy brand portfolio. The 202 rooms are spread across eight storeys, with the hotel described as a "stylish & playful celebration of Miami's cosmopolitan culture". Located just steps away from the beach, Moxy Miami South Beach also features interiors by Saladino Design Studio and Rockwell.

Squeaky clean deal

AIRBNB is supplying its hosts with access to cleaning products under a new global partnership with disinfectant brand Dettol.

The deal, designed to help mitigate the spread of COVID, will see accommodation hosts given Dettol Instant Hand Sanitizer, Dettol Biodegradable Disinfectant and Dettol Multi-Purpose Cleaner.



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