

BA culinary pact

BRITISH Airways has unveiled a new menu for customers in its Euro Traveller (short-haul Economy) class, with all on-board dining having to be pre-ordered.

Dubbed "Speedbird Cafe", the initiative is a partnership with Michelin-starred chef Tom Kerridge, who will design "gourmet food choices" such as signature pies and sandwiches.

The airline will continue to offer a complimentary bottle of water and a snack, but any other meals must be purchased up to 12 hours prior to departure via www.highlifesshop.com.

Other changes include pre-ordering of in-flight retail items, which the carrier said would help reduce onboard weight.

In BA's Club Europe business class cabin new Do&Co menus will see the reintroduction of china and glassware, replacing the temporary use of COVID-safe minimum-contact meal boxes.

VA credit clampdown

TRAVEL agents who incorrectly redeem Virgin Australia Future Flight Credits (FFC) will be levied with a \$250 penalty by the carrier, under a new VA policy update released on Fri.

The revised Virgin Australia ADM/ACM policy document now confirms that processes related to FFCs will be audited, and if fares are collected incorrectly "any miscalculated values will be subject to an Agent Debit Memo (ADM)".

Future Flight Credits were the outcome of the airline's restructuring and sale to new owner, private equity firm Bain, which promised FFCs in place of existing credits for cancelled travel which had been booked prior to VA entering voluntary administration in Apr last year.

FFC capacity is strictly controlled on Virgin Australia flights, with the fares only available for U class (Economy) and I class (Business)

reservations.

When booking via GDS, the FFC fares must be searched using account code FFC20.

FFCs cannot be used for upgrade purchases or be used in conjunction with travel credits of another person, and also may not be used in conjunction with Velocity Frequent Flyer points or to make a booking in conjunction with other forms of travel credits.

"Identified under-collections will attract a \$250 ADM plus an ADM fee," the new policy notes, with the same penalties applying if agents use FFCs to purchase any other fare class products on behalf of their customers.

Virgin Australia spokesman Kris Taute told **TD** the changes "reflect the introduction of Future Flight Credits as a form of payment," with a range of educational resources and FAQs on the VA agency hub - **CLICK HERE**.

Today's issue of TD

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

TIME to sign up

THE Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) will hold its first intake for 2021 on 17 Feb.

Applications are currently open for any ambitious travel, tourism, airline and hospitality professionals to take part in the six-month mentoring program.

For more information see travelindustrymentor.com.au.

TG int'l flight cuts

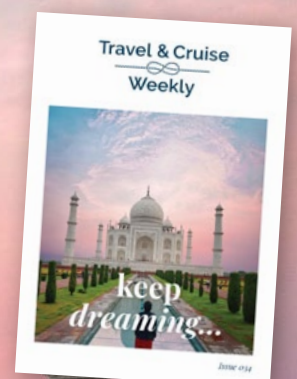
STRICT travel restrictions in Thailand have seen Thai Airways slash its international services.

Reduced flight schedules in place until 27 Mar sees a single weekly TG return flight operating to ports including Sydney, Frankfurt, London, Manila, Osaka, Seoul and Taipei.

Inspire your clients to *keep dreaming*

Keep Dreaming will recommence next week with destination features, puzzles and more, to inspire your clients' next escape.

Travel & Cruise
Weekly





Cabinet measures

NEW border measures have been introduced by National Cabinet to combat any possible community infections of the United Kingdom's new coronavirus strain in Australia.

All returning travellers will now need to undergo a pre-flight test for coronavirus, with any Australians hoping to return home required to test negative.

Masks on all domestic and international flights are now mandatory, and Australia's states and territories will not be increasing the cap on the number of repatriated Australians they are currently accommodating.

New South Wales, Queensland and WA will also reduce their cap on repatriated Aussies by 50% from next week.

"The suggestion that Australia might be able to close off every single flight that comes to Australia was considered by AHPPC and was not recommended to the National Cabinet," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said.

MEANWHILE, Qld Health has confirmed that travellers transiting through the hotspot of Brisbane onward to another destination will be able to do so without interruption.

If driving, travellers must do so without stopping, and must travel in a private vehicle, such as their own car, a rideshare or a taxicab.

They must not transit through the Brisbane area by any other mode of transport, and if flying, they must not leave the airport.

The Government of the Northern Territory has also declared Greater Brisbane is no longer deemed a coronavirus hotspot, meaning anyone arriving in the NT from Brisbane will no longer have to enter quarantine.

In further news, WA has also announced more measures to protect against COVID-19, including halving its international arrivals cap to around 512 people a week until mid-Feb, and making masks mandatory in airports.

Vic greenlights interstate

THE Victorian Government is reportedly gearing up to introduce a new "traffic light" system for interstate travel across Australia, effectively replacing its hard border policies which had previously caused chaos for Victorians' travel plans.

The new system will require Victorian travellers to obtain a special permit available online when travelling to designated safe zones interstate.

Red zones, which at this stage include Brisbane and the entire state of NSW, will be deemed as "do not travel", while amber zones will need a permit to access and mandate travellers get a test and self isolate when they return home until they receive a negative COVID result.

Green zones will require a permit for travel, however, will not come with any test or quarantine restrictions.

Despite NSW being designated a red zone at this stage, News Limited reports this is subject to a review by the state's Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton, which could see the danger rating in parts

of NSW downgraded, possibly opening up domestic travel channels between Australia's two most populous states.

"We are looking for a clearer, simpler system to give people as much information as possible and as much clarity as possible about how to manage travel over the coming months while we still have active COVID cases popping up around the country," said Vic COVID-19 Response Commander Jeroen Weimar last night.

It is understood the traffic light system will be in place for most of the year, with further details to be revealed later today.

Creative packages

TWO Rail & Sail packages have been launched by Creative Cruising for voyages departing Dec 2021.

One journey combines the Indian Pacific with a cruise aboard *Azamara Journey*, while the other combines the Great Southern and a *Quantum of the Seas* cruise.

To book call 1300 362 599.

WestJet slashes

WESTJET has announced it is cutting more than 1,100 jobs amid a slash of its flight schedule.

Blaming the latest travel restrictions imposed by the Government of Canada, WestJet said it had seen an instant decline in travel demand.

"Immediately following the [Canadian Government's] inbound testing announcement, and with the continuation of the 14-day quarantine, we saw significant reductions in new bookings and unprecedented cancellations," said the airline's Chief Executive Officer Ed Sims.

Domain name for sale

YouDeserveAHoliday.com

For more information and inquiries email:
ahw24643@gmail.com

Viking incentive

A NEW travel advisor incentive has been launched by Viking.

More than \$25,000 of Rewards by Viking points are up for grabs during its Discovery Cruise Sale.

To enter the incentive, all bookings made by registered members in the Discovery Sale until 31 Mar will go into the draw to win dollars to spend in the Rewards by Viking store.

Three prizes will be given away each month from Jan to Mar, with first prize totalling \$5,000, second place \$2,500 & third with \$1,000.

"We are coming into the new year with hopes of change within the travel industry," said Viking ANZ Managing Director Michelle Black, who added the cruise line foresees a "huge" amount of pent-up demand for its cruises.

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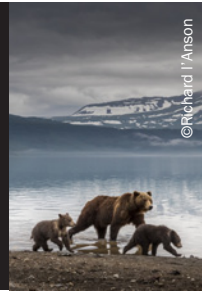
[CLICK HERE TO ENQUIRE](#)

Travel Daily



Read about the change to Celebrity's pricing and what Aurora is doing to protect deposits in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin



VA expands AC loyalty

VIRGIN Australia Group has expanded its partnership with Air Canada (AC), allowing Velocity Frequent Flyer members to earn points and status credits on select flights with Air Canada travelling between Australia, Vancouver and beyond.

To be eligible, members must enter their Velocity Frequent Flyer number when booking their flight directly at aircanada.com, with **TD** informed the official Air Canada partner page will go live on the Velocity website "in the coming days".

The number of Velocity Points earned with Air Canada is based on the fare class and the number of miles travelled, with Virgin customers able to use the mileage calculator **HERE** to determine the miles flown.

Velocity Frequent Flyer members can also earn status credits with Air Canada when travelling in an eligible fare class on AC operated flights.

The status credits earned will depend on where pax fly and the fare purchased, with customers

able to use the status credit mileage calculator **HERE** to determine the miles flown.

However, neither Velocity Points nor status credits can be earned on reward seat bookings or c'shares with third party airlines.

Members travelling on upgraded fares purchased with points or by bidding for an upgrade are able to earn points as per the original fare class purchased.

Air Canada's addition of airline partners began in the lead-up to last year's relaunch of its Aeroplan loyalty program, when it partnered with Air Serbia, Azul Brazilian Airlines, Eithad Airways and Vistara.

Aeroplan members can earn Aeroplan points based on distance flown on all scheduled flights operated by Virgin.

For VA flights wholly within Australia, members can earn status qualifying miles and status qualifying segments, as well as status qualifying dollars for Virgin domestic flights ticketed by AC.

Aeroplan members will also be able to book Virgin flights, which can be combined with flights operated by Air Canada and its other international partners.

UK should do more

TRAVEL to the United Kingdom will be hampered if quarantine restrictions on international travellers remain in place, UKinbound Chief Executive Officer Joss Croft has warned.

"No one is going to come here for a seven-day holiday if they think they have to stay in a hotel for six days before they can spend a day going back home," he said.

The trade association's head welcomed the introduction of pre-arrival coronavirus testing, but said a test after arriving in the United Kingdom is also necessary, and would avoid the need for a five-day quarantine period.

Croft called testing pre-arrival a "very positive step forward", but said it would alone not convince travellers to return to the UK when it's safe to travel again.

Pandaw flexibility

FLEXIBLE booking terms for COVID impacted cruises are now being introduced by Pandaw.

Through to May 2022, all guests who have paid a 20% deposit can change the date or destination of their booking free of charge before 61 days prior to departure where COVID restrictions remain.

For cases within 61 days, Pandaw will provide a cash refund for any amount over pax deposit payment, and will also offer a credit voucher for a client deposit to rebook for a future trip.

CLICK HERE for full details.

Pandaw has also launched its updated Members Club to offer more benefits for returning guests - **CLICK HERE** for more.

Trade blockade ends for Qatar

SAUDI Arabia and its allies have restored diplomatic ties with Qatar after a three-year rift.

Kuwait, a mediator for both sides, announced Saudi Arabia is reopening its airspace, as well as sea and land borders with Qatar, as are Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) pledged solidarity and signed an agreement last week at the GCC summit.

Relations among the nations soured in 2017, when Saudi Arabia and its allies accused Qatar of supporting terrorism, a charge Qatar strenuously denied.

Key West vote could be kiboshed

A FLORIDA bill could overturn Key West's cruise ship restrictions passed in Nov, which are set to reduce traffic (**TD** 05 Nov).

The legislature would see the state take authority over its ports, scrubbing the local government's autonomy over the facilities.

If passed, Senator Jim Boyd's bill could nullify the referendum vote in Key West, which agreed to limitations regarding ship sizes, passenger numbers and the environmental record of lines.

The bill contends the economic impact of a seaport extends far beyond the boundaries of the port's jurisdiction - more in **CW**.



Window Seat

A CAT which escaped while its owner was taking it through a security checkpoint at New York's LaGuardia Airport has been found safe, after almost two weeks in the terminal ceiling.

The traveller, Taylor Le, was moving from New York to California and booked a flight on Christmas Eve for herself and her six-year-old pet, Muji, reports the *New York Post*.

Transportation Security Administration agents insisted that Taylor remove the frisky feline from her carrier at the screening point, and the cat panicked and wriggled free.

A chase ensued, but ultimately Muji disappeared up a series of platforms and into the roof.

The distraught traveller posted about her plight on Facebook, and a pet travel advocacy group mobilised and helped organise a tracking dog to visit the airport.

The golden retriever indicated a location for Muji up in the ceiling, and Taylor returned to New York to lure her down.

Unfortunately that didn't work, but a few days later the cat emerged and was safely caught in a trap before being reunited with her owner.

The pair flew to California on the weekend, this time with the cat passing through security in an escape-proof harness.

INTRODUCING THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY 'HUB'

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Where in the world?



THIS museum has a long title, named for its founder, but is usually just referred to by the founder's last name.

The collection housed within the museum has grown over 80 years and was based on the private collection of the founder.

It was originally housed in a more regular-looking building which was rented, but moved to this impressive structure, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, in 1959.

Do you know where in the world this museum is?

Pick the nation

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

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



Sudoku

TRICKY

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.

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

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

Whose mascot is this?



MIKE the Tiger is in its seventh iteration, with the first having been purchased in 1936.

A Bengal-Siberian mix, Mike used to visit his team's stadium for home games, a tradition that was stopped after animal rights concerns.

Mike lives in a 1,400m² habitat outside of his team's ground, Tiger Stadium, where he is visited by more than 100,000 fans a year.

His roar can often be heard on game day from inside the ground.

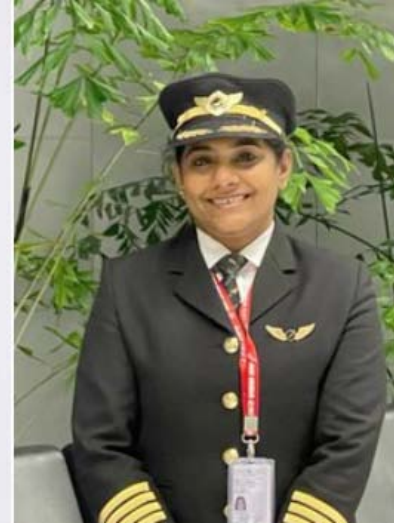
Do you know whose mascot this is?

ANSWERS 08 JAN

Test your airline knowledge: Airport codes - 1 Auckland, New Zealand, 2 Salt Lake City, USA, 3 London Gatwick, UK, 4 Kathmandu, Nepal, Airline liveries - 1 Aeromexico, 2 Eurowings, 3 REX

Pub quiz: 1 Honshu, 2 Calgary 3 Thailand, 4 Hanoi, 5 b) In the 1950s, 6 Cool neighbourhood, 7 Western Australia, 8 Buenos Aires, 9 United States, 10 Whaling

Icon under a microscope - Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, USA



Cairns to the rescue?

CAIRNS Airport Head of Aviation Garry Porter has stated the airport is currently working with airlines, including Air NZ, to secure direct flights to Far North Qld "when the time is right".

"Cairns Airport is working closely with both the state and federal governments, as well as airline carriers as they respond to the changing travel restrictions to accommodate any schedule changes or routes," Porter told *The Cairns Post*.

"We have systems and protocols in place to adjust to these changes whenever they may be needed," he added.

The comments follow the temporary suspension of quarantine-free flights from New Zealand to BNE (TD 06 Jan), with Greater Brisbane going into a three-day lockdown amid fears of COVID-19 community infections.

New World Nha Trang hotel in 2023

NEW World Hotels & Resorts has announced it will open the 306-room New World Nha Trang Hotel in Vietnam in 2023.

When it opens, the property will represent the brand's fourth in the Vietnam market, with the second and third of its hotels to open in Hoi An and Phu Quoc later in the year.

The most recently revealed hotel will boast an outdoor infinity pool, spa, fitness centre, kids' club and beach club.

Mekong Tourism Forum delayed

ORIGINALLY scheduled to take place in Feb, The Mekong Tourism Forum will now be held in Sep instead, delaying the key SE Asian tourism event by seven months.

IN A sign of the airline's growing talent pool of female pilots, an all-women team of pilots flew Air India's inaugural San Francisco to Bangalore route over the weekend - becoming the longest service the carrier offers.

The flight spans more than 16,000 km and flies over the North Pole, taking 17 hours to complete.

In order to accommodate the longer journey, Air India will

operate a crew of four pilots on any one flight who will work in shift rotations.

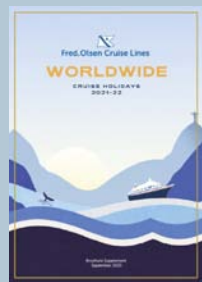
"I truly feel privileged and humbled by the trust posed in me by the civil aviation ministry and our flag carrier," said one of the four pilots on the first flight, Captain Zoya Agarwal.

"It is a golden opportunity to command a Boeing 777 inaugural SFO-BLR, one of the world's longest flights over the Nth Pole."

Pictured: One half of the all-female crew, Capt Zoya Agarwal and Capt Papagari Thanmai.

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.



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines - 2021/22

The latest brochure from Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is packed full of new itineraries to book departing Europe, such as seven-night sailings from Dover to the Faroe Islands, as well as 15-night voyages of Portugal and the Canary Islands. The brochure also puts its two new smaller vessels *Bolette* and *Borealis* in the spotlight. The duo of ships are previewed in great detail, including their suite configurations and many amenities available.

Further new product in 2021 and 2022 includes a 13-night sea adventure from Southampton to explore the Mediterranean and Malta.

IHG Nottingham

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group (IHG) has signed a management agreement that will see the company operate a new dual-branded hotel in the UK city of Nottingham.

The planned 17-storey property will be comprised of 223 rooms in total, 155 allocated for the upscale Hotel Indigo brand and a further 68 aimed at multi-night business and leisure travellers in the adjoining Staybridge Suites.

Features of the upcoming Hotel Indigo in Nottingham will include a bar and restaurant offering locally sourced ingredients, while Staybridge Suites will feature a communal "outdoor living room".

No formal opening date has yet been released by IHG.

Indo plane crash

A BOEING 737-500 Sriwijaya Air flight crashed shortly after take off from the Indonesian capital Jakarta on Sat, likely killing all 62 crew and passengers on board.

The flight was bound for Pontianak in West Kalimantan when it disappeared from radar, with investigators yet to determine a cause for the crash, which could take months.

Although a Boeing aircraft was involved, it should be noted this was not one of its 737 MAX jets.

More people have died in air crashes in Indonesia than in any other country over the past decade, according to Aviation Safety Network's database.

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