

Time to Wave hello

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has launched a range of new services for travel agents, including a special Wave Season webinar on 04 Feb covering the latest cruise updates.

Register for the 10:30am (AEDT) session **HERE** and the 2pm (AEDT) session **HERE**.

The line has also launched a planning checklist and refreshed its BDM booking platform.

Special bush famil

THE Africa Safari Co. is offering agents the chance to explore some of Australia's best national parks like the amazing Gondwana Rainforest and Barrington Tops via a special small group famil.

The expert-led adventure departs Sydney on 09 Feb for a four-day tour, priced from \$975 per person or \$1,125 with a partner - RSVP susie@africasafarico.com.au by 5pm Fri.

Washington DC website revamp

DESTINATION DC has refreshed its digital presence, relaunching its website to be more smart device-friendly and offer improved navigation functionality.

New content has also been added, such as a range of new long-form stories, photography and videos to create a more interactive experience - visit the revamped site **HERE**.

Qld agency seeks relief

QUEENSLAND-BASED Helloworld Travel member Tripaway Travel has filed a "Declaration of Eligibility for Temporary Restructuring Relief," under provisions which have been introduced by the Government to assist companies to continue operating through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The application was lodged on 15 Jan by Travel Schmoo Pty Ltd (ABN 65 127 689 785) which trades under a range of brands including Helloworld Travel Elanora, Helloworld Travel Coolangatta, Helloworld Travel Tweed City, Helloworld Travel Main Street Murwillimbah and Tripaway Corporate Travel.

The special COVID-19 declarations can be lodged at no cost by any company whose directors believe that the company is insolvent, or is likely to become insolvent within the next three months.

Eligibility criteria for the relief also stipulates that the total liabilities of the company must not exceed \$1 million.

The notice increases the amount that must be owed to a creditor from \$2,000 to \$20,000 before the creditor can issue a statutory demand for payment on the company; increases the time a company has to respond to a statutory demand from 21 days to six months; and provides directors with "temporary safe

harbour from personal liability for insolvent trading, for debts incurred in the ordinary course of business".

Directors must act before 31 Mar 2021 if they wish to access the temporary restructuring relief, with Tripaway's notice filed by Andrew Moloney, who is noted as the company's sole officeholder.

The agency has been in business since 2008, with the initial restructuring relief period providing three months of protection, but subject to extension if a further declaration is made or an external administrator is appointed.

InTravel joins CT

INDIGENOUS-OWNED InTravel Group has joined buying network CT Partners, boosting its negotiating power in the market.

Being part of a network of well established independent travel agencies will also boost its knowledge sharing and access to better travel management solutions, InTravel Group said.

Today's issue of TD

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

Rapid immunity test

MELBOURNE Airport could be the trial site for a new rapid COVID immunity test for travellers if it is given the nod of approval by the Federal Government.

The new technology, pioneered by Orbis Diagnostics and French firm IDEMIA, claims to be able to test up to 30 travellers at a time via a single machine, using finger prick blood samples which are returned within 15 minutes.

IDEMIA Oceania MD Xavier Assouad said it was currently pitching the idea of installing the machines at Aussie airports to government, adding that COVID immunity screening would be an important step in resuming international travel once vaccines have been widely distributed.

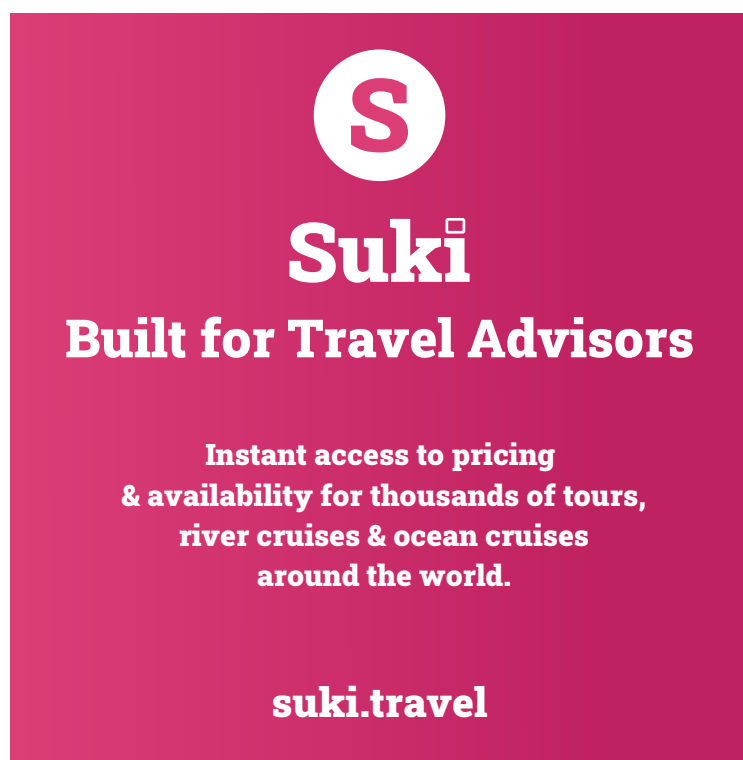
Assouad told News Limited that the company's goal was to have the testing machines installed in Australia and NZ by mid this year, rolling out to the APAC after that.



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CATO hits back at CHOICE

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) has lambasted a recent travel survey published by consumer advocacy group CHOICE (**TD** 20 Jan), labelling the study "misleading and provocative".

CHOICE's *Travel Cancellations due to COVID-19* report, accessible **HERE**, has come under heavy fire from CATO Managing Director Brett Jardine, who suggested the framing of the survey only served to "inflame consumer angst" around issues such as refunds and cancellations.

"If CHOICE is serious about participating in industry reform, it would be more productive for them to engage with our industry from the outset to ensure a clear understanding of the complexities involved," he said.

"This approach would have been of greater value to consumers in helping them to understand," Jardine added.

The CATO chief also called out CHOICE for comparing European Package Travel Regulations with Australian laws in the survey, claiming the contrast in approach will simply lead to greater confusion with consumers.

"There is no one-size-fits-all solution...European Package Travel Regulations around travel refunds in circumstances of 'extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances' were never designed to cater for a global pandemic," Jardine argues.

"It was designed for isolated cases, such as a terrorist attack in a specific destination that would affect travel for a limited time.

"The EU and the UK have retracted this law during COVID as they have quickly realised that if every tour operator, travel agent or supplier gave refunds to consumers, the entire travel and tourism ecosystem would collapse," he added.

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Arden border pivot

FOLLOWING Australia's decision to temporarily close its borders with New Zealand this week (**TD** yesterday), NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Arden has hinted that a future bubble with Australia is more likely to be implemented on a state-by-state basis than on a country level.

The NZ leader said that although her country would continue to pursue a nation-wide green lane with Australia when it was safe to do so, it was looking "increasingly difficult" to make it happen.

Qld and WA were singled out for praise by the Kiwi PM, declaring the regions the frontrunners to form a travel bubble with because they were pursuing an elimination strategy in the same way New Zealand is.

Arden also confirmed at a Cabinet meeting yesterday, that New Zealand should expect to have its international borders impacted for "much of this year".

Royal ups confidence

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) has extended its Cruise with Confidence program, allowing guests the option of cancelling their sailing up to 48 hours before departure and still be able to receive a full cruise credit.

To be eligible for the offer, bookings must be created before 30 Apr 2021 for sailings departing on or before 30 Apr 2022.

The cruise credit can be used for any voyage or RCG brand leaving on or before 30 Sep 2022.

APT flashes savings

APT, Travelmarvel and TravelGlo are offering savings of up to \$3,000 per couple on select Australian tours.

The adventures include a nine-day Cape York and the Great Barrier Reef tour with APT and a 13-day Wonders of the SW holiday in WA with Travelmarvel.

The deal is valid until 01 Feb.



REEFSLEEP, AS SEEN ON TRAVEL GUIDES

On Tuesday 02 Feb 2021 tune in as five groups of ordinary Aussies experience a once in a lifetime opportunity to sleep under the stars and under the sea at Reefworld.

To celebrate, Cruise Whitsundays are providing a \$50*pp discount when you book a Reefsleeper experience for your clients.

FIND OUT MORE

OFFER & COMPETITION

*Terms & Conditions apply see offer & competition button for full details

WIN A REEFSLEEP EXPERIENCE FOR TWO!

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#cruisewhitsundays



**NEED A DISTRACTION
AMID THE DOOM
AND GLOOM?**

Check out our daily puzzle page.



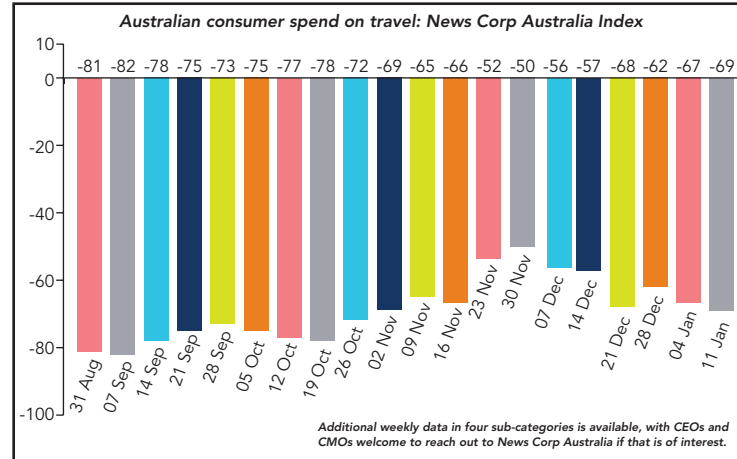
Murray Tourism hit

RECENT border closures in late Dec & early Jan have “decimated” the Murray region’s tourism sector, argues Murray Regional Tourism Chair Wendy Greiner. “To have [borders] slammed closed...on New Year’s Eve caused further disruption to many holiday makers, and compounded the impact on tourism businesses placing the viability of many of these at risk,” she said.

The tourism body recently conducted a survey of 400 businesses in the region, with 37% stating visitor numbers had dropped by 61-99% since the border closures, when compared to the same period last year.

Also of concern is that of the 74% of businesses in the region who previously qualified for JobKeeper, 66% said they were no longer eligible due to their business enjoying a strong early Dec and no longer meeting the 30% drop criteria, despite the recent border closure impacts.

Three-month booking low



EXCLUSIVE

CHALLENGING conditions continue to eat away at consumer booking confidence, reaching the lowest point in nearly three months, according to the latest figures from News Corp.

The week ending 11 Jan dropped another two percentage points to be 69% lower than the same time last year, with the

Brisbane lockdown playing a role in knocking travel confidence.

Accommodation was the hardest hit category from a week-on-week perspective, falling by 13 points to be down 16% YoY.

News Corp’s Head of Travel, Dwayne Birtles, noted travel restrictions lasting longer than COVID clusters was exacerbating the dent in booking confidence.



Window Seat

WITH support for hosting the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games this year dwindling among locals (yes, it’s STILL called the 2020 games for some reason), there is one destination ready to catch the event on the rebound if Japan no longer wants it.

Drum roll please ... it’s Florida, with the state’s CFO Jimmy Patronis formally sending a request to the IOC for the games to be hosted there.

“Our state has ample hotel capacity and well-maintained transportation networks to accommodate the kind of infrastructure required for a major undertaking of this sort,” he said, but there’s one catch, Florida is averaging 12,000 new cases of COVID a day - this idea does not make the podium.

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Know your brands

LOGOS are the main way that companies distinguish themselves, and some logos are so famous that you don't even need to see the company's name to know who it is. See if you can identify these four logos.

1



2



3



4



Where in the world?



THIS stunning chateau is found in a town also famous for its whipped cream.

The site is made up of two buildings joined together, a small

chateau built in 1560 and a larger one which was destroyed in a revolution and rebuilt in the 1870s.

Do you know where in the world this is?

Northern France search

A	T	N	A	M	E	J	F	V	Q	K	S	V	Z	G
N	U	U	O	C	Q	E	K	U	Y	D	N	H	E	F
Q	Q	S	N	O	X	S	D	L	L	B	E	U	O	M
I	A	A	T	E	R	I	U	E	I	S	I	N	X	K
L	R	R	Y	R	P	A	I	O	L	V	M	X	N	T
F	I	Z	R	C	A	F	C	Q	L	B	A	L	F	E
R	X	A	R	A	E	L	N	A	E	B	F	C	J	R
G	I	E	R	L	S	O	I	B	M	R	J	H	B	Z
S	P	F	T	T	R	Y	M	A	E	R	C	A	M	E
E	X	T	Q	T	E	B	Y	V	N	Y	Z	N	O	U
S	A	X	H	L	A	I	R	O	M	E	M	T	C	L
B	R	E	M	E	M	B	R	A	N	C	E	I	A	P
B	R	M	U	S	E	U	M	O	O	M	I	L	Z	O
N	H	E	U	Q	W	C	G	A	A	D	S	L	N	B
W	D	N	I	Y	K	P	V	S	O	V	G	Y	A	F

SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

AMIENS

ANZAC

ARRAS

AUSTRALIAN

BATTLEFIELDS

CHANTILLY

CREAM

CREPE

FRANCE

LILLE

MACARON

MEMORIAL

MUSEUM

NORTHERN

REMEMBRANCE

TRAIL

Whose animal is this?



THE brown bear features prominently in the mythology of this country, which is why it is the country's national animal.

They are considered the 'King of the Forest' by this

nation, although they are rarely encountered in the wild, with around 1,500 roaming the north of the country.

Do you know whose national animal this is?

ANSWERS 27 JAN

Pub quiz: 1 Alaska, 2 Hanoi, 3 b) Kalahari Desert, 4 Greece, 5 Chatswood, 6 Under – population is 956,000, 7 Tokyoites, 8 Sydney Opera House, 9 a) Helsinki, Finland, 10 Canberra

Seen it at the movies: Wolf Creek

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

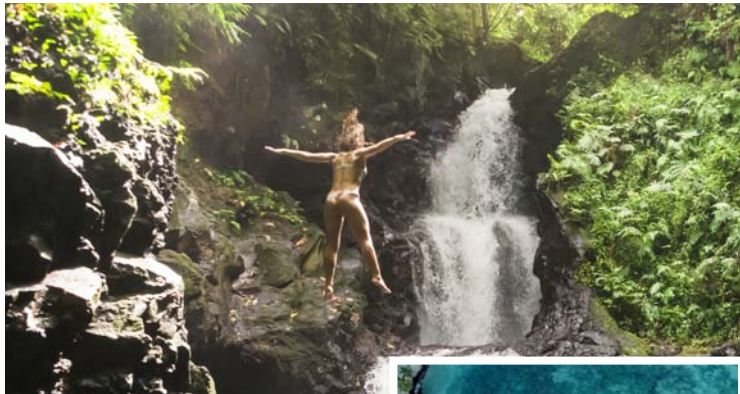
Today's puzzle page is brought to you by Northern France Tourism

Hauts-de-France
Tourism & Convention Board

HAUT & FORT

HAUTS-DE-FRANCE

Samoa falling into place



SAMOA Tourism Authority Chief Executive Officer Fa'amatuainu Lenatai Suifua said his country remains committed to establishing a travel bubble with Australia as soon as it can be implemented safely.

Suifua's comments follow Australian Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly's recent indications that the Pacific Island could be the next nation, after New Zealand, for green zone inclusion.

"We want to see tourists return as soon as possible, and as Australia is currently planning, we're working hard to become

part of the Pacific travel bubble," Suifua said.

"Once travel recommences, health considerations will be at the forefront of all that we do and issues such as insurance, quarantine and testing measures will be agreed upon with the Australian Government."

Pictured: Waterfall jumping at Samoa's Lalotale River Retreat.



Discover all the different Aboriginal cultural experiences travellers can engage in in NSW. Read more in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

Prince Akatoki to arrive in Bangkok

STAYWELL has announced the expansion of The Prince Akatoki brand into Bangkok, Thailand.

Positioned on the bank of the Chao Phraya River, the Prince Akatoki Riverside Bangkok will feature 255 rooms and suites, multiple dining options and a luxury rooftop bar.

Scheduled to open in Q4 of this year, The Prince Akatoki marks the first branded property in South East Asia for StayWell, and the third Prince Akatoki location globally, after London & the yet-to-open Guangzhou properties.

Saga requires jab

SAGA Cruises has announced everyone travelling aboard its ships will have to be fully vaccinated against coronavirus.

The new policy is in addition to COVID-19 protocols put in place for its May and Jun sailings.

Passengers must be vaccinated at least 14 days before cruising, along with other measures include predeparture coronavirus testing in the cruise terminal.

Moving its restart to May to allow for vaccinations, *Spirit of Discovery* will return to service on 02 Jun, and *Spirit of Adventure's* inaugural voyage will continue as planned on 04 May.

APPOINTMENTS

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

MSC Cruises Executive Chairman **Pierfrancesco Vago** has been named Global Chairman of **Cruise Lines International Association**. Vago, who served as MSC Chief Executive Officer from 2003 to 2013, will assume his two-year term immediately, and has previously served as CLIA Europe Chairman.

CaPTA Group has appointed **Paolo Gambino** as its new Business Development Manager. He joins CaPTA's sales team with over 20 years of experience in hospitality management, across brands including Palm Royale Cairns, Oaks Hotels & Resorts and Accor Hotels.

Sam Hartley has taken on a new Sales & Marketing Manager role with **Kakadu Tourism**. Hartley is filling the position previously held by Becca Mills, who is taking the year off on maternity leave. She joins the group after working in the Gold Coast hotel industry for over a decade for properties such as Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach, Crowne Plaza Surfers Paradise and The Star Gold Coast.

InterContinental Hotels Group has announced the appointment of **Thomas Zinn** as General Manager of **Hotel Indigo Adelaide Markets**, and **Gabriele Pezzimenti** as Chef De Cuisine. The two appointments were made ahead of the scheduled 01 Mar opening of the first Hotel Indigo in Australia.

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