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## Be part of the recovery!

### EXCLUSIVE

**THE** Inspire Collective has today launched a new research project into the Australian travel agent sector, with the aim of gathering insights to support and inspire the industry once the COVID-19 pandemic passes.

The key initiative is led by Deb Fox and Susan Haberle (**TD** 09 Dec 2020), who are inviting travel agent business owners and managers across Australia to participate by completing an online survey, helping to create a "sustainable and bright future" for agents.

"Like you we have also been adapting, with collaborations

across a range of industries," said Haberle, adding: "we now want to combine these new learnings, together with our expertise in the travel industry, to help evolve and create a brighter future".

The research focuses on what travel agent business and client needs will be beyond the current landscape, with Fox and Haberle envisioning a "life post pandemic where travel agents can thrive".

The responses will be collected anonymously and summarised into a report, with the insights used to advise, help reshape and support the travel agent sector into the future.

All participants will have the opportunity to win one of five \$100 Visa gift vouchers, with the survey open until Fri 30 Jul.

The pair have published a video with more information which is live at [traveldaily.com.au/videos](http://traveldaily.com.au/videos) and to participate **CLICK HERE**.

**Take the Inspire survey**

## TA lists UK tender

**TOURISM** Australia (TA) is seeking to appoint a new PR agency to develop and implement new campaigns in the UK.

The target of the successful applicant's campaigns will be "high-value travellers", such as those travelling for incentive and reward travel programs, as well as working holiday-makers.

The tourism body has put the marketing contract to tender and will take applications from agencies located both at home and overseas, with the brief stating the partner must understand "Tourism Australia's overarching vision to become the most memorable and desirable destination on earth".

Applications close 17 Aug.

## Uniworld exclusive

**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Cruises has announced a third "mystery cruise", this time with spaces reserved exclusively for passengers from Australia & NZ.

Only being marketed locally, the voyage is scheduled to depart on 02 Oct 2022, with guests receiving a series of clues and a packing list to prepare in the weeks prior to sailing.

See [uniworld.com/au/Mystery](http://uniworld.com/au/Mystery).

## Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today has five pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page, plus full pages from:

- **Tourism Tasmania**
- **Singapore Travel Specialist**

## Viking new modules

**VIKING** has released another two modules as part of its Warriors of Wisdom training program in the **Travel Daily** Training Academy, with the latest workshops featuring info on the line's top selling river and ocean itineraries, as well as pre- and post-cruise extensions.

Agents who complete modules nine and ten before 31 Aug will have a chance to win one of 10 \$50 gift cards - more info **HERE**.

Viking is also offering agents the chance to win one of 20 x \$50 gift cards as an incentive to use its marketing collateral and share it with their clients.

The deadline to enter is 31 Jul.

## Spain trade show

**TRAVEL** advisors and wholesalers from Australia and New Zealand are being invited to attend a two-day virtual trade event hosted by the Spain Tourism Board from 2pm-4.30pm AEST on 27-28 Jul.

Registration is free and can be made until this Fri, with 27 Spanish reps to host fifteen meetings updating the market on the latest Spanish products and safety protocols - register **HERE**.

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## Asia Pacific pessimistic

**COUNTRIES** in the Asia Pacific region are less optimistic about the time it will take to make a full travel recovery than the rest of the world, according to figures released by CAPA this week.

The aviation consultancy's *Asia Pacific Travel Recovery Report* showed that nations in the region are more pessimistic about the time line for reaching herd immunity, with 27% of respondents believing that only a "handful of nations" will free up their travel sector by attaining herd immunity by early 2022.

Australia's local region was also less bullish than the global average about when international travel would be back to pre-pandemic levels, with 65% expecting recovery in 2023 or later, including 9% who predicted a full recovery would not be in stall until 2025.

A smaller more optimistic portion of Asia Pacific respondents said a full rebound would be made by mid-2022 (8%), while 17% believe volumes will recover fully by late 2022.

Encouragingly for short-haul

travel, the survey noted a "solid recovery" in the segment by next year, with 71% of people eyeing off a bounceback in shorter leisure trips.

More than a third said that global short-haul trips should recover to between 61-80% of 2019 levels, while 36% said they anticipate more than an 80% rebound by 2022.

Again the Asia Pacific region was more conservative in its predictions, with only 57% believing a "solid recovery" in short-haul travel was attainable by next year.

With regard to long-haul travel recovery, between 41-60% said a reclamation of 2019 volumes would be possible by 2022, while a third expect a recovery beyond 60% during the same period.

Mandated, COVID testing while travelling looks set to hang around beyond this year, the report claims, with only one in five people believing testing will be phased out in 2021 in line with the vaccine rollout, while just over half said it would remain until the end of 2022.



## MEL at 40-year low

**MELBOURNE** Airport has delivered its lowest full-year passenger numbers in close to 40 years, with only 6.1 million travellers passing through the gates for FY2020/21.

With international borders shut, the vast majority of passengers were on the move for domestic travel purposes, accounting for 5,939,368 of the total number, down 68.8% on FY2019/20.

With Melbourne Airport only seeing 230,455 passengers pass through during the year for international travel, a whopping 97.2% plummet was noted when compared to the period last year.

## SA/NZ bubble pops

**NEW** Zealand has added South Australia as the latest state to be paused on the trans-Tasman bubble due to COVID cases.

SA is now barred from entering New Zealand until Tue at the earliest, when the state's seven-day lockdown is set to end.

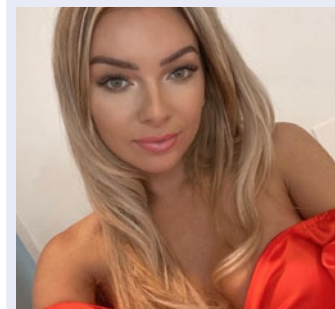
"The decision is based on public health advice from New Zealand officials," the NZ Govt said.



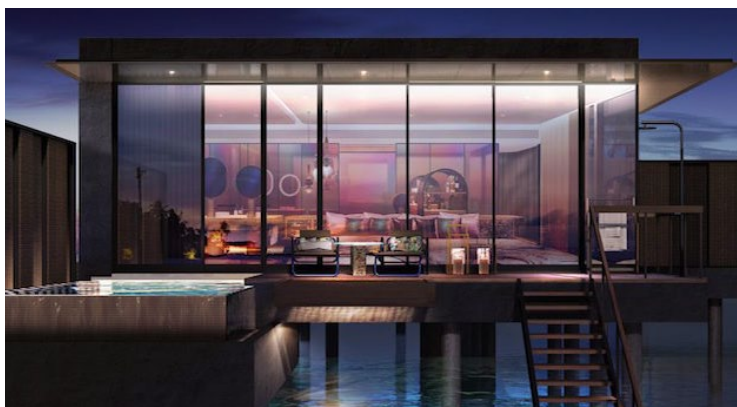
## Window Seat

**YOU** just can't keep the travel industry down, a point reinforced with gusto this week with the unveiling of a Flight Centre Travel Manager as a contestant for love on the upcoming series of *The Bachelor* debuting tonight.

Originally from Queensland, Tahnee Leeson (**pictured**) has been with Flight Centre in Melbourne since 2015, and is now looking for a man to take off with on her love journey, fortunately for Leeson, the bachelor is a pilot this year!



## Accor unveils more Maldives



**ACCOR** has announced the signing of SO/Maldives, which is set to feature 80 villas and debut in the country in 2023.

The resort will be nestled on its own island, located just 15 minutes by speedboat from Velana International Airport, and will join Accor's collection of resorts already in the Maldives,

including the mid-scale Mercure brand, premium Pullman and Movenpick locations, as well as the luxury Raffles and Fairmont brands.

**Pictured:** A render of a luxury villa at SO/Maldives which includes private deck and spa.

More accommodation updates are available on **page six**.

# Keep up to date with Travel Daily on the go

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Travel Daily







## Wendy Wu Japan

**WENDY** Wu Tours has released its 2022/23 brochure featuring itineraries across Japan, Taiwan and South Korea.

The new digital brochure contains trips for fully inclusive group tours, immersive Go Beyond trips, as well as dedicated solo departures on popular itineraries which offer travellers additional perks such as chauffeur transfers and airport lounge passes in select cities.

Call 1300 727 998 to access the new Japan brochure.

## I prefer rewards

**PREFERRED** Hotel Group has unveiled several updates to its I Prefer Hotel Rewards loyalty program, including new membership tiers, extra redemption options and new independent hotel experiences.

The new Explorer category (25,000-49,999 points) offers the standard Insider tier benefits, plus a bottle of wine, spa credit and 20% bonus points earning per eligible stay.

Members can now also book Reward Nights with points.

## Shaken but not stirred



**PERTH-BASED** travel agency Martini Travel celebrated its fifth birthday on Fri, with owners Rhett and Krystal Martini inviting clients and partners along to mark the milestone achievement.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* yesterday, Rhett Martini said the secret of the company's ongoing success through the challenging COVID period has been maintaining its key relationships.

"Building strong relationships with clients and suppliers has created an important loyalty and goodwill for our business, while another strength has been our diversity - we're not a strictly

corporate office or a leisure office," he said.

While the agency has maintained a mild volume of leisure bookings during the pandemic, the company's current strength has been its appeal with corporate travellers.

"Pre-COVID our business was roughly 70% corporate and 30% leisure, but mid-COVID has seen that split move to 95% corporate and 5% leisure," Martini said, adding that thankfully a number of clients have come to the agency wanting to book travel in WA - predominantly associated with the mining sector.

"We're able to give corporate clients what they need, we provide 24/7 service where they don't get an outsourced call centre, they get myself or my wife Krystal giving them personalised client service," Martini said.

Looking to the future, Martini Travel sees an opportunity for travel agents across the country to help travellers navigate the increasingly convoluted travel landscape emerging from the global shutdown.

"With the constant changes to borders and a massive increase in what's required just to be allowed to get on board a plane, the services of a travel agent now more than ever are absolutely essential," Martini said.

**Pictured:** Celebrations in full swing, with husband and wife owners Rhett and Krystal Martini kneeling in the front row.

## Airline bid doubts

**PERTH-BASED** investor Brad Coombe has so far failed to raise the capital needed to launch a new challenger airline in the Australian market, only raising \$4,000 of a \$2.9 million target.

According to a report in *The Australian*, the proposed airline was going to be called Brad, with designs on being the country's new "people-friendly" carrier.

Although the project appears destined not to get off the ground, Coombe has reportedly clarified the fundraising page is only down for maintenance and would be up again soon.

## Resort hits hurdle

**THE** proposed \$300 million luxury Fairmont Port Douglas Resort (**TD** 15 Jul 2020) has hit a major snag after Douglas Shire planners declared the project did not currently meet requirements of the town's planning scheme.

Developers Chiodo Corp and the council will now engage in a series of meetings over the next six weeks regarding the project's scale and height, but owner Paul Chiodo has been left fuming by the decision to not recommend approval for construction.

"If this doesn't get up, you just won't have any five-star developers coming to Port Douglas - they just won't bother," he told *The Cairns Post*.

"We are disappointed, we received zero objections from the community, but we will welcome some more specific feedback."

## Paul eyes off Aug

**PAUL** Gauguin Cruises has extended its pause on voyages in the Pacific until at least 28 Aug, revealing ambitions to return to local sailings after that date.

The company, which was acquired two years ago by Ponant (**TD** 09 Aug 2019), said it was confident of a return to the French Polynesian market, stating a belief "that the environment will support it."

## Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients - giving you a reason to reach out to your database.

Click here to view *Keep Dreaming* magazine

Click here for a toolkit to help you share it with clients



Travel & Cruise Weekly

## France word search

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

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

BASTILLE  
BORDEAUX  
BRIE  
BURGUNDY  
CAMEMBERT  
COTEDAZUR  
EIFFELTOWER  
LOIREVALLEY

LOUVREMUSEUM  
MONTBLANC  
MONTSTMICHEL  
NICE  
NOTREDAME  
PARIS  
PROVENCE  
VERSAILLES

## Unscramble

**HOW** many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| R | E | I |
| N | B | T |
| L | G | M |

Good – 16 words  
Very good – 24 words  
Excellent – 31 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

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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



## Whose flag is this?



**THIS** flag became the official one of this country when it gained independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991.

The current design was chosen from a competition to create a new flag, with more than 200 entries received and it was the first country of the newly formed

republics in the region to choose a new flag.

The unusual placements of the stars in the top corner is deliberate and when linked together, they form the inscription Allah in Arabic script, reflecting the nation's dominant religion.

Do you know whose flag this is?

ANSWERS 21 JUL  
Know your brands: 1 Girl Guides, 2 Tourism Malaysia, 3 Bridgestone, 4 Audible  
Whose flag is this: Uzbekistan  
Unscramble: begin, being, belt, belting, bent, berg, berm, bier, bile, bilge, bingle, bite, brig, brim, brine, bring, gerbil, giblet, glib, limb, limber, nimble, nimbler, timber, timbre, trebling, TREMBLING, tribe



## Normal dives aren't much chop



**EXPERIENCE** Co's Skydive Australia has this week been granted council approval to take the plunge on its new heli skydive experience in Surfers Paradise.

Officially dropping into the market this Fri, the unique adrenaline activity offers visitors to the region the chance to skydive directly onto Main Beach, boasting the future mantle of being the only tandem heli skydiving experience operating regularly in Australia.

"We are delighted that the Gold Coast City Council has supported our vision to deliver this wonderful new tourism product for the region with our highly experienced partners, Sea World Helicopters, at a time when we are all looking at how we can help get the tourism industry back on its feet again," Experience Co's CEO John O'Sullivan said.

"Anyone who has jumped out of a helicopter will tell you that this takes skydiving to the next level and what better place to offer it but on the spectacularly beautiful Gold Coast," he added.

The service, conducted in



partnership with Sea World Helicopters, will operate three days a week Fri to Sun, and costs \$570 per person, with video packages also available for an additional \$179.

**Pictured:** The fun of being the test jumper in action.

**MEANWHILE** Experience Co has commenced construction on the first new pontoon for the Great Barrier Reef in 10 years.

Flagged for Moore Reef near Cairns, the pontoon will cater for up to 250 guests and feature an underwater observatory with floor to ceiling windows, as well as a scientific lab to conduct reef research and projects.

The facility will also be friendly to the environment, boasting wind and solar generators & panels as energy sources.

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## ACT evasive action

**THE** ACT's borders are now effectively closed to half of Australia, as Canberrans are warned by the local govt against taking interstate holidays.

From today, non-ACT residents will not be permitted to travel to Canberra if they have been in South Australia, unless they receive an exemption.

Canberrans who are returning home from SA must also get tested for COVID and comply with a stay-at-home order until Tue.

## Are you fully vaxed?

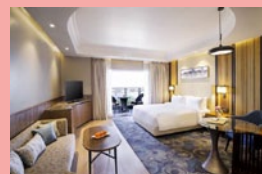
**TOURISM** Fiji's safety plan, Care Fiji Commitment (CFC), has launched a new 100% vaccinated stamp (**TD** 06 Nov 2020).

Approved operators whose entire teams are fully vaccinated will have access to a new communication tool confirming this important safety measure.

The new feature will be displayed concurrently with the CFC logo to identify businesses that have been fully jabbed against coronavirus.

## ACCOMMODATION

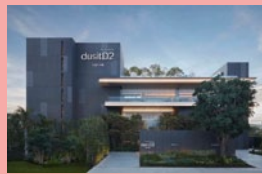
**WELCOME** to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to [accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



The newest gem in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, **Radisson Blu Resort Dharamshala**, has opened. The upscale brand's newest location is found in the scenic foothills of the Dhauladhar range, and offers the perfect combination of business and leisure amenities for discerning travellers. Easily accessible from Kangra Airport, the resort features 120 uniquely designed modern rooms overlooking the spectacular Kangra Valley.



A luxury Ice Caves Heli Adventure has been launched by **Shangri-La Vancouver**, alongside Headline Mountain Holidays. Adventure travellers are transported by private helicopter to Headline's base camp on an ice cap, which is followed by a snow machine tour to Whistler's ice caves. Guests can also access activities such as glacier golf with biodegradable balls, a mixology class using ice collected from the day's journey, and a three-night stay in a luxury suite.



**usitD2 Residences Hua Hin**, an upscale, pet-friendly retreat in the heart of the seaside resort in Thailand, is located just a seven-minute walk from the town's main beach, and near popular tourist attractions such as Cicada Market and Bluport Huahin. The hotel features 152 contemporary guest rooms and suites ranging in size from 30m<sup>2</sup> to 92m<sup>2</sup>, some of which feature pet-friendly amenities for up to two faunal friends.

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