



## Today's issue of TD

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

## We're back on Tue

**WE CAN** thank Queen Libibet's family for the upcoming long weekend happening in all states except Western Australia and Qld, with the public holiday keeping the **Travel Daily** team in Sydney out of the office this Mon.

However we will be back with all of the latest news and developments on Tue!

## NSW student pilot

A **NEW** pilot program announced by the NSW Govt could see Australia welcome back international students from as early as next month.

The plan will allow for 250 foreign students to arrive every fortnight, increasing to around 500 students per fortnight by the end of the year.

NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said that without the pilot program, a lack of student visitation would cost the NSW economy more than \$11 billion by the end of next year.

Tourism Accommodation Association NSW CEO Michael Johnson also noted the program would boost the state's hotel skills shortage crisis.

"This was a problem before COVID and it is even worse now due to the lack of international students," Johnson said.

## Emirates/Sabre stalemate

### EXCLUSIVE

**EMIRATES** has announced that travel agents will not be able to sell EK tickets or service existing bookings on Sabre and Abacus effective 01 Jul 2021.

The distribution agreement between the GDS provider and the airline expires at the end of the month, with Emirates saying that for more than a year it had "attempted to reach a successor agreement with Sabre on similar terms and conditions as those we have reached with our other GDS partners".

However "due to Sabre's lack of progress in these discussions, we would like to inform you that Emirates is now operating on the basis that no distribution agreement will be in place between Emirates and Sabre effective 01 Jul 2021," EK said in an update to agents yesterday.

The carrier said it recognised that for Sabre users this change will cause significant inconvenience and disruption.

"We have made every possible preparation to minimise the impact on you," Emirates said,

## Vic pause extended

**THE** New Zealand Government has extended its trans-Tasman bubble pause for Victorians until 7.59pm NZST on Thu 17 Jun.

Anyone who was in Vic between 20-25 May & are now in another state can fly to NZ with a negative test 72 hours pre-departure.

urging agents to contact their EK sales representatives to discuss alternative ways to book tickets.

"Of course Emirates would have preferred to agree to participate in the Sabre GDS on reasonable terms, and we regret that this has not been possible, not least because of the inconvenience and disruption this might cause our agency and corporate partners, and our passengers," EK said.

The carrier noted that it remained open to "constructive and solution-oriented" discussions with Sabre to find a path forward.

## G7 sit up and notice

**THREE** of the world's biggest airline alliances have united to call on governments to cooperate on policy to reboot int'l travel.

Oneworld, SkyTeam and Star Alliance have released a group statement in the lead-up to the G7 Summit in the UK, to agree on a common set of health standards to enable the safe and speedy reopening of borders.

"With considerable data now available to support govt decisions in managing risks, decisive action from G7 members to open borders and support clear...measures, would remove uncertainty," the groups said.

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## Window Seat

**YOU** scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.

That seems to be the message from accommodation platform Airbnb who has announced the details of its Live Anywhere on Airbnb program this week, allowing 12 people to stay exclusively inside one of its listings for a year free of charge so long as they share their experiences to help inform future product upgrades.

Airbnb will not only cover the cost of accommodation to obtain marketing intelligence, but will also provide an allowance for transportation for the duration of the program.

Participants are required to provide "real world insights on features, services, and the experience of nomad living".

## Three more months of pain

**HEALTH** Minister Greg Hunt's extension of the current Human Biosecurity Emergency Period until 17 Sep (**TD** breaking news) means the travel and tourism industry will have by then had to endure a full 18 months of being unable to trade due to the closure of international borders.

Hunt said the extension was "informed by specialist medical and epidemiological advice" provided by the AHPPC committee of state and territory Chief Health Officers, which had advised that the international COVID-19 situation "continues to pose an unacceptable risk to public health".

The declaration ensures the Government has the power to take any necessary measures to prevent and control the disease, and automatically extends the four existing emergency determinations which mandate pre-departure testing and

mask-wearing for international flights, as well as restrictions on the trade of retail outlets at international airports, the entry of cruise vessels within Australian territory, and on outbound international travel for Aussies.

The rhetoric in yesterday's announcement was identical to when the declaration was previously extended (**TD** 03 Mar), indicating minimal progress on plans for reopening and yet another undertaking to "consult with the States and Territories and the maritime industry on options for the staged resumption of cruising when the medical advice is that it is safe to do so".

The travel, tourism and cruise sectors continue to press for a roadmap to recovery, amid concerning comments by PM Scott Morrison this week indicating the Govt was continuing to pursue an elimination strategy in relation to COVID-19.

## MSC expands luxe

**THE** MSC Group has unveiled a new luxury cruise brand called Explora Journeys, targeting "the next generation of discerning luxury travellers".

Life on board the brand's new ships will offer guests a choice of 461 oceanfront suites and residences across 14 decks, four pools, a guest to crew ratio of 1.25 to 1, nine restaurants as well as both indoor and outdoor spa and fitness areas.

The first of four new luxury ships will set sail for the first time in 2023, with more vessels to roll out over the following three years - more details in **Cruise Weekly**.

## Learn about Suki

**SUKI** is holding a special webinar in association with The Travel Community Hub so agents can learn more about how the exciting product can help you.

Session takes place at 1pm AEST on 16 Jun - see **HERE** to register.

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## CORPORATE UPDATE

### FCM's lighter footprint

**FLIGHT** Centre-owned travel management company FCM Travel has revealed the details of a new global carbon offset program designed to help clients neutralise the environmental impact of business travel plans.

Resulting from a new partnership with climate change specialist South Pole, the new initiative will see FCM customers able to offset their carbon footprint against flights, hotel accommodation, rail bookings, car rental and a host of other business travel components.

"We're making sustainability a core pillar of our customer offering for 2021, putting greater focus on guiding and supporting clients with their objectives, particularly in terms of CO2 reporting and a global net zero solution that enables them to contribute to positive climate action," FCM Global Managing Director Marcus Eklund said.

"Sustainability has moved higher up our customer's business travel agenda, despite the impact of COVID-19, in fact, after the travel bans of 2020

enabled companies to reduce their carbon footprint from travel significantly, many are not only re-emphasising their overall environmental objectives post-COVID, they're making them an integral part of travel policies and RFPs," he added.

The new climate program can calculate, record and report monthly or quarterly CO2 emissions globally per item for each client, with travellers able to choose from a range of climate action projects with which to offset their total carbon footprint.

### CWT gets smarter

**CWT** has introduced a new intelligent display tool to its hotel platform RoomIt, which will help maintain consistency of hotel policy content between channels for its users.

Integrating a consumer grade recommendation engine, the enhanced intelligent display uses machine learning to promote more contextually relevant and policy compliant hotels and rates to travellers.

### WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK?

TUES: NORFOLK IS. & NEW CALEDONIA

WED: ITALY, THE HOTEL CONNECTION

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### Let's sling to Singapore



**IN THE** most promising development since the opening of the trans-Tasman bubble, Australia has agreed in principle to establish a green lane with Singapore when the majority of citizens in both countries are fully vaccinated.

While realistically a travel bubble is likely to be months away from forming, Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong have agreed to work on "harmonising mutual recognition" of health and vaccination certificates to create a framework for the two countries to resume two-way travel as seamlessly as possible.

"There is nothing impeding us from getting on with the job of

putting systems in place that will enable such a bubble to emerge," Morrison said while visiting Singapore this week.

Meanwhile Singapore's leader added that a travel bubble would look to be created in a "safe and calibrated manner" and when the appropriate infrastructure and processes had been implemented to facilitate the agreement.

In more encouraging news, the two countries hinted that students would be given first priority when a travel bubble did open up - possibly in a similar manner to the NSW pilot program revealed today (see **page one**).

**Pictured:** Scott Morrison meets with Singapore leader Lee Hsien Loong this week.

### AC extends refunds

**AIR** Canada has extended its COVID-19 refund policy by another 30 days, allowing customers who purchased a non-refundable ticket before 13 Apr for travel on or after 01 Feb 2020 to submit a request for a refund online or with their travel agent.

"The number of customers who have requested a refund is lower than anticipated and most have kept their travel credit, Air Canada travel voucher or Aeroplan points, which we are pleased to see as it is an indication they plan on travelling in the future," the airline said.

### Bunnik first WA trip

**OFFERING** "the best of the South West", Bunnik Tours has released its first tour to WA.

The South West In Depth excursion encompasses 14 days in the state, during which travellers will explore the South West's wine country, taste its produce, and be reacquainted with nature, from its deserts to its forests.

Departures are scheduled to operate between Sep until Apr 2022, with all touring conducted in a full-sized 46-seater air-conditioned coach.

The tour is priced from just \$5,995 per person, twin share - **CLICK HERE** for more details.



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## Icon under a microscope



**THIS** landmark is iconic and easily recognisable when you see the whole picture, but can you identify it from this small portion of the image?

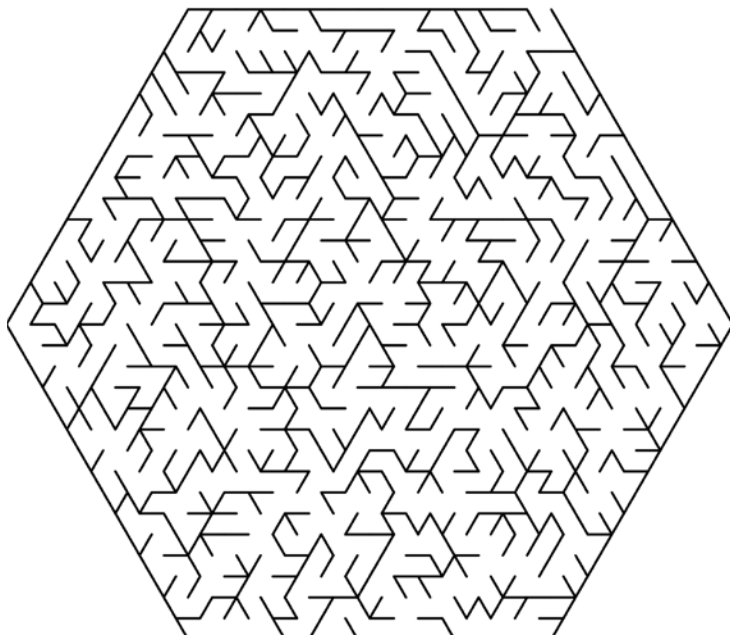
Despite being originally built as a

church and still having a religious name, this brightly coloured building is now a museum.

It was built in the 16th century and has nine domes, which are all various sizes and designs.

## A-maze-ing

**CAN** you find your way through this maze? Start at the top and finish at the bottom.



## Funnies Flashback



**WE'VE** trawled through the *TD* Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 29 Jul 2014:

**LOS** Angeles Int'l Airport is reporting overwhelming levels of positive feedback to a new program introduced last year to help travellers stuck on delayed or cancelled flights.

The "Pets Unstressing Passengers" (PUP) program consists of 30 well-trained dogs moving about the terminal with their owners providing entertainment for pax waiting for their delayed flight.

The dogs' are affectionately known as the "pup-arazzi" as a nod to nearby Tinseltown.

Each dog is neatly dressed in a red vest inviting travellers to pat them and have been trained to associate with groups of people.

The troupe are brought in to walk around during long periods of delay and have been found to be very well received by flyers.

## Whose mascot is this?



**ALTHOUGH** there are many live animal mascots out there, this is not one of them.

Sebastian the Ibis is an anthropomorphic mascot sporting his team's jersey.

His team is not nicknamed the

Ibises, moreover, Sebastian was selected due to the bird's known bravery, particularly in the face of a natural disaster, such as a hurricane...I wonder if that may be a clue?

Whose mascot is this?

Icon under a microscope: St Basil's Cathedral, Moscow, Russia  
Whose mascot is this: Sebastian the Ibis - University of Miami Hurricanes (all athletics teams)

ANSWERS 11 JUN

## Princess CrewCall

**PRINCESS** Cruises has expanded its MedallionClass offering with two new on-demand features, CrewCall and CrewCall Chat.

Guests can now call a crew member to their exact location on Princess ships to make in-person requests for assistance.

The CrewCall service is available on stateroom televisions as well as the MedallionClass application, leveraging the OceanMedallion wearable device.

The corresponding CrewCall Chat feature allows guests to text specific questions or requests to crew using a smart device to be answered and resolved virtually by a staff member.

## Bonus commissions

**TRAVEL** advisors will receive a bonus 2% commission on all new Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours bookings made online through ExpressBook until the end of Jul.

The news comes as the tour operator unveils its 2022/23 Europe & Med brochure for *Scenic Eclipse* - see **CW** on Tue.

## Motel chief urges direct bookings

**BENDIGO** Motels Association President Kristyn Slattery has urged tourists to book directly with businesses, expressing concern that money flagged to help communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic is being lost to online travel agencies.

"When you book through a third party website, a large percent goes off-shore," Slattery told the *Bendigo Advertiser*.

"That means government money is not doing what it is intended...there are a number of ways people can book direct such as going to [local businesses] websites or calling direct."

## Munich eyes reboot

**MUNICH** International Airport is set to reopen its Terminal 1 as air traffic continues to rise.

MUC's long-haul routes are being gradually restored as the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines continues, with all relocated airlines except Eurowings to return to Terminal 1.

## Oh golly it's a new Dolly!



**AMERICAN** country music identity Dolly Parton has announced a US\$500 million expansion of Dollywood.

The proposed growth plan includes the addition of the 302-room HeartSong Lodge & Resort (render **pictured**), which will be located a short distance away from the theme park and adjacent to Dollywood's DreamMore Resort & Spa.

The HeartSong Lodge will feature five floors of guest rooms that include theme suites and

loft rooms, a central four-storey atrium with a large central fireplace, and a range of culinary and shopping experiences.

"I'm so proud of this place that we've been able to build here in the Smokies," Parton beamed.

"I always dreamed of accomplishing two things with Dollywood - I wanted to give jobs to the folks who live here and I wanted to give visitors another reason to come and experience the beauty of the Smoky Mountains," she added.

## TRAVEL SPECIALS

**WELCOME** to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to [specials@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:specials@traveldaily.com.au)

**Silversea Cruises** has introduced a reduced deposit of only 15% and an enhanced early booking bonus, where guests can book and pay in full and save 10% off their total cruise fare. Call 1300 306 872 for more details.

Score 10% off your voyage fare, US\$100 toward a prepaid bar tab, and receive bonus sailor loot per cabin on Summer Soiree sailings from Portsmouth with **Virgin Voyages**. "Sea" more about the deals **HERE**.

When IHG Rewards Members book a Sydney Solstice stay this winter with **InterContinental Hotels Group**, they will enjoy up to 35% off when choosing the advance saver rate. For more information on IHG Hotels & Resorts Sydney Solstice packages, call 1800 468 357.

Super earlybird tickets are on sale now for **Maximum Occupancy**, New Zealand's accommodation industry conference. Register now and save up to 40% on tickets for the event, which takes place on 18 & 19 Aug at Aotea Centre Auckland. For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

Australia's first Movenpick hotel, **Movenpick Hotel Hobart**, is giving the upcoming school holidays a deliciously sweet twist. Bookings start from \$245 a night and include free Movenpick ice cream daily for all children under 12 years. Call 1300 656 565 for details.

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