

Oita training launch

AUSTRALIAN travel advisors now have the chance to learn more about the allure of Japan's Oita prefecture as a future holiday destination, thanks to a new training website launched via the **TD** Training Academy.

There are three specialist training modules for advisors to complete and turn themselves into an expert in the Kyushu-based destination, including an introduction to Oita, nature & relaxation, and cuisine & culture.

The destination is described as the ideal locale for travellers who are looking to go beyond the usual Japanese gateways.

By completing the modules, four lucky agents will win a \$200 voucher to their favourite local Japanese Restaurant, or one of four rare LEGO Bonsai Trees.

Winners will be announced each Wed for four weeks, starting 17 Mar - for more information on the training, see **page six**.

More support for industry

AN ADDITIONAL \$128 million has been allocated by the Federal Government to support the travel sector (**TD** breaking news), with AFTA pledging to work with officials to ensure the extra money is "relevant to agency costs and promotes the retention of key expertise within the sector".

The top-line figure was confirmed by Tourism Minister Dan Tehan this morning as part of a wider \$1.2 billion package, with additional information expected to be forthcoming shortly.

Details are not yet clear, but **TD** sources indicate the \$128 million may become available in the form of an additional three months' support for industry businesses, with ongoing assessments for further funding thereafter based on the status of borders.

AFTA Chairman Tom Manwaring noted the urgent needs of the industry, saying "without tailored

support we will see eight in 10 people still working in travel out of a job, and three in 10 businesses having to close".

CEO Darren Rudd thanked the Government for acting on "our increasingly desperate pleas that ongoing support is critical".

AFTA looked forward to continuing to work closely with the Government on the details of the implementation "so that this historic support goes to those travel businesses who most need help," Rudd said.

He also noted that the ongoing refinement of the previous COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program was "continuing as a priority...AFTA will keep on working with Austrade to make sure support gets to where it is so desperately needed...this is our major priority".

More on today's funding announcements on **page two**.

Google reminder

THE first session in Google's free digital upskilling series for the Australian travel industry (**TD** 02 Mar) kicks off today at 2pm (AEDT), offering tips and advice on how smaller travel businesses can develop digital skills and stand out more online.

Workshops will also discuss the latest industry trends and provide greater insights on topics such as Google Search and Analytics.

To register, **CLICK HERE**.

ATG clarification

APT Travel Group has confirmed that the administration fee it is charging on refunded bookings (**TD** yesterday) is \$400 per passenger, not per booking.

Today's issue of **TD**

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a full page from **Oita Prefecture**.



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\$1.2b for aviation, tourism

AUSTRALIA'S aviation sector is being seen as a big winner from this morning's \$1.2 billion tourism funding announcement (**TD** breaking news), with close to 800,000 government subsidised tickets to be offered up to travellers in a bid to increase domestic travel to the country's most hard-hit regions.

Applying to travel between Apr and Jul, the half-price tickets, available for sale only on airline websites, will offer flights to and from 13 destinations which include the Gold Coast, Cairns, the Whitsundays, the Sunshine Coast, the Lasseter region, Alice Springs, Launceston, Devonport, Burnie, Broome, Avalon, Merimbula and Kangaroo Island.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison hailed the tourism support package as Australia's "ticket to recovery" this morning, suggesting the stimulus would support tourism operators,

businesses, travel agents and airlines who "continue to do it tough through COVID-19, while our int'l borders remain closed".

But the package has not been met with universal fanfare, with the Australian Chamber of Tourism labelling the package only "second-class support", pointing out its failure to deliver benefits to the big cities like Sydney and Melbourne, as well as no immediate cash support to distributors who will not be able to wait for loans to kick in.

The body also noted the discount airfares would do little for travel agents who will also be crucial in the reboot of travel.

The Accommodation Association was equally scathing, declaring that Melbourne and Sydney have been "left for dead".

The two cities have a forward booking rate of less than 10% for the next 90 days and need urgent help, the body argued.

Intrepid takes on French partner

INTREPID Travel today confirmed a new "strategic partnership" which will see a minority stake in the company taken by French investment firm Genairgy, backed by the family which founded the Decathlon global sporting goods retail network (**TD** breaking news).

Intrepid co-founders Darrell Wade and Geoff Manchester will retain the majority of the company and stay on the Intrepid Board, alongside existing CEO James Thornton who will also remain in place.

Genairgy owner Julien Leclercq will also become an Intrepid Director, with the company confirming \$491m in sales in 2019 and plans to grow this to \$1 billion by 2025, notwithstanding the impacts of the pandemic.

The transaction, for an undisclosed amount, is expected to settle early next month.

Jetstar adds six

QANTAS subsidiary Jetstar has moved to bolster its capacity in the Western Australian market, adding six Airbus A320 aircraft to its fleet from Jetstar Japan for the next two years.

Jetstar CEO Gareth Evans said the decision was motivated by an opportunity to fill the void left by Virgin's defunct airline Tiger and to increase frequencies on routes currently operated by Rex.

Evans said that Jetstar is now flying at 90% of its pre-pandemic domestic Australia schedule in Mar and is feeling "more positive" now than at any other time over the past 12 months.

Air NZ bites Apple

MEMBERS of Air New Zealand's Airpoints scheme can now purchase Apple products using Airpoints Dollars, with the airline revealing its members had shifted toward purchasing tech products with points since COVID struck.

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With Hurtigruten's new 2022/23 season, guests can celebrate with up to \$500 onboard credit per person. A front-row seat to the Midnight Sun and the Northern Lights also awaits those who venture to this land of natural phenomena.

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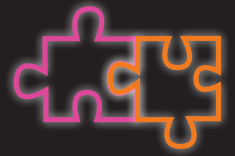
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Travel Daily

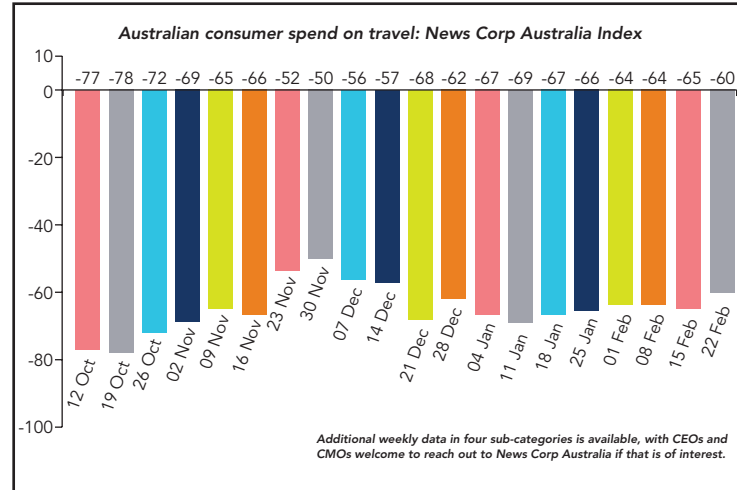
The Queen circles

CUNARD has announced that its *Queen Elizabeth* vessel will undertake her first circumnavigation of Australia as part of a recently unveiled 121-day record homeport season Down Under in 2022/23.

Details of *Elizabeth's* circumnavigations of Australia include calls to Port Douglas, Airlie Beach, Esperance, Eden and Kangaroo Island, with the 25-day voyage departing Fremantle on 07 Nov 2022 leading in from \$8,299ppts, while a 28-day round Australia sailing departing Sydney on 15 Nov 2022 is priced from \$9,299 per person, twin share.

The planned extended local deployment for *Queen Elizabeth* will span from Nov 2022 to Mar 2023 - more details in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Another jump in spend



EXCLUSIVE

RELATIVE stability in border closures and the release of new domestic cruise itineraries appears to have driven the second biggest week-on-week improvement in consumer travel spending since COVID-19 hit almost exactly a year ago.

This week's exclusive *Travel Daily*/News Corp Australia index marks 12 months since we first started tracking the massive industry downturn (*TD* 17 Mar 2020), and for once the numbers are moving in the right direction - although still 60% down on the previous corresponding period.

"All categories saw a very healthy improvement on the prior week, with the exception of accommodation which actually dropped...this clearly illustrates that Australians have more confidence than seen in 2020 and the start of 2021 on booking travel further out, with less nervousness on state border closures occurring with the vaccine rolling out, and the general attitude of state and territory leaders appearing a little more positive," said News Corp Head of Travel Dwayne Birtles.

The best performer during the week was cruise spending, showing a 12-point improvement which led Birtles to double-check the figures - more details in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Birtles also noted the Travel Agent and Touring category which lifted 7 points week-on-week to now be down 67% vs the same time 12 months ago.

"The more confident future travel booker is starting to hit the balance sheets for these businesses," he said.

Airline spending also jumped over the week in both leisure and corporate bookings, with Birtles saying further improvements can be expected in the coming weeks as the "state of the travel nation" becomes more positive.



Window Seat

WE'VE heard of sinking your teeth into a job but this is simply ridiculous.

A pilot and a flight attendant on a recent Donghai Airlines flight in China reportedly got into some serious fisticuffs at 50,000 feet over the use of the jet's first class lavatory, resulting in the captain losing a tooth and attendant breaking his left arm.

The pilot apparently became angry at a passenger wanting to use the bathroom reserved for staff, and when the tenacious guest insisted on using the bathroom anyway, the pilot, naturally, started to physically assault a nearby hostie for not guarding the facilities properly. It's safe to say the airline's reputation has been flushed down the toilet after this one.



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Cocktail compendium

Fancy a drink? Check out our Cocktail Compendium today.

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 animal is this?

TWO black panthers appear on the coat of arms of this Central African nation, representing cautiousness and courage, as well as the country's commitment to environmental protection.

A black panther is also the country's football mascot.

Black panthers are extremely rare, with only 80 to 100 thought to still exist in the wild in this African nation.

Do you know whose national animal the black panther is?



ANSWERS 10 MAR

Pub quiz: 1 c) Cannabis, 2 Laos, 3 Coney Island, 4 New York-New York Hotel & Casino, 5 a) Russia, 6 London, 7 Holdfast Bay, 8 North Esk River and South Esk River, 9 Norway, 10 Warsaw

Seen it at the movies: The Shining

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

Where in the world?



THIS city's historic, cultural and geographic location is the reason why it has long been considered one of NZ's main centres.

It is also unique as the home of the only mainland Royal Albatross breeding colony in the world.

Visit between Sep and Nov to witness the full majesty of the breeding birds arriving at the headland and building nests.

A must-visit destination to see this majestic bird but can you guess where it is?

NZ wildlife word search

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

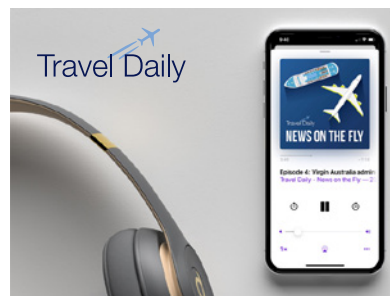
SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

BROWNKIWI
KAPITIISLAND
HECTORDOLPHINS
AKAROA
OAMARU
BLUEPENGUIN
KAKAPO
DUNEDIN

FJORDLAND
TUATARA
SEALION
HUMPBACK
ZEALANDIA
KAIKOURA
ALBATROSS

Today's puzzle page is brought to you by 100% Pure New Zealand

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Travel Daily

Catch up on the news of the week

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SYD staff morale spikes



IN YET another sign that the Australian travel sector is beginning to bounce back from the travel shut down, the first staff members at Sydney Airport this week received the COVID-19 vaccine jab at the airport's vaccination centre.

The first batch of workers (pictured) received the long-awaited inoculations alongside friends and colleagues from Australian Border Force, the Australian Federal Police, Assetlink, Certis, freight operators and ground handlers.

Approximately 100 Sydney Airport employees who frequently work in the quarantine zone of the international terminal

were in the first phase of the vaccine rollout.

A spokesperson for the country's biggest air hub thanked the Australian Department of Health and NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian for their support in making the early jabs happen, enthusing that the travel "recovery is in sight".

Vic vouchers soon

VICTORIANS will be able to access \$200 travel vouchers from tomorrow that can be used to visit and stay in Melbourne.

40,000 vouchers are available through the scheme, valid for travel and experiences from 19 Mar to 16 May.

China Travel Pass

CHINA has this week launched its own version of a digital COVID-19 vaccination certificate for its citizens planning overseas travel, joining a host of countries and companies which have introduced similar concepts.

China's version will include details about the holder's COVID vaccination status and test results, the country's Department of Consular Affairs confirmed.

China has also signalled it is willing to work with other countries about creating an agreement of mutual recognition of COVID-19 vaccinations so that international travel recovery can be sped up, the country's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

Italian deep dive

ONLINE interviews, digital tours, lectures and short courses about Italy will all be on offer in Apr from Academy Travel, with the destination education program running from 9.30am to 7.30pm (AEDT) for four days.

Sessions will also include interviews with a variety of Italian experts, as well as deep dives into the country's most popular tourist attractions.

For a limited time, Academy Travel is offering exclusive gold and silver priority access passes, with a gold pass priced at \$740pp & giving full access to all content across the four days, while the \$390 silver pass excludes the morning and afternoon courses.

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.

Herve Gastinel has been appointed the Chief Executive Officer of cruise line Ponant, described by the company as "a true enthusiast of the sea and ships". He was previously the chief of pleasure craft company Beneteau group, where he increased revenue by €160 million.

Challenger aviation brand **Regional Express** has announced the appointment of **Hayley Freeman** as its new Business Development Manager. She will be based in Sydney, with the role coinciding with Rex embarking on a major push on the country's busy east coast routes.

Joyce Weir has been appointed the new National Business Development Manager MICE for the **Globus** family of brands, where she will be charged with driving growth opportunities in the conference and incentive space on board its ships. Weir has previously been a BDM MICE Groups and Cruise for Hawaiian Airlines.

Adria Bono has joined **Swan Hellenic** as its Destination Management Director, where she will bring with her more than 20 years of high-end excursions design and commissioning expertise in the luxury and expedition cruise markets. Bono said she looked forward to bringing the experiences aboard its "distinctively stylish new five-star fleet" to life.

For confidential tip offs, connect with *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)



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