

Welcoming guests back to paradise

Reopening this March



SAL SALIS
NINGALOO REEF



Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef and Horizontal Falls Seaplane Adventures are excited to welcome your clients back this March following the summer break. Visit [Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef](#) to learn more about our piece of paradise or [Horizontal Falls Seaplane Adventures](#) to choose your clients next adventure.

We'll take guests on a journey of some of Australia's most memorable travel experiences.

SAL SALIS, NINGALOO REEF, WA



Sal Salis 2021 season
15 March – 12 November

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



HORIZONTAL FALLS SEAPLANE ADVENTURES, WA



Horizontal Falls 2021 season
26 March – 10 November

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

*Limited availability still on offer for stays between 14 August – 12 November.

JOURNEY BEYOND

2022 season release coming soon

Vale Omri Godjin

THE Australian travel community is mourning the untimely death of former News Corp Australia Head of Travel, Omri Godjin, who has succumbed to cancer at the age of 46.

Prior to his role at News Corp, Godjin was also Industry Head, Travel & Tourism at Fairfax Media.

He is survived by his wife and son, with a tribute page raising funds for the Melanoma Institute now accepting donations at tribute.melanoma.org.au.

Swiss Travel training

TRAVEL consultants can now become experts on the Swiss Travel System (STS) via a new training course integrated with the **Travel Daily** Training Academy.

Live from today, the new global Swiss Travel System Excellence Program allows trade specialists to support their clients in the “only e-learning program worldwide to cover the entire public transport system of a country,” according to STS CEO Maurus Lauber.

Modules cover all elements of the system from tickets and passes through to premium panoramic trains and luggage transport on rail, bus and boat.

Available in English, German and Chinese, participants who successfully complete the training can download a diploma testifying that they are a Swiss Travel System Excellence Expert. See **page six** for details.

Grants scheme 2.0 details

THE second tranche of the Government’s COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program will be “adjusted to address identified issues with Round One,” meaning that agencies paid on the basis of TTV in their G1 submission in the first round will be denied a second payment (**TD** breaking news Fri).

Officials are in the process of releasing further details for the additional \$130 million tranche, but early indications are that those who lodged based on GST turnover for the first round will qualify for a similar payment under the second round.

Other changes to the program will see a reduction in the

number of “turnover tiers” from 41 to just seven, with eligible businesses to receive \$5,000 through to \$100,000 which will be a “boost in particular for smaller businesses,” according to an update from Austrade.

Agents with a turnover of greater than \$20 million will also now be eligible for a payment if their GST turnover was between \$50,000 and \$20 million in the 2019 calendar year.

Applications for Round One of the program closed at midnight on Sat 13 Mar - but anyone trying to lodge at the last minute will have encountered significant difficulties because other Government systems which are used for identity verification and links to the Australian Business Register were offline all weekend for scheduled maintenance.

In addition, businesses with sales over \$500,000 and under \$20 million seeking a Round Two payment will be subject to an audit, to further ensure only those who were paid on the basis of GST Turnover in Round One are eligible for Round Two.

Further details of the new program are expected to become available in the coming days.

AFTA CEO Darren Rudd hasn’t commented on the specific details of the revised program, but said with JobKeeper ending “this will help bridge the gap between now and when international travel resumes”.

NZ CDO resigns

JENNIFER Sepull, appointed as Air New Zealand’s Chief Digital Officer (**TD** 29 Mar 2019) has announced her resignation after just under two years in the role.

Sepull moved from the US to NZ to take up the position, with the carrier’s CEO Greg Foran saying she had led the digital team through the airline’s toughest period while delivering on some major programs of work, including strengthening core technology and cybersecurity.

A global search for a new CDO will now be undertaken, with Sepull leaving the airline this week but providing “transition support” through until Oct.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page plus a front page from **Journey Beyond** and back page from **Switzerland Tourism**.

Journey Beyond WA reopenings

THE easing of COVID-19 travel restrictions and the advent of cooler weather will see Journey Beyond welcome guests back to Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef this month.

Reservations are now open for the 2021 season which kicks off today and continues through until Nov, while also returning to operation is Horizontal Falls Seaplane Adventures, which will operate 26 Mar-10 Nov this year. See the **cover page** for details.

Evergreen lands '21

EVERGREEN Tours has launched a new domestic touring program, with nine 2021 departures on itineraries in the Kimberley, Central Australia and Tasmania.

“Demand for exceptional value domestic tours is high this year, so we expect them to sell out quickly,” said Evergreen Director of Sales, Angus Crichton.

The new 15-day Central Australian Discovery trip leads in at \$6,745ppts, while there’s also the popular 12-day Kakadu & Kimberley Explorer and the return of the classic 12-day Tasmanian Explorer - call 1300 383 747.

Picture yourself here...

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JOURNEY BEYOND THE GHAN

NORTHERN TERRITORY

For more information, visit tourismnt.com.au/summer-sale
* Famil includes an amazing experience on The Ghan. Terms and conditions apply.

Eastern Hemisphere Market Manager

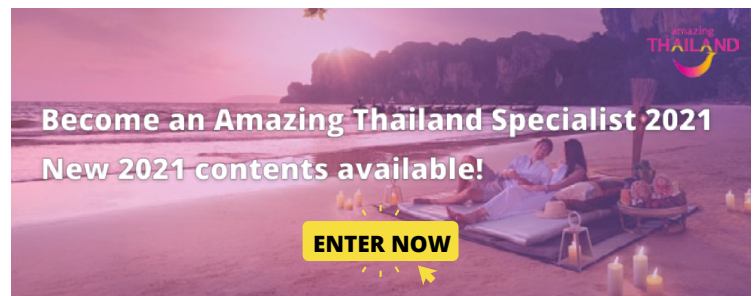
Department of Jobs,
Tourism, Science
and Innovation

Tourism
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Level 6, \$102,966 - \$113,590 pa +
superannuation, PSCA 2019. For further
information please click [here](#).

Position closes 30 March 2021 at 12 noon WST
Late applications not accepted.



Singapore vax hub plan

TOURISM Minister Dan Tehan has confirmed work on a plan with his Singaporean counterparts for the establishment of a travel bubble which could be in operation as early as Jul.

The proposal would include a jointly recognised proof-of-vaccination certificate which would obviate the need for two weeks of quarantine, and may also allow people from third countries to enter Australia via Singapore after completing isolation in the Lion City.

There's speculation that New Zealand may also become part of a three-way travel bubble, according to a *Sun Herald* report.

If approved the arrangements would significantly reduce the pressure on Australia's quarantine hotel facilities as well as the NT's Howard Springs camp.

Such a plan could potentially also help allow more foreign workers to enter Australia to

assist labour-short industries such as agriculture and hospitality.

Currently Australians travelling to Singapore only have to self-isolate until receiving a negative PCR test result.

Speaking on TV this morning Tehan said he was "optimistic that we might be able to get something up and running by the middle of the year," pending ongoing vaccine rollouts.

Europe's leaders

THE European Travel Commission (ETC) has announced the appointment of Tourism Ireland Director for Australia, Sofia Hansson, as the Chair of its newly relaunched Australia Chapter, while Switzerland Tourism's local Director Livio Goetz is Vice Chair.

The appointments see the return of an Australian presence for ETC after a 20 year absence.

2020 not so fly...

TRAVEL restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in severe disruptions to domestic travel since Apr, the Government's *Australian domestic aviation activity 2020* report has shown.

There were 22.6 million passengers carried through Australian domestic commercial aviation last year, a whopping decrease of 64.7% compared with the previous year.

In total, there were 347,700 aircraft rotations, a decrease of 49.1% compared to the year prior, while capacity decreased by 62.9% compared to the previous year, totalling 32.86 billion available seat kilometres.

The industry wide load factor decreased from 80.8% in 2019 to 67.9% in 2020, with all published routes recording decreases.

The highest load factor for the 12 month period was recorded on the Gold Coast-Melbourne route, with 83.6% of seats filled.

QF Newcastle-MEL

QANTAS has recommenced direct flights from Melbourne to Newcastle this morning.

QF5474 was the first time the airline has connected the two cities in more than 10 years.

Qantas will operate 12 weekly return flights via the QantasLink brand with its 125-seat Boeing 717, adding more than 3,000 weekly seats between the cities.

New Niue services

AIR New Zealand has inaugurated a one-way travel bubble with the Pacific Ocean island enclave of Niue, allowing travellers to land quarantine-free in Auckland.

A single weekly A320 service will operate, with the Niue inbound route complementing similar quarantine-free flights from Rarotonga to Auckland.

Returning Niuean citizens and residents will still be required to quarantine on arrival into Niue.

DISCOVER ANTARCTICA SALE

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EXCLUSIVE OFFERS



A truly once-in-a-lifetime destination, Antarctica's unique and frozen landscape is teeming with curious and fearless wildlife such as penguins, seals, whales and birds.

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You really ought to go to Oita



JAPAN'S Oita prefecture hosted an event on Fri to showcase the up-and-coming destination, featuring local culinary favourites at Sydney's Azuma restaurant.

Guests were treated to delights such as a Kabosu cocktail, sashimi and tempura chicken, with Jane Lawson from Zenbu Tours presenting Oita's attractions which include an earlier, less crowded cherry blossom season, authentic culture, nature and onsen relaxation experiences.

Oita also last week launched a

special new training website for Australian travel advisors ([CLICK HERE](#)), with participants in the running to win dining vouchers and rare LEGO Bonsai trees.

Pictured at the event with some special kokedama orchids are, from left: Ryo Sadayuki from ANA; Rebecca George from Oita's local representative SLC Representation; Jane Lawson, Zenbu Tours; Jill Collins, Barking Owl Communications; Yoko Tanaka, Japan National Tourist Office; and Vanessa Rengger, SLC.

Travel Daily

Catch up on the news of the week

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

VS seeks funding

VIRGIN Atlantic is expected to shortly announce a £160 million cash injection, including a £100 million loan from the carrier's majority owner, Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group.

The additional funding comes on top of £1.2b already secured ([TD 03 Sep 2020](#)) to help keep the carrier aloft during COVID-19.

Park opportunities

REFLECTIONS Holiday Parks is seeking applicants for a long term contract to manage two popular parks on the NSW North Coast.

The parks at Seal Rocks and Urunga/Hungry Head are "incredibly popular and require very customer service-oriented teams," said Reflections CEO Steve Edmonds, adding that the portfolio was thriving with people seeking an easy, outdoors-focused worry-free holiday option.

Applications to tender close on Fri 26 Mar - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Window Seat

CORPORATE travel expense trackers are on alert after a Canadian restaurant renamed its menu after office supplies to make it easier to charge companies for meals.

Toronto's Good Fortune Burger has renamed its Fortune Burger as "Basic Steel Stapler," while the popular Parm Fries is now a "CPU Wireless Mouse".

A bottle of Coca-Cola can be ordered as a "Non-Slip Rubber Mouse Pad" and those feeling like a Diamond Chicken Burger can simply select a "Mini Dry Erase Whiteboard".

The special Uber Eats menu which can be viewed [HERE](#) is claimed to simply be an "opportunity to put a smile on some people's faces," rather than a way to commit fraud.

Drive OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

THERE'S MORE TO EXPLORE IN QUEENSLAND'S BACKYARD

Download our new Drive Outback Queensland Guide:

outbackqueensland.com.au/drive-outback-queensland



Please contact our Outback Queens to assist with your Travel Trade enquiries:
Janis McDonald | E: traveltrade@outbackqueensland.com.au | T: 0474 784 400



Where in the world?



THESE baths are part of a famous hotel in the city where it is found.

Apparently the waters of the location were said to have healing properties, recorded as far back as the early 13th century.

During the Middle Ages a hospital was on the site and

during the Ottoman Empire, baths were also built.

The current complex was built between 1912 and 1918 and includes thermal baths with water from the area's mineral hot springs.

Do you know the name of these baths and where they are?

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.

1



2



3



4



Sudoku

MEDIUM

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.

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

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

Whose mascot is this?



THESE two mascots are called Wenlock and Mandeville and were the representatives of one of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Wenlock was named after a town which holds traditional games each year and was one of the sources of inspiration for the

modern Olympics.

The light on Wenlock's head is similar to that found on taxis from the city where the games were held, and he wears the Olympic rings as bracelets.

Which Olympics do these belong to?

ANSWERS 12 MAR

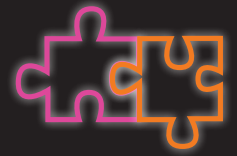
Test your airline knowledge: Airport codes - 1 Bangalore, India, 2 Dodoma, Tanzania, 3 Karratha, Australia, 4 Rome Fiumicino, Italy, Airline liveries - 1 Air Mauritius, 2 El Al Israel, 3 Wizz Air

Pub quiz: 1 b) Over 100km, 2 The Venetian Las Vegas, 3 5th largest, 4 Millennium Wheel, 5 Hobart, 6 a) 1930s, 7 Nuremberg, 8 Alice Springs, 9 Hamilton Island, 10 Norwegian and Sami

Icon under a microscope: Leaning Tower of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

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

Check out our daily puzzle page.



Travel Daily

Taste of Kakadu

KAKADU National Park is seeking expressions of interest for participation in this year's Taste of Kakadu festival program, which will take place 28-30 May 2021.

Anyone wanting to host a guided tour, promote a special Taste of Kakadu menu at a venue or participate in the Festival Hub at Bowali Visitor Centre should email kakaduxperiences@environment.gov.au for more information on the program.

Airport investments

A **NEW** report compiled by Airports Council International has revealed that 87% of airports across the globe have significantly stepped up investment in IT safety protocols to combat future health emergencies.

These include sensors, video monitoring and robots to police social distancing of passengers. 64% also said they had implemented biometric-enabled immigration border gates.

A380 chapter closes



A **MILESTONE** moment in the world of aviation took place in Toulouse, France late last week as the final A380 aircraft to be ever manufactured went through its paces on the tarmac.

The jet (pictured courtesy of plane spotter Clement Alloing on Twitter) will become part of the Emirates fleet, one of the major customers of the out-of-favour Airbus model, alongside carriers such as SQ and QF, which has mothballed its 12 A380s.

Back in Feb 2019, Airbus announced it would cease production of the aircraft by 2021, following an Emirates decision to drop an order for 39 planes in exchange for 40 A330-900s and 30 A350-900s.

With diminishing orders and the US\$445 million for each unit no longer covering production costs, Airbus revealed it was no longer economically viable to continue manufacturing the A380.

Another factor in the model's demise has been attributed to the migration of airlines from a hub and spoke flight strategy to a

point-to-point model, which gets passengers to their destination in one flight instead of two or three.

The first A380 took to the skies in Oct 2007 under the Singapore Airlines badge, with **Travel Daily** on board (**TD** 25 Oct 07), while this final jet will be EK's A6-EVS.

Air NZ is back

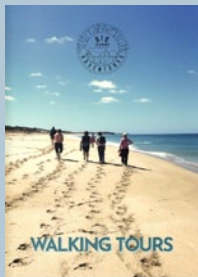
AIR NZ has resumed quarantine-free flights to Sydney and Melbourne today after the easing of restrictions imposed due to Auckland's recent COVID case.

The carrier confirmed it would also restart flights between Sydney and Norfolk Island from 19 Mar, and flights into Brisbane would reboot on 20 Mar at the earliest, in line with measures put in place by the Qld Government.

"We are pleased to be able to connect our customers with these Australian destinations once again and look forward to resuming quarantine-free flights to Brisbane in due course," said Chief Customer and Sales Officer Leanne Geraghty.

BROCHURES

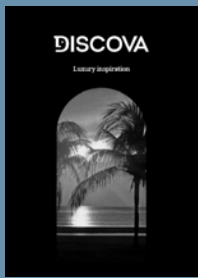
WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Big Heart Adventures - 2021 Walking Tours

Big Heart Adventures has gone to press a new digital brochure showcasing its range of walking tours. Commissionable to travel advisors, the brochure expands on Big Heart's tours in SA, where it was the first operator to walk the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail Fire Recovery Experience in Dec 2020 - an itinerary only able to be undertaken with a commercial tour operator. Big Heart's 2021 trips include multi-day 'Challenge Treks', in locations

such as the Fleurieu Peninsula, the Flinders Rangers, Kangaroo Island the Yorke Peninsula; and a range of 'Weekenders' - **CLICK HERE** for info.



Discova - 2021 Luxury Travel

Discova's new 2021 Luxury Travel guide is the first of its kind released by the company, highlighting its strong partnerships with luxury suppliers. Destinations include Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, with Discova having noted a significant industry-wide growth of luxury travel interest prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Curated by Discova's specialist in-destination teams, the itineraries featured in the brochure provide a

balance of city experiences, nature, wellness and beach relaxation, with eight itineraries showcased in total. See the brochure online **HERE**.

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

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What is it?

An interactive e-learning program: Heidi & Peter take you on a learning journey through the new **Swiss Travel System Excellence Program**. Expand your know-how and even win attractive prizes such as a Swiss watch.



How and where?

The program is web-based and therefore accessible anytime and from anywhere: Just go to mystsnet.com/elearning and begin your learning journey.



When?

The train towards the interactive e-learning program departs in the first quarter of 2021.



Why?

To make knowledge accessible easily and quickly: you can playfully build up and expand your knowledge of Switzerland's public transport every year. You will be able to support your clients professionally and know the ideal public transport products for your travel programs.



Step on board and register now: mystsnet.com/elearning