

## Watch and waddle

**TOURISM** New Zealand will host a Wildlife Virtual Tour later this month, with participants able to connect with Christchurch-based operators Black Cat Cruises and Pohatu Penguins.

The one hour webinar takes place at 12pm (AEDT) on 31 Mar, with an educational virtual tour followed by live Q&As and the opportunity for two lucky attendees to win prizes.

It's free for industry participants to attend - to register [CLICK HERE](#).

## Viking confirms May UK restart

**VIKING** Cruises has announced the recommencement of limited operations, offering three special English coast sailings aboard the brand new *Viking Venus* in May.

The eight-day England's Scenic Shores voyages, departing 22 and 29 May as well as 05 Jun, will sail roundtrip from Portsmouth, only carrying UK residents, who will be the first to cruise on the new-build after its Apr delivery.

Viking Chairman Torstein Hagen said the company welcomed the UK Government's support for the return of safe domestic cruises as an important component of the travel industry's recovery.

"In recognition of this support... we have chosen to name our new ship, *Viking Venus*, in the UK on 17 May," Hagen said.

"We are in a position to restart operations quickly and to start sailing again in May because we have kept our ships crewed

## Shorten urges pay support

**FORMER** ALP leader Bill Shorten has highlighted the looming travel industry cliff being faced with the end of JobKeeper, yesterday in Parliament urging the Government to allocate the \$130 million in additional funding announced last week to pay wages, rather than operating as a grants program.

"Make it a JobKeeper-esque scheme, call it something else if you don't want to admit you're

keeping JobKeeper, but don't repeat the mistakes of the first round of grants which were too hit or miss for the travel industry," Shorten said in the House of Representatives.

"A few agents got \$100,000 but maybe should have only got \$4,000...on the other hand, many travel agents were only getting \$4,000 when perhaps they should have received \$100,000 for their businesses and employees.

"I'm worried the Government's creating the same mess again because they don't understand the travel agents' industry.

"Why not require that the money which is given to travel agents in the next package be attached to wages and salaries... use it as the best support to look after the owner-managers and the employees of the travel agents' industry, rather than just handing out grants," he added.

Early details of how the \$130 million will be allocated were revealed late last week (**TD** 15 Mar), but have not yet been confirmed by Austrade.

AFTA yesterday said it was conducting a series of meetings this week on the "equalisation" of the first round of the scheme, and on the refinement of the approach for Round Two.

## Oceania's new Vista

**OCEANIA** Cruises overnight announced that the first of its current series of newbuilds will be named *Oceania Vista*.

The ship, under construction by Fincantieri, will carry 1,200 passengers and is set to debut in 2023, followed by a sister in 2025.



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### Today's issue of TD

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

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## OTA marks big deal

**ONLINE** travel agent TripADeal has inked a three-year sponsorship deal with the AFL's Carlton Football Club, a move which will see its branding take prominent space on both the team's home & away jerseys. TripADeal is also sponsoring the coin toss at every Blues home game under the new agreement, with a \$250 travel voucher up for grabs each match and a \$10,000 grand prize at the season's end. Sports branding has formed a key part of the OTA's marketing strategy, having locked in deals with the NRL's St George Illawarra Dragons & the Manly Sea Eagles. Helloworld Travel previously had an association with Carlton (**TD** 11 Apr 16) but the arrangement ended years ago, as did Tourism Malaysia which expired in 2009.

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## LATAM re-signs Amadeus

**AUSTRALIAN** travel agents are breathing a sigh of relief after LATAM Airlines signed a new agreement with Amadeus, after weeks of being forced to make bookings outside of the GDS. The carrier, which is currently under Chapter 11 voluntary bankruptcy protection in the US, rejected a contract with Amadeus earlier this month, and instead offered agents the ability to book through alternative direct connect channels. A number of *Travel Daily* readers expressed their frustration at these non-GDS options, after attending training webinars on the new eLATAM platform which highlighted significant complications, including the necessity to reapply for the program if they don't use the system for 45 days. In an update to the industry yesterday the carrier confirmed it had "had conversations with Amadeus in order to continue offering LATAM products through its platform, without affecting the efficiency of the sales channels

## SA tourism vouchers

**A THIRD** batch of travel vouchers has been released by the South Australian Government, with the \$200 passes available for use on hosted tours and experiences seven days a week after the busy Easter period ends to help boost the subdued winter travel months. For more details, **CLICK HERE**.

## Rex completes raise

**REGIONAL** Express (Rex) has formally completed its \$150 million capital raising through the Tokyo-based PAG Regulus Holdings (**TD** 22 Sep 2020), cash which will be used to fund its domestic expansion plans. The funding will be allocated in tranches, with the first \$50 million instalment to be drawn down in convertible notes.

and prices to the customers. "Finally a new agreement was reached with Amadeus," the airline group added. Effective last Fri LATAM Group flights are once again available in Amadeus, alongside other channels including eLATAM, the carrier's NDC API and other GDS. "LATAM will remain committed to offering their clients the best prices through efficient sales channels, and remain interested in providing agencies with attractive alternatives to access their inventory," said Andreas Schek Ferrer, VP LATAM Sales.

## We get the picture

**THE** Federal Government has allocated \$12 million in funding to provide new photography and video materials for up to 1,800 tourism operators as part of its push to encourage more domestic travel bookings. The new suite of high-quality images will capture the best of 57 regions across the country, with photographers and content creators being recruited to supply at least 100 images and clips of video footage to operators. "With Australia likely to be slower than others to reopen to international visitors, it is vital that our operators are armed with compelling and contemporary marketing assets," said Tourism Australia Managing Director Phillipa Harrison.

## Window Seat

**A NEW** pop-up activation will see eco-accommodation pods set up at two of Victoria's most popular wineries, with the novel container suites featuring a luxury bathroom, a minibar stocked with locally sourced delights, a welcome breakfast hamper and even a pizza oven! The accommodation will be on offer at Tucks on the Mornington Peninsula from 29 Mar to 26 Apr, and All Saints Estate in Rutherglen from 05 May to 02 Jun - **CLICK HERE**.

## Spoilt for choice

**GLOBUS** family of brands has launched a new touring style called Choice Touring by Globus, introducing an initial batch of 13 itineraries across Europe and North America. The new style aims to deliver a more in-depth flavour across new off-the-beaten-path destinations where travellers can choose more of their own experiences that are all included in the package price. Highlights include a nine-day Scotland adventure exploring castles and tasting whiskey. Earlybird savings of 10% apply.

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## Collectively marketing Sydney & NSW



**TOUR** operators, wholesalers and travel agents wanting to market product in NSW now have access to what is being boldly branded as the world's largest destination media library.

The major project was launched at an event at Sydney's Wild Life World yesterday, where Destination NSW PR Manager Kristy Meudell highlighted features including over 30,000 images and videos plus breaking news on Sydney and NSW's visitor economy, product & experiences.

Free to access after signing up at [media.destinationnsw.com.au](http://media.destinationnsw.com.au), the platform features easy-to-use search filters allowing users to find content based on interest area, experience, duration & date.

The launch saw participation from a host of local industry suppliers, who have banded together as the Sydney Visitors Collective to share insights and

### Puffing Billy's pass

**PUFFING** Billy Railway in Vic's Dandenong Ranges is encouraging the community to explore its own backyard with the release of an annual Locals Pass.

Available exclusively to residents within a 10km radius of any Puffing Billy station, the unlimited access pass also features discounts on dining, retail and special events - more details at [puffingbilly.com.au/locals](http://puffingbilly.com.au/locals).

survival tips as they pivot to new markets through the pandemic.

The last year has seen a wide variety of innovations right across the industry, including new tour options from BridgeClimb, an upcoming Lego activation at Sydney Tower featuring the one and only "BrickMan", Taronga Zoo accommodation packages, new rides at Luna Park, free Sydney Opera House concerts, Captain Cook Cruises' new Harbour Bar & Restaurant, the upcoming opening of TFE Hotels' A by Adina in Sydney, and much more.

**Pictured** from left: Guil Zavaftaro, Captain Cook Cruises; Kristy Meudell, Destination NSW; Jodi Clark, TFE Hotels; Kristy Brown, Merlin Entertainments; Claire Haigh, Accor Hotels; Rachel Anker, Merlin Entertainments; Laura Minns, Taronga Zoo; Roger Gatchalian, Trippas White Group; Alice Nguyen, Sydney Opera House; MC James Tobin; Phil Shumack, Luna Park; and Jess White, BridgeClimb.

### Virgin Voyages vax

**FLEDGLING** adults-only cruise line Virgin Voyages has confirmed it will require all passengers & crew to have had a COVID-19 jab.

CEO Tom McAlpin said the company was very encouraged by the US vaccine rollout, with hopes of operating its inaugural *Scarlet Lady* trip this northern summer.

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## Jan arrivals hit rock bottom

**THE** closure of Melbourne Airport to international arrivals due to a COVID-19 outbreak in Jan this year pushed Australia's inbound numbers to a new low, with just 7,990 short-term visitor arrivals - a reduction of 9.5%.

The impact on resident returns was even more stark, with the incoming figure of 11,350 down 20.6% on Dec 2020, according to the latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released yesterday.

NZ was the largest source country for visitors, accounting for 20% of all arrivals with 1,580 trips, followed by the USA with 890 trips and then the UK which saw 740 trips to Australia.

New Zealand also accounted for the largest share of residents

returning to Australia at 16% with 1,820 trips, followed by India at 960 and the UK with 930.

Both visitor and resident arrivals were down more than 99% on the figures for Jan 2020, and the ABS noted that for the full 2020 year, 97% of all visitor arrivals occurred prior to the implementation of travel restrictions by the Australian Government on 20 Mar 2020.

### Wethmar to leave TravelEdge

**HELLOWORLD** Travel Limited has confirmed the departure of TravelEdge Chief Operating Officer Kim Wethmar, who is currently on "extended personal leave" and will conclude her time with the business later this year.

The company has appointed Tom Clark as GM of TravelEdge effective immediately.

Clark joins HLO from his previous role as MD Global Accounts with Sabre, prior to which he was Global Chief Technology Officer at Corporate Travel Management.

### CX Miles+Cash

**CATHAY** Pacific has announced the introduction of a new Miles Plus Cash payment option on 30 Mar, giving customers the ability to book seats using a mix of Asia Miles loyalty points and cash via the Cathay Pacific website.

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AROUND THE WORLD

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Travel Daily

## Pub quiz

1. *Absinthe* is a live show which can be seen at which Las Vegas hotel-casino?
2. Which New York City landmark was initially designed as part of the 1964/65 New York World's Fair?
3. In which district is London's Piccadilly Circus?
4. Which Australian city was known as Stuart until 1933?
5. Which city was the first in Australia to have underground sewers?
6. Which country trades the rupiah?
7. Harvard University is located in which city?
8. Which country spends the highest percentage of its gross domestic product on its military, based on 2019 figures?
  - a) United States
  - b) Oman
  - c) Israel
  - d) Saudi Arabia
9. What is the capital of Saudi Arabia?
10. Tasmania's King Island is part of what island group?
  - a) New Year Group
  - b) Furneaux Group
  - c) Hogan Group
  - d) Breaksea Group

## Sudoku

TRICKY

THE aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Numbers can only be used once in each row, column, and 3x3 box.

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

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

## Seen it at the movies



**KNOWN** as Fox Plaza, this building is most famous for its appearance in a film as the office building for a Christmas party which goes bad.

The building was completed in 1987 and was used just one year later as the main film location for this movie.

Fox Plaza also played host to the office of Former President Ronald Reagan after he left office.

Today you can visit the building in Los Angeles, which is still in operation as offices.

Can you name the famous film which the building appeared in?

## Funnies Flashback



**WE'VE** trawled through the *TD* Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 07 Jul 2014:

**WHAT** is the only thing worse than a holiday ending? When your luggage ends up seeing more places than you did.

A scientist returning home to Auckland from Hong Kong was forced to check in a bag which was 2.4kgs overweight - little did she know it would be the last time she would see her belongings for six long days.

After arriving in Auckland minus the bag and filling out the obligatory forms, the wait began.

The first update came to say her bag had been found in Sydney and would be routed to her home in a few days.

Several more days later and still no sign of the errant luggage and more calls to the airline found the bag turn up in Queenstown.

After local media enquired on her behalf, the bag finally arrived to her home, having travelled first to Sydney and Queenstown before ending up in Auckland.

### ANSWERS 16 MAR

Celebrity faces: Eyes - Gai Tyrrell, Globus Family of Brands, Nose - Tilda Swinton, Mouth - Ben Stiller

Unscramble: acid, activate, ACTIVATED, active, advice, aide, attic, avid, cad, cite, cited, civet, dative, davit, dice, dictate, diet, diva, dive, edict, edit, evict, iced, idea, tacit, tide, tied, vice, vide, vied

## Spin your wheels on Kangaroo Island

**SAVINGS** of up to \$196 are on offer with SeaLink, which is giving travellers until 14 Sep to take advantage of free return ferry fares from Kangaroo Island when they travel with their car, camper trailer or caravan.

The deal applies to travel taken between 15 May and 15 Sep, with travellers needing to quote "CARAVAN21" when booking.

Call SeaLink on 13 13 01 for further details.

## A-plus report card

**EXODUS** Travels has released a new report detailing all of the sustainability achievements the operator has made over the last 12 months.

The *2020 Foundation Report* showed that despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Exodus continued its philanthropic initiatives, including providing food to the Cusco & Sacred Valley regions of Peru and the provision of educational resources to kids in Zambia.

## 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).



Highlands & Islands Enterprise has provided £510,000 to the **Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa's** £3 million refurbishment. The accommodation is due to re-open as a four-star hotel in the northern spring, with significant improvements made to the guest rooms, public areas and grounds. Two bars and a new restaurant have also been added, while a new external balcony will provide panoramic views across Craignure Bay off the coast of Scotland.



The **Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort** in Hawaii will soon be home to Monkeypod Kitchen by Merriman, a restaurant described by the property as being "modern, casual and chef-driven". Led by noted chef Peter Merriman, the eatery will open at the end of 2021 and feature a menu of socially conscious ingredients which blend classic Hawaiian favourites with upmarket specialties. The hotel will reopen to the public in May.



Situated within an integrated four-island development, **The Ritz-Carlton Maldives Fari Islands** is scheduled to open in Jun and will feature seven restaurants and bars showcasing global cuisines, beachfront and overwater villas, as well as private infinity pools and butler services. Further luxurious indulgences will include spa treatments inspired by directional energy, garden and villa wedding venues, and a private beach and several pool areas.

## We're the "Rock" solid choice



Talofa Seiuli (Dwayne Johnson). 'O ā mai 'oe?

**THE** Samoa Tourism Authority is not just courting the attention of Aussie travellers, but that of major Hollywood action hero Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

The actor is of Samoan and American heritage, with the Pacific Island nation's tourism board shooting a stunning video to lure The Rock back to his homeland when international travel starts again soon.

The 60-second video, which has already seen more than 120,000 people view the clip, showcases the natural beauty of Samoa as

well as its many locals tours on offer, culinary delights, cultural performances and, naturally, The Rock's Teramana Tequila.

The Samoa Tourism Authority is confident that a Pacific Travel Bubble will be established with nations like Australia soon, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison last month hinting the vaccine rollout would precipitate a travel link with several Pacific Island nations in the first wave of international travel.

Watch the colourful and lighthearted video [HERE](#).

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