

## Warriors of Wisdom

COMPLETE OUR FIVE MODULES

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### Naturally Scotland

**VISIT** Scotland is today showcasing the destination as “Nature’s Adventure Playground,” in a special product profile highlighting hiking, cycling, wakeboarding, diving and even risking the wrath of Nessie on the waters of Loch Ness.

Be intrigued on **page seven**.

### Fiji roadshow live

**TOURISM** Fiji will this week kick off the first of a series of virtual updates for Australian and NZ travel advisors, wholesale res consultants and product teams.

A different region will feature each fortnight, with the online events showcasing a variety of suppliers from across the nation with exclusive insider tips as well as how Fiji is preparing for the reopening of borders.

The initial session starts at 11am tomorrow 25 Mar, with prizes up for grabs for those who register online by **CLICKING HERE**.

### Celebrity Cruises adds flights

**CELEBRITY** Cruises this morning announced the launch of “Flights by Celebrity Down Under,” allowing travel advisors to book their Australian clients’ complete cruise holiday including air travel.

The program guarantees the lowest fares possible, gives advisors the assurance that selected flights will meet specific cruise departure and arrival times, and the flexibility to choose preferred airlines.

“Customer research shows that travellers believe true luxury is a seamless experience with everything included,” said Celebrity Cruises Australia/NZ MD Tim Jones, with the rollout of the flights offering following the introduction late last year of Celebrity’s new inclusive pricing model (**TD** 11 Nov 2020).

Jones said Flights by Celebrity was “the next step in ensuring agents feel supported through every stage of the holiday

journey, delivering the very best experience for their clients”.

To celebrate the launch, any guests who book a Celebrity sailing from today until Fri 30 Apr will receive up to \$500 airfare credit per booking, based on their cruise duration (Galapagos departures excluded).

For more details on the offer see [thecelebritycommitment.com.au](http://thecelebritycommitment.com.au).

### DNSW Gets Local

**GARY** Bender and Donna Kessler, the organisers of the upcoming Get Local business events show, have announced the addition of Destination NSW as a major partner for the event.

NSW Tourism Minister Stuart Ayres, said the move recognised that business events are crucial to help the tourism sector recover.

Registrations are now open for the 29-30 Jul event at ICC Sydney - see [getlocalexpo.com.au](http://getlocalexpo.com.au).

### All about France

**TWO** new modules have launched today in the Northern France travel advisor training program, which offers the opportunity to become an expert in the Australian Remembrance Trail in partnership with the Sir John Monash Centre.

To make the most of this free offering see **page six** of **TD** today.

### Splendor delayed

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line this morning advised that the 2021 deployment of *Carnival Splendor* is now on pause until 10 Aug.

Previously the ship had been scheduled to kick off its Sydney season in late Jun.

### Today's issue of TD

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

- Northern France Training
- Visit Scotland

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\*Term and conditions apply ^Helicopter and submarine at additional cost, subject to availability.



## NRMA launches Expeditions

**THE** National Roads & Motorists' Association (NRMA) has announced the creation of a new NRMA Expeditions division to focus on strategically growing its investment in the tourism sector through acquisitions and partnerships (**TD** breaking news).

Chief Investment Officer Rachel Wiseman will become NRMA Expeditions CEO, overseeing assets including the newly acquired the Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania (RACT) portfolio which includes Cradle Mountain Hotel, Freycinet Lodge, Gordon River Cruises, and Strahan Village.

The portfolio will build on NRMA's \$800 million investment in tourism, which includes a minority stake in cruise line Coral Expeditions (**TD** 02 Feb), as well

as Thrifty and Dollar Car Rental, Fantasea Cruising and interests in about 50 holiday parks.

"NRMA Expeditions will focus on delivering 5-star experiences in natural environments and this is exactly what the RACT acquisition will deliver," Wiseman said.

"International travel will likely be a way off for Australians and we believe domestic tourism will play a critical role in driving Australia's post-COVID economic recovery.

"Tasmania, with its unique natural assets and sophisticated food and cultural offerings, will be central to this."

NRMA has committed to retaining RACT's staff, with the motoring group's CEO Mark Mugnaioni saying his organisation is excited to see a significant investment commitment for the properties, highlighting the buoyancy that exists within the state's tourism market, particularly in its rural areas.

"RACT is pleased to be able to hand over the keys of this iconic portfolio to a like-minded organisation that is keen to continue to invest in the Tasmanian tourism industry.

"We also look forward to partnering with NRMA to provide unique Tasmanian insights into their operation," he said.

Other RACT partnerships include the organisation's pact with Brett and Louise Dann's Hunter Travel Group, which operates RACT Travel Centres across the state.

## Unique hampers!

**THE** Unique Tourism Collection has pivoted with the launch of The Unique Hamper Collection.

Joint directors Jonica Paramor and Svetlana Jovanovic are offering a full range including custom made travel hampers, ideal to set the scene of a favourite destination, as well as options to celebrate new babies "both human and furry" - see [theuniquehampercollection.com.au](http://theuniquehampercollection.com.au).

## British fine warning

**HOLIDAYMAKERS** who depart Great Britain without authority could be fined a whopping £5,000, under new legislation set to be voted on in the UK parliament this week.

International leisure travel from the UK is currently banned until 17 May, but a third wave of COVID-19 infections in Europe has prompted fears of an extension of restrictions which has hammered travel and airline stocks.

Reports suggest the UK Govt is also considering a "traffic light" system which would allow quarantine-free holidays to designated low-risk destinations.

## CSL local vax out

**CSL** Limited today released over 800,000 locally made doses of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, ahead of initial scheduling.

The milestone marks the start of local availability, with CSL expecting to release an average of 1 million doses a week.

## Legal options??

**REGISTRATIONS** are still open for this Fri's special industry webinar which will examine the legal options for travel businesses in the current COVID-19 JobKeeper-ending environment.

The free session is being curated by Richard Taylor of The Travel Community Hub, with CATO Board member Aaron Zoanetti from Poinnton Partners Lawyers and Shaun Matthews from accounting firm Cor Cordis joined by **TD** publisher Bruce Piper.

The important webinar aims to help businesses understand their financial and legal obligations, with plenty of opportunities to ask questions about chargebacks, insolvency & more.

Register for the online event taking place at 1pm AEDT this Fri 26 Mar by **CLICKING HERE**.

*Drive*  
**OUTBACK**  
QUEENSLAND

THERE'S MORE  
TO EXPLORE  
IN QUEENSLAND'S  
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COVID-19 AIRLINE RATING SKYTRAX  
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**Learn more**

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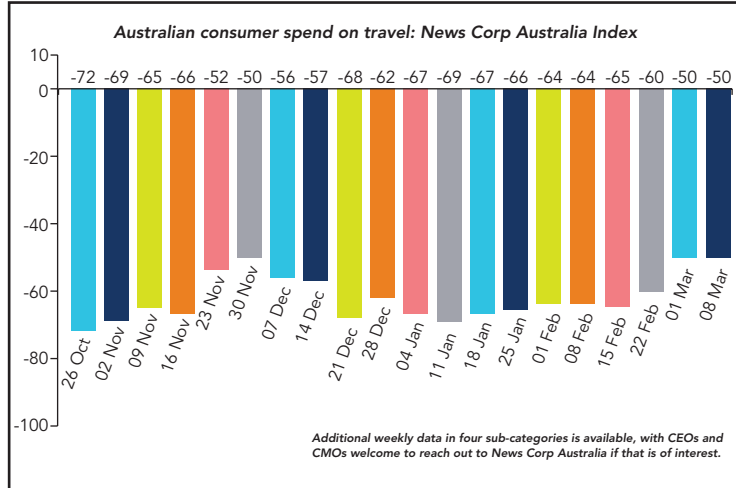
First global airline to be awarded a 5-star Covid-19 Airline and Airport Safety Rating by Skytrax



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Travel & Cruise  
Weekly

## Spending stable this week



### EXCLUSIVE

**CONSUMER** spending on travel remained steady in the latest exclusive News Corp Australia/*Travel Daily* index, despite the week in question coinciding with a NSW hotel quarantine worker and a Qld doctor testing positive to COVID-19.

The overall spend is still down 50% compared to the baseline in Mar 2019, but continues the positive trend reported last week when a significant jump in confidence was recorded.

News Corp Head of Travel, Dwayne Birtles, said the Travel Agent and Touring category equalled the best week since COVID struck, now sitting at 65% down, while higher value airfare

spend (over \$350) also improved by five points and is now sitting at minus 50%.

Airline spend under \$350 dropped by five points week-on-week, probably due to the Jetstar 1 million seats promotion ending, but the category is still sitting at a relatively healthy 20% down.

However the cruising industry recorded “somewhat of a cliff dive,” dropping by 18 points from last week’s show-stopping performance and now sitting back at minus 80%, Birtles said.

“A contributor to this would have been the end of a series of cruise sales within this reported week,” he suggested.

Birtles said next week’s results are likely to be on par again as the market stabilises, with confidence still “running high” amongst Australians.

### VA slashes snacks

**VIRGIN** Australia has confirmed there will be no more complimentary food provided in its Economy class cabins, with the change effective from tomorrow.

Guests will continue to receive free water, tea and coffee, but if they want food it must be purchased from an “exciting and fresh” inflight menu.

Passengers with existing snack-inclusive bookings who want to receive something to eat are being told to “please make yourself known to cabin crew once you are on board and they will be able to assist”.

### Virtual Memphis

**MEMPHIS** Tourism is inviting travel advisors to join an online trip taking in some of the city’s key sites in regard to the national civil rights movement.

Participating Australian and NZ agents will get a virtual insight into the destination, including the historic Mason Temple where Martin Luther King delivered his “I’ve been to the mountaintop” speech before his assassination.

The webinar is on at 9am AEST Wed 14 Apr - **REGISTER HERE.**

### Japan update

**AUTHORITIES** in Japan are now allowing authorised arrivals into the country to self-isolate for 14 days, but they must install a video call and location-based app onto their smartphone for monitoring.

A revised Smartraveller advisory from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade notes the requirements, with Japan currently only allowing entry to travellers from Australia with valid Japanese residency and re-entry permits, who must also show a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of departure.

Arrivals must also make a “written pledge” about their COVID-free status, and will be contacted via video call by government officials every day to confirm their location and if they have COVID-19 symptoms.

### QF club extensions

**QANTAS** is giving eligible Qantas Club members extended access to all membership benefits for a further three months.

The extension applies to all active and Annual Guest Card memberships in place on 23 Mar.



### Window Seat

**THE** world’s first transport hub for “electric flying cars and autonomous delivery drones” will launch in the UK this year.

Urban Air Port will create the facility in Coventry, and unlike a traditional airport it can be installed “in a matter of days” because no runways are needed for electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) vehicles.

It’s not just pie in the sky - although initially intended as a demonstration of the possibilities of the technology, the project is being backed by Hyundai Motor Group which is targeting a 2028 launch of commercialised flying vehicles.

Urban Air Port is planning to roll out more than 200 similar sites across the globe over the next five years, with the company’s founder, Ricky Sandhu, saying “cars need roads, trains need rails, planes need airports, and eVTOLs will need Urban Air Ports”.

Help us discover  
chocolate  
AROUND THE WORLD

In the lead up to Easter, submit your chocolate recipes from around the world for our weekly feature.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Travel Daily



## Pub quiz

1. The Las Vegas Monorail connects nine of the city's hotels – how many can you name?
2. What is the largest park in New York City?
3. Tower Bridge in London connects which two boroughs?
4. What is the largest settlement on King Island?
  - a) Currie
  - b) Grassy
  - c) Naracoopa
5. Stockholm famously hosted the equestrian events of Melbourne's 1956 Summer Olympics, but also hosted which other year's Games outright?
6. Which is the world's most populous Spanish-speaking country?
  - a) Spain
  - b) Colombia
  - c) Mexico
  - d) Argentina
7. Potsdamer Platz can be found in what city?
8. Which city is often subbed "China's Silicon Valley"?
9. What is the largest city in Belgium's Flanders region?
10. Which city is known as the Queen of the Adriatic?

## Seen it at the movies



**FILMED** at various spots along Queensland's famous tropical coastline, this romantic comedy starring Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson tracks the adventures of a couple who rekindle their relationship whilst

searching for lost treasure. The film was originally intended to be shot in the Caribbean before severe weather disruptions forced the movie studio to relocate to Australia. Can you name the movie?

## Sudoku

### FIENDISH

**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.

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

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

## Funnies Flashback



**WE'VE** trawled through the **TD** Window Seat archives to give you a blast from the past. Here's some gems from 25 Jul 2014:

**AN IDEAL** opportunity has arisen to own a significant tourist attraction, with a 170-foot giant ketchup bottle now on sale in the US state of Illinois.

It's actually a water tower, with the 65-year-old landmark offered for a bargain US\$500,000 in conjunction with an adjacent warehouse.

The giant bottle on Route 159 near St Louis was built in 1949 for the bottlers of Brooks Ketchup, and is now on the US Register of Historic Places as well as having its own web page at [www.catsupbottle.com](http://www.catsupbottle.com) - home of the World's Largest Catsup Bottle fan club.

### ANSWERS 23 MAR

Celebrity faces: Eyes - Jennifer Vandekreeke, Carnival Australia, Nose - Tom Cruise, Mouth - Emma Stone

Unscramble: adde, aped, applaud, **APPLAUDED**, auld, dale, dapple, dappled, dead, deal, dual, dude, duel, dupe, duped, duple, lade, laded, lapped, laud, lauded, lead, paddle, paled, pedal, plead, pled, puddle, puled, pulped, upped



### Make travel matter

**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Cruises and U by Uniworld have announced a variety of Make Travel Matter Experiences to help advance The Travel Corporation's sustainable development goals.

The Experiences will be implemented into itineraries throughout Europe, India and the Middle East, on river voyages such as Enchanting Danube, Holland & Belgium, India's Golden Triangle & the Sacred Ganges, Tulips & Windmills and more.

### Crown changes

**CROWN** Resorts has informed the Australian Securities Exchange of its revised operating conditions for Crown Melbourne, with 75% of the maximum capacity for the gaming floor to be permitted from Fri.

The casino will also move to a density quotient of one person per 2m<sup>2</sup> per each indoor space.

In addition, every second electronic gaming machine and electronic gaming table will be reactivated.

**OUTRIGGER** Hotels & Resorts properties have dominated the recently hosted 2019 Fiji Excellence in Tourism awards.

Postponed from last year due to coronavirus restrictions, the awards took place at the refurbished Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa ballroom last Fri, with Castaway Island taking out the Deluxe Accommodation award.

Two individual team members from Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort were also honoured, with Guest Activities Manager Kini Sarai presented with the Fiji Pride Champion award, and Sous Chef Navneet Reddy named the Emerging Tourism Leader.

Castaway Island General Manager Steven Andrews said although the award is for 2019, receiving it now during these challenging times has lifted the morale of his team, and has encouraged it to keep up the consistency of its service and care, as it anticipates the reopening of borders.

He also dedicated the win to team members made redundant last year due to the pandemic, with hopes of growing once again as travel hopefully resumes soon.

Outrigger Beach General Manager Darren Shaw said he was extremely proud of the team members who were nominated, with the hotel having finalists in five total categories.

**Pictured:** team members from both Outrigger Beach and Castaway Island.

### Silversea success

**SILVERSEA** Cruises' 2023 world cruise, The South Side Story - All the World's a Stage - has sold out within hours of its general opening.

The cruise line said the result reflected an "unprecedented" level of demand, with the itinerary having also enjoyed the most successful pre-sale in Silversea's history.

The immersive voyage takes guests deep into the Southern Hemisphere, calling in 66 destinations in 34 countries across five continents - more in today's *Cruise Weekly*.

### Dorchester rooftop

**LONDON'S** iconic Dorchester Hotel has launched a new rooftop restaurant and bar which will showcase culinary pop-ups overseen by executive chef Mario Perera, with views across Hyde Park and East London.

The Dorchester Rooftop will open on 12 Apr - just in time to celebrate the hotel's 90th birthday the following week.

The hotel is scheduled to fully reopen from 17 May.

### Lizard for families

**QLD'S** Lizard Island has released a special three-night Family Time package for the upcoming school holidays (26 Jun-11 Jul), with children's rates and a Junior Rangers program - 1800 837 204.

## 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 doors have opened at the new **A by Adina Canberra**, the very first of TFE Hotels' newly introduced brand. Located at Constitution Place, the premium accommodation offering debuts with the tag-line of "hotel living", which is "a fresh concept that balances a hotel and apartment-style experience". A by Adina Canberra will operate across four levels, with the development to also feature a commercial first-floor precinct.



**SALA** Hospitality Group is set to unveil **sala bang pa-in**, a brand new boutique hotel set on Thailand's Chao Phraya River. Nestled on a private island in the 'River of Kings', the 24-key retreat is SALA's ninth property in Thailand. A fleet of boats is part of the offering, poised to transport guests on immersive excursions, including complimentary transfers to and from the famed nearby Chinese restaurant Summer Palace.



**Virgin Hotels Las Vegas**, which is preparing for its official opening on Fri, is located on Paradise Road, east of the Las Vegas Strip. Having operated as the Hard Rock Hotel for 25 years prior to its closing in 2020, the US\$200 million renovation will see the casino portion branded as Mohegan Sun Casino, with the namesake Native American tribe to be the first to operate a Las Vegas casino. The hotel portion will include 1,504 rooms, and will also include a Nobu.



Get to know

# Northern France

**The Northern France Tourism Board** with the support of the **Sir John Monash Centre** have created the ultimate online learning platform.

Discover the hidden treasures of Northern France along with all there is to offer along **the Australian Remembrance Trail** and become a trained expert for all your clients.

Complete a module for a chance to win a superb wine pack from de Beaurepaire wines and a Sir John Monash Centre book.

Complete all 8 modules to go in the draw to win **the ultimate Western Front Explorer Tour** with Mat MacLachlan Battlefield Tours.

**Register now**  
at [www.northernfrancetraining.com](http://www.northernfrancetraining.com)



# Scotland. Nature's Adventure Playground

Everyone knows about Scotland's stunning scenery and cultural heritage, but did you know that Scotland is the ultimate natural playground!

The easiest way to experience the outdoors is walking or cycling. Everywhere you go in Scotland you will find waymarked trails through forests, along rugged coastlines or long distant routes. Bikes can be hired easily and there are hundreds of guided walking and cycling tours if you fancy hearing about secret tales of the landscape, or learning some new skills.

If you want to blow the cobwebs away with an adrenaline buzz, then

we've got it covered. Wakeboarding, white water rafting, land yachting, kite surfing, paddle boarding, kayaking, scuba diving, gorge walking, zorbing, canyoning are all on offer around the country.

Or why not get closer to the natives? Wildlife watching tours operate across the country – go sea kayaking with seals for company and otters on the shoreline; see the elusive pine marten or capercaillie; or simply watch red squirrels scamper past as you enjoy a coffee at a woodside café in Cairngorms National Park. And you can always try your luck at monster

spotting at mysterious Loch Ness.

At VisitScotland we can give you the inside track to develop the most memorable itinerary for your clients – and Scotland's such a compact country, you'll be amazed at what you can fit in to a single trip!

## LEARN MORE

Find out more at: <https://www.visitscotland.com/campaign/discover-scotland-agents-2021/>

