

## ATG out until Jun

**THE** APT Travel Group (ATG) has extended the ongoing suspension of its international operations, with all touring and cruising now suspended until 31 May 2021 for travellers departing from Australia - apart from NZ trips which are suspended until 30 Apr.

A Future Holiday Credit is being offered on all suspended trips, valid until the end of 2023.

Due to the urgent nature of the cancellations, ATG is contacting clients today on behalf of travel agents in date departure order.

## More Oita winners

**JESSICA** Bennett from TravelManagers and Helloworld's Lisa Tabke have been named as this week's winners in Japan's Oita Prefecture destination training platform, part of the *Travel Daily* Training Academy.

There are two more weeks of Oita prizes up for grabs, so join in at [training.traveldaily.com.au](http://training.traveldaily.com.au).

## Qantas plots Tasman surge

**QANTAS** this morning further boosted expectations of a two-way travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand, announcing unlimited Classic Flight Reward redemption seats for the first three days of travel once the start date is confirmed.

Seats on the so-called "Points Planes" will also be available for purchase, and Qantas Frequent Flyer will add 50% more reward seats on QF's trans-Tasman flights for the rest of the year.

"Our members have been stockpiling points during COVID for exactly these opportunities, and we want to help make it easier to get on one of the first international flights," said Qantas Loyalty CEO Olivia Wirth.

Once details of the bubble are confirmed, Qantas and Jetstar will be adding significantly more flights between Australia and NZ, flying to all of their pre-COVID New Zealand destinations.

There is still speculation that the opening could be as early as 19 Apr, with Air NZ having updated its schedules which now show up to five Sydney-Auckland flights per day from that date, including the deployment of a wide-body Boeing 787-9 as well as A321s.

Qantas however continues to indicate just two flights a week.

Despite high level political discussions about the plan earlier this week, NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Mon said no further announcements will be made on the move until 06 Apr.

## New Bunnik SA trip

**BUNNIK** Tours has launched a new 12-day Discover South Australia tour, with departures from Jun priced at \$4,995pp.

The trips have a maximum group size of 20 and offer a host of inclusions and exclusive experiences - [bunniktours.com.au](http://bunniktours.com.au).

## Hurtigruten NWP

**HURTIGRUTEN** Cruises has unveiled a new Northwest Passage itinerary for 2023, described by MD Damian Perry as "one of our most ambitious and adventurous itineraries to date".

The 26-day cruise aboard the *MS Roald Amundsen* will take voyagers in the footsteps of the ship's namesake explorer, departing from Nome, Alaska and heading across the top of North America, through the Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea and the Amundsen Gulf before arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

It's priced at \$26,236pp and departs on 18 Aug 2023, with a host of escorted landings and opportunities to spot wildlife along the way.

See [hurtigruten.com.au](http://hurtigruten.com.au).

## Today's issue of TD

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

NEW INCENTIVE



BECOME A VIKING

# Warrior of Wisdom

We have developed six core modules aimed at increasing knowledge and driving business for our partners.

Complete all eight modules before 30 April 2021 and go into the draw for your chance to **win one of 10 x \$50 Visa cards**. If you have previously completed the five modules that were launched last year, you will only need to complete the three new modules to qualify.

### NOW AVAILABLE

- MODULE 1 | Welcome to Viking
- MODULE 2 | River Cruising with Viking
- MODULE 3 | Ocean Cruising with Viking
- MODULE 4 | Expedition Cruising with Viking
- MODULE 5 | Why Viking?
- MODULE 6 | Viking Health & Safety (NEW)

### COMING SOON

- MODULE 7 | Rewards by Viking (13 Apr)
- MODULE 8 | New Viking Ships (20 Apr)



[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE TRAINING ACADEMY](#)



## SYD signs five-year tech deal

SYDNEY Airport has announced a new agreement with aviation technology specialist SITA to roll out common-use services at Terminal 1 (international) and Terminal 2 (domestic).

The project, which has gone live this month, will “enable the implementation of a low-touch, airline-ready mobile passenger journey” as well as an improved baggage experience and significant operational efficiency benefits for the airport.

The platform features the SITA Flex common-use platform based

on cloud technology to reduce physical contact through the use of smart devices.

The implementation facilitates the easy replacement of traditional common-use touchpoints such as at check-in, gate boarding and service desks.

Existing facilities such as kiosks and bag-drops can be re-used and repurposed as required, to boost efficiency particularly at this time of economic uncertainty.

The airport has also implemented SITA BagMessage, which eliminates the need for multiple baggage system interfaces between airlines and airports.

John Raso, Head of Aeronautical Technology and Infrastructure at SYD, said the solutions “help minimise our risk exposure and improve the passenger experience...we’re delighted to be investing in future-proofing Sydney Airport with a strategic partner and market leader.”

## IASC QF Japan tick

THE International Air Services Commission has issued a renewal determination allocating unlimited capacity to Qantas to operate services between Australia and Japan, other than Tokyo-Haneda.

The 99-year approval is valid until 23 Feb 2121.

## QR + PressReader

QATAR Airways will offer passengers digital access to over 6,000 global magazine and newspaper titles, under a new partnership with PressReader.

The content will be accessible via QR’s Oryx One in-flight entertainment app.

## New Robertson role

KATHRYN Robertson has been promoted to the newly created position of Group GM Sales at Air New Zealand.

The airline’s Chief Customer & Sales Officer, Leanne Geraghty, said the role had been created to “lead and inspire our Global Sales functions and set our strategic sales direction to ensure future revenue growth and alliance sales plans are achieved globally”.

Robertson, who has been the airline’s Regional GM Australia since 2015, will relocate from Sydney to Auckland with her family in the next few months.



## Window Seat

THE Lithuanian capital Vilnius markets itself as Europe’s greenest city, and it is going all out to prove it, planting the world’s first “Christmas forest”, made up of residents’ old potted Xmas trees.

The project is aimed at expanding green areas of Vilnius and involving the community in environmentally-conscious initiatives.

One of many green projects undertaken by Vilnius, such as landfill reduction and promotion of renewables, the Christmas forest project was undertaken on Earth Day, 20 Mar.

It is thought the idea was developed by Vilnius’ Mayor himself, who back in Dec advised residents on how to keep the trees alive until Mar.

## SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST (FULL TIME — SYDNEY)



We’re looking for an enthusiastic Social Media Specialist to join our dynamic team.

The perfect candidate will have a minimum of 3-4 years’ experience in social media marketing with proven success in executing social media strategies and driving customer engagement across brand awareness, traffic generation, conversion and re-targeting activities. Responsible for building Viking’s local social media presence and day-to-day community management, this role will be an important part of our broader multi-channel mix, and be core to future growth across our customer sales funnel.

We are looking for:

- Hands-on experience with both paid and organic social media management, with a primary focus on Facebook and YouTube
- A data driven individual with an in-depth knowledge of custom audience targeting
- A detail oriented person, always looking to optimise and deliver high quality executions
- Familiarity with social media content best practices
- Someone that is self-motivated with a desire to stay at the forefront of social media channel capabilities

Viking is the world’s leading river and small-ship cruise operator. This is an opportunity to join a recognised industry leader and be part of a fun and friendly team. With eight new ships set to launch over the next two years, now is the perfect time to become a Viking!

**Competitive salary**  
**Fantastic industry perks**  
**Valuable health benefits**

**To view full job description click here**

**Apply via LinkedIn or send a cover letter and your resume to jobsau@vikingcruises.com**

**Applications close 14 April 2021**

## CORPORATE UPDATE

### Sabre Qantas NDC arrives

**SABRE** has launched Qantas Airways NDC offers in Australia, allowing local travel advisors connected to the software company's global travel marketplace to shop, price, book, pay, cancel, void, refund and exchange unique NDC offers from the airline.

Following the initial launch in Australia, Sabre will progressively roll out the Qantas NDC content in other regions across the world, having already begun across the Tasman in New Zealand.

"Our partnership with Qantas has led us to another milestone in our journey towards our goal of enabling our airline customers to distribute personalized offers – both through our marketplace and through their direct channels," said Sabre Vice President Offer Sourcing Kathy Morgan.

"In today's challenging environment, travellers increasingly demand personalized offers, which can be delivered through NDC-enabled technology. "We are convinced that this provides new opportunities for both Qantas and our agency

### US groups push for May opening

A COALITION of airlines and more than two dozen other travel industry organisations has urged the US Government to form a plan by May to lift international restrictions, including developing digital vaccine passport standards.

The group is urging the Centers for Disease Control to update its guidance to say that vaccinated people are able to travel safely, while maintaining other key protections such as masks, testing and physical distancing.

"The data and science demonstrate that the right public health measures are now in place to effectively mitigate risk and allow for the safe removal of entry restrictions," they said.

network to increase revenues and enhance customer loyalty."

Qantas Executive Manager Global Sales & Distribution Igor Kwiatkowski said despite the significant challenges facing airlines globally, QF remains committed to progressing its NDC roadmap.

"We've launched a number of new features in recent months, and have plans for more to come, all designed to deliver richer content and a better experience for our customers and agency partners," he said.

"We have worked with Sabre for more than three decades, so it's fantastic to build on our long-term partnership with the distribution of our NDC content."

Qantas has been an actively engaged partner in Sabre's Beyond NDC program over the past two years (**TD** 16 Aug 2019).

### Tandem joins GTN

**AIR** New Zealand's Tandem Travel, the Kiwi licensee of American Express Global Business Travel, has signed a preferred supplier agreement with Global Travel Network (GTN), a network for independent travel agents backed by House of Travel.

### GBTA gets diverse

**THE** Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) has announced its first ever globally-curated committee aiming to drive the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) agenda for its global stakeholders.

Members of the DEI committee have been "selected based on their strong and varied backgrounds and the contributions they will bring to GBTA's global membership," with the group led by Chair J. Grant Caplan from the USA and Vice-Chairs Carol Fergus from the UK, Sharlene Ketwaroo-Nanoo from Canada and Nidia Quintero from Latin America - see [gbta.org](http://gbta.org).



### Rage on Parliament's steps



**SAVENIO** advisor Lori Rogers and Goldman Travel Corporation's Michael West travelled to Parliament House, Canberra, on Wed, meeting with Senator for SA and Shadow Minister for Tourism Don Farrell (**pictured**) as they pleaded with politicians to save the travel industry.

West told **TD** Farrell was sympathetic to the current situation faced by the sector, and agreed the Government has a responsibility to help out.

"After speaking with quite a few people from the public who came to chat with us it was quite evident that people really do not quite grasp the severity of the situation, and Parliament seems to echo this," West said.

He urged the industry to continue lobbying, to tell leaders "how many people in your business will lose their jobs without the JobKeeper extension for our industry and tell them the economic impact on your business - the more specific you can be the better."

Earlier this week in Parliament NSW MP Stephen Jones urged more industry support, noting that the closure of borders meant the Government had effectively told operators "we are closing your business down because it is in the national interest and in the public interest to do so".

"How can we say to those

businesses 'at the end of the month we're pulling the rug out from under you, with no support for you and no support for your employees?' It beggars belief."

## AVAILABLE ON THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY 'HUB'

Travel Daily



## 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?

This statue is a symbol of

Christianity across the world and has been named as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

It stands 30m tall at the peak of a mountain overlooking a city.

## Test your knowledge

**FOR** travel, flying is a key part of our industry, and it's also full of symbols and acronyms.

Agents have to know airport codes, airline codes, airline liveries and more.

How well do you know the aviation industry? Do you know what airports these codes stand for, and what plane liveries are pictured?

### AIRPORT CODES

1. ICN
2. AUH
3. TSV
4. WAW

2



### AIRLINE LIVERIES

1



3



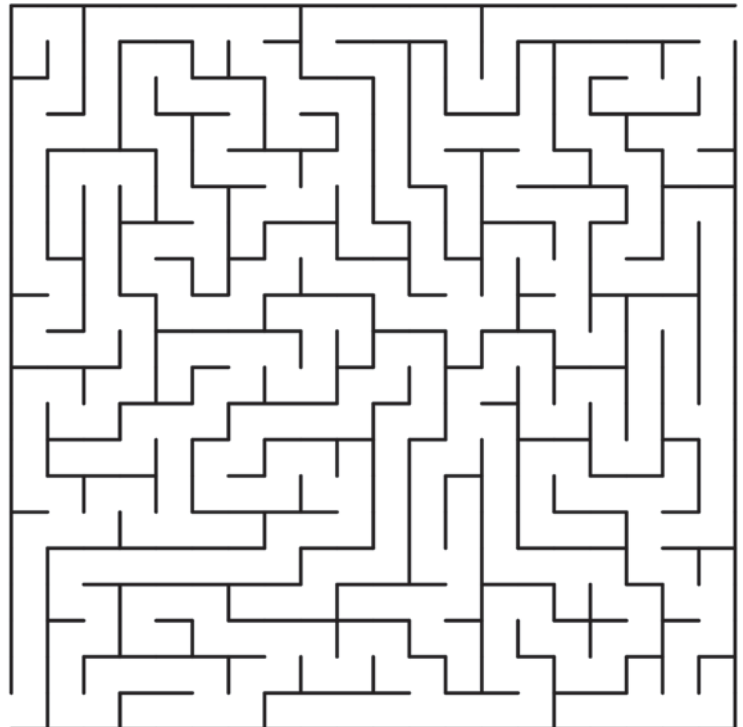
## Pub quiz

1. What was the name of the now-demolished hotel-casino which most famously hosted the Rat Pack?
2. What New York City park is famous for hosting the US Open tennis tournament and baseball's New York Mets?
3. If you were alighting the London Underground at Bermondsey tube station, what landmark might you be on your way to visit?
4. Bridport is a holiday location in which Australian state or territory?
  - a) Northern Territory
  - b) Tasmania
  - c) Queensland
5. Galdhopiggen is the tallest mountain in which country?
6. The East Side Gallery consists of a series of murals painted directly onto a remnant of the Berlin Wall that is how long?
7. Which destination is known as the City of Masks?
8. SpiceJet is an airline based in what country?
9. Until which century was the Great Pyramid of Giza the tallest structure in the world?
  - a) 10th century
  - b) 12th century
  - c) 14th century
10. What is the most populous city in the Arab world?

## A-maze-ing

**CAN** you find your way through this maze?

Start at the top right and finish in the bottom left.



YoFreeSamples.com ©2017

### ANSWERS 25 MAR

Whose flag is this: St Lucia

Know your brands: 1 Adventure World Travel, 2 Holiday Inn Hotels, 3 Tourism NT, 4 Converse

Whose animal is this: Vicuna - Peru



## Qld counselling

QUEENSLAND'S Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport has launched a new Financial Counselling Service for the state's tourism businesses.

The new \$2 million service will provide micro- to medium-sized tourism businesses with free financial advice to help them resize or change their business model, while a rebate will also be on offer for businesses needing additional expert advice.

Businesses wanting to access the new service must first complete the free Tourism Business Health Check online at [business.qld.gov.au](http://business.qld.gov.au) which will then produce a report and suggested actions, including a possible referral to a Tourism Business Financial Counsellor.

The new program will run until Jun 2022, and is being led in partnership with the Queensland Tourism Industry Council as an extension of the state government's existing COVID-19 Small Business Financial Counselling Service.

## Sydney accom win

UP TO 200,000 accommodation vouchers worth \$100 each will be available to New South Wales residents as part of a new \$51.5 million economic package announced yesterday, designed to encourage travellers back into downtown Sydney.

The vouchers will be allocated on a first in first served basis, and are expected to roll out from Jun, during the quieter winter period.

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian said the new package recognised downtown Sydney and workers in accommodation, which have been hit especially hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With international, interstate and business travellers virtually non-existent for the past year, the CBD, and in particular the accommodation industry, has done it tough," Berejiklian said.

"This new program will be in addition to our other stimulus measures such as the Dine & Discover scheme, and will provide a boost to accommodation".

## Meet Quincy's "Q-urators"



TFE Hotels has just opened the Quincy Hotel Melbourne, which marks the first time the hospitality brand has ventured out of its Singapore birthplace courtesy of Far East Hospitality.

The "exotically colourful" property on Flinders Lane features 241 rooms of "accessible high-end luxe," with the aim of treating every guest like a VVIP. That means the "Q-uration" of

unique perks ranging from DIY bubble tea kits through to tickets held for key festivals and events, according to GM Christian Price.

"We want to know what makes our guests tick long before they walk through our doors," he said.

Features include kombucha-stocked minibars, in-room kids' games and even pop-up hallway tables laden with 'help yourself' cocktails or mocktails.

Price is pictured at right with the hotel's Executive GM Andrew Edwards.

## Singapore easings

LARGER business events are set to return to Singapore, after authorities relaxed rules to allow a tripling of attendees, up to 750, effective from 24 Apr.

Businesses can apply to the Singapore Tourism Board to organise pilot events, with larger gatherings enabled with the launch of a pre-event testing (PET) framework for non-residents of the country.

Other requirements include limiting "cohorts" to 50 people per zone, and safe distancing of 1m between individuals.

## RwandAir vax jobs

RWANDAIR has become the first African airline to vaccinate all of its staff against COVID-19.

The move will "position the carrier as one of the safest on the continent," with an inoculation program which has also included non-airline staff at Kigali International Airport.

RwandAir will also begin trialling the new IATA Travel Pass next month to help facilitate the safe resumption of international travel.

## 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)

Cruise Traveller is promoting a "stay and tour" package in South Australia which combines a 16-night journey from Sydney to Adelaide aboard the new *Golden Horizon* sailing ship with a five night stay in the SA capital including tours of the city, hills, Hahndorf and the Barossa - \$11,995pp for 21 days when booked before 30 Apr - see [cruisetraveller.com.au](http://cruisetraveller.com.au).

Book a Rugged Tasmania or Gems of the Red Centre tour with **Globus** as part of its flash sale, offering savings of up to \$614 per couple. Departing in Jun, the savings include an extra \$200 per couple on top of Globus' current 5% discount. This offer ends 30 Mar - view it and others [HERE](#).

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