



Newly renovated *Le Paul Gauguin* is ready to sail in 2022!

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Tahiti - Moorea - Bora Bora - The Tuamotus
The Marquesas - The Cook Islands - Tonga - Fiji

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Contact our consultants on: Australia: 1800 878 671 | New Zealand: 0800 854 777
paulgauguin.aus@ponant.com | au.ponant.com/paul-gauguin

[^] Paul Gauguin Cruises is part of the PONANT family. The PONANT Bonus is eligible on Paul Gauguin voyages, 30% discount is based on the Ponant Bonus offer. Ponant Bonus is yield managed and may change at any time without notice. [#]Welcome Offer: AUD\$800 discount is per stateroom based on double occupancy and only valid for guests travelling on their first Paul Gauguin cruise. This offer is based on availability, cannot be combined with other special offers unless specified and may be withdrawn at any time, without prior notice. Terms and Conditions apply, refer to au.ponant.com for more information. Photographs: © PONANT Studio Jean-Philippe NUEL / Paul Gauguin Cruises. ABN: 35 166 676 517.



Here we go again...

QUEENSLAND Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk today announced a snap three-day lockdown for the greater Brisbane area, after the city reported 10 new COVID-19 cases overnight.

Four were locally acquired, while the remainder were in hotel quarantine.

The lockdown will become effective at 5pm tonight for Brisbane, Logan, Moreton Bay, Ipswich and Redlands, with a review on Wed ahead of the Easter holiday break.

VA Byron flights

VIRGIN Australia's inaugural Melbourne-Ballina Byron service departed the Vic capital today, with six weekly flights scheduled to operate through to 25 Apr.

VA said it was "buoyed by the demand" for the flights, and is actively reviewing the potential to extend them into other holiday periods throughout the year.

Industry slammed by NT ban

MILLIONS of dollars in travel and cruise bookings - not to mention massive flow-on effects to Northern Territory businesses including suppliers, hoteliers, airlines and port operators - have been jeopardised by a Northern Territory Government decision on passenger cruise ships.

Ponant Asia-Pacific Chairman Sarina Bratton told **TD** this morning the new limits imposed by NT Chief Health Officer Hugh Heggie "effectively kill Kimberley operations using Darwin as the homeport of the NT."

The new order bans vessels with more than 100 people on board, including crew members.

"This present position causes us all great concern for the many thousands of Australians who have confirmed bookings for the 2021 Kimberley season; the many Darwin-based suppliers, hotels, ground operators, food and beverage suppliers, all of

whom have long term supplier agreements with a number of us, and of course our valued distribution system - the travel agents," Bratton said.

"Just across APT and Ponant's bookings alone, some \$6 million of agents commissions are being jeopardised," she warned.

Silversea Cruises Senior Vice President & Managing Director Asia Pacific Adam Radwanski concurred, expressing his concern to **TD** for the local suppliers the cruise line was planning to use during its Kimberley season.

In addition, the regulation bans subsequent cruise ship arrivals if there are already two or more passenger vessels in NT waters - a move which has already seen Coral Expeditions scrap plans for Darwin-based itineraries, with its *Coral Adventurer*, *Coral Discoverer* and *Coral Geographer*, all scheduled to cruise from the NT capital from Apr to Sep.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page plus a cover page from **Paul Gauguin Cruises**.

Tahiti looks nice!

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has finalised renovations to its 332-passenger *Le Paul Gauguin*, with 39 South Pacific departures in 2022 now open for sale.

The upgraded vessel will sail Tahiti, the Society Islands, the Tuamotus, the Cook Islands, the Marquesas, Tonga and Fiji with a full refurbishment of staterooms, suites and public spaces.

Guests can enjoy a wide range of complimentary outdoor activities including snorkelling, kayaking and paddle boarding, with SCUBA diving also on offer.

The departures also offer an open bar & unlimited wi-fi, and there's a "tribute art gallery" of over 150 Paul Gauguin photos - more details on the **cover page**.



Aurora are now cruising directly from Australia to Antarctica.

(Book now to seal the deal)

Discover more

Sail from Hobart and experience the unforgettable wonder of the Ross Sea or Commonwealth Bay with Aurora. Australia's home of Polar Expeditions.

All voyages are subject to regulatory approval and only open to Australian residents. *T&Cs apply visit auroraexpeditions.com.au/terms-and-conditions



Chimu South Pole flights

CHIMU Adventures this morning released a new Great Southern Flights program, using chartered Qantas 787-9 aircraft to fly travellers "over and beyond the Southern Ocean" out of the various Australian capital cities.

The initiative is the brainchild of Chimu co-founder Chad Carey, who said he had spent the past

16 years flying over and cruising to Antarctica.

"After researching Qantas' direct Perth to London route, it looked like the 787-9 aircraft could fly to the South Pole and back in a day...I reached out to Qantas and shared my thoughts for an Australian first scenic flight to the South Pole," he said.

The first departure is scheduled for 27 Nov this year, giving travellers a bird's eye view of the coast and mountain ranges of East Antarctica.

Prices will lead in at \$1,195 per person, with all flights to be carbon offset as well as contributing to Chimu's not-for-profit arm, the MAD project.

The new South Pole Expedition Flight offering will complement the second season of last year's Chimu Southern Lights by Flight program (**TD** 21 Oct 2020).

For more information see chimoadventures.com.au.

JAL, Uber partner

JAPAN Airlines has announced a new agreement with Uber to offer select services via the airline's smartphone app.

Effective 01 Apr the Uber icon will be displayed on the JAL app, allowing pax to request Uber rides from their arrival airport or request food delivery services at their destination.

Initially the platform is valid for Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Fukuoka, with plans to expand into North America and Hawaii.

QF to Mt Gambier

QANTAS has added Mount Gambier to its regional network, with direct flights from Adelaide and Melbourne to the SA city kicking off yesterday.

Both routes will be operated five times a week using 50-seat Q300 QantasLink turboprops.

QantasLink also debuted flights from Melbourne to Albury and Wagga Wagga yesterday, with the carrier's CEO John Gissing saying the additions reinforced Qantas' commitment to regional Australia.

"As the national carrier we have an important role to play in driving tourism and supporting the industry in its recovery from COVID-19," he said.

Gissing said the airline was working with tourism industry partners around Mount Gambier "to promote the unique geographic landscape and world class wine of the Limestone Coast to millions of our frequent flyers around the country".



Window Seat

ICELAND is truly a land of fire and ice, with hundreds of active volcanoes including one which is currently erupting nearby to the capital, Reykjavik.

And while Australians can't currently get there, a number of scientists are excitedly hanging out on the slopes of the Galdingadalir volcano - and of course, even geeks gotta eat.

Last week they created a sensation when they published a video showing how they cooked sausages on the hot lava - taking the meat straight from the molten rocks onto buns, complete with lots of sauce.

With a few sausage recipes of our own, the **TD** team has to say we just lava this idea!

Check out the culinary arts at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Drive OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

THERE'S MORE TO EXPLORE IN QUEENSLAND'S BACKYARD

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

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Drive Outback Queensland Guide:
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GOOD TO GO

Outback Queensland
Live Australia's story

A day at the footy with QR



QATAR Airways added to the sea of red and white at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sat as it hosted some key industry partners for the weekend's AFL game between the Sydney Swans and the Adelaide Crows.

QR has sponsored the Swans since 2016 when the carrier became the club's Official International Airline Partner, coinciding with the debut of the carrier's direct flights from Doha to the NSW capital which has just marked a five year milestone.

The airline is one of the few which have maintained extensive Australian connectivity, with the early stages of the pandemic seeing QR become the country's largest international operator with a 44.5% market share in Apr.

QR's network is continuing to expand as travel around the world resumes, with the recent restart of flights to Mykonos and confirmation from travel data

provider OAG that its more than 1,000 weekly flights to over 130 destinations in Mar 2021 made it the world's largest airline.

In fact despite the pandemic, in the last 12 months Qatar Airways has added seven new destinations including San Francisco and Seattle in the USA, Abuja, Accra and Luanda in Africa, Cebu in the Philippines as well as its new Brisbane operations which have seen the airline granted special permission to fly to the Qld capital.

However Australian operations remain heavily hampered by the current quarantine caps.

Pictured enjoying QR's corporate hospitality are, from left: Tracey Edwards, Event Travel Management; Cassandra Kerr, Qatar Airways Regional Manager Australasia; John Baty, Flight Centre Corporate; Lida Alevizos, Qatar Airways; and Glenn Wilcox, Corporate Travel Management.



Vic voucher release

THE Victorian Government will tomorrow release 50,000 more of its \$200 Regional Travel Vouchers which will be redeemable for trips between 06 Apr and 31 May.

The new allocation goes online at 10am on 30 Mar, bringing the total number of vouchers released in the state's regional and metropolitan travel stimulus schemes to 200,000.

The second round of the scheme involved 40,000 vouchers which were exhausted in 15 min - but only 14,000 (35%) have been claimed so far and the remainder will expire on 01 Apr.

The scheme applies to Vic residents over 18 who spend at least \$400 on paid tours, accommodation, experiences or attractions in regional Vic.

Phuket opens up

AUTHORITIES in Thailand have confirmed that Phuket will be the first destination in the country to welcome vaccinated travellers.

No quarantine will be required for visitors who arrive by air at Phuket International Airport after 01 Jul, having previously been inoculated against COVID-19.

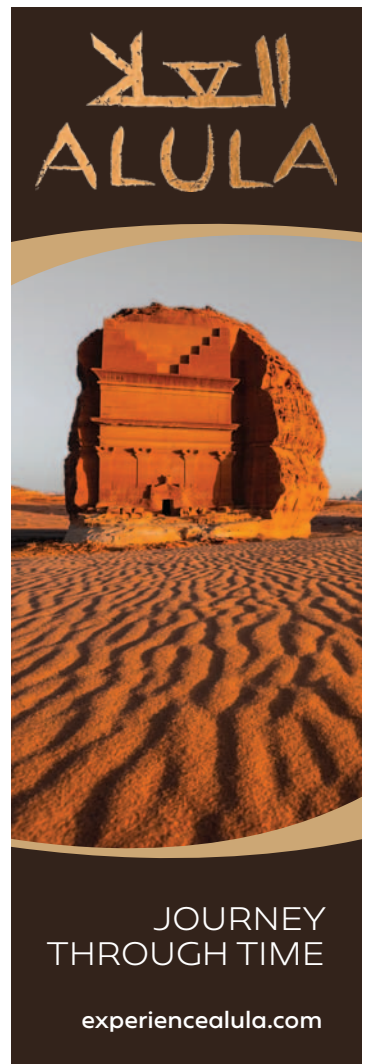
Phuket residents are also being prioritised in the Thai vaccine rollout, with the aim of having 70% of the island's population jabbed before arrivals resume.

The staged reopening will then see Krabi, Phangnga, Koh Samui, Chonburi and Chiang Mai all accessible quarantine-free for vaccinated travellers from Oct.

NY theatre jobs

NEW York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has launched a vaccination drive to fast track COVID-19 jabs for actors and theatre workers.

Pop-up inoculation centres will be established to help Broadway shows welcome tourists by the third quarter of 2021.



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FROM \$7,999 Per Person Twin Share*

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

*T&Cs Apply

HURTIGRUTEN



Where in the world?



THIS is one of the most popular Hindu shrines outside of India, and is visited by around 1.5 million people each year.

This image only shows part of this site, with the main section comprised of a series of caves which are used as temples.

There are three main caves, with the largest having a 100m

high ceiling.

In order to reach the caves, visitors have to climb just over 270 stairs.

As well as religious significance, the caves are a centre of rock climbing, with around 160 routes developed in the past 10 years.

Do you know where in the world you could visit this place?

Pick the nation

COUNTRIES have unique geography, ethnicities and cultures which come together to often form very distinctive symbols.

Based off the four different symbols and famous faces, see if you can figure out which country they represent.

1



2



3



4



Sudoku

BEGINNER

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.

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

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

Whose mascot is this?



WHILE usually it is the athletes who are injured, this bear has copped his fair share of knocks over his nearly 30-year career, with his maladies including a torn bicep and ruptured calf tendon. So important is this mascot to

both his team and state, he has had a day named after him in his constituency – an honour very few, if any, of the players have received.

Do you know whose mascot this is?

ANSWERS 26 MAR

Test your airline knowledge: Airport codes - 1 Incheon International, Seoul, South Korea, 2 Abu Dhabi, 3 Townsville, Australia, 4 Warsaw, Poland, Airline liveries - 1 Allegiant Air, 2 Japan Airlines, 3 EasyJet

Pub quiz: 1 Sands Hotel & Casino, 2 Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, 3 Tower Bridge, 4 b) Tasmania, 5 Norway, 6 1.3 kilometres, 7 Venice, 8 India, 9 c) 14th century, 10 Cairo

Icon under a microscope: Christ the Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

IndiGo payouts

INDIAN low-cost carrier IndiGo has processed 99.95% of the total amount owing to customers in terms of refunds from when it paused operations in the early phases of the pandemic.

The resumption of operations and a steady increase in demand has enabled it to prioritise refunds in an expedited manner.

The outstanding payments are mostly cash transactions where IndiGo is awaiting bank details.

IndiGo is represented locally by Airline Rep Services.

Finnair electric LOI

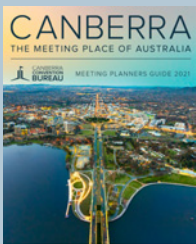
FINNAIR is exploring the use of electrically-powered aircraft, having signed a Letter of Interest (LOI) with sustainable aviation developer Heart Aerospace.

Heart is developing the ES-19 electric aircraft, and is targeting a commercial launch by 2026 for the 19-seater planes.

Finnair has suggested it could acquire up to 20 of the planes for use on short-haul routes, with AY VP of Sustainability Anne Larilahti saying "electric aviation will be one of the tools for the future".

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.



Canberra 2021 Meeting Planners Guide

The 2021 Canberra Meeting Planners Guide is the ultimate guide to the nation's capital for meeting planners wanting to hold an event. As one of the safest cities in Australia, and the least impacted by COVID-19, Canberra is ready to meet again. And offering direct flights to 12 domestic destinations it is easier than ever to host your next event in the city. The Meeting Planners Guide is available in a comprehensive 114-page printed version or also in an enhanced digital format - for more details see mpg.canberraconvention.com.au.



Regent Seven Seas - Space at Sea

This special mini-brochure from Regent Seven Seas Cruises showcases the "lavish, personal space" offered by its fleet of luxury vessels. With capacity for 490 to 750 guests and expansive social areas, the ships also feature multiple, free specialty dining venues so there is never a queue or a crowd. A large pool deck area and spacious fitness centres are also part of the offering, along with some of the largest suites and balconies at sea complemented by small groups and private shoreside opportunities - for more info call 1300 455 200.

LEARN MORE WITH THE TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY 'HUB'

Travel Daily



Viva La Difference!



THE team from Brisbane-based travel agency Viva Travel (not to be confused with Helloworld's Viva Holidays) - Mandi Forrester-Jones, Andrew Hager, Yann Charavel and Riva Forrester-Jones - held a supplier information evening last week at Brookwater Golf Club.

Guests were treated to a drink and snacks prior to short presentations from AAT Kings' Nikki Steadman, Darren Partridge

from The Africa Safari Co and Matthias Dybing from Nuvho Hotels (**pictured**), all of whom offered some great deals for customers who book in the next few weeks.

Viva Travel is a member of Travellers Choice, and is donating \$100 from each booking to the Queensland Cancer Foundation, while one lucky customer also won a two-night package at the Emporium Hotel in Brisbane.

Picture yourself here...



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

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