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ATG confirms Kimberley season

THE APT Travel Group (ATG) has confirmed that its Kimberley Expedition season will commence in Jun, including cruises aboard the *MS Caledonian Sky*.

The return to operations was a “tremendous outcome for our guests, travel agency partners, staff and crew,” according to the group’s MD, Chris Hall.

He noted that the 99-passenger *Sky* was excluded from the Federal Government’s ban on larger foreign cruise ships, and that the program will include voyages between Wyndham and Broome alongside 4WD touring throughout the Kimberley staying in ATG’s exclusive lodges.

The season will operate from Jun-Sep, with very limited space still available, Hall said.

He noted that further itineraries beyond the Kimberley would be announced shortly, while 2022 departure dates for the region are also now on sale.

FCTG sees Mar rebound

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTV) today revealed that its sales in Mar were up more than 30% on the prior month, with the \$100 million uplift taking gross quarterly TTV above one billion dollars for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An investor presentation by CEO Graham Turner and CFO Adam Campbell noted that the firm’s Australian corporate and leisure businesses were strong contributors to the result, along with US leisure operations.

The recovery continued despite heavy restrictions, including the closure of UK travel corridors and Australian international borders, with trading “generally in line with expectations,” they said.

The business is not yet profitable, but given a stable cost base and gradual, but consistent, revenue growth, a return to positive monthly results is expected before 30 Jun.

Key drivers of recovery in the near term include domestic borders staying open, as well as more international corridors/travel bubbles starting up.

“We are seeing solid and immediate rebounds in leisure and corporate sales when restrictions are lifted,” Turner and Campbell said.

Currently FCTG’s corporate business is tracking at about 30% of its historic TTV levels, but is “poised for market-share growth” after a strong pipeline of account wins globally and development of its “game-changing” new Melon SME platform.

On the leisure side, sales are still down 86% on historic levels, due to tighter restrictions in place for discretionary travel.

Interestingly, the company said its local flightcentre.com.au website was now generating a hefty 30% of sales, with ongoing transformation of the business seeing “enhanced multi-channel offerings operating alongside a smaller but stronger and more productive shop network”.

Flight Centre’s leisure division now operates with four models - the downsized network of stores which also act as product showrooms, complemented by a “world-class call centre,” the newly expanded Independent Contractor division (**TD** 09 Apr) and self service/e-commerce.

SA looks very tasty

THE South Australian Tourism Commission is urging travel advisors to learn more about the destination via its dedicated trade.southaustralia.com portal.

The site showcases new products, training, regional updates and suggested itineraries, alongside a range of resources including the South Australian Experts Program.

For more see the **cover page** of today’s *Travel Daily*.

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Sunshine Coast NOOSA

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a cover page from the South Australian Tourism Commission.

Queenstown Roadshow

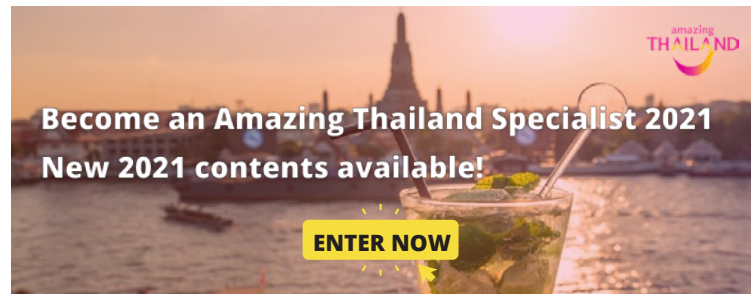
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HOME OF ADVENTURE



NZ opens up Cooks bubble

NEW Zealand is set to welcome visitors from the Cook Islands from 17 May (**TD** breaking news).

Those who have been in New Zealand for the previous 14 days can travel to the Cook Islands and return home without having to isolate or quarantine at either end of their trip, unlike in the previous arrangement, in which those returning to the Cooks did have to quarantine.

The travel corridor is only open between the Cook Islands and New Zealand, meaning travellers from Australia hoping to travel to the island nation will need to spend 14 days in NZ along the way.

Despite admitting to reservations about a potential travel bubble between Australia and Singapore, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she would have no objection to an Australia-Cooks-NZ triangular arrangement, but it would be up to the Cooks whether they would open to

Aussies without the NZ stay.

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation for Australasia General Manager Graeme West said Cook Islanders are “waiting with open arms and big smiles to greet their first visitors in more than a year.

“Because tourism is the mainstay of our economy, this has caused significant financial hardship for many people...we are looking forward with much anticipation to welcoming Kiwis back to our beautiful islands.”

West said there was a special relationship between the two countries, with New Zealanders comprising two-thirds of all visitors to the Cook Islands.

New Zealand’s Pasifika Air, which late last month shelved its planned launch due to delays in a bubble between the two countries (**TD** 21 Apr), has announced its launch is back on for later this year.

ATEC hails Round 2

THE Australian Tourism Export Council has welcomed the second round of the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support grants scheme (**TD** yesterday), which will help support specialist inbound tour operators who are “totally dependent on the reopening of international borders”.

ATEC MD Peter Shelley said the organisation had worked closely with Austrade, alongside AFTA and CATO, to establish a broad “exceptional circumstance” process to ensure all claims are assessed professionally and fairly.

DL does Sabre deal

DELTA Air Lines and Sabre Corporation have announced a “transformative global distribution agreement,” with the multi-year pact described as an “industry-first model that creates value for the entire travel ecosystem, including travel agencies and travellers”.

Delta MD of Global Distribution, Jeff Lobl, said “our vision is to shift the mindset towards modern retailing, selling customers what they want, where they want it and how they want it across all channels”.

DL content is now featured in the New Airline Storefront on Sabre Red 360, providing “digital shelves” said to enhance the traveller’s shopping experience.

The new agreement ensures Sabre-connected travel buyers will continue to have access to Delta content globally.

Italy goes on air

THE Italian National Tourist Board has launched the first international online radio station to help relaunch tourist visitation.

News, live coverage, podcasts and updates are presented alongside “a lot of Italian music” - to listen **CLICK HERE**.



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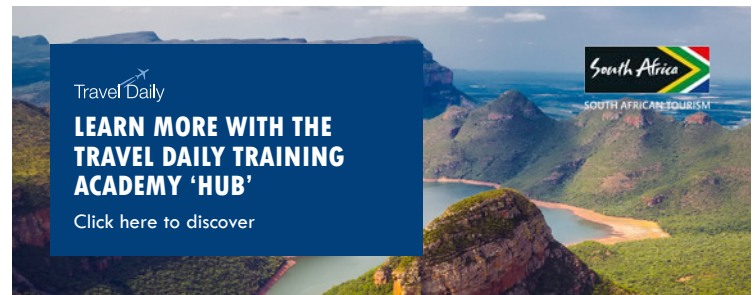
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Virtual security line

SEATTLE'S Sea-Tac International Airport is trialling a new system which could help ease one of the most painful parts of air travel - interminable queues for pre-flight security screening.

The innovation, called SEA Spot Saver, will allow passengers to make digital reservations to pass through Transportation Security Administration checkpoints.

Expedited screening will be available to those who sign up for an appointment, which can be done up to 24 hours before the scheduled departure time.

Initially the program is being piloted for Alaska Airlines and Delta Air Lines customers, with groups of up to 12 also able to book a spot in the line in advance with a 15-minute window.

Port of Seattle officials said they will evaluate the test program after the summer peak travel period, with hopes it could become a permanent fixture.

Adelaide InterCon upgrade

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotel Adelaide has announced a \$32 million upgrade, which will be its first major renovation since the property opened in 1988.

The significant project will include a redesign of all 367 guestrooms and suites, upgrades to meeting and event spaces, a refreshed restaurant and bar and a new InterContinental Club

Lounge experience.

The property will remain open during the works, which are expected to be fully completed early in 2023.

South Australian Premier Steven Marshall welcomed the announcement, saying it was a "terrific vote of confidence in South Australia, and in our tourism and business credentials".

"I want to acknowledge IHG for their investment in Adelaide, it is extremely positive that they see both economic and strategic value in committing to our state moving forward," he said.

IHG also recently debuted the new Hotel Indigo Adelaide Markets (**TD 01 Mar**), with the hotel group's MD Australasia and Japan, Leanne Harwood, saying "we have no doubt that InterContinental Adelaide will continue to define itself as one of Adelaide's most iconic luxury hotels".

SQ raises \$2 billion

SINGAPORE Airlines has further bolstered its balance sheet with a series of sale-and-leaseback transactions for 11 aircraft.

The deals cover seven A350-900s and four Boeing 787-10s.

The S\$2 billion move means the carrier has raised about S\$15.4 billion in fresh liquidity since 01 Apr 2020, reinforcing its ability to "navigate the COVID-19 pandemic from a position of strength," said SIA CEO Goh Choon Phong.



Window Seat

AUTHORITIES at Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport are relieved after safely recovering a nine-year old boy from deep inside the terminal's baggage system.

The inquisitive youngster apparently "dove" into a bag screening belt at the edge of the check-in lobby and headed off on his adventure into the back-of-house conveyor system.

Airport spokesman Patrick Hogan said it took about five minutes to locate the intrepid explorer, who was part of a large group checking in their luggage for a trip.

A video posted by local TV station *MPR News* can be seen at traveldaily.com.au/videos, with Hogan saying the incident will spark a safety review.

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QR, ADL, SATC party like it's 2016



ADELAIDE Airport is adorned in Qatar Airways' signature colours this week as part of the celebrations of the fifth anniversary of the airline's inaugural DOH-ADL service on 03 May 2016 (**TD** yesterday).

Senior executives from the South Australian Tourism Commission, Adelaide Airport and the carrier were joined by local businesses for the commemoration.

Adelaide Airport MD Mark Young said "we are delighted to celebrate this important milestone with Qatar Airways, and to recognise their strong commitment to the Adelaide market and Australian travellers more broadly."

"These services have provided crucial connections to the world for travellers and South Australian freight exporters over the past five years," he said.

South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) CEO Rodney Harrex hailed QR's contribution to the state, which has included an additional nine weekly cargo-only flights to compensate for the drop in capacity as other airlines withdrew from the market.

Thomas Scruby, Qatar Airways VP Australasia and North Asia, reiterated the airline's commitment to the SA market, saying "we're looking forward to the next five years and beyond".

Pictured above during yesterday's celebrations are, from left: Rynette Bongbon, QR; Justine Firth, ADL; Rodney Harrex, SATC CEO; Yen Kho and Thomas Scruby, QR; Mark Gill and Nick Jones, SATC; Lisa Cadd, QR; Alicia Mackay, ADL; and Areena Basil, Dianne Biviano & Shannice Symbol from QR.

More pictures from the event at facebook.com/traveldaily.



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AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

THE opening of the second round of the Federal Government's COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program on Sunday unlocked an additional and very welcome \$130 million in support.

This brings total tailored support for our sector to \$258 million.

Success has many parents and in addition to AFTA's ongoing collaboration with CATO, CLIA and ATEC, the fact we have secured this sector-specific funding is tribute to the massive contribution so many members made and continue to make in lobbying their local MPs.

We also continue to work constructively with Austrade and Government on the implementation approach. This has resulted in some key changes under Round Two of the program including:

- Simplification of the assessment and payment process for businesses eligible for a second payment under the program extension
- An increase in the minimum



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grant amount from \$1,500 to \$7,500

- A reduction in the number of turnover tests used to calculate payments from 41 to nine.

AFTA would like to thank Tourism Minister Dan Tehan for his ongoing

support and commitment to working closely with AFTA alongside other industry stakeholders.

We also welcome his call for Australians to book a holiday in Australia this year and to do so through a travel agent.

Seven members of the AFTA Board are in Canberra next week as part of the Federal Budget calendar and attending Liberal, National and Labor events and meeting with a range of parliamentarians as part of the ongoing advocacy for more support.

It's clear that it's going to be a little while before international travel is an option and AFTA continues to work across our sector and with other key industry bodies including BCA and ACCI to secure the continued support our sector so critically needs.

One&Only in Europe

ONE&ONLY Resorts has debuted its first property in Europe, with the new One&Only Portonovi, Montenegro welcoming guests from 01 May.

The ultra-luxury property offers "sophisticated beach-side living on the Adriatic Riviera," with world-class dining courtesy of Michelin-starred chef Giorgio Locatelli, extensive wellness facilities and an array of upmarket accommodation.

For the first time One&Only is also offering the opportunity to invest in a permanent home at the resort which is about an hour's drive from Dubrovnik.

LH new 787 order

THE Lufthansa Group has ordered five additional Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, as part of its fleet modernisation strategy.

LH already has 20 787-9s on order, with Chief Operations Officer, Detlef Kayser, saying "with these ultra-modern fuel-efficient aircraft we send a strong signal for environmental responsibility... also we will reduce our operating costs and give guests a state-of-the-art travel experience".

The aircraft is also 60% quieter than the previous generation of 767 aircraft, making it "ideal for Lufthansa Group airport communities", he said.

Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

R	E	N
A	U	N
D	C	E

Good – 15 words
 Very good – 22 words
 Excellent – 29 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

Famous faces



THERE are three different faces that make up this picture.

They are a mixture of famous celebrities and travel names. Can you figure out who the

eyes, nose and mouth in this picture belong to?

And don't worry if you can't guess them all, two out of three ain't bad!

ANSWERS 03 MAY

Where in the world: Giant Buffalo, Jamestown, North Dakota

Pick the nation: Kenya

Whose mascot is this: Smokey X - University of Tennessee (all sports teams)

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

Eyes on the pies



ACCORDING to the author of this recipe, Richard Hall who used to work for Fab Travel Deals, this Beef and Guinness Pie is a good luck charm for the NZ All Blacks rugby team.

Apparently he only makes it in winter when the All Blacks play the Wallabies in the Bledisloe Cup and the Kiwis have won every time he's made it.

If you want the Aussies to

win, maybe don't make this pie on game night, but otherwise it sounds absolutely mouth-watering.

We're still looking for more pie recipes, send yours to pie@traveldaily.com.au.

xx Jenny

Jenny Piper
 Owner,
 Business
 Publishing
 Group



Beef and Guinness Pie

INGREDIENTS

- 2kg Blade or Chuck Steak cut into 2cm cubes
- 1 tbsp cooking oil
- 1 cup self raising flour (can use plain but self raising gives it more body)
- 500ml beef stock
- 1 beef stock cube
- 1 onion, diced finely
- ½ cup tomato paste
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 3 cloves
- 3 cardamom pods
- 1 dessert spoon black peppercorns
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp coriander seeds
- 1 tbsp tumeric
- 1 bay leaf
- Two kaffir lime leaves
- 1 tsp salt or to taste
- 1 x 400ml can Guinness
- 1 tbsp brown sugar (if needed)
- Puff pastry

METHOD

In a fry pan brown the onion, add half the flour slowly and mix together. Remove from pan. Turn up the heat to hot and sear and brown the steak in batches if not able to do all at once.

Add remaining flour to the meat and coat well. Add onions. Place the meat and onions into a slow cooker.

In the fry pan add all the dry spices and heat until aromatic. Grind to a powder in a mortar & pestle and add to the slow cooker.

Warm the stock and add to the slow cooker. Add ¾ can of Guinness (the rest is for the cook) and the tomato paste. Strip the kaffir leaves from the central stalk and add with bay leaf and garlic to the slow cooker.

Cook on high in slow cooker for 4 hours, ensuring the meat is covered with the stock.

After a couple hours taste to see if slightly bitter from the Guinness. If slightly bitter add the brown sugar.

Once cooked, put the meat into ramekins or a baking dish and cover with puff pastry. Coat with either egg or milk and cook in 180°C oven for around 20-25 mins until pastry is golden brown. Serve with mashed potatoes and vegetables.

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EU travel proposal

A EUROPEAN Union (EU) proposal would allow entry by tourists from countries with aggressive coronavirus vaccination programs by the end of Jun.

The European Union yesterday announced a road map to allowing people from outside the bloc, with those who are fully vaccinated and their kids able to visit regardless of the coronavirus situation in their country.

Under the proposal, unvaccinated citizens of non-EU countries would also be allowed to visit as the health situation improves in their nation.

EU officials flagged protocols including a mechanism to quickly halt travel from countries with new variants.

BEIA MEETINGS

AUSTRALIAN business event organisers are set to meet in New Zealand at Business Events Industry Aotearoa's (BEIA) two-day showcase MEETINGS 2021.

As well as 60 hosted buyers and industry media from around Australia, 110 domestic event planners from across New Zealand will join MEETINGS' pre-scheduled appointment program, with 145 exhibitors from 18 regions set to converge on Auckland's ASB Showgrounds.

Beginning on 01 Jun, BEIA Chief Executive Lisa Hopkins said the border opening last month provided much-needed international confidence.

More MICE news in today's **Business Events News**.

Get high in Portugal



THE world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge has officially opened, suspended 175m above the River Paiva in the country's UNESCO-registered Arouca Geopark in the country's north.

The heart-stopping experience (pictured) is more than half a kilometre long, and is hoped to help revive tourism in the region which has been hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bridge is open to the public, but to cross it you must be accompanied by a guide, with bookings made online at a cost of about €10 per person.

Tasmania campaign

TOURISM Tasmania has launched its new The Off-Season winter campaign.

The drive aims to evoke a sense of adventure and wilderness, and calls on mainlanders to "shake off their inhibitions and experience Tassie when it truly comes alive."

Off-season experiences to be highlighted include barley silo stargazing at McHenry Distillery's new observatory, truffle hunting, and taking a lantern tour of Sarah Island - discovertasmania.com.au.

MONEY

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.774

THE Aussie dollar has rebounded from three-week lows, as American shares climbed overnight.

The AUDUSD gained 0.6%, while American shares bounced back, helped by more traditional "cyclical" stocks that are likely to benefit from the US' gradual economic reopening.

The AUD was also higher in most other markets, such as against the Euro and Yen.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.774
UK	£0.556
NZ	\$1.070
Euro	€0.641
Japan	¥84.51
Thailand	฿23.98
China	¥4.960
South Africa	11.09
Canada	\$0.946
Crude oil	US\$67.29

Expedia joins PATA

THE Pacific Air Travel Association (PATA) has welcomed Expedia Group as its newest corporate member.

"It is important that we are able to add this voice to our discussions in the renewal of a responsible and sustainable travel and tourism industry," said outgoing PATA CEO Mario Hardy.

Expedia Group Media Solutions Senior Director Andrew van der Feltz said working with organisations like PATA was crucial in helping the OTA achieve its objectives.

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All eyes are on pies!



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