



UK traffic lights

TRAVEL in Great Britain is set to resume under a new "traffic light" set of rules which mean those arriving from certain countries will not need to quarantine.

To be launched next Mon, travellers from "green" destinations which include Australia, New Zealand, Iceland, Israel, Portugal and Singapore can enter quarantine-free.

"Amber" destinations require negative COVID-19 test results and 10 days of self-isolation at home upon arrival, while travellers from "red" countries can only enter the country if they are UK or Irish citizens or permanent residents.

The Green list will be reviewed every three weeks, and the Government has warned that countries can be added or removed at short notice.

UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said the approach was "necessarily cautious"

MEANWHILE former Wendy Wu Tours Global CEO Joe Karbo has penned an exclusive opinion piece for today's *Travel Daily*, on the hope and optimism in the UK around the traffic light initiative.

Despite criticism about the scheme's restrictions, the move is a stark contrast to Australia's current fortress mentality, with Karbo, who now runs one of the largest independently-owned travel groups in Britain, providing a unique perspective through his experience in both countries.

See his update on **page four** of today's *Travel Daily*.

Helloworld agents wind-up

EXCLUSIVE

JMW Travel Pty Ltd, the company which owns and operates Helloworld Bentleigh and Helloworld Monbulk in Vic, is set to be liquidated, despite efforts by its Administrators from Mackay Goodwin to initially keep the business trading (**TD** 26 Feb).

A creditors meeting late last month resolved to wind up the company, after earlier discussions over a Deed of Company Arrangement (DOCA) did not come to fruition.

The Administrator held the view that the financial performance of the company had been improving following the closure of one of its offices, but had been heavily

impacted by the closure of borders and suppressed travel demand through the pandemic.

When the company was placed into administration, Helloworld Travel Limited exercised its rights to terminate its franchise, however Mackay Goodwin held the view that this was not possible during the voluntary administration period.

The Administrator noted that Helloworld had advised of its willingness to "assist in the coordination of client refunds in a liquidation scenario".

JMW Travel was estimated to owe \$238,000 to secured creditors, \$129,000 to unsecured creditors and \$62,000 in employee entitlements.

At the date of the appointment of administrators it was also holding about \$278,000 in funds on behalf of clients.

Rex to break even

REGIONAL Express today confirmed it expects to finish the 2021 financial year with a break even situation, with the airline's cash position having "improved exponentially" due to very strong advance bookings on its new mainline domestic routes as well as recently added regional destinations.

The carrier's overall capacity is about 35% of what it was pre-COVID, while in regional markets demand is back to 60% with strong recovery in Western Australia and Queensland.

The end of JobKeeper means regional operations are "slightly loss-making" but are expected to improve as demand increases.

HKG quarantine cut

QUARANTINE restrictions for inbound travellers to Hong Kong are being eased, with arrivals from Australia, New Zealand and Singapore now only requiring seven days of hotel isolation.

Vaccinated residents will also now only require a week of quarantine if they are deemed a close contact of a COVID-19 patient, while Hong Kong residents who are based in mainland China are able to return to the city without quarantine under a quota system.

Today's issue of TD

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

Scenic cancels 2021 Kimberley season

THE imminent cruising hopes of thousands of Australians have been dashed after a decision by Scenic Cruises to cancel its upcoming program of voyages between Broome and Darwin.

The highly anticipated season would have seen *Scenic Eclipse* sail in local waters for the first time, with previously announced plans to commence operations on 19 Jun, in line with a hoped-for easing of Government restrictions.

However the season will not be able to proceed as planned, according to Scenic Chairman Glen Moroney who told customers that when the program launched "we were confident that by late Jun 2021 we would be able to deliver a unique experience for our guests".

Despite months of engagement with governments and health authorities and previous optimism about vaccination rollouts, there is still ongoing uncertainty about the timing for permits and approvals.

With *Eclipse* currently off the coast of Croatia "it is not possible for us to relocate the ship and crew in the hope that at some stage these restrictions may be lifted," Moroney said.

More of the latest cruise news in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Jetstar Group Bookings – AU Domestic Promotion

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Big Qantas boost for ADL

QANTAS Airways will launch a new Adelaide-Gold Coast service in time for the upcoming winter school holidays, as it establishes a new base in the SA capital operating the new Embraer aircraft fleet under lease from Alliance Airlines (**TD 07 May**).

From 25 Jun, South Australians will be able to fly direct to the Gold Coast on one of four return services per week, with daily flights during holiday peaks.

QF will also boost services from Adelaide to Sydney and Melbourne, as well as more than doubling Mount Gambier frequencies to 12 weekly from Jul.

The carrier flagged a number of additional routes from Adelaide will be announced in the coming weeks, while a new Canberra-Darwin direct route will launch from 21 Jun, also using E190s.

The small jet aircraft will be painted in QantasLink livery and see QF grow its domestic capacity to 107% of pre-pandemic levels for the 2022 fiscal year.

The E190s will also free up Boeing 737 aircraft to be redeployed across the domestic

network, according to QF CEO Alan Joyce who launched the operations in ADL on Fri.

Joyce said the 94-seat Embraers, which have a five hour range, were well-suited to linking capital cities and rural towns.

"Basing these aircraft in Adelaide means we can service South Australia better and help bring more visitors to the State."

"The E190 is a great aircraft for the Adelaide market, with its size, range and economics opening up a number of new destinations that wouldn't be viable with the larger 737 aircraft.

"Instead of one or two flights a day with a larger aircraft, we can offer three or four flights a day on the E190, which gives customers a lot more choice about when they travel," Joyce enthused.

Visa work changes

FOREIGN student visa holders in Australia will be able to work significantly more hours without breaching their visas, with the existing 40 hour fortnightly cap to be removed for those working in hospitality and tourism.

Temporary visa holders in those sectors will also be able to stay longer, with a special COVID-19 pandemic visa available extending their stay by 12 months.

The measures aim to help ease workforce shortages, and have been applauded by accommodation and hospitality groups suffering labour shortfalls.

New Allianz policies

ALLIANZ Partners has relaunched into the travel insurance market, with a new COVID-19 product providing refunds for policyholders impacted by national and international border closures.

The cover is available for sale online via a "brand new agile purchase platform," the company said, aiming to reduce the compliance load and ensure clients are fully informed.

The new policies cover Australians travelling domestically or internationally to a country included in the Australian Govt's travel zone arrangements.

As easy as AAT

AAT Kings has launched a new Book With Confidence campaign.

Rebook/Refund/Relax is designed to give customers complete peace of mind when booking their next tour, allowing them to a change or refund up to three days prior to a Day Tour departing, 15 days prior to a Short Break, and 30+ days prior to an AAT Kings Guided Holiday or Inspiring Journeys departure.

"We know people are spending a lot of time looking at booking conditions, instead of focusing on the exciting parts about planning their holidays," said AAT Kings Group CEO Matt Fuller.

NZ status offer

QANTAS is offering double Status Credits for bookings made this week on trans-Tasman services, valid for travel through until 28 Feb 2022.

The deal requires registration by **CLICKING HERE**, with 5,000 bonus Qantas Points also on offer.

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NTL runway plans

PRIME Minister Scott Morrison has announced \$66 million in funding for a significant upgrade of the runway at Newcastle Airport, under an allocation in tomorrow's Federal Budget.

Once completed the works will enable the airport to welcome larger twin-aisle aircraft including Boeing 787s and Airbus A350s, potentially opening up the Hunter region to long-haul aviation.

The project is scheduled for completion in early 2023, with Singapore among the first destinations being targeted.

Crown-Star merger afoot?

HOSPITALITY and gambling company The Star Entertainment Group has proposed a merger with Crown Resorts Limited, saying the amalgamation would create "a national tourism and entertainment leader with a world-class portfolio of integrated resorts".

The proposed \$12 billion union would seek to engage investors on a sale and leaseback of the enlarged property portfolio, with The Star believing it can complete its necessary due diligence and



agree to a binding merger and definitive debt financing over the course of the next two-to-three months.

Spanning seven properties in four states, the merger pits The Star against investment management company The Blackstone Group, which has bid \$8 billion for Crown (**TD** 22 Mar) and this morning announced a higher offer for the group.

A Star-Crown merger would likely need approval from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, and The Star would need to be approved as a licence holder by gambling regulators in Victoria and Western Australia.

Regulators suspended Crown's licence for its new Sydney casino in Feb (**TD** 16 Feb), and royal commissions into the company will begin in Western Australia today (**TD** 08 Mar) Victoria later in the week (**TD** 24 Feb).

Crown Resorts Limited also this morning announced the appointment of Lendlease Chief Steve McCann as CEO and MD.

Crystal adds sailings

CRYSTAL Cruises has expanded its program of operations in the Caribbean, with a series of 15 St Maarten-based 10-night *Crystal Symphony* voyages from 02 Aug.

Crystal had previously unveiled voyages ex Antigua and Barbuda, with all guests required to be fully inoculated against COVID-19.

DL plots Croatia

DELTA Air Lines has confirmed plans to operate non-stop services between New York JFK and Dubrovnik in Croatia.

Four weekly 767-300 flights are set to launch on 02 Jul.



Window Seat

RIDING the Subway, exploring Central Park, and...getting vaccinated against coronavirus?

The city that never sleeps has been forced into a slumber during the COVID-19 pandemic, but with the coronavirus vaccination effort in the United States well underway, the Big Apple is once again inviting travellers to come take a bite.

New York City is offering free coronavirus jabs to tourists, and to sweeten the deal, travellers won't even have to waste a day of sightseeing receiving it.

Mobile vaccination vans will be situated at Times Square, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and other popular locations, according to Mayor Bill De Blasio.

"We think this is a positive message to send to tourists," he said, adding "come here and we're going to take care of you."

The announcement of the new "vaxication" offer comes as restrictions ease further on restaurants and live shows, as more and more Knickerbockers are inoculated.

We're on the hunt...

Advertising Operations and Social Media Coordinator

Are you looking for a new role that offers a variety of responsibilities to keep your day invigorated?

The Business Publishing Group is the leader in B2B publications across travel, cruise, business events and pharmaceutical sectors and is after a team player to join our sales and marketing unit.

The role will require assistance with development of the daily editions, liaising with clients, social media activities as well as an assortment of other tasks – for which on the job training will be provided.

If you have a penchant for design, a keen eye for detail and a willingness to learn, this could be the role for you.

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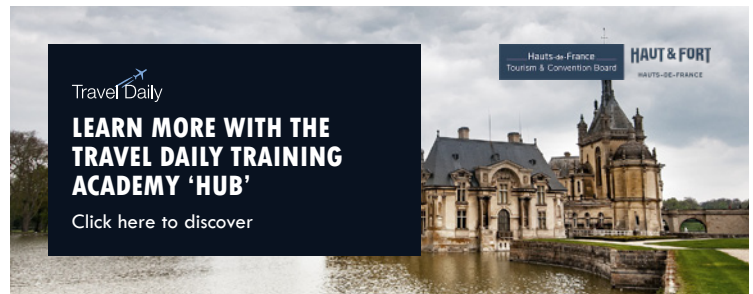
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RED.... AMBER... GREEN... here we go!

OPINION

Joe Karbo is COO of UK-based Moresand Group, one of the country's largest independently owned travel businesses.



Got an opinion to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to feedback@traveldaily.com.au.

A BIG HELLO! to my travel colleagues in Australia, hope you're all keeping well. It's been a while.

Last time I was in Oz was Mar 2020 for the Force For Good event in Sydney on International Women's Day organised by Helene Taylor.

All the COVID talk back then was regarding China, Italy & Iran, no need for concern etc – how things changed so quickly thereafter!

I'm writing here from London as the UK officially opens its borders next week for travel with the new Green, Amber, Red light system.

After enduring a tough four month continuous lockdown, the news has given fresh hope for our beleaguered travel industry.

On a personal note, last year I was fortunate enough to have travelled to five countries from London (Portugal, Spain, Greece, Armenia & Cuba) for both work & leisure purposes, navigating within the Foreign Office regulations of movement, getting tested pre & post travel both in the UK & abroad (all negative results!)

With both tests costing about £25, I remember arriving at both Varadero airport in Cuba & Yerevan in Armenia and getting

tested at the airport with the results sent to your hotel the next morning.

Also, whilst in Athens I had to cut my trip short to avoid a 14 day home quarantine with a change in foreign office policy mid stay. On the edge stuff!

So I can personally vouch that a control testing system for travel can work, even wearing a mask on long haul for nine hours from London to Cuba.

Over the past six months there's been a definitive shift and focus on border control & testing.

Also the vaccination rollout has been successful with over 32 million having the first jab and 16 million with the second thus far.

There is genuinely a feeling of optimism here especially with summer approaching.

Not surprisingly there's a lot of opinions on the merits of borders closures and vaccinations. Seems consistent on most issues these days, it's usually a 50/50 split. So whatever I say will be probably be agreed and disagreed with.

All I can comment on, is that for our beloved travel industry we need HOPE to survive.

Maybe this new travel colour scheme in UK may offer some hope if successful.

I say hope, because when politicians make 'off the cuff'

statements on opening borders you immediately see the knock on effect on consumer confidence & hence bookings.

I mentioned bookings as without any forwards, we don't have a business and future.

There is also an anticipation here, that once a UK/US travel corridor opens up (speculated in Jul) it will go a long way to restoring much needed sustained confidence in travel.

As a business, what's kept us

going for the past 15 months is servicing/ amending our existing clients and locking in booking forwards.

Within the Moresand Group there's over 10 travel brands, so

keeping staff focused & positive has been the goal throughout.

Because the UK throughout the pandemic hadn't completely shut off all flights and borders, it's enabled some trading to take place.

In addition, many businesses are still utilising the government furlough scheme which is still in force until Sep 2021.

The first stage of the pandemic was to keep it under control and not adversely affect society by spreading & causing death.

You can only commend Australia for containing the virus and

allowing society to function to a near to normal as possible.

The next challenge for Oz will be opening up borders. It's a tricky one with each country and their governments reacting differently.

However, it's evident a tough stance on borders means better chances on re-election, as has been the case with recent state elections.

There needs to be a detailed national roadmap on opening borders in Australia, instead of the loosely applied rhetoric of being "closed indefinitely".

"Loose lips sink ships" is a phrase that comes to mind.

We all know once you're in a role of responsibility, your words & actions have ramifications.

I can only put it down to poor leadership by some in prominent positions.

Even if a date was set say on 01 Feb 2022, based on certain criteria being met, this will provide hope and surety.

Back in Jan 2021 the UK government set specific domestic targets to achieve by May 2021 in slowly restricting lockdowns & opening borders.

This provided clarity to plan & deliver.

By the way, this is not an Ashes series between England and Australia on who's better or worse, I'm just sharing my experience as an Aussie in the UK.

D K Lillie – say no more...

Let's just hope the Green, Amber, Red system is successful, so hopefully it can be applied in Australia soon.

Please be safe, remain positive and don't give up the fight.

“
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travel industry we
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”



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Where in the world?



PERCHED high on a mountain, this viewing platform is sometimes referred to as the top of Europe.

The building sits at 3,454m above sea level and offers visitors incredible views of the surrounding mountains in three

different countries, as well as the chance to take in the longest glacier in Europe.

In order to get to here, travellers take a cog railway to the highest railway station in Europe.

Do you know where in the world this is located?

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

FIENDISH

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.

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

Whose mascot is this?



PERHAPS the world's only mascot to be named after a part of the stadium in which he inhabits, Wally the Green Monster debuted in 1997, much to the chagrin of some of the older, crusty, season ticket holders.

These days, Wally is a team- and sport-favourite, so much so that he now appears at Yawkey Way outside the stadium before games to take photos with the fans.

Do you know whose mascot Wally is?

ANSWERS 07 MAY

Icon under a microscope: Machu Picchu, Peru

Test your airline knowledge: Airport codes - 1 Siem Reap, Cambodia, 2 Sheremetyevo International Airport, Moscow, Russia, 3 Albany, Australia, 4 Toronto, Canada

Airline liveries - 1 Hawaiian Airlines, 2 Air Madagascar, 3 Gulf Air

Pub quiz: 1 Dublin Airport and Shannon Airport, 2 1980 and 1984, 3 Launceston, 4 True, 5 Western Australia, 6 Lima, 7 Vienna, 8 Toowoomba, 9 c) The Riverina, 10 Western Australia

Monday 10th May 2021

P&O virtual voyage

P&O Cruises is keeping the dream alive this week by hosting its inaugural "Virtual Cruise".

Described as a "feature-packed four night short break" the voyage will be staged on social media to emulate a cruise from Sydney to Moreton Island in Qld.

Deck parties, trivia quizzes and high teas will feature alongside an entertainment package from "high energy and irrepressibly funny comedy juggler James Bustar," with the virtual voyage setting sail at 4pm AEST today.

Join at facebook.com/pocruises.

Online Rendez-vous

CANADA'S Rendez-vous+ (RVC+) international tourism marketplace will return in virtual form this year, with over 1,300 travel industry professionals to network online with Canadian suppliers next week.

The show is scheduled for 17-21 May, with Destination Canada GSA MD Donna Campbell saying "even though we can't meet in person this year, RVC+ is an opportunity to share our love for Canada and keep the Australian travel trade up to date".

See rendezvouscanada.ca.

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.



Railbookers - Cruise Extensions

Railbookers has launched its first ever Cruise Extensions brochure, giving travellers a wide array of pre- and post- cruise rail vacations for those who want to extend their time in Europe. Offerings are valid for 2021, 2022 and 2023, with fully customisable rail journeys giving extensive options to explore further by rail from all the major river and ocean cruise ports including Amsterdam, Basel, Nuremberg, Budapest, Passau, Barcelona, Bergen, Venice and Civitavecchia. The brochure is available at railbookers.com.



Active Adventures - New Zealand

Small group adventures in this program from Active Adventures offers a range of new, shorter, off-the-beaten track itineraries built with Aussie travellers in mind. Hiking, cycling and sea kayaking activities are on offer, with a maximum of 14 passengers and hundreds of departures to choose from. The all-inclusive options feature all meals, activities, accommodation, transfers and guiding services and are fully commissionable. For more information and to download the brochure see activeadventures.com.

RAA thanks its suppliers



QF Club fee change

QANTAS has rejigged the cost of membership for the Qantas Club, with increases in the annual fees but a lower joining cost which has been slashed to \$99 from the previous \$399.

However for new members the annual renewal cost climbs from \$540 to \$600, with discounts applying for multi-year renewals.

Existing members will not be charged the higher prices according to QF Chief Customer Officer Stephanie Tully, who said the carrier was responding to feedback about the joining fee being a significant impediment.

TripAdvisor poised

TRIPADVISOR has released its financial results for the quarter to 31 Mar, with US\$123 million in total revenue, down 56%.

The overall loss for the period was US\$80 million, with the company saying monthly unique users on its websites improved significantly particularly in the USA where numbers approached 80% of 2019 levels.

CEO Steve Kaufer said while the recovery was uneven "there is light ahead...we think leisure travel is poised for a potential inflection later this year as the recovery broadens".



RAA Travel made the most of Tasting Australia festival in Adelaide last week, with the team hosting key industry partners at a special supplier event on 05 May.

RAA is the presenting partner of the culinary showcase which wrapped up yesterday after just over a week celebrating South Australia's food and wine.

Attendees made the most of the opportunity to reconnect, including Stacey Cant, NZ Regional Manager for the South Australian Tourism Commission who flew into the SA capital on the first Air New Zealand ADL flight in more than 12 months.

Pictured enjoying the celebrations are, from left: Linda Souter, RAA Travel West Lakes; Loren Quinn, RAA Travel Mile End; Stacey Forgiione, RAA Manager Travel Agent Sales; and Clare Dos Santos, RAA Travel West Lakes.

And **inset** are the always smiling Melanie Truman and Gabby Pearce-Raisin from Journey Beyond.

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

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

Travel Daily
www.traveldaily.com.au

Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

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