

STOP DREAMING ABOUT NEW ZEALAND AND GO



Wakey wakey, it's time for a virtual journey and actual flights!

A new day has dawned, the Trans-Tasman Quarantine Free Travel Zone is now open and it's time for us to get reacquainted. Join us for a virtual journey around each region of New Zealand with a chance to win flights during each session.

Register for your spot on the virtual journey and your chance to win flights to New Zealand.

GO!

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It's time to wake up to New Zealand

DREAMING time is over - it's time to visit New Zealand!

To prepare for the return of Australian travellers, Tourism NZ is inviting travel advisors to join it for a number of virtual journeys around each region of New Zealand, with flights up for grabs during each session.

Tourism New Zealand has launched its first Virtual Travel Expo '21 to help travel advisors sell the destination - register now for your spot on a virtual journey and your chance to win a flight to NZ by heading to the **front page**.

Crown rejects bid

CROWN Resorts has opted against accepting a takeover bid from Blackstone Group, believing the offer to acquire the company for \$12.35 a share (\$8.2 billion) "undervalues" the business and is therefore not in its best interests.

"The Board is committed to maximising value for all Crown shareholders and will carefully consider any acquisition proposal that is consistent with this objective," Crown noted.

The rejection comes as The Star Entertainment Group launched a merger opportunity with Crown Resorts last week (**TD** 10 May), stating a combined entity would create "a national tourism and entertainment leader".

Crown today revealed it had not yet formed a view on the merits of Star's proposal.

27% of Aussies planning

MORE than a quarter of Aussies plan on taking a holiday over the next 12 months, according to new data published in Roy Morgan's Holiday Travel Intention Leading Indicator Report.

The figures show that 5.68 million Australians aged 14 and above are seeking to travel in the next year, with a further 340,000 specifically planning an overseas holiday, pending Federal Government border policies.

When it comes to domestic holidays of more than three days in duration, Queensland now tops the list of desired destinations, moving past NSW to secure top spot with 24.9% of respondents.

NSW maintained second spot for interstate travel with 22.7%, followed by Victoria with 11.6%, Western Australia (11.1%), South Australia (9.8%), the NT (7.7%), and Tasmania with 4.6%.

"Prior to the pandemic, NSW had been the leading domestic destination for longer holidays

of at least three nights picked by 17.2% of travellers just ahead of both Queensland (16.4%) and Victoria (15.3%) in late 2019," Roy Morgan CEO Michele Levine said.

"The approach taken to the pandemic by the Qld Govt was endorsed at last year's Queensland state election with Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk returned with an increased majority and these results show other Australians are also endorsing the state as a good place for a longer holiday as long as the international borders remain closed," she added.

While less than 2% of respondents were actively planning overseas trips in the next 12 months, Levine said the border closure provided an "unprecedented opportunity" for Australian holiday-makers to explore their own country over the next year.

Head to Tasmania with Aus & Beyond

AUSTRALIA & Beyond Holidays (AABH) is inviting travellers to explore Tasmania this winter through Australia's favourite wholesaler.

AABH is promoting its range of Tasmanian product for Australians looking to visit the Apple Isle for a domestic getaway - head to **page six** for more exciting details.

Follow the lights

HURTIGRUTEN Norwegian Coastal Express has launched its 2022-23 Follow the Lights season.

With almost 50 departures scheduled between Sep 2022 and Mar 2023, guests will join the iconic voyage for six days, cruising through Norway's fjords.

Highlights include husky and reindeer experiences, staying in a glass igloo under the northern lights, crossing the Arctic Circle, and a new visit to The Historical Museum in Oslo.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our **PUZZLE** page, a front cover page from **Tourism NZ** and a full page from **Australia and Beyond Holidays**.

TG update on Wed

CREDITORS of Thai Airways International will vote on a formal Business Re-Organisation plan for the carrier on Wed this week.

The airline has not been able to pay refunds since the start of the pandemic due to the initiation of bankruptcy proceedings (**TD** 19 May 2020), which "prevent it from disbursing funds".

Passengers seeking their money back for unused tickets have been advised that a "refunds process" is part of the proposal, with details to be advised in Jun or Jul.

The carrier has also told pax refund applications for bookings via travel agents will be handled by the agents, not by TG itself.

Vote for survival

IT'S not too late to complete the *Travel Daily* Survival Survey (**TD** 14 May), which is continuing to gather a snapshot of the industry's position in the wake of last week's Federal Budget.

The confidential poll is open to anyone currently or formerly in the industry, with five \$50 Visa gift cards also up for grabs.

See traveldaily.com.au/survey.

Do the survey to WIN!

Jetstar Group Bookings – AU Domestic Promotion

For all **NEW** domestic Group bookings from 03 May – 30 June 2021:

- ✓ 50% off the deposit amount
- ✓ Unlimited name changes up to 24 hours before departure
- ✓ Final payment extended to 30 days (from 45 days)*

*Terms and conditions apply. See Jetstar's Group Booking page for details.

Get Group quote

Jetstar

Vale Mary Rossi, aged 95

THE Australian travel industry has lost one of its pioneering women, with the death on Sat of Mary Rossi at the age of 95.

Rossi founded Mary Rossi Travel in 1970 when the youngest of her ten children was aged just two - after a successful TV career which led to her escorting a 1969 12-week round-the-world cruise and tour of Europe on behalf of the Lloyd Triestino shipping company, which operated the *Galileo* and *Marconi* cruise liners.

The trip was a great success and continued on an annual basis for some years, giving thousands of Aussies a taste of overseas travel.

Mary Rossi Travel was established to cater for the individual needs of her clientele, and developed a strong reputation for excellent service, with Rossi having a passion for hotels that reflected the unique essence of their destination and in turn becoming friends with

boutique hoteliers worldwide.

The Australian arrival of Virtuoso in 2004 saw Mary Rossi Travel - by then under the current ownership of her daughter Claudia Rossi Hudson - the first agency invited to join.

Rossi was a strong advocate for women in business, and was the first female to become a director of a travel company.

She mentored and encouraged many women in their travel careers, while raising her own large family, many of whom worked in the business.

Claudia Rossi Hudson said her mother was rightly often referred to as the "Doyenne of the Travel Industry," with the agency continuing to uphold "the importance of integrity and the joy of human connection that Mrs Rossi so embodied".

Her funeral will take place next Mon 24 May at 10am at St Mary's church in Ridge St, North Sydney.



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The Benson is here

THE former Rydges Plaza hotel in Cairns is set to be renovated and reopened as The Benson Hotel after businessman Adam Adams bought the 101-room property back in Jan.

Slated to open in the next few weeks, the 4.5 star hotel will undergo a staged renovation over the next two years, with featured amenities to include a restaurant, cafe and bar/lounge, conference & meeting rooms, and an outdoor swimming pool.

Qantas queries lab

QANTAS Airways is investigating the accuracy of coronavirus tests conducted by an Indian pathology company after reports dozens were unable to board their repatriation flight from the country back to Australia.

On Sat, nearly half of the 150 passengers due to touch down in Darwin from New Delhi were told they would not be able to board.

More puff for Billy

HERITAGE railway Puffing Billy has received an \$11.2 million investment from the Victorian Govt in a bid to protect local jobs and support its recovery from the COVID shutdown.

The iconic steam train, managed by the Emerald Tourist Railway Board, saw more than half a million pax board a year before the pandemic struck, with Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula describing the train as "one of Victoria's most-loved icons".

Vic tourism boost

THE Victorian Government will provide \$55 million in funding for Visit Victoria in its upcoming budget to allow the body to create new visitor campaigns for Melbourne and regional areas.

Marketing will focus on domestic travellers initially before shifting to the return of int'l arrivals pending health advice.

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QR Biz class deals

QATAR Airways has launched a Business class sale offering flights to destinations such as Dubai, the Maldives and New York from \$6,049 return.

The range of deals also include \$7,059 return to Miami from Sydney, with the fares available to book until 21 May for travel between 28 May & 31 Mar 2022.

QR is reminding agents that it has updated its cancellation policy so that all tickets booked until 30 Jun for travel up to 31 May 2022 can have the date and destination changed with no fees.

GC marketing blitz

DESTINATION Gold Coast has launched a new campaign calling on Aussie travellers to ditch the chills for the warmth and thrills.

The \$1.75 million marketing push highlights the area's beaches, hinterland and myriad of tourism attractions, targeting families and over 50s in capital cities to holiday in the Gold Coast during the traditionally softer period for domestic travel.

Don't be a hermit nation

A GROUP of Liberal MPs have warned that Australia risks inflicting undue economic damage if borders remain shut until mid-2022, a date used as a marker in the Federal Government's latest budget earlier this month (**TD** 12 May).

Speaking with *The Sun-Herald* on the weekend, Liberal Member for Goldstein in Melbourne, Tim Wilson, indicated the country's risk-averse stance to travel had merit at the start of the lockdown but should not be viewed as a longer-term policy position.

"Like many measures, int'l border closures had a temporary place, but it is not sustainable and will turn us into a hermit outpost," he argued.

"While public sentiment may still support closures now, it will change as people are vaccinated and business people need to travel...and we come to realise how much it is costing our country," Wilson added.

MP for Wentworth in Sydney

Dave Sharma agreed, adding that continued border closures were inflicting "significant costs, economic and personal".

"I am keen to see us reopening our borders, likely in a staged and incremental fashion, as soon as it is safe," Sharma said.

Sydney-based MP, Jason Falinski, believes international travel should be used as an incentive for people to get vaccinated, adding that Aussies who get the jab should be able to travel without restriction and self-isolate at home on their return.

The comments follow a statement by Australia's former Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Nick Coatsworth, who declared the concept of COVID-19 eradication a "false idol", and suggested Australia should instead consider reopening int'l borders sooner.

Mondrian London

ACCOR-OWNED brand Mondrian has announced plans to open the Mondrian Shoreditch London this Jul.

The 120-room property will boast 13 suites, as well as The Screening Room venue for live performances, a rooftop pool & lounge area, multiple dining concepts and co-working spaces.

Situated in East London's creative and cultural hub, the lifestyle hotel will mark Mondrian's return to London and is the sixth in its portfolio globally.



COMEDY duo Hamish and Andy are a step closer to launching a special emergency slide party, with Rex Airlines stepping up to host the novel event.

The pair have long felt that the inflatable slides deployed in non-traditional landings sound like the perfect place to hold an unusual shindig, and have been trying to get the party off the ground for some time.

Last week Hamish and Andy revealed they are now in advanced talks with Rex to make the quirky dream a reality, with approximately 40 people to be invited along to enjoy a taxi ride around Melbourne Airport before guests get to plunge down the inflatable slide.

The pair are also campaigning for the airline to allow its guests to drink their duty-free alcohol on the flight, but admit this element is still in discussions.

The slide party is earmarked to take place on 16 Jun.



send us donut ditties to win

The best donut ditty each week will be read out on our podcast and the best overall entry will win themselves a dozen donuts on International Donut Day 4 June.

Send your entries to donuts@traveldaily.com.au

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.

Candidates with customer service, travel industry experience, organisational skills and Adobe Suite proficiency would be highly desirable.

Applications close 21st May 2021.

Send your CV and covering letter to jobs@traveldaily.com.au



Where in the world?



NO THIS isn't the more famous colosseum of Rome, although it looks very similar to it.

In fact, when it was built in the 3rd century it was modelled on the Roman Colosseum, although it isn't an exact copy.

It could fit around 35,000 spectators and is one of the

largest amphitheatres in the world, as well as being one of the best preserved Roman stone ruins in the world.

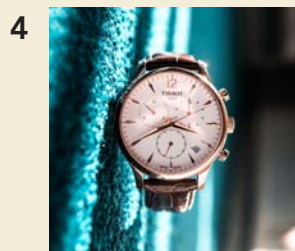
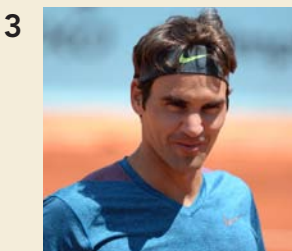
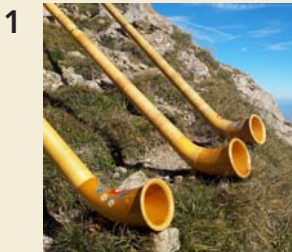
It was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1979 and is unique in Africa.

Do you know in which country you could visit this ruin?

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.



Sudoku

DIABOLICAL

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.

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

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

Whose mascot is this?



AS YOU may be able to tell from Blue's attire, he is indeed an NFL mascot, but as regular readers of this column may be able to deduce, he is not the mascot of the Denver Broncos.

However, Blue and the Broncos

mascot have a noted animosity, which is particularly evident when the teams swap a player.

Blue's team won the Super Bowl in his debut year but have never been back since.

Blue is whose mascot?

ANSWERS 14 MAY

Icon under a microscope: Taj Mahal, Agra, India

Test your airline knowledge: Airport codes - 1 Tokyo Haneda, Japan, 2 Cork, Ireland, 3 Port Augusta, Australia, 4 Houston, United States
Airline liveries - 1 Inuit Air, 2 Sudan Airways, 3 Tiger Airways

Pub quiz: 1 Incan Empire, 2 Uganda, 3 Norwegian and Swedish, 4 Louisiana, 5 Air France and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, 6 Norway, 7 1st century, 8 Ferris wheel, 9 Sydney Harbour Bridge, 10 Jerusalem

The taste of tourism

THE hard-hit tourism sector in North Queensland finally has something to salivate about, with construction underway in Shannonvale on the Australian Chocolate Farm, north of Cairns.

The new tourism experience will include a kiosk and commercial kitchen for visitors to taste and purchase chocolate produced on the farm, as well as walking tours of the cacao tree plantation.

Australian Chocolate Farm is expected to open its doors to visitors from 2022.

Sea World delayed

SEA World on the Gold Coast has been forced to delay a \$50 million theme park upgrade due to transport and shipping issues caused by the global pandemic.

The major refresh was originally going to see two new rides ready for visitors by Jun, however, the Village Roadshow-owned park will now unveil the attractions closer to Dec 2021.

New attractions include roller coaster Leviathan and the lofty Trident ride, which whips guests more than 40 metres into the air.



LAST week itravel and Journey Beyond held a special client evening on the Northern Beaches which saw a cluster of travel bookings secured on the night.

“Rail journeys have proven to be very popular and with the help of Journey Beyond, we were able to showcase the best of Australia,” said itravel Mobile Agent Megan Catterall.

“It was great to be out and about again and meeting people face-to-face,” she added.

Pictured: itravel mobile

agents Natasha Dann, Eliza Summerhayes, Journey Beyond Business Development Manager Gareth Coakley, and itravel mobile agent Megan Catterall.

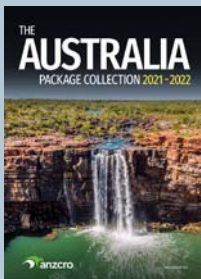
Rosewood Mexico

ROSEWOOD Hotels & Resorts will open the Rosewood Mexico City hotel in 2024, a property located in the Polanco district.

The 135-room hotel will feature 35 suites, two swimming pools, a gym and modern wellness centre.

BROCHURES

THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by ANZCRO. 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.



ANZCRO - The Australia Package Collection
New Zealand specialist ANZCRO has been selling Australia for more than 20 years, and it has now made planning domestic holidays even easier with the launch of its first ever Australian Package Collection for 2021/2022. The brochure showcases a selection of 46 epic, ready-to-book holiday packages featuring Australian favourites such as the Whitsunday Islands and the Great Barrier Reef, as well as new and unique experiences, including a sea lion swim adventure on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula, and more.



The Exodus Collection 2021/2022
Active adventure operator Exodus Travels has released its brand new Collections brochure covering all seven continents. The brochure showcases a hand-picked selection of the company's best sellers and most popular small group and self-guided walking, hiking, cycling and adventure itineraries in 2021/22. The brochure also highlights some of the most popular polar itineraries and family trips. All trips are covered by Exodus' book & travel with confidence policies.

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