

It's Donut Day!

THE moment we've all been waiting for has arrived.

Today is International Donut Day and we are proud to announce the winner of our wildly popular Donut Ditty competition.

Jenny Piper makes the official announcement in a new video at traveldaily.com.au/videos, with more info on [page five](#).

MEANWHILE the tenth episode of *Travel Daily's News on the Fly* podcast dropped overnight, and can now be heard on Spotify, Apple Podcasts or directly online at traveldaily.com.au/podcasts.

MSC extends pause

MSC Cruises today confirmed it plans to run a full northern summer season of cruising from Mar 2021, with its current hiatus to continue until 31 Jul and then see the gradual phase-in of cruising based on national and international guidelines - more in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

New US model for FCTG

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) will reopen just 30 of its Liberty Travel stores in the USA after the COVID-19 pandemic passes, with the offices to become so-called "network hubs" where consultants can opt to work and meet clients & suppliers.

The move will see 95 existing outlets shut down, with the company citing retail trends indicating lower demand from shoppers for physical locations.

Flight Centre's new North American leisure travel model, which will also be implemented in Canada, will be led by Marc Casto as the company's President, Leisure Brands for the Americas.

Casto, whose San Francisco travel agency was acquired by Flight Centre about 18 months ago (*TD* 21 Dec 2018), is also currently Vice Chair of the American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA) and will take up

his new role immediately.

FCTG's "reimagined" leisure business model gives customers access through consultants who will have remote access to the company's systems and products.

Each network hub will be run by a "network manager" and each consultant will be affiliated with a particular hub with the ability to work either in-store or remotely.

The company hasn't yet made public where the remaining Americas offices will be retained.

FCTG had previously flagged intentions to close more than half its stores globally, including 428 in Australia (*TD* 06 Apr).

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news including our PUZZLES, with the next issue to be published on Tue 09 Jun due to the NSW public holiday weekend.

Sabre Google deal

SABRE Corporation has announced a 10-year preferred, strategic partnership with Google which will see the company's IT infrastructure migrate into the cloud and use Google's analytic tools to enhance Sabre's current and future products.

The move is part of a "strategic realignment" of Sabre's global operations, with CEO Sean Menke also confirming a "right-sizing" of the company involving the loss of about 800 jobs in 43 locations.

The reduction is in addition to about 400 jobs already gone from the company in previously announced voluntary severance and early retirement programs.

Menke said remaining staff would return to work by 06 Jul with 100% of base pay restored, with the new organisation "built upon the premise that retailing, distribution and fulfilment of travel will continue to evolve over the next decade".

30TH
BIRTHDAY
Bonus

FREE DRINKS* + SAVE UP TO \$600*

We're celebrating 30 years of exploring the world together, so drinks are on us. Now through 8 June, book your clients and they'll receive free Classic Beverage Packages, plus savings of up to \$600* on any stateroom on almost any sailing we offer.



To learn more, call 1-800-754-500 or visit CruisingPower.com.au

Celebrity **X** Cruises®
SAIL BEYOND®

*Visit celebritycruises.com/au or celebritycruises.com/nz for full terms and conditions. Cruise must be booked 06/04/20 - 06/08/20. Offer applies to select 4-night and longer sailings departing 10/03/20 - 5/4/22. Offer excludes Galapagos cruises. **30th Birthday Bonus Offer:** The first two guests in a qualifying inside, ocean view, veranda, Concierge Class or AquaClass® stateroom are each eligible to receive a free Classic Beverage Package when booking the "Sail" cruise only pricing. **Savings Offer:** Savings amounts are per stateroom, based on double occupancy, and vary by stateroom category: \$300 AUD/NZD for inside and ocean view; \$600 AUD/NZD for veranda, Concierge Class, and AquaClass®; \$1,500 AUD/NZD for suites. Offer applies to first two guests in the stateroom and will be applied automatically. Not applicable to Cruisetours. Celebrity reserves the right to cancel the offer at any time, correct any errors, inaccuracies or omissions, and change or update fares, fees and surcharges at any time without prior notice. ©2020 Celebrity Cruises. Ships' registry: Malta and Ecuador.



Discover why a road trip in South Australia is the perfect way to experience the state. Read the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*

CVFR wins GF GSA

CVFR Travel Group continues to advance despite the coronavirus pandemic, with the company's Airline Rep Services GSA division today appointed to represent Gulf Air in Australia and NZ.

GF is the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, with CVFR CEO Ram Chhabra saying "we are honoured the airline has chosen Airline Rep Services as its GSA partner".

Chhabra confirmed that a call centre had been established for the airline's customers and travel trade in Australia and New Zealand, on 1300 734 393 or gulfair@airlinerepservices.com.au.

Airline Rep Services was also recently reappointed as General Sales Agent for Malindo Air (TD 07 Apr) and its consolidation division is also growing including through its partnership with iTravel (TD 11 Feb).

TG throttles back

THAI Airways has delayed its planned international service resumption, with GDS screens indicating most routes are likely to recommence from 01 Aug.

Etihad expands transfers

ETIHAD Airways today announced that from 10 Jun it will offer new transfer services at Abu Dhabi International Airport linking 20 cities in Australia, Asia and Europe, making it possible for people travelling on its current network of special flights to connect easily through the UAE.

The expansion builds on recently launched links from Melbourne and Sydney to London Heathrow, with direct transfer connections to the UK capital via Abu Dhabi.

From next week easy transfer connections will also be available from Jakarta, Karachi, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Seoul, Tokyo and Singapore to major European destinations such as Amsterdam, Barcelona, Brussels, Dublin, Frankfurt, Geneva, London, Milan, Madrid, Paris and Zurich.

Passengers wishing to book are being advised to check options at etihad.com/transfer and to "remain informed on the appropriate entry regulations at their end destination".

The carrier said it had implemented an extensive

sanitisation and customer safety program, with the "highest standards of hygiene at every part of the customer journey".

Guests travelling on EY flights are required to wear a face mask throughout their journey, while other measures cover catering, aircraft cleaning, check-in, health screening, boarding, disembarkation and ground transportation.

MEANWHILE, Etihad has today issued an updated commercial policy that offers the option of full refunds on cancelled flights for tickets issued on/before 30 Jun and for travel before 30 Nov.

Ikon flexibility

AMERICAN ski pass provider Ikon Pass has expanded its Adventure Assurance program, with Ikon Pass holders now able to defer the purchase price for an unused 2020/21 pass to the 21/22 winter season.

Credits toward a 21/22 pass will also be issued for any North American closures based on the percentage of days closed.

The Ikon Pass, from Alterra Mountain Company, includes Aspen Snowmass, Steamboat, Copper Mountain, Squaw Valley, Mammoth Mountain, Jackson Hole, Big Sky, Thredbo and Mt Buller - see ikonpass.com.

Amadeus+Troovo

AMADEUS and Troovo have combined forces to offer advanced process automation in conjunction with the Amadeus B2B virtual payment wallet.

Troovo's integration of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) means the entire virtual payment flow can now be quickly automated, the companies said.

The introduction of RPA means key data relating to each payment and booking can be moved between the booking system and the airline or hotel platforms automatically by a software robot.

Window Seat

WITH so many major commercial airlines around the world grappling to stay afloat in the climate of COVID-19, Vancouver-based Harbour Air is working on a smaller electric variety of aircraft.

The airline completed its first full-length demonstration flight of the largest all-electric aircraft earlier this week, with retro-fitted Cessna 208B Grand Caravan touching down 28 minutes after take off in Washington State.

Although this business model sounds appealing and much cheaper to operate, we're just hoping it doesn't run out of AA batteries mid flight.



Rex debunks myths

REGIONAL Express has come out swinging to combat ongoing speculation that it has been a major beneficiary of Government programs to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on aviation.

An ASX announcement yesterday noted that the \$715m Airline Financial Relief Package (TD 18 Mar) was mostly directed to Airservices Australia, with 90% of the rest going to QF and VA.

The \$198m COVID-19 Regional Airline Network Support Program underwrites a barebones schedule, with 80% of the funds to be shared between Rex and QantasLink.

Rex will benefit from the \$100m Regional Airlines Funding Assistance Program, while Qantas and Virgin are exclusively being supported by a \$165m separate package not listed as a grant.



NEW EPISODE AVAILABLE!

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Aussies to spend up big

A NEW survey conducted by OTA TripADeal has revealed more than a third of Australian travellers plan to spend between \$2,500 and \$5,000 on their next domestic holiday.

Only 2.6% said they planned to spend less than \$500, while 34.1% claimed they would outlay at least \$1,000 on their next trip.

The sizable spend was just part of the encouraging picture painted by the findings, with just over half of the 16,500 Aussie travellers surveyed indicating they intend to travel overseas as soon as the Australian Government says it's safe to do so.

In terms of time lines, 33.2% of Aussies said they planned to

return to normal travel habits within one to six months, followed by 28.6% who indicated they would travel in the next six to 12 months.

Domestic travel ambitions also polled well, garnering 38.5% of the travel intention over the next 12 months, with 25.9% expressing an interest in international travel over the same period, while 35.6% wanted to do both.

"We've been absolutely blown away by the response from our travellers, it shows we're a nation of travel lovers and keen to get out and explore as soon as we can," said TripADeal co-founder Richard Johnston.

Across the Tasman, Aussies expressed the biggest desire to travel to Queenstown (35.9%) and the harbour city of Auckland (33.5%) first.

Tatum departs HTA

HAWAII Tourism Authority (HTA) President and CEO Chris Tatum has revealed he will retire from his position from 31 Aug.

He has been in the role since Dec 2018, and played a key role in implementing Hawaii's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan for tourism.

"Chris has placed HTA on the right footing, focused on balance and sustainability...we owe him a debt of gratitude," said Chief Admin Officer Keith Regan.

HTA has not yet named a successor to Tatum in the role.

Kangaroo Is deals

SEALINK South Australia has launched a range of Kangaroo Island self-drive packages which include weekend getaways, bonus accommodation offers, as well as discounts at a variety of attractions, cafes and adventure activities on the island.

Packages start from \$272pp - call 13 13 01 for more details.

SITA refocuses team

SITA has announced new leadership appointments to help oversee the company's key product portfolios.

New SITA Airports & Borders Head David Lavorel and recently appointed SITA Aircraft boss Sebastien Fabre have been charged with refocusing the company's portfolio to support a post-COVID-19 recovery.

The new appointments came into effect from Mon.

Let us climb again

SYDNEY'S BridgeClimb will be operational again from 27 Jul, in time for the school holidays.

Discounted rates start from \$198 for adults and \$99 for children during the holiday period, which is 35% cheaper for adults and more than 50% off standard kids day climb prices.

The special is now available to purchase on Summit and Summit Express climbs leaving between 10am and 3pm every day during the NSW school hols, and on Sat/Sun between 27 Jun & 19 Dec.

Visa concerns rise

VISA regulations are a rising travel concern for businesses according to a WYSE Travel Confederation survey conducted last month.

The report also showed an increasing anxiety about political uncertainty and pricing, while exchange rates & marketing were less of a concern than in Apr.

US blocks China

THE trade war waged between China and the United States has now spilled out into the travel sector, with the Trump Administration barring China-based carriers from entering the country from mid-Jun.

The US President made the call after China declined to allow US airlines to restart flights that had been suspended during the global coronavirus pandemic.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Today's Technology Update is brought to you by Stuba Pacific

Travel Tech Awakes from Slumber

In the smallest step possible, "Travel Tech" began awakening from its hibernation last week as the world spoke of

the dates when doors would open.

Some companies have used the time well, others are going to take a few hiccup starts until staff get back in offices, man the phones, crank the handles and get rolling. Customer services loads are high, staffing is low, teams are disbursed, responses will take longer.

But we started seeing the first consistent trickle of new bookings from Europe to Europe. Whether it's a "U" or a "V" shape from here is unknown, but we've hit the bottom. Its confirmed; people still want to travel. The numbers don't lie.

Get ready for a plethora of new terms, conditions, requirements, news, accreditations and updates which apply during the booking process. The agent opportunity is in drawing that data together, cementing their ongoing place in the travel chain, providing insight and value to travelling pax.

At Stuba Tech, we continue to zoom, code on laptops on our lap top, overcome technical challenge after challenge, with the first glow of excitement of what the new normal will be.

Mark Luckey,
CIO, Stuba



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

Savings of up to 20% off the best flexible rates are available with Nesuto's good to go campaign. Additional discounts are on offer for longer-term stays, with free parking, free children stays and free breakfast at select properties also available. Visit nesuto.com/goodtogo for more details.

Western Australia's Metro Hotel Perth in South Perth is offering a Revisit & Rest Package. Valid for stays until 30 Sep, the deal includes accommodation in a Superior Riverview room, a grab n' go hot Aussie breakfast for two, welcome drinks and free wi-fi - book at www.metrohotels.com.au.

Book a room at any Standard Hotels location and receive the opportunity to gift a stay. The deal is on offer until 11 Jun. **CLICK HERE** to book and enter promo code "LOVE2GIVE".

CORPORATE UPDATE

Amex GBT capital deal off?

THE planned US\$900 million recapitalisation of American Express Global Business Travel (*TD* 19 Dec 2019) appears unlikely to go ahead, after the COVID-19 downturn saw the withdrawal of private equity firm Carlyle Group and Singapore-based GIC from the deal.

The transaction, which would have seen Carlyle and GIC take a 20% stake in Amex GBT, is now the subject of court action as the travel management giant attempts to compel the investors to finalise their agreement.

A share purchase pact indicates the deal was set to close on 07 May, but the purchasers are now claiming that the coronavirus pandemic has triggered a Material Adverse Effect clause due to the “significant decimation of the financial conditions and results of operations of GBT”.

Clean cabin concern

ENHANCED aircraft cabin and airport sanitisation are among the top concerns of corporate travellers as the world emerges from COVID-19, according to a new survey by BCD Travel.

The TMC polled more than 1,200 business travellers across the globe from among its clients during the week of 04-11 May, with more than 90% saying enhancing disinfection was a “very” or “extremely” important measure to ensure safe travel in the future.

Almost three quarters also indicated having an empty seat beside them was important.

About 70% of respondents had trips planned for when coronavirus began to impact their region, and of those journeys about 67% were cancelled or postponed, 30% became a virtual meeting and just 3% took place.

Other measures highlighted as important were the use of contactless payment systems and infrared body temperature monitoring.

Significant cost-cutting in response to COVID-19 means GBT is no longer operating in the “ordinary course of business,” the purchasers contend.

Existing investors in GBT include private equity firm Certares - which also holds a stake in AmaWaterways alongside APT Travel Group founder Geoff McGeary - as well as a Qatar sovereign wealth fund.

The company has asked for an expedited trial to compel settlement, but this was denied and a hearing to test the basis for terminating the transaction is now scheduled for 20 Jul.

The proposed investment valued Amex GBT overall at around US\$5 billion.

Platinum Reho chat

REHO Travel’s Karsten Horne features in a video chat with Platinum Travel director Andrew Buerckner about the possibility of a tiered subscription fee model for corporate clients.

The pair also canvass a range of other topics as part of Platinum’s “Discover More” video series - see traveldaily.com.au/videos.

FCM China chief

FLIGHT Centre’s FCM Travel Solutions has appointed Calvin Xie as its new GM for China.

Xie is based in Shanghai, and has been FCM’s Chief Financial Officer in North Asia since 2018.

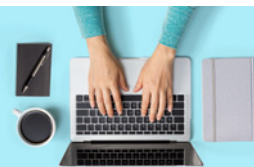
FCM Travel Solutions MD Asia, Bertrand Sallet, said he was thrilled to welcome Calvin into the Asia management team “as we work to increase our effectiveness in integrating China within the regional and global framework to create a more sustainable outcome”.

Sallet said even though China had grown significantly in the FCM business over the last few years “there is still tremendous untapped opportunities for managed travel”.

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Travel Daily

CORPORATE CHATTER

with Simone Gibbs

Are TMCs a thing of the past?

ASA travel buyer, I am sure I am not alone in being regularly questioned about the value we get from our Travel Management Company (TMC).

There was a time when working with a TMC was the only way. That was before the internet came around with flight and accommodation booking tools at everyone’s fingertips.

If I were to pose the same question, say in selling your house, would you consider yourself to be such an expert? You may have sold one or even two houses before, you have access to social media and internet advertising and yet still people rely mostly on real estate agents - so is there a difference in travel? Yes and no.

I get the above argument, and even subscribe to it as a leisure traveller, however TMCs have access to a lot more data and deals than your average corporate or leisure traveller, and their workforce consists of people with years of travel knowledge.

Their days are spent analysing and tracking travel spend, looking for the latest technology

and negotiating deals on behalf of many, not just one client. It offers the human element which is missing from online sites and customer service.

Most companies like to know where their employees are travelling and what they are spending their money on (known as a duty of care). Working with a

TMC gives you that visibility, allows you to enforce your travel policy and drive compliance in a way that allowing each person to book their own travel would not.

In addition, a lot of TMCs offer a credit account allowing you to consolidate travel and pay for it later interest free which online booking tools obviously don’t.

Yes the OBT front face is still a bit clunky and there is definitely room for improvement

however I think the TMC still has a role to play in guiding corporate travellers.

*** Opinions expressed are those of the author.*

Comments are welcome, please email corporatechatter@traveldaily.com.au.

“ Working with a travel management company...allows you to enforce your travel policy and drive compliance in a way that allowing each person to book their own travel would not ”



Simone Gibbs is the Indirect Category Manager for Blackmores where she manages travel, among a range of other things. She has been working in procurement for 20 years across multiple industries.

Celebrate IDD with TD!

WELL the day has finally come, today is officially International Donut Day which means it's the much-anticipated time to announce the winner of our donut ditties competition.

The **Travel Daily** team has been thoroughly entertained by the excellent entries over the past month, clearly there's a lot of creativity in the travel industry.

The winner was determined by the whole **TD** team, with two points awarded to each person's favourite poem and one point for their runner-up.

Those results were tabulated and a clear winner emerged - congratulations to Marilyn Brown from Reho Travel!

Her poem is in orange, but we've also included the finalists.

Marilyn will receive a special delivery of delightful donut treats for taking out the grand prize.

If you have any other ideas of

competitions to keep the spirits of the travel industry up, please send your suggestions to info@traveldaily.com.au and make sure you enjoy a donut or a dozen today.

The time has come the agents said to speak of many things,
Of mask and gloves and germs and bugs and empty planes above
But all we know will soon be back and donuts they shall thrive,
To see them lined up all in a row with glaze and sprinkles wild.
As travel starts to bloom again and coffees/teas abound,
Those glorious plates of sweet, sweet rounds are once more to be found.
Donuts pink and donuts

white, chocolate, plain and green,
No matter what disguise they wear, they are here for to be seen.
As travel now will fill our days those donuts once more will shine,
And agencies around the land shall jump and clap and cheer.
For planes and trains and boats and cars are waiting now to hear,
that donut loving travellers are ready, set and near!

Marilyn Brown, Reho Travel

My favourite treat is something sweet,
With many sprinkles, no lines or wrinkles and glossy overall.
To show my love of Donut Day, I'd eat mine and I'd eat yours.
Oh, sweet donuts you're never a bore – you're the only one I adore!
BUT I need to keep up bells, burpees and bops, so I don't grow those muffin tops!

Celeste Janina, MTA Travel

A long distance love in isolation

No, said Uber eats
Airtasker, my only hope
Wallet, said hell no

Arienne Zaragoza, Anderson's Tours

For some context, Arienne lives in Erskine Park, inconveniently located far away from Sydney's donut gems. Week 9 into isolation, and she almost spent more than the actual donuts itself to recruit an Airtasker hopeful to deliver Donut Papi goodies. It did not work out.

Donuts are a deadly treat
That I just can't help wanting to eat
Be it Jam or glazed or chocolate flavour
Any old one I will devour and savour

That soft first bite just can't be beat
It lifts me right off of my size 9 feet!
I wish that a genie would bring me a supply
So that no more donuts I would have to buy

I can eat them cold, I can eat them hot
Either way always just hits the right spot
There's no other snack I would rather be eating
Choosing something else would just be cheating

So give me a donut any day of the week
Any hour of the day and me knees will go weak
I need one right now, bring me some pleasure
Donuts really should be a national treasure!

Jane Bateup, Helloworld Travel Cootamundra

Hmmmm donuts you say
I buy them each pay
BUT until Covid-19 goes away
I shall await...
My next pay day!

Ange Dean, Dreamtime Travel

Zoe and her love for the Dough

There once was a travel agent called Zoe

Who was slightly obsessed with a doughie

While she'd rather be home, she has to go to work
Has anyone noticed worlds gone berserk?!

She's been saving all the dreams she created
Before everything she has booked gets cremated.

Nothing makes Zoe smile more revealing her dimples
Than when she bites into that donut covered in sprinkles.

While her worldly adventures will have to wait
In iso this girl will never donut discriminate

Around the world she has travelled

Tasting donuts before the world unravelled

Her favourites include Mexico Thailand and Peru

She's munched on them in the USA and France too
In Bali it was noted
That in a hotel pool, on a donut she floated

She doesn't want to admit that she has an obsession
Nothing will stop her not even a recession

Her love is extreme
Craving them all, from plain to cream

Now, Corona it's time for you to go
So Zoe can continue to travel the world and find more dough!

Kirsten Bews, Flight Centre

My Beloved Annulus

I love a cinnamon donut
I know I should refrain
But the pillowy plumpy torus
Often calls my name
Chocolate-dipped and firm
Or filled with sticky jam
I seek this sugary pastry
I'd steal it from a pram.

Georgia Booth, Destination NSW

Little and round, Speckled or iced
Who doesn't like Cinnamon spiced?
Jam filled or chocolate glazed?
Many a fan is unfazed
But however you like 'em
No matter how it is cut
I dare you to say no, when offered
A DONUT!

Rob Warner, Clean Cruising

Send us your meatball or mince recipe for our weekly feature.

CLICK HERE



Funnies Flashback



WE'VE trawled through the **TD** Window Seat archives to give you blast from the past. Here's a gem from 12 Jan 2012:

HOW about this for a romantic Valentine's day date?

Pittsburgh Zoo in the USA is hosting an adults-only event on 11 Feb which promises to reveal "the intimate secrets of exotic animal mating".

It's not clear whether the evening is aimed at curious scientists or kinky couples wanting to discover some new positions, with a blurb on the zoo website inviting guests for dinner, cocktails and an expert presentation on "how the animals of land, sea and air get down and dirty in the wild".

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.

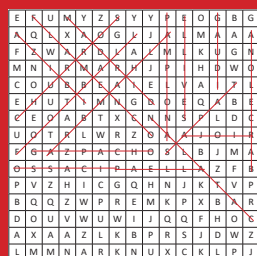
9				3	6			
		2		5		6		9
	3				8			
6			8	4	3	9	2	1
		3	1		5	7		
1	9	8	6	2	7			4
			5				6	
7		1		6		5		
			4	8				2

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

ANSWERS 04 JUN

Pub quiz: 1 b) Within Disneyland, 2 The Sydney Opera House, 3 Rome, 4 Croatia, 5 Dubai (the Burj al Arab), 6 True, 7 Pink, 8 Venice, 9 Greece, 10 Armenia

Where in the world: Sheraton Huzhou Hot Spring Resort, Huzhou, China



Whose flag is this?



THIS flag was originally used as the ensign of an uprising against the nation's colonial rulers, with the red representing bloodshed and revolutionary struggle and

the five points of the star for the main classes in the country's society.

Do you know which nation this flag belongs to?

Pub quiz

- The name Sahara is derived from an Arabic word meaning what?
- What animal are the Canary Islands named after?
- Which country is named for the Spanish word for 'depths' referring to the deep waters of its northern coast?
- Imran Khan was an international cricketer. What country is he now the Prime Minister on?
- Where would one find the Cerro de los Siete Colores or 'Seven Colour Mountain'?
- True or False: most Las Vegas casinos accept chips from other nearby casinos.
- Which country is famous for its tulip fields that flower from March to May each year?
- What Oceanic island country is the only country to be in all four hemispheres?
- The scenic Great Ocean Road in Victoria is also the world's largest what?
- Which city is SLOGAN EELS an anagram for?
- What city does this collection of pictures spell out?





Treetop swings open

ILLAWARRA Fly Treetop Adventures re-opens tomorrow. Heightened health and safety measures will be in place at the New South Wales attraction, which allows guests to experience nature from atop of the Illawarra escarpment.

Treetop Walk and Zipline tickets have also been discounted for a limited time only.

For further information or to book tickets, [CLICK HERE](#).

Kakadu gears up

A STAGED reopening for Kakadu National Park will take place from 19 Jun.

In a letter to the industry, Parks Australia Assistant Secretary Brant Smith said a more detailed overview of the re-opening plans would be shared next week, including which areas will be accessible to visitors and those that will remain closed.

Only Kakadu residents can currently access the Park.

Crowne Hobart to open



INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has announced the Crowne Plaza Hobart will open its doors to the public from 01 Jul.

The 235-room property was originally slated to open in Oct 2017, but was delayed due to a variety of factors including flooding on the construction site and, more recently, the global pandemic which knocked the

opening date back again from late Mar this year.

Despite hard borders still being in place in Tasmania, Crowne Plaza Hobart GM Linda Collis said a soft launch with Tasmanians would be a good opportunity to test the market.

“We know it’s only intrastate travel, but for us it works well to get things up and running before hopefully in the not-too-distant future, the borders will open,” she told the *Hobart Mercury*.

Vegas rolls the dice

FOLLOWING close to 80 days of shutdown due to the global pandemic, a selection of casinos in Las Vegas have reopened their doors to the public overnight.

Among the properties to reboot operations were the Bellagio resort, New York-New York, the MGM Grand, the Venetian, Caesars Palace and the Flamingo.

Casino staff have been instructed to wear face masks and social distancing measures in gambling areas are also in place.

See Viking clearly

VIKING Cruises has introduced a new and improved image library to help agents improve their marketing activities.

More than 350 images are available in the new easy to access compendium of collateral, including renders of including new and upcoming vessels *Viking Mississippi*, *Viking Octantis* and *Viking Polaris* - [ACCESS HERE](#).



Build an A-ROSA Ship & Win a 7-night European River Cruise

This month **Travel Daily** has partnered with **A-ROSA River Cruises** to give you the chance to win a 7-night European river cruise.

Intrigued by fairy-tale like landscapes, quaint villages with half-timbered houses, ancient castles and lush terraced vineyards along the **RHINE, MAIN & MOSELLE?**

To win visit A-ROSA's website www.arosa-cruises.com/au & check out which of their 12 ships operates the cruise of your dreams.

Pick your ship and use your imagination to draw, paint or build it!

Find any utensils suitable to create the A-ROSA ship that operates your favourite cruise on Rhine (Main/Moselle), Danube, Seine or Rhône.

Take a selfie with your creation send it to arosa@traveldaily.com.au. Don't forget to also tell us in 25 words or less why you chose this particular A-ROSA cruise.



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