

Travel & Cruise



Weekly

keep
dreaming...



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PROFESSIONALS

70 Glen Osmond Road,
Parkside, SA | (08) 8274 1222

admin@tacprofessionals.com.au

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Front cover image: Cape Leveque Beach, WA ©Tourism Australia



From the Publisher

Jenny Piper

We are getting another week closer to summer, which means holidays for most Aussies. This year is obviously going to be a little different for us all, with the uncertainty of border closures it is a little harder to plan. Will Queensland open up so other state visitors can book a beach holiday? Or should we stick closer to home and plan a regional holiday? What about a staycation bunkered down at home and exploring our own backyard. We've got some great inspiration in this week's issue with 'flop & drop' options domestically. Or pop in and see your travel agent and see what tours and packages they can show you, as many local operators are offering some fantastic domestic products.

To keep you inspired for overseas travel – our feature this week is on Tokyo, by night. I believe travel to Japan will not be as far off as travel to Europe and the USA will be. Japan is a fascinating country – I know I would love to explore it further, so let's start planning a trip there. Again your travel agent should be your first stop with their expert knowledge of what is available to suit your needs.

Enjoy this week's issue and don't forget to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** (@travelcruiseweekly) for more stories to inspire you to travel.

xx Jenny

EDITORIAL
Publisher – Jenny Piper
Contributors – Adam Bishop, Myles Stedman, Ben Groundwater, Bruce Piper
ADVERTISING AND MARKETING
 Sean Harrigan
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

PRODUCTION
 Anna Piper
anna.piper@traveldaily.com.au
DESIGN
 Sarah Beyer
sarah.beyer@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
 Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
 Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)
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Umpherston Sinkhole, SA

Once a cave, the Umpherston Sinkhole was formed when the top of the chamber collapsed downwards. Located near Mount Gambier in South Australia, this incredible natural phenomenon, also known as the sunken garden, is now a beautiful place to visit and relax in nature. Take in the huge expanse of the sinkhole from a viewing platform before making your way down, along terraces and through hanging vines, into the garden.



For foodies

Pull a stool up and eat a while

As the group GANGgajang once declared so patriotically in their song “Sounds of Then”, this is Australia, and there is no shortage of great pub meals for travellers to guzzle and nosh their way through.

Sydney and Melbourne are generally considered to be the cities blessed with the best venues, so here are a couple that you should definitely check out on your next crawl when in town.

The Unicorn, Sydney

Located in old-world Paddington, the menu here is a great fusion of traditional meets new. The classic chicken parma is very popular, a Bannockburn chook breast and wing served with fresh veggies. For something a little different though, try one of the trendy counter meals such as the fried cauliflower served with green romesco, currants, lentils, puffed rice and sorrel. Or try both, who’s calorie counting anyway?

The Catfish, Melbourne

In cosmopolitan Fitzroy, the Catfish Pub is renowned for its great feed. The menu here offers a varied selection of pub favourites and craft beers on tap, but it’s the cheesesteak sandos from the Sparrow’s kitchen upstairs which keeps this joint in the headlines. Plated up with American or provolone cheese, the thin and tender slices of mouth-watering beef steak inside a fresh hoagie roll have earned this pub a reputation for dishing up one of Melbourne’s best beer food.



In the News

Border plan

Federal Tourism Minister Simon Birmingham yesterday suggested that a full bilateral travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand could be in place before Christmas, but added that prospects for long-haul travel to Europe & the USA are some way off.

Birmingham said the plan for “green lanes” of quarantine-free travel across the Tasman could be used as a blueprint for other destinations, with talks also under way with authorities in the Pacific as well as Japan, Singapore and South Korea.

However any widespread resumption would be

“very reliant on effective vaccination or other major breakthroughs in the management of COVID,” he said, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison also today highlighting discussions with Pacific Island leaders but noting the importance of protecting local communities from coronavirus infection.

Cruise push

The ongoing economic impact of Australia’s ban on cruise ships is being highlighted in a new campaign from Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) which launched today.

The #WeAreCruise initiative will see four videos released over the coming weeks,

noting the thousands of jobs at risk in travel agencies, tour operators, destinations and local supplier businesses while cruising is off the agenda.

CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz said cruise lines had already committed to extensive new health measures, meaning the time was right to plan for a phased and carefully controlled resumption of local voyages.

“While the suspension has been the right response to COVID-19, it’s absolutely vital that we open a pathway towards resumption with extensive health measures in place, so we can bring an economic revival to communities around our region,” he said.

Tokyo by Night

Tokyo doesn't stop at night. In fact, it comes to life. And there's so much for newcomers to enjoy, writes Ben Groundwater.

It doesn't stop. That's something you very quickly realise in Tokyo, as the sun sets and the neon lights buzz into life and the foot traffic on the pavements of Shibuya and Shinjuku and so many other suburbs just picks up, and up, and up.

Drinkers duck in and out of izakayas, the sake bars that serve snacks with a side of friendly conversation. Diners queue for ramen noodles. Shoppers bundle large bags out of department stores. Pedestrians glance nervously at their watches as the witching hour approaches, as the last trains head out to the suburbs and those who've been left behind settle in for a long night in one of the world's great 24-hour cities.

Tokyo doesn't stop at night. In fact, it comes to life. And there's so much for newcomers to enjoy.



Eat.

Of course, you can eat. In Tokyo, you can always eat. While the city's higher-end restaurants close at a reasonable hour, there are plenty of food outlets open long into the night. In bustling inner-city Ebisu, the ramen bar Afuri is open until 5am – and there are queues around the block until the doors are pulled shut. Nearby, the Ebisu Yokocho is an old alleyway packed with no-frills eateries, a smoky, raucous spot that's open until 4am. Across the city, in fact, izakayas serve tapas-sized plates food into the wee hours, as the Japanese indulge their twin passions for sake and sustenance.



Drink.

Tokyo's bar scene is like no other. There are drinking dens everywhere in this city: in train stations, apartment blocks, department stores, in basements, lofts... Everywhere. These bars are often hyper-specialised, too, perhaps serving only high-end cocktails, or rare whisky, or a huge array of sake. Though they're spread throughout the city, the highest concentrations tend to be in transport hubs such as Shibuya and Shinjuku, places where workers can grab a drink before heading home on the train.



Sing.

This is your *Lost in Translation* moment – the chance to grab a microphone and sing, sing, sing at a karaoke room in central Tokyo. The bar in which Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson belted out a few numbers in that famed movie is called Karaoke Kan, and it's in the bustling suburb of Shibuya. Karaoke rooms, however, abound across the city. Try Roppongi for the highest concentration, or Shinjuku for some of the most ridiculously plush establishments. And prepare to sing the night away.

Listen.

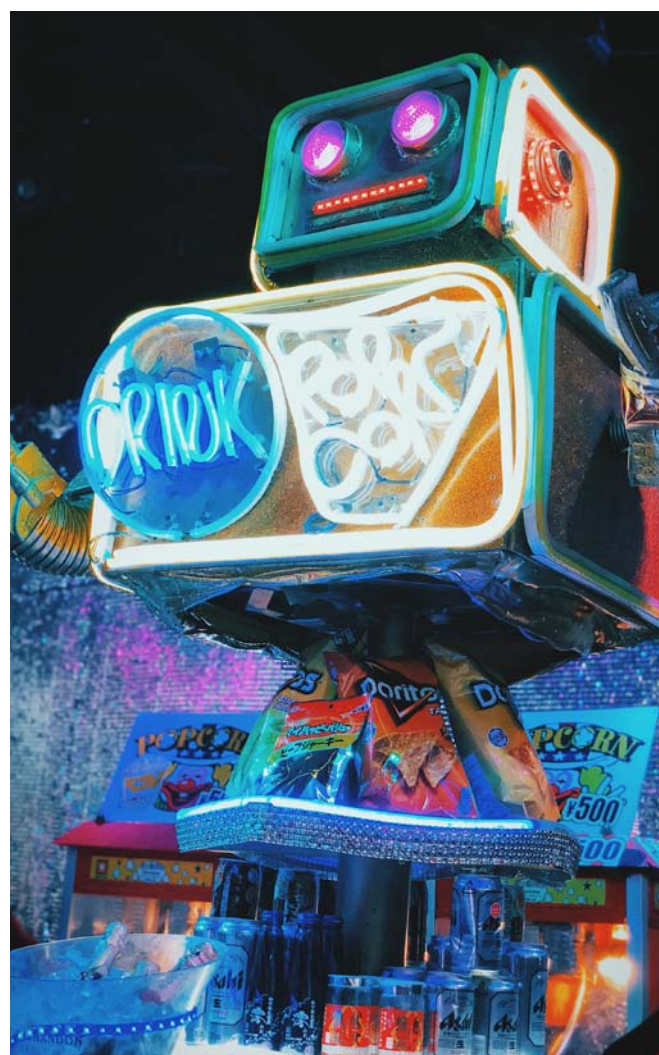
The Japanese have a deep passion for live music, whether that's the coolest jazz or the most hardcore punk rock. Suburbs such as Shimokitazawa, Shinjuku and Koenji are littered with “live houses”, bars that host live music every evening. Though it will take a bit of research to find out exactly where these bars are (they're often tiny places, sometimes under apartment blocks or at the top of towers) and what sort of music will be playing, there's something on every night of the week.

Browse.

The setting of the sun tends to bring out Tokyo's “otaku”, or comic book geeks, in force. Some dress up, others keep a low profile. Many, however, head to “manga cafes”, comic book stores that are open 24 hours a day, and which provide private booths for reading and surfing the internet. These small rooms are used by some budget travellers as a cheap place to catch some sleep for the night; however, their primary purpose is for the enjoyment of Japan's classic comic-book literature. Visiting one is a true experience.

See.

It's hard to decide whether the Robot Restaurant in Shinjuku is the tackiest tourist attraction ever, or the best. Perhaps it's both. Regardless, you have to see this: an all-singing, all-dancing, neon-and-metal show of robots and their bikini-clad companions whirling and twisting and writhing around a dance floor to the sounds of “Gangnam Style” and its like. This show is so ridiculous, so over-the-top, that it has to be seen to be believed.



Clockwise from top: Shibuya at night

Delicious fresh sushi ©Intrepid Travel

Sing the night away with Karaoke ©JNTO

Dine at the Robot Restaurant

Play.

When you need a break from all of the eating and the drinking, the singing and wandering, there's always time for a few games at night in Tokyo. Sports lovers should head straight to the Shinjuku Batting Centre, which is open until 4am. Pay your money, grab a baseball bat, step into the cage and whack as many balls as you can connect with. For something a little more sedate, meanwhile, gaming arcades throughout the city are open well into the night.

Soak.

All of these activities might, admittedly, sound a little too hectic, a little too high-energy. Sometimes when the sun goes down all you want to do is relax in a nice hot bath and soak your cares away. And of course, in Tokyo you can do just that. Many of the city's “onsens”, or bathhouses, particularly in the inner-city areas, are either open 24 hours a day, or well into the early morning, meaning you can rest there, relax, and prepare for another evening of enjoyment.

Take four

Pristine beaches and oceanfront locations across the country. Here is a selection of our best flop & drop destinations around the nation.



Whitsunday Islands, QLD

The Whitsunday Islands offers over 70 island destinations to forget about the past nine months, and with the majority uninhabited and listed as national parks, the crowds typically found on the mainland are far easier to avoid. Several of the Whitsunday Islands offer camping, and with the Great Barrier Reef as your backdrop, is there a more quintessential flop & drop than the beaches and tropical rainforests of this iconic Australian region?



Northern Rivers, NSW

Popular for hobby farmers, retirees and “niche crops”, the New South Wales’ Northern Rivers region not only offers the beachside localities flop-and-droppers love, it also serves up a series of picturesque towns with thriving industries. If you’ve had enough sun from relaxing on the beach all day, head into Tweed Heads and check out Mount Warning volcano, drop in on Grafton and its gorgeous Jacarandas, or show up at Coffs Harbour and dip your fishing line in the water.

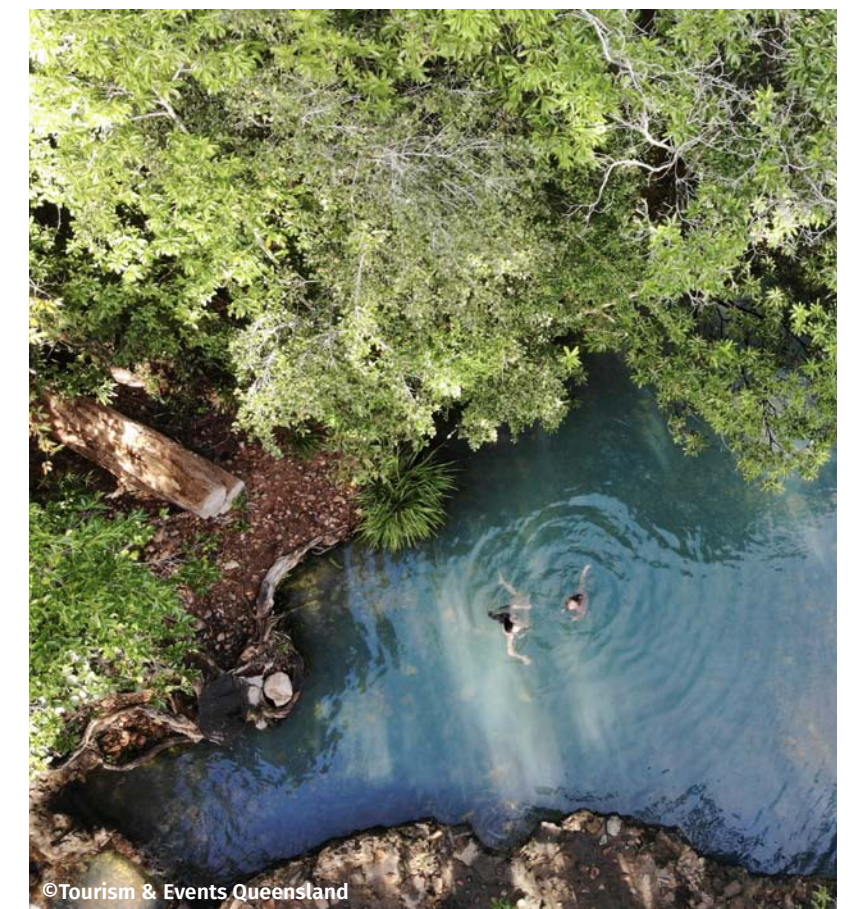
Cable Beach, WA

The eastern states of Australia do not share a monopoly on the flop-and-drop, and there is scarcely a more picturesque stretch of beach in the country than Cable Beach. Famous for its white sand, be sure to snap a few photos of this stunner from the low-rise ochre cliffs which creep up slowly on the shore. If you prefer to stay out of the water, May to October is the best time to visit, when the waves are at their gentlest.



Far North Queensland

If you love the Great Barrier Reef but would rather stay on the mainland, Far North Queensland (FNQ) awaits you, with its quaint towns and massive rainforests offering the perfect locale for relaxation. FNQ caters for all kinds of energy levels for a flop & drop, with a range of road trips, geology, waterfalls, food & drink and hiking trails, or if you just want to lie on the beach, you’re sure to find one in this region’s 3,000-plus kilometres of coastline.



Keep your cruising dream alive



Travel agents are the best people to help you plan a cruise, They are experts in the product - they know the different cruise lines, what each offer and what will suit your budget. But they have also experienced many cruises themselves. This week's agent review comes from Robyn and Murray Sinfield from Home Travel Company in Penguin, TAS.

Viking Cruises - *Viking Sun*, Bergen to Greenwich



Dining

On Viking you have as many as eight dining options to choose from and they are all a part of the fare. The Restaurant is the main dining room and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and the alternate restaurants are World Café, The Chef's Table (changing degustation menus), Manfredi's Italian Restaurant and Mamsen's, the traditional Scandinavian deli. Wherever you choose you can enjoy complimentary beverages 'on the house' for lunch and dinner.



Itinerary highlight

There were so many highlights in the 15 days traversing the isles that the Vikings roamed, north to south. We had overnights in Bergen & Greenwich and discovered Scotland's legendary Highlands and Western Isles including Edinburgh. There was a great visit to Shetland and Orkney Islands and Belfast and Dublin in Ireland. I really enjoyed the great scenery in Snowdonia and a visit to the maritime city of Liverpool, including a wonderful time at the Beatles Museum.



Top tip for clients

As an experienced cruise advisor I would strongly recommend completing the online registration, My Viking Journey, as soon as you are booked and deposited because you can enjoy the lead up to your embarkation by learning about your cruise and adding in your personal choices when complimentary dining and shore excursions open up for booking.

If you like a tippie I would also recommend an upgrade to Viking's Silver Spirits Beverage Package. For just US\$20 per day you can enjoy unlimited access to premium wines, beers, speciality coffees and juices as well as spirits and sparkling.

And if travelling with friends why not take part onboard in the Kitchen Table, an optional excursion that gives you the opportunity to enjoy local flavours from the market whilst learning to cook regional dishes and eating them together? It's social and fun!

Sudoku

TRICKY

Complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Numbers can only be used once in each row, column, and 3x3 box.

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

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

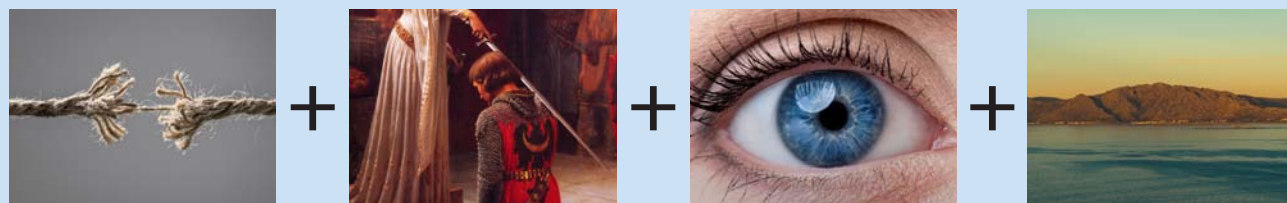
Where in the world?



This bridge joins two parts of a city and was the first permanent one built across this river in the country, opening in 1849. At the time of its construction it was one of the modern world’s engineering wonders, and is named after one of the major supporters of its construction. Do you know where in the world this bridge is located?

Pub quiz

1. Seoul’s district of Gangnam, which featured in a 2012 K-pop song by Psy, is known for being a hub for what industry?
2. The Walt Disney Company founded which sports team in 1993?
3. Louisville is on the border of which two American states?
4. FedEx’s headquarters and global air hub is in which city?
5. Car rental company Hertz’s logo appears on which NRL team’s jersey?
6. The United Arab Emirates is a federation of how many emirates?
7. Israel is located on the northern shore of which sea?
8. Qantas has hubs in all five major Australian capitals, and lists which two international destinations as “focus cities”?
9. What is the most populous city in Florida?
10. Norse explorer Leif Erikson is thought to be the first European to have set foot on which continent?
11. What Queensland destination is this collection of words spelling out?



Pub quiz

1. Which American state most recently joined the union, doing so in 1959?
2. Which island was previously known as Otaheite?
3. The Four Asian Tigers are the economies of where?
4. Which country officially refers to itself as the ‘Abode of Peace’?
5. Carnival recently named its second Excellence-class ship *Carnival Celebration*, a homage to the former ship which exited its fleet in what year?
6. NH Hotel Group is named after which region of Spain?
7. John Bradfield was the chief proponent of which Australian landmark?
8. How many islands does Indonesia consist of?
 - a) Over 12,000 islands
 - b) Over 17,000 islands
 - c) Over 22,000 islands
9. What is the most populous country located entirely south of the equator?
10. Bundaberg is situated on which river?
11. What destination in Korea is this collection of pictures spelling out?



Where in the world?

This historic bridge’s construction started in 1357 and finished at the beginning of the 15th century. Until 1841 it was the only way to cruise the river that it spans and it was the most important connection between the castle of the town and it’s Old Town, making it also important as a trade route. Do you know the name of the bridge and where in the world it is located?



Unscramble

How many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the letter in the centre, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once. There’s also one word that uses all nine letters.

E	D	A
T	D	N
O	T	E

Good – 20 words
Very good – 29 words
Excellent – 39 words

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

Pub quiz

1. What airline is Japan's flag carrier?
2. What is the second-largest city in Norway after Oslo?
3. Which city's skyline are you admiring if you are standing atop Gellert Hill?
4. Which American state has the longest coastline?
5. Mudjee is located in the valley of which river?
6. What is the most populous neighbourhood of the Gold Coast?
7. Is Fiji a Melanesian, Micronesian, or Polynesian country?
8. Brisbane's cultural precinct of South Bank is located in which neighbourhood?
9. How many countries does the Danube River flow through?
10. Mildura is often intrinsically linked with what fruit?
11. What place in Australia is this collection of pictures spelling out?



Where in the world?



This tidal island and commune is a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site and is usually visited by over 3 million people each year, despite the island only having a population of 30. The island is only accessible by foot during low tide meaning it was easily defended from outside attacks during the Middle Ages. Over its 1,300-year history the island has been a monastery and a gaol. Do you know where in the world this is located?

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.

E	A	P
T	N	R
M	N	E

Good – 24 words

Very good – 36 words

Excellent – 48 words

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

Cruise ship word search

N	N	N	U	S	E	R	O	T	C	C	G	B	S	S
J	I	F	O	G	A	N	G	W	A	Y	A	E	T	P
P	Y	B	A	I	C	B	A	R	S	J	L	T	N	A
C	O	U	A	A	T	R	N	D	Y	S	L	I	A	F
X	D	O	S	C	L	A	A	S	K	D	E	U	R	A
T	G	I	L	A	C	E	T	V	O	Q	Y	S	U	Z
A	N	K	U	M	S	A	E	S	N	Q	O	X	A	Q
O	T	G	A	X	G	Z	P	N	R	G	F	K	T	U
R	E	D	N	E	T	N	A	T	Y	E	N	B	S	I
J	S	N	X	E	C	L	E	M	A	B	T	W	E	P
D	L	H	B	U	P	N	W	B	Y	I	O	S	R	C
Q	P	U	I	K	U	X	A	K	Q	H	N	K	U	S
R	O	T	C	E	R	I	D	E	S	I	U	R	C	M
Y	D	E	U	A	W	H	S	K	N	X	F	Y	Z	R
X	D	E	O	I	B	R	S	H	A	M	E	H	B	H

See if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

BARS
CABIN
CAPTAIN
CASINO

CRUISEDIRECTOR
DECKPLAN
GALLEY
GANGWAY

GYM
MUSTERSTATION
POOL
RESTAURANTS

SHOWS
SPA
SUITE
TENDER

Whose flag is this?

The traditional colours of the Melanesian people (red, black and green) have always been part of the different flags of political parties in this country, and the current flag was taken from one of these. The circular symbol on the flag is a pig's tusk, held in high regard by the people. Do you know whose flag this is?



Make it at home

These days, going out for a cocktail looks very different, so why not make one of our unique cocktail recipes at home!



Affogato with a Twist

An affogato is a delicious after-dinner dessert cocktail and this recipe, which comes to us from Dream Cruises, puts a tasty spin on the usual drink, substituting a Magnum ice-cream for the usual vanilla gelato or ice-cream.

Ingredients

1 shot of freshly brewed espresso
1 shot of Frangelico
Mini Classic Magnum

Method

Place the mini Magnum inside the cup and pull out the stick if you'd like.
Pour in the frangelico and then add a freshly brewed shot of espresso over the top. Enjoy!

Puzzle answers

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Pub quiz: 1 Technology, 2 The Mighty Ducks of Anaheim, 3 Indiana and Kentucky, 4 Memphis, 5 Penrith Panthers, 6 Seven, 7 Red Sea, 8 Los Angeles and Singapore, 9 Jacksonville, 10 North America, 11 Fraser Island (fray + sir + eye + land)

Where in the world: Széchenyi Chain Bridge, Budapest, Hungary

Sudoku:

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

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Pub quiz: 1 Hawaii, 2 Tahiti, 3 Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan, 4 Brunei, 5 2008, 6 Navarra, 7 Harbour Bridge, 8 Over 17,000 islands, 9 South Africa, 10 Burnett River, 11 Jeju (jay + Jew)

Unscramble: anode, anted, atoned, attend, attended, dado, date, dated, dead, deaden, dean, deed, denote, denoted, dent, dentate, dented, detonate, DETONATED, donate, donated, done, dote, doted, dotted, ended, need, netted, node, notated, noted, teed, tend, tended, tented, toad, toed, toned, toted

Where in the world: Charles Bridge, Prague, Czech Republic

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Pub quiz: 1 Japan Airlines, 2 Bergen, 3 Budapest, 4 Alaska, 5 Cudgegong River, 6 Southport, 7 Melanesian, 8 South Brisbane, 9 Ten, 10 Grapes, 11 Pilbara - pill + bar + ah

Unscramble: amen, ante, earn, eaten, enema, enrapt, enter, entrap, mane, manner, marten, mean, meaner, meant, name, nape, neap, near, neat, neaten, neater, neep, pane, pant, parent, paten, pean, peen, penna, pennate, pent, pentane, PERMANENT, preen, ranee, rant, remnant, rename, rennet, rent, repent, tanner, tarn, teen, tenner, tern, treen, trepan

Where in the world: Mont Saint Michel, Brittany, France

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Whose flag is this: Vanuatu

Feeling inspired?

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agent to start planning
your next dream holiday

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