

Travel & Cruise



Weekly

keep
dreaming...



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Contents

- 4 Destination spotlight
Discover where in the world you should visit next
- 6 For foodies
Experience Tasmanian seafood
- 7 In the news
Catch up on the latest travel and cruise news
- 8 Surf, sun and sand
Myles Stedman discovers why northern New South Wales is so lucky when it comes to coastal vacations
- 14 Take Four
National days to experience around the world
- 16 Keep your cruising dream alive
Hear from a travel agent all about their cruise experience
- 18 Puzzles
Need a way to fill in some of those extra hours in isolation? Sit down with a cuppa and enjoy the puzzle pages
- 22 Cocktail Hour
Take a sip and plan your next trip!



Front cover image: Chobe National Park, Botswana



From the Publisher Jenny Piper

Today we can celebrate that our Victorian friends have a few more freedoms. What a relief that must be for everyone, let's hope the next few weeks bring even more easing of restrictions and it won't be long before travel begins across borders. Those of us from other states are keen to get out and explore not only Victoria but all across the country. So fingers crossed some sense comes to our politicians and holidays can be planned with some certainty. In the meantime keep dreaming.

This week we have another deep dive into what New South Wales has to offer, with a focus on the Northern coastal regions – from the Central Coast to the Far North Coast. Lots of inspiration here. For foodies – check out the Tassie seafood offerings. And enjoy our cruise review – as you dream about that next overseas cruise.

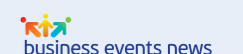
Enjoy this week's issue and don't forget to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** (@travelcruiseweekly) for more stories to inspire you to travel.

xx Jenny

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Gamaksan Mountain, South Korea

Located in the Gyeonggi-do region of South Korea, Gamaksan Mountain is one of the closest mountains to Korea's Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The region is home to fascinating cultural heritage sites and beautiful nature conservation sites, all ready to be explored. Visit Gamaksan Suspension bridge, which spans 150m across the Silmari Valley, to take in stunning views of the mountain.



©Visit Korea



Get Shucked ©Adam Gibson



Pacific Aria ©Carnival Australia

In the News

Experiencing Tassie seafood

Like most islands, Tasmania is known for its array of interesting and delicious foods and is renowned for being a hotbed for seafood. Freshness is paramount when it comes to this style of cuisine, and there's scarcely a better way to confirm this quality than taking in the view of Get Shucked's oyster farm during your meal at their famous Oyster Bar. Now fully licensed, enjoy a seat in the sun while you take in some oysters with your favourite Tasmanian tippie.

If oysters are not your thing, you can't go past a classic Tasmanian scallop pie. Bakery31 and Richmond Bakery, located in the quaint towns of Ross and Richmond respectively, are a well-worn pilgrimage for Tasmanians. Cooked in a creamy curry sauce and enveloped in a buttery pastry, this most Australian of delicacies can be found at a multitude of bakeries around the island but make a day of it and road trip your way out to one of these two particular pie places.



Bringing them home

The Government on Friday announced the temporary reopening of its Howard Springs quarantine facility near Darwin, as part of a plan aiming to help some of the thousands of Aussies who are currently stranded overseas by strict caps on passenger numbers.

The relaxation of arrivals into the Northern Territory will facilitate a mixture of charter and commercial flights from the UK, India and South Africa, some of which will be underwritten by the Government and fares from London costing about \$2,000.

More than 38,000

Australians have already registered their presence overseas with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and almost 30,000 of them say they wish to come home despite the current difficulty of securing a seat due to the existing quarantine caps.

Pacific Aria's swansong

P&O Cruises' Australian fleet continues to evolve, with the sale of the much-loved *Pacific Aria* confirmed last week, after a previous deal which would have seen the ship go to the defunct Cruise & Maritime Voyages having fallen through.

The 1,260 guest *Aria* has been part of the local P&O operation for about five years, with P&O Cruises Australia President Sture Myrmell saying despite her relatively brief tenure "she is no less prominent in our affection and respect".

"Our guests fell in love with *Pacific Aria's* modern interior design, as she set the benchmark for the evolution of the brand creating a path for the introduction of *Pacific Explorer* two years later."

The departure of *Aria* follows the sale of sister ship *Pacific Dawn*, which now appears destined for a somewhat unique future as a Panama-based haven for Bitcoin enthusiasts after being renamed the *Satoshi*.

Surf, sun and sand on NSW's North Coast

It is no secret why 85% of Australians live about an hour from the country's coast. Teeming with quaint towns and inviting beaches, coastal Australia has been the nation's playground for as long as Aussies have been taking holidays. Myles Stedman discovers why travellers to northern New South Wales are so spoilt when it comes to coastal vacations, and the best spots to get your fix.

Central Coast & Hunter

The Central Coast & Hunter regions begin just 90 minutes from Sydney, and once there, it becomes clear why so many are choosing to ditch the rat race for the near north.

The Central Coast offers beautiful beaches, pristine national parks and picturesque waterways, all without the crowds found in Sydney. Avoca, Ettalong, and Terrigal Beaches are all exactly what city-dwellers crave: perfect sand and surf with charming towns to accompany them.

If you're after a more unique experience, Pearls of Australia is the state's only pearl farm, and is home to some of the most lustrous Akoya pearls in the world. The Broken Bay Shellar Door in Mooney Mooney allows travellers to join a tour, cruise the farm and browse locally grown pearl jewellery.

Wine connoisseurs can head to Firescreek Winery and discover the innovative techniques that these winemakers are using, creating unique combinations found in few other places in the world. Enjoy a chocolate and wine pairing tasting or else join a more intimate behind-the-scenes tour with a winemaker.

If you have a bit more time, head an hour further north to Port Stephens, where rest becomes play, and water sports, seaside eateries and bottlenose dolphins are the top-billing experiences. Marvel at the town's giant sand dunes, either with your eyes, or via quad bike tour, with Sand Dune Adventures, a local company owned and operated by Worimi



Top: Get your heart rate up with Sand Dune Adventures in Port Stephens ©Destination NSW

Bottom: CoastXP in Newcastle offers some of the best whale-watching experiences in the state ©Scott Harrison/Daily Salt



Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Murray's Brewing Co is also located in Port Stephens and is one of Australia's leading craft brewers. Stop in for a bite at the brewery restaurant or a tasting of their exciting and quirky thirst quenchers.

Or, if you're looking for somewhere a bit busier, Newcastle is a hot spot for

artists and creatives, perfect for families and couples alike. CoastXP offers some of the best whale-watching experiences in the state, and you can stay at Kingsley, which is set to be the city's first five-star hotel, opening in April 2021. Newcastle is also home to long sandy beaches, coastal walking tracks and ocean pools.

Mid North Coast

This region is becoming as cosmopolitan as any in New South Wales, with the charge led by Port Macquarie. Travellers have been coming for the beaches and rainforests for years, but the town is also renowned as a fabulous place to spot wildlife, with Sea Acres National Park home to over 100 bird species, as well as lizards, koalas and quolls.

If you're not done animal-spotting – or just want to be on the other side of the fence – Billabong Zoo Koala & Wildlife Park offers the chance to spot cheetahs, snow leopards, red pandas, meerkats and snakes.

The latest stage in Port Macquarie's development has been as a food and drink

destination, with farm-to-fork cuisine and a few local vineyards now in play. For a stylish and contemporary place for travellers to lay their heads, try Sails Port Macquarie which offers a pool, waterfront restaurant and tennis court, all just a 10-minute stroll from town.

An hour and a half further north is Coffs Harbour, perhaps most famous for its location in Solitary Islands Marine Park. Here, you can spot dolphins, turtles, tropical fish, and even migrating whales. For the more energetic types, Wajaana Yaam Adventure Tours offers standup paddleboarding led by local Gumbaynggirr guides, as well as walking tours.

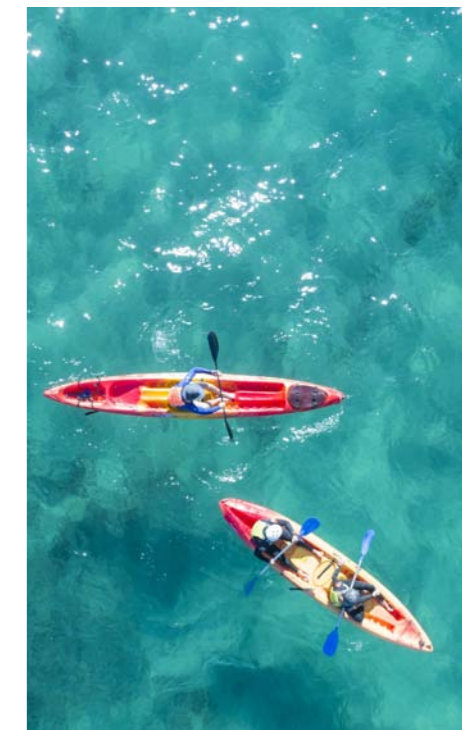
Of course, no trip to Coffs Harbour is complete without a visit to The Big Banana Fun Park, which is now more

than just a large fruit – it also offers waterslides, ice skating, miniature golf and laser tag.

Northern Rivers

Home to one of the world's most famous coastal towns, marvelling in the uniqueness that is Byron Bay is a must. This town started as a surfing hotspot, and remains such today, with a number of fantastic beaches to check out. If you want to get involved yourself but haven't the faintest idea how, Let's Go Surfing offers surf lessons, and caters for beginner to elite.

Surfing is far from the only active option on offer in Byron Bay; if you're after more than simply



Top: Go Sea Kayak in Byron Bay gives travellers the chance to paddle with dolphins and whales.

Left: Check out cute koalas at Billabong Zoo Koala and Wildlife Park in Port Macquarie.

Right: Cape Byron Lighthouse sits on Australia's most easterly point.

All images on this page ©Destination NSW





Top: Haul in live crabs, pump for yabbies and fish with Catch a Crab in the Tweed ©Destination NSW

Left: Enjoy a taste of local produce at Paper Daisy restaurant which is open to guests of Halycon House for breakfast and lunch and the public for dinner ©Destination NSW

walking out to Cape Byron, the easternmost point of Australia, Go Sea Kayak provides the opportunity to paddle with dolphins and whales, as does Cape Byron Kayaks, which is so sure you'll get to see these marine mammals that you'll get a free return trip if you don't spot any on your tour.

If you're looking to get more extreme, Go Fish Australia is an adventure fishing specialist, offering bucket list experiences such as heli-fishing, rainforest fishing and private charters.

For a more downtempo experience, Byron Bay has a number of regular markets, including a weekly farmer's market every Thursday, a Byron Community Market on the first Sunday of each month, and the Artisan



Market held on Saturday evenings in the warmer parts of the year.

Almost an hour north of Byron Bay is the Tweed Shire. Enjoy the beautiful Tweed River which winds its way through town and try the taste of succulent fresh mud crab caught straight from the Tweed River with Catch a Crab.

In addition to the Tweed's uncrowded beaches and world-renowned surf breaks, the region is also famous for its top restaurants and cafes including the two-hatted Paper Daisy restaurant located in boutique hotel Halycon House in Cabarita Beach, just 20 minutes south of Tweed Heads.

LOVE NSW

Sydney and NSW are full of incredible tourism experiences including golden beaches, lush national parks, rolling vineyards and legendary locals.

Plan your next NSW getaway now.
visitnsw.com/love-nsw



Take four

If you ever want to experience almost everything it means to be from [insert country here], make sure you're there for its national day. Here are four of the best to experience.



Bastille Day

The French National Day marks not only the anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille in 1789, but also the Fete de la Federation, or, the unity of the French people, which occurred a year later in 1790. Bastille Day, or Fete Nationale, is most synonymous with its Military Parade, thought to be the continent's oldest and largest of its kind, which is held on the Champs-Elysees in front of the President.



Saint Patrick's Day

If the Fourth of July is the most famous of all national days, St. Patrick's Day is certainly the most widely celebrated. Originally recognising the death of the country's patron saint, St. Patrick's Day has come to celebrate the culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades & festivals, traditional Irish social gatherings known as ceilidh, the wearing of green attire or shamrocks, and of course, drinking!

Fourth of July

Arguably the most famous Independence Day in the world, the United States' national day, celebrated on July 4, commemorates the country's Declaration of Independence from Great Britain's rule in 1776. Commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, family reunions and other related ceremonies, one of the best ways to celebrate this day is by attending a Major League Baseball game, with the sport having played on the day almost every year in last 150.



Revolution Day

Recognising the Guatemalan Revolution, the aptly named Revolution Day celebrates the surrender of the military junta which took over from Dictator Jorge Ubico to rule the country. Guatemalans celebrate this day in a typically Latin fashion, playing music in the streets and holding fireworks displays, but also holding protests on various matters, to carry on the spirit of the country's revolutionaries. Guatemala will celebrate this day tomorrow, 20th October, meaning it is the world's next national day to be commemorated.



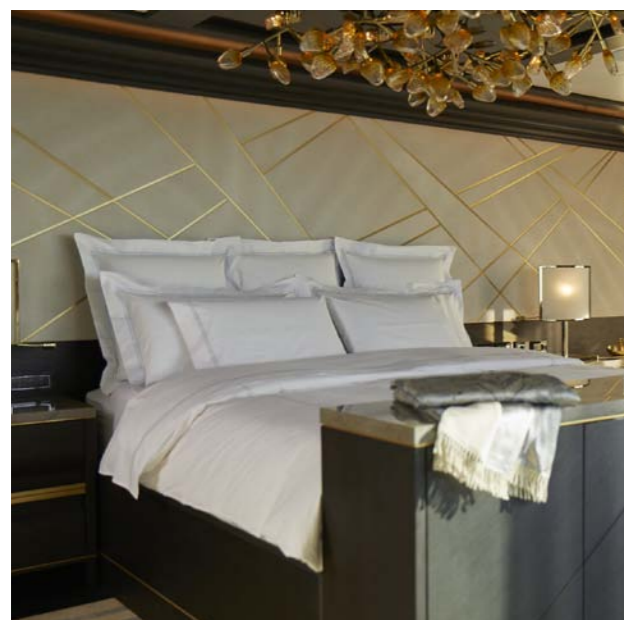
©Mayan Families

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 Byron Horne from Bicton Travel.

Regent Seven Seas - *Seven Seas Splendor*, Rome to Barcelona



Dining

There is no main dining room as such, every restaurant is a speciality restaurant. With magnificent wines to match that flow as freely as the conversations with like minded travellers.

The highlight was Compass Rose, the largest restaurant on board with a menu to match. Choices for days where you can combine any of the options on offer. Not an easy feat when you can literally create any combination that your appetite desires. The delivery is on point, perfect and beautifully presented.



Itinerary highlight

With a short itinerary I was not going to dare leave the ship, not even for one of the many complimentary inclusions. My day in port was spent on board absorbing every bit of luxury I could. Soaking up the winter Mediterranean sun on the pool deck, wrapped in a Regent blanket with a book and Bloody Mary in hand with extra tabasco to kill the chill, which gets refilled without even asking.



Top tip for clients

Go all inclusive. The value for money is exceptional.



The ship

I was one of the first guests ever on the brand new *Seven Seas Splendor* – and what a splendid ship!

It lived up to its name and the newest most luxurious ship at sea.

No expense was spared and it was incredibly beautiful, spacious, and ultra-luxurious. Expensive artworks adorn the public areas like a private art collection. Tonnes of Italian Marble shine in the Mediterranean winter sun. Thick pile carpet, like walking on clouds and sparkling crystal chandeliers twinkle and sparkle over plush soft furnishings and welcoming couches in public areas while soft piano playing echoes throughout the ship.

Sudoku

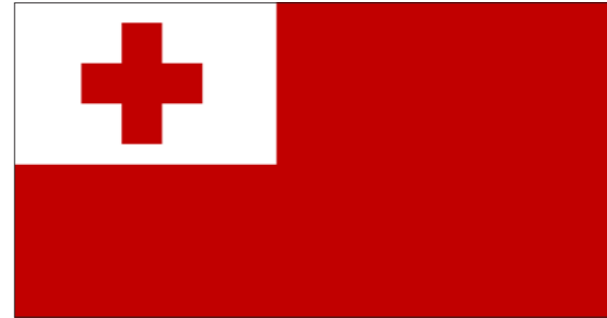
DIABOLICAL

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

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

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

Whose flag is this?



The independent kingdoms of countries in this region usually adopted red and white as the main colours for their flags, which were often introduced in the late 18th century. The first flag of this country was no different with a white background and a red or blue cross in each corner and the initials representing the king in the centre. This flag design was officially adopted in 1866 and the cross represents the main symbol of Christianity as most of the country followed that religion. Do you know whose flag it is?

Pub quiz

- Scheduled to enter the Carnival fleet next year, which is the only of the cruise line's ship to not feature 'Carnival' in its name?
- When was Hawaii annexed by the United States?
 - In 1888
 - In 1898
 - In 1908
- How many islands make up the Pitcairn Islands?
 - 4
 - 40
 - 400
- Which are the five recognised nuclear weapon states?
- Does 'Tokyo International Airport' officially refer to Haneda or Narita airport?
- St. Andrew's Cross is the dominating feature of which country's flag?
- Nike is headquartered in which American state?
- Which city's gambling industry is larger: Las Vegas' or Macao's?
- Japan's Okinawa Prefecture is located on which chain of islands?
- Lautoka in Fiji is noted for being a hub for which industry?

Pub quiz

- In addition to the five recognised nuclear weapon states, which three other states claim to possess such arms?
- Frank Bainimarama seized power of which country following a 2006 coup?
- Which airline's callsign is "red cap"?
- Yangon, also known as Rangoon, is the capital of which country?
- Which cruise line was founded in 1840 as the British & North America Royal Mail Steam-Packet Company?
- American television series The Love Boat made famous which cruise line?
- Which airline is older: All Nippon Airways or Japan Airlines?
- What is the name of the only casino in Cairns?
- What is the name of the former Prime Minister of Thailand who is now living in self-exile, having been found guilty of corruption?
- Newcastle in the UK, is located on the northern bank of which river?

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.

J	I	E
D	C	D
A	N	U

Good – 13 words

Very good – 19 words

Excellent – 25 words

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

Where in the world?

This row of 30 terraced houses is one of the most iconic landmarks in this city. The houses are arranged in a crescent shape around a perfect lawn and it is one of the greatest examples of Georgian architecture. What is interesting about the construction of these buildings is that the front facade of the houses was designed by an architect, but purchasers only bought a length of the facade and then built the house behind the front themselves. Do you know where in the world these are located?



Pub quiz

- Five states are recognised as possessing nuclear weapons, while three other claim to be armed as such, but which small state is suspected of harbouring nukes without having admitted to doing so?
- Princess Cruises' Pacific Princess featured in which television series?
- Qatar is located on which tiny peninsula?
- The island of Phuket is located in which sea?
- Founder of Norwegian Cruise Lines and Carnival Cruise Lines Ted Arison also helped found which sports team, which is still owned by his son today?
- The "City of Sails" refers to which city?
- Which of South Africa's 11 official languages is most commonly spoken within the country as a first language?
- Kashmir is a disputed region between which three countries?
- Which empire founded the city which would become London?
- The Icefields Parkway extends through a range of national parks in which country?

Whose flag is this?



This flag is only one of two in the world with four equal horizontal stripes. It became the nation's flag in 1968, when it became independent from colonial rule, having been controlled by both Britain and France in the past. The colours of the flag represent different symbolic aspects of the country with the yellow standing for the light of freedom, red for the struggle for independence, blue for the nation's position as an island and green for the subtropical weather of the nation which results in a verdant covering of trees and plants. Do you know whose flag this is?

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	V	D
L	P	E
E	O	N

Good – 15 words

Very good – 22 words

Excellent – 29 words

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

Japan word search

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

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

AUTOMOTIVE
BLOSSOMS
GEISHA
HIJIFALLS

JAPANESE
MOUNTFUJI
NIPPON
OKINAWA

ONSEN
ORIGAMI
RAMEN
SHIBAINU

SUMO
TEACEREMONY
TOKYO
TONKATSU

Where in the world?

Despite seeming like a relic of a bygone era, this steam clock was only constructed in 1977. The clock was built as a monument but also had another purpose to cover a steam grate over one of the city's steam pipes which heat most of the core of downtown. It is likely only one of two steam clocks, with the other in an English tavern. Where in the world is this located?



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!



10-Day Homemade Limoncello

Makes 1 x 750mL bottle

This recipe comes from Oceania Cruises' Director of Culinary Enrichment & Executive Chef Kathryn Kelly. The flavours of limoncello will transport your tastebuds to the beautiful, sunny Amalfi Coast in Italy, where locals love raising a glass after lunch or dinner to toast. Although the recipe does take 10 days to make, it's not too labour intensive and is well worth it.

Ingredients

6 unwaxed lemons
(preferably organic)
1 (750-milliliter) bottle
vodka, preferably Belvedere
2 cups sugar
1 cup water

Method

Wash the lemons well and remove their rinds (don't include any of the pith). Combine the lemon rind with the vodka in a large sterilised jar and seal and let stand in a dark place for six days.
After six days, in a small saucepan combine the sugar and water over medium heat until it simmers and the sugar dissolves. Let cool then transfer the lemon rind from the vodka to the syrup. Reseal the vodka jar and transfer the syrup and rind to a new sterilised jar and seal. Let both jars stand in a dark place for three more days.
Remove the rind from syrup and add the syrup to the vodka (you don't have to use all of it, add it to your desired sweetness). Strain the combined vodka and syrup into a sterilized bottle and enjoy chilled!

Puzzle answers

Page 18

Pub quiz: 1 Mardi Gras, 2 b) 1898, 3 a) 4, 4 China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States, 5 Haneda Airport, 6 Scotland, 7 Oregon, 8 Macao's, 9 Ryukyu Islands, 10 Sugarcane

Whose flag is this: Tonga

Sudoku:

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

Page 19

Unscramble: acid, acne, adduce, caddie, cadi, candid, candied, cane, caned, cued, dace, dance, danced, dice, diced, dunce, iced, induce, induced, jaudice, JAUNDICED, juice, juiced, nicad, nice

Pub quiz: 1 India, North Korea, Pakistan, 2 Fiji, 3 AirAsia, 4 Myanmar (Burma), 5 Cunard Line, 6 Princess Cruises, 7 All Nippon, by two years, 8 The Reef Hotel Casino, 9 Thaksin Shinawatra, 10 River Tyne

Where in the world: Royal Crescent, Bath, UK

Page 20

Pub quiz: 1 Israel, 2 The Love Boat, 3 Qatar Peninsula, 4 Andaman Sea, 5 Miami Heat, 6 Auckland, 7 Zulu, 8 China, India and Pakistan, 9 Roman Empire, 10 Canada
Unscramble: deep, deepen, develop, dope, elope, eloped, envelop, envelope, ENVELOPED, epee, lope, loped, neep, nope, open, opened, peel, peeled, peen, peeve, peeved, pend, peon, pled, plod, pole, poled, pond, pone

Whose flag is this: Mauritius

Page 21

Where in the world: Gastown Steam Clock, Vancouver, Canada

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agent to start planning
your next dream holiday

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