

Issue 009

Travel & Cruise



Weekly



keep
dreaming.



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Front cover image: Mt Amos, Tasmania
©Tourism Australia

From the Publisher

Jenny Piper



It's June and we are allowed to travel again! Some of the *Travel & Cruise Weekly* team escaped Sydney last week and celebrated International Donut Day on Friday by a trip to the famous Berry Donut Van, on the NSW south coast. With everyone housebound for so long we can't wait to get out and about and discover what Australia has to offer. Let's hope the state borders all open again soon.

The Queen's Birthday long weekend in most states has been a blessing to our travel and tourism industry with strong bookings seen in many regional areas, which is great. With school holidays just around the corner it's time to start thinking about that Aussie holiday. Pop into your local travel agent to

get their ideas for that next break.

And for planning the next adventure overseas be inspired by this week's feature story about the Galapagos, a place like nowhere else in the world. Or check out some of the best night-time shore excursions for a future cruise. Plus loads more to inspire your post-COVID travel.

Let's all 'keep dreaming' and start planning those new travel experiences as borders open and travel 'bubbles' and 'green lanes' look like they will happen.

Make sure you don't miss an issue by subscribing [here](#). You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) where we will be posting videos and more.

xx Jenny

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Bitter Springs, NT

Nestled amongst cabbage palms and tropical flora, these naturally warm springs are the perfect place to unwind after a day exploring Elsey National Park. Fed by an underground spring, the 500m long waterway flows gently through the stunning surrounds. Located in the Katherine region of Australia's Northern Territory, these thermal pools are just one of the many natural attractions in the region, known for being where the outback meets the tropics.

For foodies

Brunch is the best meal of the day, and we won't hear a word against it. So we've found the best brunch spots worth the trip in capital cities along Australia's east coast.

Sydney

Social Brew Cafe

Located in bustling Pyrmont, this café is a hub for locals looking for a local brew and delicious food. The modern industrial café offers a versatile menu of brunch-style foods, pastries and sweets, and is known for serving up eye-catching and indulgent specials.



Melbourne

Brick Lane Melbourne

True to Melbourne's reputation for hiding brilliant cafes in its laneways, Brick Lane Melbourne is the ultimate bakery-café destination in the city's CBD. The trendy café uses fresh and sustainable produce, with everything on the menu prepared fresh onsite.



Brisbane

Kennigo Social House

Set in a former boarding house which dates back to 1885, Kennigo Social House is a lively spot with quirky dishes and share plates. The menu ranges from soft-boiled eggs, smashed minted peas, haloumi, maple-smoked salmon, and avocado on English muffin to the classic Eggs Benedict.



Canberra

The Cupping Room

In the heart of the nation's capital, The Cupping Room serves up a quality menu with variations to the familiar favourites. The all-day menu leaves it to patrons to decide whether it is appropriate to indulge in crumbed haloumi fries with gochujang aioli.

In the News



Silver Muse ©Silversea

Muse & Shadow to Australia

Silversea Cruises is doubling down on the Australasian market for the summer 2021/22 season with the deployment of *Silver Muse* and *Silver Shadow* in local waters.

The 388-passenger *Shadow* has just emerged from a full refurbishment, and will join flagship *Muse* for the season, operating a series of Trans-Tasman and east coast itineraries.

The move was announced alongside Silversea's global

offering for October 2021 to April 2022, which features 86 voyages, all able to be booked now by members of the line's Venetian Society loyalty program ahead of a general release later this month.

Singapore "green lanes"

So-called "green lanes" between Australia and Singapore are in discussion, with authorities confirming talks are under way to facilitate travel between the two countries.

Subject to comprehensive coronavirus safeguards, the

proposed arrangement would allow for connectivity to be restored to facilitate short-term essential business and official travel.

Singapore's Minister for Trade Chan Chun Sing said at a virtual press conference last week, "reciprocal green lane arrangements mean there must be mutual assurance of each other's test protocol and standards"

The bilateral proposal with Australia follow a green lane deal between China and Singapore to facilitate travel from the island to several cities including Chongqing, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Tianjin and Zhejiang.

All creatures great and small

Craig Tansley comes face to face with the Earth's most unusual creatures on an eight-day cruise through the Galapagos.



Sea lions lounging on beaches abound in the Galapagos ©Craig Tansley

“Oh my God, look at that!” 300 metres away, a humpback whale is breaching clean out of the Pacific. Oblivious to us, or - like all the other animals around here - encouraged by our presence, it's putting on quite a show for the 20 passengers and 14 crew on-board the *MV Origin*. But what's almost as remarkable as the whale show itself, is the fact the person most excited about the display is someone who's seen it all before; every year, in fact, for the past 30. But it says a lot about these islands that local guides still get as excited at the weird and wonderful creatures of the Galapagos as any first-time visitor.

“Oh, I've been travelling to many other places, sure,” naturalist guide Desiree Cruz says to me. “But look at this place, nothing compares. So I've stopped travelling, and I never, ever grow tired of this.”

She has a point, it's midway in our seven-night, eight-day sea excursion through the southern and central islands of the Galapagos, and I'm losing



count of wildlife interactions. The major difference in the Galapagos Islands is that animals aren't scared one bit of humans – in fact, the only creatures to scuttle away from us so far were the rare pink flamingos we tip-toed up beside in the salt lakes of the island, Floreana, this morning. Everything else comes to play, and to observe us: it's the most remarkable aspect of a most remarkable island group. So far a pod of rare orca has swum right under our 43-metre boat, the nine-metre-long bull coming up right beside our vessel, before going under us and out the other side. As I've snorkeled, inquisitive sea lions come to look at themselves in my mask, admiring their reflections in the lens, before jumping right over the top of me, somersaulting in the air. Huge green turtles don't

seem to care either if I follow them around in stunning, secluded bays; blue footed boobies carry out drawn-out, elaborate courtship rituals just a few metres from where I stand, and any time I'm in the sea whole schools of reef sharks – including some fairly big-looking Galapagos sharks I'm assured are timid – swim all around me.

The *MV Origin* is one of the most intimate luxury vessels in the Galapagos. It has just 10 cabins, with a crew-to-passenger ration of almost one-to-one. In eight days, I'm waited on hand-and-foot, after sweaty excursions to shore, there's a waiter with hors d'oeuvres and ice-cold beer and wine waiting by the back deck. It has all the mod-cons that come in handy when you're trying to process everything you've seen by day: a bubbling, boiling Jacuzzi on the back

deck, an open bar on the top sundeck, and showers with floor-to-ceiling views lest you miss anything while you're preparing for sunset canapes. We're cruising an eight day route through the Galapagos that takes us away from any of the crowds you'll see on arrival at San Cristobal's airport. Most days out here there's not even another boat to keep us company.

Even so, I love the solace that comes at dawn on the top deck here just before the sun rises, and it's just me and the fast-fading stars as I look across at a new island we've steamed to during the night. The landscape of the Galapagos is incredibly rugged: sheer ridgelines etched out over millions of years rise up above empty, perfect white sand bays. Most islands are completely uninhabited – and the only way to access them is by

boat. The only settlements there are in the Galapagos are mostly quaint fishing villages, where sea lions sprawl in the sun right by footpaths, and on seats at harbours like drunken sailors.

We visit four islands of the Galapagos, arriving at deserted anchorages in the hours just before dawn. After breakfast we travel across smooth blue seas by Zodiac, entering empty bays, finding more wildlife waiting. Our guides explain what's happening around us, though we never have to look far to find the strangest of the Galapagos' creatures. On our first day, we're caught in the middle of a mighty battle between great frigate birds and red-footed boobies, another day we watch a sea lion give birth to her pup as marine iguanas come close to steal the placenta, and one morning a pod of dolphins surf the bow waves of our Zodiac all the way to shore before a group of sea lions circle our vessel, anxious to play.

The Galapagos have been many things through the past 500 years: the haunt of pirates hiding out from the South American mainland, the site of Darwin's discovery of the theory of evolution; though these days they're the bucket list destination of any traveller with a penchant for wildlife holidays. But climbing aboard a vessel like *MV Origin* allows you to come about as close to the Earth's rarest creatures as you ever could dare... with barely another traveller in sight.



Clockwise from opposite page: The Galapagos is home to giant tortoises ©Ecoventura

Sunsets are best enjoyed on the top deck of *MV Origin* ©Ecoventura

Local naturalists accompany every excursion ©Craig Tansley

Every morning offers a new view on a Galapagos cruise ©Ecoventura



Take four

For those who love the idea of a multiday walk but don't want to carry a pack, Great Walks of Australia offer an array of exclusive guided walks. Here are just a few:



Scenic Rim Walk, QLD

Located just an hour and half from Brisbane starting in the Main Range National Park this 2 day/2 night adventure covers 28km. Explore this World Heritage-listed wilderness with its escarpments, forests and wildlife by day and spend the nights in luxurious 'glamping' accommodation with chef prepared meals, wine and even a plunge pool. Walks operate from March to November.

Margaret River Cape to Cape, WA

Covering 41km, walkers will discover beautiful beaches, limestone caves, bush and forest trails as well as experiencing the best in food, wine and luxury accommodation. Taking 4 days/3 nights guests visit wineries and are treated with gourmet meals that showcase local produce. Walks operate from March to June then September to November.



Larapinta Trail, NT

Walk the high ridges of the West MacDonnell Ranges on this classic 6 day/5 night wilderness experience, staying in semi-permanent eco-campsites each night and carrying only a day pack to cover the 72km. Walkers will discover the diverse desert scenery of vast flood plains, rocky outcrops, ridges and canyons. Suitable for more seasoned hikers covering up to 16km a day, the walks operate from April to September.

Twelve Apostles Walk, VIC

This 4 day/3 night 55km section of the Great Ocean Walk showcases the ruggedness and majesty of Victoria's southern coastline. Experience the wild landscape of the region from coastal cliffs, heathland and passing through rainforests. Accommodation each night is in an exclusive lodge with only 10 guests. The walk operates from September to May.



For more information, visit greatwalksofaustralia.com.au

Keep your cruising dream alive

Evenings onboard a cruise are often accompanied by a good meal, a relaxing beverage, and a little entertainment, but if your ship remains in port while the sun goes down in the following ports - make sure you get off and experience these top night-time shore excursions.

Top Evening Shore Excursions



Civitavecchia, Italy

Exclusive access to the Vatican

Some ocean and river cruise lines offer an exclusive 18-person-only access to the Vatican during the evening when the doors to the public are closed. The effect; an intimate stroll down echo filled halls with time on hand to actually take in the incredible art works of sculptures and paintings that line the path to its crown jewel – the Sistine Chapel.

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Evening Tango Show

The Tango personifies Argentina – style, passion, vigour, art. Most of these cruise night tours will not take in a fancy ballroom with canapes at hand, but as you sit on the plastic chair in the dim, bare room with dusty wooden stage affront – you will lose yourself in a world of raw talented dancers who create an evening of admiration.



Kusadasi, Turkey

Evening Ephesus Concert

Under a star filled night, sip on champagne and take in an opera or symphony performed exquisitely on the illuminated façade of the centuries old Ephesus library. You may have shuffled your way down the path of Ephesus through the day, viewing ancient remains while a guide paints the picture of once glory days – but this evening experience is something special.



Yangon, Myanmar

Shwedagon Pagoda at Night

The cities most of us are familiar with have nights illuminated by their towering skylines. Yangon's skyline is dominated by one spectacular golden delight – the Shwedagon Pagoda. Although you can also visit this Buddhist shrine through the day, during the evening it grows an enlightening presence that needs to be visited (with your bare feet).



St. Petersburg, Russia

Dinner in Catherine's Palace

For the ultimate social and cultural evening tour, enjoy a night on the grounds of Russian's version of Versailles, the Catherine's Palace. Your night will be filled with Pelmeni, Caviar, and of course – Vodka! This may explain why on many occasions guests break out into Russian Dance with napkins flying everywhere!

Rio Carnival, Brazil

The ultimate evening event

Many cruise lines have evening events though nothing beats the rhythm of Rio Carnival. In the safe enclosure of the Sambodrome – the secured avenue in which the Samba Parade dances its path, enjoy the colours and design of the most creative floats on the planet, with dance schools pulsating along to the cultural beat of Brazilian culture.



Sudoku

FIENDISH

The aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes.

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

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

Where in the world?



This building was originally designed as a marketplace and one could argue that it is still being used as that today, albeit stalls have been replaced with boutique stores. Do you know where this is?

Pub quiz

1. For what sport is the Stanley Cup the ultimate prize?
2. Which European city has the largest population?
3. Which European city is divided into about 90 islands by a series of canals?
4. How much does a Virgin Galactic flight to space cost?
 - a) US\$50,000
 - b) US\$100,000
 - c) US\$250,000
 - d) US\$1,000,000
5. True or False: Director James Cameron is one of only three people to descend to the bottom of the Mariana Trench?
6. What unusual thing do the Micronesian island of Yap use as their currency? (Hint: they vary from 3.5cm to 4m in size)
7. Which Central Asian country is 'double landlocked' (all the countries around it are landlocked)?
8. The Tenzing-Hillary airport is particularly difficult to land at. In what country can it be found?
9. What is the largest country in Africa?
10. Which country is NEAT GRAIN an anagram for?



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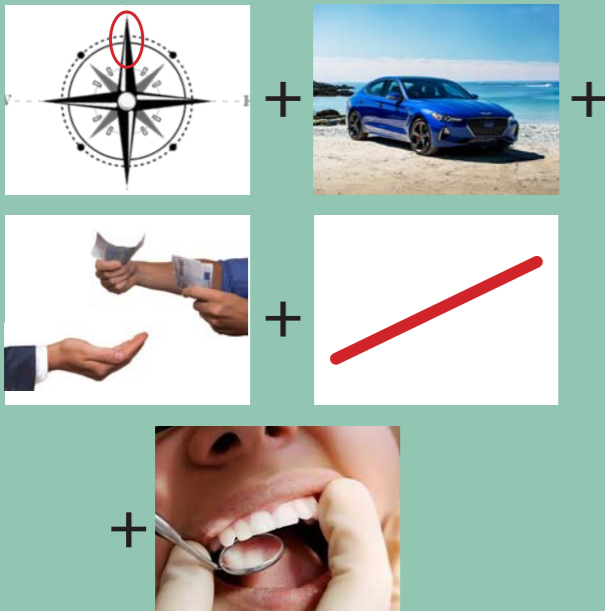
2019
1
Berlitz
Viking Sea



2019
WORLD'S BEST AWARDS

Pub quiz

- Which is the only African country to be colonised by the US?
- Easter Island is a territory of what South American country?
- What happened to the Costa Concordia, an Italian cruise ship, in January 2012?
- 'Graceland' is the name of Elvis Presley's mansion which is now open to visitors. In which US State would one find Graceland?
- True or False: The Eiffel Tower was intended to be a temporary construction.
- From which country does the spicy sauce 'sriracha' come from?
- Which American national park gains its name from the Miwok word meaning 'those who kill'?
- Which of the following is not a place visited by the singer in the Johnny Cash song 'I've Been Everywhere Man'?
 - Reno
 - Argentina
 - Waterloo
 - New York
- Which US state has only two escalators?
- Which country is DARN LIE an anagram for?
- What US state does this collection of pictures spell out?



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.

T	N	F
I	L	I
O	A	N

Good – 17 words

Very good – 25 words

Excellent – 33 words

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

Sudoku

MEDIUM

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, column and 3x3 box.

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

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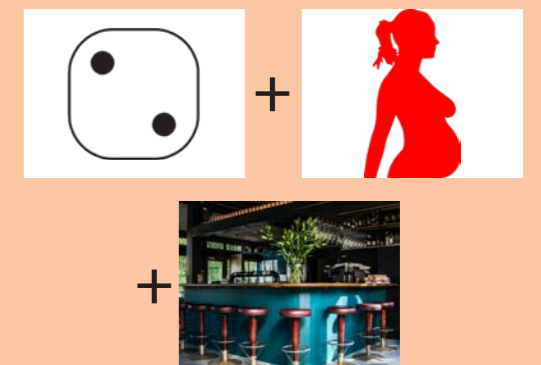
Where in the world?

This building looks a little like it had a UFO land on it. This intriguing structure clearly is made up of a newer building, which has been joined to a fire station underneath. Do you know where it is?



Pub quiz

- Which European country is 'double landlocked' (all the countries around it are landlocked)?
- The Praia do Cassino beach is the longest in the world at 150 miles. Which country is it in?
- Phuket and Koh Samui are islands of what country?
- Which country gets the most tourists per year (according to the latest statistics from UNWTO, for 2018)?
- True or False: Eswatini (Swaziland) is the world's number one producer of microchips.
- True or False: there has been at least one official petition to the IOC to include competitive 'vaping' as an Olympic sport.
- In which capital city would one find the largest library in the world?
- In what country is the Gir Forest, which is the only non-African location to boast wild lions?
- How many US states are only four letters long?
- Which city is RUMBLE ONE an anagram for?
- What place does this collection of pictures spell out?



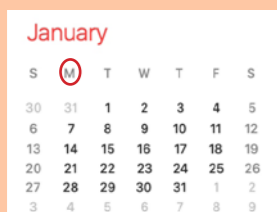
Whose flag is this?

This flag was created by amalgamating a number of designs which were submitted when the country first became independent. The nation was once part of the British empire, but interestingly doesn't have any of the symbols or colours of the union jack. Do you know which country it belongs to?



Pub quiz

- What does the word 'karaoke' mean in Japanese?
 - Empty Orchestra
 - Silent Dance
 - Wine Song
 - Haunting
- Which country has the most ski resorts?
- In which US state was Barack Obama born?
- Who was the first US president to visit China whilst in office?
- The Azzam is the longest yacht in the world at 180m. It is owned by the President of what country?
 - Bahrain
 - Brunei
 - Thailand
 - The UAE
- What set the Concorde passenger airliner apart from other airplanes?
- True or False: Hongogo is a world capital?
- Which city has the largest population in Africa?
- Which country, at US\$261 billion, spends the most on tourism each year?
- Which country is SILENCE THE TIN an anagram for?
- What country is this collection of pictures spelling out?



+



+



+



Antarctica word search

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

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

CONTINENT
CREVASSE
DRAKEPASSAGE
EXPEDITION

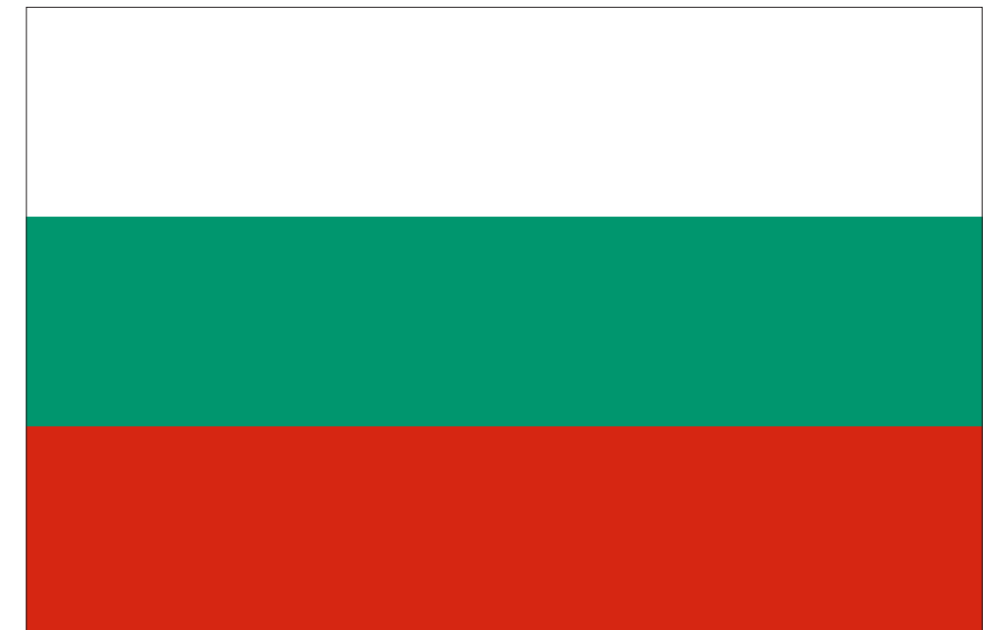
FROZEN
GLACIER
ICEBERG
ICESHELF

KRILL
PENGUIN
POLAR
RESEARCH

SEAL
SHACKLETON
SOUTHPOLE
WHALE

Whose flag is this?

This flag is from another country who drew some inspiration from its neighbours. Two of the colours are the same and one was substituted, but they are used in the same order as their neighbours. Do you know whose flag it is?



Travel the world with mince & meatballs

We can only afford mince at the moment and we're confined to our homes but that doesn't mean we can't travel the world with our tastebuds. Each week we will feature a recipe from a different corner of the globe.

Albanian Qifqi

The theme is Travel the World with mince and meatballs, but there are some great non-meat 'ball' recipes out there too. For those who just love to try something different, below is a recipe for Albanian Rice Balls – Qifqi supplied by Globus family of brands.



Ingredients

- 1 cup medium-grain rice
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp dried mint
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Olive oil spray

Method

Bring 2 cups of water to a boil. Add the rice and reduce the heat to low. Cover and steam until the rice has absorbed all of the water (about 15 minutes). Leave to cool at room temperature. In a bowl, whisk together eggs with the mint and salt and pepper to taste. Add the rice and mix together until the rice is coated with egg mixture. Heat a moulded pan (if you have a Danish pancake pan, you can use this. Otherwise, a frying pan will work fine), and lightly spray with olive oil. If using a moulded pan, fill each cavity with rice. Cover and cook on low heat for 5-10 minutes on each side, until rice balls are golden and crispy. Serve with ajvar (a roasted red capsicum sauce) or alongside a salad & enjoy!

Puzzle answers

Page 16

Pub quiz: 1 Ice Hockey (the NHL), 2 Istanbul (15m) followed by Moscow (12m), 3 Amsterdam, 4 c) US\$250,000, 5 True, 6 Rocks, known as Rai Stones, 7 Uzbekistan, 8 Nepal, 9 Algeria, 10 Argentina

Where in the world: Queen Victoria Building, Sydney, Australia

Sudoku:

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

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Pub quiz: 1 Liberia, 2 Chile, 3 It ran aground near Tuscany, 4 Tennessee, 5 True. It was built for the 1889 World Fair, 6 Thailand, 7 Yosemite, 8 d) New York, 9 Wyoming, 10 Ireland, 11 North Carolina (north + car + owe + line + ahh)

Unscramble: aioli, alit, loft, alton, anil, fail, filo, final, finial, flan, flat, flint, flit, float, foal, foil, fontal, INFLATION, lain, lift, lino, lint, lion, loaf, loan, loft, loin, nail, tail, talon, tinfoil, toil, tonal

Where in the world: Reading Between the Lines Church, Borgloon, Belgium

Page 19

Pub quiz: 1 Liechtenstein, 2 Brazil, 3 Thailand, 4 France (89 million), 5 False, 6 False, 7 The Library of Congress, Washington D.C., 8 India, 9 Three (Ohio, Iowa, Utah), 10 Melbourne, 11 Toowoomba (two + womb + bar)

Where in the world: Antwerp Port House, Antwerp, Belgium

Sudoku:

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

Page 20

Pub quiz: 1 a) Empty Orchestra, 2 Japan (543), 3 Hawaii, 4 Richard Nixon (1972), 5 d) The UAE, 6 Now retired, the Concorde had a maximum speed twice the speed of sound, 7 False, 8 Lagos, Nigeria (21m people), 9 China, 10 Liechtenstein, 11 Mongolia (Mon[day] + goal + e [note] + ahh)

Whose flag is this: Bahamas

Page 21

Whose flag is it: Bulgaria

Word search:

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

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