

WIZARD WISDOM NEWSLETTER

here to inform, entertain and have fun revolving around the Aviation World



COVID-19: TRAVEL-SICK CUSTOMERS SNAP UP QANTAS AIRWAYS SCENIC 'FLY TO NOWHERE'

SOURCE: NATIONAL POST – REUTERS
JAMIE FREED & CHEN LIN

Qantas Airways has found a creative way around the tough border restrictions due to COVID-19 to benefit avid travellers. A seven-hour flight took place over Australia's Outback and the Great Barrier reef which took off and landed at the same airport, and tickets sold out in an astonishing ten minutes. This flight scheme comes from a successful and growing trend in Asia offering "flights to nowhere" which keep the airlines in business following a 97.5% decrease in international travel in the region. These sightseeing flights can cost between \$575 and \$2,765 depending on the seating class. A Qantas spokesperson said that it might be "the fastest selling flight in Qantas history." A 'flight to nowhere' was flown in Taiwan for Father's Day and a flight usually headed for Honolulu flew for 90-minutes with a full Hawaiian experience on board. This method is praised by wanderlusts but is criticized by some, saying that it is carbon-intensive and distracts from policy and value shifts necessary to mitigate the climate crisis.

IN PLANES AND TRAINS, MINI-MOPS AND FOG MACHINES BATTLE CORONAVIRUS

SOURCE: WIRED – AARIAN MARSHALL & ALEX DAVIES

As the coronavirus spreads, airlines, bus companies, and transit operators are finding themselves suddenly at the front line of a public health crisis. This means that they are taking more precautions such as advanced cleaning measures, less touching and more space between seats. Many of these measures go above and beyond World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control recommendations. Some airlines have completely stopped handing out pillows, blankets, hot towels and magazines in the interest of reducing contact between crew and passengers. The use of disposable cups, fogging the aircrafts with an airborne disinfectant after off-boarding, and giving passengers disinfecting wipes, gloves, and mini-mops. Thankfully, most transit agencies have a generalized pandemic-response plan ready to go, and have been taking the necessary precautions, and even going beyond recommendations, to slow the spread of COVID-19.

ZEROAVIA COMPLETES WORLD FIRST HYDROGEN-ELECTRIC PASSENGER PLANE FLIGHT

SOURCE: CANADIAN AVIATION NEWS



ZeroAvia, the leading innovator in decarbonizing commercial aviation, as completed the world's first hydrogen fuel cell powered flight of a commercial-grade aircraft. The flight took place on September 23rd, 2020 at the company's R&D facility in Cranfield, England, with the Piper M-class six-seat plane which completed taxi, takeoff, a full pattern circuit and landing. This accomplishment is the first step in the possibility of replacing fossil fuels with zero-emission hydrogen for aviation. Hydrogen-powered aircraft is expected to match the flight distances and payload of the current fossil fuel aircraft, which is good news for the aviation sector and their efforts to have net-zero emissions.

ACI RENEWS CALLS FOR TESTING TO REPLACE QUARANTINE

Source: Passenger Terminal Today – Lawrence Butcher

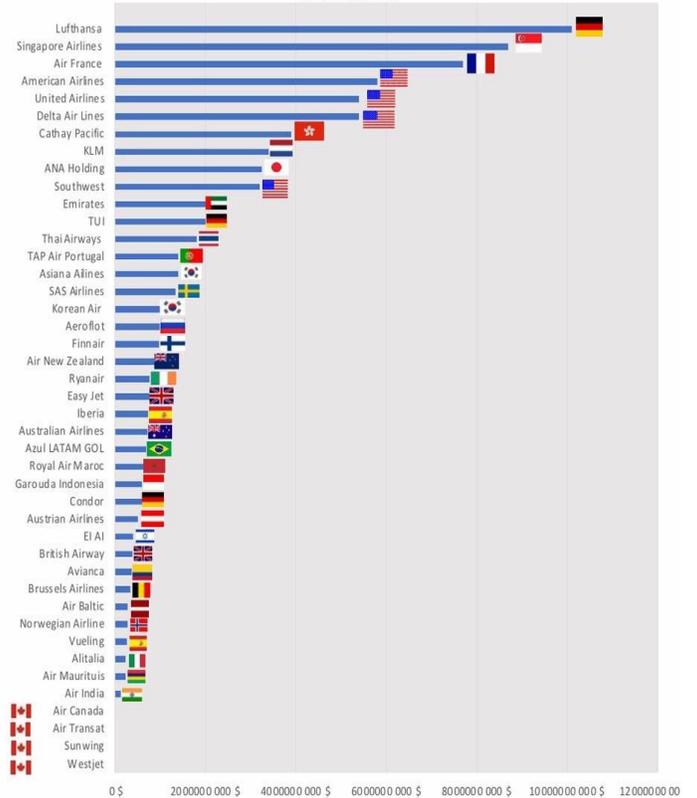
Airports Council International (ACI) World has renewed its call for worldwide Covid-19 testing of international passengers before travel to replace quarantine. This comes after the prediction of a US \$104.5 billion reduction in revenue in 2020, representing 60% of aviation jobs. The replacement of quarantine with testing is meant to better support recovery efforts, reduce the risk of infection and avoid unnecessary quarantine. To ensure the smooth travel of passengers, the testing would have to be done off-site of the airport before travel.

THE RUN ON AIRLINES

Source: LinkedIn – Gilles Hudicourt

While most airlines in the world receive direct financial aid from their home country, Canadian airlines receive no direct financial aid from the Canadian and Provincial Governments, other than CEWS, which is not enough compared to the extreme losses in revenue they are facing. Canadian airports are 100% funded by user fees paid for by the passenger, which is ultimately setting the Canadian aviation sector up for bankruptcy because of the refunds for flights during COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of international and domestic flights being taken at this time. If the aviation sector collapses in Canada, the economy will take a huge hit. While US airlines have received billions of dollars in funding from their Government because of the crisis, Canada airlines have only had their rents for airports waved until the end of the year by the Canadian Government. This lack of funding is incredible, given that airlines were responsible for flying Canadians home during the COVID pandemic as per government recommendations, flying mostly empty flights back and forth, primarily at airline expense. The Government is making both Canadian airlines and the travelling public victims of their policies.

Financial support from Governments for Airlines (Billions USD)
march-september 2020



Credit for this chart : Samy M'Seffar

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