

Travel & Cruise



Weekly



keep
dreaming...

Christmas edition



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Front cover image: Rockefeller Plaza, New York USA



From the Publisher

Jenny Piper

Welcome to our Christmas Edition of *Keep Dreaming!* It's hard to believe we are nearly at the end of what has been a crazy year for all of us. We hope you enjoy the stories about travel and Christmas in this issue and they will inspire you to plan for Christmas travel in 2021. Maybe a White Christmas will be on the cards for some next year!

This is our 36th edition of *Travel & Cruise Weekly* – *Keep Dreaming*. We decided to change from a quarterly to a weekly e-magazine back in April when everyone had gone into lockdown and needed some distraction - we thought some puzzles and stories to inspire would help buoy spirits. We planned to publish weekly until the end of June, thinking things would be back to normal by then. How wrong we were. Now it is the end of 2020 and we are still going. Thanks

to all the positive feedback we have received we will continue to publish in 2021, so look forward to great stories, reviews and more new travel inspiration.

A huge thankyou to Anna, our Production and Editorial Executive – this magazine would not exist without her, from the beginning she has been dedicated to producing a high quality product for you all to enjoy, she has done an amazing job.

This will be our last issue for 2020. We will return in mid-January 2021 excited to share with you what the new year brings to travel. The team at the Business Publishing Group would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. May 2021 be a year filled with LOTS of travel, and joy at the prospect of new places to discover, explore and appreciate.

xx Jenny

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Lapland, Finland

For a special holiday edition, where could be a more appropriate destination than Santa's home, Lapland. Perfect to experience a white Christmas, the northernmost part of Finland has so much to see and do for adults and kids alike. Visit a reindeer or husky farm, meet Santa in Rovaniemi, and watch the sky put on nature's most spectacular light show, the Aurora Borealis.



For foodies

From sipping mulled wine while browsing through a European Christmas market, to building a gingerbread house with family, there is something truly special about Christmas foods. This Christmas we can't travel, but why not check out these quintessential holiday foods to transport your tastebuds!



Mulled wine

Mulled wine, also known as spiced wine, is a highly diverse Christmas treat. The traditionally warmed alcohol can even please the non-red-drinker as the mulling spice mix makes for a sweet and flavoursome drink. Although typically a winter tippie, perfect for sipping as you browse a snowy Christmas market in Europe, Australians have taken to the habit of mulled wine during the holiday season too. If you're new to mulled wine, head to a local Christmas market for a taste.

Pudding

Traditionally a sweet milk-based dessert, pudding now comes in a wide variety of tastes and bases and is occasionally served savoury as part of the main meal. Such is its popularity in the United Kingdom, they have a purpose-cooked Christmas pudding, which often contains dried fruits, and was thought to include 13 ingredients, symbolising Jesus and the Twelve Apostles.

Eggnog

Eggnog is a rich, chilled, and sweetened dairy-based beverage, popular with all ages around Christmas time – although the alcoholic adaptations typically more so with the adults. Traditionally made with milk, cream, sugar, whipped egg whites, and egg yolks, distilled spirits are also often used, such as brandy, rum, whisky or bourbon. Popular homemade variants see eggnog also served with cinnamon or nutmeg, and for those cut from a different cloth, can also be served in other drinks such as coffee, to form an “eggnog latte”. Why not give it a try this Christmas!



In the News

©Princess Cruises

Ban extended

Australia's relative success in dealing with COVID-19, along with a surge in cases in the USA and Europe, has left the Government with little choice but to extend its ban on outbound international travel. Health Minister Greg Hunt delivered the bad news last week, extending the existing human biosecurity emergency until 17 March.

He said the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee had advised that the international coronavirus situation continued to pose an unacceptable health risk, and that extending the emergency period and its associated impacts on

outbound flights and local cruises was “an appropriate response to that risk”.

However he also noted that the restrictions are being reviewed regularly, and “can be amended or removed at any time based on the expert medical advice,” meaning there could be some light at the end of the tunnel particularly as vaccines begin to roll out globally.

Princess goes big on tech

Princess Cruises also last week confirmed it would implement its Ocean Medallion technology fleetwide when cruising resumes, with the wearable

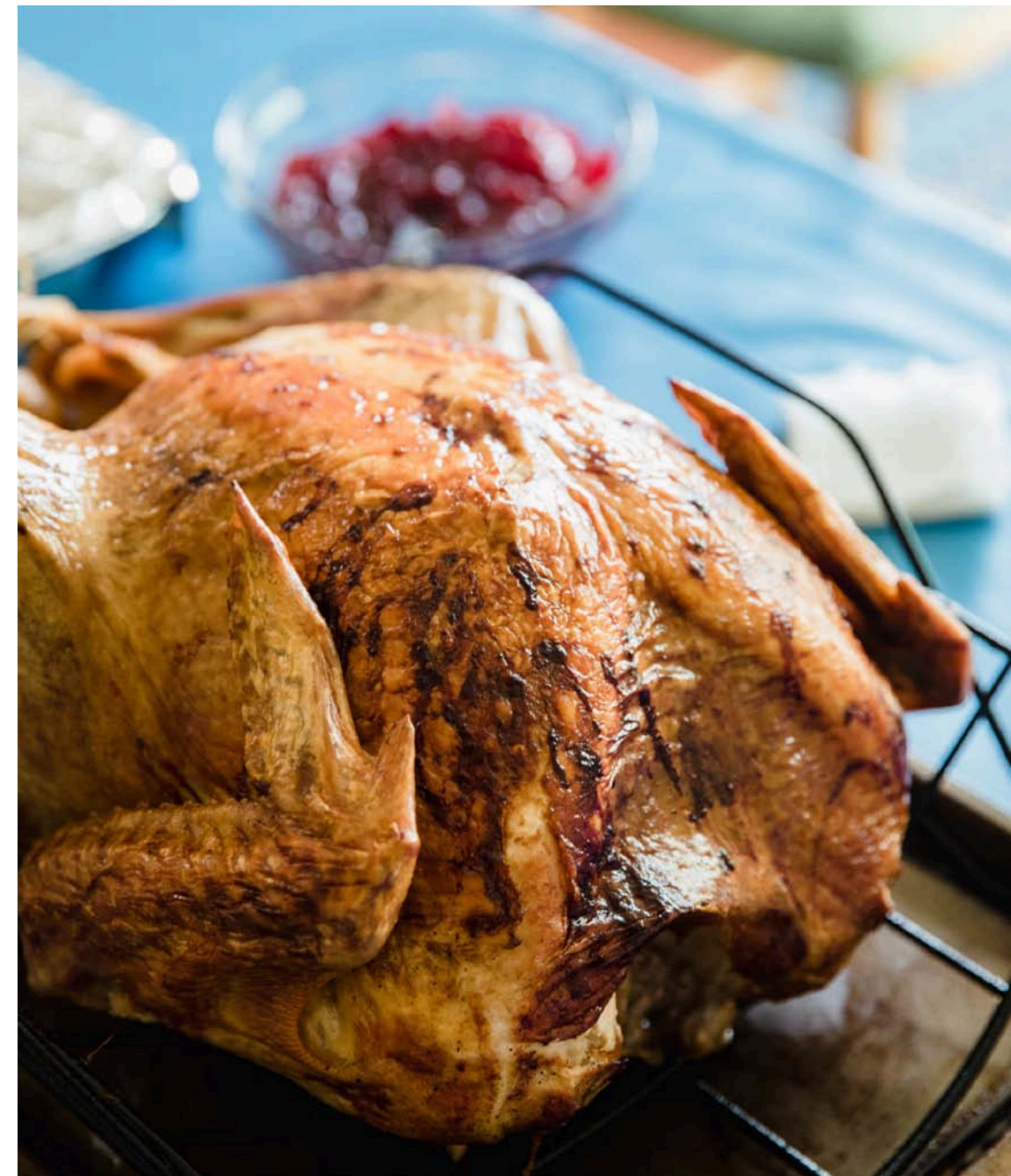
gadgets facilitating touchless embarkation and disembarkation as well as access to a wide range of onboard facilities.

Keyless stateroom entry, payments for beverages and other add-ons during the voyage and even on-demand delivery of food anywhere on the ship is possible using the technology which works in conjunction with MedallionNet high-speed internet connectivity.

Princess has taken advantage of the cruise pause to accelerate the rollout of the system, with *Coral*, *Diamond*, *Emerald*, *Grand*, *Island*, *Majestic* and *Sapphire Princess* all having it fitted, along with the brand new *Enchanted Princess*.

A Christmas for all seasons

We're used to the heat of the summer on our Christmas Days, but around the world celebrations can look quite different, as Adam Bishop writes.



In Australia, Christmas time tends to be marked by sunny swims at the beach, fresh prawns on the barbie and the rare opportunity to nosh on a turkey sandwich in between fierce tennis ball deliveries during a game of backyard cricket. As much as this iconic Aussie way of celebrating the Christmas holidays is lauded by many of us, one of the many brilliant things about travel is the opportunity to see how other cultures bring in all of the festive fun. Here are just a few of the ways Christmas is celebrated around the world.

The United Kingdom

As Bing Crosby once crooned, I'm dreaming of a white Christmas. And that's just how the British celebrate the festive event most years, inside curled up in front of the log fire and warming themselves with a banquet of Christmas turkey, oven roasted vegetables, Yorkshire pudding, usually all drenched in warm, delicious gravy.

This insulating way of marking

Christmas is unsurprising given the cold climate of Britain, and in some ways, this makes the day a more family-oriented affair than some other countries, because the group have to stick close together inside.

Watching holiday-themed programming as a family is another very English tradition, with many popular shows and sitcoms creating special Christmas editions to entertain the countless families laughing along at home as they chow down on Christmas lunch leftovers.

Japan

Japan isn't a destination you typically associate with Christmas, but believe it or not, the Japanese people do have a strong sense of tradition when it comes to the big day – albeit exhibited in an unusual fashion.

Dating back to 1974, Japan has marked Christmas day by consuming KFC. Strange we realise, but the origins of this very Colonel Sanders Christmas is

“
The origins of this very Colonel Sanders Christmas is the result of a successful ad campaign which depicted foreign visitors to Japan desperately trying to find some turkey to eat at Christmas, only to end up snacking on KFC chicken instead
 ”



Top: The UK's cool climate may be why Britons traditionally celebrate Christmas cosy inside with family

Centre: Eating KFC is traditional on Christmas day for Japanese people ©KFC

Bottom left: Christmas lights display in Tangub City, Philippines ©PureTrade

Bottom right: A Philippine 'parol' which is a pole with a lighted star at the top ©MarvinBikolano



the result of a successful ad campaign which depicted foreign visitors to Japan desperately trying to find some turkey to eat at Christmas, only to end up snacking on KFC chicken instead.

These days, 25 December is celebrated with a special KFC dinner, comprised of chicken, wine, cake and champagne. Interestingly, without the religious reverence attached, the day in Japan takes on a more romantic feel, with many partners making a reservation at their nearest KFC to enjoy some dinner, before going for a special evening walk.

That's some finger lick'n romance right there!

The Philippines

The people of the Philippines absolutely love Christmas time, often coming up with new and inventive ways to keep the holiday going for as long as possible.

The largely Christian nation has, over time, come to celebrate the day with a blend of western and Filipino traditions. All of the traditional festive customs are embraced, such as decorating the Christmas tree, sending loved ones Christmas cards, and gathering to sing melodic Christmas carols.

But the twists in this part of the world if you're ever passing through during this time are things like "parol", a bamboo pole adorned with a lighted star at the top and doused with colourful paper or cellophane, all designed to be an ode to the Three Wise Men.

Another interesting trope of Christmas in the Philippines is Noche Buena, the large meal eaten on the night of Christmas Eve. Locals typically set up a large room stocked with delicious meals where family, friends and neighbours can drop in to eat and socialise. The tables at this banquet are usually dishes like roasted pig, fruit salad, steamed rice and cakes such as bibingka, a baked rice cake cooked in a clay pot lined with leaves.

Four things

A new year is always cause for celebration. Here are four ways New Years is celebrated around the world.



Ecuador

We're not sure if "pyrotherapy" is a thing, but if it is, Ecuador executes it perfectly. At midnight on every New Year's Eve, Ecuadorians set fire to scarecrows filled with paper, that are representative of all the ill-fortune of the past year. Also incinerated are photographs representing similar sentiments from the previous 12 months, and we're guessing this year's "flare-crows" will get a good workout, given how kind 2020 has been to the world.

Spain

You won't find people cheering at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve in Spain; instead, Spaniards will be busy stuffing their faces with exactly 12 grapes, one for each chime of the bells at midnight. Those who succeed in this tradition are said to be granted good luck for the next 12 months, which leads us to believe not many grapes were eaten on the most recent New Year's Eve.



Denmark

Plate smashing is typically seen as a Greek custom, but somewhere down the line, Denmark decided it wanted in too. Many Danes wake up on January 1 to find plates smashed outside their doors from the night before, that had been saved up from the prior year. The volume of shards smashed against your front door is meant to represent popularity and good luck, so conversely, waking up to a clean doormat on New Year's Day could be a pretty bad way to start the next 12 months.

Peru

Most countries end the year celebrating, but Peru spends it beating the living daylight out of each other. 'Takanakuy' sees competitors face off in the ring for a round of bare-knuckle boxing, with all fights supposedly contested in good nature, in order to represent a fresh start to the following year. Of course, the fights are overseen by police, and there are many tempting jokes to be made here (the pandemic, Fight Club, two-up, Festivus, the Ides of March), but all things considered, this seems like quite a therapeutic way to end the year – especially this year.



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 Becky Kent-Perchalla from Perchalla & Turner Travel Associates.



Crystal Cruises - *Crystal Mahler*, Magnificent Christmas Markets, Budapest - Passau



Dining

Being a river vessel, there was the main restaurant and the smaller café area which transformed into a wonderful tapas restaurant each evening. The menu evolved daily and the sommeliers were excellent. Being a Christmas cruise, there was plenty of delicious gingerbread treats and gluhwein to keep the mood festive.



The ship

Crystal Mahler is one of 4 identical Crystal ships on the river - she offers roomy suites with balconies, a bright lounge and bar area with an atrium style ceiling and a stylish main restaurant with pops of texture and colour. One of my favourite spots was the indoor pool area with an open style fire - the perfect spot to cosy up with a cuppa and book and watch the river go by.



Itinerary highlight

The Christmas markets along the river are such a highlight of this itinerary - each town has its own style and speciality festive treat. Being docked right in the heart of each town, made access to these so easy - a short walk which was easy to manage, even when it started snowing. Something worth noting - when transport is required, Crystal have their own fleet of coaches with the most legroom of any bus I have been on - a very comfortable ride!



Top tip for clients

Christmas Market Cruises are always popular and Crystal will have you travelling in style. A warm drink after a chilly wander around the market, the warm and welcoming staff, wonderful food and cozy suites all make Crystal an excellent choice for this part of the world.



Thoughts from a reader...

This week reader, Harold Franks, inspired by this magazine, sent in a poem written about his life. We can think of no better way to wrap up the year that has been 2020.

Keep Dreaming

I remember the time, long, long ago
The Great Depression was still on the go
Workers on hold, left out in the cold
And Hitler then, not really so bold

I struggled at school, with the A B and C
And maths and the school spelling bee
But the words from the mouth of my mother
dear

Was "keep dreaming" along there, without fear

The Second World War put lives on the line
While I carried on as a junior, that's fine
And struggle we did, as countries fall
But work, finally, was found for us all

I started work, on a leisurely course
As I joined the commonwealth force
Then later I spied a lovely young bride
And married the lass, with such pride

The words mother said rebound in my head
"Keep dreaming", my son, 'til your dead

I remember them well, to my son I now tell
"Keep dreaming" it comes out as a yell

My dreams have come true, as I come into
view

Of Africa's magnificent, open air zoo
I've stood on the lip of Niagara Falls
"Keep dreaming", it comes as recalls

Taj Mahal, in its glory, a never ending story
Greece and its Islands, I soak in its glory
Americas, I've seen North and the South
Blame "Keep dreaming" I haven't a doubt

I've travelled the world, one-thirty or more
But who is it keeping the score
I'll go 'til I drop, I'll keep on the hop
Didn't learn the meaning of stop

But now in my nineties, it's never say die
I'd be off again, in the flash of an eye
I watch travel docs, while TV I'm streaming
But always remember to "Keep Dreaming".

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Sudoku

EASY

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

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

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

Whose flag is this?



The colours on this flag were widely used by the ancient people who lived in this country, before the arrival of European conquerors. Today the red is associated with the valour of the army, the yellow stands for the richness of mineral resources and the green for the fertility of the land. Previous versions of the flag had stars in the centre, but this has changed to the coat of arms. Do you know whose flag it is?

Pub quiz

1. *Pacific Princess* was the ship which started in the original *Love Boat* series, but which Princess Cruises vessel starred in the 1998 revival of the show?
2. Which American city sits on Lake Union?
3. In what year did Qantas' association with the Wallabies rugby team begin?
4. The Sydney Harbour Bridge's design is based on bridges found in which two other cities?
5. What animal appears on Malaysia's coat of arms?
6. Which city was formerly known as Canton?
7. The Oresund Bridge connects Copenhagen with which Swedish city?
8. Despite it also being the city's chief rapid transport network, the Stockholm metro is also known as the longest what in the world?
9. After New York City, which American city sees the most international visitors per year?
10. Condado Beach is a popular tourist destination in which city?

Pub quiz

1. The Mariners represent which American city on the baseball diamond?
2. Which country is made up of the most islands?
3. What is the largest city in the Mojave Desert?
4. If you were relaxing on Rainbow Beach, which Australian state would you be in?
5. Short-lived carrier Australian Airlines' hub was which airport?
6. The American state of Alaska borders which two Canadian territories?
7. The majority of Greenland's population is made up of which indigenous group?
8. The Northwest Passage is a sea route which weaves through what archipelago?
9. Is the population of Iceland over or under 500,000?
10. Which two countries are located on Europe's Jutland peninsula?
11. What city is this collection of pictures spelling out?

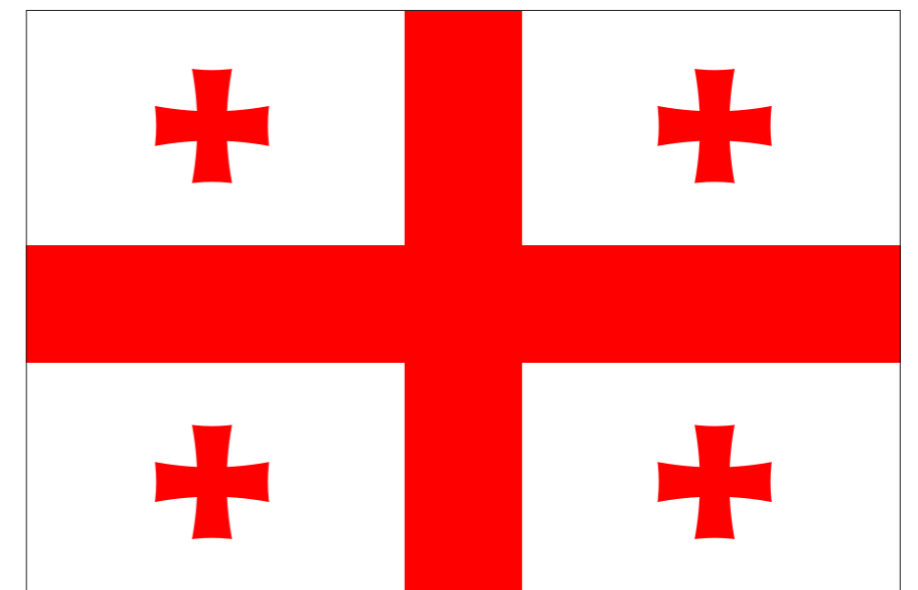


+



Whose flag is this?

Historically there have been a number of independent kingdoms in the area where this country is located, who united to form the nation. The most famous ruler of the area used a white flag with a dark red cross and a star (somewhat similar to the current flag). 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 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.

I	M	T
R	F	O
A	O	N

Good – 15 words

Very good – 22 words

Excellent – 29 words

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

Pub quiz

1. Las Vegas is affectionately known as the “ninth island” by people from where?
2. The presence of Joshua trees means you are nearby to which desert?
3. AO was the IATA airline code of which short-lived carrier?
4. What is the most sparsely populated country in Europe?
5. 89% of Iceland’s people are ethnically Icelandic, but what is the second most-represented ethnic group?
 - a) Polish
 - b) Japanese
 - c) Swedish
 - d) American
6. Is the population of San Francisco over or under 1 million?
7. Which continent has the highest average elevation?
8. What is considered to be the largest sand island in the world?
9. What is the easternmost point of mainland Australia?
10. The Mohammed Al-Amin Mosque, also known as the Blue Mosque due to its colourful dome, is located in which city?

Where in the world?



When this country was selected to host the Olympics, the government was planning to just restore an earlier stadium that was previously used, but when another political party came to power, they decided to take advantage of the games to push their message and so constructed a new stadium. Do you know where in the world this stadium is?

Sudoku

TRICKY

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

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

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

Disneyland word search

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

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

ADVENTURELAND
ANAHEIM
BIGTHUNDER
CALIFORNIA

CRITTERCOUNTRY
DISNEYLAND
FANTASYLAND
FRONTIERLAND

GALAXYEDGE
JUNGLECRUISE
MAINSTREETUSA
MICKEYSTOONTOWN

NEWORLEANSQUARE
SPACEMOUNTAIN
THEMEPARK
TOMORROWLAND

Where in the world?

This steel statue stands on the waterfront of one of the most northern capitals in the world. It was created by a local artist, Jon Gunnar Arnason, and resembles a long-ship. It was built in the late 1980s, after the design won a competition for an outdoor sculpture to celebrate the city where it is located’s 200 year anniversary. Where in the world is this?



Make it at home

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



Passionfruit Mule

Serves 2

With a refreshing combination of passionfruit and lime, this cocktail is a perfect drink for spring or summer. It comes from Royal Caribbean International and is certainly reminding us of warm afternoons enjoying cocktails looking at the ocean.

Ingredients

- 120mL vodka (pineapple flavoured or plain)
- 6 tbsp passionfruit pulp (about 4-6 passionfruits)
- 2 tsp lime juice
- 240mL ginger beer or ale
- Mint leaves
- Ice cubes

Method

Divide the pulp, lime juice and mint leaves into two tumbler glasses and muddle. Add in 60mL vodka to each glass and add ice. Pour ginger beer over the ice and garnish with fresh mint.

Puzzle answers

Page 18

Pub quiz: 1 Sun Princess, 2 Seattle, 3 1990, 4 Newcastle and New York City, 5 Tigers, 6 Guangzhou, 7 Malmo, 8 Art gallery, 9 Miami, 10 San Juan

Whose flag is this: Bolivia

Sudoku:

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

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Pub quiz: 1 Seattle, 2 Sweden, 3 Las Vegas, 4 Queensland, 5 Cairns Airport, 6 British Columbia and Yukon, 7 Inuit, 8 Arctic, 9 Under, Iceland's population is 364,000, 10 Denmark and Germany, 11 Goulburn (goal + burn)

Whose flag is this: Georgia

Unscramble: afoot, fain, faint, fair, farm, faro, fiat, firm, foam, font, foot, footman, forint, form, formant, format, FORMATION, fort, frit, from, front, info, inform, infra, motif, naif, raft, rift, roof

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Pub quiz: 1 Hawaii, 2 Mojave Desert, 3 Australian Airlines, 4 Iceland, 5 a) Polish, 6 Under, population is 881,000, 7 Antarctica, 8 Fraser Island, 9 Cape Byron, 10 Beirut

Where in the world: Olympiastadion, Berlin, Germany

Sudoku:

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

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Where in the world: Sun Voyager sculpture, Reykjavik, Iceland

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agent to start planning
your next dream holiday

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