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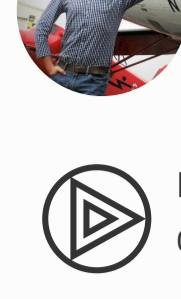
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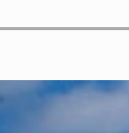
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# This Caribbean Resort Built Its Own Covid-19 Lab For Guests And Locals



**Ramsey Qubein** Contributor  
Travel

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The quiet stretch of sand at The Crane Resort in Barbados THE CRANE RESORT

International travel has seen hiccups during the pandemic due to oft-changing requirements surrounding Covid-19 testing to cross borders. But one hotelier is taking matters in his own hands when it comes to making the process as hassle-free as possible.

Paul Doyle, owner of **The Crane Resort** in Barbados, built his own Covid-19 testing lab at the hotel. According to the resort and local officials, his Barbados COVID Lab is the only one of its kind to be associated with a hotel in the Caribbean and makes the testing process for guests easier to manage since testing and results are managed onsite. The tests are certified to use for re-entry into other countries.



The testing lab at The Crane Resort can process multiple people per hour. THE CRANE RESORT

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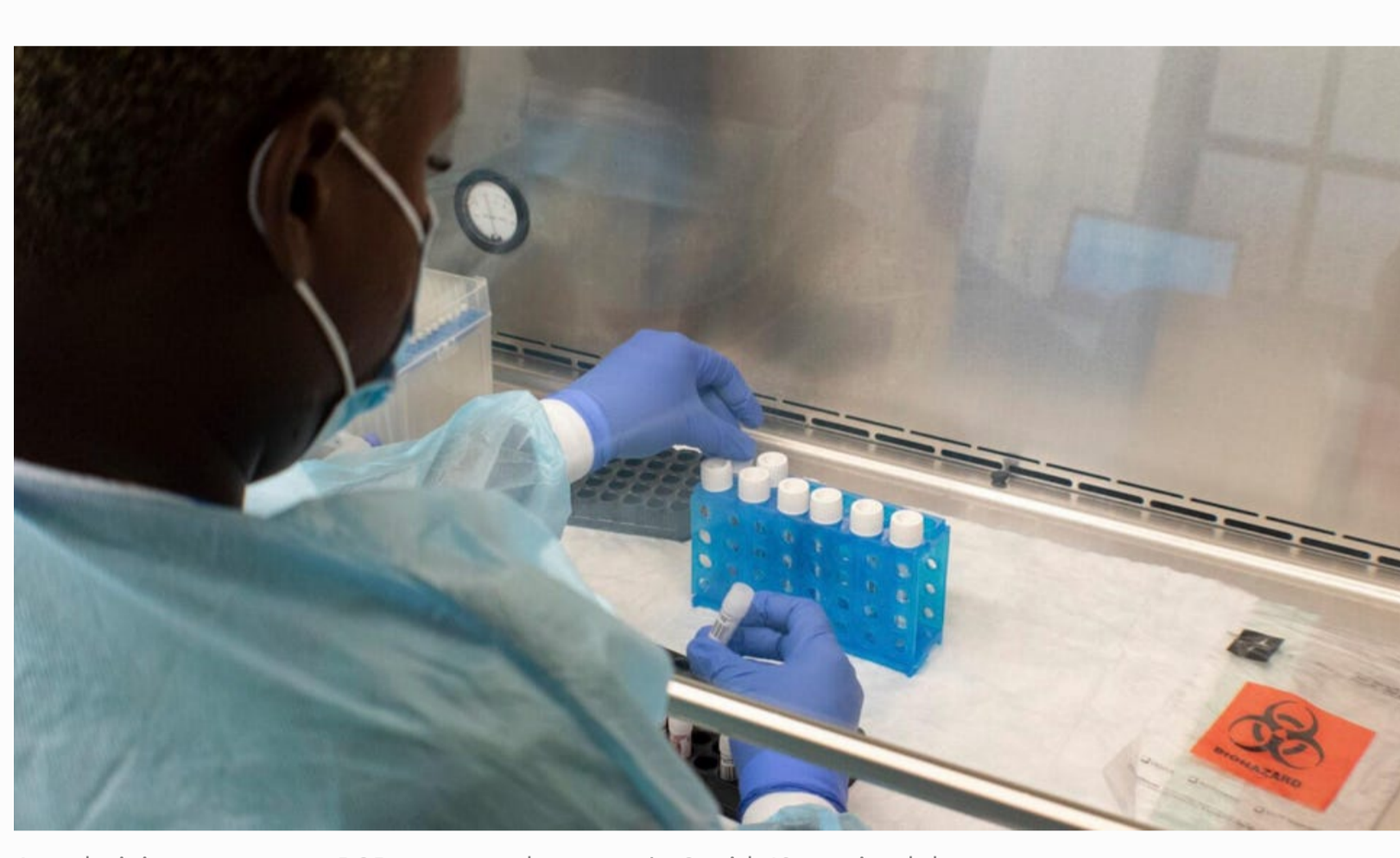
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While tests are easy to find in some places, they are more difficult than others. Many overseas properties quickly implemented free or discounted testing for guests when countries began requiring them to re-enter after being abroad. These are typically done at a hotel or resort and then sent away to a lab for processing. Offsite lab processes add time and expense to the process for travelers.

## Building a lab from scratch

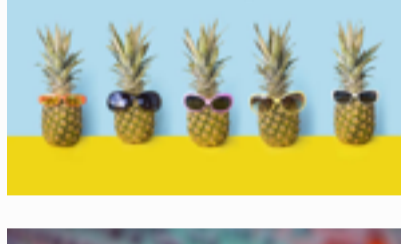


A technician processes PCR tests at the resort's Covid-19 testing lab. THE CRANE RESORT

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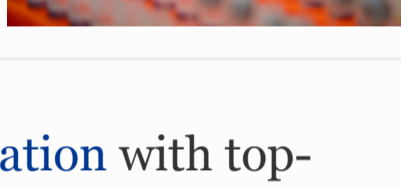
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**Master List Of Destinations Coordinating Simple Covid-19 Testing**

By **Becky Pokora** Contributor



Doyle is a hotelier and focuses on running a smooth operation with top-notch hospitality. After all, that's what people are looking for when they travel. But when Covid-19 quickly ravaged demand for visiting the island and peoples' ability to freely travel, he knew he had to take a different approach. For Doyle, it was not enough to rely on government facilities or independent labs to manage what can be a stressful process for his guests.

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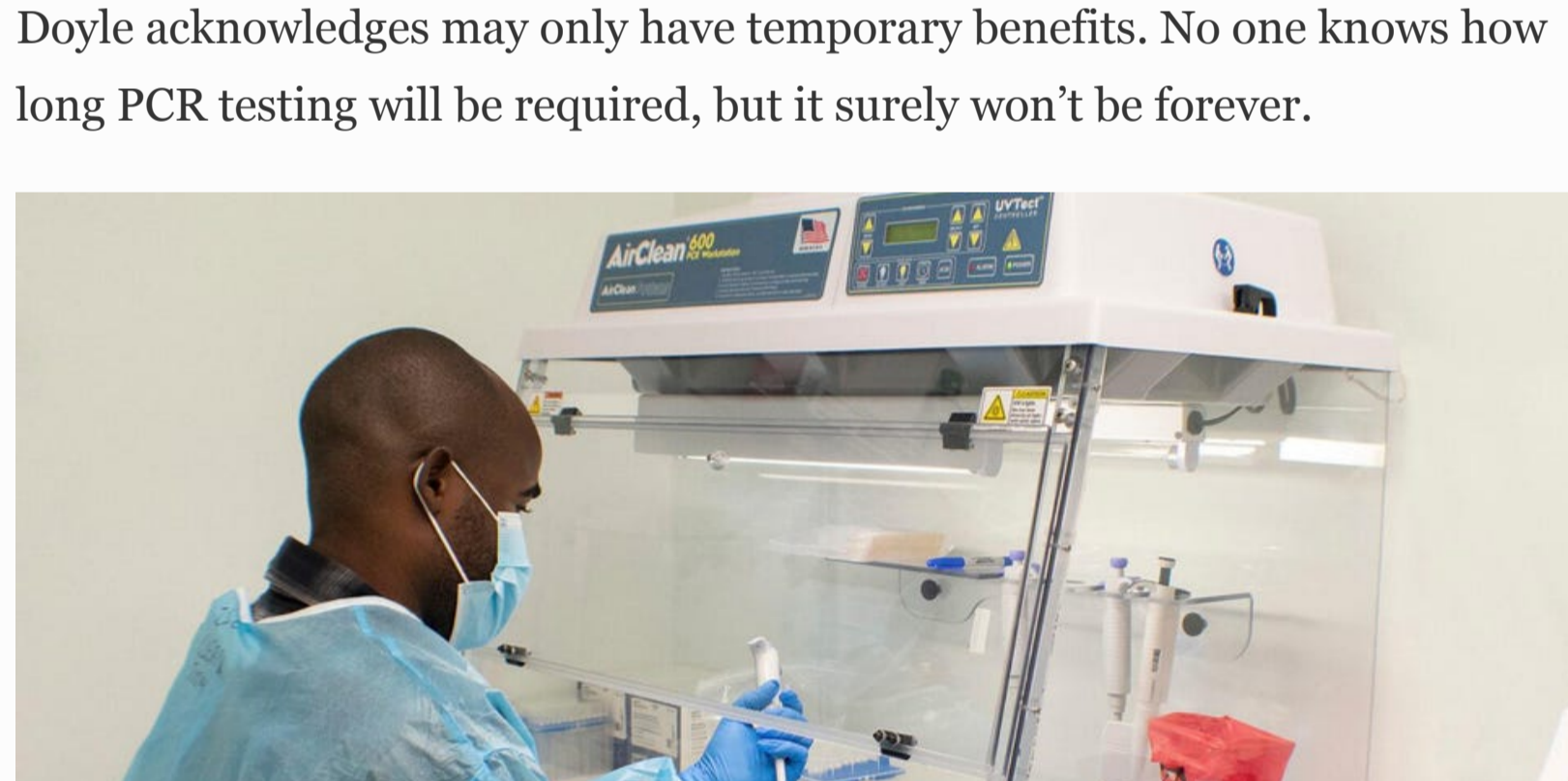
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A guest room view at The Crane Resort in Barbados THE CRANE RESORT

He wanted to do it himself.

His onsite PCR Covid testing lab can return results in a matter of hours, not days. This is especially important for visitors traveling longer distances without the luxury to wait 24 (or sometimes more) hours for emailed results. What sounds easy was actually a mammoth undertaking, which Doyle acknowledges may only have temporary benefits. No one knows how long PCR testing will be required, but it surely won't be forever.

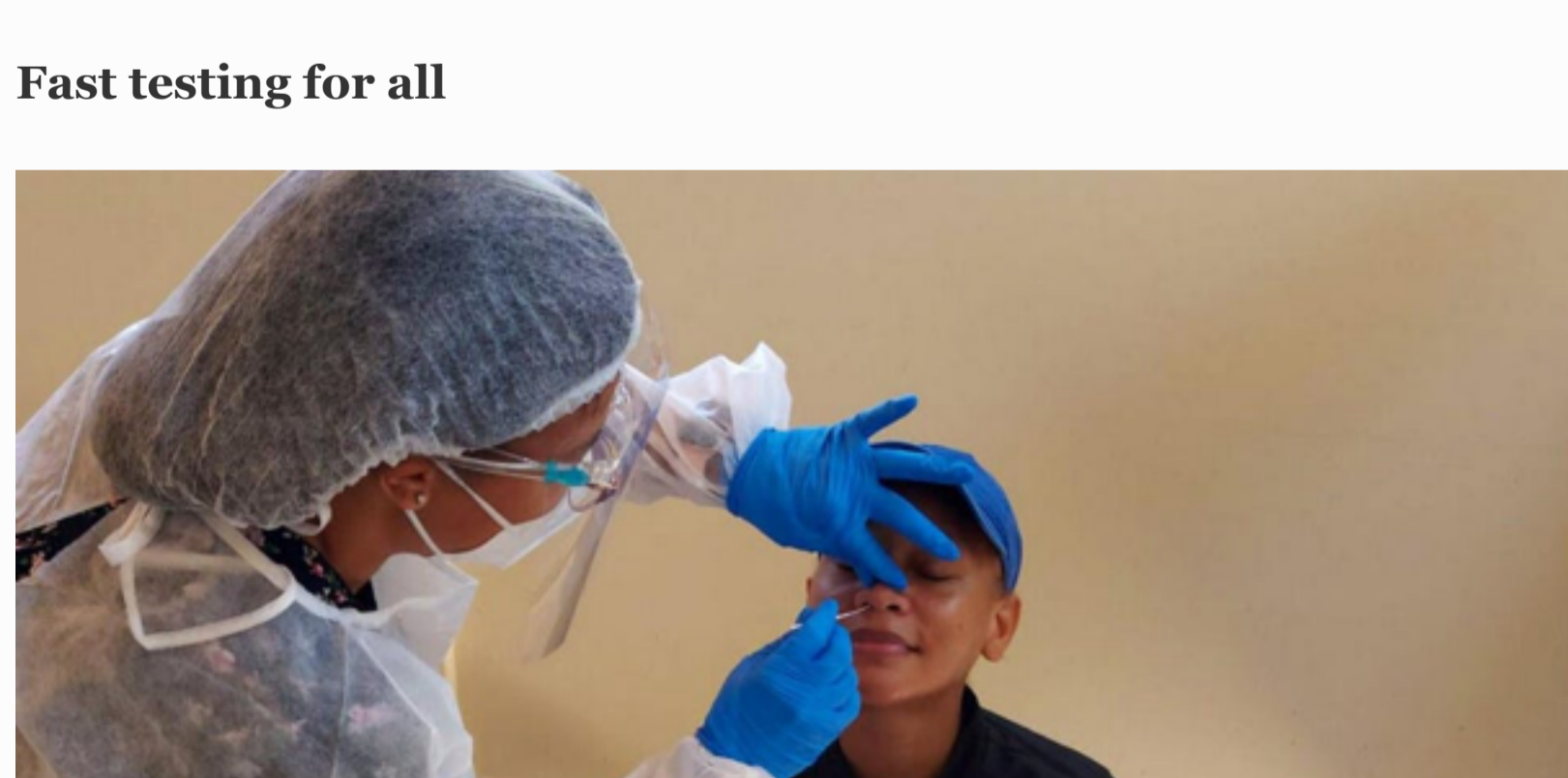


The machines required for the Covid-19 testing facility are expensive and difficult to source due to... THE CRANE RESORT

The resort has two fully automated Applied Biosystems machines: the "Kingfisher Flex" (used for magnetic particle extraction) and the "7500 Fast" Real-Time PCR system.

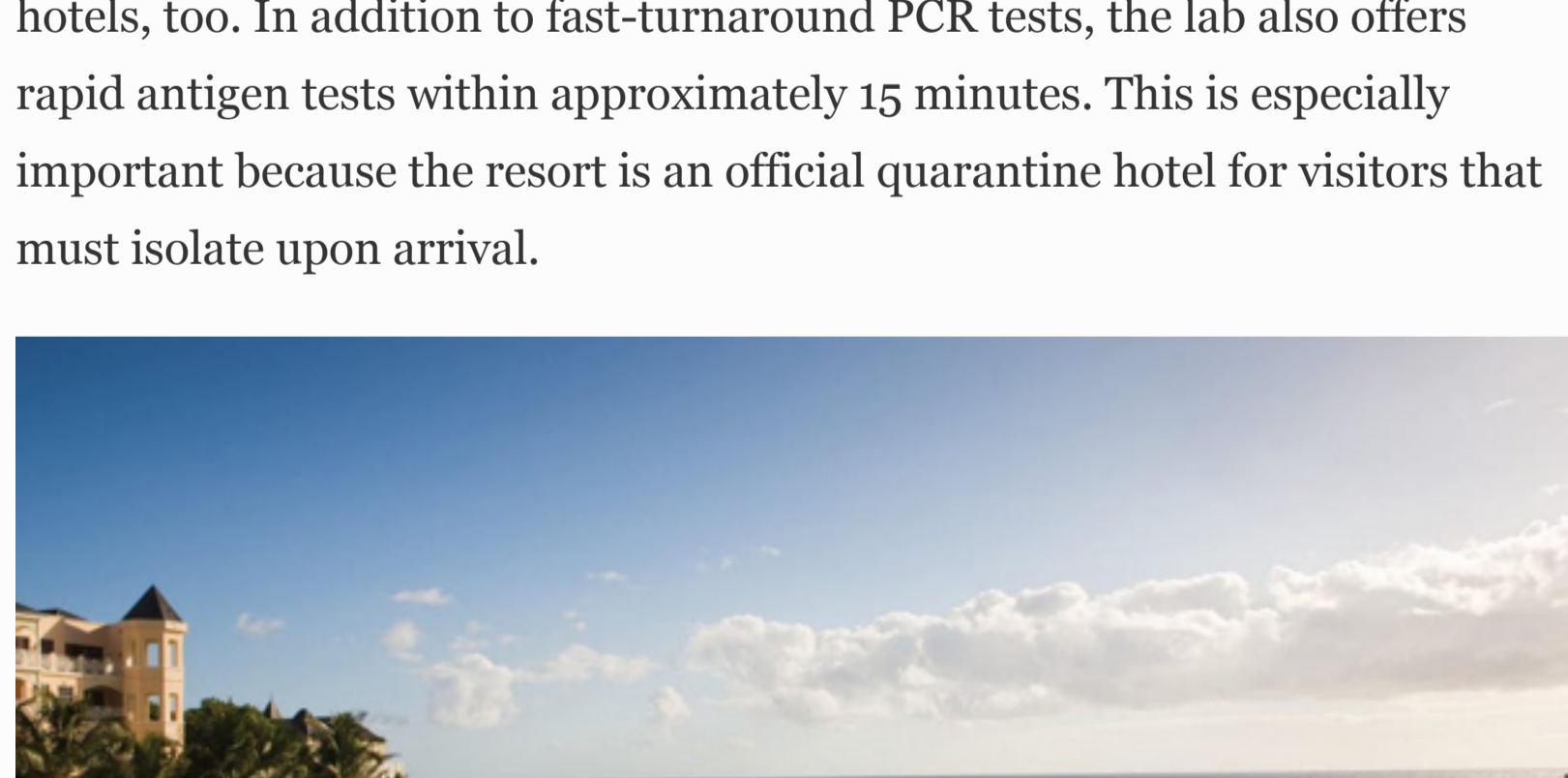
Doyle worked closely with the Barbados Public Health Laboratory and the World Health Organization (WHO) to earn the appropriate authority and acquire the right equipment to operate his own testing. The machines needed to process testing are not cheap, and it took almost a year to navigate the process. This also included shipping delays due to logistical issues of getting equipment to the island.

## Fast testing for all



Anyone can use the resort's Covid-19 testing facilities, which can process results much faster since... THE CRANE RESORT

The Crane Resort also offers testing to locals, expats and guests from other hotels, too. In addition to fast-turnaround PCR tests, the lab also offers rapid antigen tests within approximately 15 minutes. This is especially important because the resort is an official quarantine hotel for visitors that must isolate upon arrival.



The Crane Resort in Barbados is taking Covid-19 testing into its own hands. THE CRANE RESORT

The Crane even offers a fast-track option for guests that includes an arrival PCR test and departure rapid antigen (or PCR if required) tests plus VIP treatment at the airport. Guests are met before entering the customs hall and escorted through the myriad steps that Barbados (like many countries) have imposed on arriving visitors to keep out unwanted positive cases.

"We know that visitors who have been in lockdown and have waited a long time for their vacations will appreciate a hassle-free airport experience and speedy test results," said Doyle.

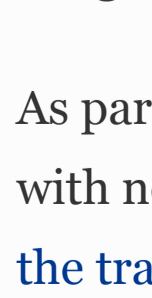


Swimming pools at The Crane Resort overlooking the ocean THE CRANE RESORT

The resort, known as the Caribbean's first resort hotel (it opened in 1887), has separate sections for those that must isolate for several days as well as for traditional overnight guests. Departing travelers can come to the resort, which is only 10 minutes from the international airport, to be tested before a flight.

As parts of the world reopen to vaccinated travelers and others allow those with negative tests, hotels around the world are getting creative in making the travel experience easy to understand. From "resort bubbles" to fully vaccinated airline flights, the recovery of the travel industry will rely on being tooner. With increasing Transportation Security Administration passenger numbers departing U.S. airports as family and leisure travel rebound, the reassurance appears to be working.

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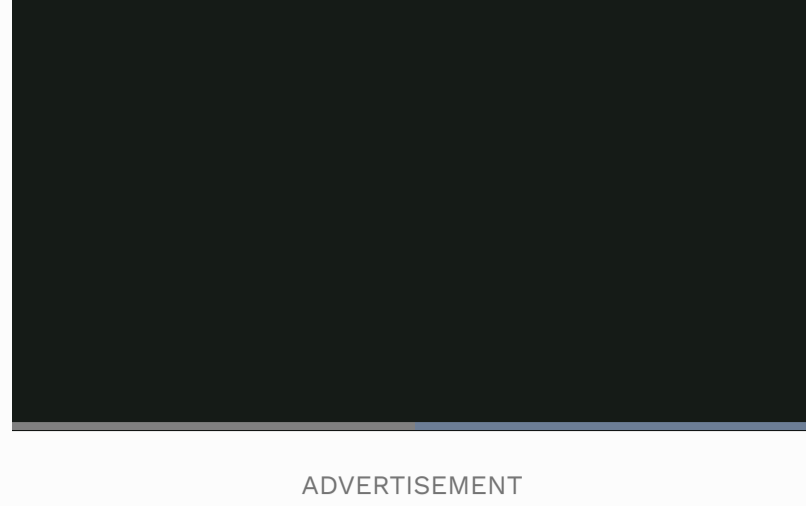


**Ramsey Qubein**

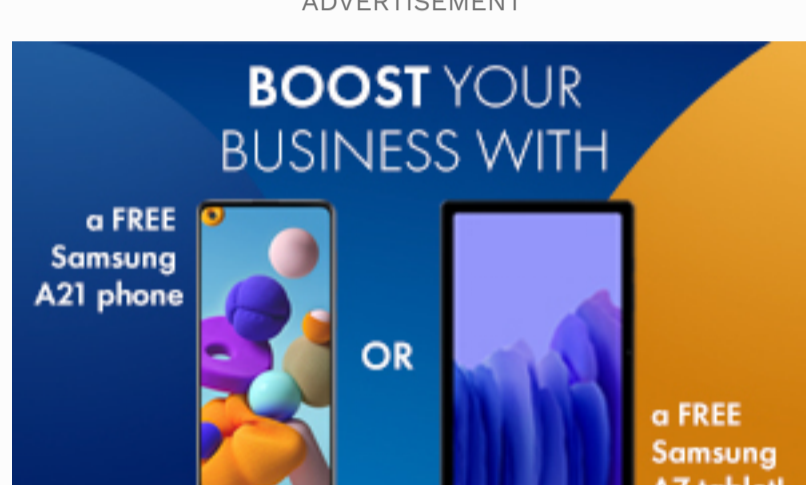
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Ramsey is a freelance travel journalist covering the hotel, cruise, and airline industry from every corner of the globe. His work has appeared in numerous consumer and...

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