



Tue 15 Dec 09

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EDITORS: Bruce Piper and Guy Dundas info@traveldaily.com.au Ph: 1300 799 220







Travelport leads the way as the top travel services company in the

2009 **INFORMATIONWEEK** 500





DJ chief commercial officer

VIRGIN Blue today announced the appointment of Liz Savage to the role of Chief Commercial Officer, with the move effective from Mar 2010.

Savage was most recently managing director of UK low cost carrier Monarch Flights, and was also with easyJet for ten years.

The move confirms speculation from last week's TD survey in which a number of respondents predicted that the new DJ chief would be a UK woman (TD Thu).

Savage will join DJ shortly before the departure of outgoing ceo Brett Godfrey, with her role including responsibility for

Oman wants GSA

OMAN Air has confirmed that it's looking to appoint an Australian gsa (TD Thu) who will work locally alongside an Oman Air country manager - see page 5.

Prospective gsas will have to be quick, with the carrier soliciting applications within the next week.

Today's *Travel Daily*

TD today has five pages of news, plus full pages:

- TMS Asia Pacific
- AA Appointments
- American Express
- TITEZ tickets available

revenue management, sales, product and services, communications, marketing and brand management across Virgin Blue, V Australia, Pacific Blue and Polynesian Blue.

MEANWHILE DJ this morning also announced new frequent flyer, lounge and codeshare agreements between V Australia and Delta Air Lines.

Peregrine winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Brent Gordon from Andrew Jones Travel in Hobart, who was the winner of our Peregrine and Gecko's competition which ran over the last six weeks or so.

Brent has won an amazing Gecko's 10 day Complete Galapagos trip for two, including flights thanks to LAN Airlines.

His winning caption, for the photo below showing Santa on the Amazon river, was: "Holy Manaus Santa, this looks A - MAZ - ON

from up here. Wonder if we will see Rudolf upstream with his new Brazilian."

Keep watching TD for more great comps!





Click here to see Oasis of the Seas Part 2 by Barry Matheson





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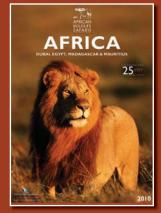


Oasis part two

HUNDREDS of *Travel Daily* readers have already viewed part 1 of our exclusive video from Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas which debuted yesterday at www.traveldaily.com.au.

Part 2 is now online - see it at youtube.com/user/traveldaily.





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Long term strategy out

FEDERAL tourism minister Martin Ferguson today released the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy, outlining the policy direction for future development of the Australian tourism industry.

Key initiatives will include the implementation of the National Tourism Accreditation Framework. as well as measures to build industry skills and infrastructure and remove investment barriers.

Ferguson said it had been endorsed by all state and territory governments, and would see the reinvigoration of the Tourism

12 days of misery

BRITISH Airways cabin crew have announced a 12 day strike over the Christmas period, which is set to disrupt travel for around a million holidaymakers.

Staff will stop work on 22 Dec. as a protest against planned changes to work practices.

BA ceo Willie Walsh issued a statement saying the union's "cynical decision betrays a total lack of concern for our customers, our business and other employees within British Airways.

"Thousands of staff across the company have made contributions to the cost reductions that are essential to move the company back toward profitability," he said.

"Our cabin crew...cannot be exempt from this process."

Walsh said there was no justification for the action, adding "it is very sad that they are seeking to use the Christmas holiday plans and family reunions of hundreds of thousands of people to try to pursue their case."

Ministers' Council.

"This strategy is not about new marketing campaigns. It's about making sure Australia can meet the demand and the expectations created by our marketing," he said.

The policy framework clarifies the role of Tourism Australia, with its role to be broadened to include "industry development and online distribution", while retaining its focus on int'l and domestic tourism marketing.

The strategy will also see a new structure for tourism research and development, and an annual industry outlook conference convened by Tourism Australia.

Ferguson said Australia's share of global tourism had declined 13% since the mid-1990's "and if we are to reverse this trend we need a tourism industry with the expertise, infrastructure and innovation to satisfy both our visitors and a new generation of investors."

Ferguson also announced the 70 recipients of the final round of the TQUAL Grants program, with funding totalling almost \$8.3m.

Win TITEZ tickets!

THERE's only two days to go before the big TITEZ night.

As our excited, and nervous finalists prepare for their performances, Travel Daily is giving subscribers the chance to win a double pass to the inaugural event at Sydney Theatre Company this Thu.

For your chance to win, simply be one of the first ten readers to correctly answer the following:

What does TITEZ stand for? Email titez@traveldaily.com.au.

Window

THE first ever Air New Zealand trans-Tasman flight from Rotorua last weekend struck trouble when one of the passengers had to be escorted off the plane before it took off.

The A320 was set to depart the new Rotorua International Airport at 3.30pm, but was delayed after the pilot called for police assistance about the behaviour of the traveller.

"There was alcohol involved," and Air NZ spokesman confirmed, with the man also alleged to have made racist comments to a Maori group who performed at the airport to welcome the first flight from Sydney earlier in the afternoon.

GAP Adventures has today announced the appointment of new CEOs - with founder Bruce Poon Tip relinquishing the title effective immediately.

The company said that Poon Tip won't actually change his role - but his staff who deal with customers around the world will henceforth be known as Chief Experience Officers.

Poon Tip said the anointing of dozens of new CEOs aimed to highlight Gap Adventures' ongoing commitment to service.

"We truly are a company of CEOs," he said. "When someone calls us up and asks us to speak to the CEO, our response will be 'which one'?" he said.

The company said Poon Tip was pondering his own new title which would "aptly reflect his ongoing visionary leadership role within Gap Adventures."

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Vale Michael Hastings

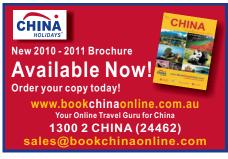
In memory of our dear friend and colleague Michael Hastings who passed away rather unexpectedly in Sydney on Friday 11th December. Michael had been with Travelport for 11 years and was highly respected for his commitment, knowledge and first class customer service. Michael recently won awards for his dedication and received numerous accolades from customers whom he served by "always going the extra mile".

Michael's family are inviting the industry to celebrate his life. A service will be held at St. John's Catholic Church

57 Waratah Parade, Narraweena Wednesday 16 December 2009 Commencing at 1.30 pm

Following the mass a burial will take place at French's Forest Bush land Cemetery Hakea Avenue, Davidson.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the cancer council would be appreciated. Envelopes will be available at the church.





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E-mail: info@traveldaily.com.au Ph: 1300 799 220

Every journey is a rewarding experience.



Etihad/ANA c'share

ETIHAD Airways and All Nippon Airways (ANA) will commence a codeshare and frequent flyer partnership effective 01 Mar.

The arrangement will see the EY code appear on ANA metal on the Nagoya-Fukuoka, Nagoya-Sapparo and Tokyo Narita-Osaka Itami (and vice versa) routes.

ANA in turn will place its NH flight code on Etihad's Abu Dhabi-Nagoya-Tokyo Narita; Abu Dhabi-Tokyo Narita (vv); and Abu Dhabi-Beijing-Nagoya (vv) routes.

Etihad services to Tokyo come online from 28 Mar.



CLICK HERE

to register by 20 January 2010



Ben's not done yet

TOURISM Queensland's high profile 'Island Caretaker' Ben Southall will continue to work with TQ into 2010 as the Best Job in the World Queensland Tourism Ambassador.

Making the announcement, QLD Tourism Minister Peter Lawlor said Southall will be used to "kick start" a global sales mission, starting with the G'Day USA Los Angeles event next month.

Southall will also work with TQ's 14 international offices and speak at events in the UK, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, China and Europe.

Lawlor said that since 01 Jul Island Caretaker Southall has been to 90 Queensland destinations, posted over 60 blogs of 75,000 words, 2,000 photos, 47 video diaries and 730 'tweets'.

MEANWHILE, the Minister also revealed that the Sunshine State will unveil a new image for QLD mid-2010 which aims at making the state Australia's number one holiday destination.

Fiji back to business

TOURISM Fiji advises that the country's tourism plant is returning to normal operation following the first catergorised cyclone of the 2009/10 season (*TD* yesterday).

Two resorts in the Yasawa Islands have reported "major damage" - the Mantaray Island Resort and the Octopus Eco Resort - while Blue Lagoon Cruises and South Seas have recommenced voyages.

MEANWHILE, Captain Cook Cruises' Reef Escape sustained some damage after the vessel stuck a reef during the cyclone.

CCC told *TD Reef Escape* was subjected to an unexpected severe change in weather conditions during Cyclone Mick on Mon, which led the Master to beach the vessel in the interest of safety for the ship, passengers and crew.

The cruise line says all pax are safe and uninjured and being offered necessary support.

Haydn on Tour Exhibition



ABOVE: The Austrian National Tourist Office and Emirates invited trade partners to a cocktail reception followed by a concert at the Sydney Opera House on Fri.

Conducted by Austrian Maestro Martin Haselboeck, the Sydney Symphony performed Haydn's "The Creation" which was the global finale of Haydn Year 2009.

In conjunction with the Concert Series which ran between 09-12 Dec, the Austrian Embassy showed a Haydn on Tour Exhibition in the Northern Foyer of the SOH.

During the cocktail reception a special package was launched to the trade.

The five-day Renaissance Tours package to Vienna in Sep next year is aimed at music lovers, and features the Sydney Symphony performing at the prestigious Music Festival in Grafenegg during their European Tour.

Pictured in front of some of the exhibit *from left* are: Martin Haselboeck, conductor; Rory Jeffes, managing director of the Sydney Symphony; Astrid Mulholland-Licht, director of the Austrian National Tourist Office; Tim Harrowell, sales manager NSW for Emirates; and His Excellency, the Austrian Ambassador to Australia, Hannes Porias.

CO eye link with NZ

CONTINENTAL Airlines has issued an application with the US Dept of Transportation, seeking codeshare services between Continental Micronesia and Air New Zealand on int'l routes.

The carriers have applied to the DoT for the codeshare to come into effect from 01 Mar 2010 on non-open-skies routes.

Continental are hoping to place their CO code on routes including Los Angeles-Rarotonga; Auckland-Hong Kong; Auckland-Rarotonga and Auckland-Nadi.

Contiki's Alps hotel

CONTIKI has added an exclusive Swiss Alps property, available on select *Time Out* tour programs.

MD Tammy Marshall said that Contiki's *Time Out-Hotel* program has encountered fantastic growth over the past year and that The Trusbee Hotel on Mount Titlis is a great addition to its 3-star accommodation options.

TT launch SYD/OOL

TIGER Airways begins its 20th route today with the launch of daily Sydney-Gold Coast flights, with the carrier reporting the inaugural service was near full.



Virgin's G-Man meets PMan | QF cuts FF expiry



VIRGIN sales and development manager Gary Manuel was at his best when he got up close and personal with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd at O'Connell's Centenary Hotel in Melbourne last Friday.

Manuel cornered the PM for a chat at a V Australia lunch which was promoting the airline's new Johannesburg and Phuket services

Fly free extension

TRAVELMARVEL has announced an extension to its fly free to Europe deal for booking a Cat. 'A' or 'B' cabin on some of its 2010 European river cruise packages, from 19 Dec to 28 Feb.

The deal is offered on the 15day Classical Europe, 17/19-day Classical Europe with Amsterdam and Budapest and the 18/21-day Classical Europe with Prague and Paris cruise packages, priced from \$6,270 per person twin share.

The 'G-Man' scored the political quinella after he was snapped with Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard at a cocktail reception at the home of Australia's Consul General in LA (inset) last month.

TG Wiggles winner

THAI Airways International has announced the winner The Wiggles comp, which featured in TD yesterday, as Matthew Chisholm of Flight Centre Narellan, NSW.

Matthew was the fastest reader to advise that TG's new A340-600 offers a three class cabin, with 8 seats in First, 60 in Business and 199 in Economy.



HRG Australia - A leading global travel management company currently has several opportunities for the following roles:

Business Development Managers (Melbourne and Sydney)

We are looking for experienced, driven and focused Business Development Managers based in Melbourne and Sydney. The successful applicants will have existing travel management experience with a thorough knowledge of sales principles, a proven

Manager, Strategic Supplier Partnerships (Sydney)

track record and have a high drive to succeed.

This role will be suited to a person with extensive industry expertise, strong people management, analytical and communication skills. You will have demonstrated leadership experience, the ability to build strong commercial relationships and a proven track record in the development and execution of business plans.

If you believe you're suitable for either of these roles and would like to join our dynamic sales team or manage our Supplier Partnerships CV please send through your to: recruitment.au@hrqworldwide.com

Applications close Friday 18th December 2009

QANTAS has confirmed that it will halve the expiry period for points in inactive frequent flyer accounts to just 18 months, with the move effective 01 Jul aiming to "drive member engagement".

The carrier's website confirms that from that date any points will expire "three years from the date of the Member's last activity before 1 July 2010, or 18 months from the last date the Member earned or redeemed points after 30 June 2010, whichever is the later "

Currently members can remain active by earning or redeeming at least once every three years.

Points transfers between family members will also no longer count towards maintaining account activity, the carrier said.

A QF spokeswoman said that with the recent expansion of the program there are many more opportunities for members to earn Qantas Frequent Flyer points and thus keep accounts active.

Bhutan booming

BHUTAN & Beyond has witnessed "phenomenal growth" in sales ex Australia over the past 8 weeks says the firms managing director, James Irving.

"Our scheduled April 2010 motorcycle tour sold out 10 days ago. We had so many new enquiries we decided to schedule another tour a week later... and that sold out in 3 days," he said.

Irving added that agents should be urging clients to book at least 8 or 9 months in advance for FIT and small cultural group bookings to avoid dissapointment.

"Already the October 2010 high season period is selling well ahead of expectations."

Liverpool Mercure

ACCOR will hold a soft opening this week for its 25th Mercure branded property, the 110-room Mercure Sydney Liverpool.

The \$20m new-build project in Sydney's South West is connected to the Liverpool Catholic Club and will share the Club's facilities.

It'll be officially launched in Jan.



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WELCOME to Money Talk, TD's weekly feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

100 = US91.5c

GLOBAL financial markets stabilised yesterday, with confidence instilled by a US\$10b bailout by Abu Dhabi for Dubaibased Nakheel Holdings.

That in turn pushed the Australian dollar up above US91c as investors moved to higher yielding currencies.

Analysts are now examining this morning's release of the Reserve Bank board's minutes to see how likely it is that interest rates will rise. Rates this morning:

US	\$0.915
UK	£0.560
NZ	\$1.25
Euro	€0.624
Japan	¥80.74
Thailand	ß30.28
China	¥6.10
South Africa	R6.690
Canada	\$0.962
Crude oil l	JS\$69.92

Torres arpt upgrade

THE Queensland and Federal governments will provide \$2.8m in funding for an upgrade of the runway at Horn Island, located in Torres Strait near Cape York, Qld.

UA new year fares

UNITED Airlines is offering trans-Pacific fares priced from \$849 plus taxes for travel between 17 Jan and 31 Mar 2010, when ticketed by 21 Dec.

Airfares to New York from SYD or MEL lead in at \$999 plus taxes.

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QHols grand slam winner

RIGHT: Qantas Holidays has awarded the winner of its recent Australian Open incentive to Peter Shepherd from Jetset Coffs Harbour, NSW.

Shepherd was the highest seller of Australian Open Packages with QHols between 01 Sep - 31 Oct, and has won return

airfares to Melbourne, transfers, two nights accom at the Novotel Melb. on Collins with brekkie, 2 x reserved tickets to the Women's Final and 2 tickets to see Jersey Boys at The Princess Theatre.

Shepherd is pictured here with QHols NSW sales executive Nathan Burke (left).

Japan/Mexico deal

JAPAN and Mexico have agreed on a new bilateral arrangement which removes restrictions on flights between the two countrys.

The deal will also permit Japanese airlines to increase their codeshare services to Mexico that operate via the United States.

On Fri, the US and Japan govts also signed the first full-scale open skies deal (*TD* yesterday).



easyJet expansion

BRITISH no-frills carrier easyJet has announced its next major stage of expansion across Europe which will see 36 new routes and a new base in Doncaster.

From Summer 2010, new routes include Doncaster to Amsterdam, Barcelona, Faro, Prague, and Palma de Mallorca; as well as new desinations from Rome Fiumicino, Milan Malpensa, Paris Orly, Bristol, Ibiza and Berlin Schoenefeld.

Sixth A380 for EK

EMIRATES has taken delivery of its 6th Airbus A380 doubledecker aircraft which has commenced services to Seoul Incheon Airport, exclusively revealed by *Travel Daily* (*TD* 30 Dec 2008).

AC/Expedia pact

AIR China and the Expedia Affiliate Network have signed a new partnership which will enable passengers booking flights on the carrier's website the option to book hotels at the same time.

Customers across 27 markets, including Australia, the UAE, Spain, Italy, Korea, Russia, Brazil the UK and USA will have access to EAN localised product.

World Cup safaris

MAKUTSI Safari Springs lodge in Kruger National Park has 3-night safari packages available which coincide with the Soccoroo's first three preliminary Round games of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Deals are priced at \$715 and \$1055ppts, for travel between 13 and 23 Jun.

For details contact Adventure World on 1300 363 055.



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Hilton/VX buddy up

HILTON Worldwide and Virgin America (VX) have announced a new partnership which will allow members of Hilton HHonors to burn their points on VX flights.

One Elevate point will be earnt for every 2 dollars spent at Hilton Worldwide properties.

Free car hire in CNS

GUESTS staying at The Hotel Cairns are being offered free use of one of its Smart Cars for day trips around the region.

For info phone (07) 4051 6188.



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Interested parties should apply within seven days from the date of this advertisement with an "expression of interest" together with a company profile

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From all the team at AA Appointments, we would like to sincerely thank each of our clients and candidates for their wonderful support in 2009. We look forward to assisting you all in the New Year!



AA wishes you all a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous 2010!

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This position offers ample parking, fun team and great
management. You will have minimum 12 months
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are rare in the Bayside area – call today!

CRUISE INTO 2010

CRUISE SPECIALIST CONSULANT SYDNEY – SALARY PKG TO \$45K

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American Express is currently recruiting in both its leisure and corporate travel businesses. We have several exciting roles that have become available that offer unparalleled employee benefits. Some of these include up to eight weeks annual leave, a 37.5 hour working week for your work/life balance and well-structured training and development support. If you are truly seeking a professional career within the travel industry, American Express can help you realise your potential.



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Sydney

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Emergency Travel Consultant (after hours)

Melbourne

An Emergency Travel Consultant's role is to assist travellers with after hours emergency queries or requests and typically deal with a variety of domestic and international bookings/fares. This can include urgent ticket issues, rerouting itineraries, making or amending accommodation and car bookings or providing general travel advice.

The ETC is a great team environment in which to work. Consultants share their ideas and knowledge on a daily basis and work autonomously. Typically working 4 x 10 hour shifts each week (full-time) and receiving ongoing training and support in their daily roles, this role is suited to people who enjoy working shifts.

You should possess strong attention to detail, superior domestic and international fares knowledge, the ability to make sound judgements and a strong working knowledge of Galileo, Sabre, Abacus and Apollo. Benefits include a generous allowance of between 10% – 26% depending on the shift worked, five weeks annual leave plus all other standard American Express employee benefits.

To apply for the above opportunities, visit us online at www.americanexpress.com.au/careers and select the travel category. For more information, contact Darren Grant – Human Resources (02) 9271 3137.



YOU'RE INVITED!

We would like to welcome all travel industry staff and friends to join us for the inaugural Travel Industry Talent ExtravaganZa!

When: Thursday 17 December 2009

Where: Sydney Theatre

22 Hickson Road, Walsh Bay, Sydney

Time: 6pm-10pm, followed by an After Party

Cost: \$10 per person (includes pre-drink, canapés, entry to show and After Party)

Booking: Phone 1300 730 023 or email tickets@keithprowse.com.au

Dress Theme: Las Vegas (prize will be awarded to the "Best Dressed" audience member)



So throw on those feather boas and rock 'n' roll shoes and come along and support the Top 12 finalists.

It will be a night full of entertainment with sensational prizes to be won.

See www.traveldaily.com.au for finalists.



























