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Travel Daily AU

First with the news

Wed 30 Dec 09 Page 1

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Wishing you a Joyous Holiday Season and a New Year of Happiness

All of us at TMS join in saying Thank You and wishing you a happy holiday and a prosperous new year.

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Today's Travel Daily

Travel Daily today has three pages of news and photos, plus a full pages of travel industry jobs from TMS Asia Pacific.

TT's New Year sale

TIGER Airways is offering fares on select routes priced at \$10 or \$20 one way (incl taxes & charges) in its latest promotion as the no-frills airline welcomes in 2010.

Discounted fares are available for mid-week travel in Feb, May or Aug, and on sale until 31 Dec. Routes based on the \$10 Tiger Raw fare include SYD-MEL, MEL-CBR, MEL-HBA and MEL-LST.

See www.tigerairways.com.au.

2 days left to enter

THERE'S now just two days left for readers to submit their snaps in Travel Daily's Christmas Party photo competition, courtesy of Fraser Suites Sydney.

See page 3 for today's entry.

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TFC predicts solid recovery

TOURISM Australia's Tourism Forecasting Committee (TFC) says it expects 2010 will bring with it a turn-around in the number of people travelling, domestically and internationally.

In its latest outlook released yesterday, the TFC is predicting that overseas arrivals will rise by around 4.3% to 5.8 million, on the back of firm growth from the US and Chinese markets.

That's a sharp about-face to the forecast made in Dec last year when the TFC suggested overseas arrivals would stoop by 4%.

The TFC is also hopeful that domestic tourism numbers will improve with close to a 3% growth (or 6.5m) estimated for 2010, up

200,000 from this year.

"What we're suggesting is that there will be a solid recovery, 4.3% is a good figure for the new year," said the committee's chairman Bernard Salt.

Unfortunately for local tourism providers, outbound tourism is still expected to outstrip inbound arrivals for some time.

Growth is also predicted for the following years, with the Tourism Forecasting Committee thinking inbound arrivals will escalate to 4.9% in 2011 and taper off at 4.7% in 2012.

QantasLink rebuts Rex allegations

QANTAS has brushed off suggestions made by Regional Express about "predatory pricing" by QantasLink for its reason to abandon the Mackay-Townsville route (TD yesterday).

A QantasLink spokesman said Rex's decision to cease operations on the service from 01 Jan was "their own business."

"We are well aware of our legal requirements and reject the suggestion that QantasLink engaged in 'predatory' pricing."

"QantasLink is committed to providing services that meet the needs of regional Australia. That includes offering competitive fares," the spokesman told SMH.

Regional Express began flying on the North Queensland route on 01 Oct but claims QLink dropped its fares by about 35% making it unsustainable for Rex to compete.

CZ ups SYD capacity

CHINA Southern Airlines will upgrade its Sydney service from an Airbus A330-200 to a larger and newer A330-300 on 11 Jan, increasing capacity by about 10%.

CZ's 292-seat three class jet will operate daily between Sydney and Guangzhou, China.

General manager Australia/NZ James Liu said, "Australia is an important market for our company, and a market in which we will continue to add seats in order to meet customer demand."

The aircraft features China Southern's "Apollo" full flat seats in First Class and "Horizon" 165 degree seats in Business Class.

Gorilla permit deal

THE Africa Safari Co. are giving away a free gorilla trekking permit for a second passenger when booking on select Rwandan Gorilla Safaris in 2010.

The offer is extended to trips of six days or more and represents a saving of US\$500 - for details visit www.africasafarico.com.au.

New Silversea ship?

SILVERSEA Cruises is looking to order a sister ship to its recently launched *Silver Spirit*.

According to reports, Silversea president, Amerigo Perasso, said at a press conference last week that the company would make a decision in the upcoming months.

Travel Special of the Week



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New luxury hotel planned for Sydney

FURTHER details about the proposed 22-hectare Lend Lease project to be built at the vacant Barangaroo site on the Sydney harbour foreshore (*TD* 21 Dec) are starting to emerge.

Plans include a multi-storey luxury hotel to be erected on a manmade finger wharf which juts out into Darling Harbour, not far from the King St Wharf precinct.

It's expected that if approved, the 90 metre wharf will impact on the flow of water-way traffic, incl ferries and cruise companies.

Barangaroo is a former shipping port that the NSW Government intends on converting into an extension of Sydney's CBD, that will also include a foreshore park and recreational areas.

Hyatt India move

HYATT Hotels Corporation will open five new hotels in India from mid-2010 in a move which the group says "illustrates our commitment to expanding our global footprint".

Properties include the Park Hyatt Mumbai, Grand Hyatt Goa, Grand Hyatt Pune, Hyatt Place Pune and Hyatt Place Mundra.

\$600 Bench saving

BENCH International has discounted the price of its Grand Tour of South Africa by \$600 per couple on select dates next year.

The trip ventures to Kruger NP, Swaziland, the Wild Coast, Garden Route, Cape Town and more over 15 spectacular days.

The deal applies to departures on 07, 14 and 28 Feb, with prices starting at \$2,350 per person.

For info phone 02 9290 2877.

Best in Travel 2010

AUSTRALIA has missed out on being named as one of Lonely Planet's Best in Travel or Best Value destinations for 2010.

The guidebook recommends the best places to visit next year are El Salvador, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Portugal and Suriname.

Iceland, Thailand, London, South Africa, Malaysia, Mexico, India, Bulgaria, Kenya and Las Vegas have all been suggested as best destinations for where your dollar will go further.

Virgin links TNQ with NZ

THE Virgin Blue Group's New Zealand based offshoot, Pacific Blue, will launch a twice weekly direct service between Cairns and Auckland, raising seats on the route by 79 per cent.

The route represents Virgin's first international route based from Cairns, and will operate on Tue and Sat's effective 23 Mar.

EK A380s to Paris

EMIRATES will today commence a thrice weekly service between Dubai-Paris using one of its A380 superjumbos.

EK will start daily operations on the route using a 489-seat A380 on the route from 17 Jan 2010.

Smoke in cockpit

A JETBLUE aircraft performed an emergency landing in Bermuda overnight after the pilots of the aircraft reported smoke coming out of the flight controls.

The aircraft reportedly landed safely at LF Wade Intl Airport.

DJ chief executive Brett Godfrey said the new service will boost tourism to Tropical North Queensland, which currently lures around 30,000 New Zealanders each year.

"We know that by putting more seats into the market and creating more competition we will be helping to stimulate tourism to the popular Far North Queensland region," Godfrey said.

Adding, "the non-stop services will negate the need for travellers in either direction to connect via other ports, so a trip 'across the ditch' will be much quicker, more convenient and affordable."

DJ will operate one of its Boeing 737-800 jets on the route. To kickstart the CNS-AKL launch, Virgin is offering a 7-day 'Happy New Year Sale' from today until 05 Jan with fares priced from \$249.

Regular lead-in fares will start at \$349, which DJ says is around 15% cheaper than its competitors on the same non-stop link.

Fiji tempts TravelManagers



ALMOST 200 participants, including a contingent of TravelManagers from across Australia, recently attended a Fiji mega destination familiarisation sponsored by Tourism Fiji.

The participants were split into smaller groups, each exploring different parts of Fiji including the Mamanuca Islands, the Yasawa & Northern Islands, Denarau Island and Vitu Levu's Coral Coast, before rejoining for a mega famil trade day and gala dinner event at the Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa.

TravelManagers executive gm, Mandy Scotney, said "the objective of the trip was to give agents and personal travel

managers an in-depth taste of what the 'real' Fiji has to offer".

Pictured above, TravelManagers participants arrive at Matangi Private Island Resort and enjoy a welcome drink.

Back row *from left*: Christine Douglas, Matangi Private Resort; Michael Gazal, BPM NSW/ACT; Tracey Cahill, Fiji Specialist Holidays; Aaron Stinson, national recruitment manager; Michelle Collins, PTM Bowral NSW; Kate Foster, TravelManagers Ops; Kiniviliame Raicebe, Tourism Fiji Guide and *front row from left*: Julie Smith, PTM, St Ives Chase NSW; Moira de Vos, PTM Waverley NSW and Azezhia Balfour, PTM Townsville QLD.

Window Seat

SOME people just never listen!

Best Job in the World winner Ben Southall was stung on his elbow by an irukandji jellyfish while jet-skiing off Hamilton Island last weekend, after ignoring Tourism Queensland's advice to wear a stinger suit.

The 34-year-old former British charity worker suffered headaches and nausea after the minor sting, but has since recovered following immediate medical treatment.

With only one day to go before his \$150,000 gig comes to an end, Southall tweeted yesterday "Horrible incident. Lesson learnt - always wear a stinger suit."

EVER wondered what the secret of the mile high club is?

A philosopher claims he has solved the mystery of why lascivious plane passengers can risk everything to join the high altitude club.

After spending a week observing by-passing passengers through Heathrow airport, writer Alain de Botton discovered that the fear of death makes them shed their inhibitions.

"Because subconsciously they accept they might die while flying, it arouses ancient survival passions that sometimes cannot be quelled", he said.

"The possibility of a plane crash can perform miracles in a relationship where there is no passion", de Botton added.

ALASKA Airlines has introduced a new Disney themed aircraft to its fleet, with livery featuring Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy and for the first time, Pluto (pictured below).

The US carrier will operate its fourth Disney jet on routes from California across its network over the next seven years.

AS also operates the *Magic of Disneyland* aircraft adorned with Tinker Bell and the *Spirit of Make-A-Wish* jet that features Aladdin.





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Travel Daily AU

First with the news

Wed 30 Dec 09

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BA baulks on selling OpenSkies

BRITISH Airways may be backing down on its move to offload its OpenSkies all premium operation between Paris and New York.

Earlier this year BA flagged selling the division, however when 5 investors showed interest in the offshoot, the British flag-carrier abandoned the idea and is now looking to finance the project itself with £25m (AU\$44.5m).

Orient Inca signing

THE Orient-Express Hotels Ltd. group has acquired the Hotel Rio Sagrado in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, boosting its number of properties in Peru to five.

The 21-suite hotel opened in Apr 2009 and is located three kilometres from Urubamba and 15mins from Ollantaytambo.

Orient-Express also operates the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge, the Las Casistas del Colca and the luxurious Hiram Bingham train linking Cuzco and Machu Picchu.

Qantas carry on

QANTAS is advising agents that the governments recent changes to aviation security regulations now mean a number of previously prohibited items can now be carried through security screening points to sterile areas at airports around the country.

Objects include umbrellas with metal points, knitting and crochet needles, pointed metal files (incl nail clippers), corkscrews and racquets used to play tennis, squash and badminton, along with metal knives with rounded ends.

Unsurprisingly, firearms are still on the prohibited list.

Etihad boosts Beirut

ETIHAD Airways will increase frequencies between Abu Dhabi and Beirut from 01 Jan, lifting its current double daily services to 18 flights per week.

CEO James Hogan said the move comes as average loads on the route are around 80-90%, for both inbound and outbound flights.

Accommodation Updates

WELCOME to *Accommodation Updates*, *Travel Daily's* Wednesday feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



GRAND HYATT HONG KONG says its first property in Hong Kong to introduce a self-check in service for flights, allowing guests to complete the check-in process and print their boarding pass in less than a minute.

The self check-in kiosk, located at the hotel's Business Centre, scans passports and prints boarding passes for guests flying Dragon Air, Cathay Pacific, China Airlines, Air France, KLM and United Airlines. Guests can check in from two hours to 48 hours prior to the flight and make their way directly to the aircraft following this process.



SMALL LUXURY HOTELS OF THE WORLD recently celebrated the opening of its 25-room private riverside retreat, Hoshinoya Kyoto, in Japan. The property is situated in Kyoto's historic Arashiyama district - www.slh.com/hoshinoyakaruiwaza.



BAGLIONI HOTELS GROUP recently launched its new website, www.baglionihotels.com, designed to focus on interaction with users and offer guests staying at properties in Italy with new services. New features include Meeting & Incentive and Travel Ideas sections, as well as an online reservations booking tool.

You've got to be in it to win it!

Travel Daily's exclusive Fraser Suites Sydney Christmas Party photo competition is just about to wrap up for another year.

In a few days time judges will select their favourite photo, and the person who submitted the Christmas Party image will win a nights accom package at Fraser Suites Sydney, that includes a one bedroom deluxe suite, sparkling wine & a fruit bowl upon arrival and complimentary car parking - all valued at \$600.

Email your festive photos (including names of the people pictured) by close of business tomorrow to xmasphotos@traveldaily.com.au.

Today's entry has been sent into us from Jetset Kardinya, who took a two-night cruise to nowhere aboard Athena this month for their Christmas Party.

Pictured from left are Angie Gillespie, Kirsty Williams, Eeha Foong, Emma Culver and Julie Ninnis, as they are about to step foot aboard Classic International Cruises' Athena, sailing out of Fremantle in WA.



Contiki student deal OETG is a winner

CONTIKI Holidays in the UK is promoting a special offer for students who hold an International Student Identity Card (ISIC) of a 10% discount on trips across Europe, New Zealand, the USA, Canada, Mexico and Asia.

The IASC deal is available from now until Mar 2010.

China 2014 test flight

CHINA is expected to carry out its first test flight of a domestically developed large commercial airliner by 2014.

According to the *China Business News*, aircraft manufacturer Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) executives revealed earlier this week that the company would be capable of producing 20 of the big C919 jets and 50 regional ARJ21 jets per year, to begin deliveries in 2016.

There are currently 208 order requests for the ARJ21, which include 5 fixed orders from GECAS, General Electric's aircraft leasing arm.

ORIENT Express Travel Group recently won two top national awards at the China Southern Airlines Christmas party. The accolades presented included the 'Business Class Sales Award 2009' and 'Major Sales Contribution Award 2009'.

Over 100 CZ guests including travel agents, corporate clients, airport authorities, the Chinese Consulate and the China National Tourist Office attended the annual shindig.



CZ's Jian Chu Liu presents award to OETG NSW GM, Robert Leung.



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After Hours Consultant - Sydney

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If this sounds like you and you are experienced as a corporate consultant then move quickly as these roles do not pop up often.

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Inbound Travel Co-Ordinator – Sydney CBD

- *Knowledge of South East Asia & Indian Markets*
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International Leisure Consultants - Brisbane

- *Always dreamed of working in a supportive and lucrative team environment?*
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Join this dynamic, award winning agency that thrives on delivering exceptional travel services for their clients. Realistic sales targets and a busy agency means you will earn exceptional commission. Don't wait any longer

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Do you love selling travel? Have you consulted for a minimum of 12 months? If so - call me now.... will look at people with Galileo or Sabre experience.

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International Corporate Consultant - Brisbane

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This successful corporate travel company is committed to providing great travel accompanied by professional service to all travellers. They are currently seeking an experienced corporate travel consultant to join their corporate team in a busy and booming agency.

Contact Alex Sleba T: 07 3221 9916 E: alex@tmsap.com or apply online now!

Groups & Incentives Account Manager - Sydney

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Wishing you a Joyous Holiday Season and a New Year of Happiness!

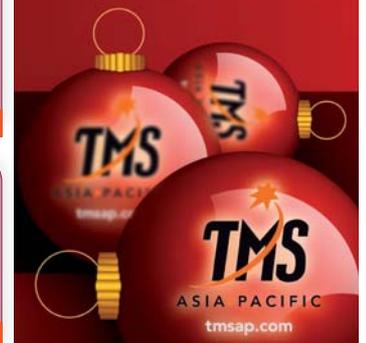


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