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QF Asia incentive

QANTAS has launched a travel agent incentive in which five lucky consultants will win two economy class tickets to Hong Kong or Singapore, including a space available upgrade to business class.

Qantas Club lounge access is also included, with agents able to enter by ticketing return flights with at least one QF operated international sector in each direction between Australia and Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam or India.

It's valid for travel 01 Feb-31 Mar 2014, and a special code must be entered into the GDS for each booking - for details see qantas.com/agents.

BA 747 JNB prang

A BRITISH Airways Boeing 747 aircraft is facing significant repairs after its wing sliced through the top floor of a building while taxiing on the runway at Johannesburg Airport yesterday.

No injuries were reported among the 182 passengers and 17 crew on the plane - which is more than can be said for the damaged building which is **pictured** below from a Twitter posting by one of the passengers.



Costa ad campaign

COSTA Cruises has announced a "major international advertising campaign" on TV, print and online in Europe, positioning the brand as perfectly combining 'Sea, Ship and Shore' in a new kind of holiday.

It's the first major promotion undertaken by Costa since the *Concordia* disaster off the coast of Italy almost two years ago.

New Westin Hotel for WA

THE Western Australian government yesterday revealed plans for a new 350-room Westin Hotel which will be constructed as part of a major development in the Perth CBD.

Located at the former FESA House site on Hay St, WA tourism minister Liza Harvey said the project was the first to be developed under the government's hotel incentives policy which aims to encourage hospitality developments.

"The hotel will deliver a massive boost for tourism, providing much needed rooms in Perth's CBD for leisure and corporate visitors to Western Australia," Harvey said.

Originally launched in late 2011 the incentives policy was the result of a review highlighting severe shortages of hotel rooms in WA, which in turn can lead to significant impacts on tourism.

Incentives, offered on a case by case basis, can include provision of state government land, funds for infrastructure upgrades as well as flexibility with planning floor space ratios.

In addition to the five star hotel

CCC-Merlin offer

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has announced a partnership with Merlin Entertainments, under which guests who purchase a full price entry ticket to Sea Life Sydney Aquarium, Wild Life Sydney Zoo or Madame Tussauds Sydney will also receive a free return Rocket Ferry ride.

The offer is valid until 31 Mar 2014, with Captain Cook Cruises head of sales and marketing, Richard Doyle, saying it's "a great way for tourists and locals to discover Sydney Harbour and visit its attractions by land or sea".

To get the free return Rocket Ferry between Circular Quay and Darling Harbour passengers must book their Merlin attraction tickets via Captain Cook Cruises - see www.captaincook.com.au.

the project will have a mixed use and retail development plus 30,000 square metres of offices.

The project will be undertaken by BGC which was the selected from a shortlist after a competitive expression of interest process.

Harvey said that although hotels in Perth are in huge demand, without the incentives package they are not as lucrative as other forms of development.

"Tourism WA will continue to closely monitor supply and demand to ensure a measured application of the development incentives," she added.

The new Westin Perth is expected to open in 2017.

Insurance from 01 Jan

GOW-GATES Insurance Brokers has confirmed that its new Scheduled Airline Failure Insurance (SAFI) and End Supplier Failure Insurance (ESFI) products are available for quoting now with cover able to be taken out from 01 Jan 2014.

Part of the travel industry reform program, Gow-Gates says the products give travel agents new ways to protect themselves as well as giving "an opportunity to bring more customers through your door, knowing they are dealing with someone prepared to look after their holiday and their funds".

The final piece of the insurance puzzle will be the new ATAS Participant Insolvency Insurance, which will be available for quotation from Mar/Apr and will be ready to be placed before 01 Jul 2014 when the TCF winds up.

To download an application form for SAFI **CLICK HERE**.

BI 787s to Jeddah

ROYAL Brunei will introduce its new Boeing 787 aircraft on the Bandar Seri Begawan-Jeddah route from 01 Apr 2014, marking the end of its 777-200ER flights.

Happy Christmas!

Travel Daily has four pages of news & photos today.

Due to the Christmas and Boxing Day public holidays the next edition of **TD** will be published on Fri 27 Dec 2013.

We'd like to wish all our loyal readers a very happy Christmas!

Destination USA debut

FORMER Hawaiian Airlines sales manager Sherilyn Robinson will launch a new representation brand in 2014 focusing on the fast-growing US market.

To be called Destination USA, the business will focus on sales representation, marketing and public relations, building on her extensive experience of the US.

For more details see the website www.destinationusa.com.au.

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AFP to target “anti-social” airport acts

FEDERAL justice minister Michael Keenan has warned festive season travellers that “inappropriate and anti-social behaviour at airports and on commercial flights over the holiday period will not be tolerated”.

In a statement issued yesterday Keenan reminded passengers that making false threats, assaulting crew or endangering the safety of an aircraft all carry penalties of up to ten years in prison.

He confirmed that the Australian Federal Police was continuing to operate its Air Security Officer program, under which AFP members fly on selected domestic and international flights to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

“The AFP will not hesitate to take action against those who commit offences at airports or in the air,” Keenan added.

WYD tour operator sought

THE Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is set to conduct a tender process under which it will appoint an Official Tour Operator to take Australians to World Youth Day in Poland in 2016.

About 2000 travellers are expected to make the trip, with the designated operator required to “enhance and support” the Australian World Youth Day Committee’s coordination of pilgrims to the event which takes place 25-31 Jul 2016 in Krakow.

“The Australian World Youth Day pilgrimage will provide pilgrims with opportunities to experience WYD, visit the attractions and sights of Poland and greater Europe, as well as share the spiritual experience with other pilgrims,” according to documents issued by the ACBC.

World Youth Day events have taken place every two to three years since 1984, with the most

recent in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil during Jul 2013.

Billed as a “worldwide encounter with the Pope,” World Youth Day is open to all young people who want to “take part in a festive encounter with their contemporaries centred on Jesus Christ”.

Poland is set for a significant surge in tourism, with the recent introduction of non-stop flights to Warsaw by both Emirates and Qatar Airways, along with a plethora of other non-direct flight options by other carriers.

A briefing session on the WYD opportunity will take place in Sydney early in the new year, with expressions of interest due by the end of Feb 2014.

For more information email youthministry@catholic.org.au.

New BNE terminal

THE federal government has given the green light to a new multi-million dollar charter terminal at Brisbane Airport.

The new General Aviation terminal will service charter and fly-in fly-out operators, “enabling smoother operations within the general aviation precinct,” according to Minister for Infrastructure Warren Truss.

Construction of the new building will commence early in 2014 with completion during 2015, with the project including four gates for passenger arrivals and departures, five interchangeable passenger lounges and a VIP lounge.

Money

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

\$1AUD = US\$0.89

OVER the last week strong selling has seen the Australian dollar dive to its lowest level against the US greenback since Aug 2010.

The drop follows changes to economic policies in the US which saw the US\$ gain against all major currencies.

However overnight the push lost steam, seeing the A\$ rebound slightly but continuing to trade below US90c.

The holiday season is expected to see rates remain stable for the next couple of weeks as traders lock in their positions in the lead-up to the end of the year.

Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$0.893
UK	£0.546
NZ	\$1.089
Euro	€0.652
Japan	¥93.01
Singapore	\$1.132
China	¥5.422
South Africa	R9.235
Canada	\$0.948
Crude oil	US\$99.32

JALPAK awards AAT Kings



AUSTRALIAN tour operator AAT Kings was recently honoured by long-time inbound partner JALPAK with the “Best Customer Service Award for 2013”.

AAT Kings runs a Japanese Language team which works to provide exceptional support to clients, with the award presented by four attendees from the local and Japanese JALPAK offices, including JALPAK vice

president Mr Ito, JALPAK director Mr Shirota, Mr Matsumura, managing director of Japan Australia Travel Service, and Mr Nishiya, general manager Japan Australia Travel Service.

AAT Kings global managing director Anthony Hayes and Fleur Ulbrick, International Sales Manager, are pictured above accepting the award from the Japanese representatives.

Emirates fare deals

EMIRATES has today released some “Hello to 2014” fares in both business and economy class, with return fares to Europe from Australia starting at \$1,499.

All inclusive business class fares to Europe start at \$7,271, with the deals available for bookings made by 14 Jan and for travel 01 Feb-31 May 2014.

There are also special fares available to Dubai, Africa and India, with EK and Qantas together offering 98 flights per week from Australia to Dubai, including six daily A380 services.

Yemeni airports shut

INTERNATIONAL airports in the Middle Eastern nation of Yemen have been closed down, due to a strike by staff at the country’s civil aviation authority. Airports at Aden, Sanaa and Mukalia were all affected, with workers apparently angry about being unpaid because of a freezing of funding.

Some reports say that frustrated travellers protested and “tried to storm the airport” at Sanaa.

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Travel Daily

First with the news

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Lombok brings colour to Perth



INDONESIA'S Lombok Island was promoted in a special Perth sales mission earlier this month, with an event taking place on 10 Dec at the Four Points Sheraton.

An initiative of the Lombok Hotels Association, the destination is preparing for a major boost in Australian visitation via the new non-stop Jetstar flights from Perth to Lombok which operate four times per week.

"The Lombok government are eager to welcome Perth visitors to their beautiful island, and supported in partnership with Jetstar and the Lombok Hotels Association what was the first, but definitely not the last, sales mission to WA," said Sara Sanders, gm of the Puri Mas Boutique Resorts & Spa and secretary of the Association.

"Perth visitors to Lombok are happy to find themselves

enjoying Lombok's empty pristine beaches, amazing diving, fabulous people and a great culture," she said, with Lombok said to resemble the peace and quiet of Bali as it was three decades ago.

The photo above shows the Lombok delegation along with Jaclyn Snell from Jetstar who flew to Perth from Melbourne to support the event with a free return flight as part of the evening's lucky draw.

South Sudan alert

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, has urged Australian citizens in South Sudan to leave immediately, while commercial options are still available.

Fighting broke out in the South Sudanese capital Juba last week, with Bishop saying that while reports indicate the situation is currently calm it's considered likely to escalate.

"A number of Australian nationals have departed the country and I strongly recommend that remaining Australian make urgent plans to leave as soon as possible."

DFAT has updated its travel advice for South Sudan three times this month, and is currently advising Australians not to travel to the destination.

Those who are unable to leave are being advised to "take precautions, stay indoors in a safe location and ensure sufficient stocks of food and water".

Sofitel Fiji deal

CONFERENCE and meetings bookers are being offered 15% commission on accommodation at the Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa on Denarau Island.

The 'Magnifique Offer' also includes 5% commission on day delegate packages and one complimentary day delegate for every 20 delegates.

It's valid for sale through until 15 Apr 2014 for events taking place 01 Jan-15 Dec 2014 - email events@sofitelfiji.com.fj.

UA changes policy for unaccompanied kids

UNITED Airlines has confirmed that children travelling alone will no longer be accommodated if their itineraries include connecting flights.

Under the new policy unaccompanied minors, aged between 5 and 11 years, may only fly on United Airlines non-stop services if not with an adult.

For children between 12 and 17 the same policy applies if their parents or guardians pay for UA's unaccompanied minor service, but it's also possible for these children to travel as adults but in those cases they must ensure they get to their connecting flights themselves.

Google partners with Carlson Rezidor

CARLSON Rezidor Hotel Group has announced a new partnership with internet giant Google which will see them collaborate on the full portfolio of Google travel applications.

The deal includes Google Hotel Finder, which allows a "one stop search, shop and buy experience for guests," letting them search for hotels in a particular area, filter results by preferences and then book a stay directly from the results page.

Currently all Radisson Blu and Park Inn by Radisson Hotels use Google Hotel Finder, with the program to roll out across the entire portfolio in 2014.

The collaboration also includes Google Business Photos, a pilot program which is like an internal version of Google Street View, allowing prospective guests to explore the hotel's interior spaces including rooms, conference and meeting areas plus restaurants.

There's also Google Indoor Maps, which are static renderings based on CAD drawings and floor plans; and the pact includes the ability for travellers to pay for hotel stays via Google Wallet.



Window Seat

THE North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) is once again this year deploying its considerable surveillance capabilities to track the location of Santa Claus as he delivers Christmas gifts to children around the globe.

The military agency has been observing the sleigh's progress since 1955, with NORAD staff working in call centres on Christmas eve to field around 70,000 phone calls from 200 countries.

In 2013 NORAD has upped the ante with Twitter, Facebook and YouTube feeds plus a special website at noradsanta.org and of course a Smartphone app which is available for both Android and iOS.

There are games and movies plus information about Santa Claus, and tomorrow the site will provide a live feed of his whereabouts, along with a running tally of the number of gifts delivered.

US talk show host Ellen de Generes yesterday made dreams come true for her studio audience, giving everyone a four day cruise holiday.

It was the culmination of a "twelve days of giveaways" gift bonanza, with the audience whipped into a lather of excitement as Ellen, along with the assistance of studio guest pop star Katy Perry, announced that the audience would all receive a Princess Cruises four-day Getaway Cruise for two to either the Caribbean or the California coast.

Billed as "a great new option for anyone looking for a quick way to escape the daily grind," the Princess Getaway cruises came along with other gifts including a Motorola mobile phone, Samsonite luggage and a "frozen concoction maker".

Dumping in Niseko

AUSTRALIAN skiers heading to Japan in the coming weeks are set for a bumper season, with a report from Niseko confirming that 40cm of "knee deep fly ash" powder snow fell yesterday.

Air NZ loses Kerr case

AIR NZ will pay NZ\$60,000 in court costs to Jetstar NZ ceo Grant Kerr, after a protracted case where NZ tried to delay its former employee from commencing his new Jetstar job by six months.

According to the *Dominion Post* Air NZ put Kerr on "gardening leave" when he gave notice from his role at NZ offshoot Air Nelson, then cited a six month restraint of trade clause in his contract.

Kerr was seeking over \$200,000.

MEL Master Plan approved

MELBOURNE Airport ceo Chris Woodruff has welcomed approval of the airport's Master Plan by Infrastructure Minister Warren Truss, saying he's delighted that the government has "approved our vision for Victoria's aviation gateway".

The plan envisages that MEL will more than double its passenger numbers to 64 million over the next 20 years, and includes the proposed third runway and elevated road network.

"Airports are critical pieces of our national infrastructure, and our Master Plan sets out the vision for Melbourne Airport as a 24-hour gateway for the movement of people and goods to global destinations and markets," Woodruff said.

Truss said that continued development of the airport is expected to see employment surge to 23,000 direct jobs and over 72,000 indirect jobs, while its annual contribution to the Vic economy is forecast to more than double to \$3.21 billion by 2033.

The minister said that a decision on the third runway will only be made after the airport undertakes

a "detailed planning, design and regulatory approval process, which includes community consultation and examination of environmental impacts including from aircraft noise."

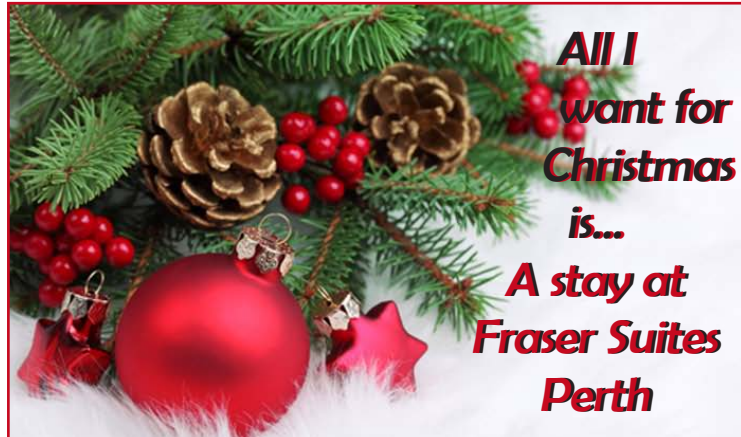
The finalised Master Plan will be available on Melbourne Airport's website within the next 50 working days, as required by the *Airports Act 1996*.

MEANWHILE MEL's new "Ring & Ride" wait zone, where people can wait for free for arriving passengers, is now open.

The facility, which is free for the first 20 minutes, is now located on the corner of Mercer and Melrose Drive, and includes a flight information display and free wireless internet.

Cover-More MH pact

MALAYSIA Airlines has extended its travel insurance partnership with Cover-More to cover sales in New Zealand and India, with integration into the MH booking system "ensuring deeper profiling to match tailored insurance coverage to customers in real time".



Travel Daily's popular Christmas photo competition is back! **Fraser Suites Perth** want to celebrate the festive season with the travel industry, and are asking you to send in your work Christmas party photos throughout December.

At the end of the month, the judges will select the most creative photo and the person who submitted this will win two nights accommodation for two guests at Fraser Suites Perth, including daily breakfast and complimentary Wi-Fi.



Pictured:

Sydney-based cruise agency, Cruise Express, celebrated its Christmas party at The Bather's Pavilion on Balmoral Beach



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Left to Right: Warren Young, Sharon Baker, Grant Blake, Trish Campbell, Jeanette Whitmore, Managing Director Meg Hill, Clive Heath, Francis McCarthy, Andrew Mevissen, Director Hardy Schneider, Carla DiMento, Rebecca Barnes, Cheryl Scanlan, Carolyn Price and Director Lance Mumby.

For your chance to be featured in **Travel Daily**, email your festive photos (including names of the people pictured) to: xmasphotos@traveldaily.com.au.

Asia Escape's top consultant

ASIA Escape Holidays has announced that Carolyn McBride from Travel Corner in Western Australia (pictured) is the winner of its 2013 Consultant of the Year award.

It's a hat-trick for McBride, who has won the top gong for the last three years running.

Asia Escape spokesperson Shu Zhang thanked the industry for their "fabulous support in 2013."



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