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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 26th November 2013

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ReadyRooms extends payment window

QANTAS Holidays' ReadyRooms for Agents online hotel inventory platform has extended the payment window for Orbitz inventory to seven days.

This means agents can hold bookings for up to 7 days before payment is due - but consultants have also been advised that funds must be processed by Qantas Holidays by day 7.

Therefore despite the extra time, reservations paid by Ennet, Smart Money or direct deposit should be processed by no later than day four to allow for a 72 hour processing period, QH said.

Other payment options for the hotel content include Visa or MasterCard which incur a 2% fee.

Bookings made inside cancellation periods or within seven days of departure will remain instant purchase.

Major US 2014 campaign

BRAND USA has revealed plans for a major consumer advertising campaign in print, radio and on television which will begin in Australia next Feb.

Speaking in Los Angeles at a dinner to conclude the inaugural Ausmerica famill, Jo Palmer, md of Brand USA rep Gate 7, told **TD** "we're really excited about the ad campaign as it'll start to establish the brand in Australia".

She said Australia is America's number eight long-haul market and is on track to welcome 1.2m visitors from down under this year, up 39% to date.

Also at the dinner was Vanessa Hudson, Qantas' new senior VP for The Americas, who said USA is a huge destination for QF, with the carrier offering the best schedules with 40 flights a week, the best product with the A380 and the highest satisfaction rate of any carrier to the USA.

Brand USA is already planning an even bigger mega famill for next year, with 75 agents to participate in the trip which is planned for May in partnership with Hawaiian Airlines and Major

League Baseball.

A key focus will be on 'live' entertainment, with Hawaiian destinations to be visited including LA, Las Vegas, Seattle, Portland, New York and Hawaii.

Palmer said the first Ausmerica trip has been a "huge success".

"It showed the diversity of the destination, incentivised sales to the US on Qantas, and highlighted the airline's strong US network".

World Expo decision

FINALISTS vying to be the host city for the 2020 World Expo will give a final pitch to the 167 members of the International Exhibitions Bureau (BIE) in Paris on Wed ahead of the final decision.

Candidates for Expo 2020 include Dubai, UAE; Ekaterinburg, Russia; Izmir, Turkey & Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Each city has a specific theme for the expo & anticipates luring between 12 million (Ekaterinburg) and 39 million (Izmir) visitors.

Seven pages of news

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Creative appoints MD

FORMER Zuji Australia md James Gaskell has been named as the new managing director at Creative Holidays, taking effect in his new role from 20 Jan.

"James' respected relationships with travel agents and expertise in digital, combined with his proven track record of innovation, growth and strategic thinking, clearly demonstrates his strong credentials for this position, making him the perfect person to lead the team at Creative Holidays," The Travel Corporation ceo Australia John Weeks said.

Among Gaskell's responsibilities will be continuing to develop the brand's digital evolution, increase engagement with agents and oversee the company's transition to a web-based booking platform.

He'll also be "introducing an array of industry new initiatives and product features to the overall business, with the aim of ensuring the brand remains able to best serve travel agent needs in the most efficient and profitable way," the company said.

Gaskell replaces Paul McGrath, who recently departed TTC for a role with Lend Lease (TD 11 Oct).

Tigerair rejigs FNQ flights

TIGERAIR Australia today announced a revamp of its Far North Queensland services, including the introduction of a new non-stop Sydney-Proserpine operation and the withdrawal of Sydney-Mackay flights.

The new Proserpine (Whitsunday Coast) route will commence operations on 01 Apr 2014, with thrice weekly services.

Sydney-Mackay flights will continue over the peak Christmas

travel period but will cease operations from 01 Feb.

Mackay will however be boosted with two new weekly direct Tigerair flights from Melbourne as part of a new schedule from Apr 2014.

TT commercial director Carly Brear said the changes were based on consumer demand.

"We have witnessed overwhelming demand from budget travellers wanting to gain easy access to Airlie Beach and surrounding areas," she said.

Tigerair will be the only carrier on the Sydney-Proserpine route. Passengers booked on Sydney-Mackay from 01 Feb-31 Mar will be reaccommodated on Virgin Australia flights at no additional charge.

More EK golf passes

TEN more double passes to the Emirates Australian Open golf tournament this coming weekend are up for grabs in Day 2 of **TD's** competition, thanks to Emirates.

Beginning from this Thu, the world's best golfers including Adam Scott and Rory McIlroy will compete for the prestigious title at the Royal Sydney Golf Club.

To be in the running for one of today's double passes, simply be one of the first ten to respond to today's question: *How much baggage can you check on an economy Emirates flight?*

Email golf@traveldaily.com.au.

SCDL appoints Hunt

SUNSHINE Coast Destination Ltd has announced Grant Hunt as its next chair, replacing Barrie Hunt who was appointed in 2012.

Hunt founded the Anthology tourism brand and is currently chairman of Tourism Tasmania.

He was also the former chairman of Tourism NT and sat on the board of Tourism Australia.

MEANWHILE, SCDL has reported an 8.7% year-on-year increase in visitor numbers for the 2012/13 financial year to 8.9 million, with generated revenue from tourism surging 15.9%.

Leisure travel to the Qld region remained strong, however the end of the mining boom in the state coupled with economic uncertainty "significantly" impacted the business travel and conference sectors, SCDL said.

Regional Art property

BOUTIQUE hotelier Art Series Hotel Group has today announced its first development in regional Victoria, slated to open in Bendigo in May next year, adjacent to Bendigo Hospital.

The new 128-room property will be known as Art Series Bendigo Studio and complements the group's three existing properties in the Melbourne CBD - The Cullen Hotel, The Olsen Hotel and The Blackman Hotel.



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SUPER SPECIALS TO EUROPE



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Sales to 29 NOV 13. Economy class from **\$599* pp return plus taxes.**
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Centara keen on Aus hotel

THAI-BASED family operated hotelier Centara Hotels & Resorts has flagged aspirations to add a Sydney property to its burgeoning portfolio as it continues to expand into new markets.

Centara currently has 67 hotels operational or in the pipeline around the world marketed under its five brands - Centara Grand, Centara Hotels & Resorts, Centara Residence & Suites, Centara Boutique Collection and Centra Hotels & Resorts.

Properties range in standard from "lead-in 4-star" to "lead-in 5-star," says senior vp sales and marketing Chris Bailey.

In Sydney yesterday during an Australian sales mission, Bailey revealed to **Travel Daily** Centara had previously "looked at Mirvac" to establish an Aussie presence before its sale to Accor last year.

Bailey said that a Sydney hotel would provide a link to its Aussie client base - which is now the fourth largest source, accounting for 140,000 room nights annually.

He told **TD** that travel agents accrue the largest share of hotel bookings for Centara, at

approximately 55%.

Since opening its first overseas hotel - Centara Grand Maldives - in 2009, the company has broadened its scope to the Far East, Indian Ocean and Africa covering Indonesia (Bali), China, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Laos, Kenya and Ethiopia, and is considering projects in Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat and India.

The top pick for Australian travellers include Centara Karon & Centara Grand Beach Resorts in Phuket and Samui.

Bailey also disclosed further details on the new 3-star COSI hotel brand Centara is launching (**TD** 11 Dec) to meet growing demand from budget travellers.

He said Centara aims to have 12 COSI properties open in Thailand over the next 18 months.

COSI will consist of new-build projects ranging from 150 to 400 rooms just 15-18sqm in size, which Bailey says will appeal to business, leisure and backpacker markets on a budget, with rates leading in at THB899 (AU\$30).

The first COSI hotel is expected to open in 2015.

Glebe Island services

SYDNEY Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island has awarded official catering rights for the facility to the Dockside Group.

Under a three-year contract, Dockside will provide pop-up cafes and corporate hospitality to all events utilising the venue.

Further, Captain Cook Cruises has been appointed as the official provider of free ferry services on event days between the facility and Darling Harbour.

Adrian Slingsby has been named as the SEC events manager.

Bonus EU commission

EASTERN Eurotours and Mediterranean Holidays has launched its new 2014 Europe Sales Manual featuring a range of new FIT product and touring.

New apartments in Italy, France, Spain, the UK and major central European destinations have been added to the bookable selection along with Anzac Day packages for both the 2014 & 2015 dates.

Island Hopping itineraries have also been added, along with an expanded section focusing on escorted tours and cruising.

To celebrate the release of the new guide, bonus commission of 18% on selected land products is available until early next week.

Xmas DriveAway deal

MOTORHOME rentals in Australia booked by 15 Dec for use to 30 Apr 2014 have been discounted by 20% under a new deal from DriveAway Holidays.

The wholesaler has also cut 35% from motorhome rentals in New Zealand valid for travel between 13 Jan-31 Mar - ph 1300 363 500.

Tigerair to Maldives

SINGAPORE-BASED Tigerair will commence operations to the Maldives from 24 Jan 2014.

The carrier will operate four weekly Singapore-Malé services utilising an Airbus A320 aircraft each Mon, Wed, Fri and Sun.



Window Seat

SURESAVE Travel Insurance really got some hearts racing at the Independent Travel Group conference in Hong Kong.

Among the lucky door prizes of air tickets, iPads, vouchers and other bonuses, Suresave upped the ante by offering some cold hard cash.

Andrew "Sully" Sullivan from the Don't Forget Travel Group was very excited when he was drawn out as the winner, and is shown flashing the moolah with Suresave's Talbot Henry.



AND while we're on the subject of excitement, Aussie travel agents on the Ausmerica mega faml have really been able to do some celebrity spotting.

After traversing the length and breadth of the USA they have come together in Los Angeles, where Hollywood's Roosevelt Hotel put on a welcome party.

Popular with movie stars such as Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable, its modern appeal was also shown when Miley Cyrus checked in just as the group arrived, getting ready to celebrate her 21st birthday.

But the celebrity highlight would have to have been a dinner at Universal Studios, where Jiri Marousek of Brand USA and Jeff King from STA Travel are pictured with one of *Despicable Me's* Minions.



Discover the World Marketing

Two Full Time Positions Available - Sydney CBD

Established in 1981, Discover the World Marketing has over 80 offices in more than 60 countries, and is the largest travel representation company. Our Australian office currently represents nine international travel brands including US Airways, Aeromexico, Copa Airlines, Ukraine International Airlines, Hurtigruten, Variety Cruises, Caesars Entertainment resorts, ChinaTours.com and Expedia TAAP, and owns a successful cruise wholesale division, Discover the World Cruising.

We currently have two positions available to join our dynamic team.

Sales Support - Air

We are seeking a highly motivated Air Res Sales Support to work on our Air Clients accounts, with the opportunity to also assist with sales support with our non-air clients. The ideal candidate must have a minimum 6 months experience in international airfares & ticketing, and Computer Reservation System (CRS) knowledge is essential, preferably Sabre.

The successful applicant will be responsible for handling all queries relating to ticketing, reservations and customer service, maintaining policies & procedures and working closely with the sales manager on all air sales related tasks.

Travel Consultant - specialising in cruise

This role is an exciting opportunity to work in our busy, and growing, cruise wholesale division.

The successful applicant will be responsible for handling enquiries, quoting, taking bookings and liaising with our partners internationally. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of one year experience in a similar role.

Competitive remuneration based on experience. **Applications close on the 6th December, and only successful candidates will be contacted.** Please send application to: hr@discovertheworld.com.au.

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from Los Angeles, courtesy of Brand USA and Qantas.

THE inaugural Ausmerica itinerary wraps up today, with the fifty lucky participants coming together in Los Angeles after travelling the country.

They're really getting the Hollywood treatment, with a poolside party at the swanky Roosevelt Hotel as well as a hosted breakfast at the Hilton Universal City before a massive day of fun at the Universal Studios theme park - and then a red carpet champagne reception and dinner at Universal.

Before flying home tonight they'll take a VIP tour of LA seeing famous landmarks such as the homes of the stars, the Grammy Museum, Farmers Market, Melrose Avenue and Santa Monica.

Wrapping up the famil, Jo Palmer from Gate 7, which represents Brand USA in Australia, said it had been a great success, and that the enthusiasm of the trip's participants will be "very helpful in boosting tourist numbers to the US".

Agents making Hollywood movies



TRAVEL agents on the Ausmerica famil were given video cameras and charged with making a fun movie, starring a character (from Universal Studios) and showcasing their adventures in the states they visited.

Brand USA hosts gave them each a fuzzy toy to be the star of their movie - there was King Kong in New York & Massachusetts, SpongeBob Squarepants in Arizona, Bumblebee in Louisiana, Bart Simpson in Texas, and Minion in Florida.

Their videos were edited today at Universal Studios and shown at tonight's dinner.

A panel of judges looked for creativity, a great story and a real showcasing of their famil

destination and the character, with the winning video title awarded to the New York/Massachusetts Team.

They each received a \$100 shopping voucher and are **pictured** above with their trophies which will of course be going straight to the pool room.

Pictured back row from left are Clinton Griffiths, CruiseAgents; Jo Palmer, Gate 7; Carine Griffiths, MTA Travel; Lynn Lulitanono, The Travel Studio; Stacey Baker, The World at Braeside Travel; Erin Berry, Reho Travel.

Front row: Narelle Duddy, HWT Canberra; Amanda Howard, Jamieson Travel; and Scott Stephenson, Scarfe & Turner Travel Associates Darwin.

Tuesday 26th Nov 2013

Webjet confirms cfo

LISTED online travel company Webjet has announced the permanent appointment of acting chief financial officer Michael Sheehy (**TD** 30 Aug) as cfo and company secretary.

Sheehy has been the acting cfo since Rob Turner's resignation in Aug, and takes the secretary role after Anne Greig's departure.

Finnair Europe special

FINNAIR has this week launched a selection of super specials on services from Australia to Europe, connecting to HEL via Singapore and to more than 50 destinations.

Valid for sales and ticketing until the end of the year and excluding taxes and fuel surcharges, return seats are on sale in Economy Class from \$800 per person and Business Class priced from \$4,200.

UA to Atlantic City

UNITED Airlines is introducing flights to Atlantic City, with daily services ex Chicago and Houston effective from 01 Apr 2014.

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Tuesday 26th Nov 2013



Money

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

\$1AUD = US\$0.92

THE AUD doesn't appear to be doing too well at the moment - reports say it is on track to set its biggest loss against the USD in a single month ever - although this would likely be music to the ears of inbound tourism operators.

Also trading off-track at the moment is the Japanese Yen, down to a six month low against both the local dollar & the Euro.

Elsewhere, the USD continues to rebound from the recent govt shutdown, as the country puts out reams of strong sales data.

Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$0.917
UK	£0.567
NZ	\$1.116
Euro	€0.678
Japan	¥93.19
Singapore	\$1.147
China	¥5.592
South Africa	R9.272
Canada	\$0.967
Crude oil	US\$94.84

Cycling around Seoul

ONLINE bike tour portal Cycle Tours Global has expanded its product range, with the latest addition being a nine-day journey around the Korean countryside.

The 350km Dream Bike Tour takes in the region around Seoul, is available from Apr-Jun and Sep-Nov next year and is priced from US\$2,895pp - for more details, see www.cycletoursglobal.com.

Garuda open ATR ops

GARUDA Indonesia has launched a new sub-brand of the airline, which will serve regional destinations in Indonesia with a fleet of ATR72-600 & Bombardier CRJ1000 NextGen aircraft.

The new regional operation has been named Explore and has been introduced to expand air options in the country ahead of its SkyTeam induction in Mar.

BA Christmas bonus

BRITISH Airways has released a range of pre-Christmas World Traveller return fares to Singapore and London priced from \$745 and \$1,734 respectively.

World Traveller Plus premium economy is also on sale, priced from \$3,302 to London & \$3,078 to 75 destinations in Europe.

Both classes are valid for sale to 04 Dec and for travel between Feb-Jun and Aug-Oct 2014.

FCm WA regional gm

HIGHLY regarded FCm executive Adrian Cooper has been appointed as regional general manager for Western Australia.

Cooper has been with FCm for eight years, during which time he has been recognised for performance excellence.

Capacity climbs, yield declines

OVERALL yield per aircraft trip declined slightly on domestic aviation in Sep, according to new government data out yesterday.

A total of 4.85 million passengers were carried on scheduled flights (excluding charters) over the month - a fall of 0.5% - while available seat kilometres (ASK) increased 2.9% year-on-year.

Subsequently, the capacity jump pushed the industry-wide load factor down 1.9% to 75.9%.

Significant passenger decreases were recorded on Ayers Rock to Sydney flights (-19%), as well as Darwin to Melbourne (-16.9%) and Kalgoorlie to Perth (-15.3%).

Conversely, passenger growth was seen on the Melbourne to Sunshine Coast route (+23.9%) &

SPG tennis experience

MEMBERS of the Starwood Preferred Guest loyalty program can place bids on a special 'money can't buy' experience for tennis fans at the upcoming Apia International Sydney tournament.

The two-day package includes a pass to the invitation-only players party on 05 Jan, Centre Court seats the next day and access to watch matches on outer courts.

Further, the auction winner will be part of an official coin-toss, receive a behind-the-scenes tour, attend a press conference & enjoy two nights at the Westin Sydney from 05-07 Jan and much more.

Bidding closes on 29 Nov - see www.bit.ly/SPGMoment.

Choice's group need a hairdryer



COMMUTERS wandering through Melbourne's Federation Square on Fri morning were greeted by the team from Choice Hotels Australasia dressed in bath

robes, dressing gowns & slippers.

The team were out in force entering passers-by into a major competition being conducted by Choice Hotels with a grand prize of one million dollars.

Each accommodation booking made by an existing member of the Choice Privileges loyalty program earned an entry into the draw, running until 27 Nov across all 230 Choice hotels nationwide.

Over 1000 entries were received during the innovative morning stunt in Melbourne's CBD.

Entries are still being accepted online until 5pm tomorrow, and for more information see choicehotelscompetitions.com.au.



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Ongoing vacancy in Katherine

An exciting opportunity exists for a suitably qualified, motivated and results-driven person to work in our Business Liaison and Support team.

The Northern Territory Department of Business has an exciting opportunity available for a suitably qualified, motivated and results-driven person to work in our Business Liaison and Support team. The Tourism Business Development Officer role is now available in Katherine with the successful applicant required to influence the development of a strong, competitive and professional tourism industry by working collaboratively with tourism operators, government agencies and all other tourism stakeholders to grow and enhance tourism experiences in the Top End region.

If you have well developed interpersonal skills, experience in the Tourism industry, and an understanding of the issues that impact the growth and development of tourism enterprises in the Northern Territory, this may be the perfect role for you.

For a full copy of the Job Description and to apply online please visit www.nt.gov.au/jobs

Quote Vacancy Number: 26132

Vacancy Closes: Sunday 8th December 2013

The Northern Territory Government is an equal opportunity employer and values an inclusive and diverse workforce.

**www.nt.gov.au/jobs
1300 659 247**

El Salvador consul

DFAT has opened a consulate in El Salvador, headed by an Honorary Consul who can provide limited assistance, not including the issue of Australian passports.

Office relocation for wholesalers



EXPLORING Port Vila, walking the Mount Yasur volcano in Tanna and wandering the beaches of Espiritu Santo were all highlights of a six-day famil to Vanuatu enjoyed by this group of Aussie

product managers recently.

The group was hosted by the Vanuatu Tourism Office and flown to the country with Air Vanuatu, giving them the chance to take in many of the latest offerings available to their customers.

Pictured above enjoying a relaxing meal at Ratua Private Island Resort from left is Richard Skewes, Ratua; Andrew Collins, Booking.com; Patrick, Vanuatu Tourism Office; Dennis Basham, Virgin Australia Holidays; Sarah Beeken, Vanuatu Escapes; & Craig Robinson of Relaxaway Holidays.

CWT looks into 2014

MAJOR global sporting events taking place next year in Russia and Brazil are expected to be two exceptions to a continued trend toward staying close to home for meetings and events, according to Carlton Wagonlit Travel.

The corporate & meetings travel firm has released its predictions for the market in 2014, forecasting more events to take place but on a smaller scale to previous years.

Russia's Winter Olympics and the FIFA World Cup in Brazil will be the two notable exceptions, attracting significant corporate interest in hospitality packages.

CWT's predictions come in line with the Europe launch of its Meetings and Events Dashboard, which allow companies to identify opportunities for cost saving, process efficiency & client activity.

Plans are in place for the Dashboard to be rolled out to the Asia-Pacific region next year.

AFTA UPDATE

The latest updates from AFTA's Chief Executive, Jayson Westbury



HONG Kong has played host to the Independent Travel Group Business Forum and it was fantastic to meet so many of the agency owners who attended from across the country.

The W Hotel was the meeting place and there is no question that a good venue can make all the difference for the success of a conference. It is never easy to hold a conference overseas and the ITG team are to be congratulated for delivering relevant content and some excellent events.

I am also really pleased that ITG has put their support behind ATAS and this is most welcomed. As the ATAS team roll out the transitional workshops, I had the opportunity to attend the Sydney ATAS workshop myself and it was very helpful to hear the questions that are being put forward. Most are of a common nature and are able to be responded to. There is no question that the cost of insurance is still unanswered but it is very pleasing to see Gow-Gates and IPP opening up the process for agents to obtain quotes for the supplier failure insurance.

ATAS agency insolvency insurance quotes will be available in the New Year; all in time for the 01 Jul kick off for full transition to accreditation and commercial solutions. As the industry prepares to make the transition to the new arrangements and as all the detail and costings are presented to everyone I am sure that the new arrangements will deliver far more benefits to agency owners and consumers in the end.

On the political front, the NSW and Victorian governments have definitely commenced the process to repeal the state travel agent legislation and this is an important step as many processes and procedures have to be completed in order for the full tra be implemented.

I expect that we will see all other states and territories commence this process in the New Year. And I think it is fair to say that the travel industry transition plan is firmly on track.



World Beijing Hotel

NEW World Hotels has opened its five-star property in Beijing, located in the commercial district of Chongwenmen in China.

The 309-room New World Beijing Hotel is now the closest deluxe property available for visitors to the popular tourist attraction, the Temple of Heaven.

It's also located near Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City.

Park Plaza in Croatia

LIFESTYLE hotel brand Park Plaza will open its fourth property in Croatia mid next year following a €17m renovation of the Hotel Belvedere Medulin, which will offer 428 rooms when completed.

HomeAway alliance

ONLINE vacation rental portal HomeAway has formed a pact with European firm Interhome AG, expected to boost its listings by "tens of thousands."

The agreement represents the largest distribution partnership enabled under HomeAway's pay-per-booking product for property managers, which debuted in Nov.

New Celebrity tiers

TWO new status and reward levels have been introduced into Celebrity Cruises 'Captain's Club' loyalty scheme for passengers.

The 'Elite Plus' & 'Zenith' status will outrank the current top 'Elite' tier available to Celebrity guests, providing higher levels of recognition and broader benefits.

Members of 'Elite Plus' receive additional beverage and speciality dining discounts, free 200-min internet packages, complimentary cappuccinos, lattes and more.

'Zenith' membership rewards guests with access to Michael's Club Lounge (which is being rolled out fleet-wide in 2014), a free alcoholic drinks package, complimentary laundry, 1,600-minute internet package and other perks and benefits.

Other enhancements to the Captain's Club include making it easier to access special pricing, while the accrual program for Club Points will be become based on stateroom category and the number of days spent onboard.

The new scheme takes effect immediately, with more details available at www.bit.ly/cczenith.

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Q2. What World Heritage Site is visited on the Southern Adventure Tour?

Answers can be found in Contiki's 2013-15 USA & Canada Program

Entrants are required to answer all four questions released daily and a 25 words or less question appearing in Friday's issue.

Email your answer to: tmcmega@traveldaily.com.au

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FROM a selection pool of over 780 agents, Oman Tourism chose 36 lucky winners to jet off to the Middle-Eastern hotspot for a ten-day travel agent familiarisation.

Eligible participants completed an online training workshop to ensure their skills at selling Oman were at their peak, learning plenty of new facts about the destination in the process.

While in Oman, the group visited an authentic Bedouin home and enjoyed lunch in the historic town of Ibra, courtesy of one of the leaders of the tour group.

Other highlights of the trip included sailing on the Arabian Gulf on the 75-foot *SY Azzura* surrounded by pods of dolphins; turtle watching and partying in the Omani desert.

Many palatial accommodation options were inspected by the group during their time in the country, including the Shangri-La, Al Bustan Palace by Ritz-Carlton and the Chedi Muscat as well as mountain chalets, desert camps and luxury oceanside resorts.

The group are pictured above enjoying their desert break.

MEANWHILE, Oman is set to continue to invest heavily in the development of its tourism industry, with a commitment of up to 3,650 new four- and five-star hotel rooms announced.

The infrastructure investment will come from the Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran) - a division of the Oman

Government, with assistance from joint venture affiliates.

New hotels in varying stages of construction are underway at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, with properties to be managed by the W Group, InterContinental Hotels and the Alila Hotels Group among the mix.

Expansion works at existing resorts are also in the pipeline, with a view to doubling current capacity levels in the country, according to Omran ceo Eng Wael Al Lawati.

"We will also be focusing on affordable hotels - we are also studying and designing entertainment projects," he said.

New attractions including a cable-car project 3000 metres above sea level - dubbed the Grand Canyon of Arabia - is also among current tourism projects.

Qld funds Stradbroke

TOURISM operators on North Stradbroke Island will share in a \$200,000 grant from the Qld Government to develop new eco-tourism experiences.

The "Signature Straddie" funds package is aimed at helping the island promote its natural attractions.

Money will be used to develop "hero experiences" aimed at targeting key visitor markets and to assist businesses to attain eco-tourism accreditation and become more sustainable operations.

Two for one to Egypt

TEMPO Holidays has released a two-for-one deal on a privately escorted 11-day Wonders of Egypt tour, if booked by 31 Dec.

The tour includes a four-night Nile cruise - phone 1300 362 844.

Qantas Hotels promo

QANTAS Hotels is currently offering six QF frequent flyer points per dollar spent on global accommodation bookings.

The bonus offer is only valid until midnight tomorrow 27 Nov, for stays between now and 31 Oct 2014.

New Back-Roads tours

BACK-ROADS Touring has launched its first Scandinavian itinerary - a 13-day Copenhagen to Stockholm trip, including a stay in a 19th century mountain lodge, priced from \$7,595ppts.

The latest addition is the second in recent days for the operator following the introduction of new seven-day tour of Turkey which takes clients to well known highlights and into seldom-visited local villages and townships.

The new Hidden Turkey tour is priced from \$1,990ppts if booked by 15 Dec - phone 1300 100 410.

WIN A HOLIDAY TO JORDAN



This month **Travel Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a holiday to Jordan, courtesy of **Jordan Tourism Board, Greece and Mediterranean Travel Centre** and **Royal Jordanian Airlines**.

The prize includes:

- Two Economy Class return airfares from Royal Jordanian port in Australia to Amman
- Seven day tour of Jordan, including Jerash, Dead Sea and Petra
- 6 nights accommodation
- Air conditioned transportation, entrance fees and meals.

Each day **Travel Daily** will ask a Jordan-related question - just read the issue and email us your answer. There will be 21 questions in total. At the end of the month the subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this incredible Jordan holiday.

Email your answers to: jordancomp@traveldaily.com.au

Click here for terms & conditions of the competition.

Q. 18: Royal Jordanian's Frequent Flyer program is called?



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AA APPOINTMENTS

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TOP JOB OF THE DAY

**INDUSTRY ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT - RECRUITMENT
SYDNEY – GENEROUS SALARY PACKAGE**

Sick of booking boring travel itineraries? Want to work Monday – Friday and have every weekend free? Then this is the role for you! As a travel recruitment consultant you will enjoy interviewing and sourcing candidates and placing them within the travel industry. You will also be responsible for hosting and expanding an exciting industry client portfolio. This is a great role to use your excellent communication skills, sales and industry knowledge in a role that will value and reward your skills. Full training provided.

***NEW* HAVE THE ADVENTURE SPIRIT?**

**ADVENTURE WHOLESALE CONSULTANT
SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$46K**

This is a great chance to move away from face to face and start selling those destinations that you are passionate about. Work for an adventure specialist in a behind the scenes role. You will have the opportunity to prepare some of the most exciting itineraries to the most unique destinations in the world. With guaranteed famils you will be off exploring the world's wonders in no time. Do you have 12 months industry experience, GDS skills and have travelled to unique destinations. Make the move today.

***NEW* NEW ZEALAND EXPERT REQUIRED TRAVEL RESERVATIONS**

MELBOURNE– SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$45K (DOE)

NEW role in Melbourne just called in! This exciting role with a difference will see you stepping away from the norm of consulting and into a reservations role. Selling travel products via phone and email you will responsible for creating unforgettable packages. With a focus on New Zealand products this is the perfect role for a New Zealand Expert with a passion for their home land! You will work M-F hours only and in a fun working environment. Min 12 months industry experience required. Call us today.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

CORPORATE TRAVEL MANAGER

MELBOURNE - SALARY PACKAGE - \$90K (OTE)

Corporate travel manger required for a busy growing office in Melbourne! This successful award winning office now requires a motivating team leader to push the team to be the very best they can be while also assisting as a hands on manger and booking intricate and interesting itineraries while earning an unbelievable salary! With Monday – Friday hours on offer and a fun team environment with international rewards you would be crazy to miss this. Min 3 years consulting / TL experience required.

THE GRASS IS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE WHOLESALE RESERVATIONS

MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGES UP TO \$80K (OTE)

We have an exciting wholesale reservations role in Melbourne for an experienced travel consultant. This well-known organisation now requires a superstar consultant to make the move to the other side! This role will see you assisting your loyal agents with worldwide itineraries.

Assisting with flights, accommodation and land arrangements you will earn the highest salary in Melbourne while being a part of a fun and social team. Make the move to wholesale travel today with AA Appointments.

CORPORATE BLISS IN PERTH CORPORATE TRAVEL CONSULTANT

PERTH (CBD) - SALARY PACKAGES TO \$55K (DOE)

Perth! We have a sensational corporate role in Perth that will see you finally getting back that work life balance while earning a high base salary. This well-known office now requires a corporate consultant to join their expanding team and service both domestic and international travel arrangements. Booking interesting itineraries your days will be varied and fun and you won't regret making the move. This hot role could be yours if you have a minimum 12 months corporate consulting experience. Apply today.

COAST INTO A NEW ROLE

**HIGH END RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANT
GOLD COAST – UP TO \$45K PKG + BONUSES**

Do you love selling the best of the best? Want to be part of a team of professionals? Here's your chance. This well-known agency on the Gold Coast is looking for a travel expert to join their first class team. Handling the travel plans for the discerning traveler you will be able to provide first class service and have extensive international product knowledge. You'll enjoy a supportive management team along with great \$\$ and a rare work/life balance. All you need is 3 years retail travel consulting experience. Call to find out more!

AHOY THERE

**WHOLESALE CRUISE CONSULTANTS
BRISBANE CBD – \$50K OTE + TOP BONUSES**

Calling all cruise enthusiasts, don't let these sensational cruise roles with a market leader sail by. We are currently looking for travel superstars and cruise gurus to come and join these fun and friendly wholesale teams. You'll love selling a range of international cruise lines along with pre and post arrangements. Sensational \$\$, free cruises, ongoing training and career development are just the beginning of the benefits you'll enjoy. All you need is a love for cruising and previous travel consulting experience.



What are the most popular travel jobs?

Read Ben's latest job market update



Kristi Gomm

Online Travel Customer Service - Sydney

- ▶ **13 January 2014 start**
- ▶ Work 7 evenings/nights ON then have the next 7 OFF!
- ▶ Sought after online travel company

Join this expanding Online travel company, servicing clients direct - no face to face.

This fun dynamic company based in Surry Hills is looking for a customer service driven individual to add even more value to their team. With offices close to public transport and with parking available, you will work with an online booking tool, servicing calls and emails from the direct public as well as travel agents.

Your excellent worldwide travel knowledge of destinations will be well rewarded and full training on company products will be provided.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone who wants every second week free, talk about work life balance! Start the new year with a new job!

Call Kristi or [click here](#) for more details

Long Term TEMP Assignment - Sydney

- ▶ **Must have Amadeus, Galileo or Sabre**
- ▶ 2 yrs consulting in retail or wholesale travel
- ▶ Excellent hourly rates on offer

Join our temp team and get paid the highest hourly rates in the travel industry. We currently have 4 long term temp positions (up to 6 months) available. Sydney city fringe.

Call Sandra or [click here](#) for more details

Fiji & South Pacific Specialists - Sydney

- ▶ **Great team environment**
- ▶ External earning potential
- ▶ Sydney CBD. GDS experience essential

This is a well established company with a team that has long term retention. Firstly because the staff are so well looked after and secondly because of the earning potential.

Call Ben or [click here](#) for more details

International Groups Travel Consultants - MICE

- ▶ **Progressive business, long term career prospects**
- ▶ Group travel movement with loads of variety
- ▶ Salary from \$50K + super DOE

Not traditional, this role focuses on the group movement of delegates travelling to anything from conferences to incentive programs which could be anywhere in the world.

Call Ben or [click here](#) for more details

Wholesale Reservation Consultants - MEL

- ▶ **Been to Africa or South America?**
- ▶ No. 1 wholesaler in specialty destination tours
- ▶ Salary negotiable DOE with great company perks!

Your clients will get to experience life changing moments that will create memories and stories that they'll be sharing with their friends and families for years to come.

Call Ben or [click here](#) for more details

Leisure Travel Consultant - Adelaide

- ▶ **Thriving and reputable agency**
- ▶ Modern offices with repeat clientele
- ▶ Excellent salary package plus additional benefits!

Be part of this high achieving retail travel agency in Adelaide known for there repeat clientele. Ongoing training and career development available. Galileo or Sabre CRS required.

Call or [email](#) Sandra for more details