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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 9th December 2014

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ADS adds demerit points

A REVISIED 'Code of Business Standards and Ethics' for Inbound Tour Operators (ITOs) will cement Australia's Approved Destination Status (ADS) with the Chinese Govt, says Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb.

Its revision comes following the introduction of the China Tourism Law in Oct last year.

Effective 19 Jan, changes include a sanction structure for ITOs that aims at encouraging compliance with the Code.

From 01 Jan, ADS entities will be

allocated 10 points & monitored for ongoing compliance by Austrade through methods such as mystery shopping, random checks and financial audits.

Code breaches will result in a loss of points (ranging from two to five points), suspension and/or revocation of ADS approval.

For the first time, tour guides can also receive ADS approval.

"The release of the new Code will help ensure Australia remains an attractive and popular destination for the group tour market from China," Robb commented yesterday.

For full details on the updated ADS Scheme, **CLICK HERE**.

Extraordinary Atlantis

ATLANTIS The Palm is offering a range of bonuses including unlimited waterpark access and preferential rates for swimming with dolphins for Aussie clients.

Prices start at \$469 per night - see the **last page** for details.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news & photos, a front cover page for **Brand USA** plus full pages: (**click**)

- AA Appointments jobs
- Atlantis, The Palm

2015 USA MegaFam

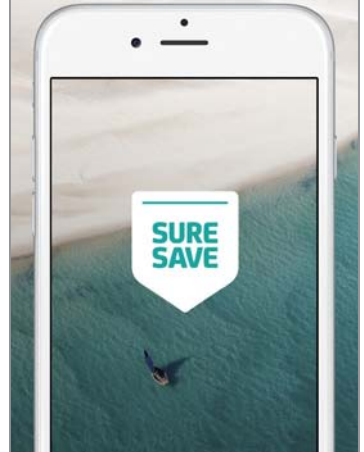
AGENTS are being offered the opportunity to win a \$1000 MasterCard Cash Passport as part of an incentive associated with next year's Aloha USA MegaFam which is being conducted by Brand USA in partnership with Hawaiian Airlines.

To win a place on the trip, see usadiscoveryprogram.com.au - more details on the **cover page**.

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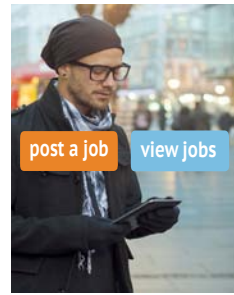
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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 9th December 2014



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Airline guide out now

TRAVEL Daily subscribers were this morning emailed a copy of our latest airline guide.



The 2014/15 *travelBulletin/Travel Daily* Business Class Airline Guide has for the first time ever also been produced in print, and was distributed to *travelBulletin* subscribers in the latest issue which they will have received in the last few days.

Containing details of the Business class offerings of top carriers servicing the Australian market, the Business Class Airline Guide has once again been produced in response to requests from travel agents wanting an easy reference to the premium cabin for their top leisure and corporate clients.

To download the guide, see traveldaily.com.au/features. Additional hard copies can also be purchased online at travelbulletin.com.au/shop.

Mobile-only hotel app

HOTELQUICKLY, a new “last minute” hotel booking smartphone app has launched in Australia, with the company behind it opening offices in both Sydney and Melbourne.

HotelQuickly has a unique mobile-only model which allows it to act like a “private sales channel for hotels to sell off distressed inventory and bring up their occupancy,” the firm said.

787-9 beyond expectation

BOEING'S 787-9 Dreamliner has been lauded for increasing patronage on Australian services by the boss of the aircraft's launch customer, Air New Zealand.

Speaking at an event in Sydney yesterday, Air New Zealand chief executive officer Christopher Luxon said the Dash-9 *Dreamliner* variant was performing “better than anticipated” following the delivery of its first of ten firm orders for the 787-9s in Oct.

Luxon said the *Dreamliner -9* has been “fantastic for us as a business and for our customers”.

“Fuel burn has really been fantastic,” he said of the aircraft.

The ceo said forward sales on the Perth-Auckland route using the aircraft type were up 10%.

Air New Zealand is operating the *Dreamliner* to Sydney and

on long-haul routes to Tokyo and Shanghai, with Luxon saying more new routes will be revealed soon.

Such is Air NZ's satisfaction for the 787-9, Luxon announced the Kiwi carrier was boosting its fleet by two (**TD** breaking news), to be delivered in late 2017 and early 2018, boosting confirmed orders for the aircraft type to 12.

MEANWHILE, Luxon confirmed Air NZ was awaiting the new year before it planned to reveal a new destination to the United States.

“We are keen to think about a third gateway into the US. A third gateway for the US would be great,” he told **Travel Daily**.

Houston, Chicago and Las Vegas have recently been mooted as potential ports (**TD** 01 Dec).

More from Luxon in tomorrow's issue of **Travel Daily**.

InterCon Paris sold

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has accepted an offer by Constellation Hotels to purchase the InterContinental Paris - Le Grand for €330 million (\$445m).

The deal will see the 470-room property continue to be managed by IHG for another 30 years.

The transaction (**TD** 08 Aug) is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2015.

Geckos flash sale

SAVINGS of up to 20% are on offer on select Geckos itineraries and 10% off all other trips booked during a three-day sale for tours departing until 31 Mar.

The bigger discounts apply to tours in the Middle East, Borneo, Morocco, Cuba and Thailand.

Bookings need to be processed before midnight 11 Dec.

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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 9th December 2014

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* Conditions Apply.

CLICK HERE for further details

Air Canada to Dubai

JUST days after announcing it will commence new Toronto-Delhi services from 01 Nov (**TD** Fri), Air Canada has overnight revealed it will launch new thrice weekly flights to Dubai.

The new nonstop service is slated to begin on 03 Nov using Boeing 787-8 and -9 *Dreamliners*.

AC president Calin Rovinescu said adding Dubai to its network comes at a time when air travel between North America and the Middle East continues to surge.

"The introduction of the Boeing 787 *Dreamliner* to Air Canada's fleet this year has been a catalyst for our international expansion plans, which will receive an additional impetus in 2015 when the larger *Dreamliner* 787-9 series aircraft begins to enter the fleet," Rovinescu commented.

QF adds 4000 Japan seats

QANTAS will operate double-daily services from the Australian east coast to Tokyo Narita from next Aug after today announcing the resumption of direct flights to from Brisbane (**TD** breaking news).

The new capacity to Japan totals 4,000 extra seats per week across both Boeing 747s & Airbus A330s.

In addition to its existing Sydney to Tokyo route, QF's new BNE-NRT service will operate four times weekly, with flights from a third Australian port to also begin on the three alternate days.

The latest expansion into Japan comes after Qantas bolstered the Sydney route with new services into Tokyo Haneda (**TD** 28 Nov).

Australians are currently enjoying a love affair with Japan, with departure rates up 17% in

the past year, Qantas said.

CEO Alan Joyce announced the new route this morning while touring the carrier's Heavy Maintenance facility with Qld Premier Campbell Newman.

Joyce labelled the new BNE-NRT route as "a coup for Australian travellers and the local economy".

"We expect the Sydney to Haneda services to be particularly popular with business travellers, and this traffic is likely to keep growing off the back of the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and Japan," Joyce said.

BNE ceo Julieanne Alroe praised the resumption of services, saying it will meet demand for Business class travel to Japan for the many businesses trading with the state's "second largest trading partner".

Window Seat

WANT to be part of the future of travel?

New Zealand's Martin Aircraft Company has announced a public float, and is inviting investors to purchase shares in the company with the aim of commercialising the so-called "Martin Jetpack" (**below**).

It's the continuation of a long development saga which kicked off more than 30 years ago when Glenn Martin created the first prototype jetpack in Dunedin in 1981.

Those envisaging a Jetsons-style future may be disappointed - at this stage travel isn't the primary purpose of the jetpack which will be targeted at emergency service providers such as police, fire, ambulance and search & rescue personnel - but fear not, there are recreational uses too.

\$25 million is being sought in the form of 50m \$0.50c shares.

The latest version, dubbed Prototype 12, has a 30 minute flying time and can travel at up to 74km/h at an altitude of 1km.



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SQ rectifies Biz error

SINGAPORE Airlines has opted to bite the bullet on its recent fare error in which Business class seats were sold at Economy prices (**TD** breaking news), saying it will honour all tickets sold.

The error, which was uncovered exclusively by **Travel Daily** and went viral globally, was identified as a booking sub-class which was recently reassigned from Economy to Business.

Around 400 tickets were sold for approx 1,200 individual sectors.

SQ said it wished to apologise for any inconvenience and that an internal investigation was ongoing.

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ABOVE: Creative Holidays in conjunction with Fiji Airways sent these lucky agents to Anaheim and Fiji on a recent famil.

Highlights included a visit to the Happiest Place on Earth, a 'Surf's Up' Character Breakfast at Disney Paradise Pier Hotel, roasting s'mores on the beach and lunch at The Resort at Pelican Hill.

In Fiji, agents relaxed at the Radisson Blu Resort on Denarau.

Pictured at Cinderella's Castle at Disneyland from left are Elizabeth Galysa, helloworld Seven Hills; Marcus Joseph, Flight Centre Mt Druitt; Anna Vanpoppel, Flight Centre Rouse Hill; Lisa Farrugia, Creative Holidays; Ashleigh Burgess, italktravel Rutherford;

Melanie Ejiomor, Creative Holidays; Montana McCosker, Windsong Travel Inverell and Snezana Mirkovic, Flight Centre Fairfield.

In front are Rebecca Babanour, Flight Centre Liverpool; Michael Yiamkiati, Flight Centre Blacktown and Melissa Bourke, Flight Centre Richmond.

Gantry debuts in Dec

PIER One Sydney Harbour, Autograph Collection has today revealed it will open The Gantry Restaurant & Bar in coming days. "The Gantry will be an incomparable indoor & outdoor restaurant and bar," owner Robert Magid said.

MK team expansion

AIR Mauritius has announced the appointment of four new staff to its Australian team.

The new recruits include Brian Christou who has taken the role of sales director Vic/NSW/Qld; Fleur Thornton as sales executive WA/SA; Celine Templin as res/ticketing consultant in WA and Jag Sidhu, reservations/ticketing consultant in Vic.

Buy Art Series stuff

FANS of Art Series Hotel Group can now purchase products such as prints and furnishings featured at properties within the Australian hotel group's portfolio via a new online retail store.

Dubbed 'Artefact', products on offer through the website include beds, pillows, rugs, books and the "hero product", The Olsen's custom designed pyjamas.

CLICK HERE for more details.

Byron Bay a rip off?

AUSTRALIA'S most easterly point has earned the title of the most expensive destination in the country, based on 20 of the most popular towns and cities to visit during the month of Dec.

According to TravelMag.com's survey, visitors to Byron Bay will spend on average \$176 per night for the least expensive double room, followed by Sydney (\$136) and Hobart (\$131).

Cairns was the least expensive, with rates of \$60 per night.

Andaman Suites reps

RANDALL Marketing has been appointed as the Australasian marketing consultants for the Andaman Beach Suites Hotel.

Positioned overlooking Patong Beach in Phuket, the property features 137 rooms and is popular for leisure and business travellers & families - see beachsuites.com.

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Chch restaurant tram back in service

OPERATORS of the Christchurch Tram 'Welcome Aboard' have today confirmed the popular restaurant tram service will resume operation from tomorrow.

The restaurant tram was taken out of action in Feb 2011 after the loop track was damaged by the city's major earthquake.

Welcome Aboard says a refined restaurant service and refreshed menu is now offered, priced at \$NZ95 per person.

The moving restaurant operates from 7:00-9:30pm, departing from the Cathedral Junction.

More details at www.tram.co.nz.

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Scot confirms its fourth Australian city

SINGAPORE Airlines' low-cost long haul offshoot Scoot Airlines has today announced plans to commence non-stop flights from Melbourne to Singapore in 2015.

The carrier will debut the flights in just under a year's time, on 01 Nov, with the route to be operated five times per week.

Melbourne Airport ceo Chris Woodruff welcomed the move, saying that Singapore is showing annual growth of more than 20% out of the Victorian capital.

Scoot will utilise its new Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft on the route, with Woodruff adding the new service, "combined with the extended global network available from Singapore, will make Melbourne and Victoria more accessible than ever".

Scoot also operates to Perth, Sydney and the Gold Coast.

NTA urges united tact

THE National Tourism Alliance has urged for Australia to improve tourism coordination across government to avoid losing ground to competing countries such as the USA.

In a 31-page submission to the Productivity Commission on Australia's International Tourism Industry, the NTA said it was key for Australia to have a "coherent national voice in international markets".

The NTA said high level coordination & communications between industry, State & Territory tourism marketing organisations and Tourism Australia was still necessary for domestic campaigns.

To further meet visitation demand, Australian tourism needs government cooperation and consideration to maintain and build on current tourism infrastructure, the NTA added.

TTC discount deadline

THE Travel Corp is reminding agents full payment needs to be received by 18 Dec to enjoy a 10% discount on Trafalgar, Contiki & Insight 2015 European tours.

Ten thousand reasons to smile



PHILIP and Rosalind Brand of northern Sydney have 10,000 more reasons to enjoy their next holiday after being selected as winners of a recent promotion held by helloworld Hornsby.

The competition led to a surge of holiday interest among the

local community, with plenty of new enquiries and bookings.

The Brands are **pictured** above centre rear flanked by helloworld Hornsby owners Ivan Bean & Trudy Bean, store consultant Anne Sheinbar and agency manager Marina Dimitropoulos.

AFTA UPDATE

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



AS I am sure everyone is acutely aware, we are on the sprint to Christmas with only a little over two weeks until the big day.

This time of year brings with it all sorts of events and celebrations as we all start to reflect on the year that has been, what we did and did not do and perhaps what we could do better next year.

For me, 2014 does seem to have been in a hurry and so far it looks like 2015 is set to be another good year for the industry. Let's all hope so.

For many in the industry, this week brings both a celebration but also some sadness. For those attending Christmas TraveLeague tomorrow (Wednesday 10th) in Melbourne, I am sure the event will be as always a time for good friends and industry colleagues to get together and talk all things travel.

But, with the passing of Barry Huxley (helloworld Sunbury) a few weeks ago, it will also be a time for great reflection and sorrow.

Barry was a true travel industry personality. His ability to engage with people, talk about all sorts of subject matters, great interest in others, how they were and what they were up to, was an inspiration.

He will of course be greatly missed by the industry and indeed be deeply missed at the event tomorrow as he was one of the organisers.

But, I am sure that he would want TraveLeague to continue and I am sure he would want everyone who attends to carry on his good work in bringing so many travel industry people together at this wonderful time of year.

As is said so often in times of sadness, life must go on, but this year at TraveLeague there will be a great piece of life missing and I am sure Barry will never be forgotten as the great friend, engaging person and committed travel agent that he was.



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Voyager hosts trade

ROYAL Caribbean's revitalised mega-liner *Voyager of the Seas* last night hosted trade partners to a one-night sailing - check out all the action by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Agents tour LA with the celebs



ABOVE: Star chefs Luke Hines and Scott Gooding of *My Kitchen Rules* headed to Santa Monica with this group of agents as official Santa Monica Ambassadors.

Flying to Los Angeles aboard Air New Zealand, the group checked out every inch of the 22 square kilometres in the exclusive area during their week-long trip.

Soaking in the opulence of the region, the group was immersed into the high-living existence that is Santa Monica, heading to the shops straight from the plane.

Staying at the Le Meridien Delfina, the group enjoyed some gourmet grills for dinner, learning more about what Luke and Scott love so much about Santa Monica.

Trip highlights also included a visit to Malibu to sample fine wines among the rich and famous.

Pictured above in Malibu is the group, which comprised Bryana Duval, FC Westfield Sydney; Bridgit Little, Globe Net Travel; Rebecca Simms, STA Travel Highpoint; Melissa Bauer, FC Burleigh Heads; Brianna Schwarz, helloworld Norwood; Craig Watson, FC Bluewater Square; Gail Whanau, Air New Zealand; Nika Jalai, Santa Monica CVB; Maria Rainone, TravelManagers; Annabelle Hender, Santa Monica CVB and Andrew Buyksmith from FC Business Travel Victoria.

Business class PJs to take off on Etihad

ETIHAD has launched a range of new service innovations for its long haul services, including "luxury hotel-style reception" for First Class passengers.

The changes up the very front include a personalised welcome letter, silver-tray service and new crockery and cutlery - along with a new "contemporary" menu.

Business Class passengers will be offered a new turndown service, including a mattress and full size pillow - along with the keenly anticipated introduction of "cotton loungewear" pyjamas.

The Economy Class EY refresh includes new cabin interiors and a "revolutionary new pillow" plus a cotton drawstring amenity kit.

MEANWHILE, the planned roll out of the second and third daily A380 frequencies to London Heathrow has been pushed back.

According to GDS displays, the second daily A380 service will now debut from 01 May as EY017/018, back from 01 Apr.

Third daily superjumbo flights were originally slated to begin on 01 May as EY019/EY020 but have now been delayed until 01 Aug.

Etihad Airways' planned A380 service to Sydney remains on track for on 01 Jun launch.

Amadeus expenses partnership

AMADEUS has announced a new partnership with Australian expense management solution provider Business Information Services to integrate its Expense8 automation tool into Amadeus' e-Travel Management software.

The move means that for the first time, users will be able to see real-time travel costs in the pre-booking approval process rather than basing itineraries on estimates which may change.

The system will allow users to hold bookings for flights, hotels and cars until approval is received.

It also allows fare approval even if the cost increases between approval and booking, and can recognise different travel policy rules for individual, multi-passenger or guest travellers across domestic, trans-Tasman and international itineraries.

Amadeus IT Pacific md Tony Carter added the move was a reflection of the company's focus on investing in the corporate online booking experience to

provide value to customers.

MEANWHILE, Amadeus has also announced a new global agreement to integrate the Worldpay system into the Amadeus Payment Platform.

Worldpay is one of Europe's largest payment service providers, with the move enabling Amadeus clients to take payments in more countries and currencies.

DL redefines cabins

DELTA Air Lines will differentiate its service over five cabin classes from 01 Mar to help passengers select their preferred product.

The US carrier will rename its BusinessElite service Delta One, which will remain on long-haul int'l routes and trans-continental.

First class will remain on short int'l routes and US domestic.

Delta Comfort+ will stay on all two-class aircraft, with Main Cabin remaining on all services and Delta's new Basic Economy flexible model on selected routes.

Win a trip to Abu Dhabi flying with Etihad Airways

This month *Travel Daily* is giving the travel industry a chance to win a trip to Abu Dhabi, courtesy of Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, Etihad Airways, Shangri-La Hotels and Arabian Adventures.

The prize includes:

- 2 return Economy Class flights to Abu Dhabi with Etihad Airways
- 4 nights staying in a Deluxe room at the five-star Shangri-La Hotel, Qaryat Al Beri
- Breakfast daily
- Airport transfers and sightseeing tour with Arabian Adventures

Everyday *TD* will ask a different question about Abu Dhabi and Etihad Airways. The subscriber with the most correct answers and the most creative answer to the final question will win this amazing prize.

Send your answers to: abudhabicomp@traveldaily.com.au

What is the name of Etihad Airways' complimentary premium executive transfer service available to First and Business Class guests?



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This popular travel company have a newly created role available, bringing their IT functions in-house rather than using an external supplier you will be responsible for all IT , including data base phones and booking systems. You will have at least one direct report initially and maybe more as the position grows. This could be your chance to step up into a more senior role, please submit CV and full cover letter

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Are you experienced with online booking systems and have a strong background in technology? In this role, you will be responsible for building and executing new system processes to improve business performance, identify areas of improvement relating to business and technology processes, together with overall analysis of business practices and procedures. Bring your analytical approach to this winning travel company. Contract Role – 6 to 8 months.

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