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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 1st December 2015

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## More Global Explorer Jetstar

ONEWORLD has announced the addition of the Jetstar Asia, Jetstar Japan and Jetstar Pacific networks to its Global Explorer round-the-world fare.

Effective from today, the move brings more than 15 destinations into the Global Explorer offering, which now features about 230 destinations across Asia and about 1,150 worldwide in more than 150 countries.

As well as offering all routes operated by oneworld member carriers and 30 affiliated airlines, the Global Explorer fare also features sectors offered by some other non-members as well, including Aer Lingus, Fiji Airways, Alaska Airlines and Westjet.

Flights carrying the QF code but operated on Air Tahiti Nui and Jetstar metal were already included, with today's move

further expanding the fare's reach to all Jetstar branded carriers.

oneworld vice-president commercial, Stephen Usery, said the addition of the Asian Jetstar airlines brings on board "attractive networks in some of the regions most popular with round-the-world travellers, making Global Explorer an even more appealing option".

Jetstar group executive manager for Network and Partnerships, Alan McIntyre said the oneworld collaboration provides "yet another platform for customers to tap into Jetstar's wide network of destinations".

### Win a trip to Canada

IT'S the start of a new month today - and that means a new major **Travel Daily** competition.

Air Canada has come on board to offer two return economy class tickets to Canada as part of the celebration of its new non-stop 787 flights from Brisbane as well as the launch of premium economy on Sydney-Vancouver.

For details on how to win see page nine of today's **TD**.

### Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today has nine pages of news, a photo page for **Travel Counsellors** plus full pages from: (**click**)

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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 1st December 2015



## Travelport loco 4 Loco

**TRAVELPORT** has beefed up its stake in "fast-growing" Australian corporate travel tech company Locomote to 55%.

The move will see Locomote founding investor & ceo Philip Weinman step into the role as vice chairman & the appointment of Sandra McLeod as new ceo.

McLeod has over 25 years travel tech experience, most recently as Travelport's group vp for global accounts and corp development.

In his new position, Weinman will also provide strategic counsel and guidance to Travelport on wider mobile & digital services strategy.



## Ruffles on CTM board

**CORPORATE** Travel M'gmt has promoted ceo Australia/NZ and global chief operating officer Laura Ruffles to the board.

Effective today, Ruffles joins the CTM board as executive director.

Ruffles joined the company as global ceo five years ago.

## Burnes HLO ground focus

**DECADES** of industry service & expertise in customising holidays is a key ingredient for Helloworld Ltd agents to take the retail battle to its "fierce competitor", Flight Centre, designate ceo Andrew Burnes has commented.

Speaking at the HLO owner managers Summit in Wellington last weekend, the soon-to-be ceo spoke highly of the group's prime competitor, admitting they are "a great business - they have done extremely well".

Burnes said Flight Centre has benefitted from a "large pool of surplus cash", enabling the retail giant to be in a position to invest and to "take risks."

"But I think in an area where service is becoming increasingly important...I think our great skill and ability with Helloworld is that service proposition".

Unable to spar with Flight Centre's airfare price guarantee (**TD** yest), Burnes added: "You can

compete on price - and they are fantastic competitors, they own that space - and its a very strong point to obviously compete on, but at the end of the day, flights are just the beginning."

Burnes noted HLO sells "a lot of ground," adding "as we've seen in travel distribution over the last decade, although flights are great to sell, there's not a particular strong margin in them".

'Ground' arrangements is the sector Helloworld members can make inroads, with Burnes saying the group's agents possess "15, 20, 25 & 30 years of experience - and this is invaluable."

"It's not difficult to book a return flight to Sydney with three nights accommodation, but if you want a four week trip through South America, that's a whole different kettle of fish and that is where I think Helloworld has a very strong competitive advantage."

"We need to prosecute that".

## SCDL shifts to VSC

**BOARD** members of Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd (SCDL) have voted in favour of the group's corporate identity to change to Visit Sunshine Coast (VSC), effective immediately.

The regional tourist organisation has operated as SCDL since its inception five years ago, but has marketed its online presence via the [visitsunshinecoast.com.au](http://visitsunshinecoast.com.au) for a number of years.

Visit Sunshine Coast chair Grant Hunt said "this straightforward change will help maximise the potential of our marketing and promotional efforts."

## Xiamen under way

**DESTINATION** NSW yesterday welcomed the inaugural Xiamen Airlines service to Sydney ex China.

DNSW ceo Sandra Chipchase said the new thrice weekly flights ex Fuzhou and twice weekly ex Xiamen (starting 06 Dec) will "deliver a strong economic impact for the NSW tourism industry".



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## CWT slams LH direct connect

**CARLSON** Wagonlit Travel (CWT) has blasted the Lufthansa Group which last month flagged plans to enable direct connect solutions with various industry partners, as well as new "exclusive offers" outside of the GDS.

CWT executive vice president and head of Global Supplier Management, Scott Brennan, says despite concerns raised repeatedly by CWT and many others in the industry, "Lufthansa has continued to make significant changes to the booking process offered to clients and travellers with the addition of a €16 fee for each GDS booking".

CWT says the fundamental issues with the direct connect approach being championed by Lufthansa includes fragmentation of content which creates complex manual searching and booking.

It will also lead to less comprehensive comparison shopping and reduced visibility

of competitive fares; limitations for TMCs to communicate directly with travellers; fragmented data for reporting and traveller tracking and additional costs.

"CWT believes no viable solution exists to avoid the €16 distribution fee without resulting in increased cost to maintain existing services and value for our clients," Brennan said.

"Given this, CWT continues to believe GDSs present the most efficient, complete and cost-effective distribution solution currently available for the corporate travel industry".

### QF million pt winner

**QANTAS** has announced that Debbie Ashes from helloworld Lane Cove is the winner of one million Qantas Points in the QF Early Bird incentive.

For details of the state prize winners see [qantas.com/agents](http://qantas.com/agents).

## US visa waiver change

**OFFICIALS** in the USA have announced "enhancements" to the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) which allows visa free travel for citizens from 38 partner nations, including Australia.

The moves come in the wake of the Paris terror attacks, with the Department of Homeland Security taking immediate steps to modify its Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) applications to capture data from VWP travellers regarding any past travel to countries constituting a terrorist safe haven.

The Department is also looking at possible pilot programs to assess the collection and use of biometrics in the VWP, as well as reviewing the program to identify any countries that are "deficient in key areas of cooperation".

Changes will also see fines increased tenfold to US\$50,000 for airlines that fail to verify a traveller's APIS passport data.



## Window Seat

**TOURISM** authorities in Belgium have been quick to react to the recent terrorist atrocity in Paris, after a social media crackdown where citizens were urged not to post images of police operations as the offenders were tracked down.

Belgians instead started tweeting photos of their cats to each other during a tense five day lock-down - and it became such a trend that Tourism Flanders, Visit Brussels and Wallonia-Brussels Tourism released a new video showing cats at several Brussels landmarks.

Featuring frolicking felines in bowler hats, the videos are a way for officials to thank residents for their good-natured response to the terror crisis - [traveldaily.com.au/videos](http://traveldaily.com.au/videos).



## AGENTS OF ALOHA VIDEOS

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**The HAWAIIAN ISLANDS**



## Pleasant top helloworld retailer



**HELLOWORLD** Mt Pleasant in Qld was named National Retailer of the Year at the Helloworld Owner Managers Summit in Wellington over the weekend.

Awards were bestowed upon helloworld Branded and helloworld Associate winners across six categories.

Categories include the Local Community Award, Manager of the Year, the Office Pursuit of Knowledge Award and Local Area Marketing Award.

**Pictured** are: Julie Primmer, HLO head of Branded Networks; John Cooney, HLO Mt Pleasant and Lynda Wallace, HLO.



Centre strip  
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LAS VEGAS

## LATAM NZ in-house

**LATAM** Airlines Group will manage New Zealand operations in-house, including all trade & client relations, and sales & marketing activities.

Effective 01 Apr 2016, the move will service the airlines' growing demand in NZ, as well as make it easier to implement systems.

World Aviation Systems will represent LATAM Airlines Group in NZ until 31 Mar 2016.

## NZ appointment

**AIR** New Zealand today announced the appointment of Avi Golan to the position of chief digital officer.

Currently based in the USA, Golan will "bring a world-class technology leadership focus to Air New Zealand as we strive to embrace the opportunities of our rapidly changing digital world," according to ceo Chris Luxon.

Golan will relocate to NZ in Jan to take up his new role.

## Wyndham Booking jv

**BOOKING.COM** has partnered with Wyndham Vacation Rentals for a brand new world-wide distribution agreement.

Under the new arrangement, Wyndham's global portfolio of rental brands, incl NOVALSOL, Hoseasons, Landal GreenParks & cottages.com, will now use Booking.com's website and mobile apps as a distribution channel for their many rental properties.

## BYOjet targets growth

**OTA** BYOjet plans to increase its TTV through achieving recurring sales, boosting the sale of ancillaries and growing its direct relationships with key hotel and airline partners, according to the chairman of parent company Disruptive Investment Group.

Speaking at the firm's agm, Adir Shiffmann said BYOjet's JETMAX platform was now live on 22 sites with 36 more in negotiations.

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## Amadeus transfers

Amadeus has streamlined its selling platform, now allowing travel agents to book airport express tickets to city centres alongside flights and hotels.

Heathrow Express will be the first to debut the latest module in the UK, France, Germany, Scandinavia and Russia; with Brisbane Airport following suit next year, enabling travel agents to book Airtrain to access Brisbane City and the Gold Coast.

Global roll out of the module is expected in 2016.



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## Fiji Matai goes live

**GLOBAL** Matai Specialists will be able to access 'Matai Agent Offers' from local operators who are registered on Tourism Fiji's consumer website.

The offers will appear on Tourism Fiji's Matai Site to encourage those who have completed the Matai Specialist Programme to visit Fiji.

"We really want to encourage our Matai Specialists from around the world to travel to Fiji and avail themselves with a selection of fantastic industry discounts which in turn increases their product knowledge, enabling them to better sell Fiji to their clients," said Tourism Fiji's Regional Director and Matai Project manager, Wayne Deed.

For more info on the Matai Specialist Program, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Ramada Golden Beach

**THE** WorldMark Resort Golden Beach on the Sunshine Coast will be rebranded as the Ramada Resort Golden Beach.

The 130-room resort recently underwent a \$1.5m renovation and will now operate as a mixed-use property, catering to hotel guests and vacation owners.

Facilities include a pool and spa, tennis court, games room, gym and restaurant and bar.

## Visit Maldives 2016 launched



**MALDIVIAN** Hotel Partners and 50 agents gathered at Doltone House Hyde Park in Sydney last night for the launch of Visit Maldives 2016.

Arrivals are strong out of Australia, with Jan-Sep numbers topping 15,000, a 17% increase over the past two years.

Appointed in Aug as Australian reps for the Maldives Marketing & Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC), The Unique Tourism Collection plans to bump that number up to 25,000 by targeting the travel trade, supported by consumer press.

The group plans to educate the trade through a roadshow in early

Feb, famils, sales calls, wholesaler training and by getting involved with wholesaler's marketing.

"The level of accommodation is extremely high. The destination itself in terms of tropical destination is one of the top tropical destinations. Service levels are impeccable and food is outstanding," Svetlana Jovanovic, gm The Unique Tourism Collection told **Travel Daily**.

**Pictured** at the event are Svetlana Jovanovic, gm The Unique Tourism Collection and Erin Holland, Former Miss World Australia/Oceania, who visited the Maldives during the Helloworld Relay this year.



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# Swiss SuperStar Snow Bunnies



**DESPITE** a temperature of -7 degrees on Mount Titlis, the mountain experience at 3,020m altitude was well worth the trip for consultants currently on the Swiss Travel Pass Superstar famil.

This active bunch bravely crossed the 150m-drop Titlis Cliff Walk, explored inside Mount Titlis Glacier Cave and inspected

popular ski resorts Trübsee Alpine Lodge and Titlis Resort.

**Pictured** in a cable car making their way to the Titlis summit are Mark Wettstein, Switzerland Tourism; Chris Riou, Newport Travel; Clem Tringale, Rail Plus Australia; Elaine Seuao, Rail Plus NZ; Nina Marchioli, RACT Kingston; Naomi Hill, Qantas Holidays; Max Thomas, CIT Holidays; Rhonda Paice, Williamstown Travel & Cruise; Kacey Sowman, Go Holidays; Cassandra Zayonce, TravelManagers; Yvette Van Urk, Outdoor Travel; Ingrid Kocijan, Rail Europe; Melissa Blessing, Flight Centre; Melissa Healy, Flight Centre; Ruth Bullock, Infinity Rail and Josie Hanney, Goldman Travel.

## Hawaii visits jump 4%

Hawaiian Tourism Authority has reported a 4.2% increase in passenger arrivals between Jan and Oct, compared to the same period last year.

According to the HTA, spend in Hawaii continues to flatline, but is pacing ahead of last year, reaching \$12.5 billion.

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## Expedia study

**BUCKET** lists keep Aussie travellers on track, according to Expedia's annual State of the Nation report released today.

The study found 97% of Australians keep a bucket list of destinations either saved in their phone, etched in their imagination or scribbled on a piece of paper; with 92% having crossed off at least one experience from their list - up on the 2014 result of 87%.

93% of Aussies cite "unique cultural experience" as the most important factor when selecting what to tick off their list; with the next in order of importance being able to "disconnect from every day life" (92%).

## SeaLink Kangaroo Isle

**SEALINK** have confirmed dates for its four-day, three-night Kangaroo Island tours.

Departing 22 Feb and 19 Mar, the escorted tour will give travellers the chance to discover Kangaroo Island's wildlife, experience spectacular coastal scenery and sample locally produced food and wine.

## \$299 Rarotonga fares

**COOK** Islands Tourism advises of bargain fares for the weekly direct Sydney to Rarotonga, flying Air New Zealand.

Priced from \$299 per person (incl taxes), the special will go on sale from 27 Nov-10 Dec, for travel outbound 23 Jan-02 Apr 2016 or 23 Apr-25 Jun 2016.

More at [airnzagent.com.au](http://airnzagent.com.au)

## Open tender for TA

**TOURISM** Australia has confirmed it will commence an open tender to appoint a new media service provider, in light of its current contract with OMD due to expire 20 Jun 2016.

The two-phased tender involves an initial Expression of Interest, followed by a Request for Tender for short-listed agency partners identified through the first phase.

# Travel Daily

on location in  
Mount Titlis

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from Mt Titlis, courtesy of Switzerland Travel System, Rail Europe & Switzerland Tourism

**PARTICIPATING** agents on the Swiss Travel Pass SuperStar famil experienced more of the benefits of travelling using the Switzerland Travel System today.

A pre-booked SBB door-to-door luggage service collected the group's bags this AM from Hotel Pullman Basel and transported them directly to the rooms at Hotel Waldstätterhof in Lucerne ready for their arrival this evening.

The group travelled on tram and train services to Engelberg, and with Titlis Mountain Railways for the 3,020m train journey up to the peak of the mountain.

Swiss Travel Pass holders are entitled to a 50% offer on travel up to the iconic Titlis.

A new eight-seater cable car, dubbed The Titlis Xpress will commence operation next week and reduce the current travel time by almost 20 minutes to reach the peak of the mountain.

From Stand Station, visitors have the option to go even higher by boarding the Titlis Rotair, the world's first revolving gondola to Titlis Summit Station.

It's up here that your heart will skip a beat as you take in the breathtaking panoramic views over 80% of Switzerland; walk across Europe's highest suspension bridge, the Titlis Cliff Walk; or explore Mount Titlis Glacier Cave ringed by glittering ice walls.

See the group's spectacular photos from the summit today at [www.facebook.com/traveldaily](http://www.facebook.com/traveldaily).

## Pac Coast int'l push

**THE** Legendary Pacific Coast will be showcased to the world, after receiving a \$208k marketing boost through NSW Governments Regional Visitor Economy Fund.

CEO Belinda Novickey has confirmed RVEF funding has been matched by industry partners, local government and international travel distribution partners to further grow overnight visitor expenditure from priority markets including the UK, Singapore, North America, Germany, China and New Zealand.

## Theme park nations

**AUSTRALIAN** travellers with a hankering for theme parks most commonly travel to the USA for the experience, results from a new Roy Morgan study show.

The research identified 740,000 Aussie holiday-goers included at least one theme park on their most recent holiday.

For the 12 months ending Sep, 33% of Australians headed to the USA to visit a theme park, more than double Japan (15%) which was second, followed by Singapore (12%) and the UK (9%).



## Win with crooked compass

Every day Travel Daily and Crooked Compass are giving readers the chance to win a \$40 Kathmandu voucher.

Steering travellers to follow a different path, Crooked Compass allows



you to experience the world's most fascinating destinations in ways you never dreamed possible. Crooked Compass delves deep into the heart and soul of a destination ensuring you get out of your journey all you intended and much more. These intriguing itineraries have been created by travellers for travellers.

To win, be the first to send the correct answer to the following question to [crookedcompass@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:crookedcompass@traveldaily.com.au)

Name three festivals in the Crooked Compass India product range.

*Need a hint? CLICK HERE*

# Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 1st Dec 2015

## Sydney football fever

**ACCORHOTELS** is celebrating Sydney's \$10m touchdown, following DNSW's announcement that it has secured the first ever American college football game to be played in Australia (**TD** yest).

Predicted to draw in crowds of more than 15,000 international and interstate visitors, AccorHotel's Sydney Olympic Park hotels - Pullman, Novotel & Ibis - are expected to be fully booked during the event.

AccorHotels Pacific ceo Simon McGrath said the event "will have an enormous impact on our visitor economy and hotel sector, but more importantly, it will thrust Sydney into the homes of almost 30 million Americans and showcase our rich country and tourism offering."

UC Berkeley will play University of Hawaii at Sydney Olympic Park on 27 Aug 2016.

## JAL launch NRT/DFW

**JAPAN** Airlines has resumed services between Tokyo Narita & Dallas/Fort Worth following a 14 year hiatus at the Japan capital.

Services will initially operate on a four times weekly basis before moving to daily on 20 Mar.

JAL is operating the route using Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft.

## Niseko snow updates

**SKIJAPAN.COM** has activated its daily snow reporting from Niseko-based resident Rod White as Japanese resorts start to come online for the 2015/16 ski season.

See [SkiJapan.com](http://SkiJapan.com) for updates.



# AFTA update

From AFTA's chief executive, Jayson Westbury



**FRESH** back from the capital of New Zealand, the windy city of Wellington, I have to extend a big congratulations to all involved in the Helloworld Owners/Managers Summit 2015. It was great to see so many happy travel agents as we lead into the busy holiday season over Christmas.

The summit agenda was packed with all sorts of interesting speakers, including the Head of Travel for Google. He asked the audience to put their hand up if they had a child under five. To which he said, "they will not learn to drive a car as they won't need to". What a statement. This came off the back of the example of how successful the testing and operation of the "Self-Drive" Google car has been. What does that have to do with travel you ask? The key point being made was that everything has changed - but nothing has changed.

What was said is that we still do all the same things we have done in the past like a drive a car, but we do it differently and more than likely with a technology interface or use. When it comes to travel, nothing Mr Google said would suggest to me that a five year old today has any less of a chance of being needed within the travel industry in the future. As with all the conferences this year, the level of content, comment and commitment to travel agents was inspiring.

There is no doubt that we live in a time in which travel agent's have a strong and prosperous future and it is exciting to be part of an industry that everyone wants to talk about.

As I said in all of my conference presentations, the industry is set for a good year ahead in 2016 and I have predicted that by 2018 there will be 10 million international departures from Australia, which will be two years ahead of the original forecasts made by the Australian Government (10 million departures by 2020).

Good luck to all as I can only emulate Mr Google, everything has changed - but nothing has changed. Except there are a lot more people taking holidays and that number is on a trajectory to increase, which we can all enjoy.

## O-man, what a famil!



**SULTANATE** of Oman Tourism treated a large group of agents from Australian and New Zealander to a mega-educational in Oman recently.

Participants spent time in Muscat and journeyed along the coastline towards the port town of Sur - swimming in the Bimmah Sinkhole on the way, and then viewing turtles nesting by moonlight and hatchlings emerging at sunrise on the beaches around Ras Al Jinz.

Visits were made to swimming holes including Wadi Bani Khalid, before venturing into the golden

dunes of the Sharqiya Sands for a night at Desert Palm Camp.

They visited the ancient capital of Nizwa, then heading into the foothills of the Hajar mountains to explore the hillside garden village of Misfat Al Abreyan.

From there, the journey continued up into Jabel Shams with a night spent at Alila Jabal Akhdar resort.

The final days were enjoyed back in Muscat, visiting Al Bustan Palace, A Ritz Carlton Hotel, The Chedi Muscat and Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa.

The gang are **pictured** above.

# Win with travelBulletin

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# Travel Counsellors hails key suppliers

**TRAVEL** Counsellors recently celebrated another year of success by inviting their valued suppliers to join them at an intimate, end-of-year drinks event held in one of Melbourne's leading boutique hotels.

Held at the Art Series Hotel Group's stunning Blackman Penthouse on the evening of Tuesday 24th November, Travel Counsellors hosted a range of suppliers at the event including representatives from airlines, cruise companies, tourist boards, hotel groups and wholesalers.

With a wide range of travel industry suppliers in

attendance, the event offered both suppliers and the Travel Counsellors team an opportunity to relax and reflect on what has been a tremendous, growth-filled year for both Travel Counsellors and their partners and suppliers.

Talbot Henry from Suresave comments, "I always enjoy attending Travel Counsellors events as I know I'll encounter many friendly faces. Travel Counsellors do things a little differently to the rest, and it's this personal touch that makes the company such a success. There's a great sense of camaraderie and community within the Travel Counsellors network, and this radiates out to include suppliers and partners too, which is something that I'm grateful for and proud to be a part of."

Michael Stephenson from Royal Caribbean attended the event also, commenting: "I love attending Travel Counsellors events like this because I get to catch up with some of the best people in the industry! When Travel Counsellors sell your product, you know they are selling with professionalism and care. I get the feeling that Travel Counsellors agents genuinely do love their job, because they've taken the step to work from home on their own business, and that requires maturity, a good attitude and a passion for travel. I think that's why Travel Counsellors has done so well in the Australian

market, because Australian consumers are savvy enough to know when an agent is genuinely enthusiastic about travel."

David Hughes, Managing Director of Travel Counsellors Australia believes that having strong relationships with suppliers is the key to the success of Travel Counsellors. "We put on events such as this to foster stronger ties with our valued suppliers and partners. We believe that we work with the best in the industry, and it's those types of relationships that are well worth nurturing and celebrating. Apart from taking the time to keep up-to-date with company news, developments and successes, it's also good to catch up and share a drink with the people that contribute to our business in many ways," comments David. "With Travel Counsellors it's always personal. We genuinely enjoy spending time with our suppliers who are just as much a part of the Travel Counsellors family as our agents and head office staff are," adds David.



**ABOVE:** David Hughes, Travel Counsellors md Australia welcomes guests.

**RIGHT:** Travel Counsellors' Dean Hickford; Simon Dodd, AA; Jaclyn Snell, Jetstar and Craig Farrell, Silversea.



**ABOVE:** Paige Kirk, Scenic; Sarah Miller, AAT Kings; Craig Farrell, Silversea; and Michael Stephenson, Royal Caribbean.



**ABOVE:** Rebecca Suitor, Travel Counsellors; Aaron Hocking of Intrepid and Talbot Henry of Suresave.



**ABOVE:** Lilliana Suarez of QBE Travel Insurance, Aaron Hocking of Intrepid and Krystle Eggington from Travel Counsellors.

**RIGHT:** Kerry Murphy, Travel Counsellors with Kym Vanderplight and Ashley Renolds from Cox & Kings.



**ABOVE:** Tracy Parkinson, Travel Counsellors with Diana Devlin of Suresave.



**RIGHT:** Raphael Mannays of Emirates with Veronica Curran, Travel Counsellors.





Tuesday 1st Dec 2015

## Wu Long Tan tour

**WENDY** Wu Tours has released a Return to Long Tan tour to recognise the 50th anniversary of The Battle of Long Tan and commemorate those who fought. The nine-day tour departs 14 Aug 2016 and takes in significant landmarks and sites in and around Saigon, visiting the battle site for a memorial service on the anniversary on 18 Aug. Prices start at \$2,980pp.

## Argyle in Tangshan

**AUSTRALIA'S** Argyle Hotel Group (AHG) has signed its 78th hotel in China, Argyle Hotel Tangshan, set to open in Jun. The 220-room hotel is located in the CBD of Tangshan and will offer six banquet halls.

## Top Parks revision

**AS PART** of a multi-million dollar rebrand, Top Parks has aligned 200 members into three categories - Top Caravan Parks, Top Holiday Parks and Top Resort Parks. The categories have been introduced to help visitors identify which park best suits them. The Top Caravan Parks are for visitors looking to pitch a tent, while Top Holiday Parks will attract families looking for jumping pillows, playgrounds and swimming pools and Top Resort Parks are more luxurious, with pools and accommodation. The rollout of the styles is slated for completion by early next year.

## Angkor cycling tours

**SPICEROADS** Cycle Tours will launch a five-day Angkor Family Explorer cycling adventure in Cambodia around the temples of Bayon and Ta Prohm in 2016. The tours dep every Tue in 2016 for US\$950 (AU\$1,314) per adult and US\$760 (AU\$1,051) per child.

Tuesday 1st Dec 2015



**FIVE** wholesalers and travel reps are returning from Ecuador after a 14-day famil hosted by the country's Ministry of Tourism. Covering Ecuador's striking landscapes, wildlife & abundance of culture, the famil included a four-day cruise in the Galapagos, discovering colonial Quito, a train ride across the Andes and a three-day cruise in the Amazon.

The wholesalers also had the opportunity to meet with over 50 local operators during a one day workshop.

**Pictured** in front of Chimborazo volcano are: Mishelle Montenegro, Camon Travel; Dan Maher, Natural Focus Safaris; Ed Garcia, Travel Projects; Patrick

Clementson, Abercrombie & Kent; Alejandro Romero, Camon Travel; Emilie Groleau, Ecuador Tourism, Australia Representative and Favio Fernando Quinga, Ecuador Tourism Ministry.



## Money

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

**\$1AUD = US0.721**

The Australian dollar climbed 0.5% against the USD yesterday, following a series of US economic releases. In other markets the AUD also made gains and was trading at new four-month highs against the euro as markets anticipated Thu's decision from the European Central Bank. The AUD also reached new six-month highs versus the Swiss franc. Today markets will look towards the RBA's announcement and Chinese manufacturing PMI numbers.

*Wholesale rates this morning:*

US	\$0.721
UK	£0.479
NZ	\$1.091
Euro	€0.682
Japan	¥88.74
Thailand	฿25.71
China	¥4.265
South Africa	R10.37
Canada	\$0.959
Crude oil	US\$41.71

## HA plot Narita launch

**HAWAIIAN** Airlines is set to launch daily Airbus A330-200 services between Honolulu and Tokyo Narita, effective 22 Jul, according to GDS displays.

## Pullman debuts in US

**ACCORHOTELS** has expanded its footprint in North America, announcing the debut of the region's first Pullman property.

The Pullman Miami Airport Hotel comprises 278 guest rooms and suites, with meeting rooms, banquet halls and a ballroom.

Renos are currently underway to add two new dining concepts in 2016, with the revamp slated to be completed by Jan 2016.



*Celebrate Christmas with Air Canada and win!*

Air Canada is gearing up for an exhilarating 2016 with the launch of its first non-stop Dreamliner flights from Brisbane and the unveiling of an industry-leading on-board product – including its first premium economy cabin – on its daily Sydney-Vancouver route.

To celebrate Air Canada and Travel Daily are offering two round trip Air Canada economy class tickets, from either SYD or BNE. All you need to do is create a fun Christmas photo featuring Air Canada and Travel Daily, then send it to [aircanada@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:aircanada@traveldaily.com.au) before 31 Dec!

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Here's your chance to join a growing and innovative company that is really going places. Forget about chasing up missing passport details, docs and admin as you'll have a support team there to handle it all for you. All you need to worry about is consulting and planning the itinerary of your clients' dreams. Plus you'll be rewarded with a strong base salary + \$\$ incentives, free cruises and a real work/life balance. All you need is a min 2 years travel consulting experience, proven sales skills and a positive attitude.

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This global travel organisation is looking for an experienced consultant with a strong understanding of the industry to join them. As a Price Beat consultant, you will work closely with consultants, retail and product teams to ensure the company is offering the most competitive pricing in the marketplace. Enjoy a strong salary package plus the best benefits in the biz. All you need is 2 years international travel experience, strong time management, communication skills & a proven problem solving ability. Call us today!





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#### **VIP Corporate Consultant & Team Leader**

**Salaries to \$70K & to \$80K + super**

With monthly drinks, casual Fridays, water views, year-end bonuses, your Birthday off & half day Christmas shopping leave..... what's not to like about this dynamic company!

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- Career Progression
- Yearly conference

Call Ben or [click here](#)

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- Mon to Friday
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- Monday to Friday
- Possibility for flexible hours

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