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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 23rd December 2015

**Spain & Portugal**  
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## APT Sabre renewal

**CRUISE** and tour operator APT has renewed a long term strategic agreement with travel technology provider Sabre.

The deal includes customised Sabre solutions to assist APT in scaling its regional business, including online booking engine Sabre Explore, adapted to meet specific content, booking and fulfilment needs for the company.

"Until recently, the Australia and NZ travel industry didn't have this specific technology to support the local needs of tour operators, wholesale agents and agents with reservation call centres," Sabre's Richard Morgan said.

"We are proud to have addressed this gap in the market and with a custom solution for APT."

## US FF entry delays

**THE** Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade is advising of possible delays entering the USA if frequent flyer account details do not match passport info.

An update on the Smartraveller site yesterday cautioned Aussie travellers of the potential hold-up related to discrepancies between data collected via ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), ticketing and passport data.

"You can also be referred for secondary inspections and experience delays if you have been issued a new passport and have not updated your frequent flyer account with the new passport number," DFAT said.

## Virtuoso refine showcase

**LUXURY** global travel group Virtuoso has announced plans to ramp up partner meetings by 50% for its 2016 Australia and New Zealand Travel Week tours.

Three shows will run across the year, held in various locations and bringing together more than 100 of Virtuoso's top Preferred Partners including hotels, cruise lines and destinations.

The events are just three of over 70 tours to be held worldwide by Virtuoso next year and operate as an extension of the annual Virtuoso Travel Week, hosted in Las Vegas each Aug.

Virtuoso Asia Pacific managing director Michael Londregan said the shows offer members "unparalleled access" to develop knowledge and relationships with top suppliers in the lux sector.

"This luxury market is dynamic and products and experiences are constantly evolving so our city tour program ensures Virtuoso advisors stay well ahead of general market knowledge and have both up to date insights and key contacts - a critical advantage that translates into better service for their clients," Londregan said.

## 4th Vietnam Pullman

**ACCORHOTELS** has opened the 356 room & suite Pullman Vung Tau - the first 5-star int'l hotel in the city and fourth Pullman in Vietnam - located about 1.5hrs drive from Ho Chi Minh City.

Previously identified as Virtuoso Member/Partner 'Regional Roadshow' meetings, a shake-up of the Virtuoso City Tours sees events themed under Hotels, Destinations & Experiences and Cruise "in response to the ongoing segmentation of the luxury portfolio," she said.

'The Hotel Show' will run from 14 to 18 Mar in Auckland, Melbourne, Gold Coast & Sydney.

'The Destination & Experience Show' operates from 23-27 May, held in Melbourne, Adelaide, Gold Coast & Sydney, while 'The Cruise Show' is slated for 24-28 Oct, conducted in Melbourne, Gold Coast and Sydney.

Over 12,500 individual meetings will be conducted over the shows.

## ETG C&K preferred

**COX & Kings Australia** has inked a preferred partner agreement with Express Travel Group, incorporating the businesses suite of brands, including Bentours and Tempo Holidays.

C&K ceo Damian Perry said the partnership "will present limitless opportunities to continue expanding and showcasing our in-depth range of product".

## Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today has four pages of news and photos, plus a full page from: (**click**)

- AA Appointments jobs

## Qantas kids iPad app

**QANTAS** has unveiled a new iPad app for young travellers, in time for the school holidays called the 'Joey Playbox'.

The app is designed for children aged between 4 & 8, and has a selection of four games.

Children can design their own airport (**pictured**), help prepare the runway for take off, collect baggage and decorate digital paper planes, postcards and bags.



The airline's head of digital entertainment Jo Boundy said children were the fastest growing segment of their Frequent Flyers.

"Qantas has over 250,000 flyers in Qantas' Frequent Flyer program for children. Looking after our youngest travellers is very important to us, so the new app has launched just in time for peak family travel," Boundy said.

## Langham HQ move

**LANGHAM** Hospitality Group's local headquarters has this week relocated to new premises.

The group's Global Sales Office is now located at 89-113 Kent Street in Sydney, reachable by phone on (02) 8248 5225 or by fax on (02) 8248 5212.

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First with the news

Wednesday 23rd December 2015

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## Domestic traffic dip

The number of passengers carried on domestic flights in Australia has decreased almost two percent to 5.41m during Oct, compared to the corresponding time in 2014.

The latest report on Australian Domestic Aviation Activity has revealed several declines in domestic travel including the number of aircraft trips (59,368), a decrease of 2.1%.

The volume of passengers carried on regular public transport flights fell 1.7% to 5.19 million.

Melbourne to Sydney has remained Australia's busiest flight path with 767,170 passengers (up 0.7%), followed by the Brisbane to Sydney city pairing with 401,872 passengers (down 0.7%).

Routes with traffic increases in included Ballina to Sydney (up 17.7%) and Melbourne to the Sunshine Coast (up 13.2%).

Sydney remained Australia's busiest domestic hub with 2.35 million passenger movements, followed by Melbourne at 2.18m Brisbane at 1.52m.

There were 2.11m domestic passenger movements through regional airports (4.1% decline) out of the top 50 regional hubs.

## Esprit ready to sail

**CRYSTAL** Cruises has officially christened *Crystal Esprit* as the line's newest yacht at a ceremony in the Seychelles this week.

On hand for the proceedings was Godmother, Lady Gaenor Anne Meakes.

## VA29/30 suspension policy

**VIRGIN** Australia has released a commercial policy to assist agents due to the temporary cancellation of its Sydney-Abu Dhabi route for close to four months.

VA is suspending its thrice weekly VA29/30 service between 07 Apr-25 Jul as a result of its Boeing 777 fleet refurbishment program (**TD** 22 Jul).

Passengers booked on VA's AUH flights will be re-accommodated on services operated by alliance partner Etihad Airways.

Customers booked on flights from 07 Apr to 31 May will be moved to flight EY454 on the AUH-SYD route and flight EY455 on the SYD-AUH city pairing.

Between 01 Jun-23 Jul, VA pax will be re-accommodated onto Etihad's replacement flights operated by a Boeing 777, on flights EY450/EY451.

Passengers flying between AUH-SYD on 25 Jul have been moved to EY454 - full details **HERE**.

Travel agents can use the waiver code of 'SWF16501212AUH' to waive additional fare, taxes and change fees for guests directly affected by the cancellation.

Virgin Australia said the first service with the refurbished cabin product would be introduced back to normal service to Abu Dhabi on 26 Jul.

## 46% growth at ZQN

**AUCKLAND** Int'l Airport Ltd, the operator of Queenstown Airport, today reported a 46.5% year-on-year spike in int'l passenger traffic at ZQN during the month of Nov.

The company said the jump was driven by the jump in nonstop flights to Queenstown from both Sydney and Melbourne.

The number of services to ZQN jumped from 160 last Nov to 234.

## itravel 20 year anniversary!



**ITRAVEL** celebrated 20 years of operation last week with one hundred of the travel group's closest mates at a combined Christmas party/birthday party.

The business was established in 1995 by Steve Labroski and Louie Apostolovski and has morphed into a combination of mobile and franchise agents, with 17 stores, and just under 60 mobile agents in five states.

Director Steve Labroski said his proudest career moment to date was signing up mobile agents

"and having people believe in what you are creating".

Thu night's celebration included itravel agents and supplier reps from SureSave, Excite Holidays, Trafalgar, Contiki, P&O Cruises Australia and more.

Some of the itravel crew are **pictured** including, from left, Sue Milosova, Claudia Wood, Annaalee Ilievski, Steve Labroski, Manuel Rivera, Tiano Sakaria-Cecil, Suzie Kairouz Tohme, Melissa Torrisi.

In front are Rebecca McHenry and Louie Apostolovski.

## VS capacity increases

**VIRGIN** Atlantic will add a new thrice weekly service from London Gatwick to Havana from Nov next year to Mar 2017 & is extending seasonal flights between Glasgow and Orlando & Manchester and Las Vegas to include Nov & Mar.

Other adjustments see the Gatwick-Las Vegas route upped from seven to nine flights per week in Sep and Oct, and three additional flights operating from Gatwick to Orlando in Jul & Aug.



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## Agents flip for Southern Cali



**TOGETHER** Viva! Holidays, Gate 7, San Diego Tourism Authority, Visit West Hollywood and Fiji Airways hosted a group of lucky

agents on a six night educational to Southern California.

The group spent three nights in San Diego before travelling by Amtrak to Los Angeles where they enjoyed rock star treatment for two nights in West Hollywood staying at the Mondrian and Chamberlain hotels.

Highlights included a guided tour of Sea World San Diego, the USS Midway Museum, some wonderful hosted meals and shopping at the Las Americas Outlets in San Diego and Beverly Centre in LA.

The group are **pictured** enjoying a day out at Sea World San Diego getting up close and personal with the dolphins.

From left are Rikki, San Diego Tourism; Tracy Hannam, helloworld Mount Barker; Toni Pope, helloworld Blackwood; Trish Sikarela, Fremantle Travel Services; Angelina Hooper, Viva! Holidays; Penny Brand, Gate 7; Amber Carney, Balgownie World Travel; Kath Fowler, Camden Travel and Cruise; Adam Joseph, Viva! Holidays; Rachel Xiberras helloworld Richmond; Jeanette Dickson, TravelManagers; Georgia Best, Panorama Cruise & Travel; Di Yates, TravelManagers; Maree Oxford, TravelManagers; Ness Mikutta, Naracoorte Travel 'n' Cruise and Vicki Burgess, Travel Menai Metro.

## Railbookers freebie

**ALL** new Eastern & Oriental Express bookings made with Railbookers by 15 Jan will receive a free nights accommodation in Singapore and Bangkok.

The promotion applies to 2016 departures on the two-night rail journey, based on stays at the Regent Singapore and the Siam Kempinski Bangkok.

Prices start at \$3,094 per person - to book, phone 1300 938 534.

## Mövenpick additions

**MÖVENPICK** Hotels & Resorts will open two new properties in Malaysia and Vietnam in 2018.

The Swiss hospitality firm has signed a deal to manage the 30 storey Mövenpick Hotel Kota Bharu, a 453-key 5-star resort in Kelantan; taking the group's portfolio in Malaysia to three.

Mövenpick Resort Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam - the hotelier's 4th property in the country - will be a beach front resort located in Khanh Hoa Province with 250 rooms, 200 residence and villas.

## Ladies only beach

**LUXURY** hotel group Anantara has announced the debut of a 'Ladies Only' beach at Sir Bani Yas Island in Abu Dhabi.

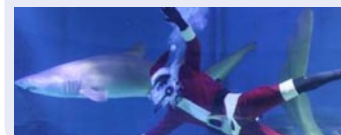
The private beach facility is available from 1100-1600 for groups of eight and is attended entirely by female staff, offering beach towels, shade parasols and a private female beach butler.

## Window Seat

**SANTA** paid a special visit to his aquatic friends at the SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium yesterday, donning goggles and flippers as he dived into the 2.2 million litre Oceanarium.

Visitors watched in awe as Santa flitted effortlessly through thousands of colourful fish, sharks and rays.

"The fishy residents of the Oceanarium and aquarium have been on their best behaviour this week as they heard Santa was coming in to check off his naughty and nice list," commented SEA LIFE's exhibit manager, Tereza Todd.



## New SureSave bdms

**SURESAVE** has announced the appointment of two new business development managers for NSW/ACT and Queensland.

Steve Jacobsen and Bec Brown bring years of trade experience to the role, with Jacobsen previously holding sales and management positions at World Aviation Systems, Singapore Airlines and Air France, while Brown worked as assistant manager at Flight Centre and most recently as bdm for Cox & Kings Australia.

## Canada Corroboree 2016



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**Forster/Tuncurry/Taree Region: Tue 29 Dec**  
**Sunshine Coast Region: Thu 7 Jan**  
**Toowoomba Region: Wed 13 Jan**

Future Appointments: Sydney, Melbourne & Adelaide



## Indonesia advisory

DFAT is warning travellers to exercise "a high degree of caution" in Indonesia following the arrest of suspected terrorists in Central and East Java.

## Here comes Santa Claus!



**ABOVE:** Sent in by Flight Centre's Ben Simpson, this entry depicts a very generous Santa tossing out a bunch of presents from Air Canada's all-new

Dreamliner aircraft.

For your chance to win a round trip for two to Canada, check out the details **below** and send us your very own festive picture!



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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## Accommodation Updates

**WELCOME** to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to [accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



Thailand's **Phuket Orchid Resort and Spa** has unveiled a giant water slide in the centre of the resort. Named the "Giant Slippery Slip" the slide stands at 12-metres high and is accompanied by a second tier slide at 7.5 metres in height for younger children.



**InterContinental Singapore** has revamped its dining offering, by introducing Ash & Elm, a vibrant new European dining concept situated at the hotel's ground floor. Highlights of the new menu include: sharing platters, house-cured and premium meats, and sustainably sourced seafood - all primed with traditional classic wood-fired ovens and charcoal grill.



**Pan Pacific Perth** is welcoming guests into its newly refurbished lobby. Upon arrival, guests will be greeted by a Pacific Ambassador, who will assist with bags and check-in enquiries as well as provide advice on hotel facilities and local attractions.

## AMS new 9W gateway

**JET Airways** has announced daily non-stop services between India and the Netherlands, the airline's new European gateway.

Taking effect from 27 Mar, the two flights will depart its home hubs in Mumbai and New Delhi and fly to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, allowing for quick and convenient connections with its daily flight from Toronto to Amsterdam.

Jet Airways will codeshare to 30 destinations for travel between India and Europe, under its new agreement with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Delta Air Lines.

## Starwood Promotion

**STARWOOD** Hotels & Resorts is offering guests up to 50% off across numerous locations in its portfolio plus 1,000 StarPoints, as part of its Pacific Paradise Sale, commencing 11 Jan.

The deal is valid for travel between 11 Jan to 30 Mar, with bookings made prior to 07 Feb.

For more info or to book visit [asiapacific.starwoodoffers.com](http://asiapacific.starwoodoffers.com).

## Mongolia Embassy

**A NEW** Australian Embassy has opened in Mongolia with John Langtry posted as our first resident ambassador to the country, based in Ulaanbaatar.

The Embassy will better serve more than 50 Australian firms currently undertaking business in Mongolia, Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop said yesterday.

## Hilton dual opening

**HILTON** Worldwide has debuted two new hotels: the DoubleTree by Hilton Kazan City Centre in Russia and the Hilton ZhuZhou in China.

As the first Hilton-branded hotel in China's Hunan province, the ZhuZhou property offers 368-rooms and suites as well as views of the Xiang River.

The Hilton Kazan City Centre hotel sits in a key location for the 2018 FIFA world cup and offers 96-rooms, restaurants and meeting spaces.

Both Hilton locations are now open for business and welcoming its first guests.



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