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Travel Daily

First with the news

Thursday 24th December 2015

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Two pages of news

TODAY'S Christmas Eve issue of *Travel Daily* has three pages of news and photos.

We'd like to wish all readers a happy and safe Christmas.

Like many in the industry, the 'show must go on' and *Travel Daily* will be back publishing all the latest news on Tue 29 Dec.

Drip pricing case

SYDNEY law firm Bannister Law is reportedly looking into a potential class action against Virgin Australia and Jetstar for engaging in "drip pricing".

During the Federal Court case, the judge said a class action over the fees would be unsuccessful, because consumers were aware of them when they paid.

JQ labelled the potential action a stunt from a "law firm attempting to use baseless litigation claims to build their profile".

Hainan restart SYD route

XI'AN-BASED carrier Hainan Airlines resumed services to Sydney today, the 6th new airline to fly to the NSW capital in 2015.

HU's twice weekly service is expected to inject \$26.5 million in annual visitor spend into the state, with Sydney Airport managing director and ceo Kerrie Mather boasting its arrival makes SYD "the world's leading airport for Chinese long-haul carriers".

"Securing another new Chinese airline for Sydney Airport is testament to our continued work with government and industry partners to provide a positive visitor experience and attract more Chinese visitors to Sydney, our fastest growing inbound visitor market," Mather said.

"Hainan Airlines will also provide Sydneysiders with a direct route to the home of the Terracotta Warriors in China,"

Mather remarked.

Flights are operated with Airbus A330-200 aircraft, configured with 36 Business class and 186 Economy class seats.

For Aussie travellers, the carrier offers new one-stop options to Rome and Paris, via Xi'an.

NSW Minister for Trade, Tourism & Major Events Stuart Ayres said the touch down of Hainan Airlines in Australia was a "huge coup" for New South Wales.

"We are delighted to welcome another international airline to Sydney, bringing even more visitors to our fantastic city and surrounding NSW regions this summer," Ayers said.

HU's arrival in Sydney coincides with the Lunar New Year period.

Phillip Is attraction

WWF-AUSTRALIA and Phillip Island Nature Parks have launched an 'Antarctic Journey' attraction at Phillip Island.

The exhibit is located at the Nobbies Centre and has an 'augmented reality' area where visitors stand on ice in a virtual reality Antarctic environment and 'interact' with wildlife.

Rex WA flts on sale

BOOKINGS have today opened on Regional Express' new routes between Perth and Esperance & Perth and Albany, which take flight from Sun 28 Feb.

Fiji Airways to SFO

NEW seasonal services linking Fiji directly with the US West Coast are set to be introduced by Fiji Airways next year.

FJ today announced it will offer new twice weekly services from Nadi to San Francisco, operating in peak travel months of Jun, Jul & Aug and during the northern winter, in Dec and Jan 2017.

"This new service is in line with our network expansion targets and gives us further reach into North America," said managing director Andre Viljoen.

"The seasonal flying takes into account common vacation trends out of the United States.

FJ already operates to Honolulu and Los Angeles in the USA.

Flights FJ870/871 will operate using Airbus A330-200s on Thu and Sun.

Launch return Economy class fares ex Nadi on the route go on sale tomorrow priced at F\$1,999.

ATDW content freeze

TRAVEL and tourism businesses listed on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse will experience a content freeze for two weeks in preparation for the transition to ATDW-online.

The freeze will occur from 31 Jan to 15 Feb, preventing any new listing from being created or existing listing being edited.

Companies are informed they can contact the ATDW to make adjustments before the freeze.

More at www.atdw.com.au.

Travel Daily takes flight



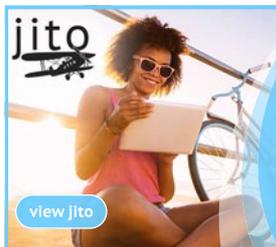
THE team from *Travel Daily Group* soared to new heights at the Christmas party recently - in a flight simulator at Sydney's Flight Experience.

The stakes were high, with a couple of electrical storms, cockpit break-ins, a snow storm & failed engines bestowed upon by management, the team has decided to leave flying to pilots.

Luckily for us, the simulator flew on, despite a lost wing and multiple crash landings.

The **TD Group** are pictured and include (from left) Sarah Piper, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Christian Schweitzer, Sean Harrigan, Bonnie Tai, Rowena Rogers, Nathalie Craig, Jenny Piper, Mal Smith, Lisa Martin, Bruce Piper, Magda Herdzik and Guy Dundas.

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BREAKAWAY American Airlines
International Travel Industry Club

NEW! American Airlines Industry Rates to Los Angeles!
Sales to 29Jan16
From **\$620*** pp. plus taxes
* Conditions Apply.

CLICK HERE for further details

Visit USA tip winner

CONGRATS to TravelManagers' Michelle Levins from Forest Hill, Victoria who has been named as the winner of Visit USA's recent Travel Tips competition.

The comp helped promote the suite of travel selling tips offered to Australian travel agents on the visitusa.org.au website, as well as the training modules available.

For her efforts, Levin won \$500 prize money.

Her tip was: *When planning your holiday to the USA, check out what sporting events and music gigs are happening in the cities you are visiting, adjust your itinerary accordingly and GO! There's nothing like immersing yourself in sporting and music culture to get a real feel of USA.*

Air France CDG-GLA

AIR France has scheduled new daily flights between Paris Charles de Gaulle and Glasgow for the 2016 summer season, commencing 27 Mar.

The service will be operated using Airbus A318s with a capacity of 131 seats.

Flights will depart CDG at 0730 and touch down in GLA at 0815.

The return service leave GLA at 0900 and arrives at CDG at 1150.

HBA nod for Asia routes

APPROVAL by the Turnbull Government for Hobart Airport's 20 year Master Plan paves the way for the Tasmanian capital to pitch for direct flights from Asia.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss rubber stamped HBA's long term strategy yesterday, saying the plan addresses forecast pax growth and facilitates a tipped rise in international markets.

Under the plan, the Australian government will chip in \$38 million for the proposed 500 metre runway extension.

"The runway extension will further build on Hobart and Australia's ability to support our Antarctic operations.

"It will also provide new opportunities for direct int'l

flights to South-East Asia, creating opportunities for the growth of both tourism markets and freight exports," Truss said.

Hobart Airport is required to make its Master Plan available to the public within 50 days.

MEANWHILE, the government has also given a green light for Camden Airport's 2015 Master Plan to support the long term sustainability of the aviation industry in the Sydney Basin.

Plans include a proposal to relocate the Australian Aviation Museum from Bankstown Airport to Camden Airport within 5 years.

Pacific Resort refurb

PACIFIC Resort Hotel Group has advised Pacific Resort Rarotonga will undergo three renovation projects from 15 Jan-31 Mar.

The Beachfront Villa will be fully refurbished and a third bedroom added 12 Jan-31 Mar and the hotel pool will be closed between 25 Jan-29 Feb.

The a la carte kitchen will close 07 Feb-15 Feb for resurfacing.

Auckland Airport cfo

AUCKLAND Airport has formally promoted Phil Neutz to chief financial officer.

Neutz has been acting in the role since Aug and joined Auckland Airport in Mar 2010 as head of Business Intelligence.

New Sheraton Phuket

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts Worldwide has announced plans to expand the Sheraton brand in Thailand with a new opening earmarked for Jan 2019.

The Sheraton Grand Bay Resort, Phuket has 200-rooms, a private beachfront and unobstructed views of the Andaman Sea.

Its development is in line with Starwood's goal of boosting the Sheraton portfolio by 150 hotels in the next five years.



Window Seat

A BLACK bear hitchhiked over 100 kilometres in central California earlier this week after crawling inside a trash compactor.

Officials believe the bear climbed aboard in the Hume Lake and enjoyed a hefty feed and a nap.

When it was satisfied, the bear climbed out of the disposal truck - much to the driver's surprise - and ran loose around a disposal site.

Police and California Department of Fish and Wildlife employees arrived on the scene and tranquilised and captured the animal shortly after.

Neither the bear nor any people were injured in the ordeal and the bear is being returned to Hume Lake.

Noumea hotel rejig

RAMADA Plaza Noumea has rebranded as Ramada Hotel and Suites Noumea as part of a \$1.3 million revitalisation to help the hotel appeal to guests from Australia and New Zealand.

The hotel's rooms will receive new bedding and carpet and a new spa and sports bar will open.

Treasure Is heli crash

A GROUP of tourists were lucky to escape serious injury when a helicopter they were aboard crash landed at the popular Treasure Island Resort in Fiji.



Yesterday's incident occurred as the Island Hoppers Eurocopter was attempting to land before a gust of strong wind caused the helicopter to clip two trees and crash near the resort's pool.

An elderly Australian couple were among the six pax onboard.

Aeromexico adds YVR

AEROMEXICO's has this month inaugurated non-stop flights between Mexico City & Vancouver.

The daily service will be operated using Boeing 737-700s.

Agents indulge on Sentosa Island

THIS group of incentive winners kicked back at the luxurious Capella Resort on Sentosa island for two nights on Consolidated Travel's recent Premium Singapore Airlines and Capella trip.



Stacks & sacks of Air Canada photo comp entries!

Thursday 24th Dec 2015

BELOW: The entry from Nancy Smith, helloworld Cootamundra.



ABOVE: Narelle Seear from helloworld Nerang sent through this clever creation.

BELOW: Travel Counsellors' Lara Burgermeister is ready to board her AC flight with her entry.

WITH Santa Claus coming to town, *TD* thought it was a great opportunity to showcase some of the latest entries received in our monthly competition in which Air Canada is giving away two tickets to Canada - entry details **below**.



BELOW: Luxury Escapes' Tiana Newman sent us this cool entry.



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 **AIR CANADA** 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 before 31 Dec!

Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication. Produced each weekday since 1994, the newsletter is first with the latest industry news and is available by paid subscription to people within the travel industry - sign up at www.traveldaily.com.au.

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