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Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 30th December 2015



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Hawaii visits strong

HAWAII Tourism Oceania says it remains on track of achieving a record breaking number of Aussies in a calendar year, with Nov data out today showing a 4.2% year-on-year increase.

Figures released by Hawaii Tourism show 24,517 Australian travellers entered Hawaii in Nov.

For the year-to-date, arrivals are up 9.8% to 308,175.

The increase coincides with an 8.2% boost in schedules air seats to Hawaii from the Oceania region, which included a near doubling of capacity out of Brisbane and a 10.6% jump in services from Melbourne.

Preliminary statistics from Hawaii Tourism indicate Nov 2015 was the busiest for the month in history, with over 661,350 visitors - up 3.7% on last year.

Cruise ship passengers numbers continue to fall, with figures showing a 56.4% slide in Nov.

4th FJ A330 delivered

FIJI Airways has welcomed its fourth Airbus A330 to its fleet.

The new dual-class A330-300 is larger than FJ's existing fleet of A330-200s and offers 24 Business & 289 Economy class seats.

Scheduled to operate on the Los Angeles & Hong Kong routes, the new jet has been named 'Island of Rotuma' and features a new 'Quiet Zone' in Economy class.

Fiji Airways intends on inducting its latest aircraft into commercial service in early Jan.

Uber in its Aussie infancy

GLOBAL car sharing service Uber has lashed out ihail Pty Ltd's revised submission to the ACCC as it continues to push to gain approval for the ihail app.

ihail is a proposed joint venture between a collective of taxi firms and other operators within the taxi market that plan to develop new technology for "hailing and directing taxi cabs".

In Oct, the ACCC said in a Draft Determination it planned to deny authorisation of the deal, which saw ihail respond last month by making multiple changes to the arrangement to sway approval.

In a follow up submission to the ACCC lodged this month, Uber declared it is was just a minnow in the Australian market, saying it recently celebrated only its 10 millionth uberX ride since rolling out compared to the 227,208,000 taxi trips taken in 2014 (excluding Tasmania and Western Australia).

"Uber is growing rapidly. However, in Australia Uber is still in the very early stages of establishing its service.

"It is far smaller than the taxi industry and Uber driver partners offer more limited services (eg: pre-bookings only) in far fewer Australian locations".

Uber told the competition watchdog it is "incorrect" for ihail to "paint Uber as anything close to a competitor of the scale that would be necessary to constrain a network the size of ihail's".

The company also forecast third party point-to-point transport apps will continue to grow.

"This growth will be stalled significantly if taxi operators are permitted to leverage their market power in an anti-competitive way to jointly provide a national service with instant access to a driver network of a scale that Uber and other point-to-point transport applications could only hope to achieve after years of hard fought competitive business through innovation and responding to consumer needs."

Uber argued the changes proposed by ihail to rework its app to appease the regulator "in no way address the network issues raised by the ACCC".

"In particular, the Proposed Amendments do not change the corporate structure of ihail.

"This means that from launch ihail will still have access to by far the largest driver network of any point-to-point transport app operating in Australia."

"Those changes tidy around the edges of the core issue associated with the ihail joint venture," Uber said in its seven-page submission.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has four pages of news and photos, plus Part 1 of our **Year in Review** in which we look at the major stories of the past 12 months.

RAC Midland debuts

RAC Travel has announced the opening of the retail travel firm's third standalone travel and cruise store and seventh travel centre in the Perth metropolitan area.

Located within the Midland Gate Shopping Centre in the WA capital's eastern suburbs, RAC Travel & Cruise Midland is managed by RAC Travel Supervisor Robert Andrews.

Andrews has been at RAC Travel West Perth for the past 4 years.

"While other travel businesses are closing down or going online, RAC Travel remains committed to serving our members and providing great customer service at a convenient location," said RAC executive manager travel & tourism Michael Leary.

AC 787s BNE to EWR

AIR Canada will deploy Boeing 787-8 *Dreamliner* aircraft on its Vancouver-Newark service by mid-year, replacing Airbus A319s.

According to Air Canada's website, the aircraft change will take effect (ex YVR) on 17 Jun.

The move provides pax boarding a flight in Brisbane on the airline's new BNE-YVR flight AC036 with a seamless connection on the same aircraft through to AC's New York hub, and on the return journey connecting with flight AC035.

MEANWHILE, AC's fourth 787-9 *Dreamliner* has entered service this month, with a further eight of the aircraft variant to be delivered by the end of May.

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CZ/VX codeshare pact

VIRGIN America has confirmed a new codeshare agreement with China Southern Airlines on flights between China, Southeast Asia and a number of VX destinations across the United States.

The Guangzhou-based carrier will add its two letter designator code 'CZ' to Virgin America's flights ex San Francisco and Los Angeles to points including Boston, Chicago, Dallas Love Field, Fort Lauderdale, Las Vegas, Newark, New York JFK, Seattle, San Diego and Washington DC, bookable effective immediately.

MEANWHILE, China Southern has announced it will increase its long-haul aircraft fleet through the purchase of 10 Airbus A330-300 aircraft, to be delivered between 2017 and 2019.

Nauru/Solomon Air co-op

A NEW agreement between Nauru Airlines & Solomon Airlines will provide travellers seamless connections on 'same plane' services to the northern Pacific.

Coming online effective 01 Jan, Nauru Airlines northbound flights operating via Honiara every Fri will provide easier access to Nauru, Tarawara, Majuro, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Chuuk.

The return journey will operate every Sun with the same inter-island connections.

Nauru Airlines ceo Geoffrey Bowmaker said the co-operation with Solomon Airlines offers "immense benefit" for both passengers and cargo.

"Travellers around the north and central Pacific will benefit

greatly by these new, direct links between the Solomon Islands, Nauru, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia," Bowmaker said.

Flights on the new route are operated on a Boeing 737-800. See www.ourairline.com.au.

HA seeks QF/AA info

SENIOR vice president, general counsel & corporate secretary for Hawaiian Airlines Hoyt Zia has sought a confidentiality affidavit to attain further info on the alliance between American Airlines and Qantas.

Lawyers representing Zia told the US Dept of Transportation that the HA executive needs to "examine certain information" in the proceeding which may be deemed confidential.

The request follows the recent submission by AA/QF to the DOT in which the Trans Pacific allies provided further info on the scope of their pact (**TD** 22 Dec).

Hawaiian Airlines previously argued a range of characteristics of the AA/QF alliance with the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission in Jul.

At the time, HA said immunised joint ventures reduce competitive benefits of independent carriers, also urging the ACCC to place conditions on the alliance so QF could enter into commercial agreements with other airlines including Hawaiian Airlines.



Window Seat

FORGET the 'high seas', now you can tie the knot on the 'low seas' in the Maldives.

This month, the luxurious Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru opened a wedding pavilion on the island's tip, perched on pillars over the Indian Ocean (**pictured**).

The chapel-like venue features a glass-bottomed aisle so brides and grooms can spot sea life such as fish & turtles as they exchange vows in an idyllic setting - **CLICK HERE** for more.



Semara Beach House

THE seven-bedroom Villa Gaja Putih in Bali operated by Semara Resorts Group has rebranded as Semara Beach House.

The property is one of few absolute beachfront properties in the Canggu/Seminyak precinct, at Pantai Berawa (Berawa Beach).

To celebrate the name change, Semara is offering rates priced from US\$1,980 per night (plus taxes) for stays until Mar 2017.

Hello Tomorrow



E-Commerce Manager

Tomorrow, you could be helping to create the future of air travel.

Emirates, the international airline with one of the youngest fleets in the sky and winner of more than 400 awards for excellence worldwide is seeking an experienced E-Commerce Manager.

Based in our national head office in Sydney, this position will see the successful applicant responsible for Emirates E-Commerce (Emirates.com and OTA) revenue streams, strategy and online activities across Australia and New Zealand Markets.

The successful candidate must be able to:

- Implement and manage E-Commerce sales channels and strategies for Emirates.com and online travel agents.
- Achieve sales / revenue targets and marketing goals in the region.
- Promote the development and implementation of an online pricing strategy and market specific strategy to achieve online sales targets for AU/NZ.
- Expand and manage local OTA Commercial relationships.

Interested applicants must have:

- Completed a degree, preferably in marketing with an emphasis on strategic marketing, planning & analysis.
- Extensive experience in the E-Commerce environment, at a senior level.
- A robust understanding of internet, E-Commerce, technology, direct sales and marketing.

For further details, and online application process, please visit our website www.emiratesgroupcareers.com Ref no: 150002SP.

Please note: Telephone and postal applications will not be entertained.

Applications close Tuesday 12th January 2016.

Only candidates that meet the minimum requirements will be considered and contacted.

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Dubai Taj Mahal work

CONSTRUCTION is expected to commence next year on a replica of the Taj Mahal in Dubai which will be twice the size of the original mausoleum in India.

The project is part of the Taj Arabia precinct which will be built over 20 acres in Falcon City of Wonders in the Dubailand entertainment zone.

Slated to open in 2018, Taj Arabia will also include a 400-450 key 5-star hotel, 300 residential and serviced apartments, retail outlets and more, *Emirates* 24/7 reported this week.

Japan rail passes

INTERNATIONAL Rail is urging agents to remind clients bound for the Japanese ski slopes this winter that the Japan Rail Pass available for international guests can only be purchased prior to entering the country.

The Melbourne-based company has a range of passes which can be used on the Tokyo metro network, as well as to popular ski regions including Nagano, Niigata, Sendai, Morioka, Misawa & Akita.

A five-day flexi travel pass to be used over 14 days is priced from \$271 - call 1300 387 245.

One day left to enter AC comp!



ABOVE and below: There's still one more day for **Travel Daily** readers to enter our exclusive Air Canada photo competition to win a trip for two to Canada.

Tania Mansell from FCm Travel Solutions in Queensland sent us

in a collage of images including this pic of herself on Santa's lap, with friend Lindsay Johnson.

Kerri Cottell from helloworld Nerang sent in the below creation.

For full details on the comp and how to enter, see **page four**.

RAIL EUROPE

Marketing & Administrative Executive (Full Time - Sydney based)

Reporting directly to the Rail Europe Manager Australasia, our ideal candidate will be passionate about working in travel, a team player but also self-motivated and happy to work independently.

As we are a global company candidates must also be flexible with working hours to cater for possible conference calls with our New York or Paris office.

The role will assist in the evolution & execution of key sales & marketing plans for our office & in conjunction with our GSAs across Australia & New Zealand.

Duties may include; database management, co-ordination & communication of new product & campaigns with our external PR company, co-ordination and planning of events, famils and promotional activities as well as monthly management of all office administrative duties.

As part of this role the successful candidate will also manage Rail Europe's English Speaking Social Media Platforms.

The role is a varied one and each day will be different, therefore candidates must be highly organised, able to manage priorities and take initiative.

We are looking for someone with the following experience:

- ▶ 1+ year working within a defined sales & marketing role, OR
- ▶ 2+ years working in another role within the Travel Industry.
- ▶ Experience with social media platforms is preferred, but not essential.
- ▶ Highly developed computing skills including Microsoft office programs, particularly Excel. Basic design skills also beneficial.
- ▶ Previous use of Salesforce or other CRM programs an advantage.

To apply please send your resume & cover letter to:
Rail Europe Manager Australasia, Ingrid Kocijan
ingrid.kocijan@raileurope.com.au



AS end of LAX/YVR

ALASKA Airlines appears to be withdrawing its long-running service between Los Angeles and Vancouver, with GDS displays showing the daily service will be terminated from 03 Jan.

TT \$16 return flight

TIGERAIRWAYS is offering a \$16 return home fare on all domestic routes for travel in May and Jun until midday 31 Dec.

Pax need to pay TT's regular fare on the outbound sector.



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Guam events space

THE largest meeting space in the Micronesian country of Guam has opened at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort.

The Guam Convention Centre has over 1,169m² of flexible event space, with the Grand Ballroom able to accommodate up to 1,000 attendees for a seated dinner.

Event organisers have a total of 10 function spaces to choose from which can handle groups of any size.

"We believe we can attract a new type of visitor to Guam and capture some of the MICE market in the region with our world-class convention centre facilities," said Dusit Thani Guam Resort general manager Dean Huntsman.

The hotel features 419 rooms, a Thai-inspired Devarana Spa and will shortly open six private villas.

Eurostar disruptions

STRIKE action by the Belgian Rail Network early next month has seen Eurostar amend its schedules on the Brussels route between London & Lille Europe.

Adjustments will see the cancellation of service 9113, 9116 and 9149 on 06 & 07 Jan and service 9158 on 06 Jan.

Affected booked passengers are being re-accommodated onto alternative Eurostar trains - for more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Arizona travel guide

A MAGAZINE-STYLE travel guide of the 'Grand Canyon State' has been released by the Arizona Office of Tourism.

The 110-page guide features valuable destination information, articles, resorts, attractions, touring details and more.

Travellers can order a copy online of the 2016 Arizona Official State Visitor's Guide online at www.visitarizona.com.

An app version of the brochure is set for release on 23 Feb.



2015: Year in Review

Travel Daily looks back at the year that was, with a review of some of the major travel stories which made headlines during the first six months of the year. See tomorrow's issue of **Travel Daily** for Part 2 of the 2015: Year in Review spanning the period from Jul to Dec.

24 Jan: Boost for China-Australia Air Services Agreement

Australian & Chinese governments ink "landmark" air services agreement to elevate the cap on seats to Australian gateway cities to almost 67,000 each week and unlimited seats to smaller cities.

17 Feb: Goldman to launch home-based SmartFlyer group

Goldman Travel Corporation forges joint venture with New York-based travel agent SmartFlyer to establish home-based network.

26 Feb: Qantas reports \$206 million after tax profit

Qantas achieved its best first half result since 2010, with the airline's international division profitable for the first time since the GFC.

24 Mar: ACCC proposes blocking Qantas, China Eastern alliance

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission questions Qantas' proposed alliance with China Eastern, concerned QF is seeking a joint venture with its primary competitor on flights between Australia and China, particularly on the Sydney-Shanghai route.

15 Apr: Burnes boosts stake in Helloworld

AOT owners Andrew and Cinzia Burnes beef interest in Helloworld to just over 10% d, after a company they control purchased 31 million shares yesterday at a price of 36c each.

15 Apr: Ovation of the Seas to homeport in Sydney

Billed as a "game-changer", Royal Caribbean confirm Quantum-class ship *Ovation of the Seas* will operate a series of local voyages from Sydney over the 2016/17 summer cruise season.

16 Apr: Air New Zealand to fly direct to Houston

Non-stop flights between Auckland and the Texan city of Houston to be launched by Air New Zealand in Dec using Boeing 777-200 aircraft.

15 May: Sabre to acquire Abacus International

Global technology company Sabre acquires 100% of Abacus, taking full control of Sabre Pacific.

26 May: Air Canada Brisbane progress

Travel Daily exclusively reveals plans by Air Canada to launch Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner services between Vancouver and Brisbane.

"We have our 787-8s coming in and Melbourne is probably the best market to access, but Brisbane makes sense from a route perspective and range." Air Canada gm Australia & NZ Paul McLean.

26 May: One million Australian cruisers in 2014

Having achieved 20% growth in Australian cruise passenger numbers (taking the total number of cruisers over the 1 million mark) in 2014, CLIA tips the local market will surpass 2 million within five years.

10 Jun: American Airlines to fly Los Angeles-Sydney, Qantas returning to San Francisco

Trans Pacific allies American Airlines and Qantas reveal plans for AA to operate daily flights between Los Angeles and Sydney and QF to relaunch services from Sydney to San Francisco from late Dec.

26 Jun: Qantas to "review" Jetstar Hong Kong

After another knock back from Hong Kong authorities, Qantas and China Eastern say they will 'review' the Jetstar Hong Kong venture.



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 before 31 Dec!

Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

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