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Travel Daily

First with the news

Thursday 31st December 2015

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Last day for Creative

CREATIVE Holidays will wind up operation today after more than 30 years servicing the trade.

The Travel Corporation's wholesale company confirmed the move earlier this month after an "extensive analysis & a rigorous review of the business model" (**TD** 08 Dec).

Agents logging into the Creative Holidays portal are informed the changes "in no way affect neither Creative Cruising or Adventure World", along with any other company in the TTC portfolio.

As of today, Creative Holidays' social media accounts are still active but have not had new content added since the end of last month/early Dec.

Creative Holidays' Facebook page currently has just under 27,300 followers while its Instagram profile has 3,000+ fans.

A320neo delayed

PLANS to have the first Airbus A320neo (new engine option) in commercial operation by the end of 2015 have been pushed back until early in the new year.

German carrier Lufthansa was expected to receive its first A320neo in recent weeks but said it has agreed to a new 2016 time-frame, in partnership with Airbus and engine maker Pratt & Whitney, the *Wall Street Journal* reported overnight.

Airbus currently has an order backlog of 3,327 A320neos.

P&O Australia newbuild

P&O Cruises Australia is set for a brand new behemoth ship, with Carnival Corporation confirming a seventh vessel for the company.

Revealed overnight in Miami, P&O Cruises Australia's yet-to-be-named ship will have a capacity of a whopping 4,200 passengers - nearly double the line's next largest ship, *Pacific Explorer*, destined to join the fleet in 2017.

Last month, P&O Cruises added two former Holland America Line ships to its fleet, relaunched as *Pacific Aria* and *Pacific Eden*.

The 2,250 *Pacific Explorer* - currently operating as *Dawn Princess* - will be the P&O Cruises Australia's sixth vessel.

Earmarked to enter service in 2019, the brand new 135,500 ton ship is the first ship tailored for the modern Australian market.

At 323m, the 2,100 stateroom ship is billed as a "game change for Australian cruising" & will be based in local waters year-round.

The ship is slated to operate a range of itineraries from three to 10 days duration.

Carnival Australia executive chairman Ann Sherry hailed the

announcement this morning.

"The much anticipated first newbuild cruise ship is a huge vote of confidence in the Australian cruise market with much of the 20 per cent year-on-year passenger growth over the past decade driven by P&O Cruises' dynamic industry leadership," Sherry said.

Recently promoted local P&O Cruises president Sture Myrmell echoed Sherry's sentiment, saying "P&O Cruises is the modern face of Australian cruising and, with such a proud heritage of leadership, it is a natural step to announce that the line will take delivery of its first newbuild ship."

In Miami revealing the news, Carnival Corporation ceo Arnold Donald referred to Australia as "one of the top performing cruise markets in the world."

The P&O Cruises Australia order is one of four ships signed under a memo of agreement by Carnival Corporation with Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri.

Final contracts are expected to be executed in 2016, with the four vessels to be constructed at Fincantieri's shipyards in Monfalcone and Marghera.

Two 135,500 ton newbuild ships are destined to go to Costa Asia for deployment in China, while another 'Royal Princess' class ship will join the Princess Cruises fleet.

The unnamed 143,700 ton Princess vessel will carry 3,560 passengers, with 80% of all stateroom featuring balconies.

"We will deliver on our fleet enhancement plan with the construction of these four new, exciting ships that are consistent with our long-term strategy of measured capacity growth over time," said Carnival Corporation ceo Arnold Donald.

"These ships will be great additions to our fleet that support our goal to exceed guest expectations and create great vacation memories for each guest onboard our ships," Donald said.



Window Seat

WHY did the crab cross the bridge?

If you think the answer is 'to get to the other side', then you're probably right.

According to an *ABC* report, Christmas Island has a problem with crabs, and not the STI type.

Millions of the native *Gecarcoidea natalis* or more commonly known Christmas Island red crab will begin their annual side shuffle from the island's forested areas towards the coast to breed.

A hazardous journey across roadways has seen many a crab pulped under the wheels of cars up until now.

A 5m high bridge has been erected helping these little critters make their journey less perilous and is providing a boost for tourism as visitors gather to watch the crustacean migration.



Emirates pax up 9%

DUBAI-BASED carrier Emirates has announced it has carried over 51.3 million passengers since Jan, a 9% increase compared to the corresponding period in the previous calendar year.

EK president Tim Clark hailed the increase, set against a backdrop of "headwinds of regional conflict, unfavourable currency impact & shaky business and consumer confidence in many global markets".

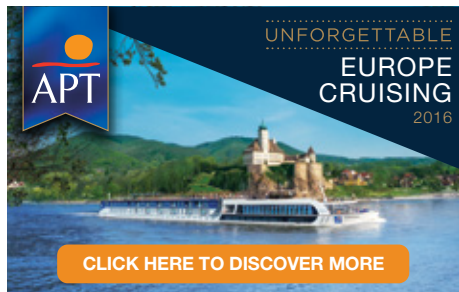
"Emirates has come out strong, as our mindset, combined with our fleet and network strategy has enabled us to absorb shocks and maximise opportunities," Clark said overnight in Dubai.

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EY/AB c'share knock back

ETIHAD Airways is set to appeal a judgement by a German court which has denied the Abu Dhabi-based carrier permission to codeshare with Air Berlin on flights from 16 Jan to 26 Mar.

Yesterday's decision by the court means that EY cannot continue to codeshare on 31 of its 83 routes with Air Berlin over the remaining winter schedule.

Earlier this year, the German government reversed a previously agreed codeshare deal between Etihad and Air Berlin, ruling the pact was not bound by bilateral air services agreements with the United Arab Emirates.

Etihad has a major interest in the Berlin-based airline, holding a 29.2% stake in the business.

The Gulf carrier said it was "deeply disappointed" by the decision and would file an appeal on the decision next week.

"The social and economic damage to Germany by this decision is significant.

"The withdrawal of approval for codeshare services on 29 routes materially reduces competition and consumer choice within and beyond Germany and causes inconvenience to passengers," Etihad said in a statement.

"Notwithstanding, we will continue to stand by our partner, airberlin, to promote competition and offer a superior product and travel experience.

"We will continue to honour all booked itineraries," EY added.

Aussies in the Namibian brush



THREE Australian and three US travel agents recently visited Namibia with Giltedge Travel, visiting the Etosha Pan - part of the Kalahari Basin in the north of

GoHawaii.com rejig

THE Hawaii Tourism Authority has issued a request for proposal (RFP) for the redesign of its global GoHawaii.com websites.

HTA said it plans to relaunch the first phase of the new portal by 26 Sep 2016.

For more details of the RFP, see www.hawaiitourismauthority.org.

the African country.

The familsaw the troupe visit the Africat Foundation - an organisation focused on the long term conservation of wild animals in Namibia.

Protection of the environment is part of the Namibian Constitution and 40% of the country is under conservation.

The Aussie contingent of agents on the trip included Ros Hakim from World Travel Professionals and Jacqui Keating from Plan B (pictured left) and Nikki Diamond from FBI Travel (back, far right).



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 second half of 2015.

02 Jul: Amadeus to acquire Navitaire

Travel tech company Amadeus buys Navitaire for US\$830 million.

03 Jul: Qantas to pay \$90 million in staff bonuses

Up to 28,000 Qantas staff learn they will receive a bonus as a one-off reward for their support through QF's transformation program.

03 Jul: Intrepid splits from TUI

Intrepid Travel and TUI Group end PEAK Adventure Travel Group strategic venture after four years.

09 Jul: Air Canada non-stop Vancouver-Brisbane

New non-stop services linking Brisbane with Vancouver confirmed by Air Canada for launch in mid-2016 utilising Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners.

24 Jul: New ceo for The Travel Corporation in Australia

Flight Centre managing director of Corporate Division named as new ceo of The Travel Corporation Australia, with former boss John Weeks moving to the role of non-executive Chairman of TTC Australia.

31 Jul: ACCC price fixing judgement against Flight Centre overturned

Federal Court overturns ruling that Flight Centre breached the Trade Practices Act by putting pressure on airlines to ensure price parity. ACCC forced to repay \$11m fine, plus interest and court costs.

07 Aug: Tigerair Australia heading offshore

Virgin Australia launch low-cost flights to Bali from Adelaide, Perth & Melbourne through Tigerair Australia, replacing VA operated routes.

20 Aug: Qantas orders eight Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft

Reporting a \$789 million statutory profit for the 2014/15 FY, Qantas reveals it has ordered a fleet of 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft to enter service between 2017-2019. QF writes off Jetstar Hong Kong venture.

21 Aug: ACCC approves Qantas-China Eastern tie-up

Qantas gets the green light for new Australia-China venture with China Eastern Airlines for a term of five years.

31 Aug: ACCC appeals Flight Centre judgement

Flight Centre vows to "vigorously defend" the ACCC's move to seek special leave of the High Court to contest the Federal Court's decision to overturn alleged Trade Practice Act breaches with airlines.

23 Nov: Burnes to lead Helloworld

AOT co-founders Andrew and Cinzia Burnes agree to merger terms with Helloworld which will see the couple become ceo and executive directors of HLO respectively, pending approval by shareholders at an Extraordinary General Meeting in Jan.

08 Dec: Creative Holidays closes

The Travel Corporation confirm the "difficult decision" to close wholesale company Creative Holidays, effective 31 Dec.

16 Dec: Flight Centre targets Youth, Students

Boston-based travel firm Student Universe acquired by Flight Centre.

21 Dec: FCTG takes BYOJet stake

Flight Centre Travel Grp buys 70% stake in Aussie firm BYOJet.com.

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The things agents will do to win AC tickets?!

TRAVEL Daily's has been blown away by the variety of submissions we've received so far in our exclusive Air Canada comp, it would be remiss of us to not showcase some of the latest entries. Pictured here and on **page 4** are just some of the recent 'works of art' we have received, with all entrants now in the running to win return tickets for two to Canada, flying with Air Canada. For more details on how to enter - you have until close of business today, so there is still time - please refer to the competition box on the following page.



Due to the sheer volume of entries, **Travel Daily** will also be running more photos next week.

RIGHT: Natalie Blackmore from Cruisabout Garden City decked her Christmas tree out with **Travel Daily** tags & Air Canada maple leaf ornaments.

LEFT: Alex Lee from Travel & Cruise Bright got the props out for this entry, "Santa landed in Bright, Victoria on Christmas Day looking for a way back to the snow so he could find his reindeers and go for a ski. He found Frankie & Alfie the 'French Canadian' bulldogs to guide him, but ultimately needs an Air Canada flight to show him the way!"



ABOVE: Rebecca Whittington from Mudgee Travel & Cruise sent through this entry of Santa skiing in Whistler and surfing in Bondi.



ABOVE: The entry from Helloworld Bassendean's Nicola Clarke.

RIGHT: The jury (at **Travel Daily**) is still out on deciding if the entry from Kylie Fidler at Trans World Travel made the naughty or nice list?



Lots more Air Canada competition entries!



ABOVE: Ann Hobbs from italktravel Kununurra got creative with this inflated submission.

RIGHT: The entry from Cheryl Ryan at 123Travel was uplifting.



LEFT: Chelsea Kappeler from Abercrombie & Kent and Todd Rogerson from STA Travel gifted us with this masterpiece.

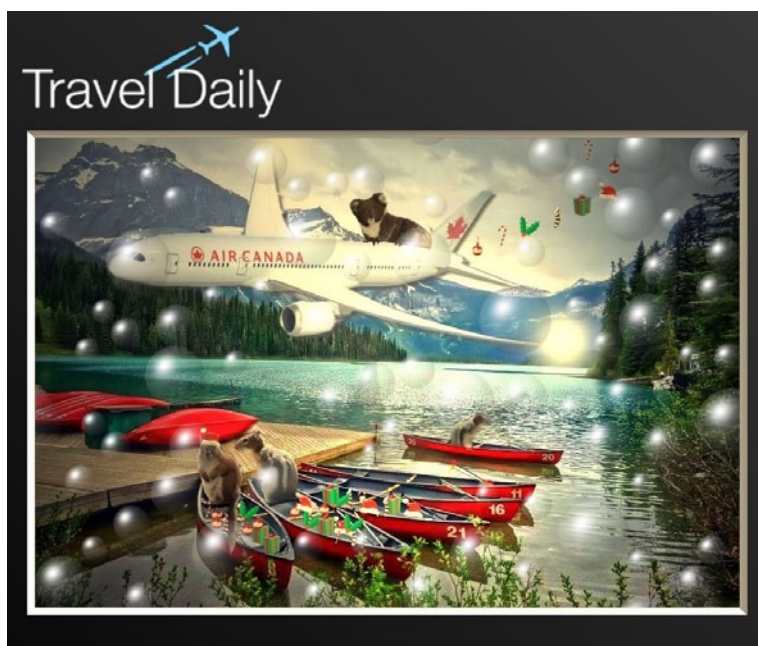


ABOVE: An entry from Siobhan Vetier from Cruiseabout at Ashgrove.

PICTURED here are other entries we have received in the Air Canada competition, which closes today.

For all the details on how to enter, see the **bottom** of this page.

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ABOVE: "Air Canada making dreams come true for everyday Aussies." - **Travel Daily** went wild for about entry from Karen Johnson, helloworld Toronto featuring natives from Canada & Australia - a koala and squirrels.



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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