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Wednesday 7th January 2015

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## QF, CX rated safest airlines

QANTAS has been bestowed with the title of the world's safest airline for 2015, as scored by Australia's safety and product rating website AirlineRatings.com.

Joining Qantas in the firm's top 10 safest carriers (not in order) is Air New Zealand, Cathay Pacific Airways, British Airways, Emirates, Etihad Airways, EVA Air, Finnair, Lufthansa and Singapore Airlines.

The results were based on AirlineRatings.com's analysis of factors related to audits from the FAA and ICAO, in addition to govt audits and airline fatality records.

AirlineRatings.com, which was born in Jun 2013, said the year was no doubt a "bad year for airline safety with some of the most tragic and bizarre incidents in modern history" - referring to the disappearance of MH370 and shooting down of MH17 - but said figures can be misleading.

"Certainly 21 fatal accidents

with 986 fatalities - higher than the 10-year average - is sickening.

"However, the world's airlines carried a record 3.3 billion passengers on 27 million flights," the website stated.

The annual ranking comes the same day Germany's Jet Airliner Crash Data Evaluation Centre (JACDEC) released preliminary data from its own Airline Safety Ranking for 2015.

JACDEC has published "comprehensive safety analysis" for the past three years, saying the death toll on commercial air transport last year soared by nearly four times that of 2013.

It said in terms of safety records, Cathay Pacific was at the top of its list, followed (in order) by Emirates, EVA Air, Air Canada, KLM, Air New Zealand and then Qantas in seventh place.

"Although flying remains the safest way of travelling, 2014 marks an untypically [sic] year compared to a series of years with falling numbers of victims," JACDEC's Jan Arwed Richter said.

Almost half of 2014's fatalities were in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Five pages of news**

Travel Daily today has five pages of news & photos, plus a full page from: (click):

- AA Appointments jobs

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## Q6 administrators

**BENTLEY** Chartered Accountants has been appointed as Joint & Several Administrators for regional carrier Skytrans Airline following the airline's demise late last week (**TD** Mon).

Administrators William John Fletcher and Tracy Lee Knight will handle the carrier's liquidation, taking over from Skytrans (Q6) former managing director Simon Wild who has stepped down.

Separately, Wild said in a statement that Rex Aviation was keen to speak with former staff about potential job opportunities in previously serviced areas and that West Wing Aviation had already recruited two ex-staffers.

Rex said it will seek clearance from CASA to begin operating on some of the abandoned routes within six weeks.

## SYD wants PMC reduced

**THE** Productivity Commission's research project on Australia's International Tourism Industry has seen the "over-collection" of the Passenger Movement Charge come under fresh scrutiny.

Sydney Airport ceo Kerrie Mather told the Commission the current flat \$55 levy should be reduced on short-haul markets which are particularly impacted by the PMC.

Mather said on some Tasman fares, the PMC accounts for more than 30% of the total ticket cost.

"This is particularly damaging for trans-Tasman travel and prevents future growth in the already mature New Zealand market.

"In order to stimulate further growth in short-haul travel, Sydney Airport recommends reducing the PMC on short-haul markets where demand growth would be constrained by the proportionally high charge," the Sydney Airport chief said.

She said since its initial roll out in 1991 as a cost recovery levy for border protection facilitation services, the PMC has risen seven times in 14 years.

Mather said the PMC has gradually morphed into a revenue

raising tool for government", adding the tourism industry was one of the top industries to suffer.

"The tourism & aviation sectors have often been a target for general government revenue raising," Mather commented.

Increased visitation charges suppress visitor demand, moreso for leisure travellers, she said.

"The imposition of travel related taxation, whether they are classified as fees, charges or other levies, erodes Australia's competitiveness in the global tourism market," she warned.

In 2013, the PMC raised over \$908 million while expenditure on passenger facilitation was less than \$230 million.

Mather said Sydney Airport strongly recommends returning the PMC to a "hypothecated cost recovery regime" - a combination of either reducing the PMC or boosting border facilitation spend to the amount collected.

SYD welcomes a progressive reduction of the PMC over time that "accurately reflect the Passenger Movement Charge amount," Mather commented.

## Emerald Princess heading down under

**PRINCESS** Cruises revealed today it will crank up capacity in Australian waters in late 2016, with the 3,082-guest *Emerald Princess* to be based in Sydney to Apr 2017(CW Breaking News).

While full itinerary details are yet to be confirmed, the seven-year old ship will operate a series of sailings to New Zealand, Australia and the South Pacific.

"With three ships cruising our waters full time and two mega-liners visiting for the summer, the 2016 season will offer more exciting options for Australian & New Zealand cruisers," Princess Cruises exec Stuart Allison said.

Further details in tomorrow's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

## AIME visitor regos

**VISITOR** registrations for AIME (Asia-Pacific Incentives & Meetings Expo) 2015 have now opened.

Keynote speakers at the 24-25 Feb show include Ita Buttrose, Mike Munro and Mark Bouris.

**CLICK HERE** to pre-register.

## PPHG 50% agent rate

**PAN** Pacific Hotels Group is celebrating Singapore's 50th anniversary of independence with the trade, offering a 50% discount to IATA-registered travel agents at its five hotels in the Lion City.

The special is based on the Best Available Rate and provides a free upgrade to the next room category (subject to availability).

Details at [panpacific.com/offers](http://panpacific.com/offers) and [parkroyalhotels.com/offers](http://parkroyalhotels.com/offers).

## Morris joins OETG

**FORMER** China Southern senior advisor of business development Derek Morris has been appointed by Orient Express Group to the newly created role of regional mgr NSW/Qld, effective 12 Jan.

The position was born due to strong business growth in NSW, ACT and Qld, OETG said.

Morris' previous executive experience includes a 17 year career at Cathay Pacific in senior sales and marketing positions.

## New HK Disney Lodge

**AN OFFICIAL** groundbreaking ceremony for the Disney Explorers Lodge at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort was held earlier this week.

The new 750-room hotel (**TD** 14 Jul) will be the third Disney branded property at the resort and is flagged to open in 2017.

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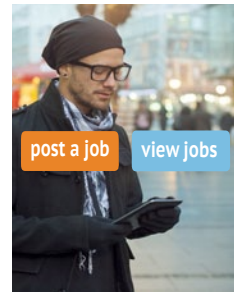
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## Fiji Tourism shuffling

**CURRENT** Fiji Tourism Vic business development manager David McMahon will relocate to Sydney to take on the role and NSW region vacated by Matt Symonds late last year.

Replacing McMahon in the Vic region is Kara Nelson, who joins Tourism Fiji from Intrepid Travel.

## New Alitalia lifts off

**ITALIAN** flag carrier Alitalia has commenced operations under its new structure, of which 49% is now owned by Etihad Airways.

The relaunched carrier's maiden service was a Milan to New York JFK service in Expo 2015 livery.

## Insight Country Roads

**STRONG** demand for the special interest 'Picture Perfect Italy' and 'Country Roads and Vineyards' tours has seen Insight Vacations schedule both again for Sep 2015, priced from \$6,369ppts and \$5,389ppts respectively.

# Queen's Wharf plans lodged

**TWO** proposed designs for the revamped Brisbane Queen's Wharf (BQW) precinct were revealed to the public for the first time late last month.

Proponents for the integrated resort included Destination Brisbane Consortium (DBC) & the joint venture between Greenland Group and Crown Resorts.

The core development area of DBC's project includes the addition of five new hotels.

DBC's hotel line-up includes a sister property to Sydney's The Darling at The Star and the debut of Marriott's Ritz-Carlton brand to the Queensland capital.



DBC's proposal for the BQW

In a massive coup for Brisbane, the Destination Brisbane Consortium bid also includes the Australian debut of the upmarket Dorsett Hotel brand and North America/Asian giant Rosewood.

Another "new six-star brand to the market" is also flagged.

**CLICK HERE** to view a collection of fly-thru videos of DBC's pitch.

Greenland/Crown's proposal includes Brisbane's first six-star and two new five-star properties that will "set the bar for luxury accommodation in Queensland".

Other key attractions & tourism features include a "transparent glass canopy" function space for up to 1,200 guests, 800-seat ballroom and function space, new South Bank theatre, restaurants led by Neil Perry & Guillaume Brahimi, luxury spa, gaming floor, family water-park and more.

"There will be active waterfront and new public places for the community to enjoy live sports broadcasts, fashion, arts, music, markets and public celebrations," the company said of its project.

**CLICK HERE** for more details on the Greenland/Crown proposal.



Greenland/Crown's BQW pitch

## Cunard Royal Ballet

**CUNARD'S** next Three Queens Royal Rendezvous involving *Queen Mary 2*, *Queen Elizabeth* and *Queen Victoria* will involve a river ballet on the Mersey River in Liverpool, it has emerged.

Scheduled for 25 May, Cunard's vessels will celebrate the line's 175th anniversary with a "series of carefully choreographed ship movements," the *Liverpool Echo* reported - more details in **Cruise Weekly** tomorrow.

## Window Seat

**CONVENTIONAL** wisdom and common sense generally says one shouldn't ride a roller coaster right after eating a meal - but what if the meal was served ON the rollercoaster?

The Roller Coaster Restaurant - for such a concept now exists - has opened its first outlet in, where else but Abu Dhabi, the home of all things new & funky.

Located inside the Yas Mall, the 14,000-square foot eatery boasts 30 different roller coaster tracks weaving their way around the room delivering food directly to diners at each table.

Each table is connected to one of the tracks, and after ordering, diners get to see their food loop, spin and invert its way to the table - hopefully still in presentable condition on arrival.

Waiters are also done away with, as guests use handheld tablets to place their orders.

Items on the menu include an Asparagus & Sweet Pea Risotto, the DIY "Tornado Burger" and of course, upside-down cake.

## High-yield takes focus

**TOURISM** Australia will host the inaugural Destination Australia conference on 17 Mar, which will focus on how to encourage new channels of high-spending visitors to Australian shores.

The one-day conference will be emceed by ABC TV and radio presented James O'Loughlin & will take place at The Ivy in Sydney.

Speakers both from within and outside of the tourism sector are confirmed to address delegates.

Attendees will also be briefed on upcoming TA marketing plans worldwide, as well as trends and innovations within the industry.

Registrations to attend the event will open later this month.

For more information including the day's agenda and more detail about the speakers, **CLICK HERE**.

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**IT MAY** have been the first family group Creative Holidays had sent to visit The Big Island of Hawai'i in several years, but it felt like home for this group during their stay.

Over a few days, the agents walked through the Thurston Lava Tube and enjoyed a magnificent "Journeys of the South Pacific Luau" sunset luau dinner at the Royal Kona Resort.

Another highlight was a grand day on the road viewing natural highlights as the group drove around the entire island in a day.

From there, it was off to Oahu and the excitement of Waikiki where a highlight was a visit to Pearl Harbour, which coincided with the 73rd anniversary of the Japanese WWII attack, where the group were lucky enough to meet veterans who were there.

**Pictured** above at the Royal Kona Resort from left is Sara Coates, Creative Holidays; Kelly Ball, Creative Holidays; Tamika Fabricato, Escape Travel Warriewood; Kristin Jansson, Creative Holidays; Kata Douglass, FC Rouse Hill; Catherine Bell, italktravel Maitland and Merran Anderson, Maria Slater Travel.

In the back is Jay Rubenstein of Royal Kona Resort, while Tara Daniels, FC Engadine is in front.

## Wonderful Indonesia

**PROMOTION** of Indonesia as a tourist destination in overseas markets has resumed under the banner of "Wonderful Indonesia" following the brand's relaunch.

The Ministry of Tourism of Republic Indonesia kicked off a renewed focus on enticing visitors to the country late last month, with all destinations in Indonesia to use the unified branding and promo logo (**pictured** below).



Campaigns will take place across traditional and modern channels including travel trade road shows, social media & online platforms.

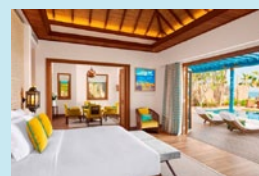


## Accommodation Updates

**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).



Shipwreck Island has opened for enjoyment at **BIG4 Sunshine South West Rocks Holiday Park** on the mid-north coast of NSW between Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie, with the family attraction offering plenty to keep the kids amused. The playground boasts a skull cave, rock waterfall, water cannons and a range of waterslides. Plenty of availability remains this summer season for last-minute holiday makers.



Anantara Hotels & Resorts has opened its first property in Qatar in the form of the **Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara**. Located on a private island, a short 20-minute ferry from the coast, the property introduces overwater villas to Qatar for the first time. Other features include family activities including tenpin bowling, jungle gym, a gold class cinema, putt-putt & a surf pool.

## Qantas Grp fire relief

**QANTAS** and Jetstar are now offering waivers for pax affected by bushfires in South Australia and Victoria who are booked for travel between 06 and 11 Jan. See [qantas.com.au/agents](http://qantas.com.au/agents).

## HTA scouts for chief

**THE** Hawaii Tourism Authority has commenced the search for a new president and ceo after the departure of Mike McCartney late last year (**TD** 10 Nov) - details at [www.hawaiiourismauthority.org](http://www.hawaiiourismauthority.org).

## WIN A KID'S TRAVEL BOOK

Everyday this week *Travel Daily* is giving readers a chance to win *The Itchee Feet Traveller's Activity Book*.

Going somewhere? Travelling by train, by plane, by car... by camelback? It doesn't have to be dull. Make the journey as exciting as the destination. *The Itchee Feet Traveller's Activity Book* contains dozens of fun and inspiring activities to keep young travellers boredom-free. Whether you're travelling across town or across the world, this entertaining book is a must-have for kids on the move.



Fun facts about travel and the world.  
Cool conversations that get the mind ticking.  
Unique games designed to entertain while you're travelling.

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- Cool conversations that get the mind ticking.
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To win, be the first person to send the correct answer to the question to [kidsbook@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:kidsbook@traveldaily.com.au)

Itchee Feet's travel fiction series is called *Bella & Burton's... what?*  
Hint: [www.itcheefet.com](http://www.itcheefet.com)



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**WA, Singapore Airlines, either by email**  
[info\\_per@singaporeair.com.sg](mailto:info_per@singaporeair.com.sg) or by mail to  
**Level 1, 178 St George's Terrace, Perth 6000**

**Applications close Friday 16 January 2015.**

**Only successful applicants will be contacted.**

## SIA Hols Earlybirds

**SAVINGS** of up to \$4,000 per person twin share are available on new package bookings for the Maldives made with Singapore Airlines Holidays before 28 Feb.

The deals relate to the recent release of the wholesaler's new 2015 Maldives brochure and are valid for travel 10 May - 22 Sep.

Eligible packages are tailored for families and couples and are sold inclusive of airfares flying SQ.

The top saving is available on an Ocean Revive room category at the Jumeirah Dhevanafushi resort which stretches over two islands, and is priced from \$7,880ppts.

## Aus Nat Geo lodges

**BAILLIE** Lodges' Southern Ocean Lodge and Longitude 131° have today been named as founding members of the National Geographic Society's new Unique Lodges of the World.

Other lodges in the portfolio incl Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef, The Brando in French Polynesia, Sabi Sabi Earth Lodge in South Africa and many others.

## JQ Pacific to add BKK

**SERVICES** between Hanoi and Bangkok on Vietnam-based Jetstar Pacific will be inaugurated from 29 Mar, the carrier has said.

The new link will complement an existing route between the carrier's Saigon hub and Bangkok.

JQ's Vietnamese offshoot began int'l flights for the first time in Oct last year with the launch of flights between Singapore and Saigon.

## UNWTO conference

**MINISTERS** and government heads representing tourism from around the world will gather in Siem Reap from 04-06 Feb for the first ever UNWTO World Conference on Tourism & Culture.

Delegates will meet with experts & stakeholders to canvass matters ranging from social and economic development to sustainability and bridging the gap between tourism and living cultures.

Industry speakers at the two-day event will include Seabourn senior vp John Delaney and will also feature UNWTO secretary-general Taleb Rifai.

## Mantra on the fringe

**ADELAIDE** Fringe Festival has signed Mantra & Breakfree Hotels as its official accommodation provider, with the brands housing performers, crew & management.

## Club Med serves up smashing fam



**TENNIS** season came early for this group from the Concorde Agency Network during a recent Club Med famil to Phuket.

Hosted by Club Med Phuket, the group were flown to Thailand courtesy of THAI Airways Int'l.

The group basked in the all-inclusive offerings of the resort, enjoying swimming & massages.

**Pictured** above from left ready

for a match is Jean Sidwell, East Ivanhoe Travel & Cruise; Devi Bywater, Show Group; Arlynn Delos Reyes, Travel Care; Shelley Dobson, Travel by Wyndham; Robyn Lawley, Wow Travel; Erin Kramer, Club Med; Michelle Ryan, Concorde; Dianne Jorgensen, Travel Today; Karen Goudge, Travel with a Difference and Lesley Abelsohn from Travelwize.

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