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Friday 9th January 2015

Aircalin US codeshare

PAPERS have been filed in the US by Aircalin, requesting rights to begin codesharing with Air Tahiti Nui on flights from New Caledonia to the United States.

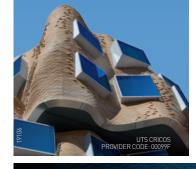
Aircalin has requested a foreign air carrier permit with the Dept of Transportation to enable it to codeshare on TN's twice-weekly flights from Noumea to Los Angeles via Papeete and onceweekly flight via Auckland.

The airline said it wants to begin marketing the route asap.



MASTER OF TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Postgraduate Information Evening Thursday 15 January



Int'l air ASA review vital

SYDNEY Airport boss Kerrie Mather is calling on the govt to consider reviewing current Int'l Air Services Agreements (ASAs), saving a number of markets are at capacity and face "significant limitations for growth".

As govt approved bilateral treaties, generally ASAs deem the number of air services allowed to operate between nations, with capped numbers on flights to/from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth Airports.

Mather told the Productivity Commission (which is assessing Australia's international tourism industry) that China, Hong Kong, Qatar and Fiji have exhausted seat capacity, while Malaysia and the Philippines are near full.

"The stated policy position of the Federal Government is to renegotiate ASAs ahead of demand to prevent undersupply.

"However, ongoing delays in bilateral capacity negotiations, which have fallen behind demand in many key growth markets, restrict the level of access to the Australian market from foreign carriers, preventing any further growth from international visitors," Mather commented.

In her submission, Mather took a swipe at international airlines that "capacity hoard", limiting new entrants into the market.

Mather recommended ASAs provide at least five years worth of growth & that airlines be given

Today's issue of TD

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

• AA Appointments jobs

the ability to decide on what routes are commercially viable.

"Delays in capacity increases risk economic & tourism growth, which is highly reliant on inbound international visitation." she said.

"Should foreign airlines fail to secure more access to Australia, the alternative is to deploy the additional capacity on other overseas markets...which will result in decreased competition, higher costs for travellers and significantly lower economic benefits for the entire Australian economy," she said.

"A more transparent & proactive manner must be adopted by the Australian Government when conducting negotiations, taking into consideration the benefits of free competition to both international visitors to Australia and Australians seeking to travel overseas," Mather urged.

Sampson joins Qantas

NATIONAL chief executive of the Leo Burnett Group, Todd Sampson has today been named as a non-executive director to the Board of Qantas Airways Limited.

The marketing expert currently sits on the Board of Fairfax Media and is a regular panelist on Network Ten's The Project and the ABC's Gruen Planet.

He is also the co-creator of the Earth Hour initiative.

Qantas chairman Leigh Clifford said, "Todd will bring a wealth of experience to the QF Board, as well as broader business acumen from the senior leadership and strategy roles he has held."

Sampson commences in the role with Qantas effective 25 Feb.

EK upgauge MAN

EMIRATES will commence new double daily A380 services on the **Dubai-Manchester route starting** 01 Feb. the carrier has confirmed.

EK already operates one daily superjumbo flight to MAN and will replace the Boeing 777s currently in use on EK019/020 services from next month, lifting capacity to the city by 13%.

The aircraft upgauge will mean half of Emirates' current 16 daily services to the United Kingdom will be operated by A380.

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Pax demand healthy

GLOBAL passenger demand for air travel continued on the strong trends set of late, with traffic results for Nov 2014 showing a 6% year-on-year increase.

According to monthly figures released by IATA, the result was ahead of the 10-year average growth rate of 5.6% & above the 5.7% figure set the month prior.

Capacity rose at a slower rate of 5.4%, pushing average loads up slightly by 0.5% to 76.7% overall.

A slowdown in regional production activity has impacted the Asia-Pacific aviation market, with figures for this region showing a 4.9% increase in demand and loads at 77.7%.

On a localised level, domestic results in Australia were flat, with capacity reducing 2.1% and a 0.3% increase in demand saw load factors climb to 78.9%.

In its results, IATA said Australia appeared to be "struggling to rebalance away from mining investment-led growth".

TripAdvisor buys up Lens

ONLINE travel giant TripAdvisor has further expanded its footprint in the field of restaurant reviews, overnight announcing that it has acquired Lens, a Dutch restaurant review and booking platform.

The sixteen-year old platform Lens currently attracts around 20 million annual visitors and uploads around 200,000 new reviews to its site each year.

ETOA logo rebrand

THE European Tour Operators Association has unveiled a new logo and brand as part of a move to modernise and better reflect the evolving scope of members.

ETOA says its membership base, which now encompasses buyers, online wholesalers, suppliers,

ETOA

digital service providers and more, will be

better represented with the new logo (pictured).

In 2012 it merged with online table booking service SeatMe, which will also be snapped up by TripAdvisor as part of the deal.

Specific transaction details were not disclosed, however Dutch media are reporting figures in the region of €10m (A\$14.5m).

TripAdvisor said in a comment it was excited at welcoming Lens to the group and was aiming to "help more TripAdvisor users find and book a great dining experience in the Netherlands".

The company's latest expansion in the restaurant industry follows the buyout of Paris-based restaurant portal Lafourchette last year (*TD* 23 May).

Helloworld.com.au hires marketing guru

JEFF Garton has been recruited by helloworld.com.au to the role of head of online marketing, with the post effective immediately.

Garton is not foreign to the travel industry, having held a role previously at Webjet, but most recently with online group buying organisation Living Social.

"He will be a senior member of our team and will oversee the strategic initiatives which will continue to drive our brand recognition and growth," helloworld.com.au ceo Jeremy Reitman commented.

Creative MEA brox

FIFTEEN new hotels feature in the new look brochure for Dubai, Oman, Abu Dhabi and Qatar released this week by Creative Holidays, including the luxurious One&Only The Palm Dubai.

Spearheading the range is a seven-night 'Ultimate UAE' independent tour package which visits Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Qatar.

Creative Holidays managing director James Gaskell says the company is noticing growing demand for longer stopovers of three & four nights in the region.

Personal Best for LAX

LOS Angeles and LAX Int'l Airport have chalked up a fourth successive year of record growth in visitation numbers, with 43.4m and 70.7m arrivals respectively.

The figure was revealed by LA City Mayor Eric Garcetti at Tom Bradley Int'l Terminal, which is continuing its transformation on course to be completed this year.

Of the total 70.7m visitor tally, an estimated 18.9m arrived on international flights and was a 6% improvement on the previous record of 17.8m set last year.

On top of record arrivals, the city announced the total overseas visitor tally closed at 6.5 million with an average hotel occupancy of 79% - up 1.2% year-on-year.

Mayor Garcetti attributed the strong growth to new attractions and revitalised regions in the city.









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One year of #MyDubai

DUBAI is celebrating the first anniversary of its #MvDubai social media initiative as "the world's first autobiography of a city".

More than 1,650 photos and videos submitted by residents and visitors to Dubai under the #MyDubai hashtag will be displayed on a big screen next to the Burj Khalifa for the month of Jan in honour of the anniversary.

The screen will become a realtime social wall from next month.

Dream Big success

TOURISM marketing of the US state of California in overseas source markets will be increased to US\$100 million after a majority of the state's tourism operators voted for a proposal to do so.

The Dream Big Dividend plan was put forth by Visit California as a measure of continuing to position the state as "a premier global travel destination", with 74% of respondents in favour.

FJ OTP improvement

FIJI Airways has reported its full vear On-Time Performance figure for both its international and regional operations as 83.02%.

CEO Stefan Pichler said he was pleased at the "above industry standards" performance and vowed to maintain the carrier's OTP above 80% for this year.

Frozen Fun now open

DISNEYLAND has opened two new attractions at its flagship California theme park themed on the successful Frozen franchise.

The 'Frozen Fun' complex at Disney's California Adventure Park is open for a limited time and allows park guests to meet & greet with the film's characters Elsa, Anna and Olaf and have a sing-along to songs in the movie.

Over at Disneyland Park, a Frozen-themed show features, with Anna and Elsa also starring on their own float in the daily 'Mickey's Soundsational Parade'.

Bali Aussie visits drop

BALI encountered its first slow down in monthly growth from Aussie travellers in 2014 during Nov, preliminary data from the Bali Govt Tourist Office indicates.

Figures for the month of Nov show there were around 4.000 less Australian nationals visiting Bali than the year prior, when the number was 85,150.

Over 81,100 Aussies entered Bali last Nov, accounting for 28% of all foreign visitors to the tourist mecca - by far the most popular inbound source market for Bali.

Despite the drop, the number of locals to have visited Bali by Nov is up 26% year-on-year.

Extra Tiger PPP seats

TIGERAIR has added extra flights on the Sydney-Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) route to cater for school holiday demand, for travel between 13 Apr-20 Apr and 29 Jun-28 Sep and on ad-hoc dates of 06 Apr, 08 Jun & 05 Oct.



Window Seat

SCREAMS are rarely heard onboard an aircraft, but are especially rare after it has safely landed at its destination.

Qatar Airways was forced to entirely fumigate one of its aircraft after landing in Madrid recently when passengers spotted a mouse running down one of the aisles onboard.

Perplexed at how the rodent got there, the carrier opted to smoke it out, with the mouse's body found after the fumigation.

The aircraft was delayed by six hours on its return journey from the Spanish city to Doha as pax had to wait for fumes to clear.

According to Spanish daily newspaper 20 minutos, many passengers missed connections onward to other destinations, however QR paid for any costs incurred due to the delay.





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Cable Beach recruits

CABLE Beach Club Resort & Spa has appointed Carol McCracken (ex- Globetrotter Corporate Travel) as its conference & incentives sales executive, based in Perth.



DUBBED by the group as the 'City of Contrasts', this group of Queensland agents explored the Spanish city of Barcelona by foot, bike & bus during a recent famil.

The educational also received organisational support from Stoke Travel and Melia Barcelona.

Under the guidance of the local Julia Travel rep, the group staying

Virgin Hotel launch

SIR Richard Branson will take the covers off Virgin Group's first hotel venture in coming days.

'The Loop' in Chicago, bought by Virgin Hotels in 2011 (*TD* 25 Oct 2011) will open on Sat 15 Jan. at the Hotel Melia Barcelona Sarria, Hotel Melia Sky and the Citadines Ramblas Barcelon.

Agents marvelled at the contrast between old and new in the historic, yet modern city, with plenty of classic architecture juxtaposed with the latest trends.

Highlights enjoyed by the group included a cycling tour (**pictured** above) and a Hop On Hop Off bus tour featuring audio commentary.

A Tapas tour dished up "three hours of power eating" across five different tapas bars, one of the city's most popular tours.

Other popular activities saw the group learn about local art and take part in a pub crawl evening.

Vistara debuts today

THE world's newest airline will commence services today.

Indian start-up Vistara is backed by Tata Sons Limited & Singapore Airlines and will launch its maiden flights between Delhi & Mumbai.

MEANWHILE, Amadeus has signed a distribution deal with the full service carrier, enabling Amadeus-connected travel agents around the world access to full content, fares, schedules & more.

Lemond for Legend's

AMERICA'S only recognised Tour de France winner Greg Lemond will headline the Santos Tour Down Under's Legend's Night Dinner on Sat 24 Jan.

Tickets to the soiree, hosted at the Adelaide Convention Centre by race commentators Phil Liggett and Paul Sherwen, are priced at \$250pp - **CLICK HERE** for details.

The pro-cycling race gets under way in Adelaide on 17 Jan.

Sheraton in Tajikistan

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts has announced the opening of its first property in Tajikistan in Central Asia.

Located in the Tajikistan capital, the centrally located Sheraton Dushanbe Hotel features 148-rooms and is five minutes from Dushanbe Int'l Airport.

Asian flavours in Melb

THE Flavours of Asia Market Festival is set to kick off the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival, coinciding with the Sportingbet Blue Diamond Stakes Day.

Guests can sample an array of Asian nosh at the event on 28 Feb.



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

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Mad Moorea offers

SAVINGS of up to 20% on tours, restaurants, services, attractions, spa treatments and shopping on the Tahitian island of Moorea are now available with the release of a new discount card for travellers.

Tahiti Tourisme's Moorea Madness Discount Card can be ordered through brochure distribution firm TIFS or directly from Tahiti Tourisme via email at trade@tahiti-tourisme.com.au.

The card is valid for use for all pax through to the end of 2015.

Hog site redesigned

MOTORCYCLE tour EagleRider has launched its redesigned and responsive user-friendly website.

The platform now allows users to book their journey online with real-time deals and local currency.

Minor boosts Zanzibar

THAI-BASED hotel operator Minor Hotel Group will rebrand the boutique Zanzibar property Essque Zalu Zanzibar as a Per AQUUM property by year's end.

The rebrand further expands the Minor portfolio in the Indian Ocean, which features six resorts in the Elewana Collection brand.

Once open, Per AQUUM Zanzibar will be the brand's fourth resort globally and will offer 40 suites and nine larger villas of three and four-bedrooms in size.

Malaysia cycling book

A NEW guidebook promoting cycling holiday packages on offer from 32 local tour operators in Malaysia has been launched as a new project by Tourism Malaysia.

The Discover Malaysia by Bicycle guidebook features 74 itineraries showcasing ways to explore both urban and country areas by bike.

Packages include a three-day Classic Kuching City Ride taking in Sarawak and a four-day ride in the Taman Negara National Park.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily*'s Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au.

Australian skiers heading to Japan and booking the Hakuba Valley Pass now have access to local knowledge after **SkiJapan.com** hired a local Hakuba resident to offer tips on where to go when off the slopes. The company is currently offering a seven-night package at Pension Belnina in a twin room (share facilities), daily breakfast, six-day Hakuba ski pass & return airport transfers priced from \$1,085pp land only. Ph 1300 137 411.

Valentine's Day is sorted with a new package released by Phuket's hilltop Paresa Resort. Priced from THB55,000 per couple (A\$2,062), the package includes three nights in an Aqua Pool Suite, a choice of three chocolate Master Classes, 6o-minute Chocolate Champagne Body Wrap and more. For more information, see www.paresaresorts.com/packages.html.

Motorbike tour operator Extreme Bike Tours is offering free flights to India with bookings of its three Himalayan bike tours, valid both for riders & pillion (sidecar) pax. Flights are valid from any Australian int'l airport and eligible on the 15-day Mighty Himalayas Tours departing 20 Jun, 07 Jul and 24 Jul. Must book by 15 Feb. See www.extremebiketours.com.

Accor aces Sydney

PULLMAN Sydney Hyde Park and Novotel Sydney Olympic Park have been named as the 'Official Hotels' for the 2015 Apia Int'l Sydney tennis tournament, which starts this Sun and runs to 17 Jan.

TRS takes Tropicana

FOUR-STAR Vanuatu property Tropicana Lagoon Resort in Port Vila has engaged Travel Representation Services (TRS) to handle its sales and marketing activities in the Australia market.

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