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Wednesday 3rd June 2015

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CX plans OOL flight

CATHAY Pacific has scheduled a single roundtrip charter service to the Gold Coast next month.

According to GDS screens, the flight will operate using an A330-300 aircraft with an all Economy class service including in the Business class cabin.

Hong Kong

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No Aussies on Yangtze ferry

TOUR operators specialising in China have reassured agents there will be no impact to any itineraries involving Yangtze River cruising as a result of yesterday's ferry capsizing disaster.

The Eastern Star is a domestic passenger ferry and upturned with as many as 500 people onboard while sailing upstream between Wuhan and Yueyang.

Mainstream reports say the vessel was impacted by a cyclone which went through the area.

Wendy Wu Tours managing director Alan Alcock has told **TD** the company had no passengers onboard the ferry.

"Wendy Wu Tours can assure prospective travellers that all

seven Victoria Cruises' vessels, which we primarily use are sailing and safe. All vessels utilised by Wendy Wu Tours adhere to vigorous safety checks as well as standards of quality," Alcock said.

Fellow China tour operators Helen Wong's Tours and Insider Journeys issued similar messages, adding Victoria Cruises holds five-star government safety ratings.

ATDW Bookeasy deal

SIMPLIFIED booking ability is now live for Visitor Information Centres and regional tourism websites via a new tie-up between the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse and Bookeasy.

The partnership allows Bookeasy to absorb ATDW listing details to avoid duplication of information.

ATDW CEO Mark Williams has implored tourism businesses to ensure their listings are up to date to maximise the benefits.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news and photos, plus full pages from: (**click**):

- AA Appointments jobs
- JITO

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Watch out for JITO!

THERE'S just a week remaining to register for job alerts on the JITO website in order to be in the draw to win an Apple Watch.

The winner of the funky new gadget will be decided on 10 Jun - for details see **page 11** of today's *Travel Daily*.



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MERS screening

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has advised both Korea and Hong Kong have implemented screening arrangements for travellers arriving from countries affected by Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus.

The move follows a number of confirmed cases of the disease in South Korea, with Hong Kong also screening arrivals from Korea as a result.

Lufthansa applies GDS fee

LUFTHANSA has announced a new €16 fee will be applied to all bookings made via GDS effective from 01 Sep this year.

Described as a "Distribution Cost Charge" (DCC), the impost will be calculated automatically and added when tickets are issued on any Lufthansa Group carrier which also includes Swiss International Airlines, Austrian Airlines and Brussels Airlines.

The initiative is part of a new commercial strategy by the airline, which aims to boost the percentage of revenue generated from the sale of tickets.

"While other service and system partners in the value chain are recording increased margins and returns, our airline's earnings have been compromised over time, even though they are the actual provider of flight services," said LH chief commercial officer Jens Bischof.

Bischof said GDS costs amount to a "three-digit million euro amount" for the group, even though GDS services are "primarily used by other partners in the value chain".

According to a statement from Lufthansa's head office in Germany, travel agencies will be able to book tickets without the DCC using an online portal, while corporate clients will also be able to book individually negotiated contract rates without the fee via the website at www.lh.com.

Lufthansa general manager Australia Anil Rodricks told **TD** today the new GDS fee will apply locally, "however we do not view the amount as a deterrent for fares to Europe."

"The end price of tickets will only be marginally impacted," Rodricks added.

He said Lufthansa would provide further details as to how the DCC will be reflected in ticketing transactions in the coming days.

MEANWHILE, Amadeus has responded by saying LH has chosen to introduce "charges that will penalise travellers based on the shopping channel they use".

The GDS firm said the new model will make comparison and transparency more difficult, adding that "ultimately the industry overall stands to lose".

RCI \$100 BNE bonus

ROYAL Caribbean is offering a US\$100 onboard credit bonus for all new bookings onboard *Legend of the Seas* during her maiden Australian season.

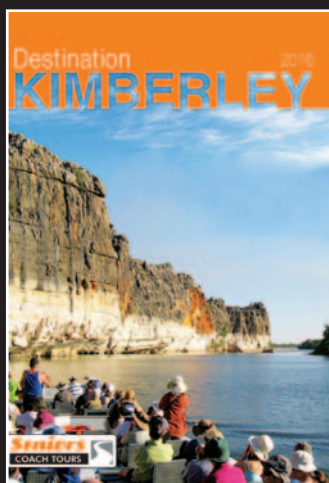
The 2,000 passenger *Legend of the Seas* will be based in Brisbane from Dec.

The deal is also combinable with Royal Caribbean's 'buy one, get up to 50% off' offer which is available for bookings on eligible itineraries through to 30 Jun.

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Mass leave balance pileup

AUSTRALIA'S six-million strong full time workforce has accrued 21 days on average each in annual leave, or a combined total of 123,510,000 days, according to a new Roy Morgan Research study.

The year-long poll of 3,716 Australians found male workers - almost two-thirds of the total workforce - accounted for 69% of the collective leave balance.

Nearly three in ten of those surveyed were owed more than five weeks in time off work, while half of those polled had either no leave or less than four weeks.

Broken down by industry, it is the wholesale workforce leading the way with the most stockpiled leave, with an average of 25 days.

The recreation and personal sectors were around mid-range with an average of 18 days, while retail workers were slightly higher at 20 days average leave accrued.

Conversely, workers in the

construction and communication fields had no hesitation in taking time off, with an average within these sectors of 15 days.

Roy Morgan Research group account director Angela Smith said the data reveals Aussies do take time off, but not very much.

"Contrary to what their leave balances might suggest, our data reveals that Australia's full-time workers do take holidays. In the last 12 months, 75% went on at least one trip," Smith noted.

Mangan stocked up

CONGRATS to Christine Mangan from helloworld Torquay, who was selected as the winner of the Rocky Mountaineer comp run in *Travel Daily* last week to celebrate next season's opening.

Mangan has won a hamper choc full of goodies including Veuve Clicquot champagne, binoculars, cookbooks and other souvenirs.

Eurostar fees cut

RAIL Plus has halved booking fees for all Eurostar reservations made on its website in Jun and Jul.

The change means the booking fee is just \$5 per person on each Eurostar sector, applicable to all new reservations which can be made up to six months before departure.

Agents can now secure bookings for clients through to Nov 2015.

"Combined with our recent improvements in automation, which have resulted in a faster turnaround of electronic documents, this latest initiative reinforces our commitment to delivering the most cost-effective booking options for Australian travel consultants," Rail Plus ceo James Dunne said.

He said the price cut makes the Rail Plus website an even more attractive booking channel.

To qualify for the 50% reduction, all bookings must be paid in full and ticketed by 31 Jul 2015.



Window Seat

WHEN your customers are visiting New York, tell the blokes to make sure they keep their legs together on the subway.

According to *USA Today* two men have been arrested for so-called "manspreading" - taking up more than one seat by sitting with legs askance.

Earlier this year the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority launched an awareness campaign (**below**) to tackle the problem, which is apparently also well-documented on social media via the #manspreading hashtag.



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Qld/ASF recommitted

IN THE wake of its failed cruise ship terminal plan for the Gold Coast, ASF Consortium says it has reaffirmed a commitment to help invest and grow the region.

The Chinese-backed investment group has said it met with the Queensland Government late last week, agreeing to work together to find new avenues for its Integrated Resort Development.

ASF says a new proposal is in the works to be presented to the govt "as soon as practical".

In a bulletin to subscribers, ASF director Tim Poole said the group was committed to delivering "a vibrant and dynamic" integrated development to the Gold Coast.

GDS helping startups

TRAVELPORT has launched a new mentorship program aimed at accelerating growth for innovative travel startups.

Run entirely by Travelport, up to four startups per cycle will be accepted and handled by dedicated Travelport mentors, all with business startup experience.

A demo pitch to help startups find business partners will then be on offer to program graduates.

LCC share falls back

MARKET share held by major low-cost carriers in Australia has fallen back in the year to Mar 2015, newly released stats show.

AirAsia X in particular took a heavy fall, with its local market share falling from 4.7% to 2.7%.

The Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Economics report for Mar showed passenger traffic climbed to 2.8 million for the month, an 11% year-on-year increase from 2.5 million.

Capacity decreased slightly, sending average load factors surging from 71.6% back to 80%.

Market share held by Emirates broke into double figures for the month, up from 9.7% to 10%.

Trans-Tasman routes to Brisbane and Melbourne outgrew Sydney, up by 5.9% and 6.3% respectively.

PNG restrictions lifted

BOUGAINVILLE in Papua New Guinea is no longer off-limits to Australians, with DFAT advising of the lifting of a ban overnight.

The restriction was put in place by the PNG Government just over two weeks ago (**TD** 19 May) over plans by Australia to open a new diplomatic mission on the island.



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IPW shows some real Hyde!



NY Wheel underway

CONSTRUCTION of New York's giant ferris wheel will commence in the spring of 2016, it was announced at the IPW show.

Becoming the world's tallest observation wheel when it opens in 2017, the New York Wheel will serve as the centrepiece of a huge US\$1 billion redevelopment of St George, Staten Island.

The precinct will also offer the only outlet centre - the Empire Outlets - within the confines of New York City.

EMMY and Tony Award winner David Hyde Pierce was one of hundreds of Broadway stars to grace the floors of the IPW 2015 tradeshow in Orlando overnight.

The actor/comedian is known for his time on TV's *Frasier* where he played the character Niles Crane, but is now recognised as an accomplished director, with his hit *'It Shoulda Been You'* gaining a cult following on Broadway.

Hyde Pierce is pictured (**centre**) with the crew from Broadway Inbound, which includes Aussie rep Kate Sorensen (**left**).



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Hogwarts to Hollywood!

UNIVERSAL Studios Hollywood has officially commenced the countdown for the opening of the next *The Wizarding World of Harry Potter* attraction, next year.

The announcement was made overnight at the IPW 2015 travel & trade show being held in Orlando, Florida.

President of Universal Studios Hollywood Larry Kurzweil said the J.K Rowling inspired attraction will be modelled on what already is available in Universal Orlando Resort & Universal Studios Japan.

SVP of sales Xiomara Wiley told **TD** the attraction is being built on the site of Universal's former amphitheatre, and will create a significant impact on tourism to the city of LA - reinforcing its claim as the number one destination to visit in the city.

At the core of the new land will

be Hogwarts castle, along with a 3D-HD version of the *Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey* ride and the '*Flight of the Hippogriff*' family rollercoaster.

On site will be eight retail shops and locations, including Owl Post, Honeydukes, Ollivanders, Zonko's Joke Shop, Gladrag's Wizardwear and more.

When it opens in the spring of 2016, the *Harry Potter* world will mark the culmination of five years of transformation, which includes the addition of the *Fast & The Furious - Supercharged* ride, the first of its kind, a new *Nighttime Studio Tour* of the backlot and *The Simpsons* land which debuted at the park last month.

Pictured from left are Mark Woodbury, Xiomara Wiley, svp of sales; Larry Kurzweil and Ernest Wooden Jr, LA Tourism ceo.

Los Angeles tourism investment

LOS Angeles city and county is investing heavily in infrastructure to handle increasing visitor numbers, media attendees of IPW 2015 heard in Orlando today.

Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board chief Ernest Wooden Jr said the city is "well on its way" to reaching its goal of 50m visitors annually by 2020, having reached 44.2m last year.

Wooden Jr said more than \$8b has been injected into the city by

private developers and a further \$8b from the public sector.

"LA is very different to what it was 10 years ago," he said.

The LA tourism boss revealed that testing on a new metro line linking Downtown to Santa Monica is currently underway, with the line expected to be open to the public "soon".

In addition, a new metro station at LAX has been approved along with a \$4b people mover system that will connect all terminals at the airport to the subway system.

"Soon it will be possible to come in from any destination around the world and access hotels and attractions as far out as the valley using public transportation," Wooden Jr commented.

World Games for LA

HOTELS in Los Angeles are expected to be nearing capacity when the Special Olympics World Games are held in the City of Angels between 25 Jul-02 Aug.

President and ceo of the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board Ernest Wooden Jr said the event is the largest athletic and humanitarian event in the world.

"It's actually bigger than the Olympics," he said, attracting 7,000 competitors and 3,000 coaches from 177 countries.

8,000 room pipeline

NEARLY 40 new hotels are under development or are about to open in Los Angeles, LA Tourism head Ernest Wooden Jr said today.

The 39 properties will boost inventory in LA by 8,000 rooms.

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Travel Daily
on location in
Orlando

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from the Hilton Orlando, courtesy of the USA Travel Association and Brand USA.

DAY 2 on the tradeshow floor at IPW 2015 in Orlando saw buyers and sellers resume talks and negotiations, which this year will see nearly 100,000 appointments taking place - up nearly 10,000 on last year's show in Chicago.

Participant numbers are up 27% on the level set in 2010, with the floor packing in 1,352 booths.

Last night, attendees dodged the rain and thunderstorms for a great evening out at SeaWorld Orlando for an exclusive party.

The high quality entertainment also continued again today, with NYC & Company and Broadway Inbound teaming up to arrange a special show from the cast of several theatre hits, including *Aladdin*, *The Lion King*, *Matilda*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Book of Mormon* and others.

CLICK HERE to see TD's pics.

Modernisation of US airports necessary

THE head of the US Travel Assoc has proposed tired American airports be authorised by govt to increase airport passenger facility charges by US\$4 per person, if in turn it invests the full price rise into modernisation projects.

Speaking at the IPW 2015 USA travel trade show, president and ceo of the US Travel Association Roger Dow said the country is on track to hit its goal of 100 million international visitors by 2021, maybe as early as 2019.

However, Dow highlighted that by the year 2021 it is estimated that an additional 177 million will be using the USA's airports, taking the total figure to 927m people.

He said "deficiencies" in the system will present a crisis in future if not addressed now.

While the US has several airports in the top 25 globally in terms of traffic, not one makes the top airport list based on efficiencies, customer service, capacity and delays.

"We really have to look at that".

He described as "not acceptable" a statistic showing one in four flights in the US last year being delayed or cancelled.

He said the organisation has asked Congress to authorise airports the option of boosting the fee from US\$4.50 to US\$8.50 to modernise their facility.

New tenants for Disney Springs

THE expansion & revitalisation of the Downtown Disney precinct at Walt Disney World in Florida to Disney Springs (**TD** 15 Mar 13) continues to gather pace.

Announced last month were the signing of 13 new retail & dining outlets which are just part of the project that will see the popular entertainment zone double in size from its current offering.

Among the new high-profile tenants are fashion retailers Zara, Tommy Bahama, UNIQLO, Lilly Pulitzer, PANDORA and UGG.

A further five new dining establishments will also open at the site when it opens as Disney Springs next year, including Edison, an "industrial gothic" style restaurant, a pizza outlet, cupcake store, gelato shop and tea trader.

In recent months, nine new venues have opened at Disney Springs, which will be joined by a further five by Fall 2015, including



a new look Planet Hollywood shop which is transforming to a star-themed Planet Hollywood Observatory (**TD** 02 Mar).

When fully complete, Disney Springs will feature four different outdoor neighbourhoods.

MEANWHILE, across the Walt Disney World Resort at Disney's Animal Kingdom, new quick-service eateries have opened to provide new dining options.

Four themed shops add a new dimension to the expanded Harambe Village experience which is designed around a colonial-era train depot.

Options include the Kitamu Grill, Famous Sausages, Chef Mwanga's and Wanjohi Refreshments.

Coupled with the addition of the Festival of the Lion King theatre district, the Harambe Village has nearly doubled in size.

Pictured on the floor at the Orlando Convention Centre at IPW 2015 is Disney Destinations international PR director Todd Heiden with his buddy Olaf.

IPW future host cities

THE US Travel Association has confirmed the host destinations for an additional four future IPW events beyond the year 2020.

Announced overnight, Chicago will again host the American trade show in 2021, followed by Orlando in 2022, San Antonio in 2023 and Los Angeles in 2024.

The San Antonio show will be the first time IPW has been held in the Texan city.

Revealed a few years ago, next year's IPW will take place in New Orleans, then Washington D.C in 2017, Denver in 2018, Anaheim in 2019 and Las Vegas in 2020.

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The role would suit someone who is currently in a commercial role, selling software solutions/services into the Australia & New Zealand market place in the Travel Industry. Knowledge and understanding of the TMC market within Australia & New Zealand will be key to succeed in this role.

For a full copy of the Position Description, please email sandrab@sabrepacific.com.au. Closing dates for applications Friday 12th June. Please note, only successful applicants will be contacted.



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To learn more about these opportunities and Phil Hoffmann Travel please go to <http://www.pht.com.au/positions-available.asp>

Insight to Sth America

PERU has been added as a new destination in the 2016/17 USA, Canada and South America season from Insight Vacations, marking the tour operator's entry into South America.

On the back of noted demand for a new destination, a 12-day Treasures of the Incas Luxury Gold escorted journey has been put together, taking guests to a variety of UNESCO listed sites.

Changes for the season will see all Luxury Gold itineraries fully inclusive with no extras charged & room upgrades on existing trips.

In total, the brochure features 27 itineraries, including two new.

Scoot's 3rd birthday

PASSENGERS will pay taxes only on their return journey from Singapore in a new 3rd birthday offer released by Scoot.

The special "no fare flights" sale starts at 0200 tomorrow AEST until 0159 on Mon 08 Jun AEST.

ScootBiz is also on sale at a fare of \$50 plus taxes, with travel periods varying by Aussie port.

UA to boost Air China cooperation

UNITED Airlines and Air China have significantly expanded their codeshare agreement, with the new pact covering 22 additional routes in China and the USA.

The growth will see UA and Air China codeshare on a total of more than 110 routes, with the CA code to be placed on twelve additional US domestic routes from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington D.C and Houston.

United will place its UA code on Air China operated services to ten additional destinations including flights from Beijing to Mianyang, Taiyuan, Sanya, Shanghai Hongquiao, Yinchuan, Xining, Liuzhou, Haikou and Lanzhou.

The airlines have been cooperating since 2003.

Wyndham acquisition

WYDNHAM Vacation Rentals (WVR) has announced the purchase of California-based Vacation Palm Springs, which manages more than 450 "upscale vacation properties".

The move marks WVR's first foray into California and adds to the group's portfolio of more than 25 brands worldwide including ResortQuest, Hoseasons, Novasol and James Villa Holidays.

SunLux comes to town



737 MAX on the line

THE first of Boeing's new 737 MAX aircraft has commenced assembly at the manufacturer's factory near Seattle, the model making up half of Boeing's orders.

The wings for the first flight test aircraft were custom made and will be attached to the first 737 MAX fuselage later in the year.

A new production line allowing the team to isolate the first 737 MAX from the rest of production will be used "in order to learn and perfect the build process".

In the interim, the Renton facility will continue to build other planes at the rate of 42 a month.

LIANNE Kelly-Maartens from African hospitality operator Sun International was in Australia last week to promote the group's upmarket "Sunlux Collection" of properties in Cape Town, Sun City and Zambia.

The 'Golden Triangle' of resorts takes in The Table Bay Hotel on Cape Town's waterfront, the Palace of the Lost City in Sun City, plus Zambia's spectacular The Royal Livingstone set against the backdrop of Victoria Falls.

Kelly-Maarten is **pictured** above right with Lalie Ngozi of South African Tourism and South African Airways country manager Tim Clyde-Smith.

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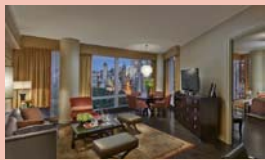
WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Crown Promenade Perth has just finished a major room refurbishment project which has seen all of the hotel's 291 rooms redesigned. New carpeting, furnishings including brand new beds and finishes have all been installed along with a new colour scheme reflecting tones of Western Australia. Artwork featuring the Swan - WA's state symbol - features in each room, with new art also added to lobby areas.



Mexico will open the doors to its first Grand Hyatt property in two weeks, in the form of the **Grand Hyatt Playa Del Carmen**. Set on Mamitas Beach, the hotel will offer 314 rooms blending authentic Mayan aesthetics which pay tribute to the surrounding areas, all located close to 5th Avenue. Further Grand Hyatt openings in Latin and Central America are set for Baha Mar, Rio de Janeiro and Bogota.



Overlooking Central Park, the Hudson River and Manhattan, the newly redesigned one and two-bedroom suites at the **Mandarin Oriental New York** are now open to guests. Designed to enhance the views on offer, the suites touch on the brand's Asian background with themes and colour styles reflecting sunrise, dusk & night. Original works by emerging New York artists bring a gallery feel to each suite.

Pegasus trade rate

AGENTS visiting Melbourne can enjoy a special industry rate out now from Pegasus Apart'Hotel. Studio twin or queen rooms are priced from \$120 per night including breakfast for one - for more info, phone (03) 9284 2400.

KE/AF expand c/share

KOREAN Air codes will appear on two French domestic routes & eight new international flights under an expanded codeshare agreement with Air France.

The SkyTeam member carriers will both code on flights from Paris to Barcelona, Madrid, Berlin, Geneva, Dusseldorf, Munich, Stuttgart and Casablanca.

MEANWHILE in other SkyTeam news, Korean will also expand its pact with Alitalia on services operated by AZ between Rome and Seoul Incheon, frequencies on which were recently doubled.

Top voted landmarks

ANGKOR Wat in Cambodia has been voted by TripAdvisor as the Number One landmark in its 2015 Travellers Choice Awards, based on millions of submitted reviews.

The official list for 2015 included more than 700 global sights across the world, with Machu Picchu and the Taj Mahal next.

Users voted the Sydney Opera House in top spot for Australian landmarks and 23rd overall, with The Australian War Memorial and Sydney Harbour Bridge as top three in the local ranking.

Pacific Autumn Sale

UP TO 50% off room rates are on offer at Westin, Sheraton, Four Points and Le Meridien hotels in Australia, NZ, New Caledonia and Samoa under a new Pacific Autumn Sale from Starwood.

Booking are open from 08-14 Jun, valid for stays until 30 Sep.

Europcar depot close

AGENTS are being advised of the temporary closure of Europcar's depot in Gunnedah in regional NSW, with details on a re-opening expected next month.

Sheraton 2020 underway

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts has unveiled a ten-point plan of action - dubbed "Sheraton 2020" - to thrust its flagship Sheraton brand into the global spotlight.

The plan was revealed at the 37th annual NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Convention in New York.

Kicking things off is a three-year, US\$100m marketing campaign to refresh and reposition the brand's identity within the current logo.

In addition, a new sub-brand titled Sheraton Grand will be launched, under which around 100 of the brand's best properties will be separated and elevated to "create a halo effect".

The brand's global footprint will also be expanded, with plans to open 150 new Sheraton hotels by 2020, ranging from conversions, regenerations and newbuilds.

In an effort to appeal to investors and owners, a flexible newbuild pitch to highlight profitability in secondary markets will also be developed.

Interim Starwood chief exec Adam Aron said Sheraton 2020 would see the group's formidable "might and muscle" put to work as the industry's premier brand builder and innovator.

MH to be broken up

MALAYSIA Airlines will be divided up into separate sections to better manage the operations of its soon-to-launch new brand, ceo Christoph Mueller has said.

Although yesterday declaring the carrier was "technically bankrupt," Mueller said subsidiary divisions such as MASWings and Firefly would remain in-house.

Details are yet to emerge on if the relaunched carrier will drop some of its international routes.

"This is a top priority, and we will act boldly to put Sheraton back on its rightful pedestal as a global hotel brand of choice, everywhere," Aron added.

Further on the 10-point plan from a customer standpoint, Sheraton will work to perfect its customer service, redesign lobby areas to improve revenue, reinvigorate food & beverage and better project the Sheraton Club.

Hotels will gradually roll out "more intuitive" and "forward thinking" room designs.

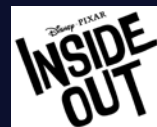
Sheraton global brand leader Dave Marr said initiatives were already underway, ready to roll out as soon as later this month.

The new brand positioning and advertising campaign is due for launch in Sep, Marr added.



Win a family pass to Inside Out

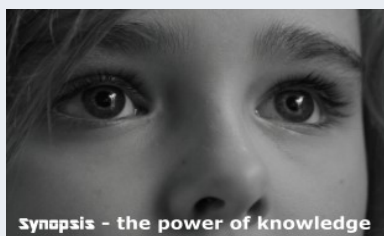
This week, *Travel Daily* and **Disney Destinations Australia** are giving away 4 family passes each day to the latest Disney Pixar movie "Inside Out", in cinemas June 18.



Walt Disney World Resort in Florida is by far the largest Disney Destination in the world. With 4 Theme Parks, 2 Water Parks, plus the Disney Springs Area - your clients are sure to discover an entire world of enchantment and wonder around every corner. For more information visit DisneyTravelAgents.com.au

To win, be one of the first four to answer the following question correctly. Send your answer to insideout@traveldaily.com.au

What is the name of the revolutionary new wrist-band technology at use within the Walt Disney World Resort?



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ANA drops HAN-CDG

JAPANESE carrier All Nippon Airways has removed its daily Paris services ex Tokyo Haneda from its schedule effective 25 Oct, however Narita services continue.

Movie-goers in love with Aloha



THRONGS of paparazzi were on hand at the Entertainment Quarter in Sydney last Fri to catch the arrival of the Hawai'i Tourism Oceania team, walking the red carpet for the premiere of *Aloha*.

Stars of the Aussie stage, screen and music industries were also in attendance for the event.

Hawaii is no stranger to film or TV, providing countless backdrops and locations for some of Hollywood's most iconic stories.

"With its natural beauty, year round warm weather and welcoming people, you couldn't find a much better natural setting," HTO country manager Ashlee Galea commented.

The promotional organisation and Hawaiian Airlines joined as co-sponsors of the big-budget

film premiere, which stars Bradley Cooper, Emma Stone, Bill Murray and a cavalcade of big names.

At the premiere, two attending couples had the chance to win a trip to the Islands of Aloha thanks to HA, with four nights at the Royal Hawaiian and Sheraton Waikiki Hotel included.

Pictured above are the celebs of Hawaii Tourism Oceania, from left: Charis Ricafuente, Janaya Birse, Holly Ballard, Ashlee Galea and Vanessa Commander.

Agt refresher training

FIVE cruise operators represented in Australia by Discover the World have added their latest training materials to the Travel Industry Network.

Agents can now log into the site at travelindustry.network.com.au to view webinars and training materials in their own time.

Launched just over a year ago (**TD** 07 May 2014), the platform maintains a wide selection of training products on a variety of different travel industry sectors, with all content free for agents.

Courses and content remains on the site for 12 months, enabling agents to catch up or refresh their knowledge at any time.

Win a ski trip to France



This month *Travel Daily*, *Club Med* and *Air France* are giving readers the chance to win a ski trip to France. The prize includes:

- Return economy flights to Paris, France with Air France and
- Seven nights at a Club Med Ski Resort in France

To win this great prize, answer every daily question correctly and have the most creative answer to the final question. Send your answers to clubmedcomp@traveldaily.com.au

Q3. Name one of the Club Med snow resorts located in Italy.

Club Med
Premium all-inclusive resorts

AIRFRANCE
Terms & conditions

Korea invests in NYC

A SOUTH Korean consortium has signed an \$805 million deal to purchase the New York Palace Hotel in Manhattan, continuing a run of Asian investment in NYC.

Hotel Lotte Co Ltd said a new company to operate and manage the hotel will be formed, with settlement scheduled for Aug.

The Korean group has been buying up hotels around the world over the past five years, now owning assets in Russia, Vietnam, Uzbekistan and Guam.

DL preloading carryon

DELTA Air Lines has begun a trial of a new service dubbed Early Valet, where crew pre-load passenger's carry-on bags in an effort to speed up boarding.

The service is being tested on leisure routes from Delta's hub airports including Atlanta, Detroit, New York, LAX and Seattle.

Specially tagged bags are loaded by gate staff above a passenger's seat prior to boarding, with the trial expected to last through Aug.

AAT Kings appoints

AAT Kings has promoted Katie Laird to Manager International Operations, with the longstanding staffer moving up from her BDM role focusing on the inbound market and online travel agents.

The operator has also named Takahiro Kondo to the newly created position of Senior Sales Manager Asia.

The pair will share responsibility for onshore inbound tour operators, with Takahiro focusing on eastern hemisphere and Laird looking after western hemisphere clients.

Five new Curio hotels

HILTON Worldwide has boosted its pipeline for its new destination centric brand Curio - A Collection by Hilton brand, adding five new properties including the first in Argentina.

Additions include The Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids; Anselmo Buenos Aires; Hoodoo Moab; The Partridge Inn Augusta and Redmont Hotel Birmingham.

EY takes Darwin stake

COMPETITION regulators in Switzerland have finally approved Etihad Airways' purchase of a 33.3% stake in Darwin Airline.

The small Zurich-based carrier has been operating under the tag of Etihad Regional since Nov 2013 and now formally becomes the eighth full member of the Etihad Airways Partners Alliance - the fifth operating in Europe.

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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You will enjoy interviewing candidates and assisting their careers, account management and business development.

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SENIOR RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANT

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Are you tired of the commute into the CBD? Looking for something closer to home? Well look no further! This independent agency located on the north side of Brisbane is booming in business and they are looking for a fresh face to join their super star team. This is a customer focused role that will allow you to draw upon your top notch customer service skills and your excellent worldwide destination knowledge. Previous experience is essential along with strong Galileo skills. Sound like you? Apply today and don't miss out!

WHERE THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER

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BRISBANE CBD – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$60K OTE

Looking to get away from retail travel? Is it time you stood back from the frontline and jumped behind the scenes? Well here is your chance! This global travel company is currently recruiting for their corporate division. They are seeking strong, career driven and experienced travel consultants to join their highly successful teams and handle domestic and international travel arrangements for their business clients. Enjoy a strong salary package, uncapped commission and Monday to Friday hours. Call AA today to find out more!

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