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AFTA staff retention plan



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CI adding Melbourne

MELBOURNE will become the newest city to join the China Airlines global route network, with the Taipei-based carrier to launch to the Vic capital from 25 Oct, GDS displays indicate.

The new route will be operated three times a week by Airbus A330-300 aircraft, with plans to grow to six times weekly.

After arriving in Melbourne, the service will continue as a tagon to Christchurch, with China Airlines having traffic rights to fly passengers between the Victorian capital and NZ gateway.

Departing Taipei at 2330, the service will land at MEL at 1150 the next morning, continuing on to CHC at 1310, landing at 1830.

The return will begin at 1950, leaving MEL at 2310 and arriving TPE at 0535 the following day.

DVT prevention video

QANTAS is introducing a 4min exercise video accessible on all int'l services from Jul, aimed at helping passengers prevent deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in flight.

The video was developed with Physitrack Limited & University of Melbourne - CLICK HERE to view.

ENCOURAGING high quality & skilled people to select the travel industry as a long-term career choice will be a major focus for the Australian Federation of Travel Agents in the year ahead.

According to the organisation's 2015 Annual Report, issued this week and obtained by Travel Daily, a number of workforce development, recruitment and retention initiatives have been investigated over the past year.

Writing in the report, ceo Jayson Westbury said the matter continues to be a challenge but that greater effort will be put into this area in the coming year. As the industry's first fiscal

Scenic points bonanza

AGENTS will instantly earn \$250 worth of Scenic Rewards Points for every new Europe or France river cruise departing in 2016 booked and deposited by 31 Jul.

To avail the offer, agents must ensure their Scenic Rewards number is added to the Express Book at the time of booking. Scenic's message is the focus of today's Travel Daily cover page.

vear under the self-regulated ATAS scheme comes to a close. Westbury said AFTA has briefed Cabinet Ministers on the issues and challenges faced in tourism.

The organisation's financial status was detailed, reported as being in "very strong" health.

Westbury singled out for praise the efforts of general manager Gary O'Riordan and his team.

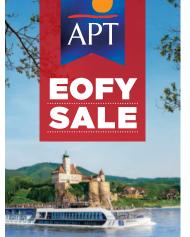
In his update, O'Riordan said the ATAS scheme now boasts over 3,200 participants, with AFTA putting in place a new online process for upcoming renewals.

The AFTA report also highlighted the skyrocketing levels of unused annual leave stockpiling each year, urging the government to relaunch its "No Leave, No Life" pitch, which ran from 2010-2013.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news, including a cover wrap for Scenic, a photo page for Rail Europe plus full pages from: (click):

- AA Appointments jobs
- Travel Industry Exhibition
- One&Only Wolgan Valley



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REAL REWARDS

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New InterCon DB gm

LONDON-BASED Langham Hospitality Group executive Paul Waters has today been named as the new gm of InterContinental Sydney Double Bay.

Waters has 30 years hotel & resorts industry experience and was previously a gm of W Sydney.



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Wednesday 24th June 2015

JetBlue argues AA/QF term

AMERICAN carrier JetBlue Airways has urged Australia and US competition regulators to limit proposed closer ties between Oantas and American Airlines to less than half of the term sought.

The Trans Pacific airlines have sought antitrust immunity from the US Dept of Transportation & reauthorisation for an expanded Joint Business Agreement (JBA) for a period of 10 years with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

In submissions lodged last week to the ACCC and DOT, JetBlue insisted if antitrust immunity between AA and QF was to be approved, authorisation should be limited to just three years.

"We believe this process ensures that the consumer benefits promised by antitrust immunity actually occur and that the immunised alliances are truly benefiting the travelling public," the airline told the ACCC.

Further. B6 told the DOT the alliance should be renewed only after the airlines have proven the claimed consumer benefits have heen realised

JetBlue Airways also provided the Aussie competition watchdog with a copy of its six-page letter to the US Govt relating to the US 'Open Skies' debate between American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines on the one side, and Emirates, Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways on the other.

In the submission, B6 said: "Just as the three US legacy carriers currently alleging unfair subsidies have exhibited anticonsumer behaviour domestically, they have relied upon their immunisation from antitrust laws, granted by DOT, to thwart competition internationally."

While dismissing AA/DL/UA's plea, JetBlue said regular antitrust immunisation reviews are "long overdue" to protect the public.



Virgin Cruises in 2020

SIR Richard Branson's newest business venture Virgin Cruises will begin welcoming passengers onboard the line's first vessel in 2020, the entrepreneur confirmed overnight, at the same time revealing the new division's corporate identity (pictured).

Branson revealed further details of his planned cruise business in Miami, saying the three mid-sized ships will have a capacity of more than 2,800 passengers (and 1,150

crew) and "will appeal to cruisers and non-cruisers alike."



The line will operate

seven-day Caribbean itineraries from Miami (TD 05 Dec), setting sail every Sun.

A binding Letter of Intent to construct the 110,000 tonne ships has been signed with Italian shipyard Fincantieri, with a contract to be inked in Q4 2015.

Virgin Cruises said the second & third vessels in the initial fleet will roll out in 2021 and 2022.

The new company is being bankrolled by Bain Capital, with md Ryan Cotton (who also sits on the Virgin Cruises Board) saying there is a "large, underserved market & strong growth prospects for a cruise line that delivers a superior experience for young-at-heart customers".

Customers have been invited to share their ideas online as to how the Virgin Cruises can "deliver an incredible experience at sea".

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Wednesday 24th June 2015

Mantra prediction

AUSTRALIA'S second largest hotel firm Mantra Group says it expects its FY2015 pre-tax profit to exceed \$70 million, based on current key earnings metrics.

In a business overview update this morning in Asia, Mantra Group reiterated that "business has performed strongly" during H1 for the 2015 financial year, with revenue around \$253m.

Providing an outlook for the FY2015, Mantra said it expects to exceed Prospectus forecasts, with EBITDA forecast to fall between \$71m-\$73m and Net Profit After Tax in the realm of \$35m-\$36.5m.

2 stands at Exhibition

ORGANISERS of the Travel Industry Exhibition are advising two new booths have become available for trade partners keen to exhibit their product and/or services during the show.

The event is taking place at Luna Park Sydney on 16-17 Jul.

Instagram place find

SEARCHING for places around the world is now easier on social media platform Instagram after the company today launched its new Places Search tool.

The function aims to open a 'window to the world' for users to view photos posted anytime by others visiting exotic locales, exploring a hotel or checking out festivals and shows.

Instagram has also introduced a Top Search feature allowing users to search people, places and tags in a single search box.



To access the features, users must download Instagram 7.0, which is now available through the Apple iTunes App Store or Google Play.

FJ w/end flight chaos

"MECHANICAL attention" necessary on one of Fiji Airways' Airbus A330s on Fri has been cited by the airline as the cause of numerous cancellations and flight rescheduling last weekend.

The issue in Brisbane on Fri was compounded when a pilot fell ill in Melbourne on Sun, causing a 14hr delay on a flight to Nadi.

Together, the incidents resulted in delays on flights to Auckland, Sydney and Los Angeles.

Fiji Airways apologised for the situation, saying: "Some of the experiences shared were avoidable and we are extremely sorry for the problems and inconvenience encountered.

"Whilst the events were unforeseen and every effort was taken to accommodate and communicate with our customers, there are clearly lessons to be learnt and so we are using this as an opportunity to review our disruption management protocols," FJ said.



A DREAM 8 NIGHT VACATION IN THAILAND FOR TWO

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LOYALTY is big business in the travel game, but Choice Hotels International is now taking legal action against one of its customers for being too loyal.

Florida businessman Robert Chat is being accused by Choice of exploting a loophole in its online booking system which saw reward points issued for simply booking, not staying.

Chat is alleged to have run up US\$48,500 in rewards value by making, and then cancelling, hundreds of bookings over a lucrative four-month period.

The hotel firm admitted Chat was a regular guest who also did check-in from time to time. Declaring his intention to

defend the suit, Chat said he wasn't even computer literate and said it was Choice's problem if he earned too many points.



Quest Kelvin Grove – opening 6th July

Quest Kelvin Grove is set to become the premier accommodation provider in Brisbane North. Featuring 85 studio, one, two and three bedroom serviced apartments, the property is conveniently located in the heart of QUT's Kelvin Grove campus, and only minutes from Brisbane CBD. Whether travelling to Brisbane for business or pleasure, Quest Kelvin Grove is the ideal accommodation choice.

Search "QG" on the GDS Visit queskelvingrove.com.au

Your perfect travel companion





A GROUP of Aussie agents have recently returned from a famil to Cambodia, during which they left an indelible mark on many local communities through a number of humanitarian projects.

During the trip, the group spent a day volunteering with New Hope Cambodia, a project partner organisation of G Adventures' sustainability arm Planterra.

The agents set to work helping to rebuild a road damaged by bad weather to help local students more easily reach their school.

Pictured above jumping for joy at Angkor Wat in the back row from left is Catherine Oosterveld, Flight Centre West Lakes; Jed Sale, Escape Travel Adelaide City; Jeff Morris; Malaysia Airlines; Samuel Phillips, My Adventure Store Adelaide and Rachel Steele from Flight Centre Unley Road. Front row: Danica Scott,

Escape Travel Norwood; Deanna D'Antonio, Flight Centre St Peters; Zoe Francis, G Adventures; Vikki Carr, Flight Centre Mount Barker; Alexa Carr, Flight Centre Hyde Park and Thomas Sfyrios, Escape Travel North Adelaide Village.

Insured for Namibia

DFAT is advising pax heading to Namibia to confirm their travel insurance coverage is recognised during their visit to Africa.

The warning is in response to some policies not being accepted.

&Beyond S America

EXPERIENTIAL travel operator &Beyond has expanded its operations onto a third continent, adding South America to a range already including Africa and Asia.

The company will open a new office in Santiago on 15 Jul, from where it will facilitate its DMC services for arriving passengers.

Further growth will come over the following year, with offices to also open in Argentina, Ecuador and Peru by mid-2016.

Starting out as a DMC provider, &Beyond says it will soon look to expanding into luxury lodges, Galapagos cruise ships and river ships on the Amazon.

The company says it can make "a significant and meaningful difference to the land, wildlife and people of South America".

QF up Chile allocation

QANTAS has sought approval from the International Air Services Commission to merge an allocation of 1,483 seats per week on the Chile route into a separate Determination for 364 seats that was authorised in 2014.

The consolidated allocation would see all 1,847 seats held on Determination IASC 111, of which the capacity may be used by QF to provide joint services with LATAM under a codeshare pact.

WIN TICKETS TO EMIRATES MATCH DAY -Collingwood VS Hawthorn





This week Emirates and **Travel** Weekly are giving you the chance to attend Emirates Match Day - Collingwood VS Hawthorn (Friday 3 July) and toss the coin on-ground prior to kick off.

For the chance to win, look for the unique question in every issue of **Travel Daily** for the remainder of this week and send your answers to:

emiratescointoss@ traveldaily.com.au

How many years has Emirates been a sponsor of the Collingwood Football Club?

Need a hint? Click here.

Check **Travel Daily** on Monday 29 June for this competition's winner!

Africareps site rehash

AGENTS will enjoy quicker access to companies marketed by Africareps, with the firm today launching a brand new website.

Abu Dheabi

Win 1 of 24 spots on the Abu Dhabi Mega Famil!

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A draw will be held at the end of the promotion and 24 lucky winners will be part of the Famil this September. Offer is valid for bookings until 24 July for travel between 1 September and 10 December 2015 to qualify.

Visit agents.etihad.com for the full itinerary and terms and conditions.



Top Spots North

THE tourism organisations for Central Coast, Hunter Valley, Newcastle and Port Stephens have partnered to release a 'Top Spots North' guide.

Officially launched at ATE15 this week, the guide has been designed "to encourage people to understand there is more to do in the region," Central Coast Tourism ceo Robyne Abernethy told Travel Daily.

The 12-page booklet highlights the Top 5 things to do in each region and offers suggested itineraries around the themes of food & wine, culture & heritage, nature and adventure, and lists accommodation and fast facts.

"It's a reminder that NSW's best city, country, beach and wine experiences can be found 2.5hrs from Sydney," added Abernethy.

For a copy of the guide, email info@centralcoasttourism.com.au.

Darwin kitchen appeal

NORTHERN Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles says a new demonstration kitchen at Wharf One Food & Wine restaurant at Darwin Waterfront will capitalise on the "growing phenomenon" which is food tourism.

The kitchen was co-funded by the NT Govt & is hoped to appeal to cruise and events audiences.



Parks Vic upgrades

PARKS Victoria unveiled the latest developments for its National Parks at ATE15 this week, coinciding with Great Ocean Walks' 10 year anniversary.

A new Great Ocean Walk Audio App has been developed featuring a collection of 68 stories in four languages, available free on the Apple iTunes store or via mp3 on greatoceanwalk.com.au.

The first section of the Grampians Peaks Trail also officially opened recently, offering hiking enthusiasts a three-day, two-night 36km loop walk.

Parks Victoria tourism manager Alysia Brandenburg told TD the federal and state governments had committed to \$30m funding to plan, build and construct further stages of the trail.

Earmarked to be fully completed in approx five years, The Grampians Peaks Trail will span 144km and provide a 13-day world class walk tour, "making it one of the most unique natural & cultural experiences in Australia where you're guaranteed to see wildlife," said Brandenburg.



COLONIAL Tramcar Restaurant company manager Ingrid Marshall took the opportunity to host a group of ATE15 buyers & sellers aboard its iconic fleet today for a special breakfast ride around the streets of Melbourne.

Currently in its 32nd year of operation, the tram experience continues to offer the same service it did when it first launched and "is doing better than ever," Marshall told TD.

In fact "we have a capacity problem and are in negotiation to get a fourth tram in service to cater for the demand," she said.

The Tramcar Restaurant offers three services every day of the week - lunch and an early and late dinner service.

To cater for cruise ship clients and major events when in the city, the attraction has introduced a morning tea service.

Pictured above in front of the glossy, burgundy restaurant on wheels earlier this morning from left are Rita Saltalamacchia,

hostess; John Forman, Tramcar & Eureka md; Ingrid Marshall, Tramcar Restaurant mgr; Rafelle Lawrence, Tramcar Restaurant assistant manager; Gabby Ferguson, The Travel Corporation & Lauren Walker from AAT Kings.

Laneway tour interest

HIDDEN Secrets Tours owner Fiona Sweetman says she has responded to travel agent requests and is now offering a 2pm departure on her popular Melbourne Lanes & Arcades Tour.

Speaking to Travel Daily at ATE15 this week, Sweetman said the afternoon tour had been added to cater for visitors arriving on late morning flights into the Victorian capital.

Priced from \$95pp, the three hour walking tour takes visitors through Melbourne's thriving laneway and arcade culture, discovering local designers, quirky cafes, unique architecture & street art - see hiddensecretstours.com.



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COME ON GET HAPPY

Are you looking for an opportunity to enrich people's lives in a unique and immersive way? New psychological studies out of the US have found that travel is the most significant and meaningful experience that impacts upon the lives of individuals. Money spent on travel is considered an investment in personal well being, growth, education and understanding.

These studies show that people who spend their money on experiences have been found to be considerably happier than those who spend it on material items. Dr Thomas Gilovich from Cornell University has been studying the links between money and happiness and believes that larger investments should go toward experiences that create lifelong memories rather than an item that will lose its "cool" factor within a few years. He says "our experiences are a bigger part of ourselves than our material goods. You can think that part of your identity is connected to those things, but nonetheless they remain separate from you. In contrast, your experiences really are part of you. We are the sum total of our experiences."

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Sydney agent eclipses comp



ECLIPSE Travel in Sydney was one of the winners of a recent Air Tickets agency incentive organised in conjunction with LAN Airlines.

The Sydney-based agency won a \$750 gift voucher.

Pictured presenting the prize to Eclipse Travel's co-owner Tim Farquhar (left) and director Matt McMillan are LATAM Airlines bdm NSW/ACT Catherine De Giorgio and Air Tickets sales manager Mary Reale.

QR earlier ATL launch

QATAR Airways has brought forward the planned launch of daily services from Doha to Atlanta using Boeing 777s by one month, from 01 Jul 16 to 01 Jun 16.



AGPC events on home straight

SPACE is rapidly growing thin for corporations and businesses keen to host an event in sync with the action of the 2016 Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix, with about 70% gone, organisers have said.

Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC) last week hosted business & MICE industry guests to a cocktail party at the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel, to promote the use of trackside facilities for events.

The use of grandstands and marquees around the track, as well as precinct venues and even the prestigious Paddock Club are on offer for the first time.

Speaking to **Travel Daily**, AGPC general manager sales and commercial Corina Black said it was able to tailor packages to include a huge range of activities, speakers and drawcards, with events to suit all budgets possible.

Formula 1 legends such as Sir Jackie Stewart & David Coulthard were often available as speakers, while Aussie hero Daniel Ricciardo was more difficult to book for his home race due to other demands.

Businesses keen to take advantage would have until about Oct as "an optimal time" to start planning an event, depending on its size and flexibility, Black said. The window for events was generally the Sun prior to race

day throughout the week itself. Replica Formula 1 cars can be displayed in some venues, while depending on timing, guests can gain access to driver autograph booths - or for the unlimited budget, even gain access to the pit lane roof for the race action.

Delegates from Asia were coming in droves for the Grand Prix, booking the week for events with up to 100 pax and above.

"Malaysia, China, Taiwan and India accounted for 60% of incentive arrivals in the last financial year," Black said.

She added incentive groups were looking for that 'money can't buy' experience which gives them bragging rights with their friends, clients and colleagues.

The 2016 Australian Grand Prix runs from 31 Mar to 03 Apr.

Hainan US onslaught

HAINAN Airlines has this week launched new services between Shanghai Pudong and Seattle, complementing other services also launched this month to Boston and Beijing-San Jose.



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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.



Changes to the **Park Regis Singapore** - run by Australia's StayWell Hospitality Group - are noticed as soon as entering, with a new executive-style reception greeting arrivals. A total of \$2.8 million has been spent on the property as of late, with new dining options

also added. Beds have been upgraded in all rooms, also including new "micro cloud" pillows, linens and toppers designed to relieve stress.



The results of a US\$25 million renovation are now on show at the W Los Angeles - West Beverly Hills. Guests can live the high life of a celebrity during their stay, with new private bungalows added as a secluded getaway. All 297 rooms have been reimagined with fresh

decor, new furniture and lighting. In addition, an 'Extreme WOW Suite' with private screening room and pulsating light living room, is available.



Refurbishments have been carried out on the **AVANI Quy Nhon Resort & Spa** to further enhance the appeal of the beachside Vietnam property. Guest rooms and suites have all been redesigned to maximise space, with new bedding and TV's also added. Junior

Suites now feature an open bathroom. Elsewhere, new deck walkways have been installed, while all resort gardens have been landscaped.

AF speeds up 747 exit

RETIREMENT of the final Air France Boeing 747 jet has been brought forward to 10 Jan 2016 from its original date of 26 Mar, according to GDS displays.

For its final route, the aircraft will operate a return Paris Charles de Gaulle to Mexico City service. Services on this route thereafter will be flown by 777-300ER jets.

Off-peak NZ growth

ANNUAL visitor arrivals to New Zealand continue to push towards a new record of three million for the calendar year, with latest results for May "record setting".

Statistics New Zealand this week announced a year-on-year jump in arrivals of 16.5% for the month of May, sending total visitors for the year to date up 6.9%.

Arrivals from Australia were up 2.2%, with the UK posting a climb of 7.6%, which Tourism New Zealand ceo Kevin Bowler said was a "positive picture" for the target traditional markets.

"We expect to see this grow in the coming months as our winter marketing activity gains momentum in market with the 'More magic in every day' campaign," Bowler commented.

Canada tourism pact

DESTINATION Canada has joined forces with the Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC) in a new cooperative tie-up which will see several annual events organised jointly.

The move applies to Tourism Congress, GoMedia Canada and the annual Rendez-vous Canada trade show, which next year will be held in Montreal (**TD** 25 May).

Both organisations have worked together for some time already, with the new agreement in effect from 01 Aug, running through to 31 Dec 2016, with renew options.

New head at Boeing

CURRENT chief operating officer at Boeing Dennis Muilenburg will take over from Jim McNerney as ceo from 01 Jul, the firm said.

McNerney will step down from the role but will remain chairman of the board, retiring next Feb.



SUPERJUMBO service has begun on China Southern to the Netherlands, the carrier flying a Beijing to Amsterdam service with its largest aircraft this week.



Agents raving about Vanuatu



AS REPAIRS go on in many parts of Vanuatu following Cyclone Pam earlier this year, Vanuatu Tourism Office is back in full swing, recently welcoming this group of agents from Infinity Holidays to again enjoy its tourism offerings.

The group, which travelled last month, was the first agent famil to go to the South Pacific nation following the disaster, enabling them to see the hard work put in by the entire country.

Many hotels, businesses and tour operations have reopened,

Cool youth adventure

CONTIKI has officially launched its 2015/16 Europe Autumn, Winter & Spring guide, which sees the firm operating its 25-day European Quest tour during the cooler months for the first time.

Like the summer equivalent, the flagship itinerary is available in shorter segments from different departure points and durations.

MEANWHILE, the youth holiday operator has reported strong success from its new 13-day Japan Unrivalled itinerary, saying it has doubled capacity to meet demand for next season.

Four new videos about Japan are available on its YouTube channel.

with the agents seeing that while the storm damaged property, it left their spirits and perpetually positive attitudes untouched.

The group included Roslyn Elsley, ET Tamworth; Karen Edenborough, FC Forestway; Emmilienne Magnusson, ET Broadway; Bronwyn Wareham, FC Kingston; Dejan Stanojevic, ET Burwood; Samuel Marsden, FC Gungahlin; Sandie Eade, FC Settlement City; Kristy McGurgan, FC Central; Jessica Briggs, FC Manly; Jenna Bills, FC Orange and Jessica Scardoni, FC Mawson.

Escorted by Anne Morris from Vanuatu Tourism Office (front row right), some of the group are **pictured** above with representatives from the Vanuatu Society of Disabled People.

You could be in Noosa

TOURISM Noosa has launched a new promotional campaign in the Melbourne market pushing its winter escape holiday options.

Dubbed 'You Could Be Here', the campaign will include activities such as a pop-up beach house set up in Federation Square as well as outdoor radio broadcasts, cooking and wellness demonstrations and prominent billboard advertising.



Agents Learn How the Swiss Roll!

FROM the new to the old and the highs (mountains) to the lows (dites), nine lucky agents who have proved to be Switzerland's top wholeselers and retailers oched and eahed their way through the pictures que country recently, ticking off a host of different activities and product offerings including the country's much lauded transportation system, a series of boutique hotels and some high-adventure thrills.

After a day of pure French indulgence in Paris, the group embarked on a short rail journey to neighbouring Switzerland. Equipped with an eight-day Swiss Travel Pass, the group began their Swiss adventure with a taste of life in the charming city of Basel along the River Rhine. They then made their way to the First cliff via a gondola ride from the adventure capital of Interlaken to get their adrenaline fix "flying" across to Schrekfeld on the First Flyer.

Mount Titlis proceeded to get their jaws dropping with its pristine snowcapped scenery and panoramic views, while Lucerne's history took them back over a century with its steep history. Then, the group embarked on the scenic Wilhelm Tell Express (a boat and train journey) to the enchanting Italian speaking town of Lugano for some luxury shopping.

The luxury element continued in the world famous ski resort town of St Moritz, from where they boarded their final scenic train journey onboard the Glacier Express to Zurich for some city and night life. Hosting the famil were Switzerland Tourism's Birgit Weingartner and Rail Europe's Ingrid Kocijan.

On this page are a collection of images taken during the trip.

INSET: Staying at the Hotel Montana, the group enjoyed sweeping views of Lake Lucerne.



ABOVE: On the River Rhine in Basel, the hosts and lucky agents on the famil included, from left, Charlene Tsui-Po, Holidays on Location; Birgit Weingartner, Switzerland Tourism; Ingrid Kocijan, Rail Europe; Jacinta Davidson, Infinity Rail; Lorena Fuda, CIT Holidays; Nadine Leveque, Rail Plus; Joy Schrodter-Davis, Infinity Rail; Kylie Esser, Qantas Holidays; Wai Wing, Flight Centre Concord; Sue Stuart, Shire Travel and Camilla Roswall from Travel Directors.

RIGHT: In the Swiss Alps, the agents braved the 100 metre long Titlis Cliff Walk suspension bridge at Mt Titlis, the highest bridge in Europe, standing at 3,011 metres above sea-level and 500 metres off the ground.



TAKING in the sunshine over a drink at the lakeside Quai 61 Bar & restaurant in Zurich.



ABOVE: Participants were left awestruck by some of the spectacular vistas while on their Wilhelm Tell Express ferry ride on Lake Lucerne.



BELOW: Kylie Esser from Rail Tickets/Qantas Holidays enjoyed snow tubing in Mt Titlis in the Swiss Alps.

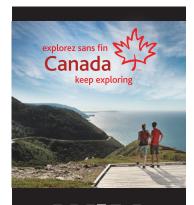






EVERGREEN Tours recently treated 15 agents to an eightday voyage between Nuremburg and Budapest aboard 'Star Ship' *Emerald Sky*.

When separated from their Emerald Balcony Suites, the



1 of 20 spots on a Canada Global Mega Famil flying with Air Canada

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- Open to existing Canada Specialist Agents – no need to do anything else
- Multiple itineraries choose your preferred itinerary

Complete training by 30 June to win! http://csp-au.canada.travel/

AIR CANADA 🏶

agents explored Weltenburg Abbey and enjoyed a Viennese Evening Concert to Cesky Krumlov as 'Discover More' excursions.

Some of the famil participants are **pictured** at Cesky Krumlov, including from left Alicia Coote, Evergreen Tours; Paul Lipschinski, Phil Hoffmann Travel Glenelg; Debra Andrews, MTA; Monika Jones, Riverland Travel; Montana McCosker, Windsong Travel; Tracey Keir, Evergreen Tours and Kelly Wicks, italktravel Warners Bay.

\$300m LC US upgrade

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts says it will invest US\$300 million on The Luxury Collection in North America to elevate the portfolio through conversions and refits. Destinations where hotels are

earmarked to receive funding include Key West, Lake Tahoe, San Antonio and San Francisco.

UK opens China door

GREAT Britain has simplified the visa application process for Chinese visitors, introducing a single process for both a British and European visa documents.

The new process takes effect from 01 Jul and removes a hurdle requiring Chinese to apply for two different visas to holiday in both the United Kingdom and Europe.

Customers will need to submit only one online application form before scheduling an interview for their British travel documents.

New TSA head named

UNITED States Coast Guard Vice Admiral Peter Neffenger has been endorsed by the US Senate as the new chief of the Transportation Security Administration.

He replaces Melvin Carraway, who was recently removed from office after being embarrassed by poor results in a series of undercover tests which saw fake passengers able to get through security with prohibited items 67 times out of 70 attempts.

Both the US Travel Association and Airlines for America have welcomed the new appointment.

"The travel community is relieved and encouraged that TSA will now have long-term leadership in place," USTA president & ceo Roger Dow said.

Neffenger is the second former US Coast Guard official - and second Admiral at that - to be named to a senior transport or tourism post in as many months after Rear Admiral Thomas Ostebo was appointed last month as the new chief executive officer for CLIA Global.



Ritz doubles its debut

LUXURY Marriott Int'l brand Ritz-Carlton will open two new properties in the Central American nation of Panama next year.

The Ritz-Carlton Panama City will sit inside a 29-storey mixeduse building and will offer 220 rooms, four restaurants, lounges, a spa and two swimming pools.

In addition, the Ritz-Carlton Reserve on Pearl Island will be located south of the capital, with 80 rooms and a private marina.

Third Larapinta camp

WORLD Expeditions has added a third exclusive semi permanent campsite below Mt Sonder in the West MacDonnell Ranges in the Northern Territory for guests hiking its Classic Larapinta Trail.

'Fearless Camp' joins World Expeditions' Nick & Charlie camps.



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

Q17. Name a Club Med resort located in the ski region of "Les 3 vallees"?



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