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Travel Daily

First with the news

Friday 26th June 2015

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Scenic solo savings

SCENIC has released a range of solo traveller deals for its 2016 European river cruise season, with no single supplement charged in any cabin category on 21 departures - including in France - in Mar-Apr and Oct-Dec.

From Apr-Sep there's also 50% off the single supplement in category BA balcony suite cabins on 34 departures in Europe, 24 in France and four in Portugal.

EK tariff review

EMIRATES has restructured all of its fares to incorporate fuel surcharges effective 01 Jul, in line with changes made by its alliance partner Qantas (see page 3).

Some EK fares will also change, with any bookings made prior to 30 Jun required to be ticketed by that date to avoid increases.

Today's issue of TD

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

- AA Appointments jobs
- One&Only Hayman Island
- Virgin Australia

Jetstar HK denied lift off

QANTAS ceo Alan Joyce says regulators in Hong Kong are out of step with the rest of the world, after knocking back the long-awaited approval for Jetstar Hong Kong (**TD** breaking news).

"At a time when aviation markets across Asia are opening up, Hong Kong is going in the opposite direction," he said.

Jetstar Hong Kong was flagged almost four years ago (**TD** 04 Aug 2011) with claims it would be the first LCC to be based in the city.

The joint venture between Qantas and China Eastern Airlines was planning to commence flights with three A320s, with expectations this would grow to 18 within three years, operating as many as 129 routes across Asia.

The venture had been plagued with repeated delays, with local investor Shun Tak also taking a stake to comply with majority control requirements.

However Hong Kong's Air Transport Licensing Authority has finally decided Jetstar Hong Kong did not comply with the "basic law..in having its principal place of business in Hong Kong.

"Jetstar Hong Kong cannot make its decisions independently from that of the two foreign shareholders," the regulator said.

Cathay Pacific spokesman James Tong said it was "the right decision for Hong Kong" because it ensures that important economic assets such as air traffic rights "are used for the benefit of the people and the economy of Hong Kong".

QF and its fellow shareholders will now "review" Jetstar Hong Kong, with Joyce saying "it's the travelling public who have lost out.

"Given the importance of aviation to global commerce, shutting the door to new competition can only serve the vested interests already installed in that market," he said.

FC urges investors to take a chill pill

FLIGHT Centre ceo Graham Turner says the 20%-plus slump in the company's share price this week (**TD** yesterday) is an overreaction, with investors severely punishing the stock after he revealed the company is losing market share to OTAs.

According to the *Financial Review*, he said it was the "mere mention of market share" which appears to have spooked the market, with the announcement stating the Australian travel market had grown 3% while Flight Centre's TTV was only up 2.7%.

The sell-down comes despite Flight Centre continuing to expect its full year pre-tax result to be between \$355m and \$365m - meaning it is making around \$1 million in profit every day.

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QF to can wine panel

QANTAS is set to disband its advisory panel of wine experts, with the role of "consulting chef" Neil Perry to be expanded to oversee onboard beverages.

The new direction was revealed by wine writer Huon Hooke, who confirmed Perry will replace the existing panel of Vanya Cullen, Tom Carson and Steve Pannell who have created the award-winning Qantas wine selection for more than a decade.

Qantas is the third biggest purchaser of wine in Australia behind supermarket giants Coles and Woolworths, with an annual budget of around \$15 million.

Wines selected by the current panel saw Qantas receive nine medals at the Cellar in the Sky Awards this year - more than any other airline in the world.

'Single voice' becomes two

THE proposed joint venture to provide "one voice for Australia's accommodation industry" (*TD* 04 Sep 14) has been disbanded, after the Australian Hotels Association (AHA) failed to reach agreement with the Accommodation Association of Australia (AAoA).

Last year, the AHA and AAoA established a joint working board to develop a single organisation representing the sector, which saw the commencement of a due diligence process to end "years of confusion" for hoteliers.

However, the groups have been unable to come to an agreement.

AHA is still committed to "one well-resourced and effective national accommodation voice," said AHA ceo Stephen Ferguson, with its Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) to be maintained and strengthened "to focus solely on the needs and drivers of the accommodation sector".

TAA recently appointed former federal Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson as its chair, with the

organisation claiming "strong representation from the majority of the international hotel brands".

However the AAoA today expanded its board to include Accor chief operating officer Simon McGrath; Trent Fraser from Choice Hotels and Quest Serviced Apartments ceo Zed Sanjana - joining existing directors such as TFE Hotels ceo Rachel Argaman, SilverNeedle's Andrew Turner, Best Western director Ian Sandilands and travel industry veteran Col Hughes.

AAoA ceo Richard Munro claims 85% of accommodation chains are committed to the organisation which is "purely focused on accommodation beds".

Rivalry stepped up four years ago when the AHA formed Tourism Accommodation Australia (*TD* 14 Feb 2011) in competition with the AAoA which was formerly known as the Hotel Motel & Accommodation Association.

oneworld priority

THE oneworld airline alliance has announced new "Priority" branding to make it easier for frequent flyers to see where they can access on the ground privileges offered by the alliance.

The new logo, **pictured** below, will "highlight key touchpoints" at check-in, lounges, fast tracks and boarding, with Perth Airport the first in the world to see the updated branding which has been unveiled in WA today.

All of the alliance's hubs will feature oneworld Priority signage within a year, with the rollout to be completed across its 1,000 airports in the next 12 months.



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Click here to Learn & Earn \$50 reward points >

AW Africa release

ADVENTURE World Australia has unveiled its new dedicated brochure for Africa (*TD* 15 May), with gm Neil Rodgers saying the soft adventure specialist has responded to agents' requests for the guide to assist them selling its "unique product".

See **page six** to read *TD*'s exclusive interview with Rodgers.

New EK Qld manager

EMIRATES today announced the appointment of Leonie Brennan as its new regional manager for Queensland.

Most recently with Wyndham, Brennan's was also with Qantas for some years in corporate travel, call centre operations and airline partnerships.

She replaces Kim Tomlinson who has moved on from Emirates "to pursue other opportunities".

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QF reviews international fares

QANTAS will extend the ticketing time limit by seven days for all existing international bookings ex Australia made prior to 30 Jun, to allow agents to confirm bookings after the introduction of new tariffs which become effective next week.

The carrier has now completed the review flagged earlier this year (**TD 27 Jan**) which has seen the restructure of international tariffs so that fuel surcharges are absorbed into base fares.

At the same time, Qantas has "reviewed and made some adjustments to international tariffs," with any bookings remaining unticketed on/after 01 Jul to be reassessed at the new levels - unless a waiver authority number 617255 is applied for ticketing by COB on 07 Jul.

Tickets issued in this manner will not auto-quote from the GDS and must be done using a manually constructed fare.

QF has today been running a series of agent webinars to update consultants on the changes which apply to all selling channels as well as wholesale, group and VFR fares.

International base commission will continue to be payable on published base fares.

At this stage the changes apply to all Qantas international fares where travel originates in Australia, with the carrier progressively working through the changes for tickets originating in other markets.

MEANWHILE, despite the tariff revamp, Qantas will continue to levy fuel surcharges on frequent flyer redemptions.

However, the carrier is reducing the levies further as fuel prices drop, with changes this week estimated to save around 12% on average - meaning Economy return flights to London will see a \$70 drop in the surcharge.

SAS partners with CX

SCANDINAVIAN Airlines will partner with Cathay Pacific to service the Australian market on a new direct route between Stockholm and Hong Kong (**TD 30 Jan**), with the A330/A340 service to debut on 10 Sep with five weekly frequencies.

The new service will connect with CX flights departing BNE/MEL/PER/SYD each evening, offering a total journey time to Stockholm as short as 21 hours.

The new SK964 service will arrive in Sweden at 2.35pm, providing convenient fast connections to many destinations across Europe and Scandinavia.

The SAS aircraft offers three cabins - SAS Go (Economy), SAS Plus (Premium Economy) and SAS Business, with a 1-2-1 all aisle-access configuration and fully flat seats a minimum of 196cm long.

On-demand entertainment is offered throughout, with power outlets in all cabins and individual USB ports.



Window Seat

ARE travel insurers ready for a spate of winter injuries?

New Zealand's Accidents Compensation Commission has released a list of claims it received last year, with skiing naturally leading the way in terms of sporting mishaps.

However, travellers should also beware of other cool-weather hazards, with one claim requiring a payout for a burnt buttock after someone "fell against a hot fireplace flue while dancing".

Other more genteel winter activities also came into focus, with claims for various strains from the serene sport of curling.

Slips on ice accounted for almost 1,000 claims, while other non-sporting incidents included 21 "scarf-related" injuries.

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WINDOW: \$1764pp
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14 Nights
from Sydney to Singapore

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(Indonesia), Johor (Malaysia), Singapore

INSIDE: \$2082pp
WINDOW: \$2558pp
BALCONY: \$2936pp

* Terms & conditions apply

For bookings & further information contact your preferred Travel Professional or visit www.starcruires.com

Snow Conditions

WELCOME to **TD's** regular snow conditions update, providing info on the latest snow falls, depths and lifts in operation across key Australia and New Zealand ski-fields.

Here's the latest snow reports:

- Falls Creek - 25cm / 4 lifts
- Perisher - 0 cm / 18 lifts
- Thredbo - 0 cm / 8 lifts
- Charlotte Pass - 0 cm / 2 lifts
- Mt Hotham - 10cm / 3 lifts
- Mt Buller - 25cm / 4 lifts
- Coronet Peak - 65cm / 8 lifts
- The Remarkables - 80cm / shut
- Mt Hutt - 80cm / 4 lifts
- Cardrona - 65cm / 6 lifts

Amadeus slams LH

AMADEUS ceo Luis Maroto says Lufthansa's new €16 GDS booking fee (**TD** 03 Jun) will penalise travellers because they will have "less transparency when searching for flights".

Speaking before the Amadeus AGM in Madrid, Maroto said the firm does not agree with Lufthansa's calculations to come up with the €16 figure, adding "it is common industry knowledge that the investment in digital advertising needed to attract a customer to an airline's website is close to €15 per booking".

Ecolodge planned for Aus Botanic Gardens

THE 20-year Master Plan for the Australian National Botanic Gardens released yesterday calls for a range of new facilities and eco-tourism experiences at the Canberra attraction, including a new eco-lodge.

According to the Master Plan, four eco-tourism accommodation dwellings (**pictured** below) are earmarked for the site, along with an adventure ropes course.



A new event amphitheatre, Visitor Centre, cafe and function room are also planned.

747 production slows

AIRCRAFT manufacturer Boeing has announced it will cut the rate of production of its 747 jet from the current rate of about 1.5 per month to 1 unit, commencing from the start of 2016.

Through until May, Boeing has delivered 33 units of the 747-8 and has another 18 unfilled.

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Abu Dhabi famils

ONE hundred seats are set to be hotly contested by travel agents keen to earn a place on two Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority famils being organised.

The tourism organisation, in partnership with Etihad Airways & Virgin Australia, will run its first annual famil event in mid-Sep, with a subsequent trip planned for early 2015.

Each famil will offer 50 agents one of three itineraries through the emirate, culminating on Yas Island for an Arabian farewell.

TCA Abu Dhabi country manager Michael Woods emphasised travel agents were "vital" in helping boost awareness of Abu Dhabi as an extended stopover destination.

ABOVE: This group of agents recently experienced Peregrines' brand new Taiwan tour, courtesy of the adventure company and Taiwan Tourism.

Highlights of the Treasures of Taiwan included visits to Yehliu National Geo Park, Taroko Gorge and the night markets at the gold rush town of Jiufen and Yilan.

Pictured from left are Leonie Seiner, Flight Centre Maitland; Sarah Mills, We Know Travel Dubbo; Sean Anstee, Escape Travel Toowoomba; Robert Cameron, Panorama Cruise & Travel Bathurst; Brett Harvey, Intrepid Group NSW bdm; Rachel Xiberras, helloworld Blacktown; Jacqui L'hostis, New England Travel Centre and Lesley Cameron from Taiwan Tourism.

GM Customer Service

An exciting senior leadership opportunity exists within APT for a talented individual to lead our Customer Service Team



APT has seen rapid growth over recent years and is now one of the key industry leaders.

We are a proud Australian owned and operated company with an exciting opportunity for a talented individual to lead our Customer Service team. This role is also a member of our Executive team and will be responsible for strategy development, operational performance and service level excellence for our call centre operations.

The successful candidate will possess the following:

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- Demonstrated leadership skills, strong commercial acumen and innovative thinking

To apply please visit <http://aptouring.applynow.net.au/> or call Beth Knight (GM HR) on 03 8526 1481.

Grand Prix extension

TRAVEL packages including air, hotel and tickets to the Singapore Formula 1 Grand Prix from Singapore Airlines Holidays have been extended for sale to 04 Jul.

Seasonal labour for hotels

WORKING holidaymakers can now obtain temporary positions in the accommodation industry under changes made this week to the Seasonal Worker Program by the federal government.

Changes see the hotel sector become part of the program in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, North Queensland and Kangaroo Island, allowing an uncapped number of seasonal workers to find jobs in hotels. The Accommodation Association of Australia welcomed the move, with ceo Richard Munro saying it

will "ease the strain" in allowing hotels to access a reliable source of workers for short-term roles. Munro added sourcing labour in regional areas had been identified as a key challenge for the sector.

US Councils pro-Skies

A MEETING of US Mayors has drummed up further support for Emirates, Etihad Airways & Qatar Airways in their battle with the "Big Three" US carriers.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors declined to pass a resolution endorsing a freeze on competition by the three giant Middle-Eastern carriers.

Executive vice president of the US Travel Association Jonathan Grella said the move reflected the views of local businesses keen to retain access to int'l markets.

"It is time for the Big Three to follow the example of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and finally drop their push to freeze and roll back job-creating air service routes," Grella commented.

NT TID funding open

APPLICATIONS are now being accepted for Northern Territory tourism businesses seeking funds via the NT Government's Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund.

In total, \$4.75 million is available for businesses keen to develop new attractions and improve the overall visitor experience, with small and large grants possible.

See www.tourismnt.com.au.

NYE on Cockatoo Is

EXPRESSIONS of interest are open until tomorrow for house & apartment rental on Cockatoo Island for New Year's Eve 2015 for minimum stays of five nights.

Options include heritage houses & apartments with harbour views, while tickets for glamping, camping packages & BYO camping will go on sale through Moshtix from 9am on 03 Aug.

Cockatoo Island will celebrate NYE with activities for groups of all ages, with specialty food outlets, bar facilities and music.

Bennelong to reopen

SYDNEY eatery Bennelong at the Sydney Opera House will open on 1 Jul, with chef Peter Gilmore offering a menu driven by raw and cured Australian produce.

THAI Euro as normal

THAI Airways International says it will continue to operate flights to Europe as normal despite a red flag highlighting safety concerns on Thailand's Civil Aviation Dept.

The carrier says it will continue to operate to EU-mandated safety standards, however has prepared a Business Continuity Plan in the event of prolonged disruptions.

TG was not specifically listed by the European Union as a carrier banned on flying in the region.

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

In 25 words or less tell us, within Emirates' global network of destinations, which would be your favourite to travel to and why.

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

Price cut on Wu tours

WENDY Wu Tours is offering a \$500pp discount on 13 group tours departing in Jul-Dec 2015.

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



How would you like the opportunity to visit our home, Abu Dhabi, this September? Imagine this: luxurious hotels, stunning beaches, rolling sand dunes and the chance to have a completely unique adventure you'll never forget.

Winning is easy, all you need to do is sell Etihad Airways or Virgin Australia flights to Abu Dhabi and follow the below steps:

- Enter your SuperSeller APIN number on eligible bookings. Not a member yet, register today.
- Keep selling - each ticket sold qualifies for one entry into our draw - the more you sell, the better your chances to win.

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.



Be our guest.

More Adventure for Adv World

ADVENTURE World's newly appointed gm for Australia Neil Rodgers says bolstering the firm's unique product is a key element in the next stage of the company's evolution.

Speaking exclusively with *Travel Daily* yesterday, Rodgers said one of The Travel Corporation's prime objectives for Adventure World when it was acquired from NRMA 18 months ago was to return the business to its roots and be fully focused on pioneering product development.

"That has been the essence and the directive from The Travel Corporation - to bring back the adventure to Adventure World," Rodgers told *TD* in his first trade interview since taking over the captaincy at AW.

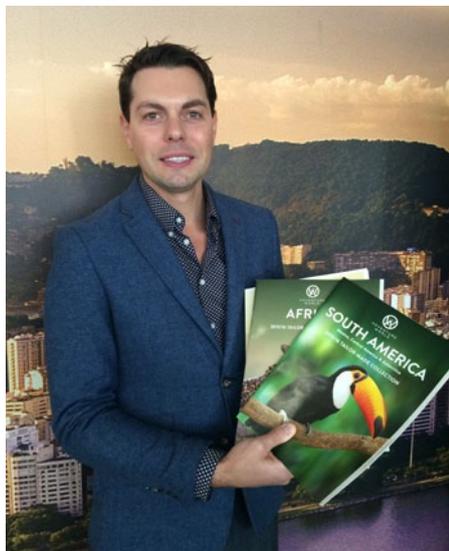
"Bringing in new products that aren't readily in market right now is high on my agenda," he said, signalling "other players" are encroaching into markets Adventure World first laid down its foundations in decades ago.

Core destinations for AW have always been Africa, Latin America, India and Canada & Alaska, but Rodgers said with "more coach brands" exploring those regions, there is even more need to offer a diversified product range.

"We see the likes of other major companies coming into India, Africa and entering further into expedition and small ship cruising," the eight-year AW executive told *Travel Daily*.

"As all of the markets mature we just need to keep pioneering and exploring the next areas.

"That has been where we are really trying to make the point of difference, particularly moving



into the 2016/17 collections."

This year has seen the roll-out of standalone brochures for each core region (*TD* 15 May), primarily acting as "toolkits" to aid agents through the selling process.

A worldwide brochure which debuted last year under former AW boss Fiona Hunt will continue to be offered, but geared more towards "inspirational product" and showcasing the company's ties with National Geographic.

"These are true adventure programs with each itinerary in 2016 containing at least one defining element," he explained.

Rodgers said AW's core product principles are centred on wildlife and wilderness, culture and heritage and active adventures, with key experiences festivals & events, culinary and photography, each of which are showcased in the 2016 brochure portfolio.

An audit of past programs was needed to ensure content now aligns with the firm's three pillars and experiences.

"We have moved a lot of product that isn't aligned," he admitted.

In Canada "where a lot of

Friday 26th June 2015

Uncharted AW tours

A **NICHE** special interest small group program that is "likely to be outside the comfort zone of most travellers" is set to be developed by Adventure World.

GM Australia Neil Rodgers told *TD* itineraries will be limited to a maximum of just 12 pax and will venture into "uncharted" regions of the world, with accom on some trips in tribal villages and sleeping in hammocks.

people are in the market," AW is "really re-engineering product," now offering expeditions in a new High Arctic program and unique experiences such as stays in a lighthouse in Newfoundland.

In Latin America, Rodgers said he's planning to bring product in the French Colony of Suriname, "which no one to date has in the market in Australia".

In Asia, Adventure World is adding Bangladesh, South Korea and a more in-depth Silk Road experience, while in Africa the firm is seeking to add further diversity.

Rodgers is **pictured** showcasing some of Adventure World's new brochures in North Sydney.

CZ nudge up JFK flts

CHINA Southern has this week commenced operating daily night-time flights between Guangzhou and New York JFK, utilising Boeing 777-300ER aircraft.

The SkyTeam member carrier is also operating thrice weekly day flights on the route through until 11 Sep using 777-300ERs.

CZ launched flights to JFK in Aug with a four weekly operation.

AYQ Wintjiri opened

INDIGENOUS Land Corporation chairperson Dr Dawn Casey has officially opened the Wintjiri Arts & Museum at Ayers Rock Resort.

The facility is dedicated to showcasing and supporting local Indigenous art & provides resort guests with a window into the local Anangu culture.

Wintjiri Arts & Museum will now house the resort's artist in-residence program, enabling guests an opportunity to interact with artists, see displays and purchase their work.

Heartlake revealed

LEGOLAND Florida Resort will today launch its newest land.

Building on the success of the LEGO Friends product line, the new Heartlake City zone is based on characters Olivia, Stephanie, Emma, Andrea & Mia and features new rides, interactive musical shows and retail precinct.

Reed Holidays Group

Specialising in group tours for the 50+ traveller

Retail Sales Manager Eastern Suburbs-Full Time

Reed Holidays Group, a specialist in group touring for 50+ travellers, is seeking a dynamic, passionate and experienced Retail Sales Manager to join our team. This exciting role has responsibility for the internal sales team, managing and driving sales and reports directly to our National Sales and Marketing Manager. You will lead, develop and mentor a team of sales consultants to their optimum performance levels.

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Excellent salary and conditions in accordance with experience and qualifications.

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A promotional graphic for the '2015 Tassie Specialist Conference' held from 18-20 September. The graphic features a Tasmanian quoll, a wooden crate of 'CRAFTED' beer, and a bottle of beer. Text includes 'Become a Tassie Specialist today!', 'ALL INCLUSIVE!', 'Tasmania', and 'CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE! - GO BEHIND THE SCENERY -'.

2015 **Tassie Specialist** Conference
18-20 SEPTEMBER

Become a Tassie Specialist today!

ALL INCLUSIVE!

Tasmania

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360° tramada® connect support.....



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booking and finance workflows. As the complexity of the product grows and the number of users increases we need to continuously evolve the way we service our clients.

tramada® connect support offers our clients 24/7 self-logging from within their tramada® system using tools from the widely acclaimed Australian born company, Atlassian.

This system now provides our clients with full visibility of all of their queries complete with real-time updates as the investigation progresses. *The full history of any query is available at any time including the original query itself, all responses, any screen shots or other artefacts that form part of the discussion.* The support processes are embedded within the agents tramada® system. They are linked to the existing role based security which means that a consultant, office manager or any other system role has access to the right queries in real time on a 24/7 basis.

We are committed to delivering local, flexible and expert client friendly support services and to continuously evolve our offering to ensure that our leading edge technology is matched with leading edge support.

How is your travel ecosystem empowering your business?

For more information about tramada® – email: sales@tramada.com

Brenton Fear, Head of Operations, Tramada – your technology partner



TIN Specialist portal

ONLINE travel agent webinar and training aggregator Travel Industry Network has launched a Specialist Program platform to allow businesses to upload their own online training courses.

Using the system, agents can log on at a convenient time to view & complete interactive training courses including assessments.

Travel Industry Network founder Sabina Ziolkowski said the system allows wholesalers, destination bodies and other businesses to run education courses for their agents, freeing up sales reps to continue to focus on offering one-on-one training as required.

Port Lincoln day trip

SOUTH Australian travel firm Tasting Eyre has launched a new Port Lincoln day tour, highlighting the destination's scenery, produce and wildlife.

Participants will visit Port Lincoln National Park, Whaler's Way, Glen Forest Tourist Park, Mikkira Station and local wineries for wine tastings.

The tour operates three times weekly and is priced at \$99 per adult - see tastingeyre.com.au.

Air Seychelles chief

ETIHAD Airways senior vice president - revenue management & planning Roy Kinnear has been named as the new chief executive officer for Air Seychelles.

Kinnear has three decades of experience in the airline industry and will begin with HM on 01 Jul.

Chicago out of funds

ILLINOIS Governor Bruce Rauner has vetoed 19 budget bills for Choose Chicago, the body tasked with promoting the city to domestic and int'l travellers.

The organisation will no longer receive its statutory funding from hotel taxes which make up 40% of its annual operating budget.

As a result, Choose Chicago promo campaigns have been suspended or cancelled, with an online petition now circulating.

Europcar adds Passat

VOLKSWAGEN Passat Saloon S and SE range vehicles are now available to hire from Europcar for pax visiting the UK & Europe.

The vehicle is aimed at families or large groups travelling together.

Macau on the move

THE Macau Government Tourist Office in Sydney will reside at a new address from 29 Jun, moving to Level 17, 456 Kent Street, with phone numbers to be unchanged.

Growth spurt in NSW for Quest



GOVERNMENT officials both current and former were on hand to introduce communities in the NSW towns of Albury and Nowra to their newest accom offerings.

Quest Serviced Apartments last night capped off a busy fortnight with the official opening of Quest Albury on Townsend - mere days after the doors at Quest Nowra were too opened for the first time.

The second Quest property in Albury offers 79 studio, one and two-bedroom apartments, and is under the guidance of Noel Wood, also franchisee of Quest Albury, who has been part of the Quest family for over 15 years.

Quest Nowra is home to 81 studio, one, two and three-bedroom apartments, with franchisee James Blanchett saying his property would cater to a growing corporate sector in the NSW south coast community.

Both offer kitchenettes in the studio rooms, with full kitchens

inside multi-room apartments.

Pictured above from left at the opening of Quest Albury are Madeleine and Noel Wood, Kev Poulton, Tim Fischer AC, Cr Kevin Mack, Natasha Callewaert, Scott McAlister, Quest chief operating officer, and Jason Callewaert.

Advice for Seychelles

GROWING numbers of Aussie tourists visiting the Seychelles has led the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to issue an alert level for the Indian Ocean nation.

Normal safety precautions are now advised for the destination.

JetBlue to Nashville

US LOW-COST carrier JetBlue will resume service to Nashville from early next year, returning after an eight year absence.

JetBlue will operate twice daily using A320 aircraft from both Fort Lauderdale and Boston.



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Shangri-La into Hefei

CHINA'S Anhui Province has welcomed its newest hotel in the form of the 27-storey Shangri-La Hotel, Hefei, offering 401 rooms, suites and top-floor Horizon Club.

Agents chill out on Kangaroo Is



GETTING up close and personal with wildlife on both land and in the sea was a daily occurrence during a recent fam to South Australia by a group of 15 agents specialising in backpacker travel.

The five-day South Australian Wildlife Adventure was sponsored by the South Australian Tourism Commission along with a host of tour operators, backpacker lodges

The Hotel Autograph

BOUTIQUE Swiss property The Hotel, located in Lucerne, will become the newest member of the Marriott Int'l independent Autograph Collection portfolio.

The Hotel, which offers 30 suites including four penthouses, will officially become part of the group effective from 08 Jul.

WA groups together

MARGARET River Busselton Tourism Association (MRBTA), the newly formed joint venture of two former entities, is readying for its official launch next month.

The group will come into effect from 01 Jul and marks the joining of The Augusta Margaret River and the Geographe Bay Tourism Association, with assets, staff and procedures now firmly in sync.

and transportation firms.

Agents undertook the two-day Kangaroo Island Wilderness Explorer tour courtesy of SeaLink followed by a three-day Southern Ocean Wildlife Adventure.

While on Kangaroo Island, the group went sand-boarding at Little Sahara, viewed the iconic Remarkable Rocks, Admirals Arch and interacted with playful seals.

Moving on to Port Lincoln, the agents turned the extreme rating up a notch by going shark diving, coming face to face with some of the predators themselves, but thankfully protected by a cage.

The group are **pictured** above perched on Remarkables Rock.

DY Caribbean routes

LONG-HAUL low-cost carrier Norwegian has announced plans to launch three new routes from the United States to Guadeloupe and Martinique in the French Caribbean later this year.

Thrice weekly flights will be offered from New York JFK to each destination starting 03 Dec, while double daily services will be available from Boston & Baltimore-Washington.

Introductory fares will be priced from US\$79 one way.



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.

The Retreat Port Stephens has put together a winter package designed to save guests 20% on a getaway to the region north of Sydney. Priced from \$399 per couple, the package offers plenty to do, with a 90-minute dolphin cruise and entry to Murray's Brewery all included along with three nights accom and breakfast vouchers - see www.portstephens.org.au.

Special rates exclusively for travel industry personnel have been released at the **Hotel de la Paix** in Luang Prabang for agents planning a trip to Laos. Rates start at US\$100 per room per night. Also, the **3 Nagas Luang Prabang** has cut rates to US\$63 per room per night. Rates are subject to 21% tax & service charge, with valid industry ID required at check-in. Valid for booking and travel until 31 Oct. **CLICK HERE** for more information.

Luxury value-adds are being thrown in for guests booking Signature Suites at the prestigious **Dorchester Collection**. For guests booking at the Best Available Rate, the brand is including FOC roundtrip airport transfers, a bottle of fine Krug champagne & a fresh fruit platter in-room upon arrival. Dorchester properties are located in Los Angeles, London, Paris and Milan. For details, see <http://suites.dorchestercollection.com>.

TK direct to Atlanta

TURKISH Airlines has advised it will begin direct service to Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson Int'l Airport next year - the carrier's ninth US gateway flying daily from 16 May.

Kids roam in London

ROLE-PLAY theme attraction Kidzania London (**TD** 29 May) has opened its 19th and latest outlet inside Westfield London, offering kids the chance to test real jobs.



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

Q19. What is the name of the traditional Japanese hot tub at Club Med Hokkaido Sahoro?

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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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Is booking travel in large numbers your idea of excitement? This global travel company is booming in business and they are currently recruiting for group travel consultants to join their corporate and leisure departments. The role will have you booking group travel for anywhere between 10 – 100 people, you will work Monday to Friday hours only and earn great \$\$\$. This is a great opportunity to work for a company that recognises and rewards its employees hard work. If this sounds like the role for you then apply today.

PREFER THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER? SENIOR LEISURE CONSULTANT

MELBOURNE- SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$55K + INCENTIVES

This agency is located in one of Melbourne's most affluent suburbs and is seeking an industry expert to join their very experienced and supportive team. Servicing mainly high end enquiry, you must have a min. of 3 years' experience with a following of clientele, solid GDS skills, strong knowledge of luxury suppliers and product. In return you will be offered an excellent salary package of up to \$55K DOE plus incentives, opportunities to attend the industry's most luxurious famils and Mon-Fri business hours, doesn't get better than this!

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Are you looking to relocate for the perfect role? Well look no further! These independently owned agencies renowned for their superior customer service are currently looking for two new retail travel consultants to join their offices. Your role will involve servicing their repeat and referral clients and booking domestic and international travel arrangements. You will work amongst a strong and supportive team and enjoy a strong salary package with uncapped commission. Does this sound worth the move? Call us now.

CALLING ALL PRODUCT & DESTINATION EXPERTS SENIOR TRAVEL CONSULTANT

PERTH – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$60K DOE

This boutique agency has a rare opportunity for an experienced consultant to join their well-established team. Say goodbye to the time wasters, this position will be all about repeat and referral. Predominantly servicing the high end leisure market you will need to have a minimum 4 years industry experience along with strong destination, product & GDS knowledge and a following of clientele is a must. In return you will enjoy Monday-Friday hours, a friendly and supportive team environment and lucrative salary package.

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THE SKY IS THE LIMIT CRUISE AIRFARE SPECIALIST SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$60k

This pioneering Cruise Company wants an airfare specialist to construct detailed fare itineraries, issue tickets & handle reissues, refunds and special requests. Also enjoy creating new cruise packages, including flight, accom & tours, using your product knowledge. This varied role will continue to stretch and develop your skills. Do you have min 2 years ticketing exp, solid GDS skills, pref product exposure & a love of cruising? Then apply now to enjoy a top salary pkg, M-F only, famils/inspections & your chance to break into product!

ARE YOU AN ASIAN SPECIALIST? WHOLESALE TRAVEL CONSULTANT SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$45K

This renowned Asian specialist is seeking a passionate consultant to join their growing team. With an extensive product range that showcase this beautiful continent, sell FIT & Group tours, including flights & pre/post activities, to travel agents & direct passenger. If you have min 2 years retail or w/sale exp, GDS skills & passion for Asia, this is the role for you. With famils & annual overseas conference you will get to explore the destinations you sell as well as ongoing career opportunities & development.



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21 MAY - 8 JULY 2015

It's not too late to join Virgin Australia's Aviators Club, an exclusive online auction rewards experience created just for our travel agent partners. Sell and ticket flights on Virgin Australia (795) ticket stock to earn Points. New auctions are added weekly, so there are still plenty of opportunities to earn rewards. The more you sell, the more Points you have to bid on a great range of auction items.

THIS WEEK'S FEATURE AUCTION

GLOBAL JAPANESE KNIFE BLOCK SET



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Top our High Sellers Leaderboard by selling and ticketing the highest base fare revenue on Virgin Australia (795) ticket stock between 21 May and 8 July 2015 and you'll win our major prize of \$10,000 cash![^]

Terms and conditions apply. Open to Aust. residents 18+ employed as a travel agent at a travel agency in Australia (excluding Online Travel Agents), with valid individual work email address (generic agency or shared emails are invalid). Agency/group registrations are not allowed. Must still be employed by the same employer at the time of the relevant draw. Programme commences on 21/05/2015 and ends at 11.59pm AEST on 08/07/2015 ("Programme Period"). Participants will earn Programme Points when they sell and ticket flights on Virgin Australia (795) ticket stock through a Global Distribution System during the Programme Period ("Eligible Flights"). Individuals who register by 11.59pm AEST 27/5/15 will automatically receive an entry to the Early Registration Draw. Draws at L5, 492 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne 3004, at 3pm AEST. Participants will receive 1 entry to the Second Chance Draw per 100 Participation Points remaining at the end of the Programme Period. Second Chance draw prizes: 15 x 12 Month Magazine Subscriptions (RRP 107.40 per prize), 13 x Iconic Gift Vouchers (RRP \$250 per prize) and 11 x Double Gold Class Movie Vouchers (RRP \$79.80 per prize) redeemable at Event, Village, Greater Union or Birch Carroll & Coyle cinema with Gold Class Facilities in Australia. Standard Voucher use terms and conditions apply at http://cdn.eventcinemas.com.au/Content/images/giftcards/EventWeb_GCvoucherTCs.pdf. [^]The Participant who achieves the highest sales, calculated on Base Fare in Australian dollars, of ticketed revenue for Eligible Flights (on a single valid account) ticketed during the Programme Period, will receive AU\$10,000, awarded in the form of electronic funds transfer into their nominated account. "Base Fare" means a fare exclusive of Ticket Taxes and GST. If there is a tie, the cash prize will be divided equally between the tied Participants. The winner will be announced on 31/07/2015 at Virgin Australia offices, Level 5, 7-15 Macquarie Place Sydney, NSW Australia. Promoter: Virgin Australia Airlines Pty Ltd (ABN 36 090 670 965) of 56 Edmondstone Rd, Bowen Hills, Qld 4006. Permits: NSW Permit No. LTPS/15/03284, VIC Permit No. 15/952, ACT Permit No. TP15/05701, SA Permit No. T15/724. See <http://aviatorsclub.virginaustralia.com> for full terms and conditions.