

The background of the entire advertisement is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water. In the foreground, a pair of dark-framed sunglasses with reflective lenses is perched on a weathered wooden log. The reflection of the sunset is visible in the lenses of the sunglasses.

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Tuesday 24th March 2015

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ACCC knocks back QF/MU

THE alliance aspirations of Qantas and China Eastern Airlines were dealt a blow this morning after the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said it was proposing to deny authorisation for the carriers' agreement (**TD** breaking news).

ACCC chairman Rod Sims said the commission was particularly concerned that QF had chosen to establish an alliance with its "main competitor on the one route between Australia and China on which Qantas operates direct flights".

Sims said the Sydney-Shanghai route currently accounts for about 24% of the capacity between Australia and China, and Qantas and China Eastern

together carry over 80% of the passengers on the route.

"Competition between them will be greatly reduced under the proposed agreement," he said.

The ACCC admitted there would be "some limited public benefits" from the QF/MU alliance, such as making connectivity more convenient in Shanghai.

However, "passengers who value this connectivity and convenience are already able to fly with China Eastern directly," Sims said.

"The ACCC currently considers these limited benefits will not outweigh the public detriment likely to result from Qantas and China Eastern coordinating their services," he added.

Today's ruling is only a draft decision, with final submissions now sought, due by 08 Apr.

Cracker of an issue!

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news, a front cover page for **Amadeus**, a page for **Entire Travel Connection** plus full pages: (CLICK)

- AA Appointments jobs
- inPlace Recruitment jobs
- Rail Plus
- C&M Recruitment

Amadeus selling first

AMADEUS is highlighting its new Selling Platform Connect offering (**TD** 16 Mar), a mobile online booking system which allows travel professionals to make bookings anywhere, on any device - see the **cover page**.

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CLICK HERE for further details

EK cricket comp Q2

TRAVEL Daily was swamped with entries yesterday for Q1 in our exclusive comp to win a double pass to the ICC World Cup cricket final in Melbourne this Sun, courtesy of Emirates.

Today's question is: *How many weekly services from Australia does Emirates operate to Dubai, in co-operation with Qantas?*

To have a chance at winning, you'll have needed to correctly respond to yesterday's question - the answer was 13 - and be the first to correctly answer today and tomorrow's questions.

Email your answer asap to ekcomp@traveldaily.com.au.

Note: the prizewinner will need to collect tkts from Melb's CBD.

Viking to christen 10

VIKING River Cruises will today christen 10 new Longships at a special ceremony in Amsterdam, taking the cruise company's total river ship fleet to a massive 64.

Air NZ, Air China plot jv

A PROPOSED alliance between Air New Zealand and Air China announced yesterday would see the introduction of a new daily CA nonstop service between Beijing and Auckland.

Both carriers are members of the Star Alliance, while Air China already codeshares on Air NZ's daily Auckland-Shanghai flights.

If approved, the alliance would "further open up Beijing as a new market to and from New Zealand," according to Air NZ ceo Christopher Luxon.

He said as well as almost doubling "sustainable capacity" between China and NZ, travellers would also benefit from greater frequency and connectivity.

"By connecting the Chinese capital with New Zealand again we would provide tourists and business travellers with unparalleled air connectivity between and within each home market," he said, with the

complementary carriers working to drive traffic in both directions.

Air NZ will deploy its 787-9 on the Auckland-Shanghai route from Aug, while alliance services could commence as early as Dec if the tie-up gains approval.

BNE digi depart cards

BRISBANE Airport is pioneering new Digital Departure Cards for international passengers, doing away with hand writing outgoing cards for immigration purposes.

Designed in-house, the innovative solution is tied to BNE's mobile app, and enables pax to enter & save personal info for the Departure Card which is then converted to a QR code that is scanned and printed at kiosks in the International Terminal.

Pax then sign the personalised document which is collected by Customs officers during the normal departure process.

DNSW China mission

WUHAN & Guangzhou in China are firmly on the radar for NSW tourism suppliers, with a group of over 30 operators currently on a mission to promote the region this week, led by Destination NSW.

The cities have been identified as target markets in NSW's China Tourism Strategy 2012-2020, and is jointly host the delegation from 22 to 28 Mar.

DNSW chief Sandra Chipchase said the mission will assist NSW suppliers to "build and strengthen" partnerships with Chinese product managers and provide opportunities to contract with local wholesalers.

Operators participating include AAT Kings, Captain Cook Cruises, Oaks Hotels & Resorts, Starwood Australia Hotels, The Star and The Legendary Pacific Coast.

Delegates have also been invited to tack on an extension to Guilin to take part in a roadshow being run as part of a campaign with China Travel Int'l Guangdong.

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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 24th March 2015



Accor Stay 3, Pay 2

GUESTS booking three nights consecutive stays at select Accor properties (Sofitel, MGallery, Ibis, Mercure, Novotel, Pullman & Sebel Apartments) worldwide will only pay for two nights as part of a new promotion.

The 'Stay 3 Pay 2' offer is valid at more than 1,400 hotels (over 130 in Australia and New Zealand), for stays between 31 Mar and 31 May when booked online at accorhotels.com before 14 Apr.

Emirates reduces PER

EMIRATES is set to scale back its planned three daily services between Dubai and Perth to two, just weeks after launching A380 services to the Western Australian capital, according to EK's reservation system.

The carrier is introducing superjumbo services to Perth from 01 May, but has now closed reservations on the late night flight from Dubai (EK422, and its return service EK423 ex Perth), effective 06 Jul.

The change will see Emirates maintain its new daily A380 operation and Boeing 777-300ER flights (EK424/EK425).

SIAH goes cruising

SINGAPORE Airlines Holidays has forged new partnerships with Princess Cruises, Star Cruises and Pandaw Cruises to expand its 2015/16 brochure product.

A suite of special interest walking, shopping and culinary trips have also been developed.

The latest Singapore & Beyond brochure is designed as a "one-stop-Singapore-shop" guide, providing airfares, land & accom options and now more cruising.

Manila team for CRUISE Team

HELLOWORLD has announced it will invest in a dedicated Philippines-based team for its in-house CRUISE Team, "to support additional capability for its team of Cruise Experts in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth".

Coming online from Jun, the team in Manila will absorb some "off phone activity, including administration tasks," the retail group confirmed.

Head of wholesale Peter Egglestone said the investment provides much needed support for the CRUISE Team's existing team of experts.

"This partnership will assist us to drive further improvements to our average response times and gives us greater flexibility to

respond more efficiently to the peaks and troughs of the market throughout the year," Egglestone commented.

CRUISE Team head of ops Nigel Brohier said the initiative will free up time for operation sites in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

"We will continue to invest in supporting and expanding the increasing cruise business in Australia," Brohier explained.

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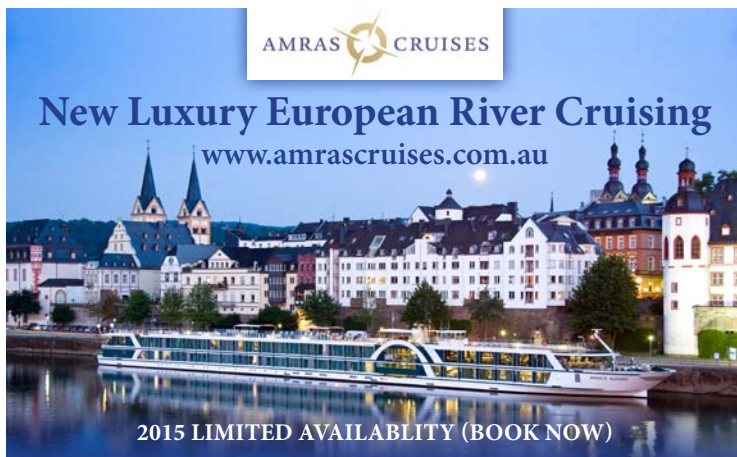
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CTM and friends hit the waves



STAFF and executives around the world gathered on the Gold Coast last weekend for Corporate Travel Management's annual sales conference and awards.

The South East Queensland beachside destination turned on blue skies and warm weather for the event, attended by over 400 delegates and sponsors who had flown in from Europe, Asia, North America and around Australia.

Agenda items included time for both business and leisure, with the more formal proceedings seeing CTM's newest technology enhancements including the CTM SMART Platform paraded.

Discussions about best practices and new market trends recapped the company's recent acquisitions of Diplomat Travel in Washington D.C and Chambers Travel in London (**TD** 03 Dec) late last year. "CTM employs some of the

brightest minds in the corporate travel industry, and enabling staff from around the world to get together and share their knowledge helps us leverage our collective global expertise for the benefit of every customer in every market," founder and ceo Jamie Pherous commented.

Awards bestowed on the night saw the company recognise its top performers, with prizes including a famil trip to Dallas.

Plenty of local entertainment was also on display at the event.

Pictured above from left at the conference is Larry Lo, Westminster CTM; Steve Limbrick, Qantas (Platinum Sponsor); Gareth Evans, Qantas International; Laura Ruffles, CTM; Craig Smith, CTM and Romeo Cuter, CEO North America CTM.

For more photos from the weekend's activities, **CLICK HERE**.

Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 24th Mar 2015

First Swiss Autograph

NEWLY opened Swiss property Kameha Grand Zurich has been added to Marriott International's Autograph Collection of distinct and independent hotels.

The property employs a unique design concept across its 245 rooms, with accom offerings including the Poker Face Suite, which comes complete with roulette tables and poker sets.

Kameha Grand Zurich becomes the first Autograph Collection property added in Switzerland.

LOT signs Travelport

AIRLINE merchandising, fares, ticketing and inventory for LOT Polish Airlines are now available through Travelport Rich Content & Branding for connected agents.



Window Seat

COMPETITION between airports in providing more than just the vital link between the ground and the sky for travellers is heating up to epic levels.

Ever one to trumpet its unique innovations, Dubai Airports has launched a social media campaign focused on the array of time-killing ventures on offer.

The campaign features Pedro the Penguin - clearly out of place in a desert than his polar home - but who enjoys his time at DXB so much, he doesn't want to ever return home.

Pedro wanders the terminals, enjoying the food and beverage options, spas, terminal hotels, relaxation spaces such as Zen gardens and family play areas.

Why would he leave?

CLICK HERE to view the exploits of Pedro in this amusing and entertaining video.

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- Nikki Stathis, Corporate Travel Consultant

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Tuesday 24th Mar 2015

LHR domestic push

LONDON Heathrow has begun making plans for route expansion on the proviso that authorities recommend a third runway to be built at the British hub.

In response to a report showing four times as many UK airports are accessible from Amsterdam than both Heathrow and Gatwick combined, the facility has set £10m for the opening of five new local flight paths for three years.

Heathrow has also launched a review into its airport charges to improve its competitiveness, which could in turn lead to lower airfares from as early as Jan 2016.

Bali Feb arrivals drop

AUSSIE visitor numbers for Bali fell for the month of Feb when compared to Jan, according to official results by nationality.

In total, 71,365 arrivals were recorded for the month, taking Australia's tally for the calendar year to 156,424 - up 24.55% for the same period last year.

Bali welcomed 335,469 visitors to the island in Feb overall.

Sabre RoomDeal app

AGENTS across Australia can now access extra information on more than 350,000 branded and boutique hotels under the new RoomDeal app from Sabre Pacific.

The app offers non-GDS listings from aggregators such as GTA, Expedia and HotelBeds, with rates based on real-time availability and based on location maps.

Book a night with SpongeBob

GLOBAL entertainment giant Viacom International Media Networks is set to enter the hotel industry, signing an agreement with Karisma Hotels & Resorts to develop a chain of themed family properties in key tourist cities.

The group will be dubbed Nickelodeon Hotels after Viacom's popular children's entertainment brand and is billed as "A Gourmet Inclusive collection of luxurious family-friendly properties".

Two hotels will form the initial range, with Nickelodeon Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic opening late next year ahead of a second property in Mexico.

No word on further expansion has been detailed at this stage.

Karisma Hotels & Resorts currently operates a collection of hotels & resorts in the Caribbean, Latin America and Europe.

As expected, properties will see famous Nickelodeon characters such as SpongeBob SquarePants,

Dora the Explorer and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles roaming the grounds, interacting with kids and hosting games, activities and offering photo opportunities.

"We are eager for our fans to experience Nickelodeon Hotels, which we are confident will raise the bar for family vacations and incredible fun in coveted tropical destinations," Global Nickelodeon Recreation Partnerships senior vice president Gerald Raines said.

F&F opening date set

UNIVERSAL Studios Hollywood has announced 25 Jun as the official opening date for its new *Fast & Furious - Supercharged* attraction at the California park.

The ride features a reunion of stars from the hit movie franchise as part of a thrilling conclusion to the park's eponymous Studio Tour.

For special behind-the-scenes action footage, [CLICK HERE](#).

Sick of Putting Out Fires? Client Relationship Manager - Sydney

Our Sydney team is looking for an experienced Client Relationship Manager with at least 10 years industry experience and a minimum of 3 years in a corporate client relationship role. You will be responsible for a portfolio of high profile and well-managed clients. The role involves compiling and presenting financial service reviews, providing reports and analytical information to identify growth opportunities and travel trends, as well as the implementation of new business.

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WIN TICKETS TO FAST & FURIOUS 7

Win with Travel Daily, United and Universal Studios Hollywood.

This June, high-octane excitement will race onto the scene when Universal Studios Hollywood introduces *Fast & Furious—Supercharged*, a pulse-pounding, adrenaline-fuelled thrill ride as the new grand finale to the world-famous Studio Tour.

To celebrate the new attraction and the launch of daily services from Sydney and Melbourne to Los Angeles, Universal Studios Hollywood and their partner United Airlines are giving away double passes to a special screening of *Fast & Furious 7* on Wednesday 29th April in Sydney.

To win, be the first to answer the following question correctly. Send your answer to furious7@traveldaily.com.au

How often does United operate its nonstop services from Sydney and Melbourne to Los Angeles?
For more info [CLICK HERE](#).



Alberta @Instahikes

TRAVEL Alberta has rolled out a new Instagram account to show off its collection of hiking trails through the Canadian Rockies.

Dubbed 'Instahikes', the account provides first person experiences of some of Alberta's most popular trails, initially launching with images of Johnstone Canyon Ice Walk and Larch Meadows in Banff National Park & Cavell Meadows, Sulphur Skyline and Maligne Canyon in Jasper National Park.

Travel Alberta ceo Royce Chwin said the mobile social media platform provides potential visitors with "an immediate feel for the adventure they're about to embark on".

CX drops Moscow

CATHAY Pacific has confirmed it will discontinue thrice weekly services between Hong Kong and Moscow from 01 Jun, citing "high operating costs" and falling passenger traffic.

Pre-booked passengers will be moved onto alternative flights.

\$99 fares to KL, Bali

AIRASIA has airfares to Kuala Lumpur & Bali on sale priced from \$99 (ex PER & DRW respectively) for travel from 01 Sep to 31 May if booked before 29 Mar.



ABOVE: Express Travel Group, in conjunction with Etihad Airways and Edwardian Group London, recently hosted a nine-day fam to the United Kingdom.

The group stayed at the Cheval Apartments in London and Radisson Blu Edwardian in Manchester, before attending the Manchester City vs West Bromwich football match.

Pictured from left are Gemma Harvey, RoundAbout Travel; Jonathan Nelson, Express Travel Group; Rodney West, Skiddoo; Georgie Davies, Etihad Airways; Derek Kirk, italktravel Castle

Hill; Kim Huynh, Your Holidays; Natalie Montgomery, italktravel Kensington and Anwar Afionny from Travel 2000.

Universal Okinawa?

A NEW theme park has been proposed for a site in Okinawa, Japan backed by Universal Studios, however in a twist, the tourist attraction will not include branded rides or attractions.

Univesal Studios Japan chief exec Glenn Gumpel said the planned park will be smaller than its Osaka-based sister.

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Agents hit the slopes in Canada



A **VARIETY** of ski towns and resorts across British Columbia hosted this group of Aussie

agents recently as part of a seven-day skiing rewards famil hosted by United Airlines.

The agents were all winners of the carrier's ski incentive, which ran for eight weeks last year and offered places on the trip for the top sellers of UA seats.

Flying to North America with United, the group connected to Kelowna via San Francisco, with the first stop being two days at the Silver Star Mountain Resort in British Columbia.

Next up was Sun Peaks, where the group picked up a few tips and tricks during a mountain tour hosted by former Olympic champion Nancy Greene.

The group also witnessed many of the resort's activities in action, such as dog sledding, snow shoeing, snow mobiling & more.

Off the mountain, there was plenty of nightlife for the group to enjoy, with the group enjoying a campfire cookout at a special winter campsite as well as wine tastings and even tenpin bowling.

Pictured above enjoying the Silver Star facilities, from left is Kirill Litovchenko, United Airlines; Jacqueline Birk, Silver Star; John Schulze, Snowcapped Tours; Toni Long, Serena Harden, Carolyn Hallissy and Damian Ramus from Travelplan and Tanis Black from Silver Star Mountain Resort.

New NSM for Insider

FORMER Adventure World head of sales Renee Stanton has been named by Insider Journeys as its new national sales manager to build the brand in the trade.

Unisys renews bag control

GLOBAL IT firm Unisys has renewed a four-year agreement with the Board of Airline Representatives Australia (BARA) to continue providing baggage reconciliation services at seven airports across Australia.

The deal applies to 25 airlines represented in Australia by BARA and operating passenger services to and from SYD, MEL, BNE, CNS, PER, ADL and OOL airports.

Unisys has held the account with BARA since 2004 and will now continue to provide baggage systems which track passengers with their luggage as both move through the airport.

Among other uses, the system enables airlines to quickly identify and remove baggage from an aircraft if a passenger misses the final call to board their flight.

Bags are coded, scanned and

follow a passenger to the plane on scanning of a boarding pass.

BARA executive director Barry Abrams said the system "helps our member airlines not only comply with mandated security requirements for baggage handling, but also provides efficient processing when baggage needs to be found or removed to help prevent delays".

Dubai pax forecasts

RAPIDLY growing tourist arrival figures has led Dubai Airports to revise its growth projections, with the organisation expecting 200 million pax annually by 2030.

By the time Dubai hosts the World Expo ten years earlier, the emirate plans to be welcoming 126 million pax each year.

The facility recorded an arrivals total of just over 70 million pax last year & is expecting to nudge the 80 million barrier in 2015, with current capacity at 100 million.

At the other end of the emirate, Dubai World Central is rapidly underway with expansion work to create a hub with space for 220 million annual pax on completion.

Hainan biofuel flight

CHINESE carrier Hainan Airlines has conducted the country's first passenger flight operated using sustainable biofuels refined from waste cooking oils.

Oils were collected from the discards of restaurants across China, which contributed 50% of the flights' emissions, the other half made from traditional jet fuel.

Niccolo debut soon

MARCO Polo Hotels will next month open the doors to the first property under its new urban luxury brand Niccolo by Marco Polo, with the Chinese city of Chengdu to host the first outlet.

Niccolo Chengdu will be the first Ultratravel Collection brand in China and will feature 230 rooms and suites, opening on 15 Apr.

Finnair Swede routes

DAILY services linking Helsinki with Luleå, Umeå & Norrköping in Sweden will be launched by Finnair during the 2015 summer.

A three-times weekly seasonal service to Visby will also debut.

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and many more!

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More on us at www.frenchtravel.com.au.

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The French Travel Connection team (below) are ready waiting for your call to provide you with the best possible advice tips to when planning your clients' dream holiday.

Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 24th Mar 2015



Vote for us now!



LEFT: FTC Managing Director Brad McDonnell with Gai Campbell, Mary Rossi, Travel Lindfield & Julianne Gazal, TravelManagers at last week's 'Good France' dinner organized by Atout France.



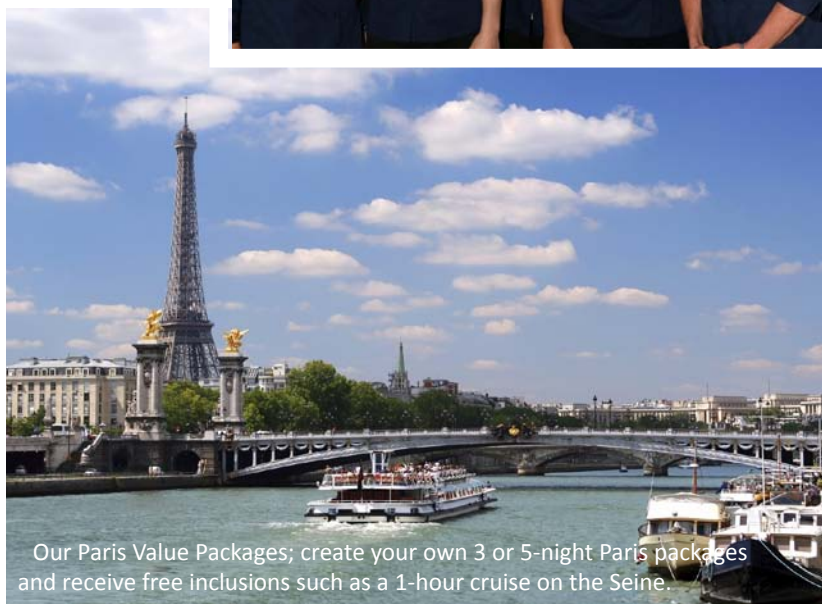
BELOW: France Specialist Alex Fayan, Product Manager Sophie Meunier, France Specialist Danielle Catteau, Sales Manager Alison Linn and Business Development Manager Camilla MacInnes sharing their knowledge about Normandy at the D-day Normandy Movie premiere at the Imax in Darling Harbour.



Discover all our regional France packages... Vote for us!



LEFT: BDM Camilla MacInnes, Marketing Manager Lea Granado, Product Manager Sophie Meunier, proud to introduce the 2015 FTC brochure incl exclusive offers at the France Travel Workshop.



Our Paris Value Packages; create your own 3 or 5-night Paris packages and receive free inclusions such as a 1-hour cruise on the Seine.

Exclusive to the FTC, the 'Passport to Monte-Carlo' offers free inclusions to Australians such as helicopter transfers from Nice airport and special VIP treatments. Ferrari Tours are also available on request. Contact us for more details.





THE Travel Experience.com office in Mareeba, Queensland was suitably clad in green to mark festivities for St Patrick's Day.

Staff members Rosetta Musso, Antonella Stabile, Ida Portella and Keir Tilse donned green attire,

wigs, hats and waved Irish flags to celebrate the annual event.

They are now in the running to win a trip to Ireland, courtesy of Tourism Ireland and Insight Vacations - for more details on the competition, see **below**.



This month *Travel Daily* is giving the travel industry a chance to win a trip to Ireland, courtesy of **Tourism Ireland** and **Insight Vacations**.

The prize includes:

- Return economy flights from Australia to Ireland for two people (including taxes)
- Pre- and post-tour accommodation in Dublin, courtesy of Tourism Ireland
- Insight Vacations 7-day "Focus on Ireland" guided holiday for two (twin share)

To win this amazing prize you'll need to do two things:

1. Send us a photo that celebrates Ireland's national day by greening yourselves, your business, whatever you want, for St Patrick's day before COB 17th March and,
2. From 18th March answer the daily question correctly and have the most creative answer to the final question

Send your answers to: irelandcomp@traveldaily.com.au

What is the name of the famous medieval castle and Signature Hotel where Insight Vacations guests stay overnight?



Terms & conditions

OTA tax appeal rejected

HAWAII'S Supreme Court has dismissed an appeal from nine Online Travel Agents (OTAs) which claimed the firms were exempt from paying general excise tax on hotel rooms sold in the state.

The appeal stemmed from a decision by the state's tax court two years ago ordering the nine to pay back taxes on US\$2.7 billion in gross room booking revenues taken between 2000 and 2011 (**TD** 28 Aug 2013).

Among those affected include four of the world's largest OTAs including Orbitz, Expedia, Travelocity and Priceline.

The Court found the arguments put forward by the OTAs that their services were not "used or consumed in the state" did not apply as the companies each held contracts with the hotels to sell the right to occupy rooms online.

Further, the court ruled that the four companies "actively solicited customers for Hawaii hotel rooms and actively solicited hotels to

contractually provide the right to sell the right to occupy hotels on the OTAs' websites".

The case has been remanded to the tax court for the correct general excise tax amount to be calculated and apportioned.



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CONGRATULATIONS

Melissa Waller
from **CC Conferences and Corporate Events**

Melissa is the top point scorer for Round 3 of *Travel Daily's* NRL industry footy tipping competition. Melissa has won a double pass to Taronga Zoo, courtesy of Taronga Zoo.



Major Prize:

Two return Economy Class airfares to Dubai with **Emirates**

Qantas comp winner

QANTAS has named the winner of its recent Feel Like Home Travel Agent Incentive as Paula Boyd from Helloworld Parkdale.

Paula has won up to \$30,000 worth of Qantas flights.

AUH arrivals up 21%

ABU Dhabi Int'l Airport has reported a 21.5% year-on-year jump in passenger traffic in Feb, with movements up to 1.71m.

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Ben Carnegie

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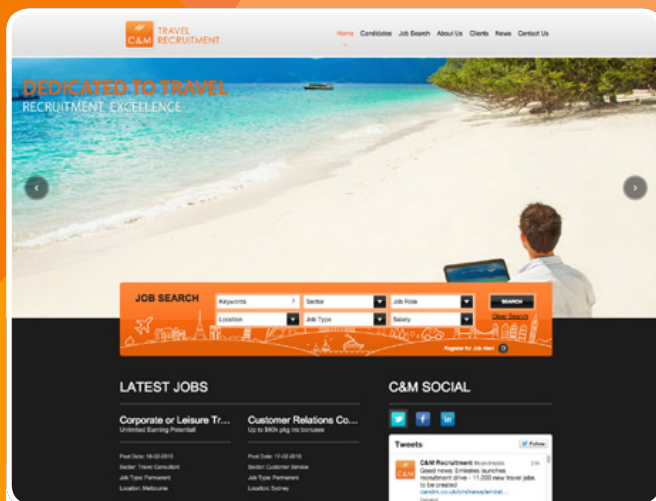
CLARE

Clare has worked with C&M in the UK and in Australia. Clare is based in Brisbane with a strong recruitment and retail travel background. Clare has been known to be C&M's 'chatty' recruiter.

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