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○
"I just wasn't expecting the assault on my senses that India offered. The amazing food always served with joyful ceremony, the silhouette domes on the skyline and the chaos of the bazaar. I think I must have lived there in another life."



Georgia, 61
Taj Mahal, India
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Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 6th May 2015



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Travel Daily
on location in
Dubai

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you from Arabian Travel Market in Dubai, courtesy of Dubai Tourism and Emirates.

A HIGHLIGHT of the second day of Arabian Travel Market was a seminar session featuring Emirates president Tim Clark.

Clark recounted his 30 years at the carrier and the astonishing growth it has experienced.

He also issued a robust defence of the airline against claims by the three major US carriers, UA, DL and AA, which have mounted a combined attack on alleged state subsidies of Emirates along with Etihad and Qatar Airways.

"Flim flam and tosh," was how Clark described the claims, adding "you can drive a bulldozer through just about everything they have said to us".

Day two of ATM wrapped up with a party at The Address hotel, while the Aussie group also snagged coveted invitations to a special Jumeirah party at the Pacha nightclub.

Emirates plans NZ flights

EMIRATES is closely studying its traffic flows to New Zealand, with the dropping fuel price and strong demand making the economics of direct services "rather attractive," according to EK senior divisional vice president East, Barry Brown.

Speaking exclusively to **Travel Daily** at Arabian Travel Market overnight, Brown said that while EK is "not quite ready at the moment" to launch a non-stop route from Dubai to Auckland, the carrier does have aircraft which could operate the mission.

"The economics of the route study are looking promising...we will do it one day, you bet your life," he said.

A more immediate priority for EK in the region however is next month's launch of its new daily Dubai-Bali flights which commence on 03 Jun.

Brown said there had been a huge response to the new route, with forward bookings for the first three months of operation showing loads in excess of 90% "in both cabins" after strong demand in Europe.

Emirates also has Europe fares ex Darwin in conjunction with Jetstar services to Denpasar, meaning travellers can enjoy a stopover in both Bali and Dubai.

The Australian market was performing well, Brown said, but the carrier has seen a strong trend towards later booking patterns meaning EK has been successfully running "flash sales" - such as the recent promotion celebrating the second year of the Qantas partnership - in order to stimulate conversion.

More from Arabian Travel Market on **page five**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news and photos, a front cover page for **Scenic** plus full pages from: (**click**):

- AA Appointments jobs
- inPlace Recruitment

Sensational Scenic

SCENIC'S stunning new branding and 'Scenic Wonders' tag line is being showcased in the **front cover page** of today's issue of **Travel Daily**.

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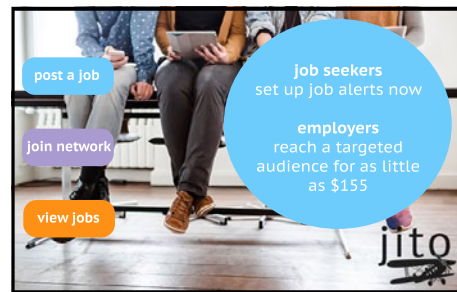
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Wednesday 6th May 2015

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MCEC expansion

THE Victorian state government has allocated more than \$200 million in funding for the expansion of the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Yesterday's state budget made provisions for Stage Two of the facility, which will add several thousand square metres of exhibition and meeting space to the venue.

Minister for Tourism and Major Events John Eren said the upgrade would see Melbourne welcome an additional 74,000 international visitors annually, providing an economic stimulus worth \$167 million a year.

He said more conventions and events would mean more jobs for Victorians, with major events keeping "hotels full, our bars buzzing and our economy strong".

"No one does events quite like Victoria, but we can't become complacent...we have to work hard to stay number one," he said.

More in today's issue of **BEN**.

Fung casino for Gold Coast

HONG Kong gaming, hospitality and real estate tycoon Tony Fung has purchased the Sheraton Mirage on the Gold Coast for a reported \$160 million amid plans to convert the site to a casino.

According to *The Courier Mail* today, Fung has outlined a desire to develop an integrated resort

and casino project on the site, also including Marina Mirage.

The billionaire's acquisition will be of particular interest to James Packer's Crown Group, which is awaiting a government decision on an integrated resort project on Queen's Wharf in Brisbane.

Crown is competing against DBC/Echo Entertainment for the rights to a casino on the site.

The Courier Mail report says the Sheraton Mirage site will become the flagship site of Fung's Aquis brand in Australia as a third major player in the casino and resort investment battle for supremacy.

MEANWHILE, environmental approval from the federal govt has been granted to Fung's 7,500 room, eight hotel Aquis Great Barrier Reef Resort project.

The outcome means only a gaming agreement with the Queensland Government remains outstanding for the project's development to progress further.

New Etihad local boss

ETIHAD Airways' London-based manager global industry sales Sarah Built has been promoted to the role of general manager for Australia and New Zealand.

Over the past 25 years, Built has developed her aviation career with sales & senior management roles for KLM, American Airlines, Swiss, Kingfisher and Jet Airways, prior to joining EY in 2011.

Reporting to Etihad Airways vice president for Asia Pacific South & Australasia Lindsay White, Built will relocate to Sydney for the role.

QFLink up Wellcamp

EFFECTIVE 26 Jun, two new return weekly flights between Wellcamp Airport (Toowoomba) and Sydney will be introduced by QantasLink using Q400 aircraft.

New flights operate from WTB on Fri night at 1900, returning Sat morning from SYD at 0635, on top of a return service on Sun.

QFLink is also tweaking times on its Fri SYD-WTB flight, now to depart 1hr earlier at 1655 and its Sat WTB-SYD flight which now departs 1hr later at 0835.

Currently, the carrier operates 11 return flights on the route.

CEO John Gissing said the new capacity is a clear sign of confidence QantasLink has in the region: "We're very happy with the way the route is performing."

Perisher guns fire up!

THE snow guns at Perisher were fired up this morning for the first time in 2015 ahead of the resort's opening weekend in one month's time, planned for 06 Jun.

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CANADA

Creative's new trade website

CREATIVE Holidays says its new travel agent website brings a "consumer-style online shopping experience" to the wholesaler's trade partners, with the air and land booking process simplified to just eight steps.

Previously, bookings were completed in 32 stages, with the new functionality allowing agents to easily filter results and add items to a shopping cart.

MD James Gaskell said the new booking platform provides access to thousands of hotels, wholesale and retail airfares, packages, transfers and experiences.

"Through our new site, agents can book some of the biggest names in travel and be rewarded with a great commission too".

Featuring both directly contracted and global third party accommodation, Creative also offers 'Creative Club' hand-picked properties which offer value-adds such as bonus nights and exclusive free room upgrades.

On the air side, flights are available from "anywhere to anywhere," Gaskell said, such as great intra-USA fares and special

cruise fares as well.

"Agents will even find additional booking classes online that may be unavailable via other channels," Gaskell said.

The new site is the outcome of a major technology revamp within Creative, and Gaskell thanked the company's trade partners for their support during the transition.

"Our strong online sales results so far have exceeded expectations," he added.

Agents will have received a username via email which they can use to log into the system.

They can also create a new agency account in the site which is at creativeholidays.com/agents.

Free BW breakfast

BEST Western Australasia is offering a free continental brekkie for guests booking a stay at select hotels in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji for stays until 30 Apr.

The "Free Breakfast" promo is valid for reservations made up until 30 Jun if booked online at bestwestern.com.au/free-breakfast.



Window Seat

PASSENGERS aboard an American Airlines flight from New York to Chicago last week had to hold on very tight.

Not that it was a bumpy ride, but rather it was their bladders that required restraint because the aircraft operated without a functional lavatory.

Before AA flight 3215 departed from Westchester County Airport, the carrier announced that if passengers needed to use the bathroom they should do so prior to boarding - because the single toilet on the 44-seat Embraer aircraft was out of commission, reports *USA Today*.

The pilot was "apologetic and furious" when he explained that he was unable to get the loo fixed, adding that the airline had made the call to operate the service rather than cancel it.

Apparently everyone managed to survive the 2 and 1/2 hour journey, but there was a definite rush to the bathrooms after the aircraft landed.

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Wednesday 6th May 2015

Cover-More rev rising

LISTED Australian travel insurer Cover-More Group Ltd confirmed today it has achieved strong net revenue growth of 10.7% for the first half of 2015 financial year (**TD** 20 Feb), compared to the same time 12 months earlier.

Cover-More's pre-tax profit for the period has increased 15.6% to \$24.4 million, "despite increasingly difficult conditions in our major market of Australia", the firm said in a presentation at a Macquarie Conference.

Strong BYOjet April

BYOJET has recorded a second consecutive month of record sales (**TD** Mon), with TTV exceeding \$8.82 million.

That was 4.9% higher than the record set the previous month.

CEO Lenny Padowitz said it was "great to see our developments and partnerships generating strong and consistent results for our shareholders".

Jupiters 'The Ville'

REDEVELOPMENT plans for Jupiters Townsville Hotel & Casino have been made public, with the property to invest about \$30m to convert it to a "contemporary entertainment precinct".

Proposed work includes a resort style pool with swim-up bar and new pavilion for events.

The property will also transition to the new name of 'The Ville'.

New Austrian boss

LUFTHANSA has nominated Kay Kratky as the new ceo of Austrian Airlines, with the OS supervisory board to formally consider the appointment next week.

Kratky will succeed Jaan Albrecht, who has accepted a job as ceo of SunExpress, a new joint venture carrier to be operated by Lufthansa and Turkish Airlines.

Kratky is currently chief operating officer of Lufthansa, with responsibility for flight operations and the Frankfurt hub.

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Three Queens in line for a party



Photo Credit: James Morgan

Spain rail expansion

DIRECT travel between the Spanish towns of Santiago de Compostela and the coastal port of Vigo has been slashed after being converted to high-speed.

The service, which operates daily in both directions, crosses 32 major bridges, through 37 tunnels and crosses the River Sar.

It is now an eligible service on Rail Europe fares & passes issued by GSA operators in Australia, priced from AUD\$15 one way.

ABOVE: Crowds lined the shore around Calshot to welcome home Cunard's three Queens, all returning from their various jaunts around the world.

The trio have now set off for New York, Guernsey & Hamburg before returning to the line's spiritual home in Liverpool for the grand 175th anniversary party.

Queen Mary 2 is pictured above leading her sisters *Queen Victoria* and *Queen Elizabeth* out of Southampton in formation, watched on by thousands ashore.

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DWC to quadruple by 2018

PASSENGER

capacity at Dubai's second airport, Dubai World Central (DWC), is set to be expanded to handle 26m passengers annually by 2018.

The expansion was announced overnight at Arabian Travel Market, where Dubai Airports ceo Paul Griffiths outlined the destination's plans to handle huge expected demand growth.

DWC currently has a single runway and capacity for about six million passengers annually, but the long-term plan is that it will become the world's biggest airport, handling more than 20 million travellers per year.

Under the next phase of development at DWC, the existing passenger terminal will house check-in, baggage and immigration halls plus "substantially expanded" security screening, along with more boarding gates and baggage reclaim carousels.

Construction is expected to be completed early in 2017, paving the way to migrate some of the existing traffic from DXB which is



nearing maximum capacity.

Griffiths said projections are that Dubai will be handling more than 125 million passengers a year by 2020.

Meanwhile, Concourse D at Dubai International Airport (**pictured**) is currently under construction to help manage this, but once completed the airport will not be able to expand further.

Scheduled to open later this year, Concourse D will feature a new terminal design, with a central retail area and "open gates" allowing passengers to continue shopping and dining until their flights depart.

It will transport passengers to Terminal 1 via an automated people mover system, with five carriages each with capacity for 300 guests.

DXB is already the world's biggest international airport, with on average 192,000 passengers arriving on 980 daily flights.

Wednesday 6th May 2015

IHG Indigo for Dubai

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group yesterday confirmed it was introducing its Indigo brand to Dubai in 2017 with a new 170-room property (**TD** 22 Apr).

The Hotel Indigo Dubai The Sustainable City will be IHG's second Indigo branded property in the United Arab Emirates.

The Sustainable City (TSC) precinct is a new Dubai community which will meet "the highest environmental, social and commercial sustainability standards," with residences, solar covered parking lots, an organic farm and an equestrian centre.

It will also boast local attractions including a Planetarium.

Dubai pocket guide

ARABIAN Travel Market has seen the launch of the 2015 Dubai Pocket Guide.

Designed for consumers, the guide aims to be a resource for travellers both at the holiday planning stage and also once they arrive on the ground in Dubai.

New Dubai Jumeirah

JUMEIRAH Group yesterday announced that its new hotel in the Madinat Jumeirah complex in Dubai will be known as Jumeirah Al Naseem.

Set to open next year, the name, which means a gentle wind in Arabic, reflects the hotel's location on the shore of the Arabian Gulf.

Jumeirah Al Naseem will have 430 rooms and suites with private outdoor terraces.

Three large swimming pools will complement private beach access, and guests will have access to the Madinat's waterways which are serviced by traditional abra boats, giving access to more than 50 restaurants and bars at Souk Madinat Jumeirah plus the Talise Spa, watersports and the Wild Wadi Waterpark.

Four Seasons doubles

LUXURY accom brand Four Seasons will double its presence in Dubai, announcing a second resort to open on Jumeirah Beach.

The Four Seasons Hotel Dubai at DIFC will complement the existing downtown property is expected to open next year, offering 106 rooms aimed at business visitors.

Facilities will include a 24-hour restaurant and 8th floor sky bar.



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Everyday this week **Travel Daily** is giving readers a chance to win a double pass to **BRING IT ON THE MUSICAL** on 28 June, playing at NIDA Theatres from 27 June to 9 July.

Bitingly relevant, sprinkled with sass, and inspired by the hit film, **BRING IT ON THE MUSICAL** takes audiences on a high-flying journey filled with the complexities of friendship, jealousy, betrayal and forgiveness.

To win, be the first person to correctly answer the following question:

What is BRING IT ON THE MUSICAL about?

Send your answers to
bringiton@traveldaily.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Gloria Wertheim from Greece and Mediterranean Travel Centre, with the correct answer of '27 June'.



LAX, SFO traffic surge

PRELIMINARY data revealed by Visit California yesterday shows direct travel spending in the state last year was US\$117.5 billion, a 3.6% jump on the year prior.

Overseas arrivals at Los Angeles and San Francisco port of entry were up 12.9% year-on-year to 5.4 million.

According to the organisation's *California Travel Impacts 1992-2014* report, the total tourism spend in California was \$US57.6b in 2014, just 2.5% of state GDP.

Theme parks rain out

DREAMWORLD parent firm Ardent Leisure recorded a drop in revenues from \$7.96m to \$7.85m to the end of Mar 2015 compared to the year prior, according to new stats released yesterday.

The result was part of a slightly larger drop in overall theme park revenues, with heavy rain in the summer period cited as a cause.

Ascend clarification

LESTER Hotel in Adelaide (**TD 01** May) is being constructed by the Lester Group of Companies and managed by the Lancemore Grp.

When it opens in Sep next year, the 240-room property will be the first South Australian member of Choice Hotels Australasia's premium Ascend Hotel Collection.

Wednesday 6th May 2015

Travel Daily
First with the news



AN 'INSIDER Experience' of Vienna's local Schnapps Distillery was one of the highlights of a recent Travelmarvel famil for this group of travel agents, which was supported by Emirates.

The troupe were taking part on a seven-night section of Travelmarvel's 15-day European Gems river cruise itinerary, sailing from Nuremburg to Budapest onboard *Travelmarvel Jewel*.

Other sightseeing highlights included a Mozart concert and a choice of tours to destinations such as Salzburg, Cesky Krumlov and Bratislava.

Pictured aboard *Jewel* while in Budapest from left are: Natalie Adamson, ittravel Raymond

Terrace; Linda Costantini, Emirates; Tracey Mills, helloworld Noosa Heads; Antonio Kaisaris, Just Cruises; Marion Smith, Flight Centre Samford; Lauren Stewart, italktravel Belmont; Kim Stoll, helloworld Morwell; Brian Rodrigo, RAC West Perth; Lisa Giuffre, RACV Club Tours and Travel and Lisa Ioakimidis, helloworld Lower Templestowe.

In front row is Craig Brown from Travelmarvel.

MEANWHILE, APT has released its Small Ships program for 2016, featuring 24 itineraries through the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Asia, the Kimberley and Antarctica, including a new 23-day journey in Europe.

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FCm'ers Go MAD in Phuket



ABOVE: More than 250 FCM Travel Solutions (FCM) delegates from around the world converged in tropical Phuket, Thailand late last month for the company's annual global conference.

The theme of 'FCM Focus' this year was "Go M.A.D. (Make a Difference)" and focused on thought leadership from high calibre external speakers, as well as updates from FCM's key discipline leaders in sales, account management, technology, product and marketing.

Leo Burnett ceo and Qantas board member Todd Sampson gave a keynote address, while other guest speakers included Dougal McKenzie from Google.

FCM Global gm Gregory Lording said delegate feedback from the conference was "very positive".

"We decided to shake things up this year and instead of only providing updates and roadmaps for our own product & technology solutions, we opted to provide knowledge and insight from key business leaders from around the

world," Lording said.

Delegates participated in turtle release and hand decorated over 200 helmets (pictured) that were donated to local children to support helmet awareness and use - both aspects being FCM's corporate social responsibility elements to Phuket.

Next year's event will be held in Mexico, it was announced.

Travelport/GDS renew

TRAVELPORT has signed a new multi-year renewal deal with HRG, the global travel management arm of Hogg Robinson Group.

The companies have been partners for over 40 years.

SQ/OU codesharing

STAR Alliance partners Croatia Airlines and Singapore Airlines have commenced a reciprocal codeshare agreement.

The pact sees the 'SQ' code placed on OU-operated flights from London and Copenhagen to the Croatian capital of Zagreb.

Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 6th May 2015

Fly free to Capella

CAPELLA Lodge on Lord Howe Island is offering free QantasLink flights from Brisbane or Sydney when booking a week-long stay between 01 Aug and 30 Sep.

The package includes a Stay 7, Pay 6 promotion and is priced from \$4,500ppts if booked before 31 May, or until sold out.

Included is daily brekkie and dinner, sunset drinks & canapes, open bar with premium wines & spirits from 6pm, selected in-suite bar, mountain bikes and island airport transfers.

To book, phone (02) 9918 4355.

Hong Kong visits fall

VISITOR arrivals data from the Hong Kong Tourism Board shows the number of Aussies travelling to the city dropped by 3.6% year-on-year during Mar.

Hong Kong welcomed just under 49,100 Australian visitors during the month, with the figure also pulling down the year-to-date (Jan to Mar) figure to 134,840, 4% lower than the same time in 2014.

Across all markets, there was an 8.7% decline in visits during Mar.

50th CX 777-300ER

CATHAY Pacific has accepted delivery of its 50th 777-300ER jet from aircraft manufacturer Boeing.

"The 777-300ER forms the backbone of our long-haul fleet", ceo Ivan Chu commented.

CX also operate 12 Boeing 777-300s and five 777-200s.



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NSW regional funding

APPLICATIONS are now open for regional tourism businesses in NSW to apply for matched dollar-for-dollar funding grants to help with plans to develop attractions.

Opened by NSW Minister for Trade, Tourism & Major Events Stuart Ayres, the total funds pool for the 2015-16 financial year has been allocated as \$7.2 million.

The process will be managed by tourism body Destination NSW, with ceo Sandra Chipchase saying funds for marketing and product development were available.

Applications can be submitted online, with details available at www.destinationnsw.com.au/rvef.

US flavour site launch

BRAND USA has launched its culinary tourism strategy in the form of a new section on its consumer-facing site, now live at discoveramerica.com/flavours.

Featuring food & wine themed tourism offerings from all 50 states, District of Colombia and five US territories, the portal also offers a calendar of food events, regional recipes and travel ideas.

Content has been provided by the James Beard Foundation through its year-old partnership with Brand USA (*TD* 30 Jun 2014).

JetBlue Amazon deal

INTERNET retail giant Amazon will provide streaming movies, music and TV shows to JetBlue Airways under a new agreement with the US low-cost carrier.

Passengers will be able to access content through their own wi-fi enabled devices by year's end.

Content will be free for Amazon Prime members, with other titles able to be rented or purchased.

Korean snow expos

GANGWON Province and Yongpyong Resort in Korea will promote its wares as a ski destination during two upcoming Sydney & Melbourne roadshows.

The Sydney event will take place on 17 May at White Bay Cruise Terminal, with Melbourne on at the MCEC in Southbank, with both events beginning at 9am.

Promotion will also centre on Gangwon being the central region for the 2018 Winter Olympics.

New 787 route for AA

AMERICAN Airlines will become the first airline to operate the 787 *Dreamliner* on int'l flights from Chicago when it starts services to Tokyo Narita on 18 Aug.

AA took delivery of its first 787 in Jan (*TD* 27 Jan) and will begin service with the aircraft between its Dallas/Fort Worth hub and Chicago from tomorrow.

Other previously announced overseas ports destined to see the AA 787 include Beijing and Buenos Aires, both from Dallas.

Inspiring Journeys reinvented



THE Travel Corporation ceo Brett Tollman has admitted the firm's small group touring product Inspiring Journeys was probably pitched at the wrong market when it debuted in 2011.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* last week about the brand, Tollman revealed Inspiring Journeys has needed fine tuning over the past four years to reach a niche sector of the market.

What was initially a standalone brand is now incorporated into the AAT Kings Australia and New Zealand programs (*TD* 31 Oct 13).

"How we initially positioned the product very much as an Australian/New Zealand domestic product only - I don't think necessarily was a wise decision," he told *Travel Daily* last week.

"It was very much a consumer-direct focus and at about \$600 a day, it was a mismatch in the market," he said.

Tollman said the itineraries were "a bit longer than we needed".

"The 4WD vehicles we had weren't necessary", and were expensive to operate & maintain.

After refining some of The Travel Corporation product (*TD* yesterday), Inspiring Journeys is now kicking goals with overseas markets, with Tollman saying "it is working fantastic now".

Pictured from left are Anthony Hayes, AAT Kings managing director; Gordon Dixon, Down Under Tours general manager; John Weeks, The Travel Corp ceo Australia; Brett Tollman, The Travel Corporation ceo and James Dixon, Down Under Tours director of sales and marketing.



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Wednesday 6th May 2015

HM/9W codeshare

TWO members of the Etihad Airways Partners cooperation, Air Seychelles (HM) and Jet Airways (9W), have formed a codeshare agreement covering frequent flyer programs, cargo and more.

The HM code will appear on Jet services from Mumbai to Abu Dhabi and four other Indian cities, while the 9W code will be added on flights to and from Mahe.

DXB traffic leaps 7.2%

PASSENGER traffic through Dubai Int'l Airport for the month of Mar reached 6.73 million, up from 6.28 million the year prior, a year-on-year jump of 7.2%.

The fastest growing arrivals source for Dubai was Eastern Europe, jumping a massive 70.8%.

Jordan opens borders

REGULATIONS regarding entry for tourists into Jordan have been significantly eased in a move aimed at stimulating arrivals.

Approved by King Abdullah II and Queen Rania, visa fees and departure taxes on the majority of arrivals through air and land borders have either been cut or eliminated altogether, in return for spending nights in Jordan.

Visa fees for all nationalities flying into Jordan either as part of a group or individually have been removed if travel was booked via an agent, while independent pax must buy a unified tourist site ticket and stay for three nights.

Tourists arriving through land checkpoints will have their visa fee reduced from 40JOD (A\$71) to 10JOD (A\$17).

Further, departure taxes have been removed on all scheduled flights from Aqaba and Amman on the basis the tourist has spent a minimum three nights in Jordan, as well as low-cost flights ex AQJ.



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.



Fiji's five-star Vomo Island has recently reopened after seeing its Hillside and Beach villas "practically gutted and transformed". Dynasty Heavenly Beds have been installed, while freestanding baths now feature in the bathrooms alongside crafted teak furnishings. Additionally, the signature Rocks Bar has been upgraded, while a new show kitchen will open this month for an interactive cooking experience.



Heralded as the newest event venue in Hong Kong, The Top Deck at the Marco Polo Hotel on Level 6 of the property affords panoramic viewpoints across the city skyline. Offering a backdrop of Victoria Harbour, the venue is able to host events and gatherings of all sizes, with a giant marquee available for use. Shopping at Hong Kong Central and the Star Ferry are also right on the hotel's doorstep.



A staple of downtown Las Vegas for decades, the iconic Golden Nugget has just unveiled newly updated rooms in its Gold Tower. All 365 rooms underwent a major renovation to bring rooms up to the same standard as the six-year-old Rush Tower. The new rooms offer a neutral colour scheme consisting of gold and brown. All beds received new mattresses, while new lounges, LED lighting and TVs were added.

Makutsi package deal

SWAGMAN Tours has a seven-night package at the Makutsi Safari Springs in South Africa, renowned for its two natural warm water springs.

The package includes game drives and full day trips to Blyde River Canyon and Kruger National Park, priced from \$1,645ppts. Call 1800 808 491.

Merpati to the wall

BANKRUPT Indonesian carrier Merpati will soon cease to exist and will be written off by the Indonesian Govt after funding to keep it flying could not be found.

The state-owned short-haul carrier has not flown since being grounded in Feb last year and declaring bankruptcy in Dec, and will be closed down with debts of IDR1.5 trillion (AUD\$145 million).

Indonesia's Ministry of Finance has settled all of the carrier's outstanding bills to airport operators and retrenched staff.

AS to Costa Rica

TWO destinations in Costa Rica will be served via direct flights ex Los Angeles in the latest network expansion by Alaska Airlines.

From 31 Oct and 01 Nov respectively, AS will commence nonstop service from LAX to the capital San Juan and Guanacaste, on an eight-times weekly basis.

On a domestic front, services between LAX and Baltimore are also new and will begin 09 Sep.

Nepal calls to visitors

TEN days after a catastrophic earthquake resulted in thousands of fatalities, tourism operators in Nepal have put the call out to overseas visitors to return.

The Nepal Association of Tour Operators (NATO) has asked tourists not to jump to conclusions as to the condition of the country, saying many tourist areas "have escaped the brunt of the damage".

"Tourism in Nepal is one of the pillars of the economy," NATO said.

Win a trip to Egypt

This month *Travel Daily* and **On the Go Tours** are giving the travel industry a chance to win a trip to Egypt.

This awesome prize includes:

- Return flights for two
- 14 day King Ramses Tour for two

To win, answer every daily question and have the most creative answer to the final question.
Send your answers to onthegotours@traveldaily.com.au

Name one of On the Go's family tours to Egypt.
Need a hint? CLICK HERE.

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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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Would you prefer to work close to home? We have a sensational role that will see you working close to home, kissing the city commute goodbye! This well-known travel agency now requires a superstar consultant to join their team and service their repeat and referral clients with a variety of leisure travel requests. This role will see you working exciting hours and be paid a top end salary. Don't wait another minute, secure your new role close to home and gain that better work life balance!

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If you consider yourself a customer service extraordinaire, well here is your chance to move away from face to face consulting and put your skills to good use. Working for an online company, you will be responding to customer service enquires over the phone or via email. You will be working on a rotating roster and be required to have a min 12 months industry experience, together with strong Galileo or Sabre knowledge. This is your chance to step away from the retail sales environment & gain a better work life balance.

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This global corporate TMC is looking for an intelligent corporate consultant to join their team. You will have the opportunity to work across a number of blue chip accounts booking all their corporate needs. This company offers amazing perks including access to global travel discounts and ongoing career progression. They also offer excellent training and support. Minimum 2 years corporate travel experience and strong time management skills. Don't delay – apply today!

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SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$70K

This amazing boutique retail agency is looking for an energetic, positive personality to join their team. You will be responsible for organising amazing round the world itineraries and packages to the best destinations in the world. This company offers amazing perks including access to global travel discounts and ongoing career progression. If you live out west and want to work close to home this is the job for you. A minimum 2 years travel industry experience with strong time management skills is essential.



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Due to expansion this highly regarded, Australian specialist needs an experienced consultant to deal with high end agents in the USA, Canada & Sth America.

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