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Travel Daily on location in Rotorua, NZ

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Tourism New Zealand, which is this week hosting its annual TRENZ show in Rotorua.

AS WELL as lots of networking & appointments, TRENZ delegates have enjoyed some of NZ's top tourism offerings, with everyone taking a break from proceedings yesterday afternoon to undertake a range of activities.

These included floatplane rides, jet-boating, museum visits, spas, cycling and even skydiving.

TD was lucky enough to experience the River Jet, a high speed ride on the serene Waikato river which starts about a 30 minute drive from Rotorua.

As well as spectacular scenery, the River Jet can take guests to a thermal park as well as "The Squeeze" - a narrow canyon and hot pool where you can soak away your stresses.

TRENZ wraps up tonight with a traditional farewell function at the Skyline Rotorua.

One&Only

Dubai

oom rates

TOURISM New Zealand chief exec Kevin Bowler has backed alliance plans being mulled by Air New Zealand and Air China, currently before the New Zealand Commerce Commission.

Bowler said the partnership opens up "growth potential" out of the China market, providing an opportunity for the return of a direct Beijing-Auckland service.

In a submission to the NZCC, the TNZ boss said Air NZ had tried to operate the service profitably in the past alone, to no avail.

"A partnership with strong domestic feeder services at both ends will have a greater chance of success, he commented.

"As the capital, Beijing is the heart of China's leadership, so the alliance agreement and likely

Houston fare bargain

BOOKINGS have opened for Air New Zealand's new Auckland-Houston today, with launch fares priced from \$699 one way, valid for travel from 15 Dec.

One way fares are also on sale to Austin (\$899) & Orlando (\$999) - see **cover page** for more details.

HURRY! Offer ends

1 May 15

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RESORTS



experienced strong arrivals growth out of Beijing, "that growth has lagged other major provinces that have already benefited from improved direct air capacity".

Bowler said TNZ was unaware of any other carriers likely to start flying the PEK-AKL route, noting there had been discussions in the past with Hainan Airlines for potential charters.

However, TNZ walked away from the talks with HU as they wanted financial support "which we were unwilling to provide given the need for a year-round service," Bowler revealed.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news, another photo page for **Dubai Tourism**, a front cover page for **Air New Zealand** plus full pages from: (*click*)

- AA Appointments jobsTravel Industry Exhibition
- Indverindustry exhibition
- Renault Eurodrive



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Win movie tickets

TRAVEL Daily is this week giving away 20 double passes to the Audi Festival of German Films. which is reaching its conclusion in eight cities across Australia.

Passes have been made available through the German National Tourist Office.

The festival is taking place in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart and Byron Bay, closing on 31 May.

To win one of the double passes, be one of the first 20 people to **CLICK HERE** and advise which is your favourite German film.

Outrigger cash & gifts

AGENTS can now redeem points in the Outrigger Resorts Travel Experts Program for cash & gifts for clients upon check-in.

The program enhancement is live now, with points earned for every booking of three nights or more made via any method, whether through a wholesaler, online, in the GDS or by phone.

A bonus of 100 points is also awarded to new agent signups.

Guests also receive a welcome amenity in-room for reported bookings of three nights or more.









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PAL expand Aus, adds NZ

PHILIPPINE Airlines has moved fast on the federal government's newly released capacity increase between Australia and the Philippines (TD 05 May), advising it will begin direct flights between Manila and Cairns from 01 Dec, Travel Daily can exclusively reveal.

The new route will also operate a tag-on service to Auckland, marking the carrier's first foray into the New Zealand market.

Narrow-body aircraft will be deployed on the route initially, with a 156-seat Airbus A320 to offer a two-class product with 12 seats in Business class.

Flights will take off from Manila at 11:45pm local time, arriving 8am in Cairns & 4pm in Auckland.

Departing at 6:30pm from NZ, the return legs will arrive Cairns at 10:30pm & Manila at 3:30am.

Philippine Airlines regional sales manager Australia and NZ Ian Robinson told TD the carrier has determined a gap in the market for the service in New Zealand.

"We've identified a strong demand from New Zealand for primarily the VFR market and then secondly the leisure market."

The new link will see Philippine Airlines also push into the trans-Tasman market, having already obtained rights to sell individual tickets on the Cairns to Auckland sectors in both directions.

It is unlike PAL's current Brisbane service which stops each way in Darwin, where it is unable to sell seats between DRW and BNE.

Air New Zealand links Cairns and Auckland on a seasonal basis, with PAL's new route becoming the first year-round direct flights between Cairns and New Zealand.

"We've talked to the market in Far North Queensland, we've talked to the market in Auckland.

"It'll be timed to connect with regional flights around New Zealand into Auckland and on arrival in Manila it's timed to connect to our regional services in the Philippines," Robinson said.

Fairmont adds in west

LUXURY hotel brand Fairmont has opened its first property in San Diego in the form of the Fairmont Grand Del Mar, which offers 249 rooms and eight suites.



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It's a tough life for some!



MAGIC of the Maldives was served up to this group of lucky top sellers from Queensland courtesy of Club Med Resorts.

The group reached the idyllic destination thanks to support from Emirates, which flew the group one way in Economy and one way in Business to ensure both products were experienced.

Over five nights, the group divided its time between two Club Med resorts, the Club Med Kani & brand new Finolhu Villas.

The two resorts are located five minutes apart from each other by speedboat and are a short half hour from the capital Male.

A stopover in Dubai on the way, staying at the JW Marriott Dubai

and the Fairmont Palm allowed the emirate's city and desert to also be enjoyed during the trip.

Pictured above in their new Indian Ocean office chairs from left is Carrie Minear. helloworld Kawana; Rachael Heelan, Travel Associates Ross & Turner; Brenda Hayward, Travel Associates Noller & Turner; Ian Brewer, helloworld Hope Island; Melissa Phelan, Emirates; Kristen Cahill, Gregor & Lewis Bespoke Travel; Peter Finch, Travel Associates Clout & Turner; Coleen Radford, New Farm Travel; Rachael Cloros, Travel Associates Dare & Turner; Ellie Mastrapostolos, helloworld Milton; Jodie Weeks, Club Med and Sally Berry, Globenet Travel.

TRENZ '16 in Rotorua

CHRIS Roberts, ceo of the **Tourism Industry Association** of New Zealand, this morning confirmed that next year's Tourism Rendezvous New Zealand (TRENZ) will be held in Rotorua in NZ's central north island region for the second year running.

Next year's premier New Zealand travel trade event will take place from Tue 10 May to Fri 13 May 2016, and will be timed so it occurs just before Tourism Australia's annual Australian Tourism Exchange, he said.

This year's TRENZ, which finishes up today (see p1), has taken place about a month before ATE 2015 which kicks off on 21 Jun at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Yell departs TTC

THE Travel Corporation has confirmed long-time executive Andrew Yell has departed the organisation after 11 years in a variety of top-level positions.

Most recently leading the product and contracting department, Yell has opted to pursue other opportunities, a TTC spokesperson told Travel Daily.

1000

RAVEL GROUP



EVER the trendsetters when it comes to efficiency, Japan is aiming to kill two birds with one stone by promoting tourism and selling toilets at the same time.

Well known for its innovative bathroom porcelain designs, the Japanese plan on installing a wide variety of its tech-toilets throughout Tokyo Narita in an effort to promote tourism.

One design in particular will make the user feel as if they are entering a nightclub, with strobe lighting and a silhouette figure dancing inside.

The country will also increase its presence promoting itself at toilet expos worldwide, also contributing to companies keen to exhibit at such events.

A four pronged plan is in place to realise its strategy, including patenting a design for heated spray toilets and creating promo videos showcasing the facilities, plus of course revolutionising the bathrooms at Narita - check out a concept video HERE.

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FJ A330 out of action

FIJI Airways has confirmed one of its flagship Airbus A330-300s has been taken out of service following an "unforeseeable tarmac incident" at Nadi on Sat.

Customers this week are advised they may encounter delays or schedule changes as FJ works to minimise the impact of the incident.

The A330 was preparing to depart for Los Angeles when it was hit by ground handling equipment operated by ATS.

Board director and former ceo Stefan Pichler said the incident "will be extremely costly and we're working hard on two fronts; to ensure that the aircraft is fixed and returned to service as soon as possible, and to manage our pax affected by the resulting disruptions to our network".

Since Mon, multiple Fiji Airways flights have been delayed (by up to 17hrs) or downgraded to smaller aircraft.

Disruptions are likely to continue until Sat, with FJ warning it may be necessary to offload pax on the Nadi-Sydney flight tomorrow.

Vivid app for China

DESTINATION NSW has rolled out a Vivid Sydney mobile app for the China market that uses augmented reality technology to transform images of Sydney into lit-up displays.

"Users will see the landmarks come to life in 3D renders, projections and a stunning video of Vivid Sydney highlights," DNSW ceo Sandra Chipchase said today.

TripAdvisor Dimmi

AUSTRALIAN online restaurant reservation platform Dimmi has been acquired by TripAdvisor.

Dimmi has a network of over 2.500 bookable restaurants and since 2009 has seated more than 11 million diners, from casual eateries to fine-dining.

QR A350s to MUN

QATAR Airways will launch Airbus A350 XWB services to a second German hub from 01 Oct. with Munich set to welcome the state-of-the-art aircraft, joining Frankfurt which debuted in Jan.

The oneworld carrier will use the A350 initially on one of its two daily frequencies to MUN (QR57/58) from Doha, before converting its existing Boeing 787 Dreamliner to the Airbus jet on the second rotation (QR59/60), effective 01 Nov.



ABOVE: Sabre Pacific vp global sales Brett Henry shaking on the renewed agreement with Express Travel Group ceo Tom Manwaring.

RIGHT: From left, Kelly Wu, JVL Travel Services; Lyn Cheong, Advance Travel; Tinny Widjaja, Smile Travel; Nancy Belen, Rhodes Travel; Jenny Dang, JVL Travel Services and Karen Feng, Lucky Leisure Travel.



DONNING the suits and evening gowns, the Select Travel Group gathered to toast its best and brightest for the year at the brand's annual Awards Dinner in the Philippines capital, Manila.

Closing the conference for another year was Express Travel Group ceo Tom Manwaring, who announced the group's renewal of its exclusive tech agreement with Sabre Pacific (TD Mon).

Awards across a number of categories were then distributed by preferred partner suppliers. In between entertaining sets by Arpie and the Multivitamins,



the crowd was also entertained by a follow-up performance by virtuoso violinist Roddy Chong.

LEFT: Mohammad Nasiry, Express Travel Group; Mirza Juddani, Skiddoo and Murad Juddani from Best & Less Travel. More images from the event on

www.facebook.com/traveldaily.





SHAMROCKER Adventures and Etihad Airways recently led this group of top-selling STA Travel agents on an incredible famil to Ireland and Manchester.

Kicking off their adventure in Dublin, the city's unique spots were discovered by foot and the historic national sport of hurling

EY boosts Bangkok

A NEW fourth daily service between Abu Dhabi and Bangkok will be launched by Etihad Airways from 01 Jul.

The new frequency - EK406/ EK405 - will be operated using Boeing 777-300ER aircraft. was given a red-hot go.

During the week-long famil, the agents also explored the magical world of the Burren, Ireland's lunar landscape and home of the leprechauns, visited Inis Mor Island and saw the "eighth" natural wonder of the world - The Giant's Causeway.

Rounding off the trip, the group flew to Manchester where they caught a football match with the locals at Etihad Stadium.

Pictured above at the game from left are Greg Lawson, Aimee Wex, Thomas Mckee, Anna Van Kempen, Halley Whitworth, Chloe Wilson, Jessica Ford, Fiona Lawless and Kylie Trippet.

Warm up to New Cali

AIRCALIN has launched a fare sale to Noumea for travel from now until 11 Dec, offering return fares ex BNE priced from \$529, inclusive of all taxes.

Fares departing from SYD and MEL lead in at \$599.

Dedicated inventory in W class has been allocated for sales from Australia only.

Cruise pool drowning

US COAST Guards have reported the drowning of a 10 year old girl aboard Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Gem* on Sun, 75 miles off the coast of Myrtle Beach.

The girl was swimming in one of *Gem*'s pools at the time.

MacInnes to A&K

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has named Camilla MacInnes as sales manager Southern NSW/ACT, working alongside Beth Ellicott.

MacInnes has 25+ years industry experience and was most recently at The Entire Travel Connection.

BCD acquisition

GLOBAL travel management firm BCD Travel has announced the acquisition of Knoxville, Tennessee-based World Travel Service Inc, one of the largest corporate agencies in the US.

Tassie winter walks

BOOKINGS have opened for the 2015 winter season of The Tasmanian Walking Company's eight-day Cradle Mountain Huts Winter Walk in Jun, Jul and Aug.

Tracking the Overland Track and staying in private huts enroute, the walks are not for the fainthearted, requiring a high-level of fitness and carrying around 12-15kgs of pack weight.

This year, the firm is offering the opportunity to privately charter the luxury yacht *Lady Eugenie* (with crew) for up to five guests, priced from \$2,990 for 24hrs.

See www.cradlehuts.com.au.

China Links touring

CHINA Links Travel is hopeful of elevating its profile in the Australian market, having recently assigned Venture Holidays as its local booking agent (*TD* 14 Jan).

The company offers small group tours for a maximum of 20 pax, to destinations including the Silk Road, Yangtze River, Beijing, Tibet, Sichuan, Xian, Yunnan, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Sanya.

Its nine-day China Essential trip visits Beijing, Xian and Shanghai & includes internal flights, transfers, 4-star hotels, English speaking guides, some meals & entrance fees, priced from \$1,850pp. Call 1300 414 151.





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HOLIDAYS



Vanuatu self-famils

HOTELS in Vanuatu are opening their doors to retail travel agents to demonstrate the return to business following Cyclone Pam.

Five properties in Port Vila, Tanna Island and Espiritu Santo are offering two free nights with continental breakfast to agents and their partners to experience.

Resorts include Breakas Beach Resort, Moorings Hotel and The Melanesian, all in Port Vila, Aore Island Resort on Santo and Tanna Lodge on Tanna.

Normal \$55pp plus tax industry airfares with Air Vanuatu can be combined to build a short break.

Famils are subject to availability and cannot be transferred without prior authority - details via greg@destination-ap.com.au.

InTown Suites boost

STARWOOD Capital Group has added a collection of 50 extended stay properties across the US as part of its InTown Suites brand.

The deal sees inventory boosted by 6,106 rooms, mainly in the US Southeast states of Florida, North Carolina, Texas and Alabama.

InTown Suites now consists of 189 locations across the country & over 24,000 apartment suites.

PAL "agent friendly"

PHILIPPINE Airlines says the recent arrival of Cebu Pacific Air on the Manila-Sydney route is a good thing for the market but that the differences between the two services should be factored. PAL regional sales manager Australia & NZ Ian Robinson told **TD** it was tough to compare a full

service carrier to a low-cost op. "What we have to do is make ourselves different and attractive

to the consumer in other ways. "But competition is inevitably good, it's certainly good for the

consumer," Robinson said. He praised the carrier's strong relationship with the trade as fundamental to the difference.

"We've got distribution agreements with all the major agency groups and our competitor doesn't have that so that's very important to us. That's why we're an agent-friendly airline."

"We provide agent service, people on the road, training, a hotline, information, newsletters and other things. That's where we have to make our difference known to the trade," he added.

Roosevelt changeover

OWNERS of iconic Los Angeles property Hollywood Roosevelt have assumed management in order to preserve its heritage.

The hotel has launched a new website, now part of the Preferred Hotels & Resorts Lifestyle Collection of premiere properties.



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KOREA is enjoying a "consistent increase in tourism from Australia", according to Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO) director Steve Je.

Last year, 141,200 Australians visited Korea, while Jan-Apr of 2015 has already attracted 43,212 visitors, representing a 9% increase over the same period last year.

In Sydney last night, KTO and Gangwon Province hosted almost 150 trade professionals at the ParkRoyal Darling Harbour for its Sydney roadshow, which saw key partners such as InterAsia, Wendy Wu Tours, Korean Air, CBT Holidays, On the Go Tours, Snowscene and Asiana Airlines showcase their product.

KTO pr/marketing mgr Jennifer Doherty unveiled KTO's new advertising campaign, dubbed 'Imagine Your Korea' (**click**).

The imaginative worldwide campaign has been released to coincide with the new *Avengers: Age of Ultron* movie filmed on location in Seoul.

The advertisement uses movie comic Korean heroes to showcase highlights of Korea such as food, activities, culture and nightlife.

"We hope this fresh new ad campaign will increase Korea's

brand profile as a destination", said Doherty.

Also present was special guest, *Masterchef* 2012 Top 12 Finalist Amina Elshafei, who recently returned from a 'Seoul Searching' food adventure of Korea.

Amina spoke about discovering her mother's heritage and has shared her Korean culinary experiences on her website 'Amina's Alchemy', Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts.

Another big event in the shortterm future for Korea is the XXIII Olympic Winter Games in 2018, which will be hosted by the South Korean city of Pyeongchang.

Pictured above is the Korea Tourism Organization Sydneybased team: Sungwon Kang, Jade Minjung Park, Steve Je and Jennifer Doherty.

Temp down in Liberia

DFAT has lowered the official warning level for travel to Liberia to "High Degree of Caution" in its latest travel bulletin, following the declared end of the Ebola crisis in the country (*TD* 11 May).

Australians are still being advised to reconsider any travel to the Grand Gedeh and River Gee regions of the country.





FRANCE Montagnes has made the most of its visit to Sydney this week - attending the Snow Travel Expo on Sat and meeting with wholesalers and suppliers at a media luncheon yesterday.

Reps from the French ski resorts of Courchevel, Megève, Les Menuires, Val d'Isère and Val Thorens are here to promote their ski resorts as well as reveal new and exciting developments for the 2015-16 winter season.



This week Travel Daily and Princess 12 Cruises PRINCESS CRUISES are giving come back new

readers the chance to win two tickets to the world premiere of 'Women He's Undressed' onboard Sun Princess, as well as cocktail reception on June 10.

'Women He's Undressed' takes an intimate look at the life of Academy Award winning Australian designer Orry-Kelly. Unfamiliar at home, the Kiama born designer created wardrobes for the silver screen from the 1930s to 1960s. Kelly's design credits include: Hollywood's biggest studios, memorable stars, and film hits such as 'Some Like it Hot' and 'An American in Paris'

To win, answer each daily question and have the best answer to the final question. Send your answers to princess@traveldaily.com.au

> What is the name of the signature outdoor movie screen on Princess ships?

According to Val Thorens Tours director Eric Bonnel, France was ranked the second most popular ski destination in the world for the 2013/14 winter season representing 55.3 million skier days, after the USA.

Val d'Isère has welcomed Le Yule - a 5-star ski-in-ski-out hotel located at the foot of the slopes; Courchevel will see the opening of a new aquatic complex called Aquamoon and The White 1921 a 25-room 4-star hotel located in the centre of the resort.

Michelin starred and acclaimed restaurant La Bouitte has opened its doors in Les Menuires, as has a 3,500m² Agua Fun & Wellness Centre.

At Val Thorens, a brand new 5-star hotel known as Pasmina is set to open later this year as well as two new marked runs, while Club Med opened the highest & newest Club in Europe in Dec that "attracted lots of Australian skiers last winter", Bonnel commented.

Les Menuires promotions and group manager Aurélie Bornand told Travel Daily the ideal time for Australians to visit the French Mountains is in Jan when ski fields aren't busy with locals.

Great deals such as a six-day ski pass for \$400 are also on offer. All resorts cater well for families with special passes available and offer a range of activities in the winter such as dog sledding, ice karting, baby ski, ice diving and zip lining.

During the summer, visitors can enjoy activities such as hot air balloon rides, fishing, shopping, hiking and bike riding.

Pictured at The Little Snail in Pyrmont are Aurélie Bornand, Les Menuires; Marithé Crozet, Megève; Astrid Mahfi, Val d'Isère; Eric Bonnel, Val Thorens and Véronique Beulz from Courchevel.

Flyvista collapse

TBILISI-BASED Georgian carrier Flyvista - sister carrier to Dubai's Aerovista - has ceased commercial operations, less than a year since commencing operation.



Accommodation Updates

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily*'s Wednesday 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.



A range of new amenities have been unveiled at BIG4 Mackay Marine Tourist Park aimed at families paying a visit. Kids of all ages can now enjoy a water splash park, new pool with waterslide, mini golf course, giant jumping pillow and much more. Enhancements come

partly through a grant from the Queensland Government. Renovations to cabins and caravan facilities have also been boosted with the funding.



Events with a difference are now possible at the Sunshine Coast's Novotel Twin Waters Resort after the property added a stylish tipi marquee to its event offerings. The open-air tipi boasts a strong design, is suited to many weather conditions and ideal for weddings or

functions. The tipi is able to cater for up to 72 people seated or 100 standing, able to be positioned in multiple locations around the resort.



The world's first underwater nightclub Subsix, located at the PER AQUUM Nivama in the Maldives, is again welcoming guests after an extensive redesign. The property is one of the most sought-after venues for functions, intimate dinners and proposals

and is a unique feat of design and construction accessible only by boat. It sits six metres below the water, 500m offshore from the island resort.

Starwood grows Nam

SHERATON Hotels & Resorts will open its first property in the Vietnamese beachfront city of Danang, with Starwood signing a management deal from 2018.

The 250-room Sheraton Danang Resort will also offer a signature restaurant, meeting rooms, spa and fitness centre.

It will join Le Meridien Danang, itself due to open in 2017, as the town's second Starwood brand.

Pre-book a babysitter

GOLD Coast apartment booking service Holiday Holiday is now allowing families to pre-reserve qualified babysitting services at the same time as accommodation.

The company has partnered with child-minding service Heaven Sent Help to provide the service, aimed at helping families locate the service during a trip.

Director Lee Lee Goh said the service was about offering parents a chance to enjoy an occasion.

Airnorth industry fare

NORTH Queensland regional carrier Airnorth is inviting agents to come onboard, releasing a special industry airfare of \$90pp, valid across its entire network.

The special was announced in the carrier's Apr/May newsletter.

Airnorth flies to a range of ports throughout the Kimberley, Northern Territory and Northern Queensland as well as to Perth and also to Timor-Leste.

Seats under the special fare are subject to load, valid for bookings until 31 May and travel through to the end of Oct - book by phone on 1800 627 474.

New HKIA pax record

PASSENGER figures utilising Hong Kong Int'l Airport swelled to new highs in Apr, with 5.8 million pax recorded for the month.

The result was an 8.8% jump year-on-year, largely from source markets in Asia, and was based on 33,725 aircraft movements.

Page 7

Hands up if you love #MyDubai!

WHILE Dubai is a relatively new city, there is a lot of traditional culture that exists within the Emirate of which visitors aren't always aware.

The 300-strong Australian agents started their day with a traditional Emirati breakfast at the Sheikh Mohammad Centre for Cultural Understanding, where they learnt all about the traditions of the Middle East, local dress code and cultures.

An eye-opening experience for many, the agents then enjoyed a tour of the old town, Al Fahidi District, with its preserved buildings that now house museums, galleries and cafes. After an educational morning, the

agents then experienced the 'new' Dubai with a visit to At The Top, the highest observation deck in the world in the tallest building in the world (see the classic selfie at **right**) before heading for adventure at the Aquaventure at Atlantis the Palm (**above**).

With adrenaline pumping record-breaking rides and slides, the Lost Chambers aquarium saw the agents able to experience this affordable family-friendly activity firsthand, in between soaking up the sun on the white beaches of The Palm.

After free time for shopping at one of Dubai's many malls, the agents were then treated to a glitzy gala dinner hosted in the stunning Asateer Tent at Atlantis The Palm. A Platinum sponsor of this year's megafamil, Atlantis hosted the black-tie 'industry party of the year' with a sit-down dinner that showcased the resort's popular eateries.

The 'Taste of Atlantis' dining experience meant agents enjoyed mouthwatering dishes from restaurants including

Nobu and the award-

winning Yuan. Then they danced the night away to a fantastic DJ while watching a slideshow of all the best MyDubai day photos.

To view more images from this year's Ultimate Famil, view the hashtag #ultimatedubaifamil on Twitter and Instagram.









LEFT: Adriana Campbell from Flight Centre with Nasif Kayed at the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding.



BELOW: Checking out the denizens of the deep at Atlantis The Palm's Lost Chambers aquarium.







ABOVE: Paul Jury from Emirates with Julie King of Dubai Tourism at the glitzy gala dinner in the Asateer Tent at Atlantis the Palm (**left**).



EY queries US safety blanket

IN RESPONSE to claims made by American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines it is receiving government subsidies to help expand its footprint in the United States, Etihad Airways has shifted the spotlight on the naysayers.

In a letter submitted on Fri to the US Govt, EY's General Counsel and company secretary Jim Callaghan said the Abu Dhabibased carrier is preparing a "comprehensive response" to all allegations but has now released certain parts of its response.

One report studies the financial aid and government benefits AA, DL and UA have received.

The report "highlights the fact that US carriers have been and continue to benefit from a highly favourable legal regime, such as bankruptcy protection & pension guarantees, exemptions from certain taxes, and various other forms of subsidies and benefits.

"These benefits, which are

generally only available to US carriers, have created a highly distorted market in which carriers such as Etihad have to compete," Callaghan said in his letter.

The report (CLICK HERE) claims AA, DL & UA received US\$71.48b in government kickbacks, US\$70b relating to the period since 2000.

Of that figure, US\$35b takes the form of bankruptcy debt relief and an estimated US\$5.6b in fuel subsidies

MEANWHILE, the California Hotel & Lodging Association has urged the US not to limit Gulf carrier access to the US.

"This new competition allows the hotel industry to attract travellers from new markets all over the world and by opening up new services to markets like Africa, India, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, these airlines are helping the hotel industry receive visitors from abroad," CHLA ceo & president Lynn Mohrfeld said.



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Seabourn paddling

GUESTS cruising with Seabourn will be able to kayak directly from the ship beginning next European summer when the luxury line debuts its new Ventures by Seabourn program.

The fold-out watersports marina to be first fitted to Seabourn Quest will also provide a launch zone for Zodiac excursions.

China sellers in the NT

A GROUP of 34 Aussie Specialist travel agents from China are taking in the sights of the Red Centre this week, here to build their knowledge on the Territory.

The group will visit Alice Springs, Kings Canyon and Uluru, stopping off at the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Rim Walk at Kings Canyon and Desert Park, while observing the School of the Air & experience hot-air ballooning.

"They'll leave with a real sense of the beauty of Central Australia which will help them sell more NT holidays to Chinese visitors," NT Chief and Tourism Minister Adam Giles said yesterday.



Emirates for Android

ANDROID-ENABLED devices can now access the suite of services offered by Emirates after the airline released an app compatible with the platform.

Users of the Emirates App for Android will be able to book and review travel itineraries, manage seat requests, on-board menus and download boarding passes.

TRYP to Philippines

WYNDHAM Hotel Group will introduce its lifestyle hotel brand TRYP by Wyndham to the Philippines, having inked a franchise deal with Microtel Inns & Suites (Pilipinas).

At least eight properties will be developed in the country over the next 10 years, the first of which will open at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City in 2016.



HANNIBAL Restaurant in Sydney played host to a Middle Eastern feast for Tempo Holidays to promote its Egypt product to an invited group of local agents.

The lavishly Arabian decorated event, hosted in conjunction with Egyptian ground operator South Sinai Travel, featured belly dancing and an opportunity to

win a trip to the country itself, won by Julie Denaro from Escape Travel Macquarie Centre.

Tempo repeated the occasion in Melbourne a few nights later.

Denaro is pictured above centre accepting her prize with Sameh Agha from South Sinai Travel and Amanda Hillard, NSW/ACT bdm for Tempo Holidays.

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Are you looking to relocate for the right role? The cold weather is finally here so why not escape! This global travel organisation is currently recruiting for travel consultant superstars to join their corporate offices located in Darwin. For these roles a background in corporate travel is a must along with minimum 2 years experience. A top salary package is on offer along with uncapped commission, career progression and the opportunity to live in this warm and modern city. Sound interesting? Apply today.

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This boutique travel company has one of the most envied staff retention rates in Perth, not to mention some of the best employee benefits going around. Not only will you work Mon to Fri hours (8.30am to 4.30pm!), you will work with a friendly & supportive team, whilst earning a terrific set salary. In addition to your lucrative salary package, you will be offered 17.5% leave leading, paid overtime, free car parking, uniform, 4wks annual leave & 2wks educational leave! Min 3years leisure travel consulting experience required.

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Have you been working as a senior corporate consultant for a number of years looking to take the next step in your career? This Global TMC is seeking a corporate travel extraordinaire with natural sales skills to join their business development team servicing the SME market. You will be a natural born hunter with strong client relationship building skills and a persuasive approach. Take your career to new heights and join the leaders in corporate travel today. Min. 3yrs experience in corporate travel with a sales background.

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This boutique retail agency is looking for a European specialist to join their supportive team. Working in a bright and social team your role will involve selling unique luxury tour product to some of the most exciting destinations across the globe. A love for Travel is a must. If you enjoy an excellent salary package with great bonuses and overseas educationals then this is the job for you. A minimum of 2 year travel industry experience, exceptional sales skills and a friendly positive attitude are a must. Don't delay apply today!

HAND IN HAND GROUP TRAVEL CONSULTANTS BRISBANE – SALARY PACKAGE \$50K - \$55K OTE

Everyone knows that travelling in a group is more fun, so why not join in! We currently have several vacancies for experienced travel consultants to join this booming groups department. There are opportunities for corporate and leisure, your role will see you booking group travel to domestic and international destinations. You will cover all types of events from weddings through to meetings and conferences. Previous exp is essential along with excellent destination knowledge and strong GDS skills. Call us now. Discover & compare travel suppliers in one place

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