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First with the news

Thursday 19th November 2015

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ITG to San Francisco

EXPRESS Travel Group exec gm Ari Magoutis has confirmed that next year's Independent Travel Group Business Forum will take place in San Francisco.

The announcement follows last weekend's highly successful event in Singapore, where delegates were told the options for 2016 also included Ho Chi Minh City.

The choice of San Francisco was based on member feedback, with next year's Forum on 10-13 Nov.

WTAAA pushes IATA on web

THE World Travel Agents Associations Alliance has confirmed that IATA will delay "unreasonable proposals" to shorten BSP settlement times for online sales of airline tickets.

It is understood the airline group had hoped to implement a one day settlement for any tickets issued via the web, but the WTAAA made significant representations about the global ramifications of such a move on both traditional and online-only travel agents.

According to a communiqué from the recent WTAAA board meeting in Bilbao, Spain, other key topics of discussion included IATA's new generation settlement and accreditation plans.

AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury, who was re-elected as WTAAA chair during the meeting, said "we look

forward to working with IATA & their member airlines to agree an acceptable solution for the BSP".

The board also looked at other issues, committing to work with governments across the globe to tackle the challenge of border control requirements while still allowing people to travel freely without "burdensome and unnecessary" visa regimes that do nothing but complicate travel.

"With modern advances in biometrics and intelligence sharing, surely governments can remove themselves from issuing visas and requiring travellers to jump unnecessary hurdles... to enhance the visitor economy across the globe," Westbury said.

The WTAAA acts as the global travel agency voice, with members including agency groups from the USA, Canada, Brazil Europe, South Africa, India and New Zealand as well as Australia.

In addition to Westbury, other WTAAA office-bearers elected at the meeting included Otto de Vries from the Association of South African Travel Agents as Vice Chair and New Zealand's Peter Barlow as Treasurer.

Tourism Bhutan reps

THE Tourism Council of Bhutan has announced the appointment of Unique Tourism Collection as its Australia based sales and marketing representatives.

It comes as Bhutan's govt places tourism as a "top priority".

In the role, UTC will spearhead Bhutan's marketing strategy in Australia, a market which will see a "significant" focus during 2016.

Bhutan welcomes around 2,000 Aussie travellers annually.

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Choice delegates high

RECORD numbers of Travellers Choice travel agents and suppliers will descend on Melbourne for this weekend's Annual Shareholders' Conference at the Pullman Melbourne Albert Park.

Close to 300 delegates are set to attend, up almost 20% on 2014.

NZ targets AU HNL traffic

AIR New Zealand is ramping up its positioning as a competitor on the Australia-Hawaii route, today announcing it will upgrade aircraft & re-time flights, a move that will likely appeal to Aussie travellers.

The Star Alliance member carrier said it will deploy its state-of-the-art Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner on the Auckland-Honolulu route starting 10 May, at the same time jacking up capacity to Hawaii by almost 20%.

Replacing its existing 767-300s, the 787 enables Air NZ to offer its revolutionary Economy Skycouch and Premium Economy product to Honolulu for the first time.

The four weekly service will also be re-timed from 29 Mar, shifting from a current morning departure out of Auckland to evening.

Air New Zealand chief sales & commercial officer Cam Wallace said the schedule change would speed up connection times for pax transiting in Auckland.

"Hawaii is a popular holiday destination for Kiwis & Australians alike and these changes will better enable customers based in New Zealand's regional centres and Australia to fly to Honolulu within the one day, rather than needing to overnight in Auckland as many currently do.

"In turn, the revised arrival time in Honolulu allows customers to conveniently connect onto domestic services in Hawaii," Wallace said.

Air NZ is also shuffling its Sun return service to Fri and will offer a seasonal fifth weekly frequency from 04 to 26 Jul ex AKL on Mon.

Rex to the Snowies

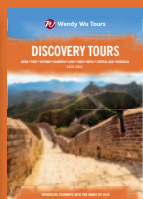
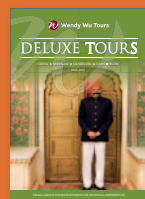
REGIONAL Express will debut flights between Sydney & Cooma from 23 Mar, with the core base schedule of each weekday kicking in on 28 Mar & additional flights offered during the ski season.

See Asia Differently...



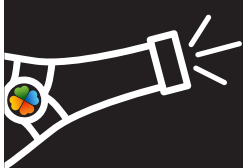
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NTIA 2016 details confirmed

NEXT year's National Travel Industry Awards gala dinner will take place in Sydney on Sat 16 Jul, (**TD** breaking news) with AFTA this morning releasing key dates for the awards.

The NTIA will once again take place at the Dockside Pavilion on Darling Harbour, before moving to the brand new International Convention Centre Sydney the following year.

AFTA ceo Jayson Westbury said there are "new plans for the venue and seating arrangements in order to maximise capacity.

"We know how important the event has become to everyone in the travel industry and we really

want to accommodate as many people as we can," he said.

Qantas will once again be the major sponsor of NTIA 2016, with nominations for next year's prestigious awards opening on Mon 01 Feb 2016.

Nominees will be announced on Wed 16 Mar, with voting kicking off the following day.

The list of finalists will be revealed on Wed 27 Apr 2016, and judging for the categories will commence on Mon 16 May, exactly two months before the gala dinner.

"AFTA places the NTIA as one of the most important activities in the industry calendar and we are thankful to Qantas for helping us make it the night of nights for the Australian travel industry," Westbury said.

Travel Daily and **travelBulletin** are proud to once again be the official media sponsors of the National Travel Industry Awards.

MU PVG/BNE kk'd

CHINA Eastern Airlines will deploy dual-class Airbus A330-200 aircraft on the Shanghai-Brisbane route on a year-round basis from Nov 2016, Brisbane Airport has confirmed today.

The route was mooted as part of China Eastern's alliance with partner Qantas (**TD** 06 Aug).

The BNE service will operate thrice weekly, complementing MU's other Aussie operation to Sydney and Melbourne.

BNE md Julieanne Alroe said the new flights will open up an immense new market for Qld tourism operators.

"Having such an extensive and well serviced network means passengers from China Eastern flights can easily travel across the state, to the reef or right across Australia, New Zealand and to the South Pacific," Alroe remarked.

China Eastern will also operate seasonal flights to Brisbane in Jan and Feb.



Window Seat

COMING soon to an airport near you - the Qylatron.

It sounds like science fiction, but it is real, and is already being deployed as a new security solution at Levi's Stadium, the home of the San Francisco 49ers NFL team.

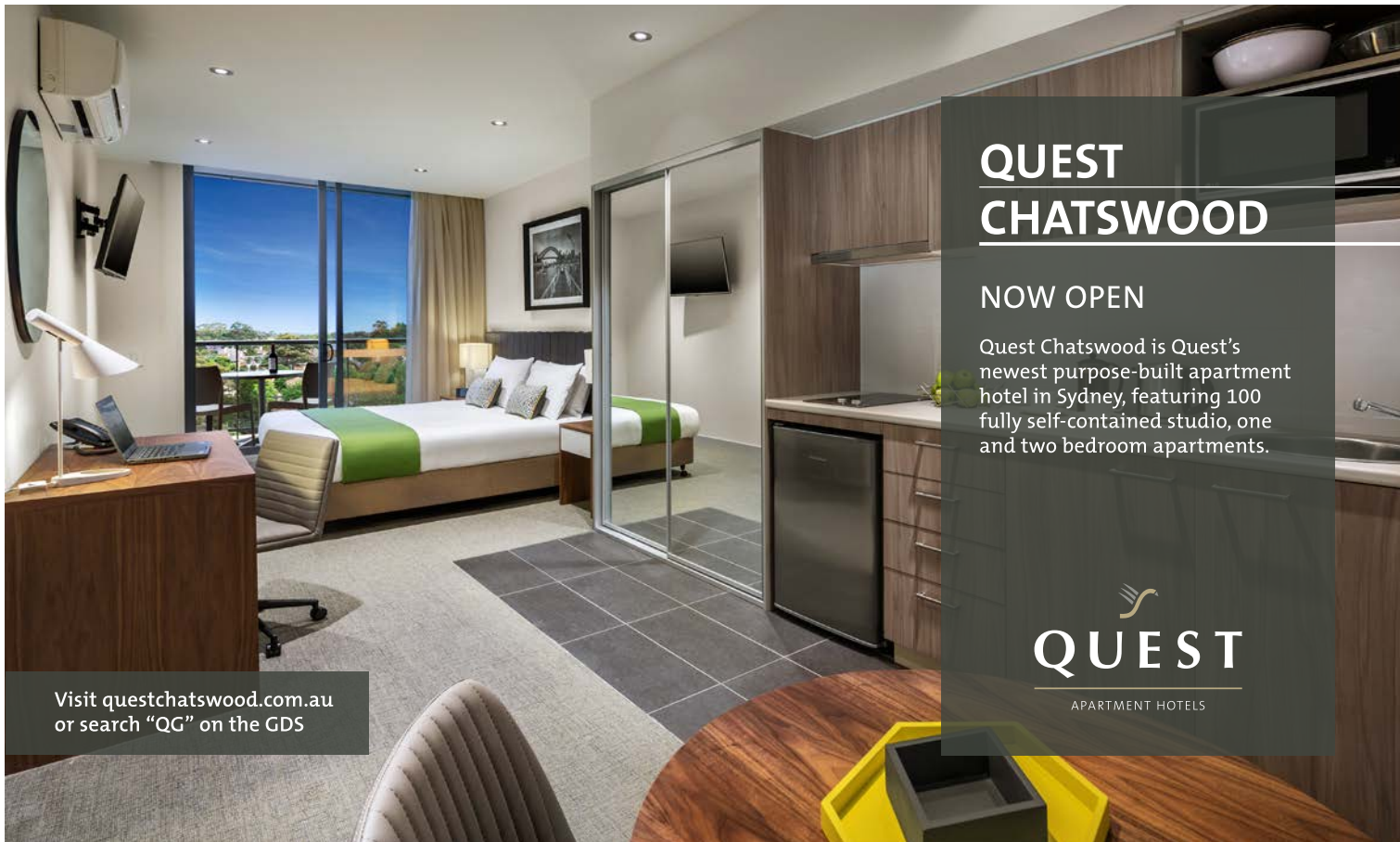
The Qylatron Entry Experience Solution is a "futuristic combination scanner" which scans bodies for weapons and other threats, checks laptops and liquids - and reads tickets - all in seconds without requiring the removal of shoes, belts or unpacking of any bags.

Each Qylatron can process 600 people per hour, and apparently the US Transportation Security Administration is very interested, with a trial launched last month.

Check it out on our website at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Delta adds LAX-DEN

NEW five weekly services between Los Angeles and Denver will be launched by Delta Air Lines commencing 01 Jun, with flights operated by CRJ-900 jets.



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Agents Czech out the Republic



CZECH Tourism and Beyond Travel joined forces in Sydney on Tue to host the first evening of a series of Czech Republic agent information dinners.

The events have been designed to increase awareness on the Republic and update agents on what Czech Republic has to offer.

Over 60 agents attended and were encouraged to complete

a Czech Republic crossword to be in the running to win prizes, including a Moser crystal vase.

Similar events will also take place in Adelaide and Melbourne this week.

Pictured at the event are Jan Urban, Czech Tourism; Martine Nunes, Beyond Travel bdm and Bryce Crampton, Beyond travel marketing manager.



Centre strip
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Malindo anticipation

MALINDO Air's inaugural flight to Australia from Kuala Lumpur will touch down at Perth Airport this afternoon, with the flight scheduled to land at 1410.

The service will run daily from today until Dec, when one extra flight will be added on each Mon, Thu, Fri and Sun.

Tourism Minister Kim Hames said the service was great news for WA's tourism industry and a sign of the Asian tourism market's appetite to visit the state.

"Malaysia is Western Australia's third biggest market in terms of visitor spend," Hames said.

"With Malindo Air expanding its network to include the Perth-Kuala Lumpur route, Malaysians will have greater aviation access to WA, which will hopefully translate into even more visitors coming to our shores."

The new flights will bring an extra 1,260 weekly seats to the Perth aviation market.

Sage resort for SA

THE Sage Wallaroo Shores Resort project has been given the go-ahead, following a record \$220m tourism and development deal that pledges to breathe new life into SA's regional economy, and create 2,200 jobs.

Operated by the SilverNeedle Hospitality Group, the 100 unit boutique resort will feature luxe amenities such as a cinema, pool, gym, tennis courts and cafes.

Currently only in its initial stages of the masterplan, Sage Wallaroo Shores Resorts is slated for completion by the end of 2016.

Hotel Network GDS

AUSTRALIAN accom broker The Hotel Network has inked a deal with Amadeus to provide travel agents with greater access to the group's accommodation and land content via the GDS, powered by Amadeus LinkHotel.

The Hotel Network has over 250 properties in Australia & NZ.

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Choice Hotels newbies

CHOICE Hotels Asia-Pac have added three properties in Australia to their portfolio.

Quality Hotel Lighthouse, in Bunbury WA offers 71 rooms just steps away from the beach, while Quality Hotel Darwin Airport has 64 rooms and is less than 2km from Darwin Int'l Airport.

Econo Lodge Waterford features 25 rooms in Waterford, Qld.



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LATAM defers jets

LATAM Airlines Group has unveiled plans to cut up to US\$3b in fleet capital expenditure for the 2016-2018 period, by deferring a range of aircraft slated for delivery in 2017 and 2018.

The announcement follows a third quarter net loss of US \$113.3 million, aggravated by a slowing Brazilian economy.

Under the plan, savings would be achieved by changing the delivery schedule for new aircraft as well as by selling off both wide body and narrow body aircraft.

"This restructuring seeks primarily to adjust capacity to the prevailing market conditions in Latin America & is in line with our focus on maintaining a healthy balance sheet and adequate liquidity by reducing capex and pre-delivery payments," LATAM group said in a statement.

4 Points Singapore

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts Worldwide will introduce the Four Points brand to Singapore by year-end 2016 having signed a deal with Keck Seng Hotel Pte Ltd.

The duo will plough SGD\$25m into redeveloping the former 476-room Riverview Hotel into the Four Points Singapore, Riverview.

GTA Dubai promotion

TRAVEL technology provider GTA has partnered with 24 hotels in Dubai to launch the 'Only in Dubai' Strategic Partnership Program to promote the emirate as a key tourist destination.

The program will target outbound travellers from Asia Pacific and aims to help tour agents promote deals for hotel stays in Dubai over three nights.

GTA will launch training videos and other educational materials for agents that feature tourist attractions found 'Only in Dubai'.

Fiji Aussie visitors up Seven%



ABOVE: Tourism Fiji held a pre-Christmas get together for media partners at the trendy *Since I Left You* outdoor bar in Sydney last night to celebrate a stellar 2015.

Regional general director for Australia Carlah Walton said visitor numbers out of this market have soared for Fiji, with latest arrival figures up 6.8% for year-to-date, "growth that hasn't been achieved in years."

HK Airlines to Saipan

HONG Kong Airlines has sought approval to launch services from Hong Kong to Saipan, in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed four weekly service would debut in Q2 2016 & be operated using Airbus A330s.

Walton predicted growth would be maintained over the last few months of 2015.

On average, about 360,000 Aussies travel to Fiji annually.

Walton also encouraged people heading to Fiji to look beyond the island nation's surf, beaches and diving when holidaying.

"There is so much more to Fiji. There are many different regions of the mainland to explore such as the rivers and the Fijian people across the country are all so welcoming.

"Get out there and explore," she told event attendees.

Walton is **pictured** (centre) with some of Fiji's advocates, Seven Network's *Sunrise* personalities - Natalie Barr and Mark Beretta.



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Wynn Palace set back

WYNN Resorts has revised its opening date for the Wynn Palace project in Cotai, Macau by three months, with the new property now slated to open on 25 Jun.

Counsellors on board for SE Asia



A GROUP of Travel Counsellors agents from across Australia were recently invited to experience South East Asia on a seven night cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's *MS Mariner of the Seas*.

Departing Singapore, the luxury cruise ship made port calls through Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City before returning back

to Singapore.

Travel Counsellors md David Hughes said staying on top of the latest travel trends was vital for the home-based networks' staff.

"That is why we encourage and support our agents to go on family trips like this," he said.

"Cruising is definitely a big market for Travel Counsellors right now, so having eight of our agents experiencing a cruise such as this firsthand means that we have eight experts to not only sell cruising to their clients, but assist other agents with any questions they may have about the Royal Caribbean experience," Hughes remarked.

Participants (pictured) included Lara Burgermeister, Sharon Wood, Trish Hollis, Suzanne Watson, Suzie Griffiths, Nadine New, Kim Rudd and Liz Bridges.

They were joined by Kerry Murphy from Travel Counsellors' head office & Michael Stephenson from Royal Caribbean.

Handa Opera subbed

DESTINATION NSW has announced the Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour will feature subtitles in simplified Chinese for the very first time.

NSW Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events Stuart Ayres said the move leverages an opportunity to showcase "one of the world's most spectacular outdoor opera events" to the Chinese market.

"The extraordinary growth in international visitors, particularly from China, has prompted this innovation for opera in Australia," said Opera Australia's Artistic director, Lyndon Terracini.

Puccini's *Turandot* will be the first to be subbed, and will run from 24 Mar to 24 Apr 2016.

2nd DL lounge at SEA

DELTA Air Lines is set to open a second Sky Club lounge at Seattle-Tacoma in late 2016.

Located between Concourses A and B, the 21,000ft² lounge is poised to rank among the top five largest Delta Sky Clubs.

Amenities will include a spa space, personalised flight assistance and complimentary food menu.

US Sheraton Grands

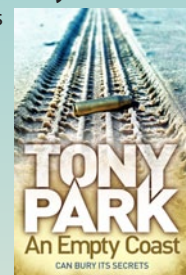
SHERATON Phoenix Downtown Hotel and the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers will be rebranded under the new premier tier of 'Sheraton Grand'.

The properties will be known as Sheraton Grand Phoenix and Sheraton Grand Chicago and the move marks the tier's official debut in North America.

Launched three months ago (TD 20 Aug), the tier is designated to 'best in class' hotels, with plans to brand 100 hotels as Sheraton Grand hotels by 2017.

Win An Empty Coast by Tony Park

This week **Travel Daily** and Swagman Tours is giving five lucky readers the chance to win *An Empty Coast* by Tony Park.



Sonja Kurtz – former soldier, supposedly retired mercenary – is in Vietnam carrying out a personal revenge mission when her daughter sends a call for help. Emma, a student archaeologist, on a dig at the edge of Namibia's Etosha National Park has discovered a body dating back to the country's liberation war of the 1980s. The remains, identified as Hudson Brand, are a key piece of a puzzle that will reveal the location of a modern day buried treasure. A find people will kill for. But former CIA agent Hudson Brand is very much alive and is also drawn back to Namibia to finally solve a decades-old mystery whose clues are entombed in an empty corner of the desert.

To win, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below to:

tonypark@traveldaily.com.au

Swagman Tours have added three stopover destinations in their 2016 Africa brochure. Where are they?

Next-gen Emirates IFE

EMIRATES' newly delivered Airbus A380s and Boeing 777-300ER aircraft will now offer the industry's largest in-flight entertainment systems (IFE).

Passengers travelling First class can now immerse themselves in 32" screens (increased from 27"); while Economy has been fitted out with 13.3" in-seat screens.

Business Class screens remain the largest in its class at 23" wide.

EK says the new IFE systems feature three times more media storage than previous models.

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Industry Appointments

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Virgin Australia has revealed two senior appointments. **Geoff Smith** has been promoted to Chief Financial Officer, after acting as Chief Financial Officer since the departure of Sankar Narayan in Oct. Smith was previously Executive General Manager Group Finance for Virgin Australia for almost two years. Company Secretary, Adam Thatcher has resigned, effective 01 Feb and will be replaced by **Sharyn Page**.

AccorHotels has revealed a number of General Manager appointments in Australia. **Hayden Hughes** will take on the role of GM at **Sofitel Brisbane** and Area Manager **Ibis Budget**. **Richard Holt** will become General Manager, **Novotel Sydney Darling Harbour**, while **Simon Glover** will look after **Mercure Newcastle**. **Thomas Klotz** will become General Manager of **Novotel Newcastle** and **Simon Wells** has been appointed General Manager, **Ibis Newcastle**. **Lisa Brown** has been named General Manager, **Pullman Port Douglas Sea Temple Resort & Spa**, **Anna Voss** will look after **Ibis Sydney Thornleigh** and **Jesse Bridge** will manage **Ibis Budget St Peters**.

Michael Stern will take on the newly created role at **Collette** as Product Manager, South Pacific, based in the new Sydney office. Stern has recently worked for Oaks Hotels & Resorts and ran his own tourism marketing consultancy.

Air transport IT specialist, **SITA** has appointed **Randy Pizzi** as President, Americas. Pizzi joins SITA from Rockwell Collins/ARINC where he was Managing Director of the ASIA Pacific Division in Singapore.

Tony Chick will take on the role of general manager of **New World Langfang Hotel** in Langfang, China, scheduled to open late 2016. Chick was previously Resident Manager of New World Beijing Hotel, where he was one of the opening team members.

Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia has a new team member, with **Merryn Andrews** coming on board as part-time Assistant Public Relations Manager, replacing Lauren Zoneff. Andrews brings ten years of travel PR to the table and was most recently Account Director at Ink Publicity for seven years.

Leah Hubay last week took up the role of PR and Media Manager for the **Melbourne Convention Bureau**. Hubay has come from Crocmedia Pty Ltd, where she was Marketing and Communications Manager.

The luxurious **Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley** took on a new General Manager at the beginning of the month - **James Wyndham**. Wyndham joined Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley as Resort Manager earlier this year following his transfer from Atlantis, The Palm in Dubai.

Hilton Worldwide has announced **Ronen Nissenbaum** has been appointed to the newly-created position of Vice President of Operations, Luxury Hotels-Americas. Nissenbaum will be responsible for the operations of all Hilton Worldwide luxury properties within the region, including Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts and Conrad Hotels & Resorts.

Hong Kong-based **Rosewood Hotel Group** has named **Trish Luyckx** as Vice President of Design and Project Services. Luyckx will assist John Shamon, Senior Vice President of Design and Project Services, to manage and oversee 27 new projects across the Rosewood Hotels & Resorts (including the proposed Queen's Wharf Brisbane), New World Hotels & Resorts and pentahotels brands. Luyckx has over 22 years experience in hotel operations, technical services & product design.

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Expedia+ enters India

EXPEDIA India has launched The Expedia+ loyalty program.

The debut follows an Expedia consumer survey on loyalty program participation which discovered that 44% of Indians would be open to enrolling into new travel loyalty programs.

Members of Expedia+ can join the program for free and will earn points on all of their hotel or holiday activities bookings and will receive member-only deals.

Air NZ hits milestone

AIR New Zealand has celebrated the two millionth member to its Airpoints loyalty program, first introduced in 1989.

Airports members have flown on more than 750,000 flights this year, entirely paid for under the reward scheme.

Travel Daily

First with the news

Thursday 19th Nov 2015

Hyatt Ziva's new look

THE Hyatt Ziva Resort in Cancun has received an extensive makeover, following an \$85m expansion and renovation plan.

Featuring sweeping ocean views, the property comprises 547-suites.

bmi Brno-Munich flts

DIRECT bmi regional flights from Brno, Czech Republic to Munich took off on Mon.

The flights are being operated as part of a codeshare agreement with Lufthansa and will run six times weekly.



Win a trip to New Caledonia

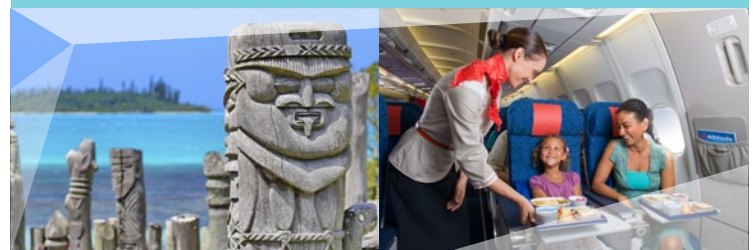
This month *Travel Daily*, Aircalin and New Caledonia Tourism are giving agents the chance to win an amazing trip to New Caledonia including:

- Two complimentary return economy class tickets on Aircalin
- 5 nights' accommodation in a one bedroom apartment for two including buffet breakfast everyday provided by Ramada Plaza Noumea.
- Return airport transfers



All you have to do is have the most correct answers and the most creative answer to the final question. Send all your answers to newcalcomp@traveldaily.com.au

14. Does the Ramada Plaza Noumea offer free internet access throughout the hotel and in the rooms?





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If you consider yourself a consummate professional in Sales with experience in the Corporate or MICE sectors, we have some prestigious new roles available now with 2 of the most dynamic Agencies in the business. You must be driven by winning new business and achieving targets, and you'll be rewarded with a top salary, huge commissions, ongoing training and amazing benefits & incentives. Get in quick and apply today!

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Outrageous Outback

SYDNEY TO AUCKLAND | 14 days

9 Apr 2017 – SIRENA

Overnight | Melbourne **New Ports** | Burnie & Nelson

AU\$ FARES per guest from:	INSIDE	VERANDA	PENTHOUSE
SPECIAL OFFER FARE	\$6,290	\$8,520	SOLD OUT
US\$ SHIPBOARD CREDIT per stateroom	\$450	\$450	\$650

Port taxes/fees as shown are included in the cruise fare: \$1,382

BONUS
5 FREE SHORE
EXCURSIONS

FREE
UNLIMITED
INTERNET
&
SHIPBOARD
CREDIT



Southern Cross Sojourn

SYDNEY TO SYDNEY | 34 days

6 Mar 2017 – SIRENA

Overnight | Bali **New Ports** | Alotau, Port Moresby, Broome, Exmouth, Perth, Esperance, Penneshaw & Portland

AU\$ FARES per guest from:	INSIDE	VERANDA	PENTHOUSE
SPECIAL OFFER FARE	\$10,480	\$12,830	SOLD OUT
US\$ SHIPBOARD CREDIT per stateroom	\$1,090	\$1,090	\$1,570

Port taxes/fees as shown are included in the cruise fare: \$2,519

BONUS
5 FREE SHORE
EXCURSIONS

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UNLIMITED
INTERNET
&
SHIPBOARD
CREDIT



Divine Down Under

AUCKLAND TO BALI | 23 days

22 Feb 2017 – INSIGNIA

Overnight | Bali

AU\$ FARES per guest from:	OCEANVIEW	VERANDA	PENTHOUSE
SPECIAL OFFER FARE	\$7,390	\$9,260	SOLD OUT
US\$ SHIPBOARD CREDIT per stateroom	\$740	\$740	\$1,060

Port taxes/fees as shown are included in the cruise fare: \$1,813

BONUS
5 FREE SHORE
EXCURSIONS

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UNLIMITED
INTERNET
&
SHIPBOARD
CREDIT



Colourful Coral Seas

PAPEETE TO SYDNEY | 17 days

16 Feb 2017 – SIRENA

Overnights | Papeete & Nouméa

AU\$ FARES per guest from:	INSIDE	VERANDA	PENTHOUSE
SPECIAL OFFER FARE	\$4,950	\$7,070	\$10,420
US\$ SHIPBOARD CREDIT per stateroom	\$550	\$550	\$790

Port taxes/fees as shown are included in the cruise fare: \$1,141

BONUS
5 FREE SHORE
EXCURSIONS

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&
SHIPBOARD
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