



Queen Mary 2  
250<sup>th</sup> Transatlantic Crossing

# EXPERIENCE ANOTHER LEVEL OF LUXURY

NEW YORK TO SOUTHAMPTON



Qantas and Cunard are giving ten lucky agents the opportunity to experience another level of luxury.

Enjoy two nights in New York before embarking on the 250<sup>th</sup> Transatlantic Crossing onboard Queen Mary 2 from New York to Southampton, England.

## How to win

### Five lucky consultants with the highest Qantas bookings:

Simply book and ticket Qantas to any International destination on QF code and 081 stock until 30 September 15 to be in the running to win

### Five lucky consultants with the highest Revenue Sales for Cunard:

Simply book and deposit any Cunard Cruise of 14 nights or more until 30 September 15 to be in the running to win

## Grand prize

- Qantas return flights from Australia to New York and London to Australia
- Balcony Cabin on the Queen Mary 2 for eight nights
- Two nights' accommodation at the Sofitel New York
- New York City tours, courtesy of NYC & Company



To be eligible to win, you must enter the following OSI codes:

**Amadeus:** OS QF CUNARD/AGENCY CODE/AGENCY **Sabre:** 30SI QF CUNARD/AGENCY CODE/AGENCY **Galileo:** SI.QF\*CUNARD/AGENCY CODE/AGENCY  
For Cunard entries, email: [cunardincentive@carnivalaustralia.com](mailto:cunardincentive@carnivalaustralia.com)

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## QF UK capacity renewal

THE International Air Services Commission has granted Qantas a ten year determination giving the carrier unlimited capacity and frequency on the UK route.

Under the terms of the renewal, the capacity can also be utilised by a fully owned Australian subsidiary of Qantas, as well as in joint operations with Emirates under the terms of the 2013 QF/EK code share agreement.

Today's determination was due for renewal next year, and the IASC invited Qantas to re-apply as well as opening up applications to other airlines to request capacity.

No other applications were received and the IASC says it also considered the ACCC authorisation of the QF/EK alliance when deciding to grant the ten year determination.

Qantas must apply to the IASC for approval of any changes to the code share arrangement with Emirates, and where the capacity is used to provide joint services the airlines are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure passengers are informed of the operating carrier when booking.

The IASC has also issued a new determination giving Qantas unlimited pax capacity between points in Australia (other than Sydney, Melbourne, Perth & Brisbane) and points in China (other than Beijing, Guangzhou & Shanghai) which allows the new Jetstar non-stops from the Gold Coast to Wuhan to proceed.

### Qantas Cunard promo

QANTAS and Cunard have launched an historic incentive in which ten lucky Australian travel agents will win a trip on the 250th Atlantic crossing on board *Queen Mary 2* between New York and Southampton.

Top sellers of Qantas and Cunard are in the running to win, with a booking deadline of 30 Sep. For details, see the **cover page**.

### Today's issue of TD

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

- AA Appointments jobs
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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 8th Sep 2015

**COOK ISLANDS**

*Win a Seat*

ON A MEGA-FAMIL!



**FIND OUT HOW**

## Centra resort opening

**CENTARA** Hotels & Resorts has today announced the scheduled mid-Dec opening of its newest property in Thailand, the 3.5-star Centra Maris Resort Jomtien.

The family-friendly resort has 282 rooms, suites & residences, located at Jomtien Beach.

## Aussie luxe market to soar

**INSIGHT** Vacations is hoping to cash in on an increased demand for upmarket overseas holidays, releasing a revamped and fine-tuned luxury holiday offering.

In Sydney during his annual pilgrimage down under, global managing director John Boulding unveiled the new 'Luxury Gold' brochure this morning, saying Australia is the "right place, and this is the right time" to introduce the bespoke vacation program.

The stand alone Luxury Gold brochure complements Insight's Premium touring content.

The luxe program is built on four elements - best-of-the-best hotels, dining, exclusive VIP experiences & service, featuring 32 itineraries around the world.

"The opportunity is now very ripe for us for this product.

"A lot of agents are selling luxury travel now and a lot of consumers want to know more.

"It's a coming together of

general interest and statistical back-up that tells you this is the right time and the right place," Boulding told **Travel Daily**.

The statistics the Insight boss is referring to are based on high net worth individuals in Australia.

"Growth is huge, despite any downturn you might read about. People here who are rich, are getting richer," he said.

Locally, in the five years to 2011, growth in the luxury sector has risen nearly 9% and is predicted to increase to 20% by the end of 2015, Boulding explained.

It is not the first time Insight Vacations has offered bespoke product, having sold "a slight hybrid" product dubbed 'Insight Gold Luxury' for many years.

Boulding told **TD** he expects big returns from the Luxury Gold program, with sales tipped to account for around 1/5 of all Insight's bookings - about double Insight Gold Luxury's uptake.

## Qantas FF free m'ship

**QANTAS** is offering customers the opportunity to join the Qantas Frequent Flyer program on a free basis until the end of the year.

The promo represents a saving of \$89.50 & is valid for Australian residents who are not already QFF members - apply **HERE**.



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## Travel Daily

on location in  
Auckland, NZ

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of Tourism NZ, Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia, which are hosting the All Stars Mega Famil this week.

**ABOUT** 400 Australian travel agents crossed the Tasman yesterday for the biggest ever New Zealand mega-famil.

After a full day of product updates and training in Auckland, the participants will fan out across the country tomorrow on a whopping 23 separate itineraries exploring the length and breadth of New Zealand.

This morning delegates were inspired by Contiki founder John Anderson, and later on today Air New Zealand ceo Christopher Luxon will also address the group before a gala opening event.

## TNZ takes over Qualmark

**NEW** Zealand's national quality assurance organisation for the local accommodation industry and endorsement program for NZ-based attractions & leisure activities has been fully acquired by Tourism New Zealand.

The tourism office announced the move yesterday, saying it had taken over the remaining 40% share of Qualmark owned by the NZ Automobile Association.

Qualmark debuted in 1997 and to date has over 2,000 accredited tourism enterprises, providing a national rating system for the New Zealand travel sector.

Some 900 accredited firms have attained an Enviro award that recognises businesses for their environmental performance.

TNZ ceo Kevin Bowler said the Qualmark program is very much "business as usual", but taking full ownership provides scope to take the program to the next level.

"We are also particularly

focused on the development of a new globally recognised standard of sustainable business practices which will replace the current Enviro award which we will deliver through Qualmark," Bowler said.

"As part of this work it is our intention to establish an industry advisory group to ensure industry views are heard and contribute to this new programme," he added.

Bowler said the close ties with the motoring club would remain for the benefit of the industry.

NZ Automobile Assoc gm travel & tourism Grant Lilly said its focus is on providing "quality platforms & big audiences for Kiwi tourism operators to communicate directly with their markets.

"At the same time we're working to support the industry with local promotions, advice and information & market intelligence leveraging the Association's large membership base," Lilly added.



## Window Seat

**FORGET** Richard Branson - the travel industry has a new rock star, and his name is John Anderson.

At the opening session of the All Stars famil in Auckland this morning, the Contiki founder's presentation to 400 Aussie agents was so inspirational, the consultants brought a tear to his eye with a standing ovation.

And just like a rock star, guests lined up for hours afterwards (**below**) keen for a chat and a selfie with the great man.



## AGENTS OF ALOHA VIDEOS

### HAWAII DESTINATION TRAINING MADE EASY!

Follow the journey of our Agents of Aloha, as they experience a bucket list itinerary across the Hawaiian Islands.

First stop... the energising island of O'ahu.

Learn about the island, resort areas and must-do activities, to help you plan the perfect Hawai'i holiday.

YouTube [Hawaii - gohawaii.com/au](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gohawaii.com/au)

*The*  
**HAWAIIAN**  
ISLANDS



Tuesday 8th Sep 2015

## Topdeck Europe 2016

**YOUTH** tour operator Topdeck has released its Europe & Sailing 2016 Travel magazine, featuring four new tours including the 14-day Spanish Fiesta and seven-day Ibiza Sailing.

Next year, Topdeck will offer free wi-fi on coaches in Europe, while the firm has guaranteed all sailing trip departures and two thirds of the European trips.

Another new addition is the 28-day European Paradiso, which includes new destinations such as Sardinia and Corsica.

Activities include a Bordeaux winery visit and a trip to Pompeii.

A 10% earlybird special is available when booked and paid in full before 15 Dec.

## AIU/AIT year-round

**AIR** Rarotonga is increasing its seasonal once weekly Aitutaki-Atiu service using Embraer E110 jets to a year-round operation effective 02 Dec.

## LH strikes, again

**LUFTHANSA** is bracing for flight chaos today and tomorrow for its flights to/from Germany due to Vereinigung Cockpit strike action.

The German carrier said it will continue to operate more than half of scheduled long-haul flights today between 08:00-23:59 (local time) and will "do its best to keep possible disruptions to a minimum".

LH's short & medium haul flights from/to Germany are also likely to be affected on Wed between 00:01-23:59 as industrial action by pilots continues.

"Lufthansa is currently working on a special flight plan; this will be released as soon as possible," the Star Alliance member said.

Pax booked on Lufthansa, SWISS, Austrian Airlines or Brussels Airlines from Frankfurt, Munich or Düsseldorf can rebook once free of charge up until today for long-haul flights and 09 Sep for short and medium-haul flights.



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## Corrine is Argentina bound!



**THE** Argentina National Institute of Tourism and Air New Zealand jointly hosted the Argentina Roadshow, with events in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney to meet with Aussie wholesalers and incentive operators.

The show gave local partners a chance to meet face-to-face with a dozen Argentine destination management companies & execs from Aerolineas Argentinas.

As an added incentive to attend, there was a chance for attendees to win a return trip for two to Argentina, courtesy of Air New Zealand, along with ground arrangements.

**Pictured** is the winner, Corrine Heveldt from Flight Centre with (from left), Ross Gallagher, Air New Zealand, Pablo Cagnoni, Argentina Tourism and Tim Swan from Air New Zealand.

## Europe with Qatar Airways



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Experience our modern fleet and award-winning service.



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**A HOST** of new product in Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania features in the latest guide to Africa from Bench International, with the wholesaler issuing its newest brochure this week.

Rolling off the production line, the newest program includes new holidays in Madagascar and self-drive itineraries in South Africa and Namibia, plus much more.

Complementing the suite of popular product already on offer, the latest range takes into account a significant level of feedback from travel agents and its own consultants, all of whom have tried the product first-hand.

Copies of the guide can now be requested through the

wholesaler's website.

Bench International managing director Martin Edwards is **pictured** above back row with the new guide proudly displayed by some of the Bench local team.

## QF entertainment app

**CUSTOMERS** flying Qantas can now stream more than 400 hours of movies, TV shows and music to their own device through the new Qantas Entertainment app.

Versions of the app for both Apple and Android devices are now available for free download.

Travellers connecting from one flight to the next can pause and resume a movie through the app.

## FJ Jul traffic record

**MORE** than 100,000 passengers flew with Fiji Airways in Jul, the first time in the carrier's history numbers passed the six-digit figure during a single month.

The record result was 107,227, achieved in what is regarded traditionally as a peak month.

Acting ceo David Bowden said the result follows Fiji Airways' highest ever six-month profit.

"It shows that the whole team is working together to grow revenues by increasing passenger numbers and yield," Bowden said.

## Swiss prize winner

**CONGRATS** to Katherin Colvin from helloworld Carousel who was the Week One winner of our Switzerland comp - featuring exclusively in **Travel Daily** - taking home a fabulous Swatch watch.

To be in the running to win a \$900 Swiss hamper grand prize, answer each weekly question from 24 Aug to 18 Sep - see **pg 8**.

## Orient Explorer deal

**CLIENTS** can receive a \$1,000pp discount on the Oriental Explorer itinerary onboard the Eastern & Oriental Express at Railbookers.

The promotion is valid for bookings made prior to 30 Sep for travel to 31 Mar - 1300 938 534.

## Aus luxury in demand

**HIGH-END** accommodation in Australia itself ranks in fifth place in the Small Luxury Hotels of the World most sought destinations, the luxury accom group said.

Speaking at an event in Sydney this week to celebrate SLH's 25th anniversary in 2015, group executive director Richard Hyde said there was still room to grow.

The top five global destinations favoured by Aussie luxury seekers included Italy, the UK, France, Greece and then Australia.

SLH currently manages sales and marketing for seven properties in picturesque locations in Australia.

## Barangaroo ferry hub

**THREE** purpose-built wharves will be constructed as part of a new commuter ferry terminal at the Barangaroo site in Sydney.

Up to eight ferry visits per hour during peak periods would take place, according to the Dept of Planning and Environment.

The hub will also serve as an interchange for commuters to access the planned Sydney Metro.

# Do you know your Simplicity Searchers?

From inspiring to arriving, 'Future Traveller Tribes 2030' reveals the next-gen of travellers—six tribes defined by motivation with actionable insights for tailored travel.

**Simplicity Searchers** value ease, transparency and home comforts to rejuvenate.

**Talk to Amadeus today to find out more!**

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**Which Traveller Tribe are you?** Read our trend report and take the quiz at **amadeus.com/tribes2030**





## Money

**WELCOME** to *Money*, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

**\$1AUD = US0.691**

The AUD has experienced some gains over the New Zealand dollar, despite suffering heavy losses over the vast majority of major currencies.

The AUD felt the benefits as traders looked ahead to the Reserve Bank's policy review on Thurs amidst expectations of an interest rate cut.

Meanwhile the AUD continues to slip against the GBP, more so than other major currencies as the Aussie dollar remains vulnerable against this currency ahead of the British manufacturing output on Wed. *Wholesale rates this morning:*

US	\$0.691
UK	£0.452
NZ	\$1.098
Euro	€0.619
Japan	¥82.41
Thailand	฿24.86
China	¥4.259
South Africa	R9.601
Canada	\$0.916
Crude oil	US\$46.05

## Hurtigruten extends Northern Lights pact

**HURTIGRUTEN** and Discover the World have announced an extension of the "Northern Lights Promise," under which passengers get a free trip if the Northern Lights are not visible during their voyage.

Last week the annual season kicked off in style with a massive display visible as far south as Oslo.

The promise is now valid on all new 'Classic Round Voyage' bookings departing between Oct 2015 and Mar 2016 inclusive.

## Long ZQN weekend?

**DESTINATION** Queenstown has launched a new campaign today urging Australians to spend a long weekend exploring the region's "world-class snow offering" during spring.

Titled 'sick day stow away' the promotion includes a tongue-in-cheek video teaching Aussies how to fake a sickie to free up more time to enjoy the destination - to view see [traveldaily.com.au/videos](http://traveldaily.com.au/videos).



## New ASTA board

**THE** American Society of Travel Agents has inducted a new board of directors and executive committee, with the appointments following last week's ASTA Global Convention in Washington D.C.

New national directors-at-large are Jay Ellenby of Safe Harbors Business Travel Group; Caitlin Gomez from HRG Worldwide; Dave Hershberger of Prestige Travel Leaders; Toni Lanotte-Day of Toni Tours Inc and Eric Maryanov from All Travel.

National directors serving the second year of their two-year terms are Roger E. Block and Gloria Stock Mickelson from Travel Leaders Franchise Group; Jackie Freedman of Nexion LLC and Jorge Sanchez from Mena Tours & Travel.

Roger Block is chairman, vice chair and secretary is Jay Ellenby and Jorge Sanchez is treasurer.

## New TR India route

**TIGERAIR** Singapore has announced the launch of flights between Singapore and Lucknow in India.

According to GDS screens the new route, which is subject to government approval, will operate three times per week from 03 Dec using Airbus A320 aircraft.



**ABOVE:** Channel 7 *Sunrise* weekend weatherman James Tobin - well known for his regular appearances in *Travel Daily* - is hosting the first day of the Tourism New Zealand All Stars famil in Auckland (see p3), which includes a series of training sessions from NZ's regional tourism organisations.

This morning delegates were welcomed by Tasman alliance partners Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia, with the huge educational aiming to help agents tap into the large pool of potential travellers to NZ.

Guests were told there are more than five million Australians "actively considering" a trip to NZ at any time - meaning they could

travel in the next 12-18 months.

Currently only about 10% of that figure actually make the journey, meaning there's massive scope for agents to build their business to New Zealand.

As well as training on the huge variety of holiday options in NZ, agents will also enjoy a full update on NZ and VA product.

**Pictured** above after the first session this morning are James Tobin, Contiki founder John Anderson, Anji Johnson from Flight Centre Strathfield, Ashlee Dieckmann of helloworld Toowoomba Ridge and Shannon Nielsen from Flight Centre Margaret St Toowoomba.

More pics from New Zealand at [facebook.com/traveldaily](https://facebook.com/traveldaily).

## Fly to Magical Christchurch on China Airlines (CI)



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Route	Flt No.	Dep. time	Arr. Time	Day	Aircraft
Sydney-Christchurch	CI55	12:40	17:45	2..5.7	A330
Christchurch - Sydney	CI56	19:15	20:30	2..5.7	
Melbourne-Christchurch	CI57	13:10	18:30	1..3..6.	
Christchurch - Melbourne	CI58	19:50	21:40	1..3..6.	



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**Freestyle**  
HOLIDAYS

# FC management head to HK



**HONG** Kong Tourism Board and Qantas Airways recently hosted the management team at Flight Centre Marketing for a Hong Kong famil last month.

Highlights during the five-day trip included a local food tour, sunset cruise on an old Hong Kong junk on Victoria Harbour, sightseeing at The Peak and Stanley Markets, a new evening walking tour around Kowloon and an interactive Kung Fu Experience with Wing Chun.

The group were hosted by Marco Polo Hong Kong Hotel and Gateway Hotel during their stay.

The group is **pictured** at the Wing Chun Kung Fu Academy: Gary, Tour Guide; Jill Santry; Jason Wolff; Michael York;

Cassandra Laffey; Lisa Lee, HKTG; Christina Kerr; Ashleigh Fallon; Alison Riordan, Infinity Holidays; Jenny Viali, Qantas; Joanne Heggie; Jordan Albury and Jeanna Manifold.

## HINN Cairns opening

**INTERCONTINENTAL** Hotels Group has opened Holiday Inn Cairns Harbourside on The Esplanade, previously Mercure Cairns Harbourside.

The hotel offers one-bedroom suites with private balconies, a swimming pool and four meeting rooms, with the largest having capacity for 150 people.

There is also a 'Kids Stay & Eat Free' programme available.

## KC MyUpgrade tool

**KAZAKH** flag carrier Air Astana has launched an online tool for pax booked in Economy class to bid for a Business class upgrade.

The 'MyUpgrade' tool works on eligible flights and sends an email to pax prior to departure inviting them to submit a bid for upgrade through a secure online portal.

Payment details are entered at the time of lodging a bid, but are only used if a bid is successful, with guests notified 48 hours out.

## APT sales combined

**THREE** new appointments to a combined on-road and inside sales workforces have completed an exercise by APT to combine the resources of both teams.

Two new business development managers in Lisa Gair and Camille Moore have bolstered the NSW and Qld-based on-road teams.

APT has also promoted Aaron Christian to the role of account manager, APT Small Ships, to look after the rapidly growing division.

Christian will continue to work closely with the trade to develop knowledge of the company's fleet of small ocean-going vessels.

The merged team now numbers 29 people across Australia, which APT says provides one of the largest sales support networks of any wholesaler nationwide.

Tuesday 8th Sep 2015

## Seasons app expands

**UPMARKET** hotel brand Four Seasons has expanded the online check-in and check-out feature on its smartphone app (**TD** 12 Jun) to hotels in the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition to making bookings, the app allows guests to customise their stay with in-room dining requests, housekeeping and access local destination info.

## AVANI enters the UAE

**MINOR** Hotel Group has signed a strategic partnership with UAE developer Nakheel to construct the first AVANI branded hotel in Dubai, slated to open in 2018.

The 500-key AVANI Deira Dubai Hotel will sit in the Deira Islands precinct and will be the fourth Minor Group brand in the UAE.

## JTB price fluctuations

**JTB** Australia is reminding agents the only way to secure a client's holiday price is to pay in full at the time of confirmation.

Volatile exchange rates may see unpaid bookings repriced due to changes in exchange rates.

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We are looking for an experienced School Sports Group Sales and Product Manager to develop and drive this expansion.

You will be responsible for the product development and delivery function as well as the marketing functions. You will be required to negotiate and manage relationships with all key stakeholders including Secondary School teachers and overseas operators.

Based in modern Sydney CBD offices close to Wynyard, you will be required to undertake evening functions, inter and intra state travel as well as overseas travel.

Travel management experience in the school sports group area is essential and significant travel experience is desirable.

The role requires a strong customer service orientation, empathy to staff and customers, strong commercial acumen and the ability to resolve problems swiftly and efficiently.

We offer a salary up to \$ 70,000 per annum – no commission, no ote, just a decent salary for a job well done.

For more information please forward your resume to  
Stuart Barrie at: [stuart@academytravel.com.au](mailto:stuart@academytravel.com.au)



## Boy from OZ' new QF gig

**AUSTRALIAN** star of the screen & stage Hugh Jackman has taken on his latest starring role as an official global ambassador for Qantas to help promote Australia as an ideal destination to visit.

Jackman is one of the world's most acclaimed celebrities, with a Hollywood resume boasting the likes of the *X-Men* series, *Les Misérables*, *Swordfish* and more.

"I travel a lot and like all Aussies, I get a buzz whenever I see the familiar red tail and the kangaroo logo, no matter where I am in the world. Qantas is great airline with great people and represents the very best of our wonderful country," Jackman commented.

In addition to being one of the carrier's recognisable public faces, Jackman will assist with

## Hyatt going to Rio

**HYATT** Worldwide will bring its Grand Hyatt brand to the Brazilian capital Rio de Janeiro in late 2015.

The hotel will offer 436 rooms, restaurants and an exclusive spa.

community projects in Australia.

"What I also love about Qantas is the role it plays in the community. It's inspiring to see an Australian company stand up for causes that make a difference and I know it's something that the Qantas team and its employees are really passionate about," Jackman added.

The star joins Michael Clarke, Adam Goodes, Greg Norman, Kelly Cartwright, Michael Clarke and fellow actor John Travolta as Qantas Global Ambassadors.

**MEANWHILE**, Tourism New Zealand has teamed with Qantas to attract travellers across the Tasman in shoulder seasons.

The campaign runs to 14 Sep and will see digital, social media and Qantas owned channels feature NZ promotional material.

The T3 Qantas Sydney Domestic Airport will also have a "Qantas Travellator" shaped as a Qantas Boeing 737-800 aircraft installed, which will have 10 images of NZ regions in the windows.

## Rail Plus gift card

**TRAVEL** agents who book a Rail Plus Swiss Travel Pass, Swiss Half Fare Card or Swiss Transfer Ticket during Sep will receive a \$20 Coles Group & Myer Gift Card for every adult passenger they book.

All bookings must be paid in full by 2pm 30 Sep to avail the offer.

## Shijie99 GDS deal

**CHINESE** travel e-commerce aggregator Shijie99 has signed an agreement with Amadeus to bring its technology up to speed with that used by global online travel agents.

The move will help Shijie99 to cater to inbound tourism and Chinese travellers in overseas markets.

The multi-year agreement will provide air content via Amadeus advanced Master Pricer search technology for points of sale outside of mainland China and give customers in all markets access to prepaid and postpaid car rental, as well as rail content.

## Macau know how at Luxperience



## Hungary DFAT alert

**AUSTRALIANS** are continuing to be advised to "exercise normal safety precautions" when visiting Hungary in the wake of the ongoing migrant refugee crisis.

A recent DFAT bulletin advised International train services from Budapest have resumed but may be disrupted at short notice.

## Oman site in English

**VISITORS** to the website of Oman Tourism will now find info in English, Arabic and Italian as its three new language options.

Backed also by social media channels, the Tourism Oman portal features details on the destination, hotels, attractions and calendar of special events.

## AA Expedia renew

**EXPEDIA**, Travelocity and Hotwire will offer paid seating options for American Airlines and US Airways flights in late 2015 after the American Airlines Group renewed its agreement with the online travel giant.

The new options will include Main Cabin Extra seats and Preferred Seats.

**AFTER** a glittering gala opening at Sydney Town Hall on Sun night, yesterday it was down to business as Luxperience exhibitors and buyers gathered at the Australian Technology Park for the first day of appointments.

Around 300 exhibitors and 390 buyers from around the world will take part in almost 30,000 scheduled meetings over the 3.5 day event.

**Pictured** is Mike Smith, Macau Tourism; Carolyn Borland, Marriott; Cathy Favaloro, Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts and Benjamin Zaubzer, Macau Tourism; showing off Macau's luxury experiences.

## Liberia Ebola free 2.0

**WEST** African country Liberia has been once again declared free of the deadly Ebola virus by the World Health Organisation.

In early May, the WHO said transmission of Ebola was over, however six additional cases resurfaced in Jun (**TD** 08 Jul).

Confirmed cases of the disease continue to wind down, with Guinea and Sierra Leone reporting three cases in the week to 30 Aug, the WHO reported.

## Win a SWATCH watch



This week, Switzerland Tourism is giving away a funky Swatch watch valued at \$75 to one lucky agent. At the end of the four-week competition (24 Aug - 18 Sept), the agent with the best answers over that time will win the ultimate prize hamper comprising a Victorinox suitcase, a beanie, mittens and flip-flops, valued at \$900. Don't miss out!

Frequented by adrenaline seekers, the unique setting of lakes and rugged mountains that make up this adventure capital are hard to beat. Mountain rails, cable car rides, paragliding, hikes and more, this place is every adventurer's dream.

To win the watch have the best answer to all the questions. Send all of your answers to [switzerland@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:switzerland@traveldaily.com.au)

Where is Europe's highest railway station located?



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[www.travelpay.com.au](http://www.travelpay.com.au)



## AAA accom warning

**THE** Accommodation Association of Australia has warned footy fans to stay in tourism compliant accom businesses when travelling interstate for finals.

The Association's ceo, Richard Munro said upcoming major footy finals "could lead to consumers looking at platforms for private residences to be used for tourism accommodation when they are trying to find a place to stay.

"When making a decision about accommodation, footy fans should take into consideration that such private residences may not be compliant with building fire safety, insurance laws and disability access requirements, among many others," Munro said.

Munro has also advised budget conscious travellers that to get the best rate, the best way "is to book direct...either through its website or over the phone, or even try your local travel agent."

## Cathay flies to DUS

**CATHAY** Pacific Airways operated its first 4x weekly flight to Düsseldorf from Hong Kong last week.

Prior to its departure, guests were treated to a lion dance performance, followed by ribbon and cake cutting led by Cathay Pacific country manager Germany and Eastern Europe, Tony Sham.

Düsseldorf is Cathay's second destination in Germany.

## Gazi premises sold

**SINGAPORE** investor Keppel REIT Management has acquired three retail properties leased by George Calombaris for \$8.61 mil.

Located at 2 Exhibition Street and 52 & 72 Flinders Street, the property houses Gazi and The Press Club and was sold with a long term lease to Calombaris' Made Establishment business.

The selling agent said the property was hotly contested.

Tuesday 8th Sep 2015

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## Blue carpet for Virtuoso agents



**FIVE** Melbourne-based Virtuoso agents travelled to London and Paris courtesy of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts and Royal Brunei Airlines last month.

The group were flown Business Class in Royal Brunei's new Boeing 787 *Dreamliner* and stayed at The Shangri-La Hotel at The Shard London and The Shangri-La Hotel Paris.

During their visit the agents overlooked London from level 35, enjoyed glasses of champagne

and London sunsets from the hotel's Gong Bar on Level 52 and snuck in a visit to the Palace, complete with some scones and tea in the Palace gardens.

**Pictured** are: Judy Gillard, Bayview Travel; Rhonda Smith, Executive Edge Travel; Alex Facy, Phil Hoffmann Travel; Jenny Williams, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts; Brett McDougall, Royal Brunei Airlines, Vitina Mazzarino, Global International Travel & Ruth McKenzie, Trans World Travel.



## WIN WITH INSIDER JOURNEYS

This month Travel Daily and Insider Journeys are giving away a trip including return economy class afares, 3 nights in Saigon, Cu Chi Tunnels tour & city tour, Mekong delta tour, 2 nights in Siem Reap, tour of temples of Angkor by Tuk tuk and return airport transfers.

Insider Journeys (formally Travel Indochina) has been operating Small Group Journeys and tailor-made holidays to Asia for 22 years. Insider Journeys' idea is simple- to explore and share the essence of Asia's culture, natural beauty, cuisine and, most importantly, its people.

Answer each daily question correctly and have the most creative answer to the final question to win. Send your answers to [insiderjourneys@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:insiderjourneys@traveldaily.com.au)

Q6. Name the two Small Group Journeys which journey through the South of India.

## Swiss travel website

**SWISS** Travel System has upgraded and relaunched its Trade Corner with a new look, improved user experience and more comprehensive content.

The website offers information, news, offers and online assistance for Switzerland's public transport.

Agents who send a "declaration of love" dedicated to the "Swiss Travel System by Train, Bus and Boat" have a chance to win a holiday to Switzerland, email - [trade@swisstravelsystem.com](mailto:trade@swisstravelsystem.com).

## Best place to work

**G ADVENTURES** was the only travel company to make the 2015 *BRW* 'Best Places to Work' list, coming in at number 24 for workplaces with under 100 employees.

The company said it was highlighted in the study because of its training and leadership programs, travel perks and development days for employees.

G Adventures' office features themed meeting rooms and a ping pong table.

**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](http://www.traveldaily.com.au).

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