



Tuesday 12th January 2016



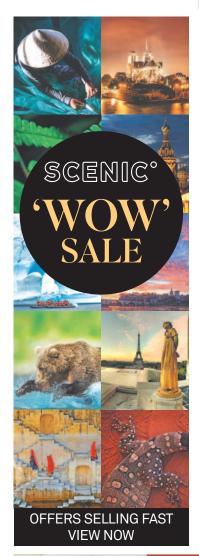
More Aussies to USA

THE number of Australians entering the USA in Jun 2015 surged 9% y-o-y to 140,000, data from the US Government reveals.

The figure positions Australia as the 9th largest source market for the USA over the period.

America welcomes 6.2m int'l visitors in Jun 2015, up 4%.

For the year-to-date ending Jun, 657,800 Aussies travelled to the United States, a rise of 10.6% on the same time 12 months earlier.



APTMS buys World Drive

MARKETING representation firm Asia Pacific Travel Marketing Services (APTMS) today revealed a new "two pronged business approach", expanding its product range beyond the USA through the purchase of World Drive Holidays.

Until today, Gold Coast-based APTMS has specialised wholly on North American travel products including Aqua/Aston Hospitality, Discover Hawaii Tours, El Monte RV, Go West Tours and Eaglerider Motorcycles.

Acquiring travel wholesaler World Drive Holidays enables

SQ to Canberra?

SINGAPORE Airlines is tipped to next week announce landmark new international services to the Australian capital, The Australian Financial Review is reporting.

It's understood the Singaporebased carrier - which is Australia's 4th biggest international carrier according to latest government date - will commence four weekly services between the city-state & Canberra, using Airbus A330s.

SQ will utilise the same aircraft to operate return services from Canberra to Wellington, offering the first capital-to-capital service between Australia & New Zealand, the Fairfax report added.

MEANWHILE, Singapore Airlines has confirmed the closure of its Perth SilverKris Lounge for "maintenance work" between 15 Feb and 11 Mar.

"Eligible customers will be provided a Food & Beverage voucher which can be used at outlets on the Departures level after Immigration and Security," the SQ website advises.

APTMS to expand its offering to include discounted car rental, European leasing (Citroen EuroPass) & motorhome rentals.

MD Kylee Kay said APTMS is "ever evolving and the opportunity to use my experience as well as join forces with my former manager at DriveAway Holidays was just too good to let pass."

"We have full intention however to continue to build our representation arm under the APTMS brand."

World Drive Hols founder Geoff Harvey said teaming with APTMS will bring enormous perks and provides the opportunity to build the business into one of Australia's top self-drive operators.

A revamped website rolled out at worlddriveholidays.com.au.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news, including a photo page from Trafalgar plus full pages from: (click)

- inPlace Recruitment
- Travel Trade Recruitment
- JITO

Ula skips Vanuatu

THE Vanuatu Meteorological Service has confirmed Cyclone Ula, which threatened to impact parts of Vanuatu has bypassed the South Pacific destination.

In an update, VMS said Cyclone Ula passed 200kms south of Aneityum and 285kms south southeast of Tanna.

"The Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) has given ALL CLEAR for TAFEA province," the VMS said.

HA digs into QF/AA jv

ANOTHER three officials at Hawaiian Airlines have sought confidentiality affidavits to access further details of the proposed alliance between Qantas and American Airlines, currently under review by the US Department of Transportation.

The latest HA senior staffers wishing to examine certain aspects of the alliance include chief legal officer Aaron J Alter, counsel Natalie Haves & research consultant Todd Schroder.

The QF/AA alliance has already received approvals from the ACCC and New Zealand Government.





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Industry Rates on Carnival Cruises, From \$430* pp. including taxes and port charges *Conditions apply.

CLICK HERE for further details

Bne Marketing hires

BRETT Fraser has been named as Brisbane Marketing's new chief operating officer.

Having formerly worked for the Office of Economic Development for the City of Brisbane and Brisbane Marketing for almost 10 years, Fraser's new position will see him help deliver the organisation's strategic direction and enhance government and industry relationships.

Luxperience special

LUXPERIENCE has introduced a brand-new 'Deluxe Suite' for its 2016 event held in Sydney, which offers exhibitors six square metres of space.

To celebrate the event's fifth anniversary, organisers of the luxury travel exhibition are offering a special of \$8,670 to book its new Deluxe Suite.

The event runs from 18-21 Sep at the Australian Technology Park. See www.luxperience.com.au.

Arrivals, departures jump

SHORT-TERM visitor arrivals into Australia increased 9.7% in the year to 30 Nov, according to figures released this morning by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The inbound growth rate was almost double that of resident departures during the period, which rose 4.9% over the year.

In trend terms during Nov there were 640,300 arrival movements with the top source markets being New Zealand (107,100) and China (87,300), ahead of the UK (66,800) and USA (59,400).

Singapore was in fifth spot with 47,000 arrivals during the month followed by visitors from Malaysia, Japan, South Korea and India, while Germany came in tenth position with 16,100.

Australians continued to travel in their droves, with 799,800 departures during Nov.

There was strong year-onyear growth in Nov travel by Australians to the UK, which was up 14.3% on the same period last year, while other outbound markets showing significant increases included New Zealand, up 6.8%, China which rose 6.2%, and Hong Kong, up 5.2%.

The only top ten destinations to record a decline in Australian travel during the month were Singapore, down 2.9%, and India, which fell 0.1%.

QR Travel Festival

QATAR Airways launched its largest promotion to date - a first-of-its-kind Travel Festival which offers a selection of deals and discounts to more than 150 destinations.

Available for sale from 11-17 Jan for travel between 19 Jan and 15 Dec, the offer is applicable to both Economy and Business class return airfares - more details at qatarairways.com/travelfestival.

TSV upgrades

THE federal government has formally approved major redevelopment plans for Townsville Airport which will see the expansion of lounge facilities, departure, security and check-in areas plus retail operations.

The initial phase of the \$50 million project will be funded by the airport, but from 2017 domestic passenger levies will increase to \$3 per person.

It will be the first major works at the airport since 2003, and international services will be exempt from the extra fees for a five year period.

The airport is forecasting annual passenger growth of 2-3% which would see it increase from 1.5 million this year to 2.6 million passengers in 2035.

Security screening areas will be expanded, while the airport is also proposing additional checkin kiosks and automatic bag drop facilities.







EvergreenTours
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#Comeonin campaign

VISITORS to the Sydney Opera House in Jan who post a photo of the landmark on Instagram labelled #comeonin, will receive a personalised video invite to experience more of what the iconic location has to offer.



Caesars promotion

CAESARS Entertainment alongside Discover the World ran a six-week promo through Nov to Dec, aiming to increase product knowledge among Travel Agents of Caesar's Entertainment Empire.

Flight Centre Castle Hill agent Cordelia Asaad took the top prize, receiving a \$500 Visa gift card; Globe Net Travel's Bridget Little was awarded \$250; while helloworld Mt Pleasant's Brooke Bernie received \$150 gift card.

Avis digital upgrade

AVIS Budget and Avis Mobile applications have received a digital upgrade, with iOS and Android platforms streamlined to offer better response times and an enhanced user experience.

Delivered across UK and Europe, the digital transformation has also been applied to its websites, now providing users with "a tailored experience across all devices, including desktops, tablets and mobile phones".

TL to Wellcamp sale

FARES between Toowoomba to Melbourne and Cairns flying on regional carrier Airnorth are now on sale, with prices starting from \$179 per person one way.

Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport revealed the new routes just before Christmas (*TD* 27 Dec), with services starting 14 Mar.

Visit airnorth.com.au for info.

EK A₃80 for IAD

EMIRATES is upgauging aircraft on the Dubai-Washington DC route from the current Boeing 777-300ER to its flagship Airbus A380 starting 01 Feb.

EK boss Tim Clark said the move will help "restore capacity on the route" after United decided to terminate its flights between the US capital and Dubai after 25 Jan.

"Our service to Washington DC has been one of our most successful and profitable routes, with high demand across all cabin classes," Clark said overnight.

MEANWHILE, EK is adding a second daily service to Geneva, commencing 01 Jun, boosting the carrier's overall capacity to the Swiss market by 26%.

The new service, EK83/E84 will be operated utilising triple-class Boeing 777-300ERs.

Norway consul shut

THE Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade has advised the Australian Consulate in Oslo, Norway has closed.

Travellers requiring assistance are now directed to the Australian embassy in Copenhagen.



Window Seat

VISITORS awaiting travelling loved ones in the arrival hall at Bangkok's main international airport, were instead greeted by a slithery surprise.

A snake was spotted coiled around the base of a trolly after a traveller loaded her bags onto it in preparation to leave.

"After being alerted, security officers captured the snake right away and no passengers were injured," said Airports of Thailand in a statement.

A NEWLY opened hotel in Abu Dhabi is claiming the title of fastest hotel wi-fi in the World.

Managers of the Jannah Burj Al Sarah in Mina say their recent upgrade to 1.2 Gbps has put them ahead of every other hotel in the world, after testing its speed on hotelwifitest.com.

Currently, the highest measured speed recorded in Abu Dhabi is 240 Mbps, while the fastest in Dubai has been recorded at 48 Mbps.





Agents experience the best of America's South TRAFALGAR'S top achieving agents

experienced simply the best of America's South on its 2015 Acclaim trip.

From Nashville to New Orleans highlights of the trip included a special Be My Guest dinner in Natchez, a private creole cooking lesson at the New Orleans School of Cooking, exclusive use of the Rock and Soul museum with a private tour of the incredible collection of memorabilia, wandering through the very colourful Mardi Gras World and heading out to the bayou for a guided tour deep into the swamps.

Pictured on this page are just a taste of over 190 images posted by agents on social media from the trip.

See these and more on Instagram using the hashtag #SimplyUSA2015



RIGHT: Trafalgar Travel Director Sam Rutledge, Trafalgar co-host Suzy McPhail, Nicole Laurie from Virgin Australia and Trafalgar Managing **Director Matthew** Cameron-Smith.



Simply the best TRAFALGAR

RIGHT: Trafalgar Travel Director Sam Rutledge with Meg Hill and Di Chan explore the costumes and floats of Mardi Gras World.

LEFT: Chloe Park holding a baby alligator during the Swamp & Bayou Tour.

BELOW: Chloe really immersed herself in America's South on the Acclaim trip.



BELOW: Exploring the Rock & Soul Museum, agents like Lauren Blackstone had an opportunity to 'sing' with Elvis.



ABOVE: Tarnia Boyce enjoying enjoyed a a moment at the Grizzlies vs 76ers NBA game.

RIGHT: Agents Creole Cooking demonstration and meal in New Orleans.



LEFT: Southern Hospitality at its finest, with Di Chan and Trafalgar co-host Suzy McPhail.





LEFT: Sam Rutledge with chef Esther Carpenter duing the exclusive Be My Guest Experience in Natchez.



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Ascott on Alitrip

THE Ascott Limited will make its global portfolio of serviced business units available to more than 100 million Chinese travellers, after penning a partnership deal with e-commerce travel booking platform AliTrip.

Twenty-four of Ascott's properties, amounting to 4,300 units, are already available for booking on AliTrip, with a total of 26,000 units to be listed by Jun.

bmi rugby alliance

BMI Regional has penned a three-year deal to be the official airline partner for Bath Rugby.

The pact is the first in a series of strategic partnerships the airline will announce in 2016.

Mackay adventurer

THE son of Venture Holidays managing director Robert Mackay has outlined plans to trek 850kms along India's Kaveri River this month to raise awareness of depression and anxiety, as well as funds for beyondblue.

Tom Mackay will aim to use the physical and emotional challenge to demonstrate a commitment to the challenge mental illness poses one in five Australians who are affected each year.

Mackay is hoping his 'Walking the Walk' adventure will raise \$50,000 for beyondblue.

For more info and to support him, see walkingthewalk.com.au.

SQ Y+ to Amsterdam

SINGAPORE Airlines continues to roll out its Premium Economy cabin to new markets, with the carrier set to introduce the product on flights to Amsterdam from 01 Jun.

Premium Economy is offered on flights SQ324/SQ323 which are operated by Boeing 777-300ERs.

Spirit pax uptick

THE Spirit of Tasmania ferry has received a massive boost in passenger levels, recording 40,000 more seats booked than this time last year.

Forward bookings for the Spirits are also high, with 304,000 pax reserving a ticket - up 15% since the same period in 2015.

Tasmania's Acting Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events Jeremy Rockliff says the plan to increase and encourage passengers and visitors to Tasmania is working.

"It it clear that what we are doing is capturing the curiosity of travellers and having a great flow on affect especially in tourism," he commented.

New Kensington hotel

DOUBLETREE by Hilton announced the opening of the brand-new 203-room DoubleTree by Hilton London Kensington yesterday, which takes its tally of DoubleTree branded properties in the UK up to 27.

VSC appointment

VISIT Sunshine Coast has appointed Rachel Meyer as its new international and domestic trade manager for the regional tourism organisation, beginning Feb, 2016.

Meyer brings to the table more than two decades of experience in the tourism industry and has worked with major airlines such as Kentetsu, Japan Airlines, Virgin Australia, as well as Tourism NSW and hotel company Peppers Retreats and Resorts.

Dubai traffic up 8%

YEAR-ON-YEAR traffic at Dubai International Airport increased 8.1% in Nov, according to a monthly report issued by operator Dubai Airports.

DXB recorded its strongest hike in pax levels in Nov, welcoming an increase of 160,647 pax from last year, attributed largely to a growth in traffic and launch of new flights including SpiceJet's services to Kozhikode and Amritsar.



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CBD location, Late Jan- Aug \$50K pro-rata Specialist Wholesaler seeking an experienced groups consultant to handle special interest tours with some pre and post extensions. Wholesale or Corporate exp. required with Galileo CRS preferred.

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For more information please call Serena on (07) 3023 5023 or click APPLY now.

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Sydney Hills District, Salary (DOE), Ref: 2100PE1

My clients are seeking a sales professional who is passionate about travel and looking for their dream career within the travel industry. This is an exciting opportunity to join a privately owned boutique agency, selling a product you love within a fun & exciting company. Located in a busy shopping centre you will be able to offer your clients a service 2nd to none. Free parking and flexible working hours are just some of the perks. Gain a better work/life balance. Act now and apply today.

For more information please call Paul on (02) 9113 7272 or click APPLY now.

Entertainment Travel Specialist

Melbourne, Competitive Salary Pkg, Ref: 9965KF2

Fantastic new opportunity for an experienced entertainment consultant? Currently working in a similar role and looking for that change in the New Year? This international company based in the Inner Suburbs of Melbourne are looking for someone to join their team, booking entertainment and touring travel, from music artists to national sporting teams. This is a unique opportunity for savvy entertainment consultants who know how to think outside the box and are creative problem solvers.

For more information please call Kate on (02) 9113 7272 or click APPLY now.

Retail Travel and Cruise Consultant

Adelaide, \$40-45k, Ref: 1974LM2

Consultant with Cruise knowledge to become part of their successful team! This is an outstanding opportunity to work in a supportive team environment, work on sought-after lucrative products and be surrounded with experienced consultants! The perfect Travel Consultant will need to have excellent experience within the travel industry, cruise knowledge and GDS experience. You will be able to work in a fab team and be rewarded for your endeavours!

For more information please call Lia on (02) 9113 7272 or click APPLY now.

Part Time Travel Consultant

Sunshine Coast, Salary Pro Rata + Bonus, Ref: 1564SZ3

Want work / life balance? No late night trading or weekend work required, flexible days of work (preferably 3 days per week) and supportive management style! This is a great role for an experienced consultant wanting to take a step back from full time hours and to work for a boutique agency that has high repeat clientele and low staff turnover. Passion to provide great customer service is important along with strong attention to detail, good work ethic and time management abilities.

For more information please call Serena on (07) 3023 5023 or click APPLY now.

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Greater Western Sydney, Salary (DOE), Ref: 1390MB1

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For more information please call Marissa on (02) 9113 7272 or click APPLY now.

Travel Cruise Consultant

Melbourne, Attractive Package + Exciting Travel Incentives, Ref: 2069TS

We are on the look out for a dynamic individual to join this fantastic team selling cruise travel products in South Yarra. The successful candidate must have at least three years of experience in a customer facing role selling domestic, international and cruise products and can offer exceptional service and deliver tailor made itineraries to their clients. FT and Temp role available. In return you will be rewarded with an attractive package + superannuation with loads of travel opportunities!

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