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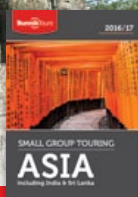
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SQ kks SIN-CBR-WLG route

SINGAPORE Airlines today confirmed the debut of a new 'Capital Express' route, the first regularly scheduled international flights to Canberra Airport.

The new route - which is SQ's sixth Australian hub - was mooted earlier this month (**TD** 12 Jan), and announced today by SQ ceo Goh Choon Phong in the ACT.

Beginning Sep, flight SQ292/291 will operate four times a week from Singapore to Canberra with a tag-on service to Wellington.

"This new service linking Singapore, Canberra and Wellington reflects the close ties between the three countries," Phong said.

Phong said he was confident the route would be sustainable; appealing to leisure, government and corporate travellers.

Canberra Airport chairman, Terry Snow said "the decision by Singapore Airlines to begin operations was justification of the long-term vision that Canberra Airport has had for many years".

"From day one, my family set about creating a world-class gateway for the national capital.

"As long-term locals committed to the prosperity of the capital region, our campaign to see Canberra become linked directly to the rest of the world has been constant," Snow continued.

SQ's alliance partner, Virgin Australia, will codeshare on flights between CBR and Singapore, as well as provide access to its Canberra Airport lounge to SQ's Business class passengers.

Renovations to accommodate new Customs areas will take place over the next six months, with Canberra Airport's Jane Seaborn telling **Travel Daily** the space had been allocated for international departures long ago.

Fares for the new routes will go on sale from 25 Jan with Economy class fares starting from \$650 all inclusive for CBR-SIN return, and \$469 for CBR-WLG return.

Singapore Airlines operates to Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, while regional offshoot SilkAir offers services to Cairns and Darwin.

SQ will utilise retro-fitted 266-seat Boeing 777-200 aircraft on its 'Capital Express' routes.

CBR Customs coming

CANBERRA Airport will receive six Customs counters and create 85 new on-site jobs following the "landmark agreement" with Singapore Airlines (**see left**).

CBR head of aviation Matthew Brown told **Travel Daily** in Canberra today "our expectations are that our international facilities will be of such a quality that people will not see the need to visit a dedicated club lounge".

'Wondered' sessions

TRAVEL agents and their clients will have an opportunity to gain further knowledge on Scenic's new luxury mega-yacht *Scenic Eclipse* through a nationwide series of information sessions.

The first round of 'Ever Wondered' sessions will be conducted from 16 Feb to 22 Mar - a full list of locations and dates, **HERE** - with webinars also held.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news and photos plus full pages from: (**click**)

- AA Appointments jobs
- Travel Alberta

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APT

UNFORGETTABLE CANADA & ALASKA 2016

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Amex initiatives

AMERICAN Express Global Business Travel will join the UN Global Compact and the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA)'s Project ICARUS.

The UN Global Compact encourages companies to align with universal principles on human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption, while Project ICARUS helps companies integrate sustainability in travel and meetings programs.

CHOICE slams JQ pricing

CONSUMER advocacy group CHOICE has demanded Jetstar drop pre-selected online extras that can lead to 40% mark ups on seemingly cheap fares.

An investigation led by the group found op-out extras such as luggage (\$34 for 20kg), travel insurance (\$12.95), seat selection (\$10) and charity donations (\$2) can inflate the cost of an \$148 return flight by nearly \$60.

CHOICE spokesperson Tom

Godfrey said the pre-ticked extras that consumers had to deal with when passing through the online checkout were "sneaky, costly and in more cases completely unnecessary".

"Given Qantas already does the right thing by its customers, it's time Jetstar stopped landing consumers with these unwanted costs," he said this morning.

CHOICE research found hidden fees or charges were consumers' second largest flight problem (22%), after flight cancellations and delays (55%).

Godfrey said it's time Jetstar sent their "pre-ticked optional extras packing".

QF Premium Econ kits

QANTAS has partnered with Aussie lifestyle label Country Road to launch a series of new amenity kits, which will be rolled out to Premium Economy passengers from 26 Jan.

The unisex kit will be presented on all Boeing 747 and Airbus A380 services fitted with Premium Economy.

Available in two different styles: gingham print and custom black, the contents inside include Country Road branded eyemasks, socks, a toothbrush and toothpaste.

WCWR goes daily

OPERATORS of the West Coast Wilderness Railway in Tasmania have confirmed services will switch from a seasonal service to daily journeys over summer.

The Rack and Gorge Journeys will operate seven days per week on a roundtrip basis from Queenstown, via Dubbil Barril.

More at www.wcwr.com.au.

GPT gift card promo

AGENTS booking Grand Pacific Tours' New Zealand Cruise and Luxury Coach trips during the month of Jan will receive a perk of their own - a \$100 Coles-Myer Gift Card (per cabin booked).

The promotion applies to GPT's 19-day New Zealand Southern Explorer & Cruise or 23-day Best of New Zealand by Cruise & Luxury Coach itinerary which include a 12-night cruise aboard *Celebrity Solstice*.

DISCOVER VA's WORLD

Consolidated Travel & Virgin Australia is giving the top 10 agents the opportunity to visit Western Australia. Between 11 January & 07 February 2016 the agents with the highest sales will win, plus additional weekly and spot prizes are on offer.

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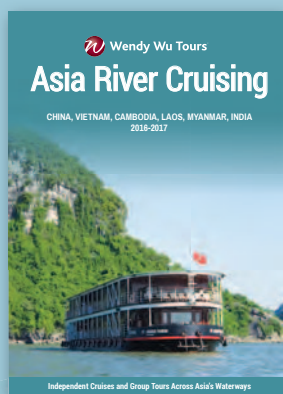
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Int'l tourism hits 1.2b

INTERNATIONAL tourism has boomed to reach a record 1.2 billion arrivals for 2015, according to the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

An annual 4.4% rise in tourism in 2015 marks the sixth consecutive year of above-average growth for the industry with last year seeing 50 million more arrivals than 2014.

"The robust performance of the sector is contributing to economic growth and job creation in many parts of the world. It is thus critical for countries to promote policies that foster the continued growth of tourism," UNWTO secretary general Taleb Rifai said.

UNWTO expects to see a further 4% increase this year with the strongest growth in Asia, Pacific and Americas.

Lake Eyre by air

WILPENA Pound Resort in South Australia is capitalising on the rare and natural phenomenon of Lake Eyre filling with water.

A 2-night package incl a half-day Lake Eyre scenic flight and daily brekkie is priced from \$1,195ppts - www.wilpenapound.com.au.

Contiki ROCK quiz

CONTIKI is preparing agents for the announcement of the destination for this year's ROCK Around the World famil incentive, with a Facebook quiz.

The ROCK Around the World has a 14 year history and has included trips to Osheaga, Lollapalooza, Coachella and V Festival.

MD Katrina Barry said Contiki was preparing to reveal details of the 2016 trip earlier than ever before to motivate consultants.

The quiz will be available from 8am (AEDT) on Fri 22 Jan (follow the page **HERE**), with location specifics to be unveiled once the quiz is completed by 1,000 agents.

FURTHER, Barry also confirmed the youth tour operator would be ramping up its Contiki Rewards program - as previously flagged by **Travel Daily** (TD 10 Sep) - with more incentives.

OOL alter flight path

THE year-long trial of a flight path for Gold Coast Airport southern departures has failed to deliver on intended noise improvements for residents.

Airservices Australia yesterday said it would begin work to reinstate the former flight path, earmarked to be in place by Jun.

The amended flight path directed jets further to OOL's south-west, however a review of community feedback and noise data collected determined the change did not deliver an improved outcome for residents.

It was originally hoped the new flight path would result in a drop of up to five decibels in aircraft noise levels in Chinderah, but actually led to unintentional noise impact for Farrants Hill residents.

Wavi Island on sale

FIJI'S Wavi Island is set to be auctioned next month, including the island's Signature Villa.

The 27-acre retreat features 20 oceanfront lots, which will go under the hammer on 13 Feb.

Comprising three bedrooms with a horizon-edge pool and spa, the Signature oceanfront villa was built in 2012 and was recently asking \$US2.9 million.

Other lots previously had an asking price of US\$1m-US\$1.9m.

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New Oberoi cruiser

BESPOKE travel company The Oberoi Group will expand its capacity on the Nile, introducing a second vessel in Egypt.

The *Oberoi Philae* luxury cruiser features just 22 cabins and suites.

It will offer four- and six-night itineraries between Aswan and Luxor, complementing the firm's existing Nile-based vessel, *The Oberoi Zahra*.

The *Oberoi Philae* features a swimming pool, chic bar and cigar lounge, 24hr gym & Oberoi Spa.

CIE FIT packages

CIE Tours International is now providing travellers with the opportunity to custom build trips for the discerning FIT market.

The 'Chauffeur Packages' are available in Ireland & Britain and can be tailored as desired, with four- or five-star hotels.

Itineraries can be made to suit as few as two people to small groups - www.cietours.com.

QR 787s to HKG

ONEWORLD Gulf member carrier Qatar Airways will launch Boeing 787-8 *Dreamliner* aircraft on the Doha-Hong Kong route from 30 Oct, GDS displays show.

QR's *Dreamliner* will be utilised on twice daily services, currently operated using Airbus A330-200s.

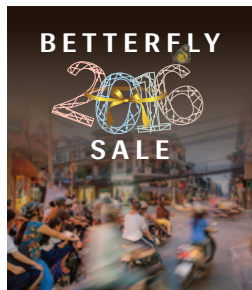
ASEAN tourism entity

THE Tourism Ministers of all 10 ASEAN regions have penned an agreement to establish the Regional Secretariat to support the implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professional (MRA-TP).

ASEAN nations include Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei.

The group will create an office for the Secretariat in Jakarta, with operations due to begin this year.

The MRA-TP aims to facilitate mobility of tourism professionals within the region.



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Vail Chicago addition

GLOBAL mountain resort operator Vail Resorts is boosting its presence in the US Midwest, acquiring Wilmot Mountain in Wisconsin, not far from the Illinois state line.

Located 65m north of Chicago, Vail Resorts said it would invest in expanding the on-mountain and base area experience.

Currently, Wilmot features 25 trails and four terrain parks.

Earmarked for development is the redesign and update of Wilmot Mountain's terrain parks, coaching for all levels of skiers & riders, expanded dining and entertainment options, dedicated racing programs and more.

Vail Resorts will also plough funds into Wilmot's snowmaking facilities, parking and access.

It will also be incorporated into Vail Resort's Epic Pass for the 2016/17 ski season.

Vail Resorts also owns Perisher in the NSW Snowy Mountains.



Window Seat

UBER provides cars on demand; so why not helicopters too?

Well, it looks like it will become a reality with Airbus confirming it will provide choppers to Uber.

The first location to take advantage of the choppers will be Utah during the Sundance Film Festival where attendees will be able to hail a copter to get around the event.

Simply order the helicopter via the Uber app and one of their cars will pick you up and take you to the helipad.

"The point is if you can push a button and can get a ride, then why not push a button and get a helicopter," Uber ceo Travis Kalanick said.

Why not? We bet it comes with a hefty price tag though.

Maybe the Uber-chopper will appeal to Bronwyn Bishop?

WHAT'S NEW

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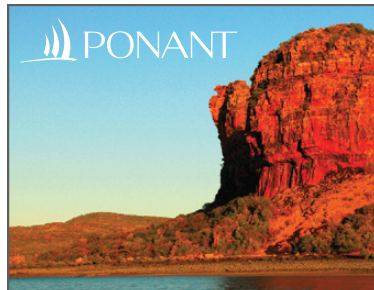
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SYD MEL Dec traffic

MELBOURNE Airport international passenger numbers have zoomed ahead, with a 9% increase for FY15/16, when compared to FY14/15.

More than 8.7 million int'l pax passed through MEL throughout the year, still well below Sydney Airport's 13.7 million int'l passengers for the year.

MEL saw an additional 3% domestic passengers, while SYD domestic numbers grew 2.3% and int'l numbers were up 4.3%.

Both airports experienced a strong Dec, with MEL pax figures rising 7.3% and SYD by 6.7%.

In MEL, Dec set records for the highest number of arriving (15,873) and departing (17,547) int'l pax in one day on 19 Dec.

The record was also set for the highest number of departing and arriving international passengers in one month - 864,477.

China was a strong performing market for both airports, taking out the top spot for growth.

Bench Int'l discount

BENCH International is offering its 15-day Essentially South Africa tour for \$2,425 per person, a discount of 11%.

The tour journeys from Johannesburg to Cape Town and visits Blyde River Canyon, the Drakensberg Mountains and includes Big Five game viewing in Kruger National Park.

Offer applies for travel on or before 24 Apr - visit benchinternational.com.au.

Nanuku agent offer

NANUKU Auberge Resort is cutting its rate by 20% on bookings of a minimum five-nights made before 31 Mar.

Valid for travel up until 31 Mar 2017, the special includes free return land transfers and all gourmet meals.

Black-out periods are from 01-29 Apr, 20 Jun-15 Jul, 10 Sep-09 Oct and 20 Dec 2016-21 Jan 2017.

For more info, call 1800 791501.

Star power for EK at tennis

LAST night Emirates hosted key industry partners - and a bevy of celebrities - at an Australian Open cocktail party at Melbourne Park in the lead-up to the thrilling all-Aussie match between Lleyton Hewitt and James Duckworth.

Emirates Vic state manager Dean Cleaver invited two of the attendees, former tennis champion Henri Laconte and Melbourne cup winning jockey Michelle Payne, to take part in an intimate Q&A with guests, with the stars providing some unique insights into the heady heights of sporting domination.

Pictured above are Alexandra



Pisker from APT, Dave Galt of Webjet and Julie Abbott from Emirates, while **inset** is Dean Cleaver with Australian TV personality Gary Sweet.

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Air New Zealand Australia – Sales Opportunities!

Air New Zealand has a clear and compelling strategy to substantially reposition our presence in the Australian market to drive sustainable, profitable growth. We are currently experiencing strong growth within the Australia Region which has resulted in a couple of exciting career opportunities for customer focussed and results driven individuals to join our Sydney Sales team.

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Building highly effective relationships with internal and external customers, ensuring our customers experience is second to none you will demonstrate a real passion for the industry and represent the business at external and internal meetings, trade events and functions. Processing Air New Zealand international tickets for group bookings, collection of fares, completion of relevant forms and liaising with revenue management, you will deliver service excellence, and the provision of concise, timely and relevant travel industry service solutions and information.

To find out more, please [click here](#)

Business Development Representative - #112444

Reporting to the National Sales Training Manager, you will plan, manage, develop and implement strategies to maximise Air New Zealand's revenue and market share within a designated travel agency portfolio.

Critical to this role is the ability to provide professional customer service with a sales focus to a dedicated agency portfolio utilising a mix of telephone, webinar, face-to-face and electronic communications. You are ambitious and target driven with a proven track record of contributing to sales growth. Excellent communication skills and the ability to work under pressure and meet targets is a must, as is the ability to work within a team environment.

To find out more, please [click here](#)

If you enjoy a challenge and thrive in a fast paced, dynamic environment, click on the links to find out more today!

Applications for both roles close Wednesday, 27th January 2016.

careers.airnz.co.nz

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



Accommodation Updates

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



The 82 Lake View rooms at **Mercure Queenstown** and its public areas have undergone a \$2.2 million refresh. The rooms have new modern interiors, designer bed heads and plush bedding. They have also been fitted with new bathrooms, wi-fi connectivity ports, LCD TVs, Bluetooth audio compatibility and a flexible work station. The lobby has new furniture, carpets and lighting.



Amora Hotel Riverwalk Melbourne has just completed an overhaul of its meeting and conferencing space and all accom rooms have received custom designed beds. The Bridge and Yarra Rooms have new ceilings, mood lighting, new carpet, a new 45DB operable wall and updated audio-visual equipment. The preconference area has been made larger and more accessible.



Blue Note Entertainment Group has opened entertainment venue, Blue Note Hawaii inside **Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort**. The former Society of Seven showroom has undergone a multi-million dollar transformation and features completely new décor. It seats over 300 guests, a gift shop, a dedicated location for autograph sessions and a full-service restaurant and bar.

B6/HA expand c'share

JETBLUE Airways and Hawaiian Airlines has expanded their codeshare agreement which will see B6 place its code on nonstop flights operated by HA between New York JFK and Honolulu.

The B6 code is also available on select connecting flights from JetBlue's east coast network to Honolulu via LAX, SFO and LAS and onward to Hawaiian's neighbour island network.

TAUCK hotel offer

TAUCK has extended its 'Time on TAUCK' deal, offering a free hotel night before or after a TAUCK 2016 Land Journey, River Cruise or Small Ship Cruise.

The tour must be booked and deposited by 28 Feb.

Breakfast and airport transfers are included and the offer is not valid on Christmas Markets River Cruises.

To book, contact Travel the World on 1300 857 037.

W Hotel for Madrid

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts Worldwide will open W Madrid in 2018 on Plaza de Canalejas.

The 141-room hotel will offer 20 suites, one Extreme Wow Suite, a rooftop bar, WET outdoor pool deck, W Living Room, a venue for small meetings and events and two meeting rooms.

The hotel will be the second W Hotel for Spain & will be housed in a 19th century building.

NZ coffee app brews

AIR New Zealand's mobile app has today registered its one millionth coffee order since going live in Aug 2014.

The app sends a notification to customers when they enter one of six participating lounges.

Air NZ manager of Global Lounges Verity Jade said the baristas have been busy making an average of 2,500 coffees a day and nearly half the orders which have been for a flat white.

eRevMax integration

PRICELINE.COM has completed an integration with eRevMax which will allow hotel partners to update inventory, availability and room rates in real-time using eRevMax's distribution platforms - RateTiger, RTConnect & LIVE OS.

They will also have access to eRevMax's Reservation Delivery Service, which transfers reservations into hotel systems, eliminating the chance of missing reservations or overbookings.

Lismore baseball win

THE Far Northern NSW city of Lismore has secured Baseball Australia's Little League and Senior League Championships for the next five years (2016-2020).

The tournaments are tipped to attract over 14,000 domestic and international visitors to Lismore, injecting \$13.2 million into the local economy over the period.

"This is a great opportunity for tourism in Lismore, providing us with an opportunity to showcase Lismore's accommodation, fantastic restaurants and local attractions, as well as attracting visitors to the wider NSW North Coast region," said Member for Lismore, Thomas George.

Wednesday 20th Jan 2016

Two Kenya tours with wildlife film-maker

LUXURY travel company Adams & Butler is offering two trips to Kenya led by wildlife film-maker Reinhard Radke and his field advisor, Kasao Learat.

The 12-day tours depart 05 Oct and 17 Oct, however a tailor-made itinerary can be designed.

Clients arriving on 05 Oct will spend three-nights at rhino conservation ranch, Ol Jogi.

The itinerary costs approx \$26,000pp, staying at Ol Jogi and \$17,000 for the Lewa and Samburu option.

For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

InterCon Fiji recruits

THE InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa has taken on six students from the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management at the University of the South Pacific for a 12-month internship.

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This award winning TMC is looking for an experienced group's consultant to join their exclusive team servicing one dedicated account. In this role you will be expected to think outside the box, build strong relationships with suppliers and provide exceptional customer service skills to your clientele.

Potential leadership opportunities after 12 months.

If you are looking for the next challenge in your career, and have minimum 2 years' experience in groups don't miss out and Apply Now!

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RESERVATIONS & TICKETING CONSULTANT
MELBOURNE (INNER) - SALARY PKG TO \$55K + BENEFITS

This award winning New Zealand tour company is seeking a new reservations & ticketing consultant to join their fun & social team. Working behind the scenes you will be supporting the reservations teams with all airfare enquiries including fare routings, current promotions, together with ticketing flights. You will also assist with reservations, assisting retail agents & the general public with tour itineraries. If variety is what you are looking for, you cannot go past this role! Ticketing experience essential.

MOVE INTO THE PRODUCT ARENA PRODUCT CONTENT COORDINATOR BRISBANE CBD – 6 MONTH CONTRACT

Looking for your big break into product? Then don't let this opportunity pass you by. This global product department is currently seeking a travel professional to join their team on a six month maternity contract. You'll be responsible for maintaining relationships with suppliers whilst preparing and loading land contracts, updating specials and liaising with internal suppliers. A strong salary package is on offer along with the opportunity to get your foot in the door with a leader. Previous travel industry experience a must.

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Bespoke touring company, who offer bespoke all-inclusive specialist worldwide packages, is searching for a Sales and Operations expert to join their expanding team. Focus on developing new business opportunities, increasing brand awareness through marketing & networking events as well as working closely with the Ops team to ensure the needs have been catered for. Are you sales driven, have strong negotiation skills & relationship management then enjoy M-F only, top salary package & representing an amazing product!

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Can't wait to work Monday to Friday only? If you answered YES to all of the above, call us! As part of our expansion in Melbourne, we are looking to employ two talented travel consultants to join our permanent & temporary divisions.

Full training will be provided. Minimum 2 years travel consulting experience essential.

SPECIALISE IN AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND INBOUND TRAVEL CONSULTANT MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGE \$55K +

This global travel company have recently opened an operation in Melbourne & as such, require a competent consultant to assist with all leisure travel enquiry. You will be preparing exciting group & FIT inbound itineraries to exciting destinations across Australia & New Zealand. Use your creative flair & passion to create wonderful trips in our great land and across the ditch. From Ayres Rock to Milford Sound & everything in between, no two days will be the same in this role. Solid inbound travel & Sabre skills required.

FANCY WITH FARES BSP CONSULTANT

BRISBANE CBD – UP TO \$59K PKG

Calling all fare gurus with a high attention to detail and top notch problem solving skills. This is your chance to move behind the scenes and into a support role. Your day will involve reconciling billings, recovering debt from Airlines and providing advice and support to internal and external ticketing clients. Your expertise will not go unnoticed with you enjoying a top salary package, Mon – Fri hours, ongoing training and superb career development. Strong GDS skills and fares & ticketing knowledge required.



Experience



Alberta's



Rodeo



and Rockies.

Experience Alberta's Rodeo & Rockies Saturday 6th February 2016!

Australian Outback Spectacular Dinner & Show, Gold Coast

Travel Alberta and Calgary Stampede invite agents to experience Alberta's Rockies and Rodeo at the Australian Outback Spectacular on the Gold Coast.

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- ✿ Go behind the scenes on a VIP tour
- ✿ Be thrilled by Calgary Stampede's Indian Princess' dance performance
- ✿ Meet Albertan guests from Calgary Stampede, Banff-Lake Louise, Jasper, Edmonton & Calgary
- ✿ Enjoy the High Country Legends show including dinner & drinks

In celebration of Air Canada's new daily services ex Brisbane, you could be flying to the 2016 Calgary Stampede!

WIN the ultimate Rockies and Rodeo experience of Alberta, with a trip for two to the 2016 Calgary Stampede and the Canadian Rockies. Including return airfares on Air Canada, 8 nights accommodation, 2 day Rocky Mountaineer excursion, helicopter sightseeing, Banff to Calgary tour and two days admission to the Calgary Stampede including the famed rodeo, evening chuck wagon races and stage show event.

Date: Saturday 6th February, 2016

Time: 4.30pm – 10.30pm

Venue: Outback Spectacular

1 Entertainment Rd Pacific Hwy Oxenford QLD

RSVP by 21st January, 2016

REGISTER NOW