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Travel Daily

First with the news

Thursday 28th January 2016



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WWT free Biz promo

WENDY Wu Tours is offering a free Business class upgrade on Air China from Australia to China on a selection of itineraries.

The promotion goes on sale on Mon 01 Feb and is available on a choice of eight trips from WWT's Classic Tours and Deluxe Tours range, valid on the outbound international flight only.

Customers can upgrade their inbound Air China flight for an extra \$995, on sale until 22 Feb.

Qantas makes up with TA

QANTAS and Tourism Australia have patched up their differences, with the carrier today confirming it will work together with the marketing agency to promote locations showcased in a new in-flight safety video.

Claiming a global audience of almost 30 million people a year, the short video features "Australians from all walks of life taking passengers through the on-board safety instructions against the backdrop of locations across the country".

To be screened on all QF domestic and international flights from next month, the safety video will "form the basis of a new tourism campaign," according to ceo Alan Joyce speaking at a launch in Los Angeles.

Joyce said the departure of

his predecessor at Qantas and former Tourism Australia chair Geoff Dixon had paved the way for improved relationships since a controversial split in 2012.

"There was a conflict of interest in the chairman that was there... there's a new ceo and we felt the timing was appropriate in working together again," he said, with TA driving awareness via its social media channels.

Joyce said with the tailwinds provided by the lower Australian dollar there is the potential for a new tourism boom in Australia.

Locations featured include Alice Springs, Melbourne, Canberra, Bondi, the Yarra Valley, the Whitsundays and more.

Interestingly, despite the restored QF relationship, Tourism Australia is continuing to work with other carriers, with the massive new global tourism campaign launched in New York this week (**TD** Tue) forming the basis of a large US cooperative promotion with Virgin Australia.

View the new QF safety video at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Tramada accolade

AUSTRALIAN travel management solution provider Tramada has been awarded the winner of the Best Software as a Service (outside US) category in the Cloud Awards program.

The Cloud Awards program recognises excellence in all spheres of cloud computing, with entries accepted from the US, Canada, Australasia and EMEA.

Over 300 organisations entered this year's Cloud Awards.



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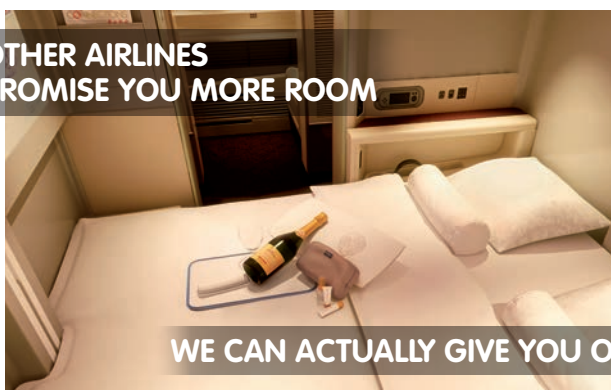


Today's issue of TD

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

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QF SYD/CGK boost

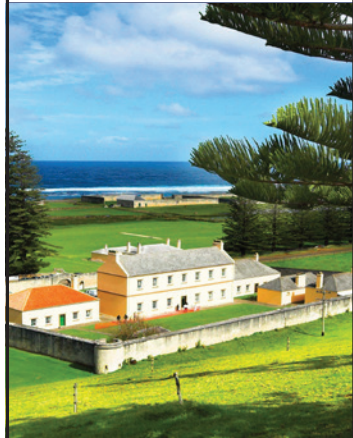
QANTAS is adding a new fifth weekly service on the Sydney/Jakarta route over the northern summer schedule.

The new Sat service will commence 18 Jun, operating for an 11 week period and catering for the busy school holiday period.

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IMAX Sydney hotel vision

APPLICATIONS were made public today to the NSW Govt for the redevelopment of the IMAX site in Darling Harbour Sydney to make way for a new hotel and entertainment project.

Dubbed 'The Ribbon Hotel Scheme' the \$750 million project includes the demolition of the existing IMAX building, and the construction of a new 23 storey building "for hotel, serviced apartment, retail, function & entertainment uses".

Proponents say the dominant use of the site will switch from the current office use to hotel and serviced units, made up of a 402-room hotel, 159 unit complex and 1,092m² function centre.

Elements of the project include approx 38,700m² of Gross Floor Area (GFA) for hotel use, up to 18 storeys and approx 19,700m² of GFA for serviced apartments use, up to 12 storeys.

If given the go ahead, it is

estimated the project will take 38 months to complete.

It's on exhibition until 29 Feb.

WA Disc Parks open

DISCOVERY Parks has declared its member sites in Bunbury and Koombana Bay, WA are "open for business" following recent bushfires that ravaged the region.

Chief marketing officer Dana Ronan said the key message of a new Facebook campaign is to relay the message that both areas are safe to visit and there is still things to see and do.

"These areas rely very heavily on tourism for the local economy and while the fires have caused significant damage there is still plenty for visitors to do," she said.

"We are encouraging visitors to the region that may have cancelled or postponed their travel to rethink the plans and head back."

FJ maintains Port Vila

FIJI Airways has confirmed it will continue to operate ATR flights to Port Vila, with services to the Vanuatu capital continuing to operate as scheduled at present.

"We will...continue to monitor the condition of the runway and terminal surface area," FJ said.

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Wendy Wu Tours



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Air NZ after dark ZQN flights

AIR New Zealand has confirmed plans to begin night operations at Queenstown Airport from 01 Jul.

Subject to regulatory approval, the plan includes five weekly services between Auckland and Queenstown, expanding capacity on the route by 15% for FY17 via an additional 100,000 seats.

The mooted schedule includes a flight ex AKL at 1935, arriving in ZQN at 2125, and another service ex ZQN at 1930, touching down in AKL at 2120.

Chief flight operations & safety officer Captain David Morgan said Air NZ has been working with industry stakeholders for some time on a plan to implement night services.

"We have been working collaboratively with the regulator, Queenstown Airport, our pilots and safety teams and unions to finalise a thorough operator safety case which will be submitted to the New Zealand

Civil Aviation Authority in the near future," Morgan remarked.

Chief sales & commercial officer Cam Wallace said the carrier's schedule will provide greater choice and flexibility for travellers with improved connectivity via Air NZ's Auckland int'l hub.

"We believe our proposed Queenstown schedule will be a game-changer for international travellers in particular with same day connections as well as reduced connection times both to and from a range of destinations across Australia, Asia and North America," Wallace said.

Scenic count down

TRAVEL agents are reminded earlybird offers on select Scenic Europe river cruise departures in 2016 are on sale until 31 Jan.

Options include a fly Business class offer priced from \$1,995 on some sailings - scenic.com.au.

DNSW, CZ Shenzhen

SYDNEY Airport has welcomed China Southern Airlines' inaugural Shenzhen-Sydney service today.

The new thrice weekly flight is expected to boost tourism and trade, with Sydney Airport md and ceo Kerrie Mather dubbing the hub the "gateway to Australia for Chinese passengers".

"We're delighted to welcome this new Shenzhen-Sydney service in time for the peak Lunar New Year period," Mather said.

The new route is serviced by a triple class Airbus A330-300 aircraft with 284 seats.

China Southern managing director Australia and New Zealand Louis Lu said the airline had "great confidence in the Australian market".

The service is currently operating on Sat, Mon and Thur.

Timetables have been submitted for the schedule to continue year-round, pending government approval (**TD** 11 Jan).



Window Seat

THE classical nude statues in Rome's Capitoline Museum were deemed too racy for Iran's president to set his eyes on.

The nude roman goddesses were covered with boxes to save president Hassan Rouhani blushing during a news conference he attended this week at the Italian museum.

Italian businesses were signing pricey deals with Iranian companies during the visit and were anxious not to offend Hassan.

This doesn't sound like the dramatic, proud, passionate Italians we know and love; so it's no surprise the act caused outrage throughout the country.

Italian mp Daniele Capezzone said it added "a touch of ridiculous" to the visit.

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Thursday 28th January 2016

Tennis legend inspires APT



FORMER Australian tennis ace John 'Fitzy' Fitzgerald took time out from the commentary box on Seven's Summer of Tennis to visit APT's HQ in Melbourne last week.

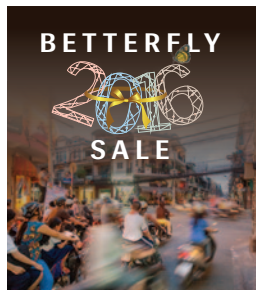
Fitzy shared his insights on the synergy between winning in tennis and travel, detailing to APT staff what it takes to maintain the number one positioning.

Citing innovation, team work and an appreciation for contrasting destinations and

cultures as important factors in the success of both international tennis players & travel businesses alike, he shared personal anecdotes and learnings from throughout his career.

Executive gm global sales and marketing Debra Fox said his visit was a fantastic opportunity for APT to learn what it takes to remain "top of your game".

Fitzy (centre) is pictured with Fox and APT Grp md Chris Hall.



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Changi arrival record

LAST month was the busiest in Singapore Changi Airport's 35 year history, with 5.3 million passenger movements recorded - up 3.9% year-on-year.

The bumper month fuelled record annual growth, with SIN handling its largest ever number of passengers at 55.4 million (up 2.5%) and record levels of commercial aircraft movements at 346,330 (up 1.4%).

During 2015 eight new carriers began operating to Singapore, including Batik Air, Thai Lion Air, Oman Air and the return of Air NZ flights from Auckland.

QF USA agent rates

QANTAS has released special trade partner familiarisation rates to the USA, with options to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas/Fort Worth and New York JFK.

Prices are available by logging in at www.qantas.com.au/agents.

Oaks enters India

MINOR Hotel Group has announced the continued roll out of the Oaks Hotels & Resorts brand to foreign markets, with a new development in India.

Established in Australia, the Oaks Hotels & Resorts brand currently operates a network of over 50 hotels locally, in New Zealand, Thailand and the UAE.

The launch property in India, Oaks Neemrana, will be located southwest of New Delhi and is scheduled to open next year.

Already under development, the 116-key Oaks Neemrana will feature a combination of self-contained studios and one- and two-bedroom apartments.

"We are thrilled to announce our entrance into India and the introduction of the Oaks brand into a fifth country," said chief operating officer Mike Anderson.

Anderson said India's burgeoning economy offers "immense growth potential" for the Oaks brand.

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Thursday 28th Jan 2016

Cachet spreads wings

HONG Kong-based Cachet Hotel Group has announced two new additions to its growing portfolio.

Through a co-branding deal, Cachet will enter the US market for the first time in an association with the Westlake Village Inn.

The 17-acre property is located halfway between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, with the 141-room hotel recently receiving a multi-million dollar refurb.

It is now identified as Westlake Village Inn - a Cachet Hotel.

CHG has also signed its first development in Asia, with the dual-branded resort project Cachet Resort Wanfeng Valley to open in Guizhou province in Oct.

It's comprised of the 182-room Cachet Resort Hotel and a 71-room URBN hotel.

EK Insta milestone

EMIRATES has claimed bragging rights in terms of social media scope, becoming the first airline to achieve one million followers on Instagram having launched the account in Nov 2013.

Air NZ year end stats

AIR New Zealand has revealed a bumper Dec, reporting consistent jumps in passenger numbers and demand across all categories.

A 2.8% increase for short-haul pax numbers was recorded, with domestic market demand and capacity bumped up by 5.7% and 6.1% respectively, year-on-year.

Long-haul passenger numbers spiked 28.8% compared to Dec last year, with demand up 28.4% and capacity up 26.3%.

Demand on the Americas/UK route jumped 21.8%, with capacity up 24.0% attributed mainly to the new Houston and Buenos Aires routes.

A significant gain on the Asia/Japan/Singapore routes was also observed, with demand up 41.2% and capacity inflated by 30.5% due to the new AKL-SIN route and larger 787-9 aircraft in operation from Auckland to Tokyo Narita.

Avalon Fly Free deal

BOOK on any of Avalon Waterways' new 2017 European or South East Asian river cruises, and receive either free Economy flights or a discount of up to 15%.

The fly free deal runs from now until 05 Apr, and applies to cruises departing 01 Jan and 15 Jun, 2017.

Elements of Byron pre-opening



MORE than 200 invited guests from the Byron Bay community in NSW were given a sneak preview of AccorHotels' newest property, Elements of Byron Bay on Mon.

Guests included operators of major Byron festivals, including Splendour in the Grass, the Falls Festival and BluesFest, all of whom had the chance to tour the resort to familiarise themselves with the new kid on the block.

"It is our greatest wish to contribute positively to the Byron tourism experience, so this was our chance to kick up our heels with our friends, business partners and local supporters before we open to the public on Monday. We were all very

moved to receive such positive feedback," said Elements of Byron owner Peggy Flannery.

AccorHotels Pacific chief operating officer Simon McGrath congratulated the owners on delivering "such an exceptional world-class project that will positively contribute to the Byron experience for travellers and the wider tourism economy."

Elements of Byron is a member of AccorHotels' boutique MGallery Collection and will officially open on Mon 01 Feb.

For more details on the hotel, go to elementsofbyron.com.au.

Pictured with Simon McGrath (left) is gm Elements of Byron Leon Pink with his wife Kim.

Marketing Manager - Australia & New Zealand - Brisbane based

We are Back-Roads Touring, a name that's been around in the small group touring sector for over 25 years. While a lot has changed in the past 25 years, we're still discovering new places to visit, finding and delivering unforgettable travel experiences and introducing a global audience to our product.

What we're looking for from our Marketing Manager – Australia & New Zealand

As our marketing manager with responsibility for our established (and most successful) sales' markets, you'll focus on Australia & New Zealand. As such, you have a big challenge and a huge opportunity.

Key Responsibilities:

- Develop annual marketing plans for the Australian and New Zealand markets
- Manage the Australian/New Zealand marketing budget providing full monthly and campaign reporting as to efficacy of spend and ROI
- Manage the relationship with local agencies including PR, media buying (online & offline) and SEM to deliver value for money and produce exceptional results
- Work closely with the Head of Sales in Australia and New Zealand to deliver joint marketing campaigns with trade partners
- Contribute to the global social media strategy highlighting content/messaging which will resonate in the Australia and New Zealand markets and drive brand loyalty and online advocacy

Experience and Requirements:

- 4+ years of marketing experience
- Understanding of the travel industry essential with experience across both B2C and trade/retail marketing desirable

Please direct applications to Hazel McGuire: h.mcguire@backroadstouring.com by 10 February 2016.

www.backroadstouring.com

Level 1, 500 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley, Queensland 4006



No Vacancy theme

BOOKINGS are open for the NO VACANCY Accommodation Industry Conference on 15 Mar. The theme of the 2016 event is 'White Noise' - more **HERE**.

World Journeys - 12 months in Oz

NEW Zealand based travel company World Journeys will shortly mark its first anniversary of active promotion in the Australian market, this week describing its debut as "very successful".

Director Chris Lyons made a visit to Sydney to celebrate the occasion and said he was blown away by the take up by local travel agents.

"We've been truly humbled by how wonderful the response has been from the Aussie travel trade and are really grateful for those agents that have welcomed us, taken the time to understand our value proposition and work with us," Lyons remarked.

He said bookings from Aussie consultants spread the World Journeys' portfolio, "with FIT for both Japan and Canada being very strong. We already have many loyal clients".

World Journeys 'World 2016' Tailor-Made Journeys brochure is now in market.



The brochure offers a selection of Group Journeys, Hosted Journeys and Special Interest Journeys, with guests able to customise the style and star-rating of accommodation.

A brand new website has also recently been unveiled - see www.worldjourneys.com.au.

Lyons is **pictured** in Sydney displaying the latest World Journeys brochures.

Botanica info sesh

GARDEN tourism specialists Botanica will host a series of information sessions aimed at helping travel agents grow their businesses.

The event will be held at major city centres including Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth across Feb and Mar.

To attend, call 1300 305 202.

Fiji Airways SFO tick

The US Dept of Transportation has given Fiji Airways approval to commence services from Nadi to San Francisco (**TD** 24 Dec).

FJ plans to operate the seasonal service from Jun-Aug & Dec-Jan.

Explorer exploration

ROYAL Caribbean's *Explorer of the Seas* vessel takes centre stage on a TV special that airs tonight on the Nine Network at 7:30pm.

Former *Getaway* host Natalie Gruzewski will go behind the scenes on the mega cruise ship.

Emirates ups CMB

EMIRATES is adding a new fifth daily service between Dubai and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The extra capacity will come on line from 01 Aug using Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, operating every day except Wed, adding another 2,520 seats on the route.

Aussies skiers to NZ

RECORD numbers of Australians headed to New Zealand during last year's winter season, Tourism New Zealand has confirmed.

Holiday arrivals in Queenstown jumped 14% & participation in a snow sport rose 15% for Jun-Sep.

TAM A350 in service

TAM Airlines has inaugurated commercial services using its first new Airbus A350 XWB aircraft.

The debut flight operated from Sao Paulo/Guarulhos to Manaus.

TAM is the launch customer in the America's for the A350 XWB.



Travel Consultant Full Time Byron Bay 50-55k

TripADeal is one of Australia's fastest growing travel companies, currently seeking experienced Travel Consultants for our Concierge Booking team. Selling everything from international flights to hotel packages, tours, cruises and much more, the successful candidate will be a friendly team player with outstanding communication skills and a great phone manner. You'll be extremely organised with at least three years' recent experience in a retail travel agency using Galileo and preferably Crosscheck Travel. Working in a dynamic fast-paced environment, the ability to prioritise, problem solve and perform under pressure will be highly regarded. Most importantly, you are a people person who prides yourself on delivering exceptional service to every single customer. Our ideal candidate will have great product knowledge and love nothing more than helping people plan their perfect holiday! This is a full time position based in Byron Bay.

To apply please send your CV & cover letter to the Operations Manager, Madeleine Lipson, madeleine@tripadeal.com.au

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Starwood growth

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts Worldwide has achieved its fifth consecutive year of increased hotel deals in North America.

Last year the company secured 92 new deals across the continent, an increase of 44% over the previous year.

"Our strong growth in North America played a significant part in Starwood's record-breaking growth last year, fuelled by notable increases across our brand portfolio, particularly our select service and our luxury brands," the company's president of global development Simon Turner said.

Starwood has surpassed its 600th hotel milestone with 42 new openings in 2015.

"We see continued growth momentum in 2016," Turner said.

Design NY addition

DESIGN Hotel will open its 221-room 11 Howard hotel in New York's SoHo district in Mar.

The hotel design is modelled on "new-Nordic minimalism".

11 Howard will also serve as a cultural hub for SoHo locals.

TripAdvisor app rejig

TRIPADVISOR has today announced the launch of a Windows 10 app across desktop, tablet and mobile.

The app will be available in 47 markets and will feature a Near Me Now tool to navigate travellers to nearby points of interest using their phone's GPS.

"The new TripAdvisor Windows 10 app offers users a comprehensive resource to help them plan and book their trips," director of mobile partnerships, TripAdvisor Rory Kenny said.

The TripAdvisor app is already available on iOS & Android and has been downloaded 215 million times, making it the world's most popular travel app.

Park Trek discount

BOOK a Park Trek Tarkine Wilderness Walk before 29 Feb to receive 20% off.

The five-day walks include full accommodation, all transport, meals and guides.

The tour, which takes in Tasmania's wilderness, starts and finishes in Launceston.

For more info **CLICK HERE**.

HM China launch

AIR Seychelles will launch a new weekly return service between Male and Beijing Capital Int'l Airport from 02 Feb, utilising 254-seat Airbus A330 aircraft.

Travelport at Australian Open



37 new planes at EK

EMIRATES is set to add 37 new aircraft to its fleet worth \$14.5b as it expands operations in Asia.

EK will receive 21 Airbus A380 superjumbos and 16 Boeing 777s in the year ending Mar 2017, at the same time retiring 26 jets including a mix of A330s & A340s.

The airline has 247 aircraft in operation and 257 on order.

TRAVELPORT treated its customers to a day at the Australian Open in Melbourne last week, where they enjoyed watching top talent in the tennis world from Travelport's corporate box seats.

Pictured above is Mark Reddy, Travel Beyond; Shane Barr, The Appointment Group; Tim Lane, Travel Beyond and Ryan Davis, Travelport.

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Primarily an administrative support role, reporting directly to the Rail Europe Manager Australasia, our ideal candidate will be passionate about working in travel, a team player but also self-motivated and happy to work independently. The role will assist in the execution of key sales & marketing plans for our office & in conjunction with our GSAs across Australia & New Zealand. Duties may include; database management, co-ordination & communication of new product & campaigns with our external PR company, co-ordination & planning of events, famils & promotional activities as well as monthly management of all office administrative duties. As part of this role the successful candidate will work together with our PR company on management of Rail Europe's English Speaking Social Media Platforms. The role is a varied one and each day will be different, therefore candidates must be highly organised, able to manage priorities & take initiative.

We are looking for someone with the following experience:

- 1+ year working within a defined sales & marketing role, or 2+ years working in another role within the Travel Industry.
- Highly developed computing skills including Microsoft office programs, particularly Excel. Basic design skills also beneficial.
- Previous use of Salesforce or other CRM programs an advantage.

To apply please send your resume & cover letter to the Manager Australasia, Ingrid Kocijan, ingrid.kocijan@raileurope.com.au

Makepeace Island General Manager

A unique opportunity is available for an experienced General Manager to join the Makepeace Island team in Noosa, Queensland. This is an exciting opportunity to take on a management role within an industry you are truly passionate about.

Makepeace Island is a high profile private retreat featuring accommodation for 20 guests, a bar/ restaurant, pool, extensive on island activities and offers easy access to local Noosa amenities. A stay at Makepeace Island is one of the most unique barefoot luxury experiences in Australia completely tailored to suit each guest's needs and desires.

This role will suit an energetic and enthusiastic hospitality trained professional, with 4 or 5 star luxury property management experience. Working with a small team, you will be responsible for overseeing and managing the operation, promoting and delivering exceptional service to maximise revenue. You will demonstrate strong leadership capabilities along with a genuine desire to consistently deliver unique and memorable experiences for our guests.

You will have excellent communication skills, a professional and friendly outlook and an eagerness to take on every aspect of the business with a hands-on approach and a positive attitude. Located in an environmentally sensitive area, the applicant must possess the skills to manage local council and resident relationships with genuine consideration.

Intermediate computer and financial management skills are essential. Successful applicants must possess a First Aid and Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) certificate.

The position is initially a 12-month contract with a requirement to live in the onsite accommodation. A management couple would be highly regarded.

Applications should be emailed to Makepeace Island General Manager, Leasa Harris - leasaharris@makepeaceisland.com by Friday, 19th February 2016.



Farmer says 'namaste' to AI



ULTRAMARATHON runner Pat Farmer checked into Air India's non-stop *Dreamliner* service last week, en route to conquering his cross country run from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

Pictured **above** is Pat Farmer readying for his trip with Air India's Australian sales and marketing manager, Marie Anderson.

Hikers gon' hike

THE proportion of bushwalkers and hikers has "sky-rocketed" over the last five years, with active Aussies planning holidays around engaging in their outdoor pursuits.

According to latest research by Roy Morgan, regular hikers were consistently more likely than the average Australian to nominate outdoor activities, with 81% more likely to visit National Parks or forests, and 135% more likely to go bushwalking.

CLICK HERE to view full study.

UA doubles mileage

IN CELEBRATION of its 30 year anniversary flying between Australia and the US, United Airlines will double the award miles earned on any of its services flying via Sydney or Melbourne to LA and San Fran.

The offer will run from 01 Feb to 31 May, 2016.

To register or for more information visit united.com.

Opera tix sales soar

TICKET sales for Sydney's opera season last year saw a 41% jump compared to the same period the previous year, recording 54,968 visitors from 125 different countries.

"Opera Australia is an internationally-renowned opera company, so to see tourist sales on the rise is wonderful," said Opera Australia's artistic director, Lyndon Terracini.

Opera Australia was listed as the third busiest opera company in the world, according to a recent report commissioned by Bachtrack.

Boeing boosts 737

BOEING will boost its production of 737 aircraft to 57 per month in 2019 citing "robust demand for narrow bodies".

The aircraft manufacturer has announced it will also reduce 777 production down to just 8.37 units per month from next year.

MEANWHILE, Boeing has blamed stalls in the air cargo market as the main reason for lowering its production of the 747-8 aircraft to 0.5 per month, from Sep this year.

"While we remain confident in the 747-8's unique value-proposition...we're taking the prudent step to further align production with current market requirements," said Boeing vice chairman Ray Conner.

Chongqing to BKK

CHINESE carrier Chongqing Airlines has launched its first international service to Bangkok, flying thrice weekly to the Thai capital beginning early Feb.

Travel Daily
First with the news
Thursday 28th Jan 2016



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.

Rydges Hotels and Resorts has announced a series of key management appointments ahead of the Feb debut of its new location in Brisbane, Rydges Fortitude Valley. **Francesco Trucco** will take over the role of Executive Chef, Food and Beverage Manager; **Isaac Zietek** as Food and Beverage Manager and **Scott Levey** has been appointed as the Rooms Division Manager.

Renee Guttman will commence as **Royal Caribbean Cruises'** new Chief Information Security Officer, effective Mon. Guttman joins RCC having formerly established information security programs for Fortune 500 companies, most recently as the Vice President of Information Risk and member of the Office of CISO at Optiv.

CBRE Hotels has promoted **Ryan McGinnity** to lead the firm's Hotels division in Western Australia. The position will see McGinnity direct CBRE Hotels' strategic direction in the WA hotel, leisure & pub market. He replaces industry stalwart David Kennedy.

Two key planners have been added to **Virgin Hotels'** growing management team. **Dan Mathewes** will commence as the group's Chief Financial Officer, while **Thayer Thompson** has been named the General Counsel and VP, Commercial.

Destination Marketing Association International (DMAI) has announced **Don Welsh** as its new CEO for **Choose Chicago**. Welsh has more than 35-years of industry experience, having formerly held CEO positions at both the Seattle Convention & Visitors Bureau & the Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association.

AS Atlanta bound

ALASKA Airlines will resume services between Portland and Atlanta between 04 Jun-27 Aug following a 20 month hiatus.

Flights will operate on a daily basis, with AS utilising Boeing Next Generation 737s.

FJ ambassador

FIJI Airways this week named rugby coach Ben Ryan as its official brand ambassador.

Ryan has been in Fiji since 2013, recruited to coach the country's Vodaphone Fiji 7s team.

As ambassador, Ryan will work alongside FJ on a series of initiatives to raise the profile of the carrier & ties with Fiji Rugby.

Dragonair rebrand?

CATHAY Pacific Group is planning on rebadging its regional offshoot Dragonair as 'Cathay Dragon', according to *South China Morning Post* which cited "sources familiar with the matter".

The title Dragonair was founded in 1985 by Hong Kong-based textile magnate Chow Kuang Piu.

It's understood the rebranding would include new livery.

Unisys renews pact

GLOBAL info technology firm Unisys has inked a four-year deal with 16 international airlines operating to and from New Zealand, to continue providing baggage reconciliation systems.

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.

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Publisher/Managing Editor: Bruce Piper Editor: Guy Dundas Editorial email: info@traveldaily.com.au

Contributors: Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai, Nathalie Craig, Jenny Piper, Sarah Piper

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Lisa Martin - advertising@traveldaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper - accounts@traveldaily.com.au

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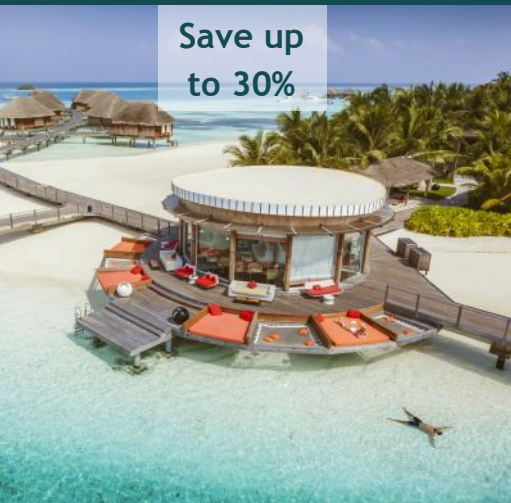


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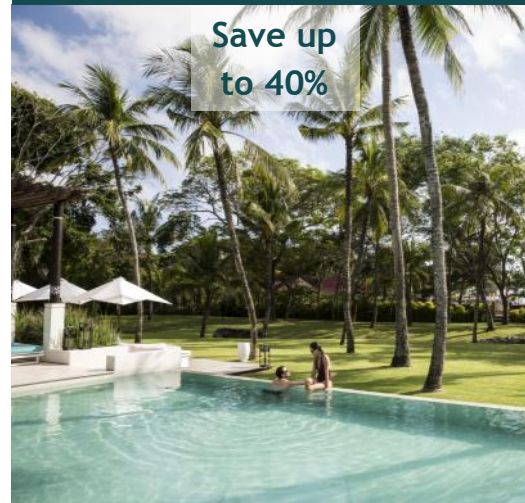
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