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EK axes KUL-MEL service

EMIRATES appears set to be terminating services between Kuala Lumpur and Melbourne, with GDS displays showing flights EK408/409 will be chopped, effective 30 Oct.

The change will see the Dubai-based carrier switch its Malaysia transit flight to Emirates' UAE

Capri Sydney bigger

THE NSW Govt has approved the modification of a mixed-use development for a new Sydney hotel to increase its room count from 283 to 297 keys.

Part of the 'Central Park' project in Chippendale, the hotel component has previously been flagged as a location for Frasers Hospitality's Capri by Fraser Hotel Residences (**TD** 24 Aug).

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news, including a photo page for **Air Canada** plus full pages from: (**click**)

- Albatross Tours
- AA Appointments jobs
- JITO

homeport on a non-stop basis, complementing its existing daily service EK406/407 which are operated by Airbus A380s.

The Gulf carrier will continue to utilise triple-class Boeing 777-300ER aircraft on the new direct flight to Dubai, reducing the journey time on EK408/409 by around three hours.

Emirates also operates a daily service Dubai-Melbourne service via Singapore, utilising A380s.

EK's KUL-MEL service has been in operation since Feb 2010.

Warwick rebranding

WARWICK International Hotels today revealed it will rebrand as Warwick Hotels & Resorts.

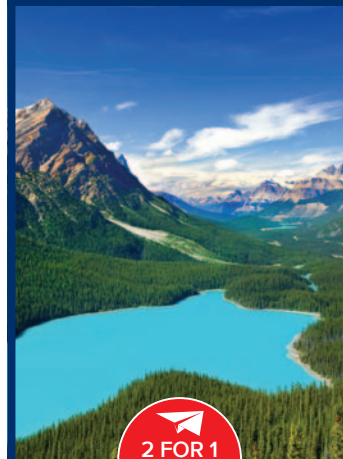
The company-wide rebadging of the 35-year-old business includes a new corporate ID (below), staff training program, uniforms, facade, collateral and interior signage.

In the Asia Pacific region, key properties to undergo the rebrand include Warwick Le Lagon - Vanuatu and Warwick Fiji.



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4th hotel for Disneyland

ACCOMMODATION options at the 'Happiest Place on Earth' are set to be increased, with Disney revealing plans to add a fourth property at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California.

Details for the new hotel project were submitted to council for the luxury property

this week, with Disney proposing a four-diamond hotel at the northern end of Downtown Disney parking lot.

Currently, the Disneyland Resort consists of the original Disneyland Hotel, Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel and The Grand Californian Hotel which opened in 2001.

Disney's existing portfolio of hotels in Anaheim comprises close to 2,500 rooms, with the number to swell by more than 20% born by the addition of a new 700-room upmarket property.

According to reports, Disney

wants to begin development of the project in 2018 ahead of a proposed debut in 2021.

It's understood the hotel would take advantage of a tax incentive on offer by the city council for



new luxury hotels, enabling developers to apply to be reimbursed 70% of the Transient Occupancy

Tax collected from guests staying at their hotel for 20 years.

The *Orange County Register* said Disneyland officials had indicated the brand new hotel would feature a roof-top restaurant, two pools, fitness centre, concierge service and a kid's play area.

Average nightly rates would be around US\$450 (AU\$600).

MEANWHILE, a grand opening for Shanghai Disneyland and its two hotels (Shanghai Disneyland Hotel & Toy Story Hotel) will be held next week - more from Disney in tomorrow's issue of **TD**.

Hobart's new hotel

A **MICROSITE** has been launched for the 114-room MACq 01 hotel, set to open on Hobart's waterfront mid-2017.

A \$35m development, the hotel will offer a variety of luxurious suites and rooms ranging from 43m² to 105m².

Each room will be linked to a Tasmanian 'character', such as a hero, villain, explorer, inventor, convict, bushranger, first people and industrial giant.

The hotel will offer a restaurant, bar, tastings, cocktail classes, gym and spontaneous entertainment.

Bookings for the hotel will open in Nov.

Check out the microsite at www.macq01.com.au.

QR/UL codesharing

QATAR Airways and SriLankan Airlines have initiated a new codeshare arrangement.

The **oneworld** alliance partners will codeshare on QR's thrice daily operations to Colombo and UL's daily service to Doha.

Passengers flying with UL will also be able to connect to 20 destinations in Europe, the UK and USA, via Doha.

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New Airbnb biz travel tool

AIRBNE for Business has introduced a new tool, allowing business travel to be booked on behalf of another employee.

Once a co-worker has made a booking, both the employee who is managing travel and the employee who is taking the trip can see the trip details, make changes to the reservation and message the Airbnb host with questions.

Previously, the website didn't allow users to designate others in the checkout process.

Lex Bayer, head of Global Payments and Business Development at Airbnb said the product update will introduce a whole new segment of business travellers to the Airbnb experience.

"More and more business travelers are choosing to stay with Airbnb while they are on the road, so they get the chance to not just visit, but live in a city, even if it's for one night."

Once registered as a travel manager on Airbnb, the user can view and manage the employee accounts which are linked to that company, see employee trip details and download trip and spending reports.

Growth in business travel has tripled for Airbnb in 2016, with 10% of all travel booked on the website being for business travel.

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ARTN action plan

THE Australian Regional Tourism Network (ARTN) wants political parties to "get serious about tourism" and is calling on the government elected to create a 2030 Visitor Economy Plan.

ARTN's chair David Sheldon has criticised current funding programs as "ad hoc, disconnected and superficial".

"The biggest constraint we have in the visitor economy is our inefficient way of dealing with tourism across the levels of government and across our industry," Sheldon said.

The plan would streamline the way tourism is managed, prepared and influenced by commonwealth, state and local governments in decisions along with representatives of Australia's tourism industry.

The not-for profit firm is also urging political parties to commit to several promises including a ministerial sub-committee reporting on investment, the rollout of a regional investment program, a training policy to grow regional employment opportunities and develop agritourism.



Window Seat

TWO in five Aussies are comfortable chilling whilst nudists are on the beach, with one in ten admitting to have actually gone nude themselves, according to Expedia's latest Flip Flop Report.

The study, which surveyed more than 11,000 travellers from 24 countries across the world on their beach habits, also saw 14% of Aussie participants freely admitting to have gone topless and one in 20 conceding to frequently skinny dipping whilst on beach holidays.

However Aussies aren't nearly as free-spirited as Europeans when it comes to showing off their birthday suits, with 28% of Austrians and 25% of German beachgoers admitting they will happily go au naturel.



POM turnaround

VIRGIN Australia was forced to turn around a flight enroute to Port Moresby from Brisbane yesterday due to safety concerns regarding civil unrest in the Papua New Guinea capital.

DFAT has advised that Jacksons International Airport remains open but for travellers to check with airlines for any possible disruptions to flights.

There are unconfirmed reports of casualties after police in Port Moresby opened fire on university students who were protesting against Papua New Guinea's Government.



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Wyndham rebrand

WYNDHAM Hotel Group (WHG) has today announced a series of major rebranding efforts for all 16 of its hotels.

The refreshment of the WHG brands will include new ad campaigns, revamped interiors and enhanced guest perks.

"We believe travel is about creating lasting memories, but given what's currently available in the market, travellers are forced to compromise enriching experiences because of price," said Josh Lesnick, WHG's chief marketing officer.

"We've taken our 16 brands and redefined them to stand for something that matters to the kinds of guests we welcome so there's something for every kind of traveller, regardless of their budget," he said.

WHG will also invest in revamping backend technology and forming new partnerships with apps & services to upgrade guest experience and satisfaction.

BNE leisure push

TOURISM and Events Queensland partnered with *Australian Traveller* magazine and Brisbane Marketing to present a new destination campaign to attract more domestic visitors to the Queensland capital.

Brisbane's leisure holiday offerings will be showcased across a 36-page spread in the *Australian Traveller's* Jun/Jul issue, which is now on sale.

A&K Northern Lights

ABERCROMBIE and Kent has introduced a new journey exploring Iceland to witness the Northern Lights.

Two tour dates have been announced: 12-20 Oct 2017 and 16-24 Nov 2017, with a maximum number of 18 guests to depart on each journey.

Prices start from \$9,595 per person twin share.

To book, or for more information phone 1300 590 317.



DUBBED 'Sydney's newest business playground', the 229-key Pullman Sydney Airport has officially opened.

General manager Bernie Boller said "Our ambition is to be known as a welcoming sanctuary for business and leisure guests, away from the hustle and bustle of the airport...without being too far from the convenience of a major international hub."

In celebration of the launch, Pullman Sydney Airport is offering

an opening special on stays starting from \$229 per night including wi-fi.

Pictured from left are Carl Herve; Cheyne Scroggy; Inga Prancute; Rebecca Lee, financial controller; Bernie Boller, gm; Barbara Liu; Julio Cesar Gomez, hotel accountant; Ernesto Faundez and Adam Leonardi.

In the back row are Daniel Simpson, executive chef and Marco Warren, director of sales and marketing.

It's just a short hop to the next leg when flying to South Africa via Perth.

Thanks to the opening of Perth Airport's new, world-class T1 Domestic Terminal, **Virgin Australia** and **South African Airways** are located under one roof. Travelling to South Africa via Perth is now a seamless transfer experience. Book this great travel option for your customers today.



Thursday 9th June 2016

Trafalgar: Canada hot in 2017

NEW direct services to Canada from Brisbane and competitive airfares across the Pacific will serve as a catalyst for growth for Trafalgar's new USA and Canada program, says managing director Matthew Cameron-Smith.

The guided holiday operator this week unveiled its 2017 Americas brochure, covering the USA, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico and Central America.

Within the 120-page guide are 43 itineraries, including three new journeys.

Cameron-Smith told

Travel Daily today "it's a hot time to travel to North America".

He said the Aussie dollar is virtually at parity against the Canadian dollar and stable around the \$0.70-0.75 mark with the US dollar, "North America represents great value."

"We certainly believe it will be a strong year for Canada and the USA," Cameron-Smith said.

"The US has a lot of potential."

In Canada, Trafalgar has used its buying power to negotiate better rates, Cameron-Smith said, with prices on some trips reduced by as much as 12% (on its Best of Eastern Canada journey).

Driven by demand, the new tours include the 10-day Mexico's Copper Canyon & Colonial Cities, 10-day Adventures of the Lone Star State and eight-day



California's Great National Parks.

The "Lone Star" trip explores not only the big cities but regional areas of Texas and includes a new *Be My Guest* Experience with Texan bbq master Wayne Mueller.

It joins a stable of 30 other *Be My Guest* experiences, including a visit to a family-owned winery on a 100 acre property with private wine tastings in Victoria, British Columbia and a low-country boil on Tybee Is in Savannah, Georgia.

Each tour is also infused with a range of *Local Specialist* guided highlights.

National Parks (NP) are a big draw-card for Australians, with the new California trip visiting six over a week, such as Sequia NP, Yosemite NP, Kings Canyon NP and Death Valley NP.

Cameron-Smith is pictured with the 2017 USA & Canada guide.

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NZ tourism boost

NEW Zealand Prime Minister and Tourism Minister John Key has allocated a further \$720,000 for three tourism projects.

A climbing route at Wildwire Wanaka will be extended with \$250k of funding, \$320k will go towards establishing a night-time light show in Rotorua's Redwood Forest and Queenstown Resort College will receive \$150k to expand its Ambassador Programme.

Velocity EY fees rise

CASHING in Virgin Australia's Velocity points for reward seat bookings with Etihad Airways just got more expensive.

From 18 Jun an Etihad Airways Reward Seat Carrier Charge of US\$50 in Economy, US\$205 in Business and US\$300 in First class will be applied per flight sector.

There will be a reduced charge for infants not occupying a seat.

Scenic on Getaway

SCENIC'S Christmas cruises through Amsterdam, Bamberg, Vienna and Budapest will be the focus of Channel Nine's *Getaway* episodes on 11, 18 and 25 Jun.

VTIC chair departs

AFTER a decade at the helm of the Victoria Tourism Industry Council (VTIC), Jeremy Johnson has retired from his role as chair.

The position will be filled by current board director Charles Davidson, effective 01 Jul.

Johnson will continue as chief executive officer of Sovereign Hill, and remains on the Executive Council of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

FTC cruise webinar

UPDATE your knowledge on France's Waterways with French Travel Connection's 30 minute "Cruising in France" webinar.

On Mon 11 Jul, the webinar will run at 3pm (**CLICK HERE** to register) and 4pm AEST (**HERE**).

THAI A350 delayed

DELIVERY of THAI Airways International's first Airbus A350 airliner has been pushed back due to a delay with a seat manufacturer.

China Aviation Daily is reporting the carrier was expecting the plane in Jul, but delivery will now be more likely in Aug.



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Air Canada's Brisbane inaugural goes off!



Image: Beau Chenery



ABOVE: Vanessa Stiffarm, 2016 Calgary Stampede First Nation's Indian Princess.

BRISBANE'S Story Bridge glowed red, VIPs played in a giant snow-dome and the Calgary Stampede Indian Princess delivered a memorable dance before lucky passengers stepped aboard Air Canada's 787 *Dreamliner* and departed for Vancouver last week, marking the launch of the only non-stop service linking Queensland and Canada.



ABOVE: A sweet moment! (L-R) Paul Maddison, Canadian High Commissioner; Paul McLean, Air Canada GM Australia and New Zealand and Andrew Brodie, GM Airline and Retail Brisbane Airport cut the welcome cake.

BELOW: Cutting the ribbon: Maroochy Songwoman; Brisbane Airport CEO, Julieanne Alroe; Vanessa Stiffarm; Queensland Minister for Tourism Hon. Kate Jones; Air Canada VP Global Sales, Duncan Bureau; Canadian High Comm, Paul Maddison; YVR President and CEO Craig Richmond.

Air Canada General Manager Australia and New Zealand Paul McLean says the launch event was the culmination of years of planning.

"The end result is that travellers from across Queensland can now fly direct to Vancouver, one of the world's most beautiful cities, a year-round holiday destination and an unrivalled gateway to North America," says McLean.

"From 17 June 2016 our state-of-the-art 787 *Dreamliner* service from Brisbane will also continue on from Vancouver to Newark, providing Australian pax with same-plane connection to New York.

"Thank you to all our trade partners for making Air Canada's newest international route such a success."

For more information visit www.aircanada.com.



SHAKE it up!: Remi the Mountie, Vanessa the Indian Princess and Honourable Kate Jones MP, Queensland Minister for Tourism enjoy the Air Canada Snow-dome.



ABOVE: Game on: Ben James, Brisbane Airport; PK Lee, Air Canada Regional Sales Director Asia, Aus/NZ; Thomas Gjerde, Air Canada Sales Manager Qld hold a commemorative First flight Canadian hockey jersey.



RIGHT: 'Executive Pods' in Business Class: Air Canada's David McNabb, Marketing Communication and Online Sales Manager, AU/NZ and Paul McLean, General Manager Australia/New Zealand.





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.

The **Globus family of brands** has announced the appointment of **Louise Percy** as Digital Marketing Manager, based in the group's Sydney headquarters. Percy was formerly with Chimu Adventures as their Digital Marketing Strategist as well as G Adventures where she held the role of Online Marketing Manager.

Meli Titoko has been appointed as Sales and Marketing Manager for **Castaway Island, Fiji**. Based in the Nadi office, he will report to Ben Johnson, Director of Sales and Marketing, Outrigger Resorts Fiji.

Sabre Corporation has named **Todd Arthur** as Vice President of Sales and Market Development for Sabre Travel Network Asia Pacific. Arthur will be responsible for sales performance and business growth across Asia Pacific.

Paul Ramirez will join **FCM Travel Solutions** as the company's new Global Data Leader. Ramirez will be based in Brisbane.

Eventbrite has appointed its first Australian General Manager to drive continued growth in the local market. **Phil Silverstone** has been selected for the newly-created role after 16 years in financial services.

Jeffery Goh has been named as the new Chief Executive Officer of the **Star Alliance** effective from 01 Jan 2017. He succeeds incumbent Mark Schwab when he retires at the end of the year.

Wendy Wu Tours has appointed **Joe Karbo** as Group Chief Executive Officers to be based in London. He will lead operations there as well as in Sydney, New York and Shanghai and will report to the Board of Directors.

CX portal goes down

A **TECHNICAL** glitch shut down Cathay Pacific Airway's online booking system for almost 24 hours from Mon afternoon, causing frustration for many of their customers.

Initially the airline said the site was undergoing maintenance but later announced they were experiencing "technical difficulties", apologising to those affected and asking them to book through its call centre or via a travel agent while they worked to fix the problem.

MEANWHILE, CX and Hyatt Hotels and Resorts have launched a global in-flight dining collaboration this week.

Passengers across all classes on most of the carrier's long-haul flights are now being offered specially designed menus by star chefs at Grand Hyatt Hong Kong and five Park Hyatt hotels routes.

Facelift in Broome

CHINATOWN in Broome will receive a \$12.6 million facelift in a bid to boost the economic potential for local businesses and the retail and tourism sectors.

The project will see major upgrades to Carnarvon Street and Dampier Terrace plus feasibility and technical studies for projects including a cultural centre, the extension of Gray Street and the reconnection of Chinatown to Roebuck Bay.

Rosewood stay pay

ROSEWOOD Hotels & Resorts is inviting guests to enjoy complimentary nights at 13 properties for select dates until the end of the year.

Offerings include a third night free when you stay two nights at Rosewood London through to Dec 31 - see rosewoodhotels.com.

New Trump brand

TRUMP Hotels has announced it will be launching a new lifestyle hotel brand targeting travellers who want to "connect with others in energised social spaces".

The yet-to-be-named brand was reportedly a direct response to the the "massive growth of the technology-centric 'we' economy" and is set to be officially launched later this year.

Elite builds portfolio

ELITE Island Resorts has added the 180-key Pineapple Beach Club Antigua to its portfolio.

The resort will continue to operate on an all-Inclusive basis but will no longer accept new bookings with children aged 16 years and under.

Prior bookings with made with children will be honoured through until 31 Aug.

See more **HERE**.

Thursday 9th Jun 2016

Ski season begins

AS THE mercury dips, ski resorts across Australia and New Zealand are announcing their openings for the season.

Porters Ski area on New Zealand's South Island is scheduled to open on 22 Jun with the best pre-season snowfalls in ten years recorded in the area.

MEANWHILE, Mt Buller resort in Victoria plans to officially kick off its 2016 snow season this long weekend.

A record number of children are registered for "Snow Squad" ski and snowboard programs and season membership sales are at the highest ever reported for the ski resort.

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IMPLEMENTATION/ONLINE SUPPORT

MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$80K+

Our client is looking for an experienced travel candidate to assist them implementing travel and expense services to their clients. You will be responsible for working closely with sales & the client, configuring, project managing and implementing the new technology services along with providing training & ongoing support. Experience in travel management systems including GDS & OBT's, excellent organisation, time management & customer service skills.

LEAD YOUR TEAM TO SUCCESS

CALL CENTRE SALES MANAGER

SYDNEY - SALARY PACKAGE \$95 INCLUDING BONUS

Work for this leading Travel Company based in Sydney and lead their call centre operations. You will be responsible for leading a team of sales staff to meet and exceed, daily weekly and monthly targets, mentoring, training, developing and call coaching are all part of the role. You will come from a call centre background, have an understanding of telephony metrics and have lead teams to success. Don't delay, Apply now.

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT AT ITS BEST

CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER – BOUTIQUE

SYDNEY- EXECUTIVE SALARY PACKAGE

As a Corporate Account Manager you will be responsible for the regional program with the objective of growing revenues, increasing revenues, increasing margins and retaining the business. To do this, you will have a thorough knowledge of corporate travel as well as the professional communication & negotiation skills to deal with people at all levels up to executives. A strong understanding of GDS will be beneficial, apply today.

AUSTRALIA'S ONLY DEDICATED EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT TEAM

executive@aaappointments.com.au

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