

# FIVE NEW QUEST APARTMENT HOTELS OPENING SOON



## QUEST PORT ADELAIDE

OPENING 21 NOVEMBER

36 North Parade, Port Adelaide SA 5015

- 104 studio, one, and two bedroom apartments
- Located on the waterfront at Fishermen's Wharf, with easy access to Semaphore beach, Osborne, Wingfield and Adelaide CBD

## QUEST GRIFFITH

OPENING 28 NOVEMBER

53 Railway Street, Griffith NSW 2680

- 68 studio, one, two and three bedroom apartments
- Located in the heart of Griffith, within walking distance to CBD and only 5 km from the airport



## QUEST DANDENONG CENTRAL

OPENING 5 DECEMBER

2-10 Walker Street, Dandenong VIC 3175

- 95 studio, one and two bedroom apartments
- Located on Walker Street, within easy reach of Dandenong station, hospital, market and business park

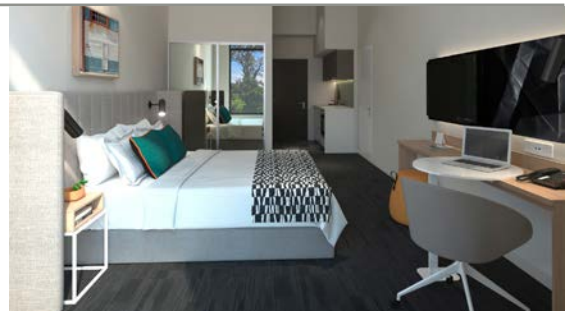


## QUEST FREMANTLE

OPENING 12 DECEMBER

8 Pakenham Street, Fremantle WA 6160

- 122 studio, one and two bedroom apartments
- Located in the West End of the historic port city of Fremantle
- Perfect choice for both the corporate and leisure traveller



## QUEST MACQUARIE PARK

OPENING 12 DECEMBER

71 Epping Road, Macquarie Park NSW 2113

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- Located in the West End of the historic port city of Fremantle
- Perfect choice for both the corporate and leisure traveller



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First with the news

Wednesday 16th November 2016

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## Five new Quests

IT'S GOING to be a busy couple of weeks for Quest Apartment Hotels, with the group preparing to welcome five new additions.

Between next Mon and 12 Dec, Quest will open the Quest Port Adelaide (SA), Quest Griffith (NSW), Quest Dandenong Central (Vic), Quest Fremantle (WA) and Quest Macquarie Park (NSW).

In all, the new properties - see **cover wrap** - will beef up Quest's room inventory by 500 keys.

## Canada eTA reminder

AUSSIE travellers bound for Canada are now required to have an electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) before flying to the nation, or risk being refused entry.

Last minute eTA applications can be made on devices with an internet connection (even at the airport), with a response received within minutes, in most cases.

Online application costs CA\$7 - go to [www.canada.ca/eTA](http://www.canada.ca/eTA).

## APT corporate branding

A NEW corporate umbrella branding for APT Travel Group has been unveiled today by the family owned Australian business which will celebrate its 90th anniversary in 2017.

Encompassing the luxury tour & cruising brand APT, premium tour and cruise offshoot Travelmarvel & specialist operator Botanica World Discoveries, the overarching ID (pictured) aims to better distinguish businesses.

"For a long time now, APT Travel Group has been bigger than the sum of its parts," exec general manager global marketing & sales



Debra Fox said this morning.

"By giving this corporate aspect of our business a more visible and defined presence, we will bring clarity to our brand portfolio," Fox said.

She told TD partners and suppliers knew all of the brands well & understood how they fit together, and as APT Travel Group continued to grow "it will become more important for us to be able to distinguish between when we are speaking as a group and when our brands are speaking individually".

Fox said the united front would enable the APT Travel Group to "speak as one to the industry, while our brands continue to address their specific customer segments, both within the industry and among consumers".

The new branding also reflects some of the shared services.

A new website has also been launched at [aptravelgroup.com](http://aptravelgroup.com).

### Mammoth TD issue!

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

- Voyages to Antiquity
- AA Appointments jobs

## QF/FJ SFO codeshare

FIJI Airways has requested expedited approval from the US transport regulator to permit codeshare partner Qantas to add its designator code on FJ's Nadi-San Francisco route.

FJ launched the seasonal route earlier this year using A330s, and plans to extend the season to five months in 2017 (TD yesterday).

"With this new service, and the recent amendment to the Fiji Airways-Qantas codesharing agreement, the carriers are eager to further expand their codesharing services to include San Francisco," Fiji Airways said.

## Antiquity bargains

VOYAGES to Antiquity is offering free Economy class fares to Nice and returning from London when booking its 26-day Grand Riviera, Iberia & England trip, departing 06 Jun 2017.

A batch of other France & Italy itineraries are also on sale - p10.

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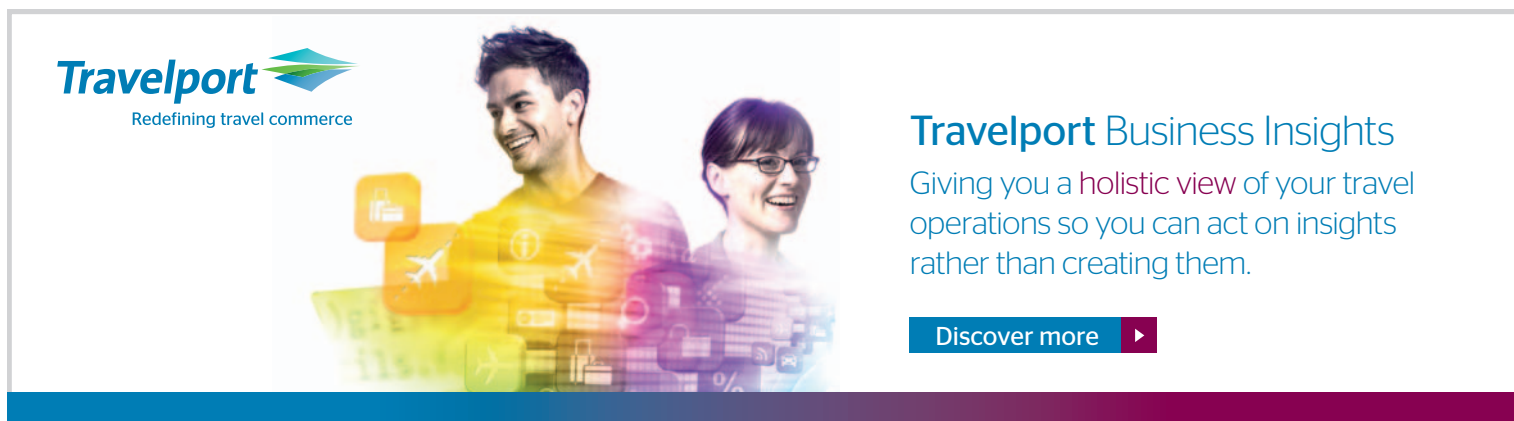


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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 16th November 2016



## CLIA nominations

CLIA Australasia has opened nominations for the 2016 Cruise Industry Awards, which includes a new 'Best Cruise Month Promotion' award among the 20 categories - more details in **Cruise Weekly** tomorrow, or **CLICK HERE**.

## TNZ: Don't cancel visits

"NEW Zealand remains a safe place to visit," reiterated Tourism New Zealand today, following the devastating quake which shook the country early Mon morning.

The magnitude 7.5 tremor which struck Kaikoura and Wellington sparked a number of evacuations in the two cities and prompted tsunami sirens to sound across the east coast of NZ.

Yesterday, the tourism body said it was "working around the clock" with its offshore teams to ensure that overseas visitors and trade partners are getting an accurate picture of the situation currently occurring in New Zealand.

"While the earthquake has had a significant impact on communities in North Canterbury, the rest of New Zealand is still open for business," TNZ said.

"Our teams are being contacted by trade partners and we know interest in the impact of the quake is high...at this stage, it is impossible to predict the long term impact the earthquake may have on tourism".

Cruise New Zealand chairman Debbie Summers echoed the tourism body's sentiment, telling **Travel Daily** "attractions and services are already back in action in Wellington and Marlborough", which were the two main cruise ports affected by the quake.

"The key message is New Zealand is open for cruise business and looking forward to the season ahead," she said.

Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism chief Vic Allen reiterated the message that people stick with their travel plans, insisting the South Island remains safe.

"Christchurch, Hanmer Springs, Waipara, Akaroa, Arthurs Pass, Timaru, Ashburton the Mackenzie district and all other areas of Canterbury are operating as usual," Allen remarked.

"Hanmer Springs is open, as is the Waipara Valley wine region, the Tranz Alpine is running as normal from Christchurch to Greymouth via Arthur's Pass and a daily Intercity coach service between Christchurch and Picton is operating via the Lewis Pass."

## New VAH directors

**VIRGIN** Australia Holdings today announced the appointment of two new directors to its board, both from major shareholders.

Nang Qi has been nominated as HNA Group's director and Dr Lu Chien-tsung from Nanshan Group.

VAH also announced Ken Dean as an independent director.

## ANA ups SYD capacity

**ANA** will add more than 170 seats per week on the Tokyo Haneda-Sydney route in Dec and Jan after upgauging to a Boeing 787-9 mid-range aircraft.

The jet is configured with 40 Business, 16 Premium Economy and 186 Economy class seats.

## Encore godmother

**INTERNATIONAL** recording artist Sarah Brightman has been named as the godmother of *Seabourn Encore*.

An official naming ceremony of the 604 passenger ship will be held in Singapore on 07 Jan.

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## Quadrant cruise purchase

THE new private equity owner of Great Southern Rail has expanded its tourism portfolio with the acquisition of Cruise Whitsundays and the Rotttnest Express ferry operations.

Quadrant Private Equity has combined the three operators to create the Experience Australia Group, representing a total

investment of \$300 million.

The group reportedly plans a future public listing, with potential to add other tourism ventures in the meantime.

Cruise Whitsundays is the largest ferry and cruise operator in North Qld, carrying about 700,000 passengers a year.

Rotttnest Express operates ferries to Rotttnest Island in WA along with other services including bus tours and cycle hire, carrying more than 300,000 passengers a year.

Quadrant managing partner Marcus Darville told the *Australian Financial Review* the acquisitions had emerged from a search for industries likely to replace Australia's mining boom.

"Within tourism, we pinpointed a growing demand for experiential travel, and started looking for companies with a strong position in an iconic Australian destination," he said.

## SQ/LH Grp up c'share

SINGAPORE Airlines and the Lufthansa Group have announced an expanded codeshare agreement, giving SIA passengers access to more than 20 new European routes operated by Lufthansa and SWISS.

The new ports are accessed via the transfer hubs of Frankfurt, Munich and Zurich.

In return, Lufthansa and SWISS customers access SIA routes including Canberra, Dusseldorf and Wellington.

## Webjet Routehappy

WEBJET has adopted new content platforms provided by Routehappy, allowing it to display rich content in search results.

The implementation of the Routehappy Scores & Amenities and Routehappy Hub content will enable users to see targeted airline information and media, alongside details on amenities like wi-fi, entertainment and food.

Webjet md John Guscic said Routehappy would provide a better customer experience through the new platforms, providing "clear, compelling content that highlights airlines key differentiators and amenities people care about".

"Flight shopping is moving away from just price and schedule," Guscic said.

"Flyers crave more information when booking and airlines deserve a solution that enables them to merchandise the products they have invested heavily in and increase revenue."



## Window Seat

HUNDREDS of creepy-crawly visitors have been delivered to Puke Ariki Museum on New Zealand's North Island for an exhibition which invites guests to smell American cockroaches.

The hands-on 'Bugs! Our Backyard Heroes' exhibition kicked off over the weekend and will run until 14 May.

The experience promises to "take you on a journey to meet some living creepy crawlies, explore our native bugs & discover bugs with superpowers from around the world".

A poisonous centipede, tree stick insects, Avondale spiders and stinky cockroaches are all located in the museum's downstairs space, while children will also have access to dress-up costumes and a wall-sized game about bees.

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## NRMA urges IDP

**MOTORING** organisation NRMA has urged travellers to obtain an international driving permit (IDP) before heading overseas.

The group's executive gm of travel and touring Paul Davies said IDPs were UN sanctioned and recognised in more than 150 countries, and could help avoid unwelcome situations with overseas authorities.

"An IDP is a universal document proving you have a valid driver's licence in your home country, which can come in especially handy in countries that don't have English as their first language," Davies said.

The NRMA warns some countries won't recognise provisional licences unless accompanied by an IDP, while some insurance companies insist on seeing an IDP if an accident occurs, including in the US, South Africa, Namibia and Swaziland.

In Bahrain IDPs are compulsory for all foreign drivers.

## Wendy Wu upgrade

**WENDY** Wu tours is offering Business class upgrades with Singapore Airlines from \$999 to mark the launch of its 2017 Deluxe Brochure.

The offer is available with select tours in China, Indochina and Japan, for bookings by 16 Dec.

GM Andrew Mulholland said the Deluxe program was positioned as an upsell to the classic touring range, with more inclusions, a more leisurely pace and more free time.

## RJ, AccesRail link

**MORE** than 100 AccesRail destinations worldwide will join the Royal Jordanian network after the airline announced a new intermode ticketing partnership.

The carrier is the first to sign a fully global agreement with AccesRail, giving it train destinations in Canada, Spain, Austria, Sweden, Belgium and the UK, plus bus points in Detroit.



Brooding castles and bright beaches...see what's hot for 2017 in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK HERE** to read **travelBulletin**

## Peppers Kings Sq officially open



**THE** Mantra Group has unveiled its first Peppers property in WA, continuing the brand's expansion in CBD locations.

The 120-room Peppers Kings Square Hotel was opened yesterday by Perth Lord Mayor Councillor Lisa Scaffidi (pictured with Mantra Group executive director of acquisitions Michael

Moret-Lalli, left, and Mode Development Group director Christian Boucoucis).

The hotel is located in the Shafto Lane entertainment precinct and offers an a la carte restaurant, Stage Kitchen & Bar, lounge facilities, valet parking and "the fastest wi-fi in a Perth hotel." Opening rates are from \$159pn.



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**AUSSIE** and New Zealand agents recently spent 11 days exploring Peru courtesy of Eclipse Travel and explora Valle Sagrado.

The group stopped by Lima, Cusco, Arequipa, Colca Canyon, Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu.

**Pictured** at Colca Canyon are: Leah Harrison, Malvern Travel & Cruise; Naomi Zerner, Backtrack Travel; Aaron Eilers, Cruise Express; Stephen Lanfranco, Eclipse Travel; Holly McGrath, Timeless Tours & Travel; Elizabeth Ellis, Cherybrook Travel; Monica Stevens, Peregrine Travel Centre Adelaide; Nicole Knapp, World Travellers Christchurch and Jemma Wilson, Mai Journeys.

## Booking.com API

**THE** content upload process for managing multiple listings on Booking.com has been simplified following the launch of a new Content API.

Booking.com's new specifications allow free access for providers to instantly send all necessary information, to build and maintain multiple listings on the website, including property photos and information about their facilities and policies.

Previously, photo content, facilities information and policies had to be uploaded manually on a per property basis.

## Points Bank launch

**A FREE** loyalty program management and redemption tool called Points Bank has launched, allowing users to aggregate and manage their loyalty points in the one place.

Michael Keating, founder and principal of Points Bank said the tool was designed for those who "travel regularly and have numerous loyalty programs and therefore hundreds of thousands, sometimes millions of points, but no time to organise them or look into the redemption options".

The platform includes the option to purchase points or buy reward airline tickets outright at lower prices.

Over 100 loyalty programs can connect with the tool, including Qantas Frequent Flyer, Virgin Velocity, SQ's KrisFlyer and Westpac Altitude Rewards.

## By Mint on JFK/SAN

**JETBLUE'S** premium offering, Mint is set to land in San Diego on 15 Aug as part of the airline's plan to roll it out nationally on transcontinental routes.

A second daily roundtrip Mint flight between San Diego & New York, as well as Mint service between San Diego and Boston Logan International Airport (BOS) will start later in 2017.

## Malaysia eVisa extend

**THE** Malaysian Government has expanded its eVisa program to Oceania-based People's Republic of China and Republic of India passport holders.

Under the eVisa, tourists can enter Malaysia and stay for a maximum of 30 days.

EVisas are only valid for three months from the date of approval and applicants have to enter Malaysia before the visa ends.

The program will be extended to more nationalities in 2017.

## Thalys promotion

**THALYS** is running a year-end promo until 05 Dec, offering one way fares from €20.

First and Second class travel on select routes are available, incl between Amsterdam and Lille, Amsterdam and Paris; Brussels and Paris and Cologne and Paris.

Tickets are valid for travel 19 Dec-15 Feb & are distributed via Rail Plus, Rail Tickets, CIT Holidays and Infinity Rail in Australia.

## Fraser Coast funding

**THE** Queensland Government and Council in Maryborough has dedicated \$395,000 each to continue restoration of the historic Portside precinct and to finish developing the creative hub.

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**AS PARLIAMENT** is not sitting this week, I thought I would give the issue of the PMC a rest but I can assure you we are not giving the campaign to stop the increase a rest. Parliament returns next week and there are two weeks of sitting before the end of the year. The fate of the Working Holiday Makers Package and the PMC will, I suspect, be known by the end of the month.

So, for something more interesting, I have just returned from the beautiful city of San Francisco having taken part in the Express Travel Group annual forum for the ITG and italktravel agents. An impressive line-up of speakers and a great program for all those who attended. Congratulations to all ETG team for yet another well organised and professional conference.

For my sins I then shot off to Singapore for the CAPA ASIA Summit. The CAPA event was held at the Capella on Sentosa Island and that place would have to be one of the nicest hotels in the world. During the CAPA conference I was asked to have a debate with the Senior VP for IATA who is based in Singapore about the New Generation of International Settlement Services (NewGenISS).

By now most agents across the world have started to tune out about what NewGenISS is all about as the process and timelines for implementation of all things IATA moves at the pace of turtle looking to take a swim. And while NewGenISS has some good enhancements for the IATA program, on balance there are not many good things coming down the pipe for IATA agents.

Regretfully, I believe that the process to really bring about change to the IATA program that will engender more agents to want to be accredited with IATA and self-plate appear to have missed the design phase and will definitely not be in the implementation phase.

Changes to the IATA program impact upon all travel agents as any new rules that apply to an IATA agent and in particular rules that effect the billing arrangements must be passed on by any consolidator. One good thing that NewGenISS will bring to the BSP, or at least I hope this will be the case, is the opening up to more competition in the BSP for how agents can settle the BSP.

During the CAPA event in Singapore there was a great deal of detail and information provided by all sorts of travel payment providers and they are already competing for payments systems for hotels, car rental, cruise, touring and other travel categories. Seems to me that it is time to stop thinking that settling with airlines needs to be so complicated and governed by such yesterday rules as the IATA resolutions. The discussions with IATA will continue for some time I suspect and I hope that in the end the BSP will be more open and transparent which may bring travel agents to take another look at IATA. We shall see.

## Reef tops dream list

**DIVING** on the Great Barrier Reef has been named the best value "experience of a lifetime" for Australians, narrowly beating the temples of Angkor Wat in a new study by TripAdvisor.

The website's TripIndex Experiences of a Lifetime report compared the costs for two people to enjoy 10 different dream experiences worldwide.

Other top value adventures and destinations included China's Great Wall, the Taj Mahal, the Grand Canyon and African safaris.

The most expensive item on the list was a visit to Ecuador's Galapagos Islands.

The study compared costs including flights, transfers, four-star hotels, dinner and day tours.

## UA auto screening

**UNITED** Airlines now features automated screening lanes at multiple airports with the opening of its fully redesigned TSA Precheck security checkpoint in Terminal 1 in Chicago O'Hare.

The new lane allows up to five customers to fill their bins simultaneously while also using a parallel conveyor system that automatically returns empty bins to the front of the queue.

## City Edge expanding

**AUSTRALIAN** hotel brand City Edge, has added a sixth property to its portfolio with the opening of The City Edge Town Apartments in Melbourne CBD, made up of six two-bedroom units.

## Langkawi zipline

**UMGAWA** Legendary Adventures has opened a new zipline eco-canopy tour in the Langkawi islands' Matchinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park; see more [HERE](#).



## QH/VH showcase Thailand

**EIGHT** lucky Qantas Holidays and Viva! Holidays agents enjoyed a recent fam to Thailand where they experienced the hustle and bustle of Bangkok and the tropical paradise of Krabi and Khao Lak.

The group stayed at the Centara Grand at CentralWorld in the heart of Bangkok's shopping and business district.

They indulged in a delicious Thai banquet at Centara Anda Dhevi Resort & Spa before taking a boat transfer to the Centara Grand Beach Resort and Villa's Krabi, nestled in its own bay and surrounded by dramatic

limestone cliffs.

Highlights included a visit to the newly opened Centra by Centara Phu Pano Resort before being whisked off to Khao Lak to visit the tropical oasis of La Flora Resort and Spa, a favourite wedding destination for Aussies.

**Pictured** from left are: Alicia Kaufman, Jamie Lee Peterson, Melissa Furley, Amanda Kemp, Bernie Tambakis, Manita Singh, Naomi Hill and Rebecca Horsley.

## 50k Vic funding boost

**VICTORIA'S** High Country wineries will benefit from a \$50,000 State Government Wine Growth Fund grant secured by Tourism North East.

The support will enable extensive research into consumer trends and behaviours around winery and cellar door tourism.

## Renaissance '17 trips

**CULTURAL** and special interest tour operator Renaissance Tours has released its collection for 2017, featuring 40 options.

Itineraries zone in on opera, music & ballet, art & architecture, and gardens, along with a number of 'Asian Encounters' tours including a Foodies Tour of Korea, a cultural guide of Sri Lanka, and a tour of Bhutan's monasteries.

The company pays 5-10% commission - [CLICK HERE](#).

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## Tigerair birthday sale

**IN CELEBRATION** of its 9th birthday, Tigerair is offering airfares between Australian capital cities from just nine dollars - **CLICK HERE** for more.

## Finnair flies agents to Spain

**SIX** Helloworld agents recently embarked on a trip of a lifetime to the South of Spain, hosted by Finnair and Tempo Holidays.

Agents experienced lie-flat beds in Business class service on board an A350 aircraft before touching down in Madrid for their first night.

The next day, agents explored Toledo where they observed the post-card perfect cathedral and experienced the city's famed cobblestone streets.

A highlight for many was the trip to Cordoba, a town which was once the spiritual hub of the Islamic World.

Participating agents included Lauren Bloch, helloworld Merimbula; Alan Daniel, helloworld Geelong Central; Renne Bloffwitch, Phil Hoffmann Travel



Barossa Valley; Duncan Ford, Flightbiz; Stacey Lyons, Home Travel Company; Bridie Roper, helloworld Croydon Hills; Tony Kosmarikas, Finnair and Kym Vanderplight, Tempo Holidays.

## DL push notifications

**STARTING** from today, passengers flying with Delta will receive push notifications which will track their bag's journey from the Fly Delta app.

IATA said carriers that adopt a bag tracking system such as this can reduce mishandled luggage by up to 25%.

## BA expands AY p'ship

**FROM** Jan, British Airways will expand its travel options to Japan, adding its 'BA' code on Finnair flights to Nagoya, Osaka Kansai and Tokyo Narita.

## Arcadia open days

**ARCADIA** Australia will host an all ages event at Elizabeth Quay in Perth on 27 Nov.

The show will feature repurposed military and industrial hardware including jet engines, afterburner units, customs scanning units, cranes and helicopter fuselages to form a "ground breaking spectacle".

Learn more by **CLICKING HERE**.

## NZ Airband accolade

**AIR** New Zealand's Airband invention has been named Innovation of the Year at the 2016 CAPA APAC Aviation Awards.

The chip-embedded wristband, which monitors unaccompanied children throughout their journey, was first introduced in late 2015.

## Hyatt Place Heathrow

**HYATT** Place London Heathrow Airport is set to open from 2017, following an extensive renovation of the existing building.

The 350-key property will offer seven flexible meeting spaces, a 24-hour fitness centre and complimentary wi-fi.

The new addition will be only the second Hyatt Place hotel in the United Kingdom.

## Accor, Travelsify deal

**CONTENT** platform Travelsify is set to power AccorHotel's search and personalisation services.

The collaboration will ensure quick and easy access to user-relevant information so travellers can find the hotel experience that they want.

Commenting on the new deal, Travelsify chief executive Bruno Chauvat said the group was "thrilled to partner with AccorHotels teams to make their guests feel welcome on all apps and touch points with advanced hotel experience data that they can intuitively rely on".

## ANA competition

**ALL** Nippon Airways has struck a partnership with Sake Restaurant & Bar for a culinary competition, giving patrons the chance to win two Premium Economy airfares to Tokyo.

To enter, just dine at either Sake The Rocks or Sake Double Bay locations and fill in the entry form on arrival for your chance to win.

The competition commenced yesterday and will run through until 14 Dec.

The travel period is from 01 Apr to 30 Sep, with winners to depart from Sydney.

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## Ovation 30 days away

**THERE** are now less than 30 days to go until Royal Caribbean's newbuild *Ovation of the Seas* arrives at her new Australian home port in Sydney on 15 Dec.

## Melbourne world's top city

**MELBOURNE** is the top city in the world to live abroad with Sydney close behind, according to the third annual InterNations Expat Insider 2016 survey.

Research gathered from 14,000 respondents revealed expats living in the Victorian capital were the most satisfied with their work-life balance (at 79%).

Sydney came in eighth place with only 60% reporting satisfaction with their work-life balance.

Sydney and Melbourne differ most significantly in two key

areas: personal happiness and personal finance.

Melbourne ranked fifth for personal happiness in contrast to Sydney, which came in much lower on 15th place out of 35.

Melbourne sat at 14th place in the Personal Finance Index, while Sydney ranked 30th.

Houston, Texas came in second as best city to live, with top scores on general satisfaction, cost of living and personal finance.

Madrid slotted in third place, due mainly to residents feeling welcome and finding it easy to make friends along with a low cost of living.

Dusseldorf came in fourth place followed by Singapore, Vienna Munich, Sydney, Mexico City and in tenth place Toronto.

See the full report [HERE](#).

## SkyTeam PEK lounge

**SKYTEAM** is set to open a new lounge at Beijing Capital International Airport in the coming weeks.

The 800m<sup>2</sup> facility will offer buffet food, drinks, a botanical feature, wi-fi, computers, showers and a relaxation area for First and Business class passengers and Elite Plus members flying on any of the 12 airline members of the SkyTeam alliance.

## PHR appointment

**PREFERRED** Hotels & Resorts has appointed David Spooner as executive vice president for Asia Pacific, based out of the company's Singapore office.

In his role he will drive the company's development efforts in the region.

Most recently, Spooner spent four years as vice president of sales & marketing for Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts.

## Silver Cloud imagery

**SILVERSEA** Cruises has today released renderings of its new ship as the line celebrates one year to go until *Silver Cloud's* inaugural voyage to Antarctica as an Ice-Class expedition ship.

**CLICK HERE** to view a gallery of the images.

## Aer Lingus to Miami

**IRISH** carrier Aer Lingus will launch its inaugural service between Dublin and Miami International Airport with three weekly flights starting on 01 Sep.

The new route will be serviced by Airbus 330-200 aircraft that can seat 266 passengers.

## Featherdale's Hungary VIP visit



**FEATHERDALE** Wildlife Park in Sydney's West welcomed members of the Hungarian presidential party last Fri, including president Janos Ader.

Hungary's First Lady Anita Herczegh was particularly smitten with an adorable baby wombat, and the President was very pleased to meet an infant Koala that was named in his honour.

Janos the Koala wandered out of his mother's pouch and the President was happy to see his namesake up close.

The president and his party took part in a Remembrance Day service in Featherdale's new function room, Drovers Hut.

The attraction is working with the Mayor of Blacktown Council Stephen Bali, in cementing the friendship between Featherdale and the Budapest Zoo.

The pairing could create opportunities to share information, ideas, staff and even participate in animal exchanges or loans.

**Pictured** above is Hungary's president Janos Ader holding his "Order of Featherdale"

award, presented by ceo of Elanor Investors Group Glenn Willis (left) along with First Lady Anita Herczegh and Hungary's Ambassador to Australia Dr Attila Laszlo Gruber.

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**Forbes access open**

**BIG4** Holiday Parks advises that Forbes in western NSW is accessible again following the Newell Highway's reopening after a six-week closure due to floods.

**OZ Focus Bendigo event**



**OZ FOCUS** Victoria's recent event for Bendigo & Shepparton attracted 100 agents who received updates from suppliers about promoting domestic tourism.

The night was hosted by AAT Kings, Broome, Kimberley & Beyond, Europcar, Excite Holidays, Jetstar, Kimberley Collection, Pan Pacific Hotels Group, Parker Travel Collection, SeaLink and StayWell Hospitality Group.

Agents and hosts are **pictured**.

**Next-Gen EK A380s**

**EMIRATES** has started taking delivery of its next generation Airbus A380s which features 25 additional Economy class seats (through the relocation of the crew rest area), increasing the lower deck seat count to 426.

Seven of the newly configured superjumbos are expected this FY, which also feature higher ceilings & bigger overhead cabin lockers over centre seats in Business.

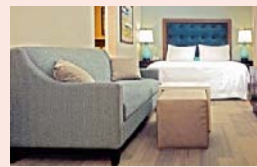


**Accommodation Updates**

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



**Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco** has unveiled a new onsite spa facility by French beauty retailer L'OCCITANE. A series of different treatments are on the menu including traditional massage therapies, aromatherapy pamper sessions and much more. Spa L'OCCITANE will open daily from 8am through until 9pm.



**Homewood Suites in Lexington, Kentucky** has completed a major overhaul of its guest rooms and public spaces. The multi-million dollar refurbishment includes new carpet, appliances, bedding, floor tiles, curtains and artwork, with guest rooms painted in cool hues of blue and fitted with new modern furnishings.



Hawaii's **The Grand Naniolo Hotel Hilo**, a DoubleTree by Hilton property, has opened following a US\$30 million upgrade to its facilities. The renovations see the property transform into a lodging "centred around the cultural tradition of hula".

Hula photographer Kim Taylor Reece curated the new-look, providing US\$4m worth of art to the property which is being displayed in rooms and public spaces.

**Space Center extras**

**THE** Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida has debuted a new attraction dubbed Heroes & Legends.

Designed to be the first stop upon entering the space center, Heroes & Legends will give visitors the opportunity to learn more about the historical events which have shaped modern-day space exploration.

The immersive exhibit features interactive displays and three distinct experiences.

**Bullet train lie-flats**

**A BULLET** train with fold-up beds is being developed in China to meet 24 hour demand.

Thirteen of the 16 carriages on two CRH5E trains will feature compartments equipped with both seats and beds.

Passengers will have access to wi-fi and will be able to charge their electronic devices with installed sockets & USB ports.

The trains are being designed by the CRRC Changchun Railway Vehicle Co in Changchun, China.

**Win a Variety Cruises experience**

This month Travel Daily, Variety Cruises and Discover the World are giving readers a chance to win a yacht cruise experience on the Glories of Spain and Portugal cruise, sailing on board *M/S Panorama II*. The total prize value is AU\$7,710.

To win, answer every daily question correctly and have the most creative final answer. Send your answers to [variety@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:variety@traveldaily.com.au)



TERMS AND CONDITIONS



12. Which Variety Cruises' itinerary visits Syros, Greece?

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- 2 night hotel stay in London
- 17 included tours in 5 countries
- Expert Guest Speakers
- Included gratuities & port fees

CABIN	PRICE FROM
Premium Outside cabin	\$13,450*
Deluxe Outside	\$15,950*
Deluxe Balcony	\$18,450*

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- Included gratuities & port fees

CABIN	PRICE FROM
Premium Inside Cabin	\$4,645*
Premium Outside Cabin	\$5,845*
Deluxe Outside	\$7,195*
Deluxe Balcony	\$8,245*

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\*TERMS & CONDITIONS: All fares shown are Australian Dollars, per person, based on twin occupancy and do not include bonus saving discount. Fares include pre and/or post hotel stays as detailed for each itinerary, gratuities & port taxes (correct as of 1 Nov 2016). Valid for sale to 15 Dec 2016 or unless sold out and for new bookings only. Existing bookings cannot transfer to the new offer. Cancelled bookings are subject to cancellation penalties as per the terms and conditions. All Cruise Tour & Fly Free offers are capacity controlled and can be withdrawn or modified at any time without notice. ^FLY FREE offer is subject to availability. Airfare is economy class and based on specific airlines, routing and class. Valid for flights to/from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane & Adelaide. +Bonus Savings are per person, twin share and are not included on the package fare shown and based on selected sailings and cabin categories. Sole occupancy cabins are not available on these offers. Pre & post hotel accommodation & transfers from airport/ port/hotel offered on dates specified on itinerary only, ask for details. Travel agent service fees not included. Voyages to Antiquity reserve the right to change, correct errors, withdraw from sale any or all fares, itineraries, excursions & fees. For full terms & conditions visit [www.voyagestoantiquity.com.au](http://www.voyagestoantiquity.com.au) or visit your local preferred Travel Agent.



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