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## TAA blasts QF/Airbnb pact

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**QANTAS** has defended its new alliance with Airbnb (*TD* yest), following outrage from Australia's accommodation industry which described the pact as a "slap in the face" to traditional partners.

The tie-up enables QF Frequent Flyer members to earn points at any of the 2.5 million worldwide accommodation listings from the online travel company's website.

Irked by the deal, Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) ceo Carol Giuseppi said Qantas should place greater value on the

#### Fly free to Europe

**UNIWORLD** is reminding agents of its fly free to Europe promotion when booking a 2017 cruise of 13 days or more before 31 Oct - see the **cover page** for more info.

#### Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news and photos, a front cover page for Uniworld plus full pages from: (click) • Consolidated/SQ promo

- AA Appointments jobs
- JITO networking night

importance of working with those who "contribute to the tourism industry and meet all their regulatory requirements".

"These unregulated short-term accommodation operators do not have in place the consumer safety & community amenity regulations and insurances that apply to regulated operators, nor do they pay the requisite fees and taxes," Giuseppi fumed.

"These online operators have morphed from their original idea of providing 'share' accommodation to becoming fully fledged commercial property organisations where no sharing is involved," she explained, urging tourism operators like Qantas to deal strictly with legitimate accommodation partners who "adhere to the same regulatory framework as they do".

A QF spokesperson challenged TAA's stance, telling **Travel Daily**: "Hotel bookings remain a very important part of what we offer, but we know Airbnb is something a lot of our customers like using and we think it's important to give them the choice".



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FLY DIRECT TO TOOWOOMBA

#### SkyTeam retro-credit

SKYTEAM has rolled out a new online, retroactive credit tool. designed to make it easier for frequent flyers to keep account balances up to date.

The tool avoids the need for manual processing of post-travel claims, including instances when a Frequent Flyer Program number is not added to a booking.

Working in real-time, the tool is already in use with most SkyTeam members on their websites.









## Virgin anti QF/PX c'share

VIRGIN Australia is warning the Australian Govt that a proposal by Oantas for unrestricted codeshare access on Air Niugini's flights to PNG will "significantly erode competition" on the route.

In a submission to the Int'l Air Services Commission on Fri, VA's group exec of govt relations Jane McKeon insisted the flagged pact will be to the detriment of the travelling public.

VA currently operates six weekly services on the Port Moresby route from Brisbane and is unlikely to increase its Australia-PNG routes if the proposed new QF/PX alliance gets the go ahead.

McKeon highlighted to the IASC that the total passenger numbers flying on the route has fallen in recent years under the alliance, "from around 315,000 in FY13 to under 300,000 in FY16".

Qantas and Air Niugini carried over 80% of passengers on the route (with VA the remainder), which is dominated by pax travelling for business purposes.

The VA exec also drew attention to Air Niugini exceeding its capacity entitlement on a number of occasions, under its partnership with Qantas, thereby "removing any incentive for the PNG Govt to negotiate with the Australian Govt to secure a larger capacity entitlement for PNG carriers under the air services agreement".

McKeon argued that on the Brisbane-Port Moresby route, which the carriers all operate on, QF/PX would effectively be able to provide a double-daily service, under the codeshare pact. "Over time, this could be expected to erode commercial

performance and threaten the viability of our flights.

"Should Virgin Australia be forced to withdraw, this would leave Qantas and Air Niugini as the only passenger service operators on routes between Australia and PNG, and free from any competitive constraint, it is likely that airfares would rise and service options would be reduced," McKeon said.

On the Sydney-Port Moresby city pairing - serviced only by Air Niugini - she also addressed concerns about the earmarked codeshare deal.

She said if approved, the pact would make it harder for another airline to mount a "competitive and sustainable alternative".

Further, McKeon added the tie-up between QF and PX would likely have a "negative effect" on Australia's aviation industry.

"Allowing Qantas and Air Niugini to increase their market power on the route through expanded code sharing will make it very difficult for Virgin Australia to win, or even retain, corporate business on the route," she said.

#### The Collette Chauffeur Collette is now included FREE on all 2017 bookings!

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#### CostSaver UK/Europe

BUILDING on the success of its inaugural program for the 2016 season. CostSaver - operated by Trafalgar, has unleashed its new Europe and Britain 2017 brochure, featuring four new journeys through Europe.

The new CostSaver UK/Britain program is comprised of 37 trips, passing through 33 countries, with prices starting from as low as \$130 per day.

The new options include a nineday Highlights of Sicily regional tour, eight-day Jewels of France, 11-day Highlights of Poland and nine-day Grecian Magic.

CostSaver is also offering an Edinburgh Tattoo option in 2017.

Trafalgar Australia md Matthew Cameron-Smith said the product, pitched at "value-conscious" travellers, has struck a chord with customers on a budget.

"CostSaver is all about value, ease and fun and with our expanded Europe and Britain offering and new North America trips, agents can find a CostSaver tour for any client, whether they are price conscious or looking for more independent exploration."

See costsaver.trafalgar.com.



brochure is available now on TIFS!



## We're HIRING **INStant** Sales & Key Account Managers

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### travelBulletin looks at big bucks

**THE** Oct 2016 edition of *travelBulletin* is out now, featuring our annual wrap-up of the salary packages earned by Australia's top travel and tourism executives.

The Million Dollar Club this year has seen a few significant changes - not least being the "recalibration" of salaries in the senior ranks at Helloworld.

Flight Centre ceo Graham Turner was far and away the biggest earner this year - courtesy of his huge shareholding in the company which paid a strong dividend.

The story also analyses the payments to senior staff at Corporate Travel Management, Webjet, Mantra, SeaLink & more.

The Oct issue of *travelBulletin* also includes features on South America, Singapore, Malaysia and rail travel, along with a focus on the rise of luxury product.

That's along with our regular

## travelBulletin



line-up of incisive commentary and analysis, plus there's an opportunity to win a trip for two to Austria courtesy of Emirates and the Austrian National Tourist Office - view the issue online at travelbulletin.com.au.

#### Collette US brochure

**COLLETTE** has unveiled a brand new US & Canada brochure complete with 31 classic tours, two explorations, four leisure stays and six spotlights.

Highlights of the program include the eight-day Charming French Canada tour; the eightday New England Charm itinerary and the 10-day America's Historic Hotels experience.

For more adventurous travellers wanting to delve into exotic wildlife encounters, Collette's US & Canada brochure also offers two small group exploration tours - Winter in Yellowstone & Newfoundland and the Labrador Discovery program.

For more info or to download the brochure, **CLICK HERE**.

#### Viv Tama's funeral

**THE** funeral for the late Vivian Tama will be held on 06 Oct (tomorrow), not 16 Oct, as mentioned in *TD* yesterday.



**WHY** skip the view while you're doing a number two?

A semi-transparent toilet has been erected in China's Changsha City at the Shiyan Lake Resort.

Touted as a "challenge to those who claim they aren't shy", the plop stop is made of all-glass and *CCTC News* is reporting while it has drawn lots of visitors, few have dared to try it for themselves.

A brave user is **pictured**.



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Wednesday 5th October 2016

#### CX's Queen of the Sky out to pasture



**CATHAY** Pacific has bid farewell to its final Boeing 747 "Queen of the Sky", which operated its last flight, CX543, from Tokyo Haneda to Hong Kong over the weekend.

CX's 747 is being retired in favour of more modern aircraft.

Isabelle Chu, managing partner, Bonaventure travel is **pictured** with Cathay staff pre-flight. MEANWHILE, Cathay Pacific and Dragonair yesterday upgraded their weekly deal promo, fanfares to include Business and Premium Economy class ticket options.

Fares will be updated every Tue at 8am, for the full list, head to cathaypacific.com/fanfares or dragonair.com/fanfares.



#### Tas Park visitor spike

**THE** Tasmanian Govt has revealed the number of visitors to the state who added a trip to a National Park has jumped 6% in the past two years to 39%.

"This is a significant boost to parks visitation and shows that our national parks are quickly becoming one of the State's most important visitor experiences," Minister Roger Jaensch said.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business, Trade and Red Tape Reduction also said a 23% spike in the number of licenced tourism operators was testament to a "strong, confident industry, that is exceptionally good at what it does and is attracting people to Tasmania from all over the world."

Jaensch added more can be done to support the industry to foster growth, saying he is keen to reduce red tape faced by operators in national parks, such as multiple overlapping permits, licences and approvals.



#### Nigeria email scam

**TRAVEL** agents are being urged to avoid an email scam requesting airline tickets to be issued on behalf of the "visually impaired Association" in Lagos, Nigeria.

The email from "Rev. Freddy Noble" seeks flights for travel in Oct from Lomé, Togo to São Paulo, Brazil with either "Ethiopian Airline and Turkish Airline".

"It is worth [sic] to help the Physically challenged because life is unpredictable", the email states.

The persistent scammer follows up the email with a direct phone call, Wall Street Travel md Ben Caplan told **Travel Daily**.

#### Concur sale complete

**CONCUR** has announced the completion of the acquisition of travel search and personalised travel planning tool for frequent travellers, Hipmunk (**TD** 15 Sep).

Under the deal, Hipmunk will continue to offer its metasearch products to consumers for free.





Wednesday 5th October 2016

#### **More G Adv options**

A WHOPPING 18 new trips have been added for 2017 to the National Geographic Journeys with G Adventures line-up, boosting the number of tours in the collection to 83.

New additions venture through Namibia, Japan, France and Canada and the United States.

A highlight is the 10-day Wonders of Nambia, which visits the global field research and education facility at the Cheetah Conservation Fund and features dinner and local entertainment in a family home.

Also new are the eight-day Paris & Normandy Highlights, 10-day Alaska Journey, 12-day Iconic Japan, six-day Canadian Polar Bear Experience.

Nat Geo tours are designed to focus on discovery, storytelling, local immersion and social good.

The new trips are now on sale and depart from Apr 2017.

For the full list of additions, see www.gadventures.com.au.

#### Dunedin 5-star hotel

**SURVEY** work for a five-star hotel in New Zealand's Dunedin will begin next week, the Dunedin City Council has confirmed.

The proposed site, the Filleul Street car park is near conference facilities and the city centre.

Stuff.co.nz is reporting the project has a budget between \$50m-\$70m and will stretch across 18 storeys with 200 rooms, 42 apartments and 10 suites.

#### Indonesia visits jump

**TOURIST** arrivals in Indonesia spiked a healthy 13% in Aug when compared with Aug 2015, cracking one million visitors for the month, govt stats reveal.

For the calendar year so far, a total of 7.36 million tourists have crossed the border, up 8% on the year prior.

Room occupancy for Aug reached an average of 55.21%, down 0.40 points on Aug 2015 while the average length of stay of foreigners at star-rated hotels during the month dropped 0.13 points to 1.8 days.

#### EY/kulula codeshare

**ETIHAD** Airways has inked a codeshare deal with South Africa low-cost carrier, kulula.com.

The pact expands EY customers' options to cities in South Africa including Cape Town, Durban, George and East London via Johannesburg and will see the EY code placed on kulula's flights between Johannesburg and certain coastal cities. Services are on sale now, for

travel from 30 Oct.

#### **Centennial Park visit**

SYDNEY Explorer Bus now calls in at Centennial Parklands on its Bondi Beach and Harbour Bays Explorer tour.

The new stop is on Oxford Street, opposite Centennial Park's Paddington Gates. For more, **CLICK HERE**.

#### MORE FLIGHTS, MORE DESTINATIONS AND MORE CONNECTING OPTIONS





TRAVELPORT has taken out Best GDS at the TTG Travel Awards 2016 for the eighth consecutive year and Best Technology Supplier at the Travel Agents Association of New Zealand's (TAANZ) National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) 2016.

Mark Meehan, md Asia-Pacific, Travelport, thanked customers and partners across the region and said the awards "are a testament of our commitment in

#### SuperShuttle hotels

**POPULAR** airport to hotel transfer operator SuperShuttle is now enabling customers to make group or individual hotel bookings in over 80 destinations in the United States and abroad.

Guests making reservations online or via the SuperShuttle App for travel up until 20 Nov will save 12% using the discount code of '12OFF'.

view jito

redefining travel commerce with our leading solutions". **Pictured** are: Kaylene Shuttlewood, gm Pacific, Travelport and Wendy Stanton, commercial manager for New Zealand with the Travelport team at the TAANZ National Travel Industry Awards 2016 ceremony.

#### **DFAT US hurricane**

HURRICANE Matthew could impact the south-eastern US states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia between 06-09 Oct and States of Emergency have been declared as a precaution, US authorities are warning.

Smartraveller has advised Australians in the affected area to monitor media, follow the advice of local authorities and obtain regular updates on the United States National Hurricane Center's website.

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Wednesday 5th October 2016

#### **Globus Golf Day tees off**



**MORE** than 120 participants from across Australia and New Zealand gathered at the Pymble Golf Course in St Ives last week for the annual Globus Golf Day.

An impressive hole-in-one was scored on the day by Emirates divisional vp Australasia Barry Brown, however bragging rights went to the eventual winners Darren Perry from Globus; Robert Kirk from italktravel; Derek Kirk of Fine Travel and Michael Gannon from Precision Golf Chatswood.

**Pictured** celebrating their win (from left) are: Darren Perry, groups bdm; Michael Gannon,

#### **QF** Colombo waiver

**QANTAS** customers affected by runway works at Colombo Airport can rebook on a service within 24-hours of the original flight between Singapore and Colombo to another with the GF code operated by Sri Lankan Airlines.

Bandaranaike Int'l Airport (CMB) is undergoing development to increase its capacity from 6 million pax per year to 15 million.

An additional finger pier and a two tier passenger terminal with arrivals and departures physically separated will be constructed in two stages, with stage one slated for completion early 2017.

The waiver applies to pax with a valid ticket issued on or before 18 Aug for travel 06 Jan-10 Apr 2017. Use authority number 444742. For more info, **CLICK HERE**. Precision Golf Chatswood; Derek Kirk, director, Fine Travel; Robert Kirk, manager, italktravel and Stewart Williams, managing director Globus.

#### **Meriton most rooms**

**MERITON** Serviced Apartments has reached a new milestone this month by becoming the largest owner of hotel rooms in Australia.

The company reports it has taken the top spot following the opening of 254 new suites on Church Street in Parramatta, which saw its portfolio rise to a total of 4,403 suites in Sydney, Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

The business has overtaken the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (AIDA), who bought the Tourism Asset Holdings Portfolio in 2013, and currently holds 4,096 rooms.

#### NT fish comp lures

**TWO** prized Barramundi worth \$10,000 each have been captured by fishermen competing in season two of Tourism NT's Million Dollar Fish competition in the Northern Territory.

The two fish were caught less than 24-hours apart this week, just days after the contest began on 01 Oct.

CrownBet chief executive officer and event sponsor Matt Tripp said he was delighted to see a fish get caught so early.

"What a start to season two of the Million Dollar Fish," he said.

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## Accommodation Updates

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



The historic Ankara Motel on Miami Beach has been revitalised and transformed into **The Gates Hotel South Beach - a DoubleTree by Hilton**. The lodging retains some of its original art deco elements such as the brick walls of the hotel wing, however a

modern translucent staircase has been added to the atrium. The suites have received a fresh lick of paint and now boast a vibrant colour scheme and upscale in-room features.



Harrah's Las Vegas has unveiled its refurbished tower complete with remodelled guest rooms styled with warm tones of grey and purple accents. A modern vanity with backlighting has also been added to every room. Bathrooms within the suites have

been upgraded to now include a whirlpool tub.



Ames Boston Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton has undergone a multimillion dollar renovation. The transformation includes a revamped entry plus a brand-new library which serves as a communal workspace for guests. Much of the hotel's original features

have been preserved such as the lobby's tiled mosaic arched ceiling and marble staircase.

#### **Hilton Lagos Airport**

**HILTON** Lagos Airport Hotel will open in Nigeria in 2021.

Situated within Ikeja, the capital of Lagos state, the 350-room property will offer multiple food and beverage outlets; a rooftop cocktail bar; spa and gym.

#### **Turkey emergency**

**THE** state of emergency in Turkey, which was first enacted in Jul following an attempted coup, has been extended for another three months.

Turkey's Foreign and Commonwealth office assured tourists that they will not be impacted by the extension.

"[Tourists] should co-operate with officials conducting checks, and keep your passport and a printed copy of your e-visa or your residence permit with you at all times," the govt body said.

#### Europcar exec shuffle

**EUROPCAR** has reorganised its Management Board to optimise the roll out of its strategy.

The new roles are as follow: Jean-Claude Poupard, chief financial officer; Raoul Colantoni, md, Europcar Italy; Gary Smith, md, Europcar UK; Franck Rohard, group general secretary; Phillipe Germond, ceo; Caroline Parot, deputy ceo; Kenneth McCall, deputy ceo, countries and operations; Fabrizio Ruggeiero, deputy ceo, sales, marketing, customers & InterRent.

#### LOT to Newark

**LOT** Polish Airlines will commence thrice weekly services between Newark Liberty International Airport and Warsaw from 28 Apr, with a fourth weekly flight to roll out in Jun 2017. Tickets are now on sale.

#### IATA safety summit

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) will hold a conference in Abu Dhabi later this month focussed around advancing safety management.

Themed "A Decade in Review and the Vision Forward," the event will be held from 25-27 Oct.

Aviation and safety experts will share the knowledge they have accumulated over the decade since the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) safety management standards and practices were introduced.

"This conference is a unique opportunity to facilitate the sharing of experiences from the first decade of Safety Management - successes and challenges," IATA's senior vp for safety & flight operations Gilberto López Meyer commented.

#### Jetstar Asia Sanya

JETSTAR Asia launched its inaugural flight from Singapore to Sanya, China yesterday.

The new return route is serviced by 180-seat Airbus A320 aircraft each Tue and Sat.

#### Sydney to host CAPA

SYDNEY is set to play host to the region's largest strategic aviation and travel industry event, CAPA Australia Pacific Aviation Summit 2017.

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events Stuart Ayres said the event, to be held 01 & 02 Aug at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth Hotel, would showcase Sydney to the world.

"Delegates will be able to experience first-hand why Sydney is the premier destination for convention and exhibition business, with iconic attractions & luxury accommodation," he said.

#### Longitude Arts deal

LUXURY Uluru desert camp Longitude 131° has expanded its partnership with Ernabella Arts.

The new pact will provide an extra \$100,000 over the next two years and offer broader support to the Ernabella artists and their community.

At the centre of the agreement is the funding of an education program designed to provide ceramics training.



This month, Travel Daily and Vanuatu Tourism Office, Air Vanuatu and Tamanu on the Beach are giving readers the chance to win a trip to Vanuatu including:

- Five (5) nights run of house accommodation at the newly reopened Tamanu on the Beach including daily a-la-carte breakfast
- Return transfers courtesy of Tamanu on the Beach
- Two complimentary return economy class tickets on Air Vanuatu from Sydney or Brisbane to Port Vila.

To win, answer each daily question correctly and have the most creative final answer. Send your entries to vanuatucomp@traveldaily.com.au



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**AMEX/ KDS pact** 

**AMEX** Global Business Travel has closed its acquisition of KDS, a global provider of integrated travel technology, headquartered in France.



#### italktravel a Hunter favourite



**ITALKTRAVEL** Newcastle's network of stores were voted as finalists in the Hunter Local Business awards.

Owner of the italktravel Maitland, Newcastle West, The Junction and Rutherford stores Mark van Huisstede said he and his team were "extremely proud" of being a finalists.

"All four offices to be nominated and voted by the local community is fantastic," he said.

"Being the first four italktravel offices in Australia has been the

#### Hyatt Regency LAX

THE Concourse Hotel at Los Angeles Airport has rebranded as Hyatt Regency Los Angeles International Airport.

As part of the transition the 580-key hotel is undergoing an extensive \$75 million renovation, set to be complete by 01 Jan.

The hotel features 50,000 square feet of meeting space and quadruple-pane windows.

#### SYD property auction

**SYDNEY** Airport's annual Lost Property Auction will run online at www.pickles.com.au from Tue 11 Oct to Thu 20 Oct, with all proceeds going to charity.

best decision we have made, giving us flexibility in supporting the community and promoting in our local areas has been key to our success".

Pictured at the awards ceremony are Julia van Huisstede, Mark van Huisstede and Karen van Huisstede.

#### Enterprise expands

THE Enterprise Rent-A-Car has this month expanded to Argentina, Paraguay and Curacao.

New locations include airports in Bariloche, Buenos Aires and Mendoza in Argentina; Asunción in Paraguay and Willemstad in Curacao.

Additional locations are also being planned for the three Latin America countries.

#### Scenic on Getaway

SCENIC'S Russian river cruise will feature on upcoming episodes of Nine Network's travel program Getaway.

Tune in on Sat 08, 15 and 22 Oct to see Catriona Rowntree's luxury Scenic river cruise along the Volga and Svir rivers on board Scenic Tsar from Moscow to St Petersburg, exploring Russia's unique towns and cities.

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Air Vanuatu



Consolidated Travel and Singapore Airlines are giving you the opportunity to win 1 of 10 premium experiences simply by selling Singapore Airlines between 26 September to 09 October 2016

**1 Economy ticket to Europe** (1 leg upgraded to Premium Economy) Awarded to the top agent with the highest sales in each state (total of 5 tickets to be won)

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This global tour operator family is looking for an airfares expert to assist travel agents and colleagues construct detailed fare itineraries. Utilise your product knowledge across the brand to assist the reservations team book new and amend existing packages. Their modern office is centrally located and their self-motivated team is rewarded with incentives & travel vouchers. If you have fares, ticketing, reservations and solid GDS skills, watch your career take off by being the go-to airfares guru!

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Are you sick of working every weekend but love being in the travel industry? Want to earn a great salary & enjoy work/life balance? Come join this leading travel company where you can get away from that face to face consulting and book great itineraries to a variety of destinations worldwide. An above industry salary along with a top incentive program, travel discounts & educationals is on offer. If you have 2 years' travel consulting exp., GDS & top customer service & sales skills, we want to hear from you!

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