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QF Mad Paws tie-up

QANTAS has partnered with pet minding service Mad Paws to help customers find a local sitter to mind their furry family member while they're away.

From today, Qantas Frequent Flyer members will earn one Qantas Point per dollar when they make a booking with Mad Paws or a flat rate of 500 points if they are a new Mad Paws customer & book via qantas.com.

Pet services on offer include pet hosting (away from home) and pet sitting (at pet's home) as well as pet day care, house visits, dog walking and grooming.

The partnership is part of QF's plan to partner with early stage companies to accelerate growth.

SilkAir MAX plan

SILKAIR will bring the Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft to Australia from Jan, GDS displays indicate.

Darwin to Singapore flights will be the first to see new jet on five flights a week from 07 Jan.

Singapore-Cairns flights will see the MAX 8 enter service a day later on 08 Jan.

MI's MAX 8 has 158 seats.

Richards joins Wendy Wu

WENDY Wu Tours has appointed Best Western executive Steve Richards to lead its Australian operations, taking over from previous general manager Andrew Mulholland whose departure was revealed last month (**TD** 21 Nov).

Until now the head of commercial at Best Western Australasia, Richards will join Wendy Wu's Sydney office and report directly to London-based group ceo Joe Karbo.

"I am very excited to welcome Steve to lead Wendy Wu in Australia," said Karbo.

"His track record of growth is exceptional, and with Steve at the helm I anticipate even stronger relationships with our trade partners, driving revenues through both consortia and independent retail agents," he said.

Richards has 16 years' experience

in the travel industry, including roles as gm of sales and marketing at Best Western, state sales manager NSW/ACT at AAT Kings and national sales manager at The Travel Corporation's then stand-alone brand Inspiring Journeys.

Richards said it was an exciting time to be joining Wendy Wu.

"The company has gone through rapid transformation over the past few years," he said.

"The focus has been on technological improvements and enhancing our digital presence..."

"Our strong relationship with trade partners is a key strategy in getting us to even greater heights."

Virgin LAX shuffle

VIRGIN Australia has issued a commercial policy for passengers impacted by cancelled or rescheduled services between Australia and Los Angeles from 06 May to 20 May due to planned maintenance of its 777 fleet.

Affected bookings will be reflected in the GDS tomorrow, with some pax re-accommodated on alternative services via SYD, BNE or MEL - full details **HERE**.

Inbound records fall

AUSTRALIA'S inbound tourism industry has broken a succession of records, with visitor numbers and spending at new highs.

The latest International Visitor Survey for the year to Sep shows overseas arrivals hit 8 million for the first time, up 7% on the previous year.

Spending reached \$41.2 billion, up 6%, while visitor nights peaked at 268 million, up 7%.

China had the strongest growth of 12%, with visitors reaching 1.2 million, while the US increased 10% to 712,000 and Japan increased 8% to 396,000.

Growth in spending was led by Asian markets, with India, Thailand, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Japan the strongest.

Spending by Chinese visitors increased 13% to hit \$10.3 billion.

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Steve Ciobo said the 2017 China-Australia Year of Tourism had helped boost Chinese visitor spending.

"This will continue to grow with eight new aviation routes between China and Australia planned for the next 12 months," Ciobo said.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news, including a photo page from **SmartFlyer** Australia plus full pages from:

- inPlace Recruitment
- Banff Lake product page

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Mariani VTIC ceo

ONE-TIME Australian Tourism Export Council md Felicia Mariani has been named as the new chief executive of the Victoria Tourism Industry Council.

Mariani will step into the role in mid-Jan, replacing outgoing VTIC boss Brad Ostermeyer who held the position over the past year.

In addition to being the former ATEC md four years ago, Mariani held exec and senior management roles at Tourism Victoria and Tourism Tasmania, most recently as ceo of The Good Foundation and Jamie's Ministry of Food.

Victoria Tourism Industry Council chair Charles Davidson said he was "excited to have secured such a committed and passionate ceo to take the helm as we enter an election year".

Victoria Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief Mark Stone AM said he had no doubt that Mariani's "excellent reputation" in govt, private and not-for-profit organisations would benefit VTIC.

CA Beijing-Brisbane start

AIR China yesterday inaugurated its newest international route to Australia with the debut of nonstop flights between Beijing and Brisbane, complementing routes to Sydney and Melbourne.

The route is seen by Brisbane Airport Corp (BAC) as a "critical link" between Queensland's international gateway city and the capital of China.

Operating four times weekly and utilising 237-seat dual-class Airbus A330-200s, the new city pairing comes as Brisbane welcomed a 9% growth increase in traffic in financial year 2017.

China is currently BNE's second largest market, with around

350,000 Chinese pax travelling through the airport last FY, BAC ceo and md Julieanne Alroe said.

"These direct Air China flights will help grow this important market which will have flow on benefits for every sector of our economy, from business and investment to tourism, trade and education," Alroe added.

Air China general manager Australia Rui Jei said the service provided Queenslanders with increased connections through CA's "strong extensive network in China and internationally to Europe, North America and major cities in Asia".

The route's development has been supported by Brisbane Marketing, Gold Coast Tourism, Tourism Events Queensland, Tourism Whitsundays, Tourism Australia and other organisations.

Etihad add on costs

ETIHAD Airways has introduced a selection of in-flight products available for purchase as part of a plan to provide more choice for guests in Economy class.

The items are available for purchase on a selected number of routes to and from Abu Dhabi, including Australia flights.

The new selection includes Christian Lacroix amenity kits with a range of skincare projects, cotton pyjamas, Piper-Heidsieck Cuvee Brut NV champagne; Coffee Planet cold brew coffee; and tasty snack boxes.

Coffee prices on Australian flights start at US\$4, Champagne will be sold for US\$8 a glass, pyjamas will set pax back US\$35 and amenity kits will costs US\$22.

The items available are in addition to the complimentary in-flight service.

Banff for Christmas

TODAY'S Banff & Lake Louise Tourism product profile is focused on planning a white Christmas in Banff National Park in 2018.

See the **back page** for details.

New ARM terminal

ARMIDALE in regional NSW has a new airport terminal following the \$10.5 million expansion of the facility, revealed yesterday.

The new terminal features a cafe, retail area, new baggage carousel and additional seating.

Upgrade work at ARM also now enables larger 74-seat aircraft to be accommodated at the airport, up from the previous 50-seat turbo-props.

The project was funded by the Australian Govt (\$3.5m), NSW Govt (\$6.55m) and Armidale Regional Council (\$2.83m).

Crystalbrook Cairns

AUSTRALIAN tourism and hospitality group Crystalbrook Collection yesterday announced its intention to develop a fourth site in Cairns, complementing its \$700m tourism investments within the country.

The proposal will include commercial facilities, a multi-level residence and a 3.5-star hotel.

Located near The Esplanade, the site will occupy prime real estate between Grafton St and Lake St in the Cairns CBD.

Crystalbrook hopes to start construction in late 2018, with a finish date yet to be determined.

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Longer Mantra res hours

MANTRA Group has extended its trading hours, converting its Surfers Paradise-based res centre to a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week operation to cater for increased demand.

Mantra Grp gm reservations centre Anton Derham said the hotelier had witnessed significant growth in booking enquiries from customers, corporates and trade clients, including a 10% rise in call volumes during 2017.

"We now have approximately 90 team members who work here on the Gold Coast, to ensure our

reservations centre is staffed... so it doesn't matter if you can't book your next holiday during the normal 9-5 hours, now you can book with us whenever suits you best," Derham commented.

The reservations centre takes national and international phone and email enquiries for all Mantra Group brands - Mantra, Peppers, BreakFree & the Art Series Hotels.

Call 1300 987 603 or email a request via mantrahotels.com.

HA discount fare

HAWAIIAN Airlines is offering one-way fares from Brisbane to Honolulu priced from \$325 for departures between 01-08 Jan.

The promotion, running from now until 28 Dec, also includes a \$375 one way airfare from BNE to Maui, Kona, Hilo, Lihue, Lanai, Molokai and Kapalua.

Contact Aviation Online for more details - 1300 661 339.

Sri Lanka fly free

ABERCROMBIE & Kent is offering free Economy class flights to Colombo (ex Melbourne) with SriLankan Airlines when booking its 11-day Cultural Sri Lanka tour before 31 Jan.

The deal applies to departures before 31 Oct 2018.

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NT chasing China

ATTRACTING direct flights from China is among a range of initiatives underway by the Northern Territory Government to attract more int'l visitors to regions across the Territory.

Speaking from Singapore, NT Minister for Tourism and Culture, Lauren Moss said there had been positive talks with a number of int'l airline partners about driving international visitation through Singapore to Darwin and the NT.

Moss said the push for direct Chinese flights was supported by a range of other measures to grow international visitation.

Airtrain upgrade

QUEENSLAND Rail has debuted its New Generation Rollingstock (NGR) trains to the Gold Coast and Brisbane Airport line to meet higher pax demand ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Apr.

Trains feature more legroom and larger windows.



Window Seat

IN AN industry where it pays to have friends in high places, we can't help but admire the circles in which Mobile Travel Agents boss Don Beattie moves.

The MTA ceo is **pictured** below on the shoulder of the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, where he attended a recent Belmond Travel Agency Advisory Board meeting.

We're still unsure what strings he pulled, but the rare privilege put him in a commanding position 710m above the city.



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Melb tops for hols

MORE Australians would prefer to holiday in Melbourne in 2017 than any other domestic capital city, according to Roy Morgan's latest Holiday Tracking Survey on desired vacation destinations.

Over 4.25 million Aussies said they would like to visit Melbourne, down from 4.5 million in 2015.

Coming in second place was Sydney with just under 2.4 million would-be visitors in 2017, down a fraction from 2.5 million in 2015.

Brisbane, with 1.707m potential visitors, was overtaken for third place by Hobart at 1.741m - up a massive 8.7% on the 2015 result.

Roy Morgan ceo Michelle Levine said Hobart's "increasing allure" was fuelled over the past two years by interest from Gen Y, Gen X and the Baby Boomers.

Next up were Canberra (1.49m), Perth (1.41m), Adelaide (1.31m) and Darwin (1.13m), the latter of which was down 4.5% on two years earlier.

Bahamas air deal

THE Bahamas has inked an air services agreement with Australia during the 10th International Civil Aviation Organisation's Air Services Negotiation event in Colombo, Sri Lanka last week.

The air arrangement enables commercial airlines to operate between both countries.

Australia is the 11th country the Bahamas has forged an air services agreement with, joining the likes of Singapore, Brazil, the UAE, Kuwait, Turkey, NZ, Curacao and also as of last week, Qatar and Finland.

AA LGA TB move

AMERICAN Airlines is offering customers an improved experience at New York's LaGuardia Airport, after consolidating all flights to operate from Terminal B.

The change sees AA utilise all four concourses at the terminal, relocating some operations from the former Terminal C.

Flighties discover the Cooks



COOK Islands Tourism recently invited eight Flight Centre Travel Group agents from New South Wales to explore the South Pacific destination on a famil to both Rarotonga and Aitutaki.

Participants were able to sample a range of activities in both destinations, experience the warm hospitality of the islands' people, complete a number of site inspections and enjoy some of the Cook Islands' fresh fare.

The group is **pictured** on Aitutaki's lagoon on the Vaka Cruise and include (back row from left): Kylie Ellis, Flight Centre Kotara; Luke Jones, Flight Centre

George St; Naomi Brown, Escape Travel Tuggerah; Erin Harris, Flight Centre Kareela; Lisa Cottrell, Flight Centre Shellharbour and Grace Cotterill, Flight Centre MLC.

In front is Mo Hosea, Cook Islands Tourism sales ambassador; Daina Pace, Flight Centre MacArthur Square and Cameron Bond, Flight Centre Hornsby.

UA mulls ExpressJet

UNITED Airlines is reportedly considering acquiring a stake in US regional carrier ExpressJet as part of a move to strengthen its domestic network.

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DOT removes fee transparency law

THE US Department of Transportation (DOT) has withdrawn plans which would have required airlines to disclose fees for baggage and other extras to online travel booking sites.

The regulation had been pending since 2014 and would have affected flights sold via sites including Expedia and Priceline.

Its withdrawal has prompted criticism from consumer groups including FlyersRights.org which said it would make price comparisons more difficult.

"This is not how you make air travel great again," said the organisation's pres Paul Hudson.

"Airlines are already exempt from all state and local consumer protection, much antitrust law, most other federal regulations and tort law.

"Only Congress and the federal courts can now override this unfortunate DOT decision."

Travelport hotel billback solution

TRAVELPORT and financial technology company Conferma have extended their commercial partnership to Australia and New Zealand, providing what they say will be a more streamlined processes for managing hotel payments for corporate travellers.

The agreement combines Travelport Smartpoint point-of-sale technology with Conferma's hotel billback systems using Virtual Card Numbers (VCN).

The combination will allow travel management companies to centrally settle hotel bookings using a Conferma VCN, which the companies say will provide enhanced automation and improved security.

"It gives TMCs in Australia and NZ the opportunity to increase efficiency when managing payments to providers, by using virtual cards," said Travelport senior vp Niklas Andreen.

In the land of fire and water



JAPAN'S southern island of Kyushu provided plenty of inspiration for this group of Australian travel agents on a recent famil.

Hosted by the Japan National Tourism Organisation, the group was the second of two involving top-scoring agents in the Japan E-Learning program, who were able to explore the "land of fire and water".

The agents stayed in a traditional ryokan (Japanese-style inn) in Kagoshima and experienced the therapeutic benefits of sunaburo, a heated volcanic sand bath.

In Kumamoto, they visited the ancient samurai district of Chiran and one of Japan's best loved

historic sites, Kumamoto Castle.

Their tour ended in the island's transport hub and largest city, Fukuoka, where they enjoyed a punt cruise down the Yanagawa River and admired the late autumn colours.

They also shopped at department stores in Tenjin and explored the Christmas Markets.

Pictured dining at an Izakaya (Japanese pub/restaurant) are, from left, Tanya Whitehurst, Cruiseabout; Emma Edge, Helloworld Travel; Justine Frost, Helloworld Travel; Yuri Cherniavsky, Travel Partners; Catherine Grindley, italktravel; Rachael Atkins, TravelManagers; Nicky O'Rafferty, Escape Travel; and Kiah Murphy, Flight Centre.


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New NT products

TOURISM NT is pushing several new activities and initiatives for travellers to the Red Centre.

Australian Walking Holidays new walking tour, Classic Larapinta Trek in Comfort, is a six-day walk across the high ridge lines of the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell Ranges led by an experienced guide, and is priced from \$2,495ppts.

A new \$1.5m NT Govt initiative will see eight-million-year-old bones from the Alcoota fossil bed showcased in the Red Centre as part of an interactive exhibition.

Alice Springs Expeditions has launched personalised four-wheel drive tours with a focus on remote and lesser known areas in the region including Finke Gorge, East MacDonnell Ranges and the Simpson Desert.

The one-day Finke River expedition tour costs \$380 per adult, with two- and three-day options extending out to Ntaria (also known as Hermannsburg).

Eastern Euro surge

BEYOND Travel has redesigned its Eastern Europe product to meet a growing trend of travel to more off-the-beaten-track countries by travellers.

The brochure features a more comprehensive selection of suggested tailor-made holidays in countries such as Bulgaria, Romania and Poland.

Beyond Travel gm marketing and sales Bryce Crampton said the operator's tailor-made itineraries such as rail tours continued to see strong growth and receive positive feedback from agents.

The brochure also features a selection of new bonus sight-seeing tours on a range of tailor-made tours including walking tours in Germany and afternoon river cruises in Prague.

Also on offer are Discover More Travel Vouchers worth up to \$400 per couple on selected escorted tours in 2018, including the 12-day Baltics Impressions tour.

GTA talks Hotelbeds



GTA brought together some of Australia's top hoteliers this month for a high-level briefing on its strategic plans for 2018 and news of the company joining Hotelbeds Group.

The company's vp hotel sourcing APMEA Andrew Hughes told the gathering at Hyatt Regency Sydney that becoming part of Hotelbeds Group and Tourico Holidays would benefit hotel partners by helping simplify a complex distribution environment.

"It is about bringing together three companies with complementary strengths in terms of distribution," he said.

"This news will also enable us to combine resources in order to develop an enhanced range of services, products and technology solutions that will be of value to our hotel partners."

While the integration of GTA and Tourico Holidays into Hotelbeds Group has gotten into full swing, Hughes told hotel partners that the process would take time.

Pictured at Hyatt Regency Sydney are: Nicole Watson, Nicholas Hawksley, Kevin Looney, Chris Baltussen, Andrew Hughes, Philip Hancock, Alex Leslie, and Teagan Greentree.

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Tuesday 12th December 2017

HLO agents taste Hong Kong



HELLOWORLD Travel and affiliated agents were recently thanked for their ongoing support this year at two "Appreciation Yum Cha" events, hosted by Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) and

Cathay Pacific Airways.

The group of agents from across NSW enjoyed a Chinese banquet at Sky Phoenix Chinese Restaurant & Star Capital Seafood Restaurant, before being updated on new developments and events planned for Hong Kong in 2018 and the benefits of the latest marketing campaign, Hong Kong Great Outdoors, which was launched earlier in the month.

"Travel trade agents are our frontline when it comes to promoting Hong Kong, so we want to make sure they feel rewarded and valued...whilst also sharing a taste of the Hong Kong dining experience," said Lisa Lee, HKTb manager, trade marketing and business tourism Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific.

Agents wanting better knowledge of the city are encouraged to register for the Hong Kong Specialist Club by **CLICKING HERE** and completing an online training program.

Pictured are Anthony Mancuso, CCM Travel; Kathleen Dood, Hong Kong Tourism Board; Alison Garland, Journeys Unlimited; Tom Kennedy, Cathay Pacific Airways; Back row (seated L-R): Jason Cooley, Helloworld St Ives; Jackelyn Barbuto, CCM Travel; Sally Waller and Debbie Lane from Time Fly's Travel & Deborah Moffit, Northshore Travel.

Front row from left is Roslyn Lee, Cathay Pacific Airways; Neil Pickup, Ovation Travel & Cruise and Vivienne Zaarour from Northshore Travel.

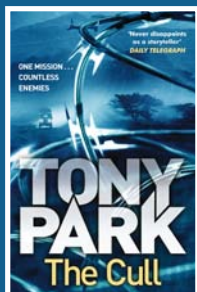
Win The Cull by Tony Park

This week Travel Daily and Swagman Tours is giving five lucky readers the chance to win *The Cull* by Tony Park.

British business tycoon Julianne Clyde-Smith will do anything to save Africa's endangered wildlife, including setting up an elite anti-poaching squad. Hiring Sonja Kurtz to head up the covert strike force, Julianne gives the former mercenary whatever she needs to take down Africa's poaching kingpins. It becomes harder for Sonja and her team to stay under the radar, and apparent that a shadowy underworld syndicate known as the Scorpions are pulling the strings behind Africa's poaching epidemic. And the Scorpions are intent on taking out the women who stand in their way.

To win, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below to: tonypark@traveldaily.com.au

What is the name of the former mercenary in the new book?



From AFTA's chief executive, Jayson Westbury



AS PREDICTED by all of the experts, terrorism respects no time of year, no man or woman, no location.

The event in New York overnight is an unfortunate reminder of the world that we "still" live in.

While the failed bomb attempt, an act of terrorism according to police statements, has resulted in a small impact on a large city, with only three injuries reported, the fact remains that some people in this world still want to use terror as a weapon.

Having been to New York myself so many times, I can just imagine the hustle and bustle on 42nd and 8th Avenue in western Manhattan when this explosion went off. It is a city that is always on, always busy and always moving, but when things like this happen, especially for locals who can remember the dreadful day all those years ago, it is really terrifying.

Fortunately, this terrorist was not the smartest cat and from reports his injuries to himself are the worst of all. It is a shame even that does not teach these people a lesson, but nevertheless the New York police and authorities who are on constant alert appear to have leapt into action and settled the city quickly.

Unfortunately for New York, this is the second terror attack in just a couple of months with the previous act sadly killing some eight people. Like all global cities, New York will always be full of the locals, but also so many tourists.

As we have become more and more accustomed to terror attacks, the risks appear to be balanced with the will of the people to carry on with their everyday life and live it to the fullest. Sad days for New York, but we will and must go on.

On a lighter and final note, I wish all those attending Travel League in Melbourne tomorrow the very best of good times and laughs and I am sure plenty of new friendships are bound to be made at the event, which stops the "travel" industry for just a few hours, and celebrates all the great things that we can do together as an industry.

To all those attending, enjoy!

Six Senses Brazil

LUXURY hotel brand Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas has revealed it will be adding a Brazilian location to its property portfolio.

Six Senses Formosa Bay is slated to open in 2021 and will feature attractions such as sailing, line fishing, paddling, kayaking and stand-up boarding nearby.

The design plans incorporate 73 one-, two- and three-bedroom Pool Villas, 54 two- and three-bedroom Family Villas and 58 three-, four- and five-bedroom Six Senses Residences.

Life of an aquarist

THE Cairns Aquarium is now offering behind-the-scenes tours several times per day for \$10pp.

The 20 minute walk around takes people through the 'life of an aquarist', explaining all of the important duties that staff need to carry out in order for the sea life to live a happy life at the marine attraction.

Visitors can book & pay for the new tour on arrival.

Alitalia bag policy

ALITALIA has issued a new luggage policy on its light fare from Tel Aviv to Athens with pax now required to pay US\$30 one way (US\$50 for one way purchased from the airport).

The airline has also increased its baggage allowance on its flights between Nairobi and Europe/North Africa/Middle East from a one 23kg bag allowance to two 23kg bags per trip.

Ryanair GDS rift

IRISH low-cost carrier Ryanair has signalled intentions to cease its partnership with global distribution system provider Amadeus from 15 Dec.

The two companies will part ways after failing to reach a new commercial agreement, ending a three-year collaboration.

Ryanair will continue to service travel agents through the Travelport and Sabre platforms with the airline quick to stress to customers that its low cost fares will be unaffected by the decision.

SmartFlyer Australia pop up office

THIS month, leading travel network SmartFlyer Australia curated the first of a series of pop up office spaces to bring together its independent travel advisors. Held in North Sydney, the pop up served as an information sharing initiative where colleagues met face-to-face to strategise.

SmartFlyer Australia, part of The Goldman Travel Group, is a full-service network comprised of a team of 35 experienced advisors who are home-based and specialise in luxury travel experiences. Up until this month, the network has operated without an office space.

Anthony Goldman, Joint Managing Director of Goldman Group said: "There is a growing trend towards travel advisors wanting to work remotely and on their own terms.

"SmartFlyer Australia - backed by the Goldman Group's 35 years of industry expertise, connections and buying power - enables trusted travel experts to service their clientele from the comfort of their home."

Goldman says the demand for the use of travel agencies such as SmartFlyer Australia resulted in the company's revenue being tripled in the last 12 months.

With a current annual turnover at around \$15 million and growing fast, SmartFlyer Australia expects this growth to continue and will launch pop up offices in Melbourne and Sydney in 2018.



FROM left: Anthony Goldman, Salli Anderson and Brent Wallace.



MEMBERS of the SmartFlyer Australia team come together to discuss strategy and ideas at the pop up office space in North Sydney.



SMARTFLYER Australia's pop up board room. Team members come together to receive the latest product news from suppliers.



FROM left: Stuart Reay, Gloria Gammo & Marianne Guberina.



ANTHONY Goldman and Gloria Gammo chatting about what 2018 looks like for SmartFlyer Australia.

Travel Daily

Tuesday 12th December 2017

Tru Las Vegas

TRU by Hilton Las Vegas Airport has recently opened its doors, boasting a close proximity to the iconic Las Vegas strip.

The new 166-room property managed by Prism Hotels & Resorts represents Hilton's eighth US hotel and its largest location.

Tru by Hilton Las Vegas Airport targets the mid-scale segment.

Azul, TK codeshare

AZUL Brazilian Airlines and Turkish Airlines have signed a codeshare agreement that will see TK add its flight code to Azul domestic flights via Sao Paulo to destinations like Rio and Cuiaba.

Rayavadee special

SOUTHERN Thailand resort Rayavadee in Krabi is offering a 25% off special for visitors across all room categories from 19-27 Dec 2017 inclusive.

For further information on the deal, send bookings or enquiries to reservation@rayavadee.com.

DNQ appointment

DESTINATION Queenstown has appointed Canadian Kiran Nambiar to the newly created position of business development director, effective 08 Jan.

The role will see Nambiar also take on the title of director of Queenstown Convention Bureau.

Win with Air Canada

With Air Canada now flying to Vancouver non-stop from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne it's clear Australian travellers have fallen in love with Canada's beautiful west coast city. If you'd like to know what all the fuss is about, then here's your chance.

Air Canada and Travel Daily are giving away two Economy Class tickets to Vancouver - North America's most convenient gateway to Canada and the USA.

All you need to do is create a fun photo featuring Air Canada and showing how much you love Canada and send it to aircanada@traveldaily.com.au before 31 Dec.



AIR CANADA



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Thumbs up for BESC strategy



BUSINESS Events Sunshine Coast (BESC) showcased its new Signature Experiences Guide last week to a group of Indian buyers following this year's Dreamtime event held in Brisbane.

Also highlighted to the Indian delegates were BESC's Business Events Assistance Program, case studies, industry updates, dual itinerary options in collaboration with Brisbane Marketing & more.

The group enjoyed a VIP experience at Australia Zoo (pictured) before being whisked off to Fraser Island for further adventures.

Visit Sunshine Coast chief exec officer Simon Latchford said the region's increased marketing activity in foreign markets was now gaining traction.

"The Sunshine Coast offers pristine beaches and a lush hinterland that can cater to groups looking to venture beyond

more well-known Australian city destinations, and regional areas seem to be really resonating with the industry," Latchford remarked.



Money

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

\$1AUD = US0.752

TRAVELLERS should get more bang for their tourist buck at the moment with the Aussie dollar rebounding from six month Jun lows overnight.

The best gains were made against the strong British Pound rising by 0.7% to get you an economic 56 pence.

The Aussie dollar is also performing well against most other markets, however, the AUD/NZD dropped sharply after news of the NZ govt announcing former deputy governor of RBNZ Adrian Orr as the new head of the Reserve Bank of NZ.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.752
UK	£0.564
NZ	\$1.089
Euro	€0.640
Japan	¥85.473
Thailand	฿24.54
China	¥4.978
South Africa	R10.241
Canada	\$0.967
Crude oil	US\$57.36

AC 737 MAX debut

AIR Canada has introduced its new Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft, featuring a raft of improved in-flight facilities for passengers.

Enhancements include the airline's next generation entertainment system, faster wifi, greater noise minimisation and more room for overhead luggage.

A further 18 737 MAX aircraft are set to join the fleet by the end of 2018 with 61 in total by 2021.

Travel Daily

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Retail Travel with a difference!

Melbourne CBD

Salary to \$55k + super + bonus

Offering a selection of cultural & special interest tours, this role is unique and appealing, offering various insights into different cultural traditions. You will support the groups team booking airfares and pre and post accommodation & activities to 45 countries around the world. Ideally you will have a passion for the arts & good knowledge of airfares, geography and intermediate to advanced word & excel.



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Business Development / Sales Mgr - MICE

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Salary \$90 - \$110K + super + incentives

Award winning global organisation with established meeting & events arm. Be responsible for nurturing existing accounts whilst sourcing new business for their MICE division - covering domestic & international events & incentives. The overall development of annual sales strategies will also fall under your charge. Must have a strong understanding of event design & concept development in the MICE industry.



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Assistant Product Coordinator

Sydney CBD

Salary negotiable

Global internet media company located in stunning offices in the CBD. With 25 offices and over 28 million members in Asia Pacific, Europe and North America, they publish outstanding deals from over 2000 travel, entertainment & local companies. In this role you will research the market to find the best deals in travel & entertainment, analyse & test the deals & write the copy for publication.



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Sydney CBD

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Do you have an understanding of product itinerary and design? Are you a strong negotiator with brochure production experience? Then this is a fantastic opportunity with a reputable brand supporting the GM of product. Entice and innovate the market promoting this spectacular & scenic part of the world. This is a varied role with multiple elements to keep you absorbed. Future career prospects.



13 Month contract

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North Sydney, Salary to \$65K + super

Grow your career in this large, global business. A great opportunity for an ambitious experienced Corporate Cons. Work for a supportive, well-respected leader booking flights & accom for domestic & international business travellers.

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Retail Travel Cons - Global Wholesaler

Melbourne, to \$44K + super + bonus (up to \$1K/mth)

Join this wholesale giant in Melbourne's CBD & work Mon to Fri with great bonuses! You will be developing creative itineraries for Australian travellers to unique destinations worldwide. Previous retail or wholesale travel exp. required.

Call Susan or [click here](#)



Canada White Christmas

Dreaming of a white Christmas? Look no further than Canada's Banff National Park.

While the holiday season is well underway in Banff and Lake Louise, there is no better time than now to start planning a 2018 Canadian Rockies White Christmas adventure. Send your clients away on a magical white Christmas adventure, they

can check off their Christmas lists with unique, handmade gifts from the Banff Christmas Market, enjoy a Christmas show at the Banff Centre or Fairmont Banff Springs and a magical sleigh ride through the snow at Lake Louise. There are also plenty of free events to choose from during the holiday season including the famous Santa Claus Parade which brings the streets alive.

Booking tip: there are a number of Christmas tours and FIT packages

available from Australia, speak to your preferred suppliers to get the best early deals for 2018.

SIGN UP & WIN!

Click here and sign up to receive more news from Banff Lake Louise Tourism by 24 December 2017 to be entered into a prize draw for one of FIVE \$100 Coles Myer gift vouchers.