



Ponant icebreaker

PONANT Cruises has confirmed an order for the world's first "electric hybrid icebreaker".

Powered by Liquefied Natural Gas, the Ponant icebreaker will be constructed by Fincantieri's Norwegian subsidiary, Vard.

The 135-stateroom vessel is expected to debut in 2021 - more details in today's *Cruise Weekly*.

Cairns hotel plans

CRYSTALBROOK Collection (*TD* 26 Jul) has revealed the names of its first three new properties in Cairns as Riley, Bailey and Flynn.

Riley, at 137 The Esplanade, will open on 01 Aug 2018 as a five-star hotel featuring 311 rooms.

Bailey at 163 Abbott Street is set to debut in mid-2019 with 217 five-star rooms and five eateries, while the youth-focused Flynn, at 85 The Esplanade will have 303 rooms and is set to open in 2020.

New FJ Nadi lounge

FIJI Airways yesterday unveiled its new 200-seat Business class lounge at Nadi Airport.

The Fiji Airways Premier Lounge offers a full service kitchen and buffet, along with a barista and bar plus a designated Lailai Land children's room with a fully qualified Fijian nanny.

There's also a pay-for-use spa, with the lounge facilities available to FJ business class guests and Tabua Club members.

Economy pax and travellers on other airlines can also access the lounge for a FJ\$99 fee.

HLO moves on Magellan

THE Australian travel industry continued its ongoing consolidation today, with the announcement that Helloworld Travel will acquire the Magellan Travel Group (*TD* breaking news).

A Heads of Agreement has been signed, with the transaction still "subject to the execution of formal transaction documentation" according to an official HLO ASX announcement.

Helloworld Travel Limited ceo Andrew Burnes said the deal would "improve the scale of our operations throughout Australia and give Magellan members the opportunities to take advantage of that scale and at the same time benefit from our significant investment in technology and distribution strategies".

Helloworld is paying \$32.5 million for Magellan, with a mixture of 35% in HLO shares and 65% in cash, which will be funded via existing facilities.

Burnes said the deal was expected to be "earnings accretive" and to "increase the volume of TTV that Helloworld Travel members transact with travel suppliers in Australia and globally by approximately \$900m".

Magellan md Andrew Macfarlane and the group's

existing management team will join Helloworld, with Magellan forming a sixth network under the Helloworld Travel umbrella, operating in its current format.

Burnes welcomed the 130 Magellan agents, saying many were formerly with Helloworld and its predecessors.

"With the significant changes we have made in the Helloworld business over the last two years we are looking forward to welcoming them back," he said.

The transaction is expected to settle next month, after which Helloworld Travel will have more than 2,300 members in Australia and New Zealand, including 1,800 retail and corporate agencies and over 470 travel brokers.

Minor UK move

BANGKOK-BASED Minor Hotels, the owner of Oaks Hotels & Resorts, has taken a significant stake in UK-based Corbin & King.

The British group operates six restaurants as well as the 73-room Beaumont Hotel in London's Mayfair.

It's the first entry into the UK market for Minor, with ceo Dillip Rajakarier saying the strategic joint venture will build on the group's history of operating signature restaurants within its hotels and other locations.

The Minor portfolio currently comprises 157 hotels in 24 countries with brands including Anantara, Avani and Tivoli.

Air NZ campaign

AIR New Zealand has launched the latest instalment of its 'Better Way to Fly' campaign, with Bryan Brown's Dave the goose now joined by Pete the Kiwi - voiced by actor Sam Neill.

"Together Dave and Pete are reminding Australians that Air New Zealand is the best way to spread their wings across the Tasman," the carrier said.

Air NZ chief revenue officer Cam Wallace said as well as having more flights between Australia and NZ than anyone else, "we're a premium carrier offering customers a whole range of choices from lie flat Business Premier beds through to an award winning Premium Economy Cabin, a full-service Economy experience or just a seat and carry-on bag".

The new video can be seen online at traveldaily.com.au.

TA youth success

TOURISM Australia says its new youth-focused Aussie News Today campaign (*TD* 06 Oct) has already reached more than 20 million 18-30 year olds in Australia's key youth markets.

Roving reporters Nick Cummins, Teigan Nash and Lincoln Lewis are in South Australia this week, sharing local attractions and experiences with the online channel's global audience.

TA is encouraging the industry to get involved with the campaign by sending in or tagging content with #AussieNewsToday.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news and photos, plus a full page from:

- One&Only The Palm Dubai

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NTIA '18 plans revealed

AFTA has revealed details of next year's National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA), including changes to the nomination, voting and judging processes.

The 2018 awards will be announced on Sat 21 Jul at a gala dinner to be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney, with Qantas again supporting as major sponsor and providing its Mascot Campus as the venue for judging.

AFTA says it will change next year's NTIA to ensure the integrity of the award process and improve on the "fair and equitable selection of finalists".

Nominees in selected categories will now be required to answer a range of questions in order to accept their nomination.

The answers will be marked by a University level marker to determine finalists, meaning the majority of judged categories will not involve voting.

"As we follow a continuous improvement mantra for NTIA, adding a two-step process and a next level of validation and business metrics, to determine the best of the best in the various categories will greatly enhance the value of the process for participants," said AFTA chief executive Jayson Westbury.

Next year will also involve a new category for the home-based consultant model.

Nominations for NTIA 2018 open 22 Jan, with submissions due 02 Mar, voting in Mar and finalists to be announced 03 May.

SILVERSEASM

Silversea owns and operates a fleet of nine "Boutique" cruise ships and is recognised as the market leader in the ultra-luxury cruise sector. A fantastic opportunity exists in their Sydney CBD office to join the Marketing team.

Marketing Executive

Reporting to the Director of Marketing, Asia Pacific you will be an integral member of the Marketing team to support both the Marketing and Business Development function in a number of key areas. The role encompasses a broad range of marketing functions with a focus on creative services, brochures, direct mail, CRM, Advertising and events. The role's broader marketing functions include brand partnerships, public relations activities and assistance with marketing planning, budgeting and invoices.

We are looking for a self-motivated, efficient professional who can show initiation and take ownership of projects/tasks, with the ability to work both unsupervised and as a team player. Experience in producing brochures and use of In-Design is a distinct advantage. Previous experience in CRM and email campaign management also highly regarded.

To apply for this role you must have a minimum of 4-5 years marketing experience in the Travel industry, preferably the luxury sector.

For a more detailed job description or to apply for this role please submit your application by Wednesday 27th December to marketingap@silversea.com

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Melb leadership

DESTINATION Melbourne will introduce an executive-level version of its Melbourne Tourism Leadership Program (MTLP), aimed at ceos, executives, directors and business owners.

The three-day program will be held on 07, 14 and 21 Mar, with applications open until 16 Feb.

MTLP Executive has been designed for business leaders who are responsible for strategic planning and leadership.

It will aim to "radically redefine" participants' leadership skills through the creation of a future map for the city's visitor industry, Destination Melbourne says.

To download a full prospectus **CLICK HERE.**

WA road rules

A SERIES of road safety booklets in seven languages has been released by the West Australian Govt to improve safety for international drivers.

The "On the Road" booklets include WA road rules and key road safety messages and will be distributed across WA to a variety of drivers, from backpackers who purchase a vehicle for their trip to families hiring a vehicle.

Plague update

DFAT has updated its warning on pneumonic plague outbreaks in Madagascar, in addition to incidents of bubonic plague.

The cities of Antananarivo and Tamatave have been affected and travellers are urged to seek medical advice before visiting.

MEANWHILE the Seychelles has lifted restrictions on travel from Madagascar due to plague.

Celebrity keel laid

CELEBRITY Cruises has held a keel laying ceremony for its new Galapagos ship *Celebrity Flora*, marking the start of the vessel's construction.

Flora will be the line's first ship purpose-built for the Galapagos Islands and will sail year-round from Baltra after its launch in early 2019.

Yesterday's keel laying took place at the DeHoop shipyards in the Netherlands and involved a traditional coin placement beneath a 49.2 tonne block.

Celebrity Flora will carry 100 guests and is billed as having the largest accom in the islands.

Oman SYD/MEL c/s

OMAN Air has extended its codeshare partnership with Etihad to include Sydney and Melbourne, following the launch of joint flights to Brisbane and Perth in Aug.

WY has also released Arabian Explorer Fares for travel to the Middle East via Abu Dhabi & Muscat, from \$1,360 in Economy class - see www.omanair.com.

Hawaiian winner

SI HOLIDAYS has announced the winner of its Hawaiian Holiday incentive campaign.

Susan Payard from Helloworld Travel Ayr in northern Queensland will be heading to the islands with Hawaiian Airlines and staying four nights at The Modern Honolulu.

The campaign ran through Oct and Nov and offered agents a chance to win the holiday when booking Hawaiian Airlines flights and accom through Si Holidays.

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100% PURE NEW ZEALAND AIR NEW ZEALAND



Find out why innovation has been the theme of 2017 in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

SAA flight revamp

SOUTH African Airways (SAA) has announced a revamped schedule involving closer ties with its low-cost subsidiary Mango.

From 15 Jan, Mango will operate 132 return flights between JNB-DUR and 116 between JNB-CPT per week.

SAA will operate 68 JNB-DUR and 162 JNB-CPT.

SAA country manager for Australasia Tim Clyde-Smith said the changes would mean greater efficiencies and more competitive pricing for Aus/NZ travellers.

Aurora appoints

AURORA Expeditions has expanded its Sydney team with two new trade-focussed staff.

Alexandra Fayan has been appointed business development manager, managing relationships with distribution partners.

Jennifer Perrotin has been appointed trade marketing exec.

Vibe North Sydney

TFE Hotels will open its Vibe Hotel North Sydney in the revamped Northpoint development in Apr.

The 187-room property will provide guests with access to a new roof-top pool and bar with skyline views, as well as to an “eat street” and casual dining atrium.

“This will be the first Vibe Hotel to be incorporated into a mixed-use development, highlighting the growing trend for emerging lifestyle precincts featuring drinking, dining and retail together with a hotel at their hub and heart,” said TFE Hotels ceo Rachel Argaman.

Bali agent rates

CLUB Med Bali is offering travel agents 60% off deluxe rooms between 23 Dec and 26 Jan.

All-inclusive agent rates are from \$165pppn when booked before 26 Jan.

Atlanta disruption

AN UNDERGROUND electrical fire was the cause of a blackout at Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport which lost power for 11 hours on Sun, forcing the cancellation of more than 1,400 flights and causing major delays during the busy holiday period.

Inbound flights were diverted to alternative American cities and outgoing flights were halted.

MEL pop-up brews

MELBOURNE Airport and Collingwood Brewery have partnered to open a pop-up bar called Terminal 3½.

The new attraction is intended to provide additional beverage and eatery options to travellers during the peak holiday season.

A large screen showcasing major sporting events is also on offer.

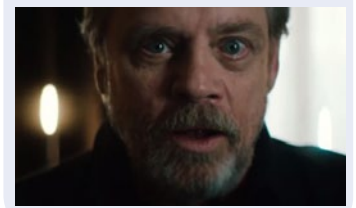
The new bar will operate at the airport seven days a week from 6am to 9pm until 03 Apr 2018.



Window Seat

THE fact that one of the most successful sci-fi films of the modern era, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, was filmed in Ireland should be testament enough to the luck of the Irish, right?

But it’s not a country to rest on its laurels, so Tourism Ireland is taking further advantage by launching a marketing campaign starring Mark Hamill and featuring a number of locations in Ireland’s west such as Malin Head and Skellig Michael - **CLICK HERE**, and may the Guinness be with you!



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P&O cricket promo

P&O Cruises has signed on as a sponsor of the upcoming KFC Big Bash League 2017-18 summer cricket series starting Dec 19.

Part of deal with Network Ten and Multi Channel Network will see the cruise company champion the Homegrown Hero competition where viewers can nominate valued members of their local cricket club and potentially win a P&O Cruise.

SQ Nov traffic rise

SINGAPORE Airlines has released figures indicating that pax numbers were up by 6% for Nov 2017 when compared to the same period last year, with total pax increasing by 91,000.

SQ's subsidiary Silkair enjoyed an even greater jump in traffic, spiking 17.9% for Nov this year on the same month last year, with 402,000 passengers flying with the airline compared with only 341,000 in Nov last year.

Japanese walks

WALK Japan is appealing to Aussie travellers to enjoy some of its 19 individual walking tours that aim to explore the unique landscapes of Japan.

Conducted in small groups and led by experienced tour guides, walking tours cater to a range of fitness levels and journey lengths.

Hilton additions

HILTON'S upper-midscale brand, Hampton by Hilton, has added 16 new properties to its expanding portfolio in the US.

Some of the new openings include Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton West Melbourne-Palm Bay Road, Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Leavenworth & Hampton Inn and Suites by Hilton San Antonio Lackland AFB SeaWorld.

The new locations all debuted over the last seven weeks and bring Hilton's total property global assets to 2,300.

SQ debuts new A380 product



SINGAPORE Airlines has repeated history this morning, landing the first A380 fitted with its new cabin product in Sydney, 10 years after flying its maiden A380 passenger service to Australia's largest city.

SQ public relations mgr South West Pacific Karl Schubert said the US\$850 million (AU\$1.1 billion) product was worth the enormous investment.

"This is worth it. I think it is fair to say this product will redefine luxury travel," he said.

The new cabin features six First Class Suite cabins in the 471-seater Airbus A380.

SYD ceo & md Kerrie Mather said the airport was delighted



Singapore Airlines had chosen the city again to debut its new flagship Airbus A380 product.

Pictured is Singapore Airlines' new Suite product in a double bed, and **inset** is the Business class seat on the upper deck.

"We're always looking for innovative products that enhance the travel experience for our customers," Mather said.

To see more photos from today's event - [CLICK HERE](#).

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Travel Daily

Tuesday 19th December 2017

Azamara intensive

AZAMARA Club Cruises is set to operate its new Country-Intensive itineraries for the Australian market when *Azamara Journey* arrives for its Down-Under season in Jan.

Country-Intensive trips will account for two of the four packages offered by the company this summer, with one to be an 18-night Aussie voyage departing from Bali on 21 Jan before sailing through a host of WA and SA locations before terminating in Sydney on 08 Feb.

The second package is a 13-night NZ oriented experience commencing 22 Feb in Auckland, visiting Napier, Picton & more.

A&K Latin America

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has unveiled its latest collection of experiences travelling through Latin America.

The new itineraries traverse 12 countries in the region with new additions to include a 10-day 'Flavours & Rhythms of Brazil' tour adventuring through Brasilia and Salvador da Bahia with prices starting from \$13,225 per person.

Another newcomer is a 12-day Bolivia package that takes travellers through the salt flats of Uyuni to Lake Titicaca priced at a minimum of \$7,245 per person.

A&K promote the Latin American trips as "bespoke, off-the-beaten-track experiences".

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.



Terms and conditions

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Managing Editor – Jon Murrice

Editor – Guy Dundas

Contributors – Jasmine O'Donoghue, Matt Bell, Adam Bishop, Jenny Piper, Christian Schweitzer

info@traveldaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Lisa Martin

advertising@traveldaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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AFTA update

From AFTA's chief executive, Jayson Westbury



THE landing gear is down and we are on final approach. With just six more sleeps until Christmas Day, 2017 is almost over. What a year it has been. There has been plenty going on within the industry, across the globe, in Canberra and a few spotted state and byelections along the way. It has been a year when the Parliament made the decisions to bring in marriage equality – something Australia needed to do as it turns out.

It has also been a pretty good year for most, well that is what I have been told - the travel industry has done OK this year and for some even better than just OK. It is good to know that the Australian travel industry is alive and well and with little help from our political friends, punching above our weight in terms of contribution to the nation and community. So, well done to all involved in the Australian Travel Industry. Thank you for your service to the country and for paying your tax bills. I thought I would add that this year, as I don't think anyone really ever says that – well from Canberra.

But in the spirit of Christmas, it is a time for family and friends and I hope this year everyone will get a chance for some down time, some happy times and some good times. Be safe this Christmas wherever your adventures may take you and I hope that whatever you may do this year it is filled with joy and happiness.

Next year is going to be off to a quick start and I predict that 2018 is going to be another cracker year for the travel industry. All the economists are talking it up, all of the analysts are confirming that it's looking up, so let's just hope that we can all keep it up and that we do all have a good year next year.

It has been a fun 2017, one of the best for AFTA members with the introduction of the new chargeback scheme (AICS) that is proving to be exactly what travel agents were looking for. So a big Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all and I hope Santa brings you something you always wanted. "That's all she wrote". Until 2018.

Choice acquisition

CHOICE Hotels has purchased the brand and franchise business of WoodSpring Suites for \$231m.

The acquisition bolsters the company's property US portfolio by 240 hotels across 35 states.

WoodSpring Suites is America's fastest growing extended-stay hotel company & was previously owned by WoodSpring Hotels.

Encompass revamp

AUSTRALIAN safari operator Encompass Africa has recently launched a new website boasting a refreshed design for each country page and the integration of video and pics taken by guests.

To mark the relaunch, Encompass is giving away a safari holiday to South Africa to the person who creates the best pic caption of founder Jono Wilson.

Windstar signature

NEW cruising tours of Alaska will be available through Windstar Cruises' Signature Expeditions Program commencing May 2018.

The cruise packages will place an emphasis on incorporating immersive elements into the trip such as shore excursions, slower paced wildlife spotting and expert-led expeditions.

The 212-pax *Star Legend* will host the new Alaska tours after recently installing the expedition hardware required for the trip.

Estonia warning

DFAT has warned travellers to be aware that heavy snowfall in Estonia may cause severe transport delays and a temporary shutdown of infrastructure.

Monitor media for updates.



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