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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 10th January 2017

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Wolgan Aus Day deal

EMIRATES One&Only Wolgan Valley is celebrating Australia Day between 25-29 Jan with damper making, whip cracking lessons, an Aussie BBQ and storytelling all on offer, priced from \$1,840 per villa, per night - more details on **pg 6**.

Crown Resorts exec rejig

CROWN Resorts Limited today announced that chairman Robert Rankin would be stepping down from the role effective 01 Feb, to be replaced by current executive deputy chairman John Alexander in an executive chairman capacity.

Rankin said he has "relished" the opportunity to guide Crown Resorts during a "rapidly changing period".

"The next stage of development of Crown Resorts will be rightfully more focused on its outstanding Australian assets and, led by John Alexander, Crown Resorts has a very strong team in place to do that," Rankin commented.

Alexander said Crown "is and will remain one of Australia's most

valuable tourism assets with its world-class resorts in Melbourne and Perth, and construction in Sydney now underway".

Other changes will see James Packer appointed as a director of Crown Resorts, subject to any regulatory approvals.

Alexander is a former chief exec of ACP Magazines, editor-in-chief, publisher and editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and editor-in-chief of *The Australian Financial Review*.

Rankin will remain as a director of Crown Resorts Limited.

Botswana Aus office

BOTSWANA Tourism will make a greater play at the Australian market, with the organisation to open an office in Sydney this year.

The firm's website indicates Botswana only has foreign offices in Germany and the UK.

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Viking deployment

VIKING Ocean Cruises is set to add further voyages including Sydney as a port call, according to port authority documents.

One vessel, likely to be *Viking Spirit* which is currently being built, is booked for White Bay on 16 Dec next year, 14 Jan, 10 and 11 Feb (Point Piper Buoy), 09 and 10 Mar (Athol Buoy) in 2019.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including a photo page for **Back-Roads Touring**, plus full pages from:

- One&Only Wolgan Valley
- Voyages to Antiquity

Golden era of cruising

CARNIVAL Corporation chief executive officer Arnold Donald has labelled the current point in time as the "golden era of cruising".

"These are the greatest days of the cruise industry and cruise passengers have ever known," the cruise boss remarked.

Speaking at the christening of *Seabourn Encore* on Sat night in Singapore, Donald said around half of the 25 million people expected to cruise in 2017 would sail aboard a Carnival Corp vessel.

He said that in the past four years "we have seen tremendous advances in technology to improve the safety, efficiency, the comfort and just the plain fun on our ships."

Read more of his comments in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Canada Corroboree 2017



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#HelloSabah
Lower Kinabatangan

Hilton on TripAdvisor

HILTON has become the latest hotelier to join TripAdvisor's instant booking system, allowing travellers to book rooms worldwide via the website or app.

The partnership covers all Hilton properties in 104 countries and involves text and branding to let users know Hilton handles the transaction and customer service. "Hilton is a longtime partner and we are thrilled to add their portfolio of brands to our instant booking marketplace," said Robin Ingle, TripAdvisor senior vp sales.

AWS appointment

AFRICAN Wildlife Safaris and Natural Focus Safaris has promoted Rolf Huber to the role of marketing manager.

Huber has more than 30 years' experience in sales & marketing with various airlines including South African Airways, and was most recently AWS/NFS's bdm for Victoria and New South Wales.

Dreamtime for Brisbane

BRISBANE has been chosen to host Tourism Australia's business showcase Dreamtime for the first time, bringing overseas buyers to the Queensland capital in Dec.

The Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Steven Ciobo today confirmed the host city and its dates, 03 to 06 Dec.

"Dreamtime is Australia's largest trade marketing events showcase and attracts tourism buyers from across the world," Ciobo said.

"The event will provide the perfect gateway for Australia's key international buyers to experience a fantastic array of experiences and destinations on offer in Australia.

"It will also give Brisbane and Queensland the opportunity to highlight its infrastructure, business event facilities and experiences to buyers and media on the global stage."

Ciobo said the event would involve buyers from key markets

including China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand, the USA and UK.

"The event should bring a significant boost to the tourism industry and is integral to our broader Tourism 2020 industry targets to grow the business events sector to \$16 billion annually by the end of the decade," he said.

Venues will include the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

QR kids fly free offer

QATAR Airways has released its 2017 Travel Festival promotion, with a range of deals including special companion fares and a kids fly free offer - more **HERE**.

The sale runs from now until 16 Jan, based on travel between 15 Jan and 15 Dec.

The kids' promo is based on one child per adult, for a maximum of two children aged up to 11 years.

UMI in the Jungle

G ADVENTURES has launched its sixth annual "Uber Massive Incentive" (UMI), giving Australian and New Zealand agents a chance to share in \$70,000 of prizes.

This year's UMI will offer 12 winners an African jungle adventure in Uganda and Rwanda where agents will get a chance to trek with gorillas.

To win, agents need to earn points by booking clients on trips with G Adventures, Jane Goodall Collection and G Expedition Polar, until the end of Mar.

HA record forecast

THE Hawaii Tourism Authority is preparing to announce record tourism figures for 2016.

Authority president George Szigeti said data for arrivals and visitor spending would overtake that of 2015 when the US state welcomed 8.6 million tourists who spent US\$15.2 billion.



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SURE SAVE World Assistance

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Single policy from **\$130***, Family from **\$251***

All plans cover worldwide destinations, including international & domestic trips.

CLICK HERE for further details

Swagman delta delight!



SWAGMAN Tours director Wayne Hamilton recently joined the inaugural agent flight from Shinde to Duba in the Okavango Delta with Great Plains Conservation.

The flight was in conjunction with the Botswana Travel and Tourism exchange held in Kasane.

The aircraft offers six full leather

seats that not only recline, but also turn 360 degrees, making the aircraft one of the best on offer in and around the delta area, the Swagman boss said.

Hamilton said the experience was great for keeping his knowledge updated and fresh.

He is **pictured** above (far left) in front of the plane with the other international wholesale delegates.

OpenKey PHG pact

MOBILE key provider OpenKey has formed a new partnership with Preferred Hotels & Resorts.

The pact will see properties represented within the Preferred Hotels & Resorts portfolio given access to OpenKey's technology.

The OpenKey app allows guests to use their smart phones for mobile entry into their room.

Cathay special fares

CATHAY Pacific is celebrating the New Year with sale fares to Asia, North America and Europe.

Book Asia before 29 Jan and Europe by 28 Feb to score return Economy flights from Sydney to Hong Kong from \$786 and Sydney to London for \$1,258.

Excite USA campaign

EXCITE Holidays has kicked off its USA mega campaign in Australia and New Zealand.

This year's push focuses on Hawaii, Nevada, West Hollywood and the Southern States.

Every Excite Holidays booking agents make in the selected USA destinations will give them one entry into the draw to win one of four epic USA holidays.

For each night booked, agents will also score 500 reward points.

Excite Holidays has also launched a dedicated USA website with key selling points from exploring Nevada's ghost towns to West Hollywood parties.

CLICK HERE to view the website.

Manila terror concern

THE UK's Foreign Office is advising those travelling to the Philippine capital, Manila to take extra care after warnings of a terror threat.

It warns that the Ministry of Interior received information on possible terror threats to the procession of the Black Nazarene.

Road closures are likely in the city and visitors should be particularly vigilant in crowds.



Window Seat

WHAT better way to welcome the year of the rooster than carving a giant sculpture of one from frozen manure.

Luckily Russian artist Mikhail Bopposov was on hand to erect the three and a half metre tall figure (**pictured** below) which pays homage to the Chinese zodiac symbol.

The rooster stands proudly in his Siberian village where it has attracted many curious visitors.

It's not the first time Bopposov has used the excrement from his cows to create art.

In fact he has been erecting Chinese Zodiac signs over the years including large snakes and dragons.



MSC CRUISES WEB CONTENT AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

MSC Cruises Sydney is hiring a full time Web Content/Graphic Design administrator.

The successful candidate requires a thorough knowledge of web design, content load, CSS and HTML, excellent digital design skills in both print and web; experience with Brand Activation and Marketing; a strong grasp of reporting techniques and a good understanding of statistical analysis and its application for marketing purposes. Additionally, the position seeks a candidate with experience working in a corporate environment, who is meticulous, with strong attention to detail.

The successful candidate will work in our Marketing, Sales and Product department, work well under pressure, meet deadlines and give support to Reservation and Documentation team and the office as required. Salary on application. Send written CV with covering letter to hr@msccruises.com.au by 17 January 2017.



A vacancy exists for a full time **Business Manager VIC/TAS/SA – Associate** at helloworld limited, based in Melbourne.

The Business Manager is responsible for supporting helloworld Members and is accountable for driving results in their state or region. Key accountabilities include offering support to their portfolio by acting as a small business mentor, developing a local area marketing strategy, increasing preferred supplier sales and driving the usage of key systems and processes.

The successful candidate should have:

- Minimum 3 years in a business development / customer relationship management role
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong time management and organisational skills
- Flexibility and enthusiasm to engage in customer and industry events;
- The ability to work as a team player

This role requires regular travel both regionally and interstate with occasional international travel. A competitive salary package is on offer that includes Base Salary, Car Allowance and Incentives.

If you are interested in applying for this role, please send your resume to careers@helloworld.com.au by close of business Friday, 20 January 2017.

Achievers see Europe by the Back-Roads

BACK-ROADS Touring in conjunction with Qatar Airways hosted Phil Hoffmann Travel top achievers and management on its 'A Winter Wonderland' tour recently, visiting Munich, Salzburg, Vienna and Budapest.

The trip was escorted by Hugh Houston (who retired from Back-Roads Touring at the end of 2016) and Dennis Basham who has taken on the role as Country Manager Australia & NZ.

Best Small Coach Holiday Winner at the 2015 & 2016 British Travel Awards, Back-Roads Touring specialises in small group touring across the UK & Europe.

It offers a maximum group size of 18 and travels with leisurely paced itineraries on scenic back roads, with charming local accommodation and authentic local experiences.



DINNER at Plankenstein Castle in Austria.

THE Phil Hoffmann Travel team at Fisherman's Bastion in Budapest.



THE group exploring the sights in Budapest, including the Heroes' Square.

ABOARD a horse-drawn carriage in Kitzbuhel.



TAKING in the spectacular scenery at Hallsatt Lake in Austria.

HUGH, Pete & the PHT team enjoying a ride at Kitzbuhel.



HUGH Houston from Back-Roads Touring 'performing' with Hungarian dancers in Budapest.

EXPLORING Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria.



ENJOYING some Bavarian hospitality at the Hofbrauhaus in Munich.



MeetLA.com app

A NEW complimentary mobile app loaded with up-to-date destination content on Los Angeles, venue capacities and videos has been released by the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board.

Launched during PCMA's 2017 Convening Leaders Conference, the application is aimed at MICE professionals looking to conduct business in the City of Angels.

The Meet LA app is now available for download on iTunes and the Google play store.



Money

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

\$1AUD = US0.733

THE imminent presidential inauguration of Donald Trump next week has seen markets take a cautious turn overnight, with the US dollar dropping some of its recent gains.

Aussies benefitted from the US' falling equities and bond yields, with the AUD climbing 0.9% to return to three week highs against the green back.

In other markets, the AUD also saw a 2.0% increase against the British Pound.

Chinese inflation figures, which are scheduled to be announced from 12:30pm, will be the day's key international announcement.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.733
UK	£0.603
NZ	\$1.-41
Euro	€0.693
Japan	¥85.06
Thailand	฿26.03
China	¥4.657
South Africa	R9.974
Canada	\$0.965
Crude oil	US\$53.99

Blue Train 2018 sched

SOUTH Africa's Blue Train is continuing to urge clients not to book guests on any flights and/or excursions immediately after their Blue Train journeys as "arrival times cannot be guaranteed".

Arrivals on the Pretoria to Cape Town service next year have now been amended to 1500.

The same arrival time has also been applied to the Cape Town to Pretoria route.

Blue Train journeys run on select Mon, Wed and Fri's.

The company said in a statement it also recommended that travel agents "encourage guests to take up travel insurance in case of any unforeseen eventualities".

To view the updated 2018 schedule and rates, **CLICK HERE**.

HA record passengers

HAWAIIAN Airlines welcomed a record 11,050,911 guests in 2016 - a 3.5% climb over the previous year according to the carrier's latest passenger report.

The airline attributed some of its growth to the new daily non-stop service between Narita and Honolulu and the thrice weekly service between Haneda and Kona International airport.

Cook Islands on sale

AIR New Zealand has released a series of special fares from Australia to the Cook Islands.

Direct flights ex Sydney start from \$249 one way, while services from Melbourne and Brisbane flying via Auckland begin at \$339.

The deal is valid from now until 02 Feb, **CLICK HERE** for details.

Curio into Middle East

AIRAYYAN Hotel Doha, Curio Collection by Hilton has opened, marking the entry of the Curio brand into the Middle East.

Offering a choice of 201 rooms and suites, the upscale property also has luxury features such as marble bathrooms with walk-in rain showers, as well as floor-to-ceiling windows.

Goldman makes a splash!



Virtuoso hotel trends

VIRTUOSO has identified this year's hottest hotel trends in its 2017 Best of the Best directory.

South Africa, Portugal and Colombia have been identified in the 656-page directory as among the top up-and-coming destinations for luxury properties this year.

Virtuoso also makes mention of the growing need for wellness-based travel, with the niche trend expected to hit \$680b this year.

View Virtuoso's Best of the Best by **CLICKING HERE**.

New QR Economy kits

QATAR Airways is set to roll out a range of amenity kits on its Economy Class pax this month.



The amenity kits, which feature inspiring imagery of the destinations on QR routes, offer comfort essentials such as ear plugs, an eye mask, socks, a Miradent dental kit and Karite Paris lip balm.

PROVING that life in the travel industry isn't always all work and no play, Goldman Travel Group chairman Tom Goldman took time out in Thailand over the holidays to set an example for other Aussie travellers.

He's **pictured** above on an elaborate waterslide at the Hyatt Regency Hua Hin, on the coast of the Gulf of Thailand.

Sheraton Annaba

SHERATON Annaba in Algeria has welcomed its first guests.

The 201-room property offers views of the Mediterranean Sea and an array of dining options.

Other on-site amenities include flexible meeting spaces, gym, spa, a business centre and more.

DWC expanding?

AN EXPANSION of Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC) is likely to get the green light, with banks to finalise commitments over the next two weeks, *Reuters* reports.

If realised, the new airport would have the capacity to handle more than 220m pax and 12m tonnes of cargo per year, making it the largest passenger and cargo hub in the world.

The \$35b airport project is seeking support of up to \$3b and once approved would take up to 12 years to complete.

Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication. Produced each weekday since 1994, the newsletter is first with the latest industry news and is available by paid subscription to people within the travel industry - sign up at www.traveldaily.com.au.

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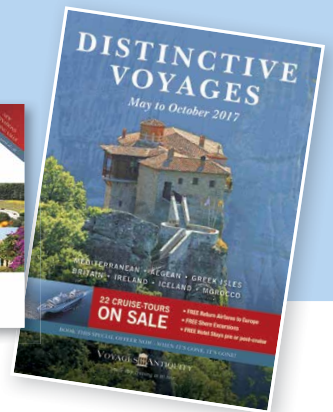
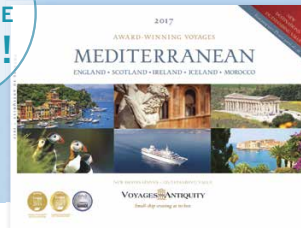
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*TERMS & CONDITIONS: All fares shown are Australian Dollars, per person, based on twin occupancy and do not include bonus saving discount. Fares include pre and/or post hotel stays as detailed for each itinerary, gratuities & port taxes (correct as of 9 Jan 2017). Valid for sale to 28 Feb 2017 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 & Perth. +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 or visit your local preferred Travel Agent.