

2017 NTIA

SINGAPORE AIRLINES AFTER PARTY

A Great Way to Celebrate

Singapore Airlines is proud to host the official NTIA After Party
at an exclusive new Darling Harbour venue, The Port.



Exclusive New Venue
Live Music
First Drink Free on Arrival
Wristband Required for Entry
Doors Open at 10pm
Until Late



NTIA After Party

THIS year's AFTA National Travel Industry Awards' After Party on Sat night has been confirmed at The Port, Darling Harbour (see **cover page**) - a new venue with a chic, contemporary vibe and affording city views.

Sponsored by Singapore Airlines, the After Party venue will open at 10pm & is a short walk from the Int'l Convention Centre Sydney where the NTIA gala will be held.

AFTA boss Jayson Westbury said Singapore Airlines continues to be a "fantastic" supporter of agents.

"The night provides us with the perfect opportunity to thank the industry for its strong support of Singapore Airlines over the 50 years we have been flying to Australia," SQ senior manager marketing & alliances Australia, Dale Woodhouse commented.

"We look forward to celebrating the industry's night of nights with our industry partners & friends."

Guests will require a wrist band to obtain entry to The Port.

Emirates, flydubai union

DUBAI-BASED government run airlines Emirates and flydubai will form a new partnership aimed at "leveraging each other's network to scale up their operations and accelerate growth (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

Similar to EK's global alliance with Qantas, the partnership is far broader than a codeshare deal, covering schedule alignment and network optimisation, while remaining independently managed.

Currently operating a single fleet of 58 narrow-body 737-800s, flydubai has over 90 destinations in 44 countries, compared to EK's current fleet of 259 wide-body jets to 157 points, for a combined network of 216 destinations.

The new model will provide passengers of the regional carrier flydubai seamless connectivity to Emirates' global destinations, while at the same time enabling EK with greater traffic feed.

An alignment of systems and

operations will also enable the airlines to further develop DXB, with teams working on several initiatives covering commercial, airport ops, customer journey & frequent flyer programs.

By optimising networks and schedules to unlock new city-pair connections, within five years the partnership would have a reach of 240 destinations, utilising a combined fleet of 380 aircraft.

A possible tie-up between the Gulf state airlines was flagged last month with the Dubai govt keen to improve returns (**TD** 22 Jun).

The initial codeshare pact will begin in the last quarter of 2017.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news and photos, including a front cover wrap for the **NTIA** plus full pages from:

- inPlace Recruitment
- Back-Roads product page

TIE two days away

THERE are now only two more days before the Travel Industry Exhibition (TIE) & Conference kicks off in Sydney at Luna Park.

The free exhibition has over 40 exhibitors and free workshops on Europe & Asia's top destinations running over the two-day event, along with how to gain credibility and traction through media exposure and social media.

More than 20 speakers will also present at the inaugural Travel Industry Conference - more info at travelindustryexpo.com.au.

Gallagher exits V&T

MORRIS Media Network has confirmed the recent departure of *Vacations & Travel* magazine publisher and editor-in-chief Anthony Gallagher after more than 20 years with the title.

Contributing editor Helen Hayes has taken over the role from Gallagher, and associate publisher Avil Melniker is now publisher.

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Travelport's agency app

TRAVELPORT has announced the Asia-Pacific launch of new products including its Trip Assist mobile app for travel agencies.

The travel commerce platform last night opened its annual Asia-Pacific customer conference in Sydney, Travelport Live, and has begun showcasing several new initiatives aimed at travellers, agencies and airlines.

Trip Assist will allow agencies to offer a branded mobile app within weeks, offering itinerary management, day-of-travel services, real-time mobile messaging and several customised options.

It aims to be a "personal digital travel concierge service" and also provides smart itinerary management, push-notification reminders, real-time alerts and the ability to call an agent from within the app.

Travelport digital chief commercial officer Fergal Kelly said increasingly connected customers expected support throughout their trip.

"Customer engagement via mobile is now critical for agencies

Renault Eurodrive

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See Deal

Village Wet'n'Wild Syd \$65m writeoff

VILLAGE Roadshow Limited this morning announced a non-cash impairment of the value of its Wet'n'Wild Sydney theme park amounting to \$65 million.

The company also confirmed its Australian theme park operations continue to be significantly impacted by the tragedy which occurred at rival Dreamworld on the Gold Coast in Oct last year.

EBITDA earnings for the total theme parks division will be about \$55 million for FY17.

OTG India increase

SEVEN new itineraries through the Indian subcontinent have been introduced by On The Go Tours, with its program through India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal & Tibet now offering more than 70 trips & city breaks to select from.

Among the new options is a 15-day Delhi to Kolkata tour which includes the Golden Triangle, a 13-day Kerala & Cardamom Hills Trek from Kochi to Trivandrum and a 12-day Cycle Rajasthan journey which starts and finishes in Delhi - see onthegotours.com.

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QFFF points on IJ tours

HELLOWORLD Travel Limited's tour operator Insider Journeys is now offering customers Qantas Frequent Flyer points when booking a small group tour.

QFFF can earn one Qantas Point per \$1 spent on new small group departures, effective 01 Jul.

Insider Journeys managing director Tony Mayell said the new arrangement provides even more benefits for holidaying with a

group of like-minded travellers.

"Our Small Group Tours are our core product; they are the foundation of the company...with this newly formed partnership we'll help agents and clients uncover genuine experiences and real insights into the places we travel," Mayell commented.

Agents can lock in Qantas Points for clients by quoting their QF Frequent Flyer membership number at the time of booking.

Customers who are not already a member of QFFF can also sign-up to the program for free with Insider Journeys, a saving of \$89.50 - **CLICK HERE** for info.

Origin tips winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Jessica Templeton from Jamison Travel who was the winner of Travel Daily's recent NRL State of Origin tipping mini-competition.

Courtesy of Breakaway Travel Club, Jessica has won an NRL jersey of her choice and a \$200 voucher for a cruise.

Thanks to all those readers who took part in the competition!

Air Van agent fare

FRONTLINE consultants are able to take advantage of Air Vanuatu's special travel agent fare of \$99 (and \$199 companion fare) on flights from Brisbane and Sydney to Port Vila and Santo.

A side-trip to Espiritu Santo or Tanna can be tacked on for an extra \$60 return from Port Vila, or \$120 for companions.

The promotion is available from now until 31 Aug - T&Cs and blackout periods apply - see www.airvanuatu.com/agents.

New! Air New Zealand Industry Rates to Cook Islands. Sales to 08SEP17. Economy Class from \$434*-\$339* AUD PP Return plus taxes.

Conditions Apply. Taxes approx. \$190-\$210* pp

AIR NEW ZEALAND

INDUSTRY DEALS

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International Travel Industry Club

For more details visit www.travelclub.com.au

Contiki Hawaii tour

CONTIKI is introducing Hawaii to its touring destination line-up with a new nine-day Big Kahuna three-island itinerary in 2018.

The tour encompasses the islands of Oahu, Maui and Hawaii, internal flights, with highlights including a visit to Pearl Harbour, Volcanoes National Park, and the black sand beaches of Punalu'u on the Big Island.

There's also 'Me Time' planned for surf lessons, snorkelling, sunset cruises, mountain biking, a full day of sailing and more.

The Big Kahuna will operate twice a month from May to Sep, then once a month Oct to Dec, currently priced from \$3,388 per person (a saving of \$237), when paid in full by 10 Aug - for more details, **CLICK HERE**.

The trip complements Contiki's two- & four-night Waikiki Explorer packages that are sold as stopover options to the USA and Canada.

Back-Roads promo

TODAY'S issue of *Travel Daily* features a dedicated product profile page about the Back-Roads Touring Co product.

Turn to **page eight** for info.



Window Seat

A YOUNG woman in California has taken the crown for 'selfie-inflicted' accident of the year.

While visiting the Simon Birch exhibit at the 14th Factory - an exhibit of rows of intricately crafted head pieces resting on plinths - in Los Angeles, the visitor caused US\$200,000 worth of damage by taking a photo of herself.

While crouching behind one of the rows of pedestals for the perfect selfie-shot, the girl appears to have accidentally leant too far, setting off a domino-like collapse of the stands, causing the art pieces to topple to the ground, three of which were irreparably damaged.

View the incident **HERE**.



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**VIEW
2018
CRUISES**

Ignite 'suits' sparkle at Global



EXECUTIVES from Ignite Travel Group were in Hawaii last weekend for the Flight Centre Global Gathering, representing the company's GET LUXE product.

Under Ignite's partnership with Flight Centre Travel Group, the Gold Coast-based travel firm was provided a handful of tickets to the Global Gathering for senior management and 10 awarded to its top sales performers.

Pictured dressed for success (and to impress) for the Global Gathering Gala Dinner held on Sat night from left are Ignite's

Matt McDonough, sales team leader; Rod Carrington, product director; Randall Deer, founder & managing director; Sam Othman, IT administrator and Ryan Thomas, chief executive officer in their island themed two-piece suites and ties.

Tourism Fiji recruits

TOURISM Fiji has appointed Michelle Sinnott (Stott) as its new marketing director.

Her past experience includes roles at Hilton Hotels & Resorts, Tourism NZ, Air New Zealand and she was Tourism Fiji's acting director of global marketing for one year in 2014/15.

The Fiji tourist office has also promoted Kathy Koyamibole to the newly created position of regional manager for Asia, which includes the emerging markets of India and Singapore.

DL adds LAX/MEX

NON-STOP services between Los Angeles and Mexico City will be re-introduced by Delta Air Lines effective 01 Dec following a 12 year hiatus, subj to approvals.

DL will utilise three-class Airbus A319s on the revived route.

WINDSTAR CRUISES

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CWT enters hotel distribution

A **NEW** business unit dedicated to hotel distribution has been formally launched by Carlson Wagonlit Travel.

Dubbed 'RoomIt by CWT', the new division is centred wholly on creating & delivering "a new and innovative experience to expanding access and providing greater variety to customer accommodations around the world," CWT said this morning.

The corporate travel company's president of hotels Scott Brennan said RoomIt by CWT "simplifies the hotel booking process", by placing the most relevant lodging

RoomIt
by CWT

options all in one location.

"CWT is committed to giving our clients a wide range of global options at the most competitive rates and our investment in RoomIt will enable better, more personalised service to our travellers," Brennan remarked.

RoomIt provides increased functionality and personalisation capabilities, while equipping firms with the tools to monitor employees' travel schedules.

The RoomIt platform also features an intuitive hotel booking tool, travel management tools for tracking, reporting and payment, travel management services for companies of any size, improved research and booking tools to access wider lodging options and more.

DNSW bdm recruit

DESTINATION NSW has named Celine Dong as the organisation's new business development manager for Shanghai to increase awareness & sales of NSW tourism destinations & products in Eastern China, starting this week.

Dong was most recently working for the Singapore Tourism Board where she was manager, eastern China for the RTO.

5th THAI A350

THAI Airways took delivery of its fifth Airbus A350-900 on Fri, with the carbon-composite jet supplied with donated goods for underprivileged children in three southern Thailand provinces.

The goodwill flight ex Toulouse was organised in cooperation with Airbus Foundation.

Batik GDS entry

INDONESIAN carrier Batik Air is making a push for a greater number of travel agency sales, signing its first global distribution system partnership with Sabre.

The agreement will provide Sabre-connected agents globally the means to sell tickets on Batik Air's inventory.

Batik launched services to Perth from Denpasar (Bali) last month and has flagged the addition of Sydney, Melbourne and the Gold Coast (**TD** 19 Jun).

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AIR NEW ZEALAND

Byroads Sri Lanka

BYROADS Travel has released a 13-day small group tour to the island nation of Sri Lanka.

Designed for small groups, the trip runs 15-27 Mar, setting out from Colombo.

The itinerary includes stops at the cave temples at Dumbulla, the ancient ruins at Polonnaruwa and the rock citadel at Sigiriya.

Byroads has limited the offering to a maximum of 16 passengers.

The tour starts from US\$3,695 (AU\$4,860) pp twin share.

Call 02 9357 6800 to book.

CX Paris increase

CATHAY Pacific Airways will add a twelfth weekly service on the Hong Kong-Paris Charles de Gaulle route from 04 Jul 2018, according to an early schedule filing for next year.

The new service will depart HKG on Wed mornings.

SQ 777 to MEL

SINGAPORE Airlines will deploy Boeing 777-300ER to Melbourne from 01 Oct to replace the existing Airbus A380 operating on SQ217/SQ218.

The planned seasonal change will be in effect until 24 Mar.

From 01 Oct, Singapore Airlines will operate five daily services into MEL, with a mixture of Airbus A330, A350 and Boeing 777-300ER flights, according to GDS displays.

Hotel tax delayed

THE Malaysian Government has delayed the launch of its new hotel tax until 01 Aug.

Customers booking hotel accommodation via Destination Management Companies may be exempted for paying tax on the spot when it comes into effect.

Likewise those staying at budget accommodations are said to be excluded as well.



THIS past weekend I had the privilege of attending the Flight Centre Travel Group Global Gathering in Hawaii. It marked the first time I attended in the ten years I have been at AFTA and it was a spectacular experience.

As readers of **Travel Daily** would know, I attend many conferences. In fact, I attend almost all of the member conferences that get held during the year, but nothing is of the scale of the Global Gathering. Some 3000 plus travel consultants, management and supplier partners get together to celebrate all things travel and all things Flight Centre. It is an extravaganza, very professionally executed by the cievevents team and just when you think conference speakers can't get any better, the key note speaker was President Bill Clinton.

Yes, President Clinton spoke to the 3000 plus delegates about leadership, vision, decision making and did it in such a way that it felt like he was talking to each and everyone one of us individually. An amazing experience for an old political hack like me to listen to the words of a former United States President. One of the key take a way messages was the reasoning he gave for changing your mind on important issues and how making a decision to change your mind on an issue was as important as sticking to your guns. His eloquent, calm tone and articulate style ensured that you could hear a pin drop in the stadium for over 1.5 hours.

My sincere thanks and congratulations goes out to all of the Flight Centre team for making the weekend so enjoyable and to all of the supplier partners who I got to spend lots of time with, thank you also for sharing so much over the weekend. As for Hawaii as a destination, perfect at every turn, weather, beach and venues all wonderful with that Hawaiian hospitality.

As I return for a big week ahead for AFTA and the industry with both the AFTA AGM and the National Travel Industry Awards 2017, I realise just how amazing the travel industry really is and I look forward to seeing so many of the broader industry on Sat night at the International Convention Centre Sydney. And for those who are attending, be sure to be on time. It is a 5pm sharp start and we have our best ever line-up and program set to go for our biggest NTIA ever.

Good luck to all the finalists and I can't wait to see how the night unfolds.

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easyJet ceo quits

EASYJET'S Carolyn McCall will leave her post at the British low-cost carrier to become the new chief executive at British broadcaster ITV.

Her new position will be effective from 08 Jan.

She was easyJet's top chief for the past seven years.

Citadines Vietnam

THE Ascott Limited has opened its first Citadines Apart'hotel in Vietnam in the tourist hub of Nha Trang.

Citadines Bayfront Nha Trang is the first international-class serviced residence in the Vietnamese coastal city.

The hotel offers 310 rooms, and includes facilities such as a swimming pool, fitness centre, meeting rooms and a business centre for residents and guests.

It is located 40mins from Cam Ranh International Airport.

SkyTeam new pass

SKYTEAM has introduced a new two-stop option for its Go Round the World Pass.

Available now, the new pass can be booked up to seven days in advance, for travel on any of SkyTeam's 20 member airlines, which serve 1,062 destinations in 179 countries.

Passengers can book airfares on the two-stop pass across all classes of travel.

The Go Round the World Pass offers customers the ability to plan their trip from two to 15 stops.

LH plots FRA/SJO

LUFTHANSA will add Frankfurt to San Jose to its Summer 2018 flight schedule.

Effective 29 Mar, the flights will operate every Thu and Sat using Airbus A340-300 aircraft.

LH's A340-300 has 279 seats in Business class, Premium Economy and Economy class.

Aleph Rome Curio

FOLLOWING an extensive restoration, Aleph Rome Hotel has reopened as part of the Curio Collection by Hilton.

The Rome hotel is the second Curio property in Italy and features 88 guest rooms.

Aleph Rome Hotel is located near the Trevi fountain.

Boost approved

AIR France will move forward with its plan to launch a new budget airline later this year after receiving approvals from the main pilots' union yesterday.

The trade union approved Air France's plans by a majority of just over 78%.

Dubbed Boost (**TD** 22 May), the project is AF's response to pressure from Gulf carriers.

Air France plans to add up to 18 aircraft to its Boost fleet when operations begin.

Uber adds tipping

TRANSPORTATION disrupter Uber is rolling out a new "feature" to its app, to allow customers to provide tips to their drivers.

The option is only currently available in the USA, with Uber saying "tipping is up to you: it's completely optional, but always appreciated".

Tips go directly to drivers, and Uber is not charging additional service fees on tips.

Rival car-sharing service Lyft has long enabled tipping, which has made it more attractive to drivers in some US locations.

More JetBlue Mint

JETBLUE is expanding its Mint class premium product to more destinations from Jan.

The airline will add the product to its Airbus A321 flying between Boston and Las Vegas.

JetBlue will then roll out Mint on the Boston-Seattle route and Boston-New York JFK service from 15 Feb and 15 Apr respectively.

More flights to California and the Caribbean will receive Mint from 2018 as well.

Tempo earlybird

TEMPO Holidays are advising agents 2018 rates for Spain, Italy and France are now available to book with increased availability.

Tempo has released a number of earlybird deals across Europe.

Travellers can save up to \$460pp on a number of 2018 departures.

Tempo Holidays is offering the ability to lock in 2018 dates at 2017 prices for select Spain tours, with prices set to increase from 01 Sep.

Bonus agent comm

THERE are only two spots remaining on India Unbound's North India Revealed tour departing Mumbai on 19 Sep, run by India Unbound's sister company, Remarkable East.

The company is offering agents a bonus 5% commission for the remaining spaces.

Prices for the 14-day tour start from \$10,450pp.

Oyster Card increase

VISITBRITAIN is advising that Transport for London is increasing the cost of the Visitor Oyster card, effective 17 Sep.

The activation fee of the card will rise from £3 to £5.

TFE appoints staff

TFE Hotels has added Chris Sedgwick and Tish Nyar to its expanded leadership team.

Chris Sedgwick has been appointed as chief operating officer for TFE Hotels.

The hotelier also welcomed Tish Nyar as its new director of operations for Australia and NZ.

EY Europe bargain

ETIHAD Airways is offering winter escape deals priced from \$1,150 to Europe and the UAE.

Return airfares from Australia to Dublin start at \$1,141 or \$1,202 to Paris Charles de Gaulle.



Round 18 Winner

Congratulations

DAVID AUSTIN

from *Flight Centre Business Travel*

David is the top point scorer for Round 18 of Travel Daily's Super Rugby footy tipping competition. He's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.




Major prize for the 2017 footy tipping competition is return economy class airfares to Dubai flying with **EMIRATES**. Emirates has 77 flights per week to DXB.



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This month, Scenic and *Travel Daily* are giving readers the chance to win a luxurious river cruise. Experience a 15-day cruise in a balcony suite. The prize includes:

- Jewels of Europe river cruise for 2 people departing Oct 2018
- Return flights to Europe
- Complimentary beverages all day, everyday, all meals, private butler service and all tipping & gratuities

To win, answer every daily question correctly and have the most creative answer to the final question. Send your answers to scenic@traveldaily.com.au

Q12. What are the names of the decks on board the Scenic Space-Ships?

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PRIVATE TAILOR MADE TOURS

Our private tailor made service offers bespoke tours around Europe and the UK. Perfect for groups of friends or families, Tailor-Made Tours can design and deliver a tour to your individual requirements, from start to finish.

AWARD WINNING

In 2015 & 2016, Back-Roads Touring won 'Best Small Coach Holiday Company' at the British Travel Awards. We're especially proud of these awards because these are voted for by our loyal customers.

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