

NTIA video out now

RELIVE the highlights of last Sat night's National Travel Industry Awards through the exclusive **Travel Daily/travelBulletin** video which has been released today.

The video is now online on YouTube and also can be seen at



traveldaily.com.au/videos.

MEANWHILE there has been a huge response to the special **travelBulletin** feature showcasing the NTIA winners.

The supplement was emailed to

TD, Cruise Weekly and Business Events News

subscribers and will form part of the Aug edition of **travelBulletin** which is out next week.

To view it click on the cover image or see it online at www.travelbulletin.com.au.



QF adds Sydney/Osaka

"BOOMING" travel between Australia and Japan has prompted Qantas to announce new direct flights between Sydney and Osaka's Kansai International Airport, from 14 Dec.

The new seasonal service will operate three times per week on board the airline's upgraded two-class Airbus A330 aircraft and will continue until 24 Mar next year.

Timmins to head Travelzoo Australia

FORMER Egencia managing director and Travelscene Amex gm Jacqui Timmins has taken on a new role as general manager of travel deal website Travelzoo, based in Sydney.

Timmins has held a string of high profile roles including exhibition director Asia Pacific at Reed Travel Exhibitions, gm Australia at Stella Travel and national sales manager of Qantas.

"This Dec we celebrate 70 years of flying to Japan and we're delighted to add another destination to the growing list of services Qantas operates between the two countries at a time when travel to Japan is booming," said Qantas International ceo Gareth Evans.

The new route will operate alongside existing Qantas flights from Sydney to Tokyo Haneda, Brisbane to Tokyo Narita and Melbourne to Tokyo Narita.

Launch fares from Sydney to Osaka are available from \$699 return in Economy or \$3,499 in Business class, booked by 04 Aug.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news and photos, plus full pages from:

- AA Appointments jobs
- People's Choice
- Asiana Airlines product pg

Trafalgar \$699 fare

TRAFALGAR has unveiled a \$699 return Economy class airfare to North America with American Airlines as the guided holiday firm celebrates the release of its USA & Canada 2018 program.

Agents can sell the American Airlines fare to any destination in North America when booked via trafalgar.com and its air portal.

MD Australia Matt Cameron-Smith told **Travel Daily** the fare was aimed at allowing agents to get ahead of the curve & start the 2018 selling season early.

It can be packaged on 35 tours from all major Australian capital cities to destinations in the USA, Canada and Mexico.

"We wanted to provide an offering to make it a seamless sell," Cameron-Smith said.

"With no hidden surcharges or costs, this transparent new air offer allows our guests to simply focus on connecting with the heart of each destination."

The fare is available until 28 Aug.

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EY exaggerated Biz

THE UK's Advertising Standards Authority has slammed Etihad Airways for misrepresenting a Business class upgrade promotion whereby the image featured of a "horizontal & dressed bed with a bedside table" did not match a complainant's experience.

The ad featured EY's Business Studio product, but the customer complained they had received an "inferior seat" based on an earlier generation of cabin product.

The authority told Etihad Airways the ad in question must not appear again, and to "ensure the images they used in their advertising did not exaggerate the benefit of the product".

100th Airbus A350

AIRBUS has delivered its 100th A350-900 XWB, 30 months after the first delivery in Dec 2014.

The 100th aircraft delivered was an A350-900 for China Airlines. Currently 14 airlines fly A350s.

Accor challenges Airbnb

ACCORHOTELS has finalised an agreement with the founders of disruptor operator of French hotel homes, Squarebreak, to purchase the remaining capital share in the firm and roll it into its onefinestay hospitality brand.

Squarebreak has a portfolio of 1,500 private properties in 18 destinations in Latin America, the USA and Europe.

The grouping also incorporates Travel Keys, a luxury private rental business with over 5,000 villas in the Caribbean, Mexico, Hawaii & the USA, Europe, Asia and Africa, that AccorHotels is in the process of buying.

The integration appears to be a play by AccorHotels to take on global home hosting disruptor, Airbnb, which according to its website now has a network of 3 million listings in 191 countries.

AccorHotels' model will see the three "hospitality innovators" spread their collective reach to



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10,000 of "the world's finest homes combined with worldwide professional hospitality and concierge services".

Tasked to take responsibility of the new-look onefinestay will be the brand's newly appointed ceo, AccorHotels executive of 8+ years, Javier Cedillo-Espon.

He said, "With this new step in consolidating our leadership position, onefinestay now has a sound platform combining brand excellence, a vast and complementary offer and distribution efficiency.

"We are hugely excited about the global development potential for our network.

"Our guests are always asking for more places where they can enjoy our professional hospitality and concierge experience and the integration of these three innovative brands is the answer," Cedillo-Espin remarked.

More at onefinestay.com.

Tunisia travel advice

THE United Kingdom's Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) has updated its travel advice for Tunisia, and no longer advises against travel to most of the country, including Tunis.

FCO had advised against travel since 31 Britons were killed in terrorist attacks in Tunisia in 2015.

Operators have already responded to the announcement including TUI who welcomed the decision to allow British tourists to return to the African nation.

A TUI spokesperson said, "We'll take a bit of time to look at how and when we put this once-popular destination back on sale."

Asiana selling points

TODAY'S issue of *Travel Daily* features a Product Profile page from Asiana Airlines and provides agents with some useful selling information about the carrier's Airbus A380 product offering - see the **back page** for details.

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Schwartz in Four Points

HOTELIER Jerry Schwartz has reportedly joined developers behind the new Four Points by Sheraton under construction at the south end of the Sydney CBD.

The 297-room hotel is due for completion next year as part of the Central Park development on Broadway (**TD** 15 Jun 2016) and has been designed by British architects Foster + Partners.

The project is being funded

by Melbourne-based Impact Investment Group (IIG) which purchased the property in Apr.

However, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reports Schwartz has invested in the syndicate behind the development, adding it to his existing interests including the Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour due to open in coming weeks alongside the new International Convention Centre Sydney.

Schwartz also has interests in nearby hotels including Rydges and Mercure properties.

The *Herald* says the level of Schwartz's investment has not been disclosed and that he would not comment on his involvement.

IIG also declined to comment.

The Four Points by Sheraton Sydney Central Park will be part of a mixed development on the site involving retail and dining venues, and will include nearly 550m² of function space, a restaurant and outdoor terrace.

Wolgan incentive

EMIRATES One&Only Wolgan Valley has announced a meetings and incentives package involving a free overnight stay for bookings of 20 room nights.

Bookings must be made by 31 Dec, with group rates available from \$675 per person per night twin share, including all meals, local wines and beers with meals, conference room hire and a dedicated event manager.

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MEL third runway

MELBOURNE Airport has bolstered its case for a third runway after announcing record passenger levels during the past financial year.

The airport broke the 35 million-passenger barrier for the first time in the 12 months to 30 Jun, with international traffic up 8.4% and domestic levels increasing by 2.1%.

"However, we're now coming to the limits of our capacity and we need to expand to meet the aspirations of Melbourne and Victorians," said the airport's ceo Lyell Strambi.

"A new runway, along with improvements to the capabilities of existing runways and taxiways, is vital infrastructure that will facilitate continued growth in airline services," he said.

MEL plans a new east-west runway and is developing a Major Development Plan in order to seek approval from the Commonwealth Government.



Window Seat

ROME'S elaborate Trevi Fountain has long been a favourite haunt for visitors to the eternal city, but tourists will have to be on their best behaviour from now on.

Former Roman traffic officers are being brought out of retirement to help control unruly sightseers at the notoriously crowded site, part of a series of measures introduced by the city's mayor last month.

The fountain patrol team will be responsible for shooing tourists off the landmark's stone rim and reminding them not to eat at the site, with heavy fines threatened for repeat offenders.

The move follows complaints earlier this year of a man swimming naked alla fontana.

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Hilton lifts outlook

HILTON has released its second quarter results, which show a net income of US\$167 million.

The company also raised its full-year forecast for adjusted EBITDA to a range of US\$1.88b-\$1.92b, up from US\$1.86b to \$1.9 billion.

System-wide occupancy rose 0.4% in the second quarter ended Jun 30, while average daily room rate rose 1.2%.

RevPAR, a key measure of hotel health, increased 1.8%.

Vietnam roadshow

THE Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) will hold a tourism roadshow next month in Sydney.

VNAT will stage the event on 17 Aug at the Pullman Hyde Park Hotel Sydney.

The roadshow will run from 0930 until 1300 and features an action packed schedule.

During the event, VNAT will update attendees on new policies, destinations and products for visitors to Vietnam, as well as enhance partnerships.

The program also includes a reception, traditional Vietnamese folk performances, cocktails, a lucky draw and a chance to attend a mega famil later this year.

Email [HERE](#) for more info.

AccorHotels dual property for Melb

IN AN Australian first, AccorHotels has announced its first vertical dual hotel integration to be launched in Melbourne CBD in late 2018.

The Novotel and ibis Melbourne Little Lonsdale Street will have 36 levels and 383 rooms.

Both hotels will share public spaces including reception, f&b and other facilities.

AccorHotels Pacific coo Simon McGrath said it made sense to build a joint hotel with real estate in CBD locations becoming sparse.

"It makes perfect sense to literally scale up and maximise the investment across a number of brands and price points," he said.

ibis will occupy the lower section and will have 270 rooms, while the Novotel will be located in the top with 213 rooms.



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Travellers' "people's" choice



TRAVELLERS Choice is celebrating its back-to-back win of the People's Choice award at last Sat's NTIA with member agency Kingscote Travel picking up this year's gong.

The award made its debut in 2016 and is determined exclusively by consumer votes.

Travellers Choice md Christian Hunter said over the past two years network members had accounted for almost half of the People's Choice nominations.

"This reflects the exceptionally strong connection our members enjoy with their local communities," said Hunter.

Accepting this year's award was Kingscote Travels' owner Evelyn Swayne who said it was a delightful and humbling honour.

Pictured above: Josephine Turner, Kingscote Travel; Susan Haberle, APT Travel Group; Evelyn Swayne, Kingscote Travel and Allison Warner, Kingscote Travel.

More NTIA images on [page 7](#).



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MH 700-seat A380

MALAYSIA Airlines is in talks with investors to launch new charter flights to carry Muslim travellers on the annual Hajj pilgrimage using the carrier's Airbus A380s, *Bloomberg* reports.

The airline expects the new venture to be operational in a year after applying for a licence.

MH ceo Peter Bellew said aircraft used for the Hajj would accommodate as many as 700 people in a single class, which would be modified from their current 494-seat layout.

The carrier has held talks with tourism and aviation parties in Asia and the Middle East.

Bellew added that operating a Hajj service would be "great sustainable business".

"It is not just specifically money that we are looking. We are looking for somebody who can bring something to the business," he said.

Best of Borneo

WENDY Wu Tours has launched a new tour to Borneo, which will visit Bako National Park and the Gomantong Caves for the first time in the company's history.

Tours will operate between Apr and Sep 2018.

The 15-day Best of Borneo tour commences in Kuching before stopping at places including Sarawak, Semenggoh Nature Reserve and Sandakan.

Prices start from \$5,950ppts and include flights ex SYD, MEL & ADL.

Taste of Indonesia

THE inaugural "Taste of Indonesia" food festival will be held next month at the Café Mix, Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney.

Dishes from across the archipelago such as Beef Rendang, Udang Bumbu Bali (Spicy Balinese Prawns), Soto Ayam (chicken soup) and Gado-Gado will be available.

The food will be available at the hotel for guests and other visitors with lunch from \$55pp or dinner from \$85pp.

X2 Vibe Bangkok

BHM Asia has launched its flagship property in Bangkok for its millennial brand X2 Vibe.

X2 Vibe Bangkok is located in the On Nut district and has 145 hotel rooms and 121 residences.

The hotel also has meeting facilities for up to 48 people and an on-site spa and a traditional Japanese onsen.

Air Tahiti AIT flights

AIR Tahiti plans to operate a limited service to Aitutaki in the Cook Islands, GDS shows.

Flights to Aitutaki include a routing via Bora Bora, marking the return of Bora Bora's international operations.

The service will fly Papeete - Bora Bora - Aitutaki - Rarotonga and back to Papeete

Departure dates are 27 Jul and 07 Aug using ATR 72 aircraft.

Adelaide Casino green light



SKYCITY Entertainment Group has confirmed a \$330m investment in Adelaide Casino under an agreement with the Government of South Australia.

Works will begin early next year on expanding Adelaide Casino on the Festival Plaza forecourt, adding an all-suite, luxury hotel, new VIP gaming facilities, three new bars, including a rooftop bar, three signature restaurants and function spaces for up to 750 people for banquets and events.

The number of rooms in the proposed development has been upscaled from 89 to 123, adding another floor to the expanded building, billed as "the most luxurious hotel in Adelaide".

"We believe there is demand for more quality hotel rooms in Adelaide from both domestic and international visitors. This

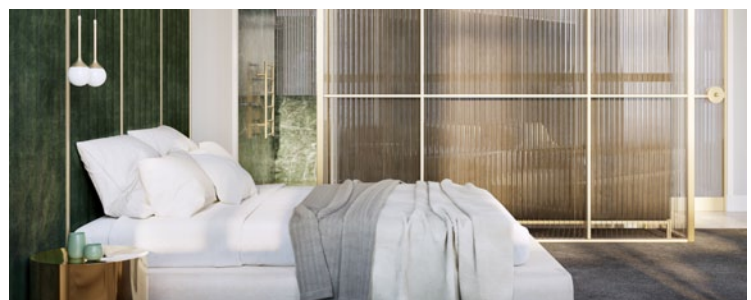
provides a better-balanced product while also helping South Australia realise its full potential as a premium tourist destination," said SKYCITY Entertainment Group chief executive Graeme Stephens.

The existing Adelaide Casino building in the historic Railway Station will also be remodelled and brought to the standards of the new development.

Adelaide Casino gm Luke Walker said the development would "transform Adelaide Casino into a truly integrated entertainment precinct for international, interstate and local visitors".

The redeveloped casino and hotel complex is expected to be completed by third quarter 2020.

A rendering of the exterior of the project is pictured above and of a Villa Bedroom below.





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Pax traffic up 6.5%

GLOBAL air passenger traffic continued its strong growth during May, according to figures from Airports Council Intl.

Traffic during the month was up 6.2% year-on-year, in line with year-to-date growth of 6.5%.

Europe and the Asia-Pacific posted the highest increases at 8.2% and 7.9% respectively, but growth in the Middle East waned amid uncertainty around US travel policies.

Middle East passenger numbers rose only 4.1% in May, down from the growth of 11.4% shown in the same month last year.

Wyndham auctions

THE Wyndham Hotel Group has introduced an online auction system within its loyalty program, allowing members to bid for redemption items.

A dedicated auction site has been unveiled for Wyndham Rewards members, with bidding open on items including Elton John concerts in Las Vegas, a Legoland Florida VIP experience and ticket packages to the Wyndham Championship PGA golf tournament in Nth Carolina.

Auction items will be refreshed regularly and fixed-price options will remain on offer.

Japan incentive boost for Vic



TWELVE incentive agents had a chance to explore Melbourne earlier this month as part of efforts to boost a current boom in visitation from Japan.

The Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) partnered with Qantas and The Langham Melbourne to host the Japanese group, arranging a two-day program of high-end immersive experiences and venue inspections in the city centre and among Yarra Valley wineries.

"The increased air capacity between Japan and Melbourne is driving a boom in visitation, which we are seeing expand into the business events sector, providing more business

opportunities for the state and MCB partners," said MCB ceo Karen Bolinger.

"Hosting famil groups such as this opens the door for suppliers to meet face-to-face with influential decision makers in a cost-effective manner, while giving buyers the opportunity to physically see and experience the product for themselves," she said.

Victoria has experienced a 20% increase in visitation from Japan during the year to Mar 2017.



As HRG continues to grow and increase our footprint in the Meetings Groups and Events segments in Australia, we have openings for the following two positions.

Venue Sourcing Specialist - Melbourne

As the Venue Sourcing Specialist you will be responsible for sourcing venues and accommodation that meet the client event brief. You will liaise with local and international venues and hotels to negotiate and secure pricing and contractual conditions that meet the client requirements. You will prepare and maintain event budgets, documentation, data and reporting, and attend site inspections and client meetings as required.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Venue sourcing or events experience (minimum 2 years)
- Strong communication skills and attention to detail.
- Flexible attitude towards working hours to meet deadlines and attend events
- Knowledge and experience of GDS (TravelPort advantageous)
- Experience using Cvent

Group Travel Coordinator – Melbourne

As the Group Travel Co-coordinator you will be responsible for the entire scope of travel arrangements for corporate events. There will be a focus on providing exceptional customer service and opportunities to build strong relationships with our clients.

The successful candidate will have experience in booking travel via GDS (group flights experience an advantage), with sound destination knowledge and a strong passion for corporate groups and event travel.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Travel consulting experience – required
- Coordinate and book individual and group travel including flights, accommodation, transfers
- Process supplier payments and invoices for clients
- Knowledge and experience of GDS (TravelPort advantageous Strong fares knowledge – international and domestic)
- Flexible approach towards working hours to meet deadlines

HOW TO APPLY

Please contact Laura Cozzi on 03 9604 3478 e-mail your details and resume to laura.cozzi@hrgworldwide.com

Both positions provide a strong opportunity for career growth within the HRG Australia family.

AC adds YVR/YZF

AIR Canada will introduce daily direct flights between Vancouver and the North West Territories city of Yellowknife from 15 Dec.

The seasonal service will continue to 01 Apr and operate with a 75-seat Bombardier CRJ-705 aircraft, complementing existing services to Yellowknife from Calgary and Edmonton.

Vienna H1 record

AUSTRALIA has helped drive record levels of tourism in the city of Vienna, which has announced an all-time high of 6.9 million visitor bed nights between Jan and Jun this year.

The first-half result is up 4.2% on the same period last year.

While Germany contributed the largest overall number of bed nights at 1.4 million (up 3%), Australians provided the highest growth, increasing 19% to 67,000 bed nights.



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Ricki-Lee off with a bang-bang at NTIA

POP star and Australian idol Ricki-Lee Coulter wowed the crowd at Sat night's National Travel Industry Awards, getting the audience up on their feet as she performed hits including Bang Bang, made famous by Jessie J, Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj. The performance was sponsored by Express Travel Group, introduced by ETG ceo Tom Manwaring and MC Anjali Rao (below right). More pics at facebook.com/traveldaily.



THE Singapore Airlines team getting ready for their big After Party evening.



HATS off to the man in the top hat!

ROB Harrison from Qantas with Jenny Williams from Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts, winner of the Best Hotel/Resort Group category at the NTIA.



EMIRATES celebrating winning the Best International Airline - Online category.



TRAVELLERS Choice ceo Christian Hunter presented Peter McCormack from Royal Caribbean International with the Best Cruise Operator - Domestic Deployment award.

STUNNING table centrepieces courtesy of major sponsor Qantas.



MORE style icons, with beards and kilts - definitely a dashing NTIA combination.



Thursday 27th July 2017

New Harry Potter ride for Universal

THE Dragon Challenge coaster at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Orlando will be shut down on 05 Sep, making way for a new "highly-themed coaster experience", the theme park has announced this week.

Its replacement will be an "all-new thrill ride that will take you deeper into JK Rowling's Wizarding World, where you will encounter some of your favourite characters and creatures".

The new coaster isn't expected to debut until 2020.

The Margaret River Gourmet Escape

FIFTY of the world's leading food and wine personalities have been invited to participate in the 2017 Margaret River Gourmet Escape being held in Nov.

Supported by Tourism WA's Regional Events Program, this year's festival will celebrate the Margaret River region's 50th anniversary of commercial wine production, and be opened by celebrity chef Curtis Stone.

The event runs from 16-19 Nov, with tickets going on sale tomorrow - more details [HERE](#).

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Q19. True or False: pillow menus are only available for Sapphire and Diamond deck guests?

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Industry Appointments

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily*'s Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Insight Vacations has appointed **Angela Middleton** as its new Head of Sales. Middleton, who is also on the committee of the Travel Industry Mentor Experience, joins The Travel Corporation from Virgin Australia where she has worked since 2008.

Brazilian airline **Azul** has appointed **John Rodgerson** as Chief Executive Officer and **Alex Malfitani** as Chief Financial Officer, effective immediately. Rodgerson and Malfitani were both among the founding members of Azul. Rodgerson was previously CFO and Malfitani has been the head of Azul's loyalty program, TudoAzul, since 2015.

The global sales and customer service teams of **South Sea Cruises Fiji** has a few new faces. **Loretta St Julian-Ooms** has stepped into the role of bdm - Fiji, while **Lailanie Burnes** has taken on the title of general manager - customer service & experience. From 01 Sep, **Alyssa Field**, currently bdm for North America, will add Australia to her portfolio.

Annabelle Hender is now Marketing Manager Oceania for **Expedia**. She was previously Business Development Manager at Insider Journeys.

Asia Pacific Travel Marketing Services has welcomed **Samantha Langton** to the team as Business Development Manager Qld/WA. She comes from Uniworld, where she was Sales Manager.

Tech platform **Marketplacer** has appointed former Red Balloon CEO, **Nick Baker** as CEO of its outdoor equipment and road travelling accommodation and experience marketplaces, Outdoria and GO See Australia. Baker brings more than 15 years' experience to the role, including seven years as Chief Marketing Officer of Tourism Australia.

Asia-Pacific Incentives and Marketing Expo's Operations Manager, **Angela Sciacca**, has been promoted by **ibtm Events** to the role of Project Manager of the annual show, responsible for the overall delivery of AIME 2018.

ONYX Hospitality Group has revealed two senior promotions, naming **David Cumming** as Regional Vice President of Operations for Bangkok, Malaysia and Laos and **Pierre-Andre Pelletier** as Regional Vice President of Operations for South Thailand, Vietnam and the Maldives.

Tourism Ireland's manager for Canada, **Dana Welch**, and German National Tourist Office's director for Canada, **Antje Splettstoesser** have been named as the new Chair and Vice-Chair of the **European Travel Commission's Canadian chapter**.

Clinton Anderson will take over from Alex Alt as the president of **Sabre Hospitality Solutions**, effective 07 Aug. Anderson has been with Sabre since 2014 and is currently the tech firm's its Senior VP of Strategy.

Courtyard Yangon

MARRIOTT International has announced its second property for Myanmar, signing a deal to open the Courtyard by Marriott Yangon in 2019.

The 200 room & suite new-build property is part of a mixed-use development and will be close to key tourist attractions.

JAL, Vietjet pact

JAPAN Airlines and Vietjet have agreed to commence a new codeshare agreement on all flight services they operate between Japan and Vietnam.

The deal also covers domestic services of both airlines under a new joint partnership to provide increased flight options.

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AA FULL PAGE

AFTA & APT congratulate the

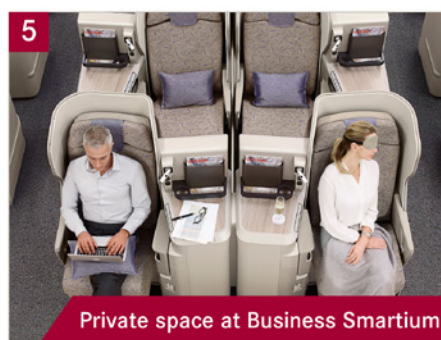
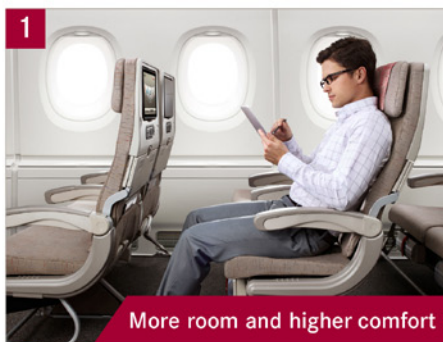
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- Asiana mileage club members' benefit

ASIANA380 superjumbo will be available in Sydney from 30/10/17 to 25/3/18.

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