

Rex boosts Orange

REGIONAL Express (Rex) will boost its services between Sydney and Orange, adding almost 18,000 seats per year.

Flights will increase from four return services per weekday to five from 29 Jan, making a total of 58 weekly services on the route.

"This decision is not without its risk as currently there are only 55,000 annual passengers for the 100,000 annual seats that will be available," said Rex gm network strategy and sales Warrick Lodge, who added that a supporting partnership agreement would be sought with Orange City Council.

QF mandates customer data

QANTAS has updated its travel agent terms and conditions, with changes including a formal requirement that all relevant customer information - including mobile number and email - is "passed onto Qantas in the format prescribed".

The new T&Cs were published just before Christmas, and became effective on 20 Dec 2017.

The agent's Pseudo City Code (PCC) must also now be included in any booking, the updated document confirms, to inform QF of where the agent is located.

The revised Qantas agent Terms and Conditions include a new section on 'Sale and ticketing of Qantas products' which restricts agents to only sell, ticket and distribute fares in the country where their PCC is domiciled.

With all fares - not just QF specials - the terms and conditions confirm that agents must "take all reasonable steps to

ensure the customer is eligible to be sold the relevant fare" - and if a Qantas fare or special is sold in contravention of the new clauses, the carrier will be "entitled to compensation from the agent equivalent to the amount of the difference between the ticketed airfare and the highest airfare applicable to the class in which the customer was booked".

Other changes include a new requirement that agents do not inhibit a customer's ability to book and confirm a QF product.

If a reservation system, website, online booking tool or other system is experiencing technical difficulty then the agent must promptly inform Qantas and also take all reasonable steps to rectify the issue as soon as possible, the document states.

Any use of the QF Industry Sales Site, or any marketing, selling or ticketing of Qantas, "will constitute agreement and acceptance" of the new T&Cs, according to qantas.com/agents.

Rocky on sale

INTERNATIONAL Rail is offering couples up to \$600 in added value when booking selected Rocky Mountaineer 2018 journeys between Apr and Oct.

The credit can be used towards pre and post accommodation, meal plans, extra activities, transfers, car rental and excursions - details 1300 387 245.

See more specials on **page 3**.

Hurtigruten role

FORMER Cox & Kings ceo Damien Perry has taken up an interim role as the Asia-Pacific head of Hurtigruten.

He will fill the position of managing director following the promotion of William Harber to president for the Americas, which saw him move from Hong Kong to Seattle recently.

Cox & Kings remains the GSA for Hurtigruten in Australia.

Perry left Cox & Kings last year (**TD** 19 Sep).

US faces flight chaos

THOUSANDS of flights have been cancelled and major airports closed across the US east coast as winter storms bring heavy snow and high winds.

The New York and Boston areas have been among the hardest hit, with JFK airport closed today amid white-out conditions and 12cm of snow on the runways.

La Guardia was also closed, while Newark cancelled most flights while reducing operations to a single runway.

USA Today reports more than 4,000 flights have been cancelled throughout the region.

Some flights have been diverted from the New York area to airports including Washington, Detroit and Philadelphia, while knock-on effects are creating delays in other regions.

Further disruption is expected tomorrow as storms persist.

Qantas renews push to lift cap

QANTAS chairman Leigh Clifford has renewed calls to lift the airline's foreign ownership restrictions, saying the cap jeopardises its plans to buy new ultra-long haul jets.

Speaking to *Fairfax Media*, Clifford said the 49% foreign ownership cap imposed by the Qantas Sale Act was restricting the airline's ability to raise capital.

"We haven't got a particular need at the moment, but at some stage we're going to have to dramatically renew the fleet," Clifford said.

"At some stage we're going to have to replace the (Airbus) 380s... and (ceo) Alan (Joyce) has talked of the challenge we've put out to Airbus and Boeing for long-range aircraft.

"Well, these don't come cheaply," he said, adding that the airline would continue to "engage with government" on the issue.

Garuda Bali deals

GARUDA Indonesia is offering return Economy fares to Bali from as low as \$379 ex PER in Economy until 02 Feb.

East coast prices start from \$650 from Melbourne to Bali.

Business class fares are \$1,860 return from Sydney.

Prices are valid for low season travel only.

TRS adds properties

TRAVEL Representation Services (TRS) has been appointed the Australian representative for the Ramada Hotel & Suites Noumea, Ramada Resort Port Vila and Chantilly's on the Bay, in Vanuatu.

The new additions to TRS offer a number of different holiday options for travellers across New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

TRS is a representation company that specialises in the sales and marketing of hotels, resorts and travel related companies.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has three pages of news and photos.

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Jayde - Sales Manager



Uncover Manila and Boracay in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

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River cruise move for Minor

MINOR Hotels has expanded its cruise offering with the launch of Mekong Kingdoms, promising "a new style of river travel" across a fleet of five vessels.

The ships will sail the Mekong River from Thailand's Golden Triangle to Luang Prabang and join the group's existing cruising options of Manohra Dining Cruises in Bangkok and Anantara Overnight Cruises.

Mekong Kingdom's flagship vessel, *Boheme*, will be a 42m 13-cabin luxury barge with a sun deck, wine cellar and spa.

It will sail two-night voyages from Chiang Rai/Chiang Khong to Luang Prabang and a three-night upstream return cruise, with the itinerary including guided jungle treks, a visit to the Pak Ou caves and mountain biking.

On board activities include sunrise yoga, cooking demos, Buddhist meditation, jewellery making classes and fishing.

There will also be a two-cabin cruiser called *Gypsy* offering customised Mekong itineraries of one or more nights.

Pax seeking day trips can opt

for *Nomad's* sunset cruises for couples in Luang Prabang, while a floating lounge called *Play* will cater for up to 15 guests with its sundeck, private room and sound system, and *Monsoon* will offer scheduled touring shuttles to the Pak Ou caves.

Carnival fleet builds

CARNIVAL Corporation has released new details on its fleet expansion as the group prepares to introduce four new ships across its brands this year.

Holland America Line has revealed *ms Nieuw Statendam*, set to launch in Dec 2018, will include the dining options of French seafood brasserie Sel de Mer, Asian fusion concept Tamarind, and the Grand Dutch Cafe, serving Dutch treats.

The vessel's 2,666-guests will have access to the newly created Exploration Central's hub located in the Crow's Nest, offering a resource centre with interactive screens and a Virtual Bridge.

Statendam will also feature the music venues of Lincoln Center Stage, Billboard Onboard & the B.B. King's Blues Club, while World Stage will utilise a 270-degree LED projection for shows.

In 2018, Carnival Corporation will also launch Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Horizon* in Apr, Seabourn's *Seabourn Ovation* in May and AIDA Cruises' *AIDAnova* in Dec.

Ecoventura themes

ECOVENTURA will introduce a number of niche programs as part of its 2018 offering on *MV Origin*.

The first culinary departure will set sail from 16-23 Sep, taking travellers on a food journey around the Galapagos.

Local celebrity chef Juan Carlos Ordonez will demonstrate the local Ecuadorian cuisine.

The company will also offer two photography departures in 2018, with the first setting sail on 28 Oct, while a health & wellness sailing will set course on three dates in late 2018.

Ecoventura also has two hosted departures featuring marine biologist Jack Grove in Sep.

AB sells division

COLLAPSED German airline Air Berlin has sold its subsidiary Air Berlin Aviation to Thomas Cook Group Airlines.

The announcement comes as the bankrupt airline continues a carve-up of its businesses.

Thomas Cook told *Reuters* the move would allow its German subsidiary Condor to grow.

Air Berlin Aviation was set up in 2017 to take over the wetlease operations handled by Air Berlin on behalf of Eurowings and Austrian Airlines, however no aircraft are attached to the entity.

Qld Clipper boost

THE Clipper 2017-18 Round the World Yacht Race fleet will return to The Whitsundays from the 13-29 Jan.

Based out of Airlie Beach, the Clipper Race crew represent over 20 different nationalities and will also have downtime to explore the tropical island destination with friends and family.

Qld Tourism Minister Kate Jones said visitors during the carnival were expected to bring millions to the local economy, while providing a boost for tourism.

The Clipper yachts are currently racing from Hobart to Airlie Beach.



Window Seat

THE recent volcanic activity on Mt Agung hasn't stopped two Australian tourists from getting into the thick of it.

Indonesian Police said the two men climbed Mt Agung, and claim to have been unaware of an exclusion zone around the active volcano.

The Aussies were questioned upon their descent and were set free away from the volcano.

DELTA Air Lines flew its final Boeing 747 flight to a scrap yard in Arizona on Wed.

However this flight was not an ordinary flight, with a wedding taking place at 40,000ft.

A flight attendant and a 747 pilot for the airline tied the knot after meeting on a military charter flight nine years ago.

The Economy class section was decorated to resemble a chapel, with a Business class bulkhead divider doubling as a backdrop for the altar.

Marriott Shanghai

MARRIOTT International has announced the opening of its latest property, Fairfield by Marriott Shanghai Jing'an.

The hotel is located in the Jing'an District of Shanghai, close to the business hub of the city.

Fairfield by Marriott Shanghai Jing'an has 195 guest rooms, with travellers having access to on-to-go meals that are available all day for purchase.

LH lounge services

LUFTHANSA plans to expand its LoungeNet platform around the world in the coming months.

The free service allows for pax to track their flight, view special offers, download eJournals, redeem air miles and more.

Travellers using the service can receive yoga exercise suggestions and print at the lounge.



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Infinity on the slopes



INFINITY Holidays recently escorted a group of its wholesale consultants to experience the slopes of Western Canada.

The tour visited popular sites from Vancouver to Whistler, providing ample opportunity to participate in some skiing, snowboarding, snow shoe trekking and ice-fishing.

Pictured are Infinity wholesale consultants Kane Walker, Stacey Jones, Amber O'Grady, Jordan Dix, Kane Swan, Kim Brownsey

and Anthony Branch, with Grouse Mountain Resorts guide (third from right).

Madagascar alert

DFAT has advised Aussie travellers to exercise a high degree of caution in Madagascar as Tropical Storm Ava is expected to bear down on the country's east coast from today.

Travellers should monitor local media for evacuation orders.

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Travel Specials



WELCOME to Travel Specials, **Travel Daily's** Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au.

Flights to the Cook Islands are on sale with **Air New Zealand**. One way Economy class fares from Sydney to Rarotonga are available from \$299. Book by 24 Jan - **CLICK HERE** for more details.

Golden Door's Health Retreats in the Hunter Valley is offering \$1,000 off a seven-night program package or \$800 off a five-night program package between 14 Jan-31 Mar. See goldendoor.com.au.

Book by 31 Jan to access a 10% discount on Aussie Outback Adventure Tours with **Tri State Safaris** – part of the Out of the Ordinary Outback tourism group. Prices start from \$670ppts. Call 1300 688 225.

New Caledonia Travel Connection is offering a range of family packages, including seven-nights accom at Sheraton New Caledonia Deva, return airfares with Airalin and more from \$6,399 per family - **CLICK HERE**.

A 15% discount is available for three-night stays at **Hilton Sydney**. Book by 28 Dec 2018 for stays through to 31 Dec 2018 - **CLICK HERE**.

TFE Hotels is running a 25% off sale for its properties across Australia and New Zealand until 09 Jan. Valid for stays to 30 Dec - **CLICK HERE**.

El Al to San Fran

EL AL Israel Airlines has announced it will launch direct flights from Tel Aviv to San Francisco from Q4 2018.

The new routes will operate three times weekly using the new Boeing 787 *Dreamliner*.

The move forms part of a push on the Nth American market.

MEANWHILE El Al has implemented a new Economy class price structure for flights to Europe that sees three separate purchase options put forward.

Economy now streams into Lite, Classic or Flex, with carry-on baggage and preferred seating the major variables of choice.

Hyatt opens at FRA

THE Hyatt Place Frankfurt Airport hotel has commenced operations in Germany and marks the debut of the Hyatt Place brand in the country.

The property, which is located only a 10 minute rail journey from Frankfurt's city centre, features 312 rooms, a 24/7 gym, large meeting spaces, free wifi and a coffee to cocktail bar.

The opening represents a period of expansion for the Hyatt Place brand in Europe, joining six other hotels across the continent.

QF webinar training

QANTAS Agency Partnerships is inviting agents to a 15-minute live-classroom on the airline's "Small to Mid-Sized Business Products" on Wed 10 Jan.

The session will provide information on the various Qantas products available to business customers.

Qantas Business Rewards benefits, American Express Qantas products and QF Small Business Dealing will be covered at four different sessions available from 0830 AEDT - **CLICK** for more.

Hilton in Fuzhou

HILTON Hotels & Resorts has announced the opening of the 331-room Hilton Fuzhou in China.

The skyscraper hotel features an infinity pool, 24-hour fitness centre, 11 function rooms and floor-to-ceiling windows that take advantage of city skyline views.

Situated close to transport hubs and the city centre, Hilton Fuzhou is based in one of China's fastest growing cities.

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