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Air NZ confirms Chicago

AIR New Zealand's new non-stop flights from Auckland to Chicago (**TD** breaking news) are a further extension of the carrier's Americas strategy, which firmly targets Australian travellers linking to its US, Canada and South America flights via trans-Tasman services.

NZ chief commercial officer Cam Wallace told **TD** this morning the new route was "designed perfectly for connections out of Australia," while within the USA onward flights were available with joint venture partner United Airlines to more than 100 destinations.

Air New Zealand will launch the new route on 30 Nov, with thrice weekly Boeing 787-9 flights taking about 15 hours northbound and just over 16 hours on the return sector each Wed, Fri and Sun.

United Airlines is also expanding its capacity to New Zealand, confirming the extension of its current seasonal Auckland-San Francisco flights to a year-round operation from Apr 2019.

Air New Zealand has heavily marketed its Americas flights in Australia via the 'Dave the Goose' campaign featuring Bryan Brown.

Chicago (see **cover wrap**) is the sixth destination in the NZ Americas network, alongside Los Angeles, Houston, Vancouver, San Francisco and Buenos Aires.

UA international vice president Patrick Quayle said "by adding Chicago to the Air New Zealand route network, and with United's increased service between San Francisco and Auckland, we are proud to offer our customers more ways to get between the United States and New Zealand and more connection opportunities in those cities than any other airline in the world".

Wallace said the new flights further strengthened NZ's partnership with United Airlines.

"We'll take any Australians to Chicago - even cricketers," he said.

Hefty issue today!

Travel Daily today has eleven pages of news, a front cover wrap for **Air New Zealand**, a photo page for **Excite Holidays** plus full pages from:

- Albatross Tours
- Travel Trade Recruitment

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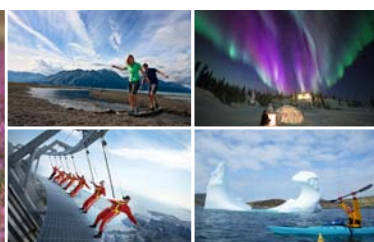
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Travel Daily on location in Paris

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Atout France which is hosting its annual *Rendez-vous en France* travel trade expo this week.

AS INDUSTRY buyers converged on the Porte de Versailles exhibition centre in Paris yesterday, Atout France Australian director Patrick Benhamou set about working on his plans to bring the Moulin Rouge down under in 2020.

Benhamou met with the famous cabaret's owner Jean-Jacques Clerico to secure a world-first tour that would involve 40 dancers visiting Sydney and Melbourne.

Benhamou told *TD* that due to its high production values, Moulin Rouge had never toured internationally before.

"It's going to be massive because Moulin Rouge is a household name," he said.

"There's great awareness thanks to the Baz Luhrmann film *Moulin Rouge*, starring Nicole Kidman," he added.

Clerico visits Australia every Jul to recruit dancers for his shows because of their excellent skills in classical ballet and their willingness to commit for years at a time to the Moulin Rouge.

See more news from *Rendez-vous en France* on **page eight**.

Staycations nudge 100m

OVERNIGHT domestic trips taken by Australians are nearing the 100 million mark, new data released by Tourism Research Australia has revealed.

For the 12 months to Dec 2017, domestic overnight travel was up 7% year-on-year to 97.2 million, of which holiday trips increased 6% to top 39.3 million & business travel reached 21 million.

According to the National Visitor Survey, the trend in growth for overnight trips was unsurprisingly matched by expenditure rises, with overnight trips surging 6% to \$64.5 billion, on par with growth for holiday trips which accounted for \$32.5 billion.

Domestic day trips achieved marginal growth, up 1% to 192m, however spend jumped 3% to reach \$20.4 billion.

The NVS results indicated strong growth in interstate overnight travel, with trips increasing 8% to 31.9 million, but nights rose by only half that rate to 160 million.

Tourism Research Australia said the continuing decline of the Aussie dollar has contributed to the growth in interstate travel,

Survey reminder

DON'T forget to complete *TD*'s 2018 Touring Survey for a chance to win great prizes and contribute to Australia's most extensive research into industry views on the group touring sector.

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particularly in the holiday sector.

Overnight visitor numbers were up across all states compared to 2016, except WA (-1%) and spend was down in WA, SA and the NT.

"With overseas trips having less appeal due to their increased cost, domestic travellers look towards interstate travel as a substitute," the NVS determined.

Coupled with the international growth for the year, overnight tourism spend reached a record \$105.8 billion - an overall boost of 6% (or \$5.8 billion) on 2016.

Mead exits Collette

US-HEADQUARTERED tour operator Collette will be without a locally based manager following the resignation of general mgr Alison Mead, effective mid-Apr.

Mead is departing the company to "focus on family priorities", Collette said in a statement.

Collette's svp of international business Christian Leibl-Cote praised Mead for her efforts in building the firm's profile in this market since the brand launched an Australian operation.

"We are sorry to be losing such a talented leader who has established strong partnerships and solid growth for the company in Australia," Leibl-Cote said.

Collette's head of marketing James Hewlett and head of sales Amanda McCann will lead the business' growth going forward, overseen by Leibl-Cote.

Contiki South Pac

TE ANAU & Milford Sound have been included in Contiki's three New Zealand itineraries as part of the youth touring company's South Pacific 2018/19 brochure.

The program features 22 trips and five travel styles.



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Wicked back to old tricks

VEHICLE rental bad-boy Wicked Campers is back in the news after another ruling against it by Australia's Advertising Standards Bureau (Ad Standards).

The renegade operator has fallen foul of the ad watchdog for a 79th time over a van painted in the style of a Dr Seuss book with an apparent reference to drug production in the TV series *Breaking Bad*.

Complaints about the van raised concerns that it was glamorising drug use and manufacture.

Wicked has stopped responding to Ad Standards complaint notifications and has prompted laws in three states which ban vehicles found in breach of the Advertiser Code of Ethics.

In the latest case, a Wicked campervan is illustrated with a man holding out his hand on which stands a blue crystal character, with the words "Mr White can Make BLUE can YOU?".

In its ruling, Ad Standards noted the slogan was a reference to the *Breaking Bad* character Mr White who makes blue crystal meth.

It said the drug reference was obscure, but found it breached

section 2.6 of the Code which says ads should not depict material contrary to community standards on health and safety.

Thailand roadshow

THE Australian leg of the annual Amazing Thailand Roadshow has been confirmed for early May.

Organised by Tourism Authority of Thailand, Australia, events will take place in Melbourne (02 May), Sydney (03 May) and Perth (07 May) following a show in Auckland (on 30 Apr).

Over 50 Thai hotel and tourism operators from Phuket, Koh Samui, Bangkok, Khaolak, Hua Hin, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai are participating, along with Thai Airways and Bangkok Airways.

The showcase centres around TAT's new marketing concept, 'Open to the New Shades of Thailand', and highlights activities based on "13 core niche products", spanning gastronomy, wedding & honeymoon, night tourism, green tourism, maritime tourism, sports and others.

For more information, email info@thailand.net.au.



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Qantas unisex kits

QANTAS' new non-stop link between Perth and London last weekend not only heralded the direct linking of Australia and Europe for the first-time by a commercial airline, but also the debut of new unisex amenity kits for Economy class travellers.

The new kits are available on Qantas international services of more than eight hours and feature a QF branded toothbrush and toothpaste, eye mask and ear plugs in a stylish grey felt pouch.



So far, Qantas has introduced the Economy class amenity kits (**pictured**) on its new London route, Sydney-Santiago and Singapore-London city pairs.

Passengers flying on the Sydney-Dallas/Fort Worth and Australia-Los Angeles routes will have access to the kits next month, and from May they will be offered on QF's Australia-San Francisco and Sydney-Johannesburg flights.



Window Seat

AN EIGHT-LEGGED Aussie stowaway was sprung on a flight from Australia to Germany this week after a man found a giant huntsman spider lurking in his rucksack mid-journey.

The shocked passenger was quick to zip up his bag and throw it the way of cabin crew who then detained the super-sized arachnid for further questioning.

Although huntsman spiders have been known to bite people when threatened, they are not considered dangerous.

After a thorough interrogation in Germany, the spider was eventually cleared by the country's counter-terror unit & is not considered a fright risk.



THANK YOU FOR NOMINATING US IN THE 2018 AFTA AWARDS

We are delighted to receive nominations for:

Category 18: **Best Domestic Airline**

Category 19: **Best Airline International**
Online

Category 32: **Best Sales Executive**
Industry Supplier Kirstie Myers

Thank you for your ongoing support and good luck to fellow nominees.

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Leaders line up for Obama



EVEN a pair of crutches didn't slow down AFTA chief Jayson Westbury last weekend.

He is **pictured** out and about with Air New Zealand chief commercial officer Cam Wallace and Corporate Travel Management CEO Laura Ruffles on the steps of the NSW Art Gallery on Fri night.

The occasion was a private invitation-only gala "Evening with President Barack Obama" organised by Mastercard Australia, billed as "driving positive change".

Strict controls on photography within the venue mean we can't publish a photo of any of the trio with the former president himself.

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EK doubles Prague

A **SECOND** daily service from Dubai to Prague will be launched by Emirates from 01 Jul to meet "increasing demand".

Flight EK137 departs DXB at 1330 and arrives into PRG at 1955, returning as flight EK138 at 2135, landing in Dubai at 0530.

The new year-round service will be operated by Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, complementing EK's existing Airbus A380 offering to the capital of the Czech Republic.

Curio Maldives first

HILTON has inked a franchise agreement with Singha Estate to open a new boutique resort in the Maldives under its Curio Collection by Hilton brand.

To be developed in Emboodhoo Lagoon as part of the Crossroads integrated resort project, the Curio hotel will feature 198 rooms, beach villas and overwater villas.

The Curio Collection Maldives is set to open later this year.

Inca Rail 360° debut

PROMPERU Australia advises that Inca Rail will soon roll out new carriages on the 360° Machu Picchu train which operates from Poroy to Machu Picchu (& return) and Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu (and return) in Peru.

The fresh carriages are wider and taller than their predecessors and feature panoramic windows and a domed roof.

It has an outdoor observation carriage that includes a bar.

Seats will provide USB ports so passengers can keep phones and cameras fully charged to capture moments from the rail journey.

Guests will also be treated to gourmet and organic produce on the ride, made from ingredients sourced from the Sacred Valley.

An "InTrain" entertainment system (an onboard app) will also be rolled out in coming weeks.

The app will enable guests to learn more about the train ride and Inca civilisation.

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Tahiti campaign

TAHITI Tourism has unveiled its latest digital marketing campaign under the banner "Take Me to Tahiti", involving the adventures of real-life travellers from the US, Brazil and the UK.

The campaign will roll out across digital and social platforms in Australia and New Zealand from today and shows the diversity of islands and experiences in Tahiti.

Travellers shown in the campaign take part in activities and experiences determined by a spinning wheel - [CLICK HERE](#).

QR to Thessaloniki

QATAR Airways has launched its new service from Doha to the Greek city of Thessaloniki, with its first flight landing yesterday.

Operating four times a week on an Airbus A320 aircraft, the new service is QR's second Greek route after Athens and comes ahead of a third, to Mykonos, due to launch in May.

Qld accom growth

QUEENSLAND'S accommodation sector had a strong month during Feb, with statistics released by Tourism & Events Queensland showing occupancy rates up 2.9 percentage points on the same month last year to reach 70.2%.

Average daily rates were up \$2.47 to \$165.10, while RevPar increased \$6.48 to reach \$115.93.

North Qld, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast reported strong growth, while Brisbane and southern Great Barrier Reef areas were stable.

LOT grp bookings

LOT Polish Airlines is now able to provide quotes for group bookings to Europe.

Group options are offered in conjunction with interline partners Qantas & Singapore Airlines, with departures from SYD, MEL, ADL, BNE & PER - email Lot@aviationonline.com.au.

Hello Californian ski runs!



AMERICAN Airlines joined forces with California's North Lake Tahoe and Mammoth Mountain to host a group of Helloworld Travel agents on a ski famil late last month/early this month.

Flying into Reno with American Airlines, the trip saw agents first hit the slopes of North Lake Tahoe in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where they spent three days sampling the 'white stuff', visiting Squaw Valley and Northstar.

Participants then ventured to Mammoth Mountain for two days of fun, where they were met with an abundance of snow during the

region's peak ski period.

Prior to heading back to Sydney, the group stopped in at Los Angeles' Citadel Outlets for some much needed retail therapy.

The group (**pictured**) included Sean Skilton, Skilled Travel; David Thompson, The Travel Authority; Elliette Pickard, Helloworld Travel Kotara; Nicole Delisle Haraszta, Helloworld Travel Rosebay; Ashley Shallow, Travel Utopia; Michael Shneier, Sabra Travel; Matthew Wood, Helloworld Travel bdm; Jacqueline Brown, Helloworld Travel Wollongong and Penny Brand from Gate 7.



American Airlines

**A big American thank you
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Award nominations**

- Best International Airline Online
- Best Sales Executive Industry Supplier

– Chris Catanzariti

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Monk drops by Luxury Escapes



THE Luxury Escapes office had a little extra star power recently when Sophie Monk and her bestie Oscar Gordon dropped by to thank the team for organising their escape to Thailand.

Monk and Gordon are pictured with Adam Schwab, co-founder and ceo Luxury Escapes (left).

Hotel inventory up

GLOBAL hotel inventory has grown 17.7% over the last 10 years, according to the latest data from STR.

The number of global hotel rooms has risen from 14,419,917 in 2008 to 16,966,280 in 2018.

Gem takes bookings

THE first tower in The Ruby Collection development on the Gold Coast will open towards the end of Nov and pre-opening packages are now available.

The Ruby Apartments will offer one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, villas and sky suites featuring full kitchens, laundries, private ensuites and free wi-fi.

Save 54% on a five night stay priced from \$995, including buffet breakfast and \$100 dining credit.

Valid for stays 05 Nov 2018 to 31 Mar, 2020.

62m Aussies flew

A TOTAL of 62.41 million Australians travelled on domestic commercial flights for the year ending Dec 2017, a 1.7% increase on the year prior, according to the latest statistics from the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economies (BITRE).

Despite the passenger increase, the number of aircraft trips was down 0.5% and capacity slid 1% on the year ending Dec 2016.

The industry-wide load factor grew to 79.4% for the period, up from 77.8% in the prior corresponding period.

Melbourne-Sydney remained Australia's busiest RPT route followed by Brisbane-Sydney and Brisbane-Melbourne.

Amadeus FC pact

AMADEUS has won a long-term contract with Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) to provide distribution technology for Flight Centre's business across EMEA and Asia.

The group's travel agents in 17 countries will adopt Amadeus Selling Platform Connect and a range of integrated mobile and business intelligence capabilities.

Flight Centre will provide input on Amadeus' design and input of an NDC-enabled solution.

FCTG confirmed earlier this month the Sabre Red Workspace had been implemented across the FC network in Australia and New Zealand, switching from Travelport (**TD** 07 Mar).

CA PEK self check

BEIJING Capital International Airport will implement SITA's self-service kiosks for passenger check-in services on all Air China domestic flights departing from Terminal 3.

Up to 70 SITA AirportConnect Kiosks will be used with the aim of processing passengers faster and freeing up airline staff to focus on other aspects of the passenger experience.

The new kiosks will feature boarding pass and bag tag printers and passport readers.

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— ROCKY BALBOA



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Wednesday 28th March 2018

Jetstar Clark to KIX

JETSTAR Asia has launched its inaugural flight from Singapore to Osaka via Clark in the Philippines.

The new service is scheduled to operate three return services a week and has become the first carrier to fly direct between the Philippines' Clark International Airport and Japan.

Jetstar Asia will deploy its 180-seat Airbus A320 on the route.

R&C on the Amazon

LUXURY hospitality collection Relais & Chateaux has admitted Amazon river cruise specialist Delfin Amazon Cruises to be a new member of its group.

The Peruvian-owned Delfin operates cruises of the Upper Peruvian Amazon using three vessels and specialises in personalised explorations of the iconic South American river.

WA catches wave in Heathrow



QANTAS' new nonstop flight from Perth to London (**TD** Mon) saw many of Western Australia's top political brass take to the air to celebrate the plane's arrival across the globe.

Spreading the Aussie spirit was Western Australia Premier Mark McGowan and Minister for Tourism; Small Business; Defence Issues; Racing and Gaming; Paul Papalia, **pictured** left, with the agent general for Western Australia John Atkins, (right), who proudly brandished a kangaroo-embazoned surfboard outside of Heathrow Airport upon arrival.

MEANWHILE, Western Australia's marketing push with STA Travel to attract more youth visitors from the United Kingdom and Germany to the state (**TD** yesterday) is being actively promoted on the WA Premier's London visit.

"It's wonderful to be in the UK, Australia's biggest market for

Working Holiday Maker travel, to encourage more young Brits to travel to WA - Australia's western gateway," McGowan said.

"The UK youth market is significant for WA, comprising 31% of UK visitors.

"Campaigns such as this one provide an opportunity for us to showcase our beautiful state," Western Australia Tourism Minister Paul Papalia added.

Prince new brands

FOLLOWING on from Prince Hotel's purchase of Australian hotelier StayWell Hospitality (**TD** 04 Jul), the Japanese hotel chain has flagged plans to add two new brands to its stocks.

While the brand names are yet to be finalised, Prince Hotels has indicated it will be rolling out a new five-star brand in addition to a new lifestyle concept that will highlight tech integration.

The company has also unveiled international expansion plans that include ambitions to double its combined portfolio in 10 years from 88 properties today to approximately 250, of which 150 will be StayWell hotels.

Target markets for growth are set to include Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, a move the company believes will insulate it against the risk of financial downturns in Japan.

Solomon dive deals

SOLOMON Airlines has partnered with Dive Munda and the Agnes Gateway Hotel in Munda to offer an eight-night deal on diving trips to the Solomon Islands.

Trips includes return flights, all accommodation and 12 dives in Munda - deal available until 16 Jul for trips taken 07 Apr & 29 Jul.



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Dear agents and industry partners,
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FINNAIR

Best International Airline Off-line

Congratulations to our BDMs **Toni Kosmarikas** and **Karli Koutrouvelis** for being nominated in the category Best Sales Executive Industry Supplier





Accommodation Updates

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



InterContinental Sydney has renewed its meeting and events spaces housed within the 1851 heritage Treasure Building. All 15 areas have undergone their first revamp since opening in 1985 and have been modernised to offer new audio and visual technology.

They have received new "contemporary touches and soft furnishings".



The wellness and sustainability offering of **Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas** has been extended to the company's smallest guests with a Grow with Six Senses program for kids. The program aims to connect kids with nature and others around them through

activities including local farm visits, recycled shell crafts, purifying water, candle making, snorkelling, treasure hunts and cooking classes.



Sofitel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills has unveiled a Cattle & Claw popup, offering lobsters and burgers. The eatery is serving simple burgers through to its larger 10 ounce patty with roasted red pepper and garlic mayonnaise. Lobster lovers can choose from a spiced lobster roll, lobster-tomato-arugula salad & half or whole lobsters.

NZ chamber pro ju

THE American Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand is the latest organisation to pledge its support for the planned alliance between American Airlines and Qantas on services between the US and Australia & New Zealand.

"American's presence has encouraged competition and ultimately, it's the passengers and the business community that have benefited," said Amcham exec director Mike Hearn.

HTI works complete

HAMILTON Island Airport has reopened an improved arrivals hall and baggage collection area.

The works saw two automated baggage carousels and automatic check-in counters installed for Holiday Homes and Reef View Hotel guests plus Cruise Whitsundays passengers.

The new layout is designed to provide operational efficiencies for airline staff and greater space and flow for guest comfort.

Aussies converge in Paris



SIXTEEN Australian buyers are attending the 13th Rendez-vous en France this year at Le Parc des Expositions Porte de Versailles.

A spectacular welcome soirée at Les Puce de Saint Ouen greeted the Australian contingent and was followed by a busy day meeting with operators and tour organisers from across France on the first day of workshops.

There are 750 French exhibitors at the event and nearly 1,000 operators and buyers representing 69 countries.

Attending his 11th Rendez-vous en France, Brad McDonnell from French Travel Connection told **TD** it was a way to reconnect with suppliers, get updates on products, find new business partners and receive feedback.

"It is extremely efficient and always runs smoothly," he said.

Atout France later held the official 'France Gala' at La Seine Musical, celebrating French music, food, wine and culture.

A spotlight was shone on the Centre-Val de Loire region which will celebrate "500 years of Renaissance"

in 2019.

Ahead of the Rendez-vous en France trade show, Australian buyers embarked on familiarisation trips to various regions of France: Brittany, Burgundy-Franche Comte, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and the Grand Est (Lorraine, Alsace and Champagne).

Experiences included visiting the fortified city of Vannes, viewing the stunning Jura mountains, admiring a Picasso exhibition and sailing across the Marseille Bay.

It has been revealed that next year's Rendez-vous en France will be held in Marseille.

Pictured above is Atout France Australian director Patrick Benhamou with Angelique Sinclair of Eastern Eurotours/ Mediterranean Holidays and Fiona Edgar of Helloworld Travel, while **below** are Brad McDonnell and Laura Hadfield of French Travel Connection.



We're proud to be nominated in this year's NTIA Awards
We'd love you to vote for us in Category 24: Best Tour Operator/Domestic

VOTE NOW

Wednesday 28th March 2018

ANA long-delay fine

JAPAN'S All Nippon Airlines has been issued a consent order by US authorities for keeping pax on a grounded international flight for more than four hours.

According to the order, ANA flight NH110 from Tokyo Haneda to New York JFK on 09 Feb last year was diverted to Washington Dulles (IAD) due to adverse weather conditions in New York.

After touching down at IAD at 1056, the flight docked into a gate at 1104, but with the likelihood of the flight being cancelled (and with favourable weather forecasts for JFK), ANA chose to prevent passengers from deplaning in Washington as it would have resulted in a mandatory rest period for crew.

Flight NH110 was ultimately cancelled at 1503 - some 4hrs and 20mins after arriving at IAD.

The US Dept of Transportation imposed ANA with a US\$90,000 civil penalty which the airline has agreed to settle.

Thai scam alert

SMARTTRAVELLER is warning Australians heading to Thailand that jet ski and scooter scams occur regularly in the destination.

DFAT is recommending travellers only use reputable hirers and to check the equipment before hire.

The level of advice has not changed and remains at "exercise a high degree of caution" in Thailand overall, with higher levels applying in some parts of the country.

InterCon Yao Yai

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has signed a deal with Soraya Development Company Limited to develop the InterContinental Yao Yai Resort on Phang Nga Bay's largest island.

The Thai property is set to open in 2020 and will offer 170 rooms including 72m² ocean view rooms with a panoramic-view suite on the top floor, complete with a plunge pool.

Agents head to Big White



A LUCKY group of 30 travel agents headed to Big White Ski Resort as part of the Sno'n'Ski Canada Mega Fam 2018.

Hosts set the bar high from the start with a luxury apres welcome party in the White Spirit Lodge (**pictured**), where agents indulged in gourmet canapes, local wines and draught beer from the Elevation 57 Brewing company.

The next morning participants hit the slopes with ski and snowboard lessons from Big White's instructors and were also invited to off-piste activities, including tubing, ice skating and ice climbing.

The group satisfied a well-earned hunger with dinner at Kettle Valley Steakhouse, topped off by a dessert buffet before experiencing a tour of Elevation

57 Brewery.

Big White was the first stop on the eight-day Sno'n'Ski Mega Fam, an annual agent tour of British Columbia's ski fields.

Great Lakes offline

AMERICAN regional carrier Great Lakes has suspended its scheduled flight operations as an air carrier.

In a statement, the carrier said although it was ceasing flight operations, "the company has not entered bankruptcy and will continue to operate certain segments of the business".

It will continue to support the ADI flights between Denver, Pierre and Watertown.

Pax with tickets for future flights will be refunded.



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Book by 4 April 2018 for travel until 28 February 2019*.

Fares per person from*:		Economy	Business
London (Heathrow)	from AUD	1,175	6,155
London (Gatwick)	from AUD	1,120	6,100
Birmingham	from AUD	1,245	6,205
Cardiff	from AUD	1,250	6,210
Dublin	from AUD	1,090	5,910
Edinburgh	from AUD	1,245	6,205
Manchester	from AUD	1,245	6,205



QATAR
AIRWAYS
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* Offer valid until 4 April 2018, unless sold out prior. Fares quoted above are for departures from Perth and are the lowest adult return prices per person including taxes, fees, and airport charges. Economy Class fares are valid for travel between 15 April - 14 June, 27 September - 30 November 2018, and 13 January - 28 February 2019. Business Class fares are valid for travel between 27 March 2018 - 28 February 2019. Other sale dates may be available. Other sale fares are available from Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, and Adelaide. Fares may vary due to currency or tax fluctuations. Seasonal surcharges and weekend surcharges may apply. For all other terms and conditions please review at time of booking. Double-daily flights to Gatwick start 22 May 2018. Flights to Cardiff start 1 May 2018.

Boot, scootin' boogie with Excite!

IN CONJUNCTION with Travel South USA, Excite Holidays recently held an exclusive agent event to celebrate their campaign, 'Travel South: The Heart & Soul of America'.

Greeted with a Kentucky Bourbon-based cocktail on arrival at Bluebonnet Barbecue in Melbourne's trendy suburb of Fitzroy, 25 top-selling agents had the chance to immerse themselves in a truly Southern experience. The highlight of the evening was without a doubt the Louisiana-style zydeco line dancing, which saw agents put on their dancing shoes and sidestep their way across the dancefloor - it was the perfect opportunity for them to truly get into the spirit of the South.

After a little toe-tapping action, the agents taste tested some of the best Southern-style cuisine including jalapeno grits, apple slaw, activated-charcoal corn bread with thyme butter, and roasted pig, which the chef personally carved up in front of guests! Dessert was also a traditional affair, with a selection of Alabama inspired pecan pie and peach cobbler on offer.

Along with the Excite Holidays Marketing Team, Tahnee Perkins, the Travel South USA Australian Representative, was also in attendance to give a short presentation and explain what makes the South a must-see destination.

The event was a huge success and highlighted the unique differences between each Southern state and how accessible the destination really is for Australian travellers - download the Travel South destination guide from engage.exciteholidays.com/travel-south.



WAYNE Cummins from Harp Travel shows how it's done.



AGENTS picking up a few steps of Louisiana-style zydeco line dancing.



SEAN from Bluebonnet Barbecue carving up main course Southern style.



FEASTING on traditional Southern cuisine.

AND of course no-one left hungry.



THE room was styled with Bourbon bottles, florals & patchouli candles.



TAHNEE Perkins, Travel South USA Australian representative.



Brussels Air sprouts Smurfs



BRUSSELS Airlines is adding a dash of colour to the sky, with a Smurfs design livery chosen by the public in a competition.

The A320 has been named Aerosmurf and is part of the airline's series of Belgian Icons - aircraft with special designs dedicated to iconic Belgians.

The design features 19 smurfs as passengers, interacting with each other and continues into the cabin, with smurf footsteps on the carpet and themed boarding music and a video.

Aerosmurf set out to show off its coat on its maiden voyage over the weekend to London.

The livery coincides with 60th birthday of The Smurfs this year.

The plane's livery is **pictured** above taking to the air and a close-up of Chef Smurf (**inset**).

QR Vnukovo stake

QATAR Airways has flagged plans to buy a 25% stake in Russia's Vnukovo Airport, which is located 35 minutes from Kievskiy railway terminal in Moscow.

According to *Reuters*, the airline has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to buy the minority stake and now has eight weeks to finalise the transaction.

The facility is co-owned by the Russian state and Russian businessman Vitaly Vantsev.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES-LUFTHANSA GROUP JOINT VENTURE



WIN YOUR DREAM EUROPEAN HOLIDAY

This month, **Travel Daily** together with Lufthansa Group and Singapore Airlines, are giving agents the chance to win a holiday to Europe.

You and a friend will fly Economy Class to Singapore with Singapore Airlines and then onto Europe with a Lufthansa Group carrier (Lufthansa / Swiss International Air Lines / Austrian Airlines).

To win, have the most correct answers to the questions throughout the month, and the most creative response to the last question. Send your answers to lufthansa@traveldaily.com.au

Q20. Lufthansa has recently announced direct flights between Singapore and Munich to support the Joint Venture. Which aircraft will be deployed on this route?
a) A350 b) Boeing 777

Terms and conditions apply

Rosewood tents

ROSEWOOD Hotels & Resorts has opened its first tented villa concept nearby Luang Prabang in Laos.

Rosewood Luang Prabang features 23 guestrooms ranging from Riverside Rooms and Riverside Suites that are more than 90m² in size, to Riverside Villas, Waterfall Pool Villas and luxury Hilltop Tents.

Reef viewed in 3D

CAIRNS operator Passions of Paradise will launch an augmented reality (AR) brochure allowing potential customers to take a 3D look at the reef sites they could visit.

The brochure will be distributed from 01 Apr and users need to download the Passions AR app from the App Store to access the AR experience.



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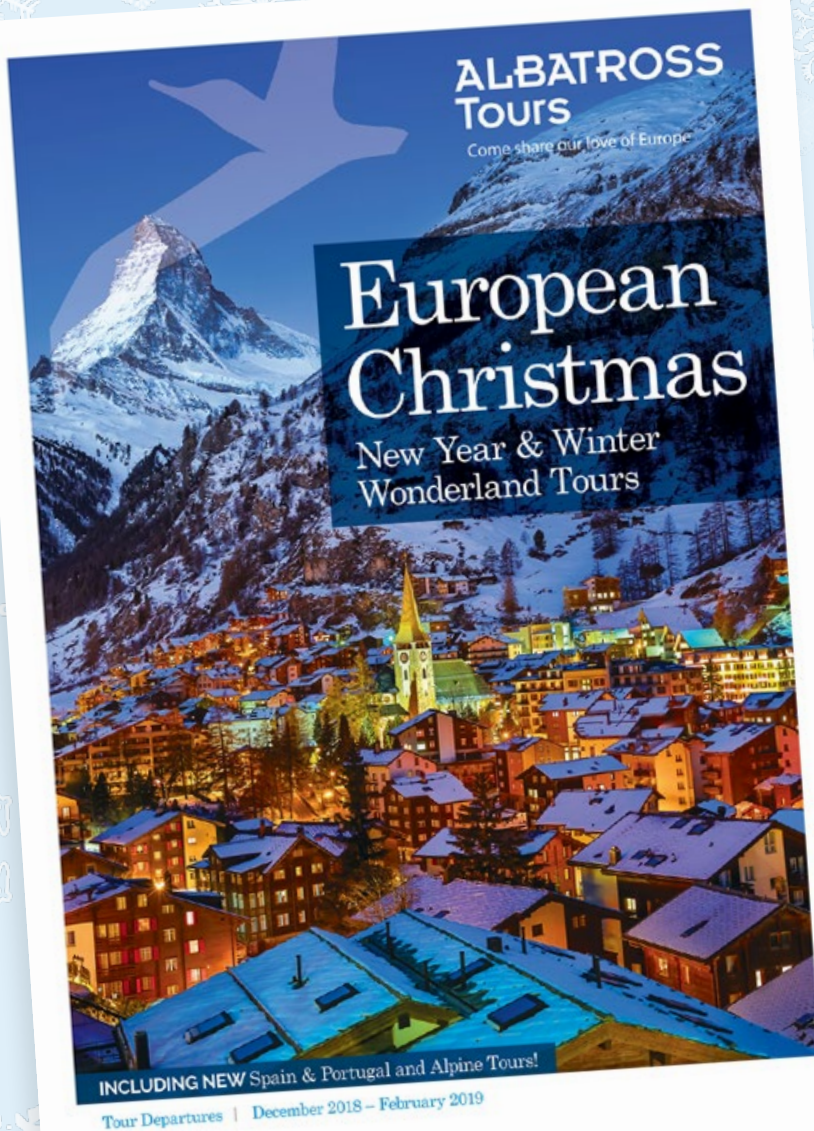
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We are delighted to be nominated again for the NTIA Awards 2018. If you enjoy working with us we would greatly appreciate your support



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Corporate Travel Consultant - Temp to Perm

Sydney, Circa \$30ph, Ref: 3328S9

This is a fantastic opportunity to work with a large Global business to arrange their world-wide travel and you can either work from their office or you can base yourself in the CBD in the TMC offices. It is a VIP client in the engineering space and they have numerous exciting projects that you will be working on to book their travel. You will have an exceptional customer service manner and your attention to detail will be exceptional and you will be joining a great working culture.

For more information please call Sasha on
(02) 9119 8744 or click [APPLY](#) now.

Luxury Travel Consultant | Award Winning Store North Shore, Salary to \$65k + Super. Ref: 3256PE3

My client a well-known bespoke travel company is looking for a superstar retail consultant that excels in customer service & knows luxury travel and how to sell it to elite clientele. You will be rewarded with excellent remuneration along with other fantastic in-house bonuses. Once you join this agency you'll never look back, add this role to your resume & be seen for the strong agent you are. An above average salary is on offer for an experienced dedicated consultant, make your next move now.

For more information please call Paul on
(02) 9119 8744 or click [APPLY](#) now.

Travel Consultant Niche Product

Brisbane, \$45k+ Super+ Incentives, Ref: 1930AW1

Our client is looking for someone who has a passion for travel - especially the South Pacific - looking to step away from face to face consulting! The ideal candidate will be proficient in GDS, have extensive travel knowledge and happy to work autonomously in a productive team environment. Confident and articulate, you will engage with both direct clients and front line staff. If you pride yourself on exceptional customer service and want to earn commission from dollar one, apply now!

For more information please call Amanda on
(07) 3123 6107 or click [APPLY](#) now.

Online Travel Consultant

Melbourne, \$40k + Super, Ref: 2807HC1

Are you an enthusiastic travel consultant, keen for a new challenge and want to step away from face to face sales and work for a well-respected online travel provider? If yes then this is a great opportunity for you! This leading online travel company is currently seeking an experienced travel consultant to join their team in a fantastic Melbourne location. This is a fantastic company who are growing from strength and need an experienced travel consultant to convert their enquiries into bookings!

For more information please call Hannah on
(03) 9988 0616 or click [APPLY](#) now.

Business Development Manager | Airline

Sydney, Competitive Salary + Perks, Ref: 8801AJ1

A rare and exciting opportunity to join a well-known and expanding airline has just become available. We are currently looking for an experienced BDM or a successful consultant with a strong background in sales/ account management to promote their airline and the associated benefits of their product offering. You will be responsible for accelerating growth and increasing market share through the generation of new business while nurturing existing relationships. Contact me for more details!

For more information please call Antony on
(02) 9119 8744 or click [APPLY](#) now.

Experienced Travel Consultant

Brisbane, \$50k base + uncapped comms, Ref: 3167SZ1

My client is a highly sought after provider of unique & exclusive travel services & has unrivalled expertise in delivering market-leading tailored tours to customers where there is a huge focus on high level of customer service & offer bespoke packages - from city breaks to multi destination and special interest tours. I am looking for a talented travel specialist to work Monday to Friday (no weekends), someone that is hungry to provide exceptional service & in return obtain a loyal client base. You must have good destination knowledge & have worked in the travel industry for a min of 3 years.

For more information please call Serena on
(07) 3123 6107 or click [APPLY](#) now.

Senior Graphic Designer

Melbourne, up to \$70k + Super, Ref: 3356HC1

Are you a Graphic Designer with a passion for travel? Yes, then this could be the dream role you have been waiting for. A successful travel company in Melbourne is looking for an experienced Senior Graphic Designer to join their friendly team. You will take a proactive and hands on approach in creating and designing a diverse range of their promotional material and also assisting with their website maintenance and development. The ideal candidate will have experience in the industry.

For more information please call Hannah on
(03) 9988 0616 or click [APPLY](#) now.

Marketing Manager

Melbourne, \$90k-\$120k, Ref: 3108HC1

This is an integral part of the company's future development and also success in the Australian market. We need a leader in marketing and communications for this growing company! You will develop and manage marketing communications channels that grow locally sourced enquiry in the AU market. This is a hands on position - responsible for newsletter production, social media channels, PR and SEO objectives in AUS. Extensive leadership and marketing experience is essential.

For more information please call Hannah on
(03) 9988 0616 or click [APPLY](#) now.



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