





Suite Life





We're celebrating our award-winning suite experience on Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises.

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UNPARALLELED ACCOMMODATION



Complimentary specialty dining, Azamara Club Cruises®



Royal Genie, Royal Caribbean®



Edge Villa, Celebrity Edge^{s™} Celebrity Cruises[®]

Travel Daily First with the news

Thursday 13th September 2018





Flight Centre tech launch

FLIGHT Centre has today formally unveiled its new "Savi" corporate travel technology platform, claiming it "sets a new benchmark in booking technology for business travellers".

Developed in partnership with Serko. Savi was launched at Flight Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) "Illuminate" corporate travel event at the Melbourne Cricket Ground attended by about 400 key industry partners and clients.

FCTG corporate executive gm, James Kavanagh, told *Travel Daily* the company had been working with Serko for several years now.

"We are the largest investor in Serko's development pipeline," he said, with Savi incorporating the best elements of another Flight Centre platform called Rapidbook to create a unique offering.

Today's issue of TD

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

- Los Angeles Tourism
- AA Appointments jobs
- Consolidated Travel

He said corporate travellers were increasingly seeking a "leisure shopping experience" when booking, with Savi particularly focused on empowering better engagement between travel bookers and road warriors.

"Savi includes all the key functionality of a standard online booking tool but it is so much more," Kavanagh enthused, with "persona-driven" modules said to deliver significant efficiencies and cost savings for business travellers, travel bookers and their companies.

Savi will be trialled by selected FCTG clients in the coming weeks.

Suite cruising life

THE "suite experience" aboard Royal Caribbean, Azamara and Celebrity Cruises is being highlighted in today's Travel Daily cover page, with the lines promising to elevate every aspect of your client's cruise holiday.

A special Suites Selling Kit is available showcasing Azamara's specialty dining, the "Royal Genie" on Royal Caribbean and Edge Villas on Celebrity.









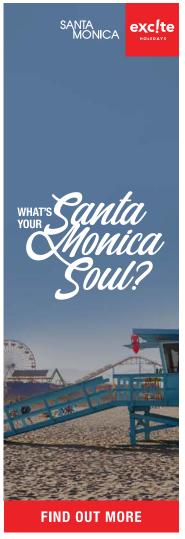




Los Angeles update

DISCOVER Los Angeles is highlighting updates for the city, including a King Tut exhibition, the reopening of Hotel Figueroa and the launch of L.A Insider, a training tool for agents.

See more on page eight.



Dream to explore Sydney

DREAM Cruises will bring a ship to Australia for the first time in Oct 2019 with the flagship of its sister brand Star Cruises, *SuperStar Virgo*, to move into the Dream fleet in 2019.

SuperStar Virgo will undergo a US\$30 million transformation in Mar which will see her renamed Explorer Dream.

The ship will be fitted with The Palace, a luxury private enclave featuring 50 suites, new food and beverage options combining "the best of East meets West" and a new Crystal Life Spa.

The newly refurbished ship will then be deployed in Tianjin and Shanghai in the northern summer before repositioning to homeport

Aqua agent portal

AQUA Expeditions has launched a new Agent Portal, along with an online check-in system with the aim to provide agents with a user-friendly experience.

The portal features an option to reserve multiple cabins at the same time, a 24/7 service, along with a log of all bookings, reservations and enquiries made.

Alongside the Agent Portal, the company's new online check-in and booking system enables travellers to check-in online and receive their cruise tickets electronically.

in Sydney and Auckland from Oct 2019 until Mar 2020.

Explorer Dream will conduct a series of 21 seven-night cruises during her local season, visiting the Barrier Reef, Brisbane, Melbourne, Eden and Tasmania, with prices to be revealed in "the not too distant future".

Explorer Dream will "continue the tradition of offering inspirational journeys which are Asian at heart and international in spirit", Star Cruises & Dream Cruises assistant vp sales and marketing Australia & New Zealand Brigita Devries said at an event in Sydney yesterday.

"By Virgo coming to Australia it does solidify our commitment to cruising in Australia," she said.

Dream Cruises confirmed Explorer Dream would dock at White Bay Cruise Terminal.

Explorer Dream will be followed by a Global Class ship "soon after", with the line telling TD in May it planned to bring a Global Class ship down under in 2021 (TD 10 May).

See more in today's edition of *Cruise Weekly*.

Travel Daily

on location in Brisbane, QLD

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Princess Cruises on board the new *Majestic Princess* which will cruise Australia and NZ in 2019.

AS THE sun sets over Brisbane's horizon this evening, *Travel Daily* will wave goodbye to dry land and embark on a two-night cruise into Sydney on board *Majestic Princess*, where her arrival will officially kick off the Princess Cruises' Australian season on 15 Sep.

Princess Cruises' newest vessel, *Majestic* is the largest Princess ship to visit Aussie waters, spanning 330m, making her longer than the height of the Eiffel Tower and towering 66m - higher than the London Tower Bridge.

Boasting Michelin-starred restaurants, the largest thermal suite at sea, and onboard entertainment to rival some of the best theatres on land, we can't wait to get sailing!





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THE WAYA WIN A FAMIL SANTA MONICA WITH A GROUP **BOOKING*** Now until 31 December 2018 FIND OUT HOW australia 🙏 D E L T A

Cosmos goes a la carte

THE Globus family of brands has revealed it will introduce a new touring category, Cosmos Lite, in which an "a la carte" menu of activities is available for purchase in place of included excursions.

The company says the concept is a world first and provides guests with the freedom to tailor their trip to individual interests, budgets and preferred pace.

Offered for departures in 2019, the Cosmos Lite program involves 10 European itineraries, each including city-to-city transport, hotels, breakfasts and the services of a tour director.

A "MyCosmos" selection of optional excursions will be available for purchase, while a new CosmosGo mobile app will provide suggestions for free time.

"Cosmos Lite takes care of getting travellers to each destination and coordinating accommodation, but what they fill their days with - and the activities they plan – are completely up to them," said Globus managing director Australasia Gai Tyrell.

"A Cosmos Lite vacation gives

autonomy back to the traveller to fill their days according to their specific interests, passions and budget – without having to stress about the itinerary fundamentals like transport and accommodation," she said.

The MyCosmos options allow guests to purchase only the activities they find interesting, or none at all if they prefer independent sight-seeing.

Tours range from seven to nine days and are priced from \$939, with options available in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria, England, Ireland and Scotland.

Air NZ lounge plan

AIR New Zealand will triple the capacity of its regional lounge at Auckland Airport as part of a NZ\$60 million investment in facilities over the next two years.

The revamped lounge will cater to up to 265 customers and is set to open mid next year on level 1 of the domestic terminal.

Other upgrades are planned for lounges in Wellington, Tauranga, Christchurch and Nelson.



Window

MONACO'S famous Hotel de Paris has an equally legendary wine cellar beneath its elaborate halls, said to house up to 400,000 bottles including rare treasures and vintages sampled by luminaries from Grace Kelly to Winston Churchill.

Special guests might be invited to take a peek, but as attendees heard at a Monaco Government Tourist Bureau event in Sydney this week (TD yesterday), there are precautions in place.

"We are very careful never to lock a guest inside," said Monte-Carlo SBM hotel group director of sales, Alice Gentils.

"Certainly not with a corkscrew," Gentils said.

The hotel's wine collection is so priceless that management went to extraordinary lengths to hide it during World War II.

The cellars were bricked up as Nazi troops approached, apart from a decoy room furnished with a few racks of cheap stock and empty bottles.





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Cruise sector gathers in Broome



ABOUT 120 delegates from across the Australasian cruise and infrastructure sector have gathered in

Broome, WA, this week for the 22nd annual Australian Cruise Association conference and AGM.

The event opened yesterday on Cable Beach, where a gorgeous sunset provided a stunning backdrop for the welcome drinks.

Delegates were greeted by WA Tourism Minister Paul Papalia, while other key attendees include CLIA Australasia chairman Sture Myrmell, Royal Caribbean vice president Australasia Susan Bonner and Ports Australia ceo Mike Gallacher.

Also presenting is Captain Mike Drake from Carnival Australia, with topics including destination development, port infrastructure, sustainability, overtourism and emerging issues.

A gala dinner tonight at the Mangrove Hotel in Broome overlooking Roebuck Bay is being sponsored by Kimberley Ports Authority, and the conference closes tomorrow with a special breakfast and then the formal annual general meeting.

Pictured above overlooking Cable Beach are, from left: Stacey Abel, Australian Cruise Association; Derryn Belford from Tourism WA; Julie O'Brien of Tourism and Events Queensland; and Sharon Hoops from the Port of Townsville.

More pics from the event at facebook.com/cruiseweekly.



Starts at 60 evolves into travel

STARTS at 60, described as "Australia's largest digital media brand for the mature market," has today revealed the launch of an OTA complemented by a travel packaging team and full service travel consultancy.

The expansion is being led by commercial director Wendy Harch, who joined the business earlier this year (*TD* 20 Jul) & leads a team of consultants, marketing experts, writers and product contracting experts in the Brisbane HQ.

Harch said the project had been underway for some months.

"As an ATAS registered travel agency, with an online media platform to be able to inspire them, our consumer will be able to get the best of the online and offline worlds in one place.

"They can buy specially curated packages served online, call us for assistance, or book a holiday of their dreams and we'll remember them as a customer, care for them and bring them great value for their loyalty," Harch said.

Travel at 60 has more than 160,000 people signed up to its travel emails, and will bring travel deals and offers to club members.

The team will work with wholesalers & travel operators to build holidays "more interesting to, and suitable for," the emerging baby boomer market, Harch said.

Group departures, exclusive packages, deals & cruises will be part of the portfolio, along with full service travel via a call centre.

Starts at 60 founder & ceo

Rebecca Wilson said "we will be the only travel company in Australia that owns its own direct media pathway to the consumer it serves, and the only media company in the country building travel solutions inhouse that really serve the customer".



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Travel Daily

Thursday 13th September 2018

Travel Daily

on location in Broome, WA

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of the Australian Cruise Association (ACA) which is this week hosting its annual conference in Broome.

THE theme of this year's Australian Cruise Association conference is "forging stronger relationships," and the agenda certainly reflects the evolution of the cruise industry in recent years and a recognition that all stakeholders need to pull together for the sector's benefit.

Attendees include representatives of state and regional tourism groups, port authorities and local experts, alongside cruise line executives including CLIA chairman Sture Myrmell from Carnival Australia.

Check out today's Cruise Weekly for more from ACA.

WA confident of Japan flights

PAUL Papalia, the Tourism Minister of Western Australia, says he has been aggressively pursuing more aviation links for the state, and is confident that direct services from Japan are likely to launch after recent talks with JAL and ANA.

Speaking to Australian Cruise Association delegates this morning, Papalia highlighted the importance of aviation links, and said he was also pursuing an increase to daily frequencies from China Southern Airlines, which currently operates five weekly services between Guanghzhou and Perth.

The WA Government is heavily focused on growing tourism, with a huge expansion of fivestar accommodation in the WA capital and a concerted marketing effort to attract more visitors from the eastern states as well as international source markets.

Wendy Wu joins Chinese flair



WENDY Wu customers recently attended a VIP celebration in China to mark the 2018 China-EU Year of Tourism.

Hosted by the Shaanxi Provincial Government, the event saw 1,000 attendees gather to watch an elaborate re-enactment of the Ancient Entrance Ceremony staged at the Xi'an City Gate.

The spectacular visual performance had previously attracted heads of state and royalty, & was a spectacle Wendy Wu founder Wendy Wu said could "only be likened to that of the opening of the Olympic Games".

Pictured: Wendy Wu Tours group chief executive Joe Karbo joins Wendy Wu in accepting a key to the city of Xi'an, and (inset) the lavish affair.

CCL 2018/20 brox

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has launched a refreshed 2018-2020 brochure offering new itineraries on board Carnival Splendor sailing year round from Sydney from Dec 2019 and Carnival Spirit sailing from Brisbane in 2020.

Agents will receive the new brox over the next few weeks.

Book now to get the

Early Bird rate of

\$330 + GST, which

ends this **Friday**

September 14.











Sydney, Wednesday,



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- Anthony Hayes, COO, Sealink Travel Group
- Anthony Moulder, Aviation Analyst, CLSA Australia
- Bob East, Chairman Tourism Australia/ Chair Experience Co
- Brett Mitchell, Regional Director APAC, Intrepid Group
- Darrin Grafton, Co-Founder, Serko (SKO)
- David Hammon, CEO & Director Hammons Holdings
- Dax Eddy, Executive Director, Jamberoo Action Park
- Jamie Pherous, MD, Corporate Travel Management

- Josh Oakes, Director, The Sunshine Tribe
- Les Szekely, Managing Director, Grand Prix Capital
- Nigel Benton, Publisher, Australian Leisure Media
- Rachel Wiseman, Chief Investment Officer, NRMA
- Robert Halfpenny, Managing Director, Aurora Expeditions
- Rod Cuthbert, Founder Viator, Former Chairman Rome2rio
- Rob Smith, Director ANZ, Merlin Entertainments
- Sue Badyari, Chief Executive Officer, World Expeditions
- Simon Lenoir, Co-Founder, Rezdy
- Tammy Marshall, CEO, The B Hive
- Vasso Zographou/Michael Simpson, Savills Hotels

Visit www.traveltrends.biz for further information and bookings. Any queries, please contact event organiser Bluewater Press on (02) 9882-1575 or email martin@traveltrends.biz.





Inspired by Iceland



ICELAND'S tourism company, Promote Iceland, visited Australia to host a series of trade events for agents and wholesalers across Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne last week.

Thorleifur Thor Jonsson, manager, trade delegations, export service - distant markets for Promote Iceland, said the country was a destination increasing in popularity with Australian travellers of all ages.

"Australians will be drawn

to Iceland's cultural and geographical diversity and some of the most untouched landscapes in the world, sure to satisfy the most intrepid of travellers," Jonsson said.

Pictured are: Thorir Gardarsson, Gray Line Iceland; Thorleifur Thor Jonsson, Promote Iceland; Iris Tryggvadottir, Arctic Adventures; Helga Bergros Bizouerne, Iceland Travel; Bjarni Hrafn Ingolfsson, Iceland Tours; and Arsaell Hardarson, Icelandair.









Business Development Manager - VIC

Would you like to join Australia's most awarded tour and cruise company and become part of the ongoing success of the APT Travel Group – now celebrating over 90 years. Following an internal promotion with our previous BDM taking the opportunity of a lifetime to move to our UK office, we now have a vacancy for a Business Development Manager for Victoria to join our National Sales Team.

Our BDM's generally come with some travel industry experience. Regardless of your background you have a burning passion for sales and relationship building. Experience in a B2B role will stand you in good stead when working with your customers, and when you represent the business at trade fares and events. Naturally, sales reporting, planning and market analysis will be second nature to you.

To learn more about this exciting opportunity with APT Travel Group and to apply please check out our careers page: http://www.aptouring.com.au/about-us/careers
Applications close: Friday 14 September 2018 **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.

The Park Hotel has appointed Tegan Baker as Sales Manager. Baker brings eight years of experience in the Brisbane hotel market with previous experience including Conference & Events Sales Executive at the Pullman and Mercure King George Square, and Conference & Events Sales Coordinator at The Sebel Brisbane.

Captain Giorgio Pomata has been named Commodore of the Princess Cruises global fleet. Pomata first joined the company in 1978, when he joined Sitmar Cruises' Fairwind as a cadet. Through the years, he served in positions including junior deck officer, safety officer, staff captain, and was named captain in 2000.

George Siljanoski has been appointed to **Air France KLM** Account Manager, Victoria & Tasmania. Siljanoski was most recently International Account Manager, Hainan Airlines.

Frank Bauer is the new CEO and CFO of **Eurowings** and is responsible for finance, HR and IT. Bauer succeeds Jorg Beissel, who is joining the Lufthansa Group after three years as CEO of Eurowings.

Ramine Behnam has been named Minor Hotel's new Vice President Development for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Behnam will be responsible for continuing to drive strategic growth for Minor Hotels in key destinations across EMEA.

Colleen Neville and Kauahi Ngapora have been appointed as members of the New Zealand Tourism Board. Neville is Chief Executive of Te Arawa Group Holdings, which invests in the tourism, forestry, geothermal and agri-business sectors. Ngapora is General Manager of Whale Watch Kaikoura and has 25 years of experience in the Maori tourism sector.

Accor MyChicAfrica

ACCORHOTELS has launched a lifestyle and travel media platform called MyChicAfrica in a move to "make the continent more accessible".

The platform showcases the African way of life through four areas: innovation and creativity, travel and experience, lifestyle and luxury, culture and discovery.

AccorHotels Africa & Indian Ocean vp, sales, marketing, distribution & revenue management Souleymane Khol, said "we have unearthed a positive yet realistic picture of Africa as a modern and daring continent".

CLICK HERE to view website.

HotelQuickly app

HOTEL booking platform, HotelQuickly has partnered with online travel-sharing community, travelbook and online booking website for activities in Asia, eOasia to create an app.

The app allows travellers to book discounted hotels & resorts, plan their trip & share experiences.

The first edition provides lastminute hotel bookings across Asia and Australasia - view app **HERE**.

Encore hull artwork

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has revealed the hull artwork to be displayed on its fourth Breakaway-Plus class ship, Norwegian Encore, which will debut in Miami in Nov 2019.

The artwork was designed by Spanish artist Eduardo Arranz-Bravo, and was inspired by Arranz-Bravo's life by the sea and "the vibrant guest experience for which the Norwegian brand is recognised," the company said.

The 4,000-passenger Norwegian Encore will offer seven-day voyages to the Eastern Caribbean, departing from Miami every Sun through to 12 Apr 2020.

The artwork is **pictured**.





Scenic road to Swan Valley



AGENTS from Perth were recently treated to the "Back-Roads of the Swan Valley" in Western Australia, thanks to Back-Roads Touring, Uniworld and Captain Cook Cruises.

Highlights of the trip included a three-course luncheon at a boutique winery, sampling some fresh produce at the House of Honey, & a fully-catered Captain Cook cruise up the Swan River.

Pictured: The group about to



embark on their special lunch and (inset) Andrea Portaro, Flight Centre Mandurah; Heidi Perman, Flight Centre Claremont; and Nadia Redman, Bicton Travel.

TTF hails gateway

THE Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) has welcomed news the NSW Government has approved the development of the Sydney Gateway motorway connection to the city's airport (TD yesterday).

"Sydney is one of the most congested cities in the world and the Sydney Gateway project means we will have the right infrastructure for the future," said TTF ceo Margy Osmond.

AF Paris Biz lounge

AIR France (AF) has opened a new Business class lounge at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport.

The new space features a Clarins spa, private saunas, sleep suites, a detox bar, and a tailored cocktail menu.

"It is the perfect place to complete a visit to Europe and the city of lights," said Air France KLM country manager Australia Quentin Voss.



This month, Travel Daily and Evergreen Cruises & Tours are giving travel agents the chance to win a river cruise for two in a balcony suite along the Mekong river.

The prize includes an eight-day Majestic Mekong river cruise along with return economy flights from Australia.

To win this great prize, correctly answer the most daily questions and have the most creative answer to the final question. Send all your entries to evergreen@traveldaily.com.au

Q8. What are the colours of the pullows in the Grand Balcony Suite on board Emerald Harmony?



Ballet to Latrobe

LATROBE Valley in Victoria is set to host the Australian Ballet's free annual outdoor community program Ballet Under the Stars for the first time in Oct 2019.

The program is supported by the Victorian Government's \$20 million Regional Events Fund.

It was last hosted in Melbourne in 2014 and has attracted audiences of up to 9,000 people.

Sabre Hunnu deal

SABRE Corporation has signed a content distribution agreement with Mongolia's Hunnu Air (MR).

The long-term contract aims to help the airline expand its operations, especially in the

"Sabre understands the Mongolia market and is well positioned to support Hunnu Air's growth through the distribution of new bookable content," said MR ceo Munkhjargal Purevjal.

NRMA new parks

NRMA Parks and Resorts has announced plans for a major expansion across regional areas of Australia's eastern states.

Six new holiday parks have been flagged for Victoria, Tasmania, NSW, and Queensland, growing the company's portfolio of managed parks to 44.

Locations of the new attractions are slated to be in: Stockton Beach, NSW; Yarrawonga/Mulwala, Vic/NSW; Warrnambool, Vic; Halls Gap, Vic; St Helens, Tas; & Bowen, Qld.

"We want more Australians holidaying locally and as the NRMA's tourism footprint continues to grow, so too do the opportunities for our members to have an enjoyable and affordable holiday," said NRMA group ceo Rohan Lund.

The NRMA's tourism portfolio is valued at over \$800m, operating brands such as Manly Fast Ferries and select Travelodge properties.

Chinese and Russian markets.

THE WHO'S WHO OF SUPPLIERS ARE IN THE 2018 AFTA TRAVEL PAGES SUPPLIER DIRECTORY.

VIEW HERE



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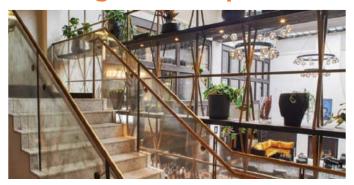
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DISCOVER LOS Angeles

Hotel Figueroa Reopens



Hotel Figueroa reopened February 2018 after a complete renovation that has transformed its Moroccan décor to a new contemporary aesthetic with a touch of Spanish flare. Hotel Figueroa now offers 268 redesigned guest rooms with expanded bathrooms, 57 new suites, new culinary experiences, three alluring bars, a garden on the roof, and 1,000 square metres of event space.

New windows have been installed in rooms to help block

out the noise from Figueroa Street. Veranda, a relaxed al fresco dining experience recently debuted, serving coastal Mediterranean-inspired cuisine in a lush, poolside oasis.

www.hotelfigueroa.com



Halloween Horror Nights begin tomorrow!

Tickets are now on sale for "Halloween Horror Nights" at Universal Studios Hollywood, Southern California's most extreme and intensely immersive Halloween event. This year's "Halloween Horror Nights" dates are: September 14-15, 20-22, 27-30, October 4-7, 11-14, 18-21, 25-28, 31, and November 1-3, 2018.

Tickets can be purchased at **Hollywood.HalloweenHorrorNights.com**. Advance purchase is recommended as event nights will sell out.



L.A. Insider

Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board (L.A. Tourism) recently launched 'L.A. Insider,' a new online training tool for travel trade professionals.

The mobile and tablet-friendly programme is the first of its kind for L.A. Tourism. It has been designed to help Australian travel trade better sell the city and stay up-to-date with its latest offerings.

Participants who complete the L.A. Insider training will receive a certificate, access to discounts and specials from L.A. Tourism members, invitations to exclusive events and training opportunities, PLUS the opportunity to participate in famils and be entered to win a trip to one of L.A.'s award shows.

To learn more or to sign up visit. **insider.discoverlosangeles.com**



LAX Update

Automated Screening Lanes
– Tom Bradley International
Terminal now has 14 new hightech, time-saving Automated
Screening Lanes at the security
screening check point.

The new lanes can increase the number of passengers screened by as much as 30 percent, making the screening process faster, more efficient and less stressful for travellers.

flylax.com

Lost Spirits

In early 2017, Lost Spirits Distillery opened in the Arts District. The Lost Spirits Distillery tour transports consumers into a theatrical universe involving talking computers, jungle boat rides, and a deranged carousel. Rums are sampled in a candle lit jungle, peated malts are sipped in a safari tent deep in a bamboo forest, allowing customers to enjoy the distillery's celebrated products in a radically new way. Tours require a reservation.

www.lostspirits.net/tours

King Tut in L.A.



A new chapter of ancient Egyptian history will be unearthed to the world with the debut of KING TUT: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh, an extraordinary and exclusive exhibition celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the discovery of his tomb. Presented by the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities, Exhibitions International, IMG and the California Science Center, the new immersive exhibition will display more than 150 real artifacts from Tutankhamun's (also known as King Tut) tomb. On display until January 2019 will be many items the Boy King himself used in life and in death, including: golden jewelry, elaborate carvings, sculptures, and ritual antiquities. www.californiasciencecenter.org

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Turn the key and open the door to success when you join this travel company. Managing a team of reservations consultants you'll know the secrets of driving and motivating staff members to reach their full potential and sales targets. Stepping into this rare management opportunity your previous leadership experience, wholesale travel knowledge & experience in setting targets will set you apart from the pack. Top \$\$ & bonuses on offer.

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