

An aerial photograph of a vibrant coral reef. The water is a deep, clear blue, revealing the intricate patterns of the coral below. Several divers are scattered across the reef, their colorful gear contrasting with the natural tones. In the lower-left quadrant, two zodiac boats are anchored, with people visible on board. The overall scene is one of a healthy, thriving marine ecosystem.

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Silversea savings

SILVERSEA Cruises is offering additional bonus savings of up to \$700 per suite on select voyages, with the special promotion valid for bookings made and paid in full by 28 Feb.

The offer is able to be combined with a range of other time-limited deals such as early booking bonuses and air offers, and is available on selected sailings departing before 31 Mar 2020.

Availability is limited, with further details obtainable by calling Silversea on 02 9255 0600.

For more information see the **cover page** of today's **TD**.

QF leads OTP for 2018

QANTAS was Australasia's most punctual airline last year, according to a new report from flight data aggregator OAG, which has compiled its 2018 "Punctuality League" based on 58 million flight records.

QF came in sixth position on the global rankings, with the world's most on-time carrier being Panama's Copa Airlines with an overall 89.79% ranking.

AirBaltic was in second spot with 89.17% of flights on time, followed by Hong Kong Airlines (88.11%), Hawaiian Airlines

(87.52%), Bangkok Airways (87.16%) and then Qantas with 85.65% of flights on time.

In terms of Asia-Pacific airlines, Qantas was in third spot after HX and PG, followed by All Nippon Airways, Jetstar Asia, Japan Airlines and Air Astana.

Singapore Airlines was the region's eighth most punctual carrier with 83.46% of flights on time, while OAG noted that Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia had both dropped out of the top ten this year.

The report also ranks the world's major airports for their on-time performance, with Sydney and Melbourne both appearing in the top 20.

Sydney was in 17th spot with an on-time rating of 76.1%, just ahead of Melbourne at 74.69%.

Moscow was the top rated global airport for punctuality, with Doha taking out second spot.

UK AOC for FR

IRISH low-cost carrier Ryanair has been issued with an Air Operating Certificate for the UK.

The carrier said it had applied for the British AOC about 12 months ago in light of concerns about the possible impacts of Brexit on the aviation sector.

Rival easyJet, which is based in the UK, has also protected its position in the event of a "no-deal Brexit" by establishing a new Vienna-based subsidiary with a European AOC.

Show Group business as usual

THE sale of Show Group Enterprises to Helloworld Limited (**TD** 20 Dec) will not impact ongoing operations of the business, according to an update from Group General Manager Cathy Barnes yesterday.

Barnes confirmed that Avis Budget Group had sold the business in Australia and New Zealand to HLO, and assured suppliers that the current employees would continue to run Show Group under its new ownership.

"The business will continue to provide excellence in travel management services to all clients and customers as a business of Helloworld Travel," she said, with the existing leadership team to stay in place.

That includes Glenn Cusack, Head of Sales & Client Management; John Kline, Head of Freight and Logistics; and Lyn Keep, Head of Supplier Relations.

VN SYD cut-back

VIETNAM Airlines will reduce its Boeing 787-9 flights between Sydney and Hanoi from thrice to a twice weekly operation during May 2019 according to GDS, due to a seasonal drop in demand.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has four pages of news and photos, including a front cover wrap for **Silversea Cruises**.

New look for Asia Escape Hols

HELLOWORLD

CEO Andrew Burnes last month crossed the country to visit the new Asia Escape Holidays office which opened in Perth.

The wholesaler has had a big year following its acquisition by HLO (**TD** 10 May 2018), with MD Mason

Adams (**pictured** with Burnes alongside the new Asia Escape Holidays logo) making a surprise appearance at the Helloworld OMC in Adelaide.

The deal has also seen the introduction of the Trip Dollar incentive program on Asia Escape Holidays, the launch of



Helloworld-branded product and a new "Flash Sales" initiative highlighting special offers to help agents compete.

Oct 2018 was Asia Escape Holidays' biggest ever month for departures, with the company expecting to break that record again during 2019.

Sustainability Summit

Coming 2019

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Travel Daily

Collette big savings

COLLETTE is currently offering savings of up to 15% on more than 150 tours when bookings are made by 14 Jan as part of its Biggest Sale of the Year promo.

Discounts include \$1,000 per person on its 13-day Cultural Treasures of Japan tour which takes guests from Tokyo to Kyoto, now listed at \$5,749.

Guests can also save \$640 per person on the 13-day Spain's Classics and Portugal tour.

For further information on the promotion, **CLICK HERE**.

Fiji travel warning

SMARTTRAVELLER is advising Australians travelling to Fiji to monitor local media for updates on Tropical cyclone Mona.

The major storm cell is forecast to track directly over Vanua Levu and Viti Levu, producing heavy rain and damaging storm force winds over much of Fiji's islands from Sat 05 Jan.

US online ahead of pack

THE US online travel sector continues to grow at a faster pace than the overall market, according to research compiled by travel industry research authority Phocuswright.

The report suggests the trend is predicted to continue until at least 2022, with supplier websites growing slightly faster than online travel agencies (OTAs) in 2018.

Growth for the overall travel sector grew by 5% in 2018, the result credited largely to a strong economic performance in 2018 - particularly in the first three quarters of the year.

Airline passengers numbers in the US increased by nearly 5% in the first half of 2018, and the hotel sector also performed strongly, experiencing a "record-breaking performance" in the first two quarters.

Despite the strong performance during the first six months, the American travel sector's results

wavered in the second half of 2018, hampered by a volatile stock market, the ongoing US-China trade war, and a sluggish global economy.

The three-year outlook from Phocuswright predicts that by 2022 total gross bookings will have increased to US\$441 billion.

Say no to Styrofoam

SANDALS Resorts International has announced it will no longer use Styrofoam across 19 of its resorts across in the Caribbean.

"We're proud that many of the islands in which we operate are also making this shift to ensure that future generations can enjoy the beauty of the Caribbean," said Sandals Resorts International Deputy Chairman Adam Stewart.

Sandals has also revealed that it is exploring more opportunities to eliminate other forms of plastic across its network by Sep 2019.

Lizard Island appts

LIZARD Island luxury resort has appointed Paul Papanicolaou to the role of General Manager.

Papanicolaou has previously held the roles of General Manager at Surfers Paradise Marriot Resort, as well as a GM position at Saudi Arabia's Movenpick Resort.

The Great Barrier Reef resort has also appointed Mark Penna to the role of Executive Chef where he will lead the dining team at Saltwater Restaurant.

He previously worked at Aria in Brisbane.

Aircalin Jan special

AIRCALIN has launched its Happy New Caledonia Sale, offering discounted direct flights to Noumea from \$260.

The deal is available on one-way flights from Syd, Mel and Bris, and is valid until 25 Jan.

Travel periods apply - for more information call 02 9264 3644.

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TM and Hoot's "can do" spirit



IN THE lead up to Christmas, TravelManagers and Hoot Holidays partnered to donate more than 300 cans of food to Sydney's Exodus Foundation Christmas can drive.

"This is the fifth consecutive year that we've collected food for the can drive and once again I've been blown away by how

supportive everyone has been," said TravelManagers Product Executive Sandra Reucker.

The items collected in the drive added up to a total estimated value of \$750.

Pictured: Stephanie Jones from Hoot Holidays, Craig Bates from The Exodus Foundation, & Sandra Reucker from TravelManagers.

Discover the hidden winery gems in Australia's regional areas. Read more in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



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Celebrity Wave Sale

CELEBRITY Cruises has released its annual "Wave" deal for 2019, offering up to AUD\$400 in savings on cruise fares, plus free drinks, USD\$600 on board spending money and free wifi.

Fares start from AUD\$2,799pp, twin share for an Oceanview Stateroom, on an 11-night Western Mediterranean Roundtrip on *Celebrity Infinity*.

Bookings need to be made by 06 Mar.

CLICK HERE for more.

Emerald Bay opens

ACCORHOTELS has opened its 29th property in Vietnam, the Premier Residences Emerald Bay in the Pearl Island of Phu Quoc.

The resort features 745 rooms, suites and two-bedroom penthouses with a private pool that offers views of Emerald Bay.

The resort features three restaurants and two bars, along with a fitness centre, yoga studio and an outdoor pool.



Window Seat

IT WOULD appear the partial shutdown of the Federal Government in the United States has caused a real stink among one of the country's most popular tourist attractions.

Bathrooms at Yosemite National Park have not been open since the shutdown began on 22 Dec, forcing backed up visitors to use the side of the road as a temporary latrine.

During previous shutdowns, the national parks have closed, however the Trump administration chose this time around to keep them open to tourists on a skeleton staff.

If Trump is ultimately unsuccessful in his bid to build America's largest wall on the Mexican border, at least for now he has managed to create the country's largest toilet.

WHERE TO IN 2019?

Now is the perfect time to book adventures for 2019, with special fares to over 140 destinations across our global network. Offer ends 18 January 2019.

DESTINATION	ECONOMY CLASS RETURN FROM* (AUD)	BUSINESS CLASS RETURN FROM* (AUD)
Asia	\$659*	\$2,999*
Indian Subcontinent	\$1,049*	\$6,589*
The Middle East	\$1,159*	\$6,849*
Europe	\$1,389*	\$7,229*
The United Kingdom	\$1,409*	\$7,829*
Africa	\$1,689*	\$8,589*
South America	\$1,989*	\$9,719*

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*Advertised fares are for Business and Economy Class return travel departing from Melbourne inclusive of taxes and surcharges, correct as of 11 December 2018, subject to currency fluctuation and availability. Offer ends 18 January 2019. Business and Economy Class fares to Asia are for travel commencing between 15 January and 28 March, 16 April and 13 June, 9 July and 12 September, and 1 October and 30 November 2019. Business Class fares to all other regions are for travel commencing between 13 January and 10 December 2019. Economy Class fares to Europe and the United Kingdom are for travel commencing between 13 January and 27 March, 14 April and 31 May, and 23 September and 30 November 2019. Economy Class fares to the Indian Subcontinent are for travel commencing between 13 January and 31 March, 15 April and 31 May, and 30 September and 30 November 2019. Economy Class fares to Africa and South America are for travel commencing between 13 January and 31 May, 8 August and 11 September, and 23 September and 30 November 2019. Economy Class fares to the Middle East are for travel commencing between 13 January and 31 March, and 24 September and 30 November 2019. Higher levels apply for other travel periods. Flight restrictions, day-of-week surcharges, inbound blackout periods, amendment and cancellation fees apply. Additional travel periods, destinations and fares are available from Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney and Perth. Further terms and conditions apply. For full terms and conditions, please refer to your GDS, visit emiratesagents.com/au, or call Emirates on 1300 303 777. Offer subject to change.

Kirra winners help celebrate



QUEENSLAND based Kirra Tours celebrated its 50th birthday anniversary with a prize giveaway in late Dec last year.

The winners, Susan Allan and Leslie Henley, won 50% off the cost of their New Zealand tour.

The winners booked their trip with local travel agent Nikki Powell from Ballina Cruise and Travel in Northern NSW.

Pictured are Sheree Crossan, Kirra Sales Executive, QLD/NSW, with winners Allan and Henley; and Nikki Powell, Ballina Cruise and Travel.

Dirty water chaos

CLEVELAND Hopkins Int'l Airport's water is under investigation, following six travellers falling ill on a Frontier Airlines flight, reported *Fox News*.

Frontier said the cause of the illness "remains under investigation."

Wine Lover Cruises

CELEBRITY Cruises has released two Australia and New Zealand Wine Lover Cruises departing in Feb 2019.

The two sailings on board *Celebrity Solstice* will feature trips to wine regions in Australia and NZ, along with a number of onshore experiences.

Highlights include "Discovering Wine & Exploring the Senses", where travellers can learn wine terms, the wine regions of NZ and professional tasting techniques.

New Zealand winemaker at Villa Maria Estate, Marc Udy, will host the first 16-night cruise departing Auckland on 12 Feb, calling to Tauranga, Napier, Picton, Sydney, Hobart, Adelaide and finishing in Fremantle.

Fares for the Wine Lover's Cruise start at \$2,429pp, twin share for an Oceanview Stateroom - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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

Africareps is offering Aussie travellers the chance to save 50% on the price of a second ticket on South Africa's The Blue Train when a first ticket is purchased before 28 Feb. The offer is applicable for new bookings only. For further enquiries, email herbie@africareps.com.

Savings of 20% are available at the **Kokomo Private Island Fiji** resort when bookings are made before 09 Jan. The offer also includes a bonus US\$400 in resort credit and inclusions listed are three meals daily, one tank scuba dive, and kids' club services. [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Australia's **Majestic Whales Encounters** is offering a free night's accommodation on its luxury whale swim holidays in Tahiti. The free night is available for bookings made by 28 Feb, 2019, with the total package cost starting from \$6,999pp. Call 0405 594 253 for more info.

50 Degrees North is offering earlybird specials on Hurtigruten Norwegian coastal cruises taken between Apr and Dec 2019. The discount special offers savings of up to \$1,500 per cabin when bookings are made by 31 Mar, 2019. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

Only in Dubai

DUBAI Tourism is releasing a set of initiatives to deliver "Only in Dubai" experiences to "encourage repeat visitation, as part of efforts to further strengthen and sustain the city's world-class propositions".

The campaign intends to ensure travellers "get to enjoy an unforgettable stay in the emirate".

Only in Dubai experiences will be developed in collaboration with partners and stakeholders to create various specialised programs and activations.

Wyndham Jakarta

WYNDHAM Hotels & Resorts has opened the doors to Wyndham Casablanca Jakarta.

It is the sixth Wyndham-branded hotel in Indonesia and the first in the country's capital.

Located in Central Jakarta, the property features 280 rooms and suites including one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments and a Presidential Suite that offers Jakarta skyline views.

The hotel also has two dining options and 13 function rooms.

Raffles Shenzhen

RAFFLES Shenzhen, the second Raffles hotel in China, has unveiled its Grand Ballroom featuring 1,250m² of pillar free space suitable for corporate functions, weddings and other celebratory occasions.

Raffles Shenzhen is situated in One Shenzhen Bay Financial Centre in the Nanshan District.

Delta performance

DELTA Air Lines carried a record 15.3m customers in the month of Dec 2018 and an annual record 192m passengers across its global network in 2018, according to Delta's operating performance for Dec 2018.

Other highlights for the airline included reaching 1m new Delta SkyMiles Credit Card Members and expanding SkyMiles Members by a record number in one year.

The airline also announced a new int'l route between Minneapolis-St. Paul and Mexico City, which is waiting for govt approval, and a nonstop service from Boston for 2019 to include Washington, D.C., Chicago, Newark, N.J., and Cleveland.

LOOKING FOR A SPECIFIC INDUSTRY SUPPLIER?

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