



FLY FREEDOM AND GET GOLD[^]

Book an eligible return Freedom fare and travel between 21 January 2019 and 28 February 2019 to receive a Pilot Gold membership[^] with Virgin Australia accelerate.

HERE'S HOW:

- Book an eligible Virgin Australia Freedom fare between 21 January and 28 February 2019
- Travel by 28 February 2019
- Once the flight is completed, visit www.virginaustralia.com/freedom-form and fill out the form with the details of the nominated Velocity account



[^]To be eligible for the Pilot Gold Incentive you must (1) Book an eligible return Freedom fare between 00.01am AEDT 21 January 2019 and 11.59pm AEDT 28 February 2019 inclusive (Incentive Period); (2) Travel during the Incentive Period; and (3) Complete the online form available at <https://www.virginaustralia.com/freedom-form> as soon as you have completed the flight. Customers must provide one valid Velocity membership number to be allocated the additional Pilot Gold incentive set out in clause 3 of these Incentive Terms and Conditions. Online form must be completed no later than 17:00 pm AEDT on 1 March 2019. An eligible flight must be operated by Virgin Australia and booked during the Incentive Period via the Virgin Australia website with a valid ABN entered in the booking, Virgin Australia Business Portal, the Virgin Australia Guest Contact Centre or a registered Travel Management Company. Bookings made via consolidation, duplication, GDS, contracted group movements, charter groups, block seat bookings, series groups or have been cancelled and rebooked are not eligible for this Incentive. Full terms and conditions apply, visit <https://www.virginaustralia.com/flyfreedom>. Velocity Pilot Gold Membership is subject to the [Pilot Gold Terms and Conditions](#), as amended from time to time. You agree to provide your nominated Guests with a copy of the Velocity Pilot Gold Terms and Conditions and ensure they agree to be bound by those terms and conditions prior to nominating them for Pilot Gold Membership.

VA "Pilot Gold"

VIRGIN Australia has launched a "Pilot Gold" incentive for members of its accelerate corporate program, offering a Gold Velocity membership simply by booking one VA Freedom fare for travel before 28 Feb 2019. See the **cover page** for details.

NTIA nominations open

THE Australian travel industry has already begun the rush to nominate for the 2019 National Travel Industry Awards, following the opening of acceptances earlier today (**TD** breaking news).

The NTIA processes have been updated this year to ensure even more rigour, as part of a continuous improvement process which further heightens the independence and transparency of the awards.

For several categories a new two-step process will be used to determine the finalists, with nominees required to complete an online submission to confirm

their nomination, which is then independently assessed.

The five top scoring submissions in the relevant categories - which include the Best Travel Agency Group, Best Travel Consultant and Best Sales Executive awards - will process through to being a finalist, rather than being voted on as in previous years.

Finalists, who will be announced on 20 May 2019, will then make a presentation to the NTIA Judging Panel, which will select the winners between 12-21 Jun.

ATAS accreditation is a key requirement for participation in a number of the awards, including the various Best Wholesaler and Best Tour Operator categories.

The process culminates in the industry's night of nights, the 2019 NTIA Gala Awards dinner which is scheduled to take place at Sydney's International Convention Centre on 20 Jul.

Nominate at afta.com.au.

Rent a castle

LUXURY Castle Hire is offering a unique selection of over 150 castles in the UK, Europe and other parts of the world.

Rental options range from a single bedroom through to an entire estate - more information on the **last page** of today's **TD**.

2018
BEST CRUISE LINE
IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
CRUISE CRITIC CRUISEERS' CHOICE

**WORLDWIDE
FLASH
SALE**

7 DAYS ONLY

BOOK NOW

Celebrity **X** Cruises®
SAIL BEYOND

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news, a cover page from **Virgin Australia**, along with full pages from:

- Windstar
- Travel Trade Recruitment
- Luxury Castle Hire profile pg

50° NORTH
NORDIC DESTINATION SPECIALIST

HURTIGRUTEN

**HURTIGRUTEN SUMMER
EARLY BIRDS**

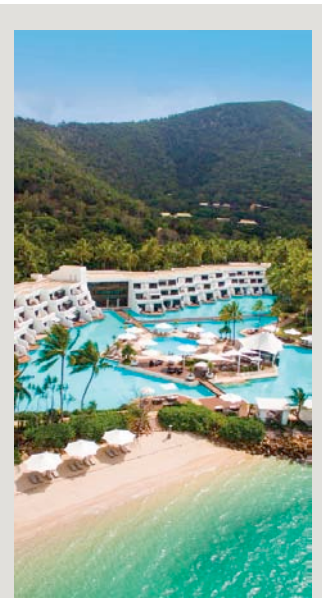
&

**EXTRA 3% COMMISSION
WITH 50 DEGREES NORTH**

Book: Jan - Mar 2019
Travel: Apr - Dec 2019

Early bird discount varies depending on the month of sailing and cabin class

info@fiftydegreesnorth.com
03 8682 8905



UNVEILING HAYMAN ISLAND BY INTERCONTINENTAL®

Opening 1 July 2019, bookings now available. To learn more visit intercontinental.com/hayman_island

Live the InterContinental life.



**NEW B789 PREMIUM
ECONOMY CLASS**

OA.CEAIR.COM

**FLYING MELBOURNE TO
SHANGHAI FROM 2ND FEB**



National Sales Manager



Brisbane - Business Development/Management

- Fast Growing Wholesale Tour Company
- Great Job Perks (HEAPS of Travel & Discounts)
- Fully maintained company vehicle

MW Tours is seeking an experienced National Sales professional to join our Team. The right candidate will be a strategic thinker who strives to exceed targets & work hard to achieve success.

[Click here to find out MORE](#)

Windstar package

WINDSTAR Cruises is offering a 13-night fly, cruise & stay package in Alaska, starting at \$9,185 per person twin share.

Windstar's vessels carry a maximum of 212 guests along with six onboard expedition experts - see page 9 for details.

Moroney Eclipse update

EXCLUSIVE

SCENIC Tours founder Glen Moroney says the company has essentially taken over construction of its *Scenic Eclipse*, with major disruption continuing at the Uljanik Shipyard in Croatia commissioned to build the ship.

In a formal statement read to attendees at the annual Scenic "Night of Stars" gala dinner in Sydney on Sat, Moroney expressed his heartfelt thanks to the travel agents of Australia for their ongoing support during the challenges, which have seen the highly anticipated vessel delayed twice (TD 14 Nov 2018).

The Scenic founder, who wasn't able to be at the awards night, noted that financial difficulties at the shipyard had seen many staff unpaid and over 14 weeks of strike action and disruption.

"As many workers are leaving the shipyard, Scenic has set up its own workforce and now directly

employs over 100 specialist workers to assist in completing the ship, as well as directing more than 500 subcontractors.

"Scenic is now essentially doing the role of the shipyard," he said, highlighting the significant progress on *Eclipse* in comparison to all other vessels currently under construction at Uljanik.

However despite the challenges, "the quality of workmanship is exceptional and there are many pleasant surprises in store for our guests," Moroney promised.

Eclipse's two helicopters have been delivered, and the submarine took its first test dive last month, he confirmed.

Moroney said once delivered the innovative ship currently scheduled to debut on 13 Apr 2019, would be "everything we have promised and much more," undertaking to provide a further progress update in mid-Feb.

More from Scenic on page five.

HU set for Norway

HAINAN Airlines is expected to open reservations shortly for a new non-stop route between Beijing and Oslo, with GDS indicating thrice weekly frequencies using A330-300 aircraft set to debut effective from 15 May 2019.

LUFTHANSA GROUP



Premium Economy Class

Europe
from \$2,224*

Valid from 15.01.2019 to 15.02.2019
for travel from 22.01.2019 to 31.12.2019.

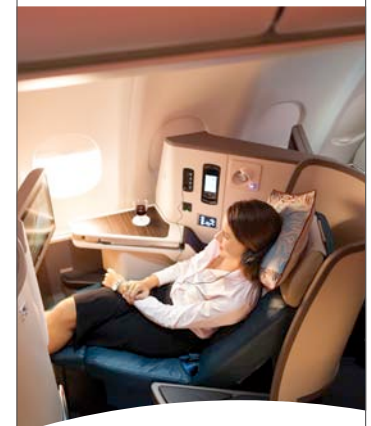
Fare Details

*Travel via Beijing; subject to availability. Inclusive of YQ, fares exclude taxes, fees and surcharges.

53 prizes are up for grabs, including Trip Dollars, Accommodation in the Maldives, Spa Vouchers, Google Home Mini's and more!

Visit: www.qhv.com.au for how to play and win

*Conditions apply, available at www.qhv.com.au



Memorable journeys

At SriLankan Airlines Business Class, we transform every journey into a luxurious experience. Immerse yourself in luxury onboard our A330-300 Aircraft, flying daily non-stop from Melbourne to Colombo.

srilankan.com

travel counsellors



THERE IS A BETTER WAY TO SELL TRAVEL.

Change your life. Call now... 1300 889 123
Visit: recruitment.travelcounsellors.com.au/opportunities



BREAKFAST IS ON BLU
WHEN YOU STAY 17TH DECEMBER 2018 TO 24TH FEBRUARY 2019
Book our Best Available Rate at any Radisson Edwardian Hotel and receive complimentary breakfast and a 5% saving.



Arrivals continuing to slow

INTERNATIONAL visitor numbers to Australia plateaued in Nov, with Australian Bureau of Statistics Nov 2018 figures indicating the trend estimate for short-term arrivals remained steady month-on-month at 779,800 movements.

Arrivals are currently 3.4% higher than in Nov 2017, however, the corresponding outbound figures for travel by Australian residents increased 0.3% during the month.

During Nov the top source of visitors to Australia was New Zealand, with 117,300 arrivals, ahead of China with 102,900.

The USA was in third place with 75,800 inbound tourists, followed by the UK at 68,100.

The fastest growing source markets for Australia during the month were Japan, up 11.6% year-on-year to 43,600 visitors, along with India which rose 13.6% to 32,300 arrivals.

Although it was in second place overall, visitors from China only increased 1.9% year-on-year.

Top 10 markets to see a decline during the month included the USA and UK, both down 1.6%, and South Korea which dived 16.9% to 24,100 visitors.

By contrast, outbound travel continued its strong performance, including a stellar 17.4% year-on-year increase in Australians visiting Indonesia during the month, putting the country in second position with 103,600.

That was just behind New

Zealand which was also up 3.2% to 120,600 Australian visitors.

The USA was the third most popular outbound destination during Nov 2018, up 1.7% to 82,200 visitors, followed by China which saw 48,700 Aussie tourists.

Japan was the fastest growing outbound market, up 11.7% year-on-year to 32,300 visitors.

Australian visitor numbers also increased to Fiji (up 4.3%), India (up 9.8%), China (up 5.9%) and the UK (up 2.8%), while there was a decline in visitation to Thailand, down 3.1% to 46,400, as well as Singapore which dipped 3.1% to 29,600 Australian travellers.

Platinum to WA

PLATINUM Travel Corporation has opened a new office in Perth, with the Melbourne-based agency saying it was responding to a “dramatic increase in demand from corporate and event clientele”.

The new Cottesloe outlet is being spearheaded by Perth locals Andrea Cameron and Laura Maitland, with Director Andrew Buerckner saying he was optimistic about the opportunities afforded by a WA base in the years ahead.

Another office opening for Platinum Travel Corporation is also planned for the coming months, Buerckner indicated.

QF to return to Fiji after 20 years

QANTAS today announced new non-stop flights between Sydney and Nadi, with a four times weekly service to be operated using Boeing 737 aircraft effective from 31 Mar 2019.

The move sees the carrier return to Fiji after a hiatus of almost two decades, and follows the approval of an application for additional capacity on the Fiji route (**TD** 17 Dec 2018).

The QF metal will complement Jetstar SYD-NAN flights which also operate four times per week.

“Fiji continues to be an incredibly popular holiday destination for Australian families, couples and adventure and luxury travellers, with a number of new luxury properties having opened up on the islands

in recent years,” said Qantas International CEO Alison Webster.

She said the new operation would help meet growing demand from customers wanting a premium travel option to Fiji.

Effective from today, Qantas will also add its code to Jetstar’s flights between Sydney and Nadi for travel from 01 Feb 2019, allowing customers the opportunity to earn Qantas Points and status credits.

QF will also continue to codeshare on Fiji Airways services to Nadi, with the Fijian flag carrier now newly integrated as a **oneworld** connect partner (**TD** 03 Jun 2018), providing a range of benefits for eligible Qantas frequent flyers including lounge access and priority boarding.

Window Seat

ROBOTS working at a hotel in Japan have proven to be more trouble than they are worth, with the Han na Hotel confirming it had slashed its electronic workforce by 50%.

The high-tech property introduced the robots partly as a novelty, and partly to reduce the need for human staff, with owner Hideo Sawada promising the Han na would be the “most efficient hotel in the world”.

There were more than 240 robots working at the hotel including lobby dancers, robot receptionists and in-room assistants, but a series of glitches has seen a rethink.

In particular, the “Churi” robot in guest rooms has been ditched after constantly saying “Sorry, I couldn’t catch that,” all night after being triggered by snoring.

VS Asia-Pac head

VIRGIN Atlantic has announced the appointment of Estelle Randle as its new Head of Asia Pacific.

Hong Kong-based Randle will be responsible for VS operations across mainland China and Hong Kong, as well as overseeing offline markets including Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

Randle has been with Virgin Atlantic for almost 20 years, and was most recently the airline’s Dubai-based Commercial Manager.



LIVE LIFE LIKE A *King*

Each one of our castles is an epitome of opulence, luxury and magnificence.

CONTACT US TODAY
LUXURycastlehire.co.uk

QF ups Noumea

QANTAS has confirmed it will introduce two extra weekly flights to Noumea from Brisbane and Sydney to meet a steady growth in demand.

With these additional flights, Qantas has increased its Sydney-Noumea service from three to four times per week, and its Brisbane-Noumea service from one to two times per week, using its Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

Bookings for the flights are open for travel from 31 Mar.

Evergreen brochure

EVERGREEN Cruises and Tours has released its 2019/20 European River Cruising brochure.

The program features itineraries ranging from eight to 15 days in length across France, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania and Portugal.

A highlight is the eight-day Secrets of Douro itinerary, priced from \$4,545 per person.

Busabout All Stars

BUSABOUT has revealed its 2019 Busabout All Stars famil will be held in Ibiza, as well as Rome, Florence and Cinque Terre.

Winners will be announced by 15 May, with the famil to take place in late May to early Jun.

To earn their place on the nine-day adventure, agents need to sell a minimum of 10 Hop-on Hop-off itineraries and 20 Busabout tours, with points awarded for every trip sold from 01 Jul 2018 to 31 Mar 2019.

See busabout.com/all-stars.

Emirates on sale

EMIRATES is running a sale until 24 Jan offering return Economy class flights to Europe from \$1,399 or Business class from \$7,149.

Return Economy class fares to the United Kingdom lead in at \$1,429 and to Africa from \$1,699.

The eligible travel period is from 24 Jan to 10 Dec.

VANUATU

ON SALE!

Flights & 7 nights from \$879pp*

BOOK NOW

SALE ENDS - 31 JAN

*Conditions Apply. Prices are per Person based on Twin Share
Photo Credit: Vanuatu Tourism



OMNISCHE
HOLIDAYS
Exotic South Pacific. Expertly packaged.

DoubleTree Perth celebrated



HILTON on Fri celebrated the official opening of DoubleTree by Hilton Perth Northbridge.

The debut marks the first DoubleTree property in WA and the first newbuild to open for the brand in Australia.

The property began welcoming guests on 21 Dec (**TD** 26 Nov) and is located a 10-minute walk from Perth's CBD.

It features 206 guest rooms including King or Twin Panoramic

rooms, Executive Panoramic rooms and four Executive Deluxe Panoramic rooms (**pictured**).

The hotel also has an outdoor pool and bar, 24-hour fitness centre and a meeting space with capacity of up to 160 guests.

The Executive Lounge on level two offers complimentary breakfast and evening refreshments, while all-day dining options are available at the restaurant, James St Bar + Kitchen.

SEOUL TOKYO

UNDERNEATH THE NEON LIGHTS

Seoul And Tokyo Express

- ✓ Visiting Two Countries In One Go
- ✓ Visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- ✓ Partnership with JNTO and KTO
- ✓ Get a free upgrade to Asiana Airlines

DISCOVER MORE →

Shutdown hits US travel

THE ongoing US Government shutdown has been estimated to cost the country's travel sector more than US\$100m per day.

According to an analysis by the US Travel Association (USTA), there's a daily cost of nearly US\$50m in direct domestic travel spending, along with over US\$50m in "indirect and induced travel-related output" caused by suspended national parks visitor services as well as a standstill of travel related to govt business.

Tokyo-Perth promo

WEST Australian Premier Mark McGowan will next week head to North East Asia to promote the new Tokyo-Perth direct flight with All Nippon Airways (**TD** 02 Jan).

He will meet with the President and CEO of All Nippon Airways to personally thank him for the company's co-operation and commitment to the service.

The impasse between President Trump and Congress has seen about 800,000 Federal employees forced to take unpaid leave, which is also expected to result in further damage to the economy.

USTA Executive VP, Jonathan Grella, said it was now plainly evident that the shutdown was affecting air travel, with the Transportation Security Administration experiencing staff shortages at several airports.

"Travel supports US\$2.4 trillion in economic activity and one in nine American jobs, and is a top-10 employer in 49 states, so any slowdown in that sector risks an economic cost that could be felt in every corner of the country," Grella warned.

The USTA has also warned of worrying trends relating to international inbound travel growth, which is projected to "fizzle" in the first half of 2019.

Scenic & Evergreen hail stars



SCENIC hosted its seventh annual Night of Stars at Sydney's Ivy Ballroom on Sat night, with more than 240 guests in attendance at the event which celebrated the company's long history of travel innovation.

For the first time top achievers with sister brand Evergreen were honoured at the night, which also highlighted the performance of nine agencies that achieved million-dollar "Diamond Status" with Scenic (**pictured**).

It was another huge night for ACT agency Weston Cruise & Travel, which took home the Highest Agency Sales award for the ACT, the Single Location National Award, a Diamond

Award and third place in the Top Consultant National Awards for staffer Emma Sullivan.

Kylie Cameron from helloworld Miranda was Scenic's top consultant for 2018 nationally.

New Zealand agency Midday Travel took home the top NZ sales award, while owner Evelyn Lee was also the top NZ consultant.

Adelaide's King William Travel won the National Award for Evergreen, while the top Evergreen Consultant nationally was Elizabeth Davie of Going Places Travel.

More from Scenic in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**, with all the pics from the night online at facebook.com/traveldaily.



Book. Deposit. Win.

Adios!



Savour cerveza in Cabo. Book now for a chance to win a 7 night Mexican Riviera cruise for two & vouchers towards your airfare.

Book and deposit any Princess cruise with Creative Cruising between 15 Nov 2018 and 15 Feb 2019 and tell us why you love our new booking engine for a chance to win. Terms and conditions apply.


PRINCESS CRUISES
come back new®

MEL traffic results

AROUND 1.05m int'l travellers passed through Melbourne Airport (MEL) overall in Dec 2018, an increase of 3.4% compared to Dec 2017, according to the latest pax performance report.

The Sat before Christmas (22 Dec) proved to be the busiest day "in history" for Terminal 2, with more than 40,000 int'l travellers flying both ways, overtaking the previous record of approx 38,700 on the same day last year.

"Last month there was a small decline in domestic travel, however our latest financial year-to-date data shows strong growth in pax traffic overall with approx 19.2m people flying between Jul 2017 and Dec 2018, a rise of 2.9% compared to 2017," said MEL CEO Lyell Strambi.

Strambi said the projects taking place this year included "a redevelopment of the T2 check-in hall, expansion of int'l security screening and construction of a new on-airport hotel".

English Nat Parks

THE English National Park Experience Collection, "designed especially for trade audiences", is launching later this year with the support from VisitEngland's Discover England Fund.

The project comprises of over 70 new visitor experiences across nine of England's National Parks.

Highlights include Broads by Kayak Experience, where travellers can enjoy the view of Heigham Sound & Hickling Broad from the water, along with the Spice Trail experience, a guided tour of some of the culinary highlights in the region.

DFAT Vanuatu

SMARTTRAVELLER is advising Aussie travellers to stay away from Ambae & reconsider travel to Ambrym island in Vanuatu following recent volcanic activity.

It also suggests that travellers stay up-to-date on weather conditions and forecasts, natural disaster watches and warnings.



AUSSIE celebrity chef, Curtis Stone is featuring Western Australia inspired dishes at his Los Angeles restaurant Maude, as part of a State Government supported promotion.

Stone recently visited Western Australia with members of the Maude culinary team to film an episode of a new TV series hosted by the chef, and to source inspiration for the new menu.

The multi-course menu features marron, saltbush, wattle seed and macadamia, alongside wines from WA vineyards including Leeuwin Estate, Voyager Estate, Happs, Cullen and Moss Wood.

"The WA-inspired menu draws on our incredible experiences in

the State and features indigenous herbs, fruits and nuts and quality beef, with the seafood courses inspired by the team's time spent fishing and foraging with Aboriginal elders; a real privilege and highlight," said Stone.

WA Tourism Minister Paul Papalia said, "Food and wine tourism is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the tourism industry worldwide and part of the State Government's strategy to increase WA visitor numbers and spend through tourism."

Stone's new TV series featuring WA locations, produce and producers is set to premiere later in the year.

Pictured: Papalia (left) & Stone.

WHERE TO IN 2019?

Final days to lock in our special fares to over 140 destinations. Hurry, offer must end 24 January 2019.

DESTINATION	ECONOMY CLASS RETURN FROM (AUD)*	BUSINESS CLASS RETURN FROM (AUD)*
Indian Subcontinent	\$1,059	\$6,449
The Middle East	\$1,169	\$6,859
Europe	\$1,399	\$7,149
The United Kingdom	\$1,429	\$7,419
Africa	\$1,699	\$8,599
South America	\$1,999	\$9,509

emiratesagents.com/au

FLY BETTER



*Advertised fares are for Business and Economy Class return travel departing from Melbourne inclusive of taxes and surcharges, correct as of 8 January 2019, subject to currency fluctuation and availability. Offer ends 24 January 2019. Business Class fares are for travel commencing between 2 February and 10 December 2019. Economy Class fares to Europe and the United Kingdom are for travel commencing between 24 January and 27 March, 8 April and 31 May, 2 September and 12 September, and 23 September and 30 November 2019. Economy Class fares to the Indian Subcontinent are for travel commencing between 24 January and 31 March, 15 April and 31 May, 8 August and 18 September, and 30 September and 30 November 2019. Economy Class fares to Africa and South America are for travel commencing between 24 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 24 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 visit emirates.com/au, your local travel agent or call Emirates on 1300 303 777. Offer subject to change.

Palm Springs excites agents



LAST month Excite Holidays and Greater Palm Springs treated 28 guests to a VIP rooftop agent event in Melbourne.

Attendees were updated on Greater Palm Springs and given insider information and tips for how to include the destination in their clients' US itineraries.

The event highlighted Greater Palm Springs as "the ultimate destination for a health and wellness getaway", with sunshine, a mountain-lined landscape, spa experiences and local produce.

Two agents - Joanne Langdon from Helloworld and Joanne Tomasi from Aquamarine Conferences & Events - took home a prize bag of special Greater Palm Springs goodies and a \$250 Endota spa gift card, in keeping with the wellness theme of the destination.

Pictured are: Nadia Jacobs,

Marketing Specialist Excite Holidays; Alexandra Sparr, Senior Account Manager Gate 7; Cinzia Giacchi, Marketing Manager Excite Holidays; Nadia Giusti, Business Development Manager, Excite Holidays and Jacqui Shelly, Business Development Manager Excite Holidays.

Viking river 2020

VIKING Cruises has released its 2020 river cruise brochure featuring a range of itineraries in Asia, Egypt, France, Portugal, Russia, and Ukraine.

Highlights from the brochure include the 12-day Kiev, Black Sea & Bucharest adventure, exploring Romania and Ukraine and priced from \$5,795 per person.

To mark the launch, Viking is offering free air travel to guests on select itineraries.

View brochure online **HERE**.

Qantas Israel sale

QANTAS has launched a special offer on flights from Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne, Sydney or Perth to Tel Aviv, Israel.

Priced from \$2,065 for return Economy class flights the deal is available until 28 Feb.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

Thai travel insurance

THAILAND may soon be introducing compulsory travel insurance for all international visitors, due to "unpaid medical treatment fees racked up by foreign visitors while vacationing", *TTG Asia* reported.

In an interview with the publication, Thailand's Minister of Tourism and Sports, Weerasak Kowsurat said, "I'm introducing a new legislation, probably within (this year or next), to require self insurance for all arrivals into Thailand – it will be one or two dollars more for each person".

Powerhouse plan

NSW opposition leader Michael Daley has revealed that plans to move Sydney's Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta from Ultimo would be scrapped if he won the state election.

Instead, Labor Government intends to invest \$50 million to restore the Ultimo site and "promises a new \$500 million museum for the city's west", *ABC News* is reporting.

Shellharbour \$16m

SHELLHARBOUR City Council has secured \$15.97 million in funding for additions and upgrades to Illawarra Regional Airport at Albion Park Rail.

The grant was approved by NSW Government's Growing Local Economies program, as part of the Regional Growth Fund.

Bahrain theme park

A SUBMERGED Boeing 747 is set to become the centrepiece of a 100,000m² underwater theme park in Bahrain.

According to local news, the eco-friendly project will attract diving enthusiasts, and help researchers obtain info and data on marine ecology and biology.

The site is set to include "a submerged replica of a traditional Bahraini pearl merchant's house, artificial coral reefs and other sculptures that have been placed underwater as a safe haven for coral growth and as a habitat for marine animals".



A-LEAGUE

**A-LEAGUE
WINNER R14**

Congratulations

KELLY DITCHBURN

from *Virgin Australia*

Kelly is the top tipper for R14 of *Travel Daily's* A-League footy tipping competition. She's won a \$250 travel voucher from Keith Prowse Travel.

**KEITH PROWSE
TRAVEL**

A-League tipping competition is sponsored by Etihad Airways and Excite Holidays, with the top tipper for the season winning a trip to Manchester to see Manchester City play.

**الإتقاد
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS
ABU DHABI**

**excite
HOLIDAYS**

NSW permit LTPS/18/28921 / ACT permit TP 18/01724



afta

**NATIONAL TRAVEL
INDUSTRY AWARDS**

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

CLOSING 5PM FRIDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE

NTIA2019 // ICG SYDNEY // SATURDAY 20TH JULY 2019

Argentina DFAT

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has reported a Hantavirus outbreak in Epuen and Chubut in Southern Argentina.

Smartraveller is advising visitors "to avoid contact with live or dead rodents and dust from sweeping and vacuuming their dropping".



WIN UP TO \$1000 by vlogging

To celebrate the Aussie summer, *Travel Daily* is joining Vloggi, the world's simplest video blogging platform to give readers Westfield shopping vouchers valued at \$1000 (1x \$500 and 2x \$250) and 10 movie vouchers.

Simply create 10-second video blogs using the Vloggi app. The videos that best encapsulate the summer spirit win. The content is up to you – a funky place, a great place to eat or stunning views.

Download the Vloggi app, which automatically compiles video clips into 10-second microvlogs. Or join multiple vlogs together into longer stories via the Vloggi website. Visit summervlogs.com to learn more and for T&Cs.

VLOGGING TIP 1 - Compose: Frame a video like a photo. Take 3-5 seconds, hit pause and take another angle. No need to move the phone.



Finnair CO₂ offset

FINNAIR has last week launched a service allowing customers to offset the CO₂ emissions of their flights by supporting a CO₂ emission reduction project or by buying biofuel, which is produced from used cooking oil in California.

"Aviation has several positive economic and social impacts, and it is important that we work hard to build more responsible air travel," said Finnair Chief Executive Officer Topi Manner.

More information on the "Push for change" initiative is available by clicking [HERE](#).

Accor year of pig

ACCORHOTELS is celebrating the Year of the Pig during the Chinese Lunar New Year from 05 Feb 2019.

The two-week festival will see selected AccorHotels properties decorated with red lanterns, tea stations, and bright floral displays.

The hotels will also offer guests special dining menus.

Lion and dragon dancing is set to be a highlight.

HK Express Japan

HONG Kong's low-cost carrier HK Express debuted its inaugural route to Nagasaki, Japan over the weekend.

The thrice-weekly flights will operate on Tue, Thu, and Sat.

HK Express Commercial Director Jonathan Hutt said the airline was excited about its "route to Nagasaki, considering 2019 is the Hong Kong-Japan Tourism Year, which will enable further cultural and tourism exchange between the two cities".

BROCHURES

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



APT - Europe Pre-Release 2020

APT has launched a preview of its 2020 Europe brochure featuring a new look. Highlights include the 15-day Magnificent Europe river cruise between Amsterdam and Budapest, starting at the price of \$6,995 per person, twin share. Other itineraries include the new Western Front Explorer which will take travellers to Ghent, Antwerp and Bruges, along with The Netherlands; and the new Secrets of The Baltics, where guests will explore Mazmeztotne, the islands of Muhu and Saaremaa, as well as unique wildlife and gourmet delights in Riga.



Grand Pacific Tours - New Zealand 2019/20

New Zealand Coach Holiday Specialist Grand Pacific Tours has launched its Sep 2019 to May 2020 season brochure, containing 64 pages of attractions and new products. Program highlights include the Ultimate Small Group ranging from nine- to 19-days in duration, and the Cruise & Coach Holidays, a combination of a coach tour with a luxury cruise on board *Celebrity Solstice*. Travellers can choose from five departures from 21 to 23 days in duration.

Saudi theme park

SAUDI Arabia's AlHokair Entertainment is set to open a "women's only" theme park called AlHokair Time AlAzizyah in Al-Khobar.

The theme park will feature a Sky Zone Trampoline Park, and a Snow Forest with activities including skiing, snowball throwing, and camping.

Cathay community

CATHAY Pacific has inaugurated two new initiatives into its community engagement strategy, which focuses on youth development, diversity and inclusion, the environment and cultural exchange.

The additions are Cathay ChangeMakers and World As One. ChangeMakers raises awareness of Hong Kong people who have made a positive contribution, while World As One provides young people with a chance to broaden their view of society.

WestJet 787 arrival

BOEING has delivered the first of 10 787 *Dreamliners* to Canadian airline WestJet.

WestJet will use the 787-9 *Dreamliner* to serve new international routes such as Calgary-Dublin, Calgary-London Gatwick, along with Calgary-Paris.

The aircraft will accommodate 320 passengers and feature the airline's new Business cabin with lie-flat seats.

Canopy in APAC

HILTON'S lifestyle brand Canopy by Hilton has opened its first hotel in Asia Pacific, Canopy by Hilton Chengdu City Centre.

The hotel offers 150-rooms, ranging from 50m² to 100m² and features digital check-in and heated bathroom floors.

The property is within walking distance to Chengdu Museum, Peoples Park, the Qingyang Taoist Temple, Kuanzhai Lane and Wenshu Monastery.



WINDSTAR® CRUISES



LEAVE THE CROWDS & CLICHES BEHIND
Small, Elegant Ships That Carry Less Than 310 Guests

13 night FLY, CRUISE & STAY package
starting from **\$9,185*** pp twin share

SAVE UP TO \$447*pp

FIND OUT MORE

6 REASONS WHY WINDSTAR'S ALASKA IS 180 DEGREES FROM ORDINARY

1. Only 212 guests
2. 227 sq. ft Ocean-view Suites
3. 6 onboard expedition experts
4. Signature Expedition kayak and zodiac tours from the ship
5. Rarely visited ports: Wrangell, Metlakatla, Haines, Dutch Harbor
6. Longer 11-12 night itineraries, plus 16-night Denali cruise tours



Working in partnership with the Australian Travel Industry

Travel Consultant | German Speaking

Sydney, \$45-\$60k, Ref: 3814SJ3

I'm looking for a travel industry professional who wants to step away from face to face sales & work for a leading travel provider who has fluent German & English. You will be booking packages & tailor making holidays and utilising your multilingual skills. A fun & vibrant team in luxurious CBD offices & a real chance for career progression. A great base salary is on offer & the chance to work for an industry leader. Call me for a confidential chat and don't miss this amazing role!

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

Cruise Line Training Development Manager

Sydney, \$90k-\$100k + Super, Ref: 9112JB1

My client is seeking an experienced Cruise Line Training and Development Manager to join their growing team! The ideal candidate will have extensive experience in recruiting, scheduling, training, developing and briefing staff for a large scale travel company. The company's product is niche and unique in the industry and the ideal candidate will have a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar role. This is an office based role in Sydney with roughly 2-4 weeks spent on-board the ships.

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

Travel Consulting | High End Agency

Brisbane, \$45-\$55k + Super + bonus, Ref: 6334AW2

Want to provide outstanding customer service to valued customers of this award winning agency? Want to get your work/life balance back? Want to sell HIGH END | LUXURY product and destinations and sell via service? Then this is the role for you! If you have the ability to create customised travel itineraries including flights, accommodation, transfers and stopovers, and are proficient across GDS and CRM (conversion course can be provided), then contact me ASAP and APPLY NOW!

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

Africa Destination Specialist

Melbourne, \$50k-\$60k + Super, Ref: 3818HC1

AFRICA destination specialists say hello to your dream travel job! If Africa is your passion and you have travelled the region extensively, why not specialise in what you love to do! This is a fantastic opportunity for an experienced tailor made travel consultant to join the expanding team in this leading, award-winning luxury tour operator based in Melbourne. You will be creating bespoke holidays and group travel to Africa. A well above average salary, Monday - Friday and famils

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

Team Leader | Boutique Agency

Sydney, \$70k + Perks, Ref: 1346AJ1

This highly regarded and well established boutique Retail Travel Agency is currently searching for an experienced Team Leader to lead and motivate a team of experienced consultants to new heights. They are due to move to a larger and brand new store in February and specialise in creating individual tailor made itineraries. This agency pride themselves on their customer service levels, putting in the extra time to really listen to their customers and personalise their itineraries.

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

Hotel Revenue Manager with a Twist

Brisbane, Up to \$75k + Super, Ref: 3849SZ1

Great opportunity for an experienced Revenue Manager to step into a varied role! You will be working closely with the Rooms Division Manager, GM as well as working closely with the Director of Sales & Marketing as part of your job will be to oversee the reservation team & implementing sales strategies & to maximise room revenue. Even though it would be beneficial to have a sales background, the key part of this role is utilising your knowledge in revenue to assist in the sales division.

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

Travel Consultant | North Brisbane

North Brisbane, Up to \$55k + Super+Comms, Ref: 1366CGA1

This independent member of Travellers Choice is a winning agency, you'll be preparing tailored itineraries to some exotic and off the beaten path destination. You'll be given a great base salary as well as enjoying predominately Monday to Friday role in a supportive team environment. There is nothing like joining a company with a strong industry presence that rewards their staff and treats you like family, it's a rare opening as business is booming, escape the city & work close to home!

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

Senior Travel Consultant - High End!

Melbourne East, \$55k + Comms, Ref: 3825JP1

Are you an experienced Travel Consultant who loves working with high end product? This is the opportunity for you. You will be working for a leading agency in the eastern suburbs who really value their staff members. You will be rewarded with an exceptional salary based on your experience as well as bonuses, famil opportunities and a great supportive team environment. This opportunity doesn't present itself often and won't last long so don't miss out on this great opportunity.

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



Find your ideal travel job at www.TravelTradeJobs.com.au
online... on mobile... in branch



Luxury Castle Hire – Where your dream becomes a reality!

What do you understand by luxury? Spending a weekend with your partner in a castle bedroom or renting the entire castle for celebrating your special day or event? Whatever your requirement is – you will find luxury in abundance with Luxury Castle Hire.

We specialise in providing castle accommodations for holidays,

weddings as well as corporate events and private functions.

The best businesses are always formed with passion — and Luxury Castle Hire is no exception. It was established in 1960 by John Bolton who was passionate about castles and exclusive venues and always viewed castle vacation as a big business opportunity. In 2008, he partnered with fellow director Melanie Horrocks. Since then, Luxury Castle Hire has proudly featured more than 150 unique and historically diverse castles and properties in its portfolio. The company is continuously adding new castles and properties to its portfolio.

At Luxury Castle Hire, we specialize in providing castle accommodation for parties, honeymoons, family gatherings, corporate events, weddings, self-catering holidays, New Year, Christmas and private functions with the common theme of an amazing castle experience.

CASTLE FOR EVERY OCCASION!

We offer you a unique selection of exclusive castles for rent across the UK, Europe and other parts of the world. Whether you want a fort, a medieval castle or a Victorian folly – we have it all! We go that extra mile to make your holiday special – and for that we do whatever it takes.



Phone: + 44 808 133 5988

Email: info@luxurycastlehire.co.uk

Website: luxurycastlehire.co.uk