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Travel Daily AU

First with the news

Wed 18 Jun 08

Page 1

EDITORS: Bruce Piper and Guy Dundas
E-mail: info@traveldaily.com.au Ph: 1300 799 220

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Arrivals up in May

SHORT term visitor arrivals to Australia in May 2008 were 0.5% higher than in April, and were 1.6% higher than May 2007, according to the latest estimates from the Bureau of Statistics.

Today's Travel Daily

TD today has six pages of news and photos plus full pages from ([click here](#)):

- AA Appointments Trade Fair
- Sabre Pacific

China Travel Service

Qantas Super Value Tour

9 Days From \$2290*pp
Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Suzhou
Depart 11 June, 09 July, 10 Sep*
22 Sep*, 03 Oct*, 5 Nov*, 26 Nov*, 3 Dec*
*Shoulder Season Surcharge \$100 pp.

Splendid Vietnam

7 Days From \$1790*pp
Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hoi An,
Ho Chi Minh City.
Depart 13 June, 18 July, 08 Aug, 12 Aug,
12 Sep, 10 Oct, 14 Nov.

Japan Autumn Hues Group

15 Days From \$5850*pp
Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, Nara,
Okayama, Miyajima, Hiroshima,
Matsuyama, Awa Ikeda, Takamatsu,
Tokushima, Naruto, Osaka.
Depart 14 Nov. with early bird special

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10 Days \$2180 + tax pp
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www.chinatransel.com.au

1300 764 224

All tours prices are calculated on per person twin
share basis. *Taxes are extra, conditions apply.

FC flags fabulous future

FLIGHT Centre Limited has announced that "healthy sales growth overseas" has resulted in the company forecasting a pretax profit of \$210m for 2007/08, up at least 38.5% (TD breaking news).

Last year the firm recorded a pre-tax profit of \$151.6m.

The firm's chief financial officer Shannon O'Brien stated

Trade day at ATE

AUSTRALIAN travel agents have been invited to attend Tourism Australia's Australian Tourism Exchange for the first time ever this year.

Tomorrow Tourism Australia, in conjunction with AFTA, will host an "inaugural retail travel agents afternoon" with a briefing from AFTA as well as an update on Tourism Australia's domestic marketing strategies.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to walk through the show and meet some of the operators exhibiting.

Perth agents have been issued invitations but anyone wanting to attend can find out more by emailing afta@afta.com.au.

the second half of the fiscal year has been particularly good for the travel industry, citing the strength of the Australian dollar and heavily discounted airfares on domestic and int'l routes as factors associated with the jump.

During the financial year ending 30 Jun 08, Flight Centre expanded its retail operations into India, acquired Liberty Travel in the USA and launched the Boutique Travel Associates in South Africa, while also growing its corporate and wholesale divisions.

O'Brien also predicted a prosperous year ahead, saying "with the opportunities we have for further improvement overseas, we would be disappointed if we did not achieve 10%-15% pretax profit growth during 08/09".

Managing director Graham Turner said "investment will continue in our core travel, niche travel, travel-related and non-travel businesses" over the next 12 months.

Turner added that "Our proven Flight Centre model will be used to deliver ongoing growth" in all businesses, both new and old.

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NSW tourism plans

THE Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) says new planning reforms approved by the NSW Upper House last night will reduce red tape for tourism developments and provide a 'catalyst' for tourism investment.

TTF National Manager Tourism Investment, Evan Hall, said the old laws put NSW at a disadvantage compared to VIC and QLD, but said the industry is hopeful that the planning law overhaul will "fast track planning approvals and attract innovative investment."

Travel Daily AU

First with the news
on location in
New Caledonia

Today's issue of TD is coming
from Noumea, New Caledonia
courtesy of New Caledonia
Tourism and Aircalin.

LOCATED in southern Melanesia, New Caledonia is the third largest island in the Pacific region.

It's often referred to as 'a little piece of France' as French is the spoken language and French food is the main cuisine of the islands.

Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia, features over 150 restaurants catering to all tastes and budgets, specialised liquor stores and local markets.

Each year the island hosts a number of festivals to celebrate its passion for food and wine.

Whilst it is the perfect destination to enjoy a gourmet holiday, New Caledonia has so much more to offer visitors including spectacular architecture, museums and shopping; land and water sports, sandy beaches and the largest lagoon in the world.

New Caledonia's national airline Aircalin operates daily three hour flights from Sydney to Noumea, and today officially announced it will introduce a fourth weekly, two hour service from Brisbane, effective from 28 Oct & operating every Tue (TD 14 Mar).



Qantas A380 now on sale.

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Travel Daily AU
First with the news

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Oneworld news

ONEWORLD carrier LAN Airlines has completed its shorthaul fleet modernisation, this week announcing the retirement of the last of its Boeing 737-200s.

The carrier now operates a shorthaul fleet made up entirely of Airbus A320s.

MEANWHILE, oneworld yesterday announced the appointment of a new Vice-President IT and Cost Reduction. Moshe Levertov will assume the role on 23 Jun, taking over from Bob McNair, who is retiring from the alliance after eight years.

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Q Hols JTG deal hiccup?

THE decision by Flight Centre to drop Qantas Holidays as a preferred supplier (*TD* 12 Jun) is impacting the proposed merger between the wholesaler and Jetset Travelworld.

This morning JTG released a statement to the stock exchange (*TD* breaking news) saying that the planned Extraordinary General Meeting to approve the deal, scheduled for today, had been postponed to a date yet to be determined.

The meeting was to have been held in Melbourne, but now the JTG board says it needs "time to update shareholders on the impact of the recent changes in the relationship between Flight Centre and Qantas Holidays."

Flight Centre spokesman Haydn Long told *TD* the move to vertical

integration had been "flagged publicly for quite some time".

"We have obviously discussed it with Qantas Holidays in detail," he said - which appears to be news to Jetset Travelworld given the late notice of the meeting's deferral today.

Jetset Travelworld's statement said "a preliminary analysis indicates that the economics of the merger remain intact but the Board is seeking further advice."

The directors said they would issue a further update shortly, and would fix a new date and time for the postponed Extraordinary General Meeting.

EK IFE always on

EMIRATES has pointed out that its passengers are able to enjoy in-flight entertainment from the moment they board the plane.

Last week Air New Zealand announced that it would now offer IFE from boarding until landing on its international 777 and 747 flights (*TD* Thu), with the move allowing passengers up to an extra hour of viewing.

EK regional head Richard Vaughan told *TD* last night that the carrier has offered its ICE in-flight entertainment system for the entire flight duration for some years.

CWT's new cfo

CARLSON Wagonlit has named Marc Karako as the firm's new executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Based in Paris Karako will take on the role from 01 Jul 08.

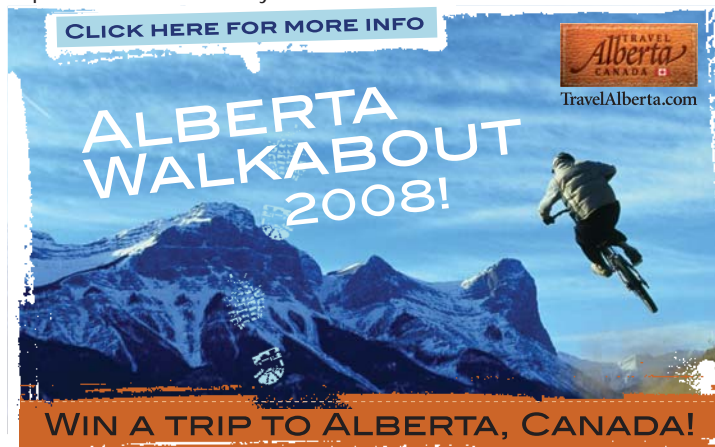
VS ground handling

VIRGIN Atlantic has signed a contract to stay with Menzies Aviation for ground handling services at Sydney International Airport for the next four years.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

ALBERTA WALKABOUT 2008!

TravelAlberta.com



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Window Seat

RUSSIAN air force planes accidentally dropped a 25kg bag of cement through the roof of a Moscow house this week while seeding clouds to reduce the chance of rain on a public holiday.

According to a statement, "a pack of cement used in creating good weather in the capital region...failed to pulverise completely at high altitude."

The air force regularly puts silver iodide, liquid nitrogen and cement powder into the skies above the city ahead of major public holidays to empty the skies of moisture.

PASSENGERS on this US coach line should feel very safe.

A 57-year-old bus driver from Chicago has legally changed his name to "In God We Trust."

Formerly known as Steve Kreuscher, his new first name is "In God" while his last name was changed to "We Trust."

He said the new name symbolises the help God gave him through hard times.

NUDISTS are doing their bit to help with the oil crisis.

Last Sat in London hundreds of naked cyclists participated in this year's "World Nude Bike Ride," with a couple of the keen environmentalists pictured below discussing the ride.



"Did the seat make your bum itchy?"

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Travel Daily AU

First with the news

Wed 18 Jun 08

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Spending Spree on Qantas



ABOVE: Qantas has rewarded two travel agencies with cheques for a whopping \$2500 as part of their "Have a Spending Spree on Qantas!" promotion.

The winning agencies were selected based on their growth in Qantas bookings.

Pictured here are, *from left*: Rachael Dunne, Emma Hartmann, Jane Courtney, Kathie Boggar, Lyn Huxham and Joanne Miller (Absent: Ashleigh Gribble).

Kakadu Helicopters

THE recently launched Kakadu Helicopter Safaris offers a fresh perspective on Australia's Top End, with state-of-the-art luxury helicopter tours exploring even the remotest parts of the region.

Touring options range from day trips to the eight-night "Ultimate Kimberley and Kakadu Safari", taking in the Kimberley coastline to the landscapes of Kakadu - www.kakaduhelisafaris.com.

AC slashes jobs

WORKERS at Air Canada are the latest victims of the airline fuel crisis, with the carrier announcing this week that it will cut 2000 jobs and reduce capacity by 7%.

The capacity cuts will take place later this year, with the biggest reduction in the airline's US-Canada transborder network, which will be cut by 13%.

The airline has warned that the staff and route reductions could continue if fuel prices remain at current levels.

MEANWHILE Virgin America has announced that it will cut capacity by 10% in the fourth quarter as it deals with fuel prices.

However the airline has stressed that no jobs will be cut despite the capacity reductions.

Celeb comp winners

TRAVEL Daily was swamped with entries in yesterday's celebrity interview competition.

The following people have won a Globus Wine & Cheese picnic set after correctly identifying Europe, Egypt, China & the Galapagos Is as the four worldwide locations that Avalon Waterways sails.

Congratulations to: *Marcia Pollington*, AOT Group; *Jonathon Pinkard* and *Tamara Yap*, Qantas; *Jacqueline Mohr*, Complete Cruise Solution; *Darlene Hunter*, Jetset The Junction; *Mark Pearman*, Epping Travel; *Nidha Siddique*, Singapore Airlines; *Jennifer Birks*, LHOTW; *Marilyn Rudder*, Zuji; *Barbara Dennis*, Show Group; *Annelie Artates*, HRG Australia & *Myfanwy Bugis*, TravelManagers.

\$500 OFF Highlights of China Small Group Journey



As seen on the Great Outdoors on Saturday 14 June at 6.30pm on Channel 7. Book and deposit by 21 June and receive \$500 discount per couple on our Highlights of China Small Group Journey.

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- Providing regular reports for customers and Company management
- Planning everything from events to promotions and familiarisations

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ABOVE: Bench International, Flight Centre and Qantas recently hosted Flight Centres Top Achievers to an exciting safari to South Africa's Sun City.

The group is pictured here enjoying a warm welcome from Sun City's iconic elephant.

Back row from left: Justin Smythe, Bench International; Elle, Student Flights Newtown; Katrina, FC Stafford; Lauren, Student Flights West End; Sonja, Escape Travel Grenfell; Adriana, Escape Travel Elizabeth; Charlie, Student Flights Town Hall; Allyson, Qantas Sydney; Nick, Escape Travel Helensvale and Corrine, Flight Centre Head Office.

Front row: Ellen, FC Bourke Place; Jason, Student Flights Post Office Square; Irene, FC Edgecliff; Kristy, Student Flights Curtin; Michelle, FC Flinders Lane; Lorraine, Flight Centre Horsham; Kelly, Escape Travel Castletown and Tara, Student Flights Collingwood.

Travel OZ tonight

TONIGHT'S episode of ABC1's travel show, *Travel Oz*, at 6:00pm is the second last program for the season and features stories on:

- Lord Howe Island
- Perth Mint, Fremantle Gaol, Rottnest Island
- Kangaroo Island

Canadian self-drive winner announced

CONGRATULATIONS to Kerry Fiske from Harvey World Travel Clayfield who is the winner of Tourism BC and Travel Alberta's Canada's West Self Drive campaign.

Kerry has won an eight-day self-drive holiday for two, including return flights from Sydney to Vancouver with Air New Zealand, car hire with Alamo, seven nights' premium accommodation and a host of adventure-packed activities, courtesy of Value Tours.

St Regis for KUL

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts Worldwide has announced plans to open a 200 guest room St Regis property in the Malaysian capital.

The St Regis Kuala Lumpur will be developed in the prestigious Sentral Precinct district and also include a 200 whole-ownership St Regis branded Residences, world class dining options and meeting facilities when it opens in 2014.

Chinese traffic down

CHINA'S air travel dropped during May, the first time since the 2003 SARS epidemic.

For the country's largest int'l carrier, Air China, poor weather, visa restrictions and the Sichuan earthquake are all factors contributing to the 10% plummet in passenger traffic at a time of surging fuel prices.

A restoration of inbound traffic to Beijing is expected in the lead up towards the Olympic Games.

AAT's 2 free nights

AAT Kings has a special 'Early Eagle' deal to Tasmania and New Zealand, offering up to two bonus nights on selected 'Low Cost' tours.

The free pre or post nights are being offered in Hobart or Launceston, and Auckland or Christchurch for tours departing after 01 Sep (for Tasmania) and after 01 Oct (for NZ) on the 'Best of Tasmania', 'Tasmania Naturally', 'New Zealand Splendour', 'New Zealand Experience', 'Best of NZ' and 'Wonders of NZ' tours.

Bookings must be deposited by 30 Sep - see www.aatkings.com.

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Win a holiday to the Whitsundays!

TOURISM WHITSUNDAYS
74 ISLANDS OUT OF THE BLUE



THIS month *Travel Daily* is giving subscribers the chance to win a fabulous holiday for two to Queensland's Whitsundays!

The competition is being sponsored by **Tourism Whitsundays** in conjunction with **Virgin Blue**, **Whitsundays Crocodile Safari**, **Ocean Rafting** and **Blue Horizon Resort**.



The prize includes two return economy airfares with Virgin Blue to the beautiful beaches of the Whitsundays, in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef.

As well as spotting crocodiles and enjoying the excitement of ocean rafting, the winner will receive three nights accommodation at the Blue Horizon Resort, that features exquisite Balinese inspired apartments overlooking the Coral Sea.

To enter the comp we're asking subscribers to answer questions about the Whitsundays, which will be featured in *Travel Daily* every day during the month of June.

The readers who send us the most correct answers will go into the draw to be awarded the prize - so by the time you get to the Whitsundays you will be an expert!

Today's question is:

Where is the huge manmade mainland swimming lagoon located in the Whitsundays?

Email your answer to whitsundayscomp@traveldaily.com.au, with full terms and conditions of the competition available on our website at www.traveldaily.com.au.



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Carlson Wagonlit Travel is a global leader specialising in business travel management. CWT serves companies of all sizes by leveraging the expertise of its people and leading-edge technology.

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If you would like to become part of the CWT team please send your expression of interest and résumé to employment@carlsonwagonlit.com.au today!

Jet off to India

AS tourism to India continues to grow in leaps and bounds Jet Airways has released a bargain airfare from Australia to Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai from \$1,190.

The special fare is available from Sydney, with options also offered from MEL, BNE, ADL & PER, and on sale until 14 Jul for departures through to 17 Nov.

Taxes are not included and some conditions apply.

For more info on the special airfare contact World Aviation.

Toy Story Mania grips Disney!

DISNEY'S new Toy Story Mania! attraction debuted today in their California Adventure Park as part of the "Year of a Million Dreams."

Inspired animated Toy Story movies, the interactive ride-game attraction gets participants to don 3D glasses and enter a world of game play with all their favourite characters.

A&K's China pilgrim

ABERCROMBIE & Kent still have space available on their 17-day 'Pilgrims on the Silk Road' tour that begins in Beijing on 05 Sep.

The tour takes in all the major highlights of China including The Great Wall, The Forbidden City, Terracotta Warriors in Xian, the Mogao Caves and two nights in vibrant Shanghai.

Expert lectures by historians and archaeologists, luxurious accommodation and 39 meals are part of the \$10,235 pp twin share (land only) tour price.

For more info call 1300 851 800.

Travel Daily
First with the news

Wed 18 Jun 08

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E-mail: info@traveldaily.com.au

Meet my special friend!



ABOVE: Sara Ang from Sydney Attractions Group was spotted walking the floor at ATE in Perth yesterday, with her companion a lizard named Bob.

QLD gallery online

TOURISM Queensland has launched its newly redeveloped online image gallery which showcases the wonders of the state, offering more than 20,000 stunning QLD images.

The gallery offers a range of free images as well subsidised rates to travel and tourism industry professionals.

Visit tq.com.au/imagegallery.



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Carnival Australia is part of the world's largest cruise holiday group and we are seeking an experienced **Revenue Manager** to join our commercial team based in Sydney. Carnival Australia is a high energy, customer driven organisation. Carnival Australia is part of the global group comprising of: Princess Cruises, P&O Cruises, Cunard, COSTA, and Seabourn.

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Please forward your application to
angelique.deep@carnivalaustralia.com

Applications close on 23 June 2008.

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QR adds Kozhikode

QATAR Airways has commenced services from Doha to Kozhikode in the state of Kerala in India, arriving to a traditional Indian welcoming ceremony.

The airline now operates 58 flights per week spread across nine cities.



Accommodation Updates

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



The Sheraton Saigon Hotel & Towers has officially opened its new US\$13 million Grand Tower in Vietnam, created in a mere 11 months. Holding luxury studios and suites, boasting the fastest internet speed and the latest entertainment technologies.



A \$1 million upgrade has been completed at the Castaways Resort on Mission Beach. Managed by Rydges; plasma TV's, Dream Beds, new bathroom fittings and furnishings are included in the renovations. The new conference facility will launch in Aug.



Starwood Hotels and Resorts has announced the establishment of their St Regis brand in Malaysia, the St Regis Kuala Lumpur. Scheduled to open in 2014, the hotels prime location in Sentral, KL is directly opposite National Museum and Lake Gardens, spanning a huge 72 acres.



The newest hotel in Wollongong, the 4.5 star Best Western Wollongong is set to open this Friday. Centrally located, the hotel offers 54 one and two bedroom apartments just a short walk from the CBD. It also features meeting rooms and free high-speed internet.

Le MERIDIEN

Le Méridien has announced the signing of two new hotels in the Asia Pacific. Le Méridien Taipei will be the brand's first property in Taiwan, and is set to open in 2011. Located close to the CBD, it will feature 161-rooms, large meeting spaces, an indoor pool and three restaurants. Le Méridien Xiamen, China will open in 2009. The 345-room property will be located close to all major business and leisure attractions and will feature modern conference rooms.

WANT TO MEET LARRY EMDUR & KYLIE GILLIES?



TRAVEL Daily is giving one lucky reader and a friend the chance to win the final two tickets to the National Travel Industry Awards, to be held at the Sydney Westin Hotel on Saturday 5 July.

The sell-out event is the hottest ticket in town and as well as two seats at the exclusive *TD* table, the winner will also meet the event's mc's Larry Emdur and Kylie

Gillies and have their photo taken with them.

To enter, we're asking you to send in a creative poem telling us why you want to be at the industry's night of nights and meet Larry and Kylie.

Email your poem to ntiacomp@traveldaily.com.au.

Looks like

A usual Monday morning,
Reach over for the
Remote and turn on the TV.
Yes!! I haven't mused the Morning Show

Today's entry in the comp
has been sent into us from
Courtney Halavaka,
Complete Cruise Solution.

Antics that belong in a skit show, while maintaining their
Nice and charming personas, a
Delight to watch Larry & Kylie hosting this wonderful start
to my morning

Keeping up with the times is a breeze with
Your entertainment fix for the day with
Larry and Kylie and the team

In the Morning Show studio! Life would be complete if I could
Enter the venue that holds the National Travel Industry
Awards, and tell them how much I love their show!

OS goes 'premium'

AUSTRIAN Airlines is set to introduce a new service class on several mid-haul routes ex-Vienna.

The new "Premium Service" will be gradually introduced from 15 July on services to Astana, Damascus, Dubai, Erbil, Jeddah, Cairo, Riyadh and Teheran.

The upgraded service will include 'gourmet' food, wide seats with an integrated massage function, personal video players with programs in four languages and much more.

Creative Hawaii

CREATIVE Holidays has released an exclusive six-night air and land package to Hawaii priced from \$861 plus taxes ex-SYD and \$994 plus taxes ex-MEL and BNE, and staying in the Aqua Continental Hotel.

The deal is valid for bookings made before 25 July and is valid for travel from 01 Aug - 31 Aug, or from 13 Oct - 30 Nov.

Conditions and seasonal surcharges may apply - www.creativeholidays.com.



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Term of Employment: Full time, contract, commencing immediately.
Great opportunity to get your foot in the door!

Ideal candidates will possess:

- Minimum 12 months travel industry experience
- Fares/Ticketing 1 and 2 (preferred)
- Highly developed customer service skills with a positive can do attitude
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- An understanding of people from different backgrounds

We offer a competitive salary and friendly professional team environment. Office hours Monday-Friday 0845-1715 and rotational rostered Saturdays 0900-1200.

If you believe you have the skills to excel in this position and want to develop your career within the travel/airline industry, please forward your application to admin@garudaindonesia.info by Friday 04th July 08.

Only those successful for an interview will be notified.



Airline Reservations Supervisor – BNE

The role of Airline Reservations Supervisor has become available within our Brisbane office. This is a varied position requiring a high level of co-ordination and organisational abilities, whilst being able to work productively in a team environment is also a necessity.

Applicants should possess the following skills:

- At least 3 years experience in the travel industry, preferably in a reservations position with an airline
- Experience with staff supervision will be highly regarded
- In depth knowledge of fares and ticketing
- Strong knowledge of reservation procedures.
- Good computer skills relating to any of the travel industry CRS systems, preferably SABRE.

Please submit applications including all relevant information and experience (no more than 4 pages) via email to bnerba@rba.com.bn or PO Box 15478 City East Brisbane Qld 4000
Applications close 25 JUNE 2008.

Only successful applicants will be contacted.

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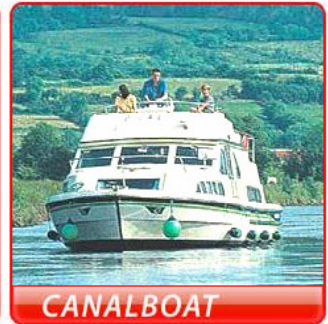
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