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Travel Daily AU
 First with the news
 Mon 04 Jan 10 Page 1
 EDITOR: Guy Dundas
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Today's Travel Daily

Travel Daily today has three pages of news and photos, plus full pages from:

- Qantas Holidays
- Explore Holidays

EK alters MEL route

EMIRATES has changed the flight path of one of its daily Melbourne-Dubai services to operate via Kuala Lumpur, according to travel agent GDSs and the Dubai-based carrier's website.

EK currently operates a thrice daily operation between the Victorian capital and Dubai, with one service flying via Singapore and the other services nonstop.

From 01 Feb, Emirates flights EK408 departing Dubai and EK409 leaving Melbourne, will travel via Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The flight now arrives into MEL at 1:25am (instead of 11:05pm), and leaves MEL at 3:10am.

SAS office hours

SCANDINAVIAN Airlines Systems (SAS) in Australia is notifying the travel industry of new office hours for 2010, effective from today.

The new hours are 9am-12pm and 1:30pm-4pm.

Masterpieces promo

QANTAS Holidays, in partnership with The National Gallery of Australia and Australian Capital Tourism, is today launching an incentive for travel agents for a chance to win a trip to see the *Masterpieces from Paris* in the nation's capital.

The prize includes two return flights with Qantas, accom, car hire, premium experience tickets to the exhibition, a helicopter tour and much more.

For full details see page four.

JAL: "Business as usual"

JAPAN Airlines Corp. has downplayed speculation that the carrier may go into bankruptcy protection as it struggles to survive the effects of the global financial crisis (TD Thu), saying reports the carrier was already bankrupt were false.

In a statement issued on Fri, the Japanese flag-carrier said: "The facts are that the revitalisation plans for JAL are presently being formulated by the Enterprise Turnaround Corporation of Japan (ETIC) in cooperation with JAL.

"A decision will be made by mid

Argentine recip fee

THE Dept of Foreign Affairs is now notifying travellers heading to Argentina to be aware of the new Reciprocity Fee (TD 24 Dec).

Australian citizens arriving into Buenos Aires are now being charged a single entry fee of US\$100 by the Argentine govt.

According to DFAT the levy, which must be paid prior to clearing immigration controls with cash (US dollars or Argentine pesos), credit cards or travellers cheques, will be collected at other entry points at a later date.

Exemptions to the charge are offered to Argentine born Aussies and those with business visas.

Wotif finalises deal

ONLINE travel firm Wotif.com has completed its acquisition of Go Do Pty Ltd after it purchased all of the issued shares in the company last month (TD 11 Dec).

The online "things to do" portal offers over 2000 activities in both Australia and New Zealand, incl theme park passes, day spas, hot air ballooning, V8 racing and more.

to late January regarding what form of assistance will be offered to JAL," the release said.

The oneworld carrier reported the Japanese government has pledged its full support until a decision has been made and that there has been no changes in its backing of JAL.

JAL says its "business as usual" and flights will not be affected during the process.

President Haruka Nishimatsu was reported saying "the image (of bankruptcy) would affect us and we would lose customers.

"If we lose recognition from customers, restructuring would be difficult and this will trouble the ETIC too," he said.

The state-owned Development Bank of Japan said yesterday it would be doubling its credit line for JAL to ¥200 billion (AU\$2.4b) to further support the airline.

MEANWHILE, a report by the *Asahi Shimbun* said Nishimatsu has a preference for a partnership and the financial support from Sky Team's Delta Air Lines over US rival American Airlines.

QF IPOX PER fares

QANTAS is now selling a new IPOX seasonal fare on trunk domestic routes from Perth.

The IPOX fares are close to \$500 cheaper than the standard J Class fare, and are available for travel until 30 Apr, for sales by 31 Jan.

The all inclusive I Class fares are priced at \$1,019 (to/from ADL), \$1,199 ex MEL, \$1,229 ex SYD and \$1,329 ex BNE.

Fares are subject to availability, are subject to change at any time and carry the same fare conditions as full J Class fares.

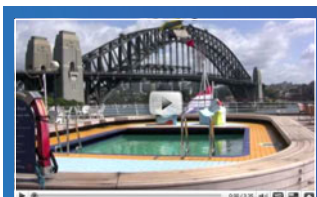
Greek Is. incentive

EXPLORE Holidays is launching a new travel agent promotion today which will reward its Top 20 sellers of International, Cruise & Rail bookings with an eight-day Greek Island Cruise aboard *MS Galileo*.

For full details of this fantastic incentive turn to page five.



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Holland America Line's
ms Volendam,
by Barry Matheson



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highlights from TITEZ,
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RENAULT EURODRIVE



LCC for Abu Dhabi

THE United Arab Emirates capital, Abu Dhabi, will have its own low-cost carrier (LCC) in 2010 to rival flyDubai and Air Arabia.

The investment firm backed enterprise has not officially been named as yet, but has started hiring staff for its short-haul operations to regional cities.

Intrepid Aus/NZ '10

INTREPID Travel has today rolled out its brand new Australia and New Zealand brochure which features an expanded Red Centre product and a revamped East Coast Explorer itinerary.

The 18-day east coast trip from Sydney to Cairns now incorporates public transport (trains, ferries and local buses) rather than private buses, which accom in hostels along the way.

"By using public transport we provide more opportunity for local interaction and ensure the carbon emissions are kept at a minimum," said global manager of sales and marketing, Robyn Nixon.

The 2010 program also features two, three and four day small group adventures, thanks to a deal with APT in Connections.

In New Zealand, two new Urban Adventures, that can be combined to form a full day tour, have been added in Auckland - the Bike the Bays and Walking Auckland trips.

Amadeus fault strikes QF

QANTAS suffered its second major computer check-in system glitch within 2 months yesterday, resulting in thousands of its customers being delayed for domestic and int'l flights, again.

The delays were caused by a server problem yesterday morning which was linked to the Amadeus Altea check-in system and meant staff needed to manually check customers in for flights.

The malfunction was followed by a break down of Qantas' baggage systems in SYD and MEL causing further head-aches for QF.

About 80 carriers across the globe utilise similar Amadeus technology at their check-in counters.

Qantas spokesman David Epstein said that Amadeus was "usually a very reliable system.

"That said, not all systems work all of the time and from time to

time they go down."

Epstein added "We'll be asking them to take appropriate measures to ensure our customers are not left waiting like this anytime in the near future."

Yesterday's incident replicates the occurrence in Nov (*TD* 17 Nov) when Qantas flights around the country, and another 485 airlines globally, were delayed due to an issue with Amadeus.

PER growth boom

PERTH Airport is one of the world's fastest growing capital city airports, not far off the likes of some airports in China, India and the Middle East, according to Air Transport World.

The boom is a result of growth in regional, low cost and resource industry related flights.

Passenger movements were around 914,000 during Oct, about double the national average.

US security threat to intl airports

UNITED States senator Charles Schumer has written to US based airlines which fly internationally urging them to stop flying to foreign airports which lack sufficient security measures.

The threat comes in the wake of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's foiled attempt to bring down a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit on Christmas Day (*TD* 29 Dec).

"You don't have to be Albert Einstein to realise that flights that originate in foreign countries pose a greater danger," the senator stated.

Schumer said US carriers should threaten to pull their services to those cities and airports which have "gaping holes" in the way they operate air security.

He also recommended that penalties be imposed on countries flying to the USA which fail to comply with its airport screening standards, reports the *ABC News*.

CI adds TP/LHR

CHINA Airlines (CI) is adding a thrice weekly direct service between Taipei and London Heathrow, effective 28 Mar.

The route will be serviced by a China Airlines A340-300 aircraft.



Window Seat

WHERE in the world is Wolverhampton?

Located in West Midlands, UK, Wolverhampton has been named as the fifth worst place to live in the entire world by Lonely Planet guide.

And the reason it made this list was because of a reader anecdote that compared the city to Ground Zero in New York after the Sep 11 attacks.

The reader said a man from Wolverhampton happened to meet former President Bush at the time of the attacks, who asked him where he was from.

After the man responded, Bush replied "I don't know that place". What state is it in?"

To which the man replied "It's pretty much like this really."

HAPPY New Year, Fido!

One of the most common New Year's resolutions for people is to get fit and lose weight, and soon canines will be given the same opportunity thanks to The Morris Animal Inn in New Jersey.

The luxury pet spa and resort will next week launch a program dubbed "Fit and Zen in 2010" to jump start a healthier year for dogs.

Designed to keep the four-legged guests active and stress-free, the Resolutions Doggie Day Camp fitness routine will include treadmill trots, swimming sessions in the indoor pool and "Doga" and "Paw-lates" massages.

ENTER at your own risk!

Almost 2,400 visitors are heading daily to Mayon in the Philippines to get a closer look at the spectacular flow of lava from one of the world's most active volcanoes.

Whilst tens of thousands of nearby residents are being evacuated, hotels are booking out as tourists flood in to catch a glimpse of the volcano, which began erupting two weeks ago.

"At the moment of the eruption, the local guides will have a better chance of getting out. The hapless tourist will be left behind", said Joey Salceda, governor of Albay province.

What a way to Finnish 2010

FINNAIR hosted an educational trip for key agents to Helsinki for the opening of the city's new terminal and a side trip to Lapland for a "real white Christmas", last month.

Pictured standing from left are: Sue Radford, business manager CTM; Catherine McArdle, national account director, QBT; and Katy Muyt, country manager Australia/New Zealand Finnair.

In front: Jonne Lehtioksa, sales director HKG/AUS, Finnair; Col Hughes, general manager, World Aviation and Warwick Blacker, general manager Jetset Travelworld.



Escape to somewhere

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We cover the world with over 80 destinations.



THAI's Silk on sale

THAI is offering a special companion deal on its Royal Silk Business Class product.

The "Travel Together & Save \$\$" sale is available up to 31 Jan for ex SYD, MEL, BNE and PER to Thailand, Indochina and the Indian Subcontinent for travel until 31 Mar 10, or travel to Europe between 18 Jan - 31 Mar 10.

Royal Silk Class fares to Bangkok start from \$3,199 return including taxes, and from \$6,014 return to London - phone 1300 651 960.

QF rate of exchange

QANTAS is today notifying travel agents that it has updated its rate of exchange (ROE).

Effective 01 Jan 2010, the new ROE is 1.094199.

Red Centre lures US

TOURISM Northern Territory and Qantas have teamed up to offer US travellers a chance to visit the Red Centre during the Australian winter at the lowest fare ever.

The US\$999 to Ayers Rock and Alice Springs is available during Jan, departing Los Angeles or San Francisco.

Peppers to Spicers

PEPPERS Spicers Peak Lodge and Peppers Hidden Vale will be rebranded from the beginning of next month as Flight Centre boss Graham 'Scroo' Turner moves the properties under his own accom business, Spicers Retreat Hotels and Lodges.

The two Turner-owned retreats, which had been marketed under a services agreement with Peppers, will be renamed Spicers Peak Lodge and Spicers Hidden Vale.

Turner referred to the association with Peppers as "long and fruitful" and that each property had benefited from the pact "high ideals of creating memorable escapes."

"However, it was a natural progression with the formation of Spicers Retreat Hotels and Lodges that they would eventually come on board and help drive the new brand towards the world-class business we envisage it will become," he said.

Launched in Jun last year, the Spicers portfolio includes retreats on the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Queensland's Scenic Rim and the Hunter Valley.

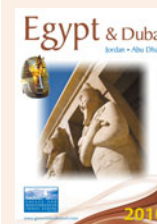


Brochures of the Week

WELCOME to *Brochures of the Week*, *Travel Daily's* Mon 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.



Travel2 - Hong Kong, Macau & China 2010/11
Travel2's latest Hong Kong, Macau & China brochure features more land options including new sightseeing and accom in Macau to compliment the addition of Viva Macau's direct thrice weekly services from Syd and twice weekly services from Mel. Additional accom in Kowloon including the brand new five star W Hotel is also included, plus a range of accom and sightseeing in China featuring overnight tours of regional China. Contact tifs for a copy.



Greece & Mediterranean Travel Centre - Egypt & Dubai (plus Jordan & Abu Dhabi) 2010
This brochure features new tours in the Nubian south, an additional family tour option and up to 25% off private tour costs in Egypt. There is also more hotels and an extended range of tours to choose from in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. In Jordan, clients can select a new tour or option to combine visits to Petra and combinations with Israel.

For details call 1300 661 666 or see www.greecemedtravel.com.

Ho! Ho! Ho! Only two days before the winner is announced!

Last Thursday was the final day for *Travel Daily* readers to submit their Christmas celebration snaps for our Fraser Suites Sydney photo comp. We've received an overwhelming number of entries and will be featuring a small selection of the final submissions over the next two days, whilst our judges file through all of the photos and select a winner.

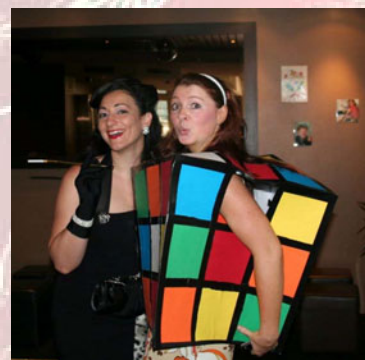
On Wed 06 Jan, *TD* will publish the judges favourite photo, and the person who submitted the Christmas Party snap will win a nights accommodation package at Fraser Suites Sydney in a one bedroom deluxe suite, sparkling wine & a fruit bowl upon arrival and complimentary car parking - all valued at \$600.



YHA Travel Booking Service in Sydney celebrated Christmas with an 'Old School' theme,

Pictured to the right is 'Mr Squiggle' Monique Suters with her "Oh Hu-rry U-p" partner Adam dressed as 'Blackboard'.

And below is Filomena De Angelis and 'Rubix Cube' Elinor Sheargold.



Pictured above is YHA's 'Retro Disco Dude' Craig Tester with '1940's Glamour' Filomena De Angelis.



The domestic sales team at Hamilton Island getting into the Christmas spirit!

Pictured below from left is Kristen Rule, Angela Lockyer, Kathryn McDougall, Santa Steve Bigg and office dog helper 'Smudge'.





Van Gogh's bedroom at Arles 1889, Musée d'Orsay, Paris ©RMN (Musée d'Orsay)/Herve Lewandowski

Win a trip to see *Masterpieces from Paris*

Qantas Holidays, the National Gallery of Australia and Australian Capital Tourism are giving you the chance to win a weekend away to see the very special *Masterpieces from Paris* exhibition and experience the wonders of Canberra.

THE PRIZE:

- 2 return economy class airfare flying Qantas Airways from your nearest capital city to Canberra for the weekend of Friday 19 - Sunday 21 March 2010
- 2 nights twin share accommodation at Novotel Canberra, with a bottle of Pol Roger Champagne on arrival.
- 2 Premium experience tickets to *Masterpieces from Paris* at the National Gallery of Australia. The premium experience is an exclusive viewing of the exhibition with a limited number of people at 9am before the NGA opens to the public at 10am* plus lunch at the Sculpture Garden Café
- 2 days Avis Economy Manual car hire (pick-up and drop-off Canberra International Airport)
- \$150 gift voucher to Benchmark Wine Bar and Restaurant
- 2 ZooVenture Tour tickets at the National Zoo & Aquarium - a 2 hour behind the scenes guided tour that offers participants an up-close experience to interact and feed a variety of animals.
- Canberra Highlights Aquila Helicopter Tour for two. You will be the exclusive travellers aboard your own privately chartered helicopter
- High Tea for two at The Tea Lounge, Hyatt Hotel Canberra

The National Gallery of Australia presents *Masterpieces from Paris: Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cézanne and beyond* one of the most extraordinary exhibitions ever to be held in Australia.

Masterpieces from Paris explores the explosive arrival of modern art in Europe. The exhibition features 112 of some of the best-known works of modern art which draws millions of tourists to the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, one of the great museums of 19th-century art.

Discover the home of the Australian story in Canberra through famed national attractions which hold the story of our nation. Check out the purpose-built cycling facilities at Stromlo Forest Park or Canberra's fantastic cycle path network. Dine with a view or taste award-winning cool climate wines. An array of stylish restaurants, bars and shops are close by, and for those more adventurous our scenic natural surrounds await you.

HOW TO WIN:

The winner will be the travel consultant with the highest number of *Masterpieces of Paris* packages booked and deposited between 4 January and 19 February 2010 for travel between 4 January and 5 April 2010. Packages must be Qantas Holidays packages that include a minimum of 2 *Masterpieces from Paris* tickets and 2 nights accommodation in Canberra.

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Simply make as many Explore Holidays international, Cruise & Rail bookings between 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010 to be in the running (sales are based on gross figures).

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