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Travel Daily AU

First with the news

Wed 03 Mar 10

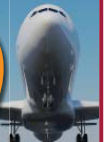
Page 1

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

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Fiji bounces back in Jan

COMPETITION between carriers on flights to Fiji appears to be paying off for the South Pacific destination, with figures released today showing a 65.2% increase in visitor arrivals in Jan 2010, against the same month last year.

According to Tourism Fiji stats over 21,500 Australians visited Fiji during Jan - the best figures the destination has ever witnessed from the local market.

Traffic was also well up from the New Zealand market (a shade under 50%), the UK/Europe market (up 22%) and the US (4% higher).

The combined international visitor arrival figure was up 37.6% to 45,362 arrivals for Jan.

The big turnaround comes in the wake of last Jan's flooding

Footy tipping regos

WE'VE been inundated with agents asking when the TD footy tipping comp will start again, and the good news is that you can now register to participate.

Competitions for both AFL and NRL are now online at the special websites nrl.traveldaily.com.au and afl.traveldaily.com.au, and participation is free for the Australian travel industry.

We've already lined up some amazing prizes for the comp, and there are limited sponsorship opportunities available - more information from advertising@traveldaily.com.au.

Register here for tipping!

(TD 12 Jan 09) which resulted in a 27% drop off in visitor arrivals from the Australian market.

"In 12 months we have gone from one extreme to another," said Tourism Fiji regional director Paresh Pant.

"Last year we posted our worse ever figures for a January period in recent times - today we are posting our best ever," he added.

Late last year V Australia began a daily service to Nadi from Sydney, adding competition to Air Pacific, and Jetstar will debut flights from later this month on the route.

Get set for a Trip!

QANTAS Holidays and Viva! Holidays are running a promotion in which four travel consultants across the country will each win 250,000 bonus Trip loyalty points.

Every confirmed booking for combined air/land or land only deposited 01-31 Mar for departures 01 Mar-30 Jun 2010 made with the wholesalers gives an entry into one of four weekly draws - more info on page 10.

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Today's Travel Daily

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news and photos including a full page of exclusive pictures from this week's AIME conference in Melbourne, plus full pages:

- AA Appointments
- Qantas Holidays



Eyre Peninsula

New QantasLink flights to Eyre Peninsula, South Australia.



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TT axes ASP route

TIGER Airways is scrapping its Adelaide-Alice Springs service from 01 May, blaming a fall in pax numbers on the route.

Spokeswoman Vanessa Regan said: "It's a commercial reality and Tiger Airways will continually review and develop its network on routes that reflect consumer demand so that the airline can continue to offer the lowest fares," but did not rule out the reinstatement of services if demand returns.

Last year Tiger axed its Darwin to Singapore and Melb. services.

Cox & Kings sales surge

COX & Kings Australia is in the midst of a spike in sales signalling a rebound from last year's global financial crisis, according to the wholesaler's chief exec. officer.

Speaking with *TD* on Mon, Steve Reynolds said all C&K Aus brands have been doing exceedingly well in recent weeks, and sales figures for Feb were comparable with 2008, and on track to set a new benchmark.

Brands under the C&K Australia banner include Cox & Kings, Tempo Holidays, Bentours and it's

soon to launch online supermarket offering, Ezeego1.

"Ever since 18 Jan business has exploded," Reynolds said.

He said consumers have realised the bargains that are currently in the marketplace won't last much longer, given the recovery in the economy, and are now booking to secure the best deal.

"Our sales are up across the board, for all brands and all destinations, we couldn't be happier to start the year this way," said Reynolds.

Last night Cox & Kings Australia used AIME in Melb. to officially launch its local operation to the travel industry, with Reynolds saying he was blown away by the travel industries feedback on the debut of Cox & Kings here.

WORLDHOTELS opens in Melbourne

INDEPENDENT hotels marketing group WORLDHOTELS has opened a new sales office in Melbourne.

The company said the move will support its expanding portfolio of affiliate hotels in Australia and NZ, with the office headed up by Samantha Halpin, who's been appointed as WORLDHOTELS Global Sales Manager, Australia/NZ.

She will report to WORLDHOTELS Sydney-based Director of Sales, Ganessan Suppiah.

WORLDHOTELS affiliates in Australasia include eight Stamford Hotels & Resorts properties and recent additions, Star City Hotel and Apartments in Sydney and Jupiters Townsville.

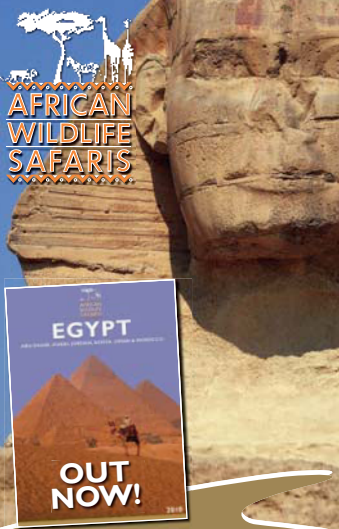
FJ BNE boost

AIR Pacific has announced the addition of an extra flight between Brisbane and Nadi on selected Sat evenings during Jun, Jul, Sep and Oct.

The 737 flight will depart Nadi at 2040, arriving in Brisbane at 2255 and then heading back to Fiji at 2355, arriving at 0525 the next morning.

Regional gm Victor Sharan said the departure would allow easy connection to outer Fiji island resorts during the peak periods.

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Window Seat

THIS guy clearly doesn't like being woken up early.

A hotel guest in the USA was arrested this week after putting an alarm clock in the room's microwave as well as discharging a firearm.

The 53-year-old was staying at the Albion Inn near Detroit, with officers saying he shot the bed, window, walls and ceiling of the room at about 8.30am on Sun.

No injuries were reported, and the man is being held pending arraignment and mental evaluation.

OFFICIALS at a Russian zoo have sent one of their inmates to rehab - a world-weary chimpanzee who's addicted to cigarettes and alcohol.

The hard partying primate apparently picked up his bad ways during his previous career as a circus performer.

The habits continued at the zoo, when he started bugging visitors for a swig of grog and a puff on a durrie.

"The beer and cigarettes were ruining him," said his keeper.

THERE'S one less aviation award program going around this year, with the demise of the annual Freddie Awards competition which rates frequent flyer programs.

Produced by *InsideFlyer* magazine, the awards have been running for more than 21 years, but the publisher has decided to scrap the program because it took 15 staff a whole year to organise the competition and operate the awards ceremony.

The Freddies were named after low-cost aviation pioneer Sir Freddie Laker, and last year almost 800,000 people from more than 200 countries participated in the voting.

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Travel Daily AU

First with the news

Wed 03 Mar 10

Page 3

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E-mail: info@traveldaily.com.au Ph: 1300 799 220

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Sabre/TSAX deal

TRAVELSCENE American Express has signed a sole preferred GDS agreement with Sabre Pacific, reaffirming a longstanding relationship between the companies.

Sabre Pacific ceo Gai Tyrrel said the move was "testament to a business partnership that really works," and means that TSAX agents will benefit from "locally developed and market relevant online booking tools".

The pact also continues the seamless delivery of negotiated fares via the Travelscene Amex 'TAXI' fare filing system and access to a range of new online booking tools exclusive to Travelscene agents.

Hot Hawaii fares

HAWAIIAN Airlines has launched a new 'Hawaiian Paradise' fare from Sydney to Honolulu in Jul or Aug leading in at \$1040 inc taxes.

The fare is \$1195 ex Sydney including add-on travel to Maui, Kauai or the Big Island, with fares on sale until 12 Mar for travel 14 Jul-29 Aug 2010.

More info 1300 669 106.

Freestyle rocks

FREESTYLE Holidays has announced an extension of its V Australia LA Rocks Sale, with deals now on sale to 11 Mar.

Packages from Sydney to the US lead in at \$1125.80 per person depending on departure date.

ATEC urges Sydney convention push

THE Australian Tourism Export Council claims that if Australia is to grow and prosper as an international tourism destination it's vital that Sydney has world class convention and exhibition facilities.

ATEC md Matt Hingerty said there was intense competition from new state-of-the-art convention centres in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions, which risks "overwhelming Sydney's current offerings."

"We must appeal to the major corporations, non-government organisations and associations wishing to meet here, sometimes in numbers that Sydney's current convention infrastructure cannot handle," he said.

The 'Falcon' hits the target



BREAKAWAY Travel Franchise Group (BTFG) held its first conference for frontline staff in SYD last month themed "Playing to Win in 2010", with delegates hearing some motivational speeches by conference speakers. Organisers say Mario 'The Falcon' Fenech, rugby league legend and keynote speaker was a hit with the delegates.

"He was brilliant and helped us

satisfy one of our conference goals that being to inspire, motivate and to demonstrate to frontliners that as part of the Breakaway family, their professional development is encouraged and supported," said George Vella BTFG director.

Pictured from left are Mario Fenech with Breakaway Travel St Mary's Noel Donohue, Jessica Peach and Lagan Harris.

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Rome	from \$1,746*
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*Airlines are inclusive of taxes and surcharges correct at 11th January 2010. Offer ends 8th March 2010 for travel from now until 30th November 2010. Valid on the EK409, EK415, EK425, EK433 services. Prices listed are for Perth departures. Seats subject to availability. Amendments and cancellation fees apply. Prices quoted are for the low season. Blackout period applies for Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban between 4th June and 18th July 2010. Emirates will be flying to Amsterdam from 1st May 2010, Prague from 1st July 2010 and Madrid from 1st August 2010. For more information contact your Emirates Sales Team or the Emirates Customer Service Centre on 1300 880 599. EMI2266/A

Scenic enough for you?



ABOVE: Some very lucky travel agents were taken to Egypt on a 12-day famil with Scenic Tours last month.

The group saw the 7th Wonder of the World, the Pyramids of Giza, took a hot air balloon ride over the Valley of the Kings and sailed down the Nile on the luxury 5-star *MS Crown Empress*.

Pictured above *from left* are: Cameron Snow, HWT Tuncurry; Trish Larfield, HWT Gympie; Jess Kyle, Scenic Tours; Lesley Moore, HWT Mona Vale; Liesl Visagie,

LHR to ACC on VS

VIRGIN Atlantic has announced the launch of services between London Heathrow- Accra, Ghana. Flights start up on 24 May with three services a week proposed to operate using an Airbus A340-300.

Goldman unites with Ursula King

SYDNEY-based corporate agencies Goldman Travel and Ursula King Travel have announced a merger, with the business to operate under the direction of industry veteran Tom Goldman.

Both agencies have been part of Travelscene Amex, but Ursula King switched to Jetset Travelworld's Business Select offering last Apr.

Ursula said she's been looking for the "right company to continue the wonderful tradition of UKT" due to her ill health.

"When Tom approached me, I instantly knew it was right for my clients and staff," she said.

Goldman and King have been close colleagues for more than three decades, having worked together on the AFTA NSW Board and within Travelscene.

Their respective offspring, David Goldman and Simone King are also involved in the business.

Ursula King will act as a director of Goldman Travel and Simone King, currently UKT gm will continue with the company.

Although friendly competitors in business, the pair have a longstanding friendship as evidenced in the picture below, taken at their joint 60th birthday party (*TD* 22 Apr 2004).



King and Goldman - 120 not out!

AAT Kings sale

AAT Kings is offering a second person discount of 30% off the regular tour price on its Northern Territory Short Breaks program.

The offer is on sale until 30 Apr and based on two passengers travelling together on a mini-tour from AAT Kings 2010/11 brochure through until 31 Mar next year.

See www.aatkings.com.

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Aussies die in Peru

TWO Australian women in their 60's have drowned in Peru's Cusco region while canoeing on a river swollen by heavy rains, police have reported.

The women were travelling on an unidentified adventure tour company with other foreign visitors when they fell into the raging waters on Mon.

Peruvian Authorities had recommended that all companies providing boating services suspend their operations in the wake of heavy rains, but the adventure company in question apparently failed to heed the warning, police said.

Norfolk Island Sale

CORAL Seas is offering a \$100pp discount off their entire range of Norfolk Island packages, when book by 31 Mar.

The Panorama Seaside Apartments has a 'stay seven pay five' deal that includes a rental car waiting at the hotel.

The deal starts at \$1,329 from BNE, \$1,399 from SYD and \$1,515 from MEL and includes airfares, accom, three specialty dinner shows, a half day orientation tour, car rental and transfers.

Into the ARENA

TRAVEL Distribution Systems, which owns and operates the ARENA distribution system, has launched a new integrated mobile application to allow travel agent clients to book travel directly via their mobile phones.

TDS ceo Norm Collins said the unique facility would give agents using ARENA "an advanced service and a competitive advantage over many on-line booking facilities."

Agents are able to register their clients for the mobile service, which forms a link between agent and client and enables the consultant to view or maintain mobile bookings within ARENA and retain all commissions generated from the reservations.

Collins said TDS was also in the process of establishing international representation, and is inviting suppliers and wholesalers to distribute their inventory directly to agents via ARENA which could become a "new industry standard distribution network."

See www.tdsworld.com.

LAN back to SCL

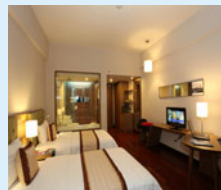
LAN Airlines has announced it will resume int'l and domestic operations on a restricted basis in Santiago Airport, following last week's earthquake.

The Latin American carrier is hopeful of returning to normal operations by Fri.

Qantas is offering c'share pax with tkts booked to Santiago the option to defer travel until 27 Mar.

Accommodation Updates

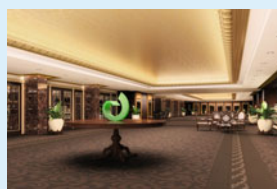
WELCOME to *Accommodation Updates*, *Travel Daily's* Wednesday feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Accor has added another property to its Vietnam portfolio, the **MERCURE HUE GERBERA** in the country's former imperial capital. This 110-room contemporary newly built hotel, boasts a superb setting by the river with panoramic views of the city, Perfume River and Trang Tien Bridge from guest rooms and the hotel's rooftop lounge bar. It's Mercure's third property behind the Mercure Hanoi La Gare and Mercure Dalat.



MANDARIN ORIENTAL MACAU is set to open in mid-2010 on Macau's waterfront. This 213 room luxurious hotel will blend stylish, chic modernity with subtle inspirations from the territory's European heritage.



THE LANGHAM AUCKLAND will today open the doors to its brand new Grand Room. This 1,200 square metre venue is pillar less and one of the largest event spaces in the country. It has the capacity to seat 900 guests banquet style and 1,400 guests theatre style.



THE BANNISTER SUITES Fremantle is a brand new boutique hotel that's recently opened right in the heart of historic Fremantle. The 4-floor property features 14 hotel rooms and 16 one-bedroom deluxe suites, some with private balconies. It's just a short walk to all major tourist attractions, incl the Maritime museum, Fremantle Prison, markets and Little Creatures brewery, and promises to combine exceptional facilities with personalised service.

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What is the stretch of coast between Cape Town & Port Elisabeth called?

Visit www.southafrica.net for hints



CONGRATULATIONS to Lynda Growcott from Flight Centre who was Mon's lucky winner & Jadie Rowlands from HWT Whitford City who was yesterday's winner.



Hotel prices down

SYDNEY and Melb. hoteliers were the worst hit last year due to the global financial crisis, with a 16 per cent fall in hotel room prices, according to the Hotel Price Index survey by hotels.com.

Cairns hotels were the cheapest city accomm with Perth being the most expensive.

Around the world hotels were also cheaper by 14% on average the study determind.

Agitation at Virgin

ENGINEERS working for Virgin Blue are threatening Easter strike action if the carrier doesn't agree to a pay demand.

The union representing the engineers wants a 4% pay rise plus six weeks annual leave, in lieu of public holidays.

A DJ spokesperson downplayed suggestions that negotiatioms had broken down, with talks ongoing this week to resolve the issue.

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Magic Happens!

BLC sales manager

BLUE Lagoon Cruises' has appointed Lauren Mossop as Sales Manager Australia effective immediately.

She will take responsibility for all aspects of the company's sales activities throughout Australia.

Travel Daily
First with the news

Wed 03 Mar 10 Page 6

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

In the swim at Rotorua



AIR New Zealand and Destination Rotorua recently hosted a famil on the new direct flights between Sydney and Rotorua to watch the pre-season NRL match between the NZ Warriors and Sydney Roosters at Rotorua International Stadium.

The lucky participants got to experience some of the local attractions, including the *Squeeze* operated by NZ RiverJet.

This sees guests disembarking a boat in knee deep naturally heated thermal water, and then head towards a narrow gap in the cliff face for the squeeze, which sees them manoeuvring through narrow crevasses, wading through

warm waist deep water and emerging into the stunning native NZ bush.

Pictured above during the Squeeze are, back row from left: Sarah Pollard, Creative Holidays; Shauna Xie, Air NZ; Lorraine Alexander, Grand Pacific Tours and Dean Wicks, Zuji.

Front row: Aaron Gilmore, ANZCRO; Eilly Wright, ECI Group; Carly Mulhern, APT; and Joey Rihari, Destination Rotorua.

GA code warning

GARUDA is advising agents to ensure they use the YQ code for GA applicable insurance/fuel surcharges.

The carrier said if YR is manually applied an ADM may be issued.

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Into the real travel world!



ABOVE: Spencer Travel recently hosted a number of travel students from AFTA college and Loftus TAFE to demonstrate how a Corporate Travel Management company operates.

Penny Spencer is pictured above right with Louise Brown and the three visitors.

NT to close in NZ

TOURISM NT says it plans to service the New Zealand market from Sydney, with the closure of its office in Auckland.

Tourism NT ceo Maree Tetlow said lack of growth from NZ was due to a lack of direct flights.

Jan traffic rises

IATA says international passenger demand during Jan was up 6.4% with an overall load factor of 75.9%.

The association said the figures "reflect a steady improvement" in global economic conditions.

Africa incentive

THE Africa Safari Co is once again operating a number of trips to Africa escorted by world famous Australian author Tony Park this year, with a South Africa departure in May and a Southern Africa trip in Sep.

Retail agents are being offered an incentive on the May trip, in which any consultant who books clients on this departure will win a dinner for two with Tony Park and a copy of his new book to be released later in the year.

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For the month of March, simply answer our daily question correctly and this intriguing Arabian holiday for two could be yours.

Send your daily answers to trade@abudhabitourism.com.au.

The deadline for all answers is 12:00pm Thursday 1st April 2010.

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Q-3. Ferrari World will open mid-2010 on which island of Abu Dhabi?



visitabudhabi.ae



Business conf slide

THE global financial crisis took its toll in 2009 on the Conference Convention arrivals and Business arrivals, according to Tourism Australia's latest data.

Participation fell by nearly one quarter for the convention/conf. markets, from 188,061 in 2008 to 145,410 delegates last year, while business arrivals dropped off by 14% to 726,058 arrivals.

Of those business arrivals heading to Australian shores over the past five years, the USA, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and India recorded their highest tallies since 2005.

However conference convention figures were down across the board in the Business Events Australia Arrivals Mar fact sheet, with no market not surprisingly showing signs of growth last year.

Tourism Australia and the AACB are doing their bit to curb the wave, announcing on Mon \$1.8m in funding for the Business Events market (TD yesterday).

SQ A330 expansion

SINGAPORE Airlines has announced new destinations for its new A330-300 aircraft, with the planes to operate to Abu Dhabi, Jeddah and Kuwait as well as Male from 28/29 Mar, and then in Apr to Fukuoka and Taipei.

Two Tims Contiki Asia Blog - Day 3



This morning we meet our local guide Jeff at Wat Prathat Temple.

The trek to the temple is worth it, revealing panoramic views over Chiang Mai. Inside, we're each lucky enough to receive a blessing from a Buddhist monk, who ties a simple string bracelet around our wrists while imparting his prayers.

Later, the group take part in the optional cooking class with our very own masterchef who gives us an hilarious explanation of the essential Thai ingredients we use to whip up three delicious dishes.

Bellies full we head back to the aptly-named Empress Hotel - it truly is fit for a king: gilded interiors, marble bathrooms, plush beds and awesome views. We could get very used to this...

Catch you tomorrow, Tim & Tim

Click here to watch the Two Tims



AIME 2010 lures record numbers to Melbourne

BUYER numbers to this week's Asia-Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo (AIME) being held at the new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in the Victorian capital are up by nearly 20% on last year, to over 500, coming from 33 countries.

Airlines, hotel groups, tourist bureaus and attractions from across the region that specialise in convention and incentive groups are in Melbourne to showcase their products and services and to drive new business after the global financial crisis.

Pictured on this page are a selection of exclusive photos taken of exhibitors at AIME yesterday.

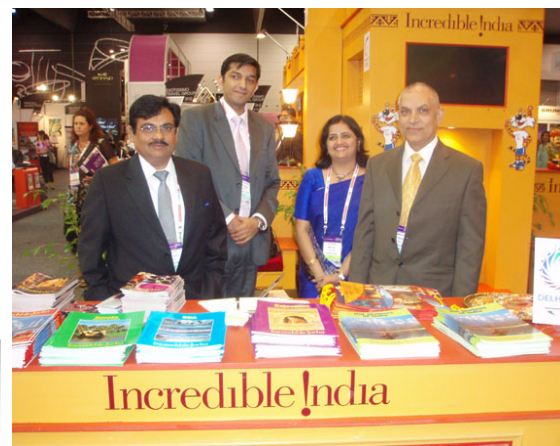
BELOW: Bula from Fiji! - pictured here *from left* are Josefa Tuamoto, chief exec. officer, Fiji Tourism and George Dyer, regional general mgr New Zealand, Air Pacific.



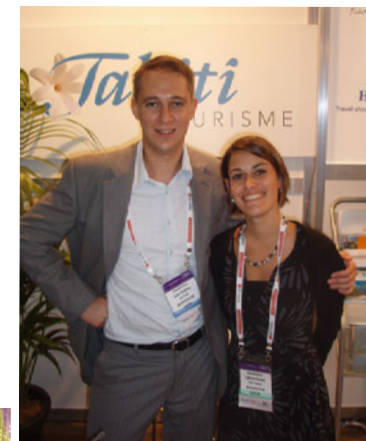
ABOVE: Etihad revved into AIME - pictured above at the Etihad Airways stand which also showcased EY's new First Class seat offering. Pictured here with some of the Etihad cabin crew are Rachel Saad, Etihad's food & beverage manager (white coat) and Igor Simonai, Etihad events manager.

RIGHT: India tourism was well represented with this bright stand. Pictured from left are Gajendra Kumar, India Tourism; Mohit Saigal, manager, Travel With US, India; Malti Dutta, India Tourism & Sunil Sharma, managing director, Target Tours, India.

BELOW: Jo Palmer from Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority is pictured here with Chris Petty from United Airlines.



RIGHT: Julien Ginailhac from Atout France - France Tourism Development Agency's Sydney office is pictured here with the lovely Typhaine Guillard from Tahiti Tourisme.



BELOW: Branislav (Bruno) Milic-Zumberski, account manager VIC/Tas; Mauricio Veloso, market analysis manager, LAN, Australia NZ & Asia and Juan Carlos Selman, market manager Asia, LAN.



RIGHT: Macau Govt Tourist Office's Virginia Lei Ngoi Ian, business tourism exec.; Benjamin Zaubzer, marketing mgr; Paul Poon, senior executive market development & Jose Reis, graphic designer.



ABOVE: Here's some of the team from the Hilton stand - from left are Michael Chidine, conference & convention sales manager, Hilton Adelaide; Rachel Boivin, conference & event sales manager, Hilton Cairns and Debra Lee, account manager meetings & conv., Hilton Sales Worldwide.



ABOVE: Aloha from Hawaii! From left are Debbie Hogan, Hawaii Big Island Visitors Bureau; Kathy Clarke, Kathy Clarke Hawaii; Sherilyn Robinson, Hawaiian Airlines and Catherine De Giorgio, Hawaiian Airlines.

RIGHT: But what about me?? - Edie Hafdahl, Kauai Visitors Bureau was keen for a solo photo.



BELOW: Australia's Hayman in the Whitsundays was represented by Wendy Anderson, meetings & event business development manager and Dean Jones, director of sales.



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MELBOURNE (EAST) – OTE \$55K - \$60K

Enjoy working in a company where you are treated as an individual? Here’s your chance to add part of your personality to this friendly team environment. You will enjoy co-ordinating interesting group travel for a variety of special interest, sporting and wedding groups whilst earning a fabulous salary. If you have a bit of pizzazz and initiative you may even get to escort your own group. Great chance to do something exciting!

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FLYING HIGH

TICKETING CONSULTANTS

BRISBANE CBD

SALARY PACKAGE OTE \$60K+

Love the idea of taking up a new challenge? Excited by the idea of working behind the scenes in ticketing? If so, we have the perfect role for you! Currently we are looking for 2 dedicated ticketing consultants to work in this fast paced and exciting environment. Working for this global company will see your career blossom and your bank balance double. Essentially you will need ticketing experience, the ability to meet targets & strong GALILEO skills to succeed. Don’t delay!

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