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National ATC move

AIRSERVICES Australia has issued a tender inviting international suppliers to help develop the next generation of air traffic control in Australia.

The move follows the signing of a major agreement with the Royal Australian Air Force which will see the RAAF and Airservices jointly purchase and develop compatible equipment and technology to "deliver safer and better planned air traffic control over the nation's skies".

Both organisations will be undergoing major equipment upgrades and replacement over the next five to seven years.

Transport minister Anthony Albanese said the deal is a "significant milestone" delivering on last year's Aviation White Paper, with the project including automation systems, radar and navigational aid equipment and training and simulation systems.

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FIND CRUISES



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

Ash closes LHR again

FLIGHTS inbound to London Heathrow Airport are once again being disrupted after authorities closed airspace across the UK this morning (TD breaking news).

At this stage the affected QF services are yesterday's QF1 and QF31 which have been diverted to Frankfurt, as well as QF9 which is heading for Dubai due to an onboard medical emergency.

Other airlines have also altered their London Heathrow operations while the closures have also extended to Amsterdam Airport.

Over the weekend other UK airports were closed, including Birmingham and Manchester as well as Dublin in Ireland, but London wasn't affected until about 10am AEST today.

Airspace covering London Heathrow, Gatwick and City airports is now closed until at last 6am local time (4pm AEST) and the UK govt has warned that the closure may be extended. The closures attracted outrage

New Value Tours gm

KEITH Stanley, acting ceo of NRMA's Tourism and Leisure Holdings, has today announced the appointment of David Ovendale as the new general manager of Value Tours.

Ovendale moves from his Queenstown-based role as gm of sales and marketing for NZski Limited, which comprises the Coronet Peak, The Remarkables and Mt Hutt ski resorts.

from airlines, with BA saying the ban was "overly restrictive" while Richard Branson of VS said the closure of Manchester was "beyond a joke"

Qantas told TD it's continuing to monitor the situation and is hopeful the affected services will be able to continue onto London once airspace reopens.

A spokesperson said all QF departures to Europe today are scheduled to operate normally.

BKK embassy closed

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has closed its embassy in Thailand to visitors until further notice due to the deteriorating security situation in Bangkok - including "ongoing violent clashes" directly in front of the Embassy.

A Smartraveller advisory issued yesterday continues to urge travellers to "reconsider your need to travel" to Thailand and Aussies still in the country are told to avoid any protest sites.

People in need of urgent assistance in Thailand can still contact the Embassy by phone on +66 2 344 6300 or via the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra on +61 2 6261 3305.

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THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has reauthorised the Board of Airline Representatives to continue to negotiate collectively on behalf of international airlines.

TA O MARIO DIALO MANDON

Under the authorisation BARA is able to represent the carriers when dealing with a number of major suppliers including airports in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and the Gold Coast, as well as Airservices Australia and the Bureau of Meteorology.

The five year renewal is conditional on the ACCC being kept informed of the name and nature of services provided by any other provider of essential airport services approached by BARA, and participation in the collective negotiations is voluntary for service providers.

The official renewal follows the ACCC's initial positive draft determination (TD 25 Mar)



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Viva! alters EY comm

JETSET Travelworld's Viva! Holidays is advising agents that as a result of Etihad Airways' restructuring its wholesale airfares distribution, the base commission paid on EY flights will be 7%, effective immediately.

Viva! says the move will mean it can "offer Etihad Airways wholesale airfares at a competitive price".

All new bookings made with EY after Fri 14 May 2010 will incur the new commission level - more info 13 27 87.

Turkish to delight?

TURKISH Airlines could launch services to Melbourne as early as Sep this year, Travel Daily has discovered.

The Turkish flag carrier said it was keen to fly down under in Aug last year (TD 05 Aug) but was only granted approval to launch flights six months later after Turkey's government signed an aviation bilateral agreement with Australia (TD 22 Feb).

TK is expecting to take delivery of a number of wide-body aircraft in coming months, which would be suitable for flying via Asia to Australia, with speculation on a number of aviation blogs about a Melbourne announcement soon.

In Feb, the Star Alliance carrier established a regional hub in Bangkok to cater for its expansion within Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

At that time, the fast-growing airline said it planned to initially enter the Australian market through codeshare services on its Alliance partner THAI Airways International, prior to operating its own metal to either Sydney or Melbourne.



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

Pacific Blue lifts Tasman VIRGIN Blue's NZ offshoot, Mark Pitt.

Pacific Blue, has extended its NZ regional long-haul strategy by boosting trans-Tasman flights from Hamilton and Dunedin.

One extra weekly flight from both regional cities will operate directly to Brisbane from the start of the northern winter schedule in Oct, bringing frequencies to four flights per week on the routes.

However the Hamilton increase is at the expense of Pacific Blue's direct flights to Sydney from the central North Island city, which will cease when the non-stops to Brisbane increase.

"Both Dunedin and Hamilton markets have shown good support for our direct services to Brisbane," said Pacific Blue ceo

AFL winner

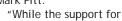
CONGRATULATIONS to Phil Symonds of Corporate Travellers who has won a Sunbeam Moooon Shaker courtesy of Travelodge Hotels, after being the top tipper in *TD*'s AFL footy tipping competition last weekend.

The top tipper on the ladder is currently Geoff Coad from Emirates on 96 points, but there are eight tippers snapping at his heels, tied together in second place on 94 points.

The first prize winner for the season will win a fantastic holiday in Dubai courtesy of Emirates and Jumeirah Hotels & Resorts. See afl.traveldaily.com.au.

SeaDream savings

SEADREAM Yacht Club is offering up to 61% off selected sailings in the Mediterranean between 19 Jun and 28 Sep - see www.seadream.com.



Hamilton-Sydney has also been positive during periods such as school holidays, we have made the decision to focus on a route from Hamilton that is in stronger demand and allows us to provide more frequent services," he said.

The flights to Brisbane offer travellers a wide range of connections to DJ's Australian domestic network as well as onwards to the US on V Australia.

Pacific Blue said it's still in the process of finalising flight times for the new services.

Plenty of Renaults

RENAULT Eurodrive says there's no shortage of vehicles available for leasing in Europe over the upcoming peak period.

The company was responding to warnings by some car rental providers (TD Fri) of possible shortages due to shrinking UK and European rental fleets.

"Unlike some rental companies that have been impacted by finance squeezes as a result of the GFC, our vehicles are brand new ex-factory and we have adequate supply at our disposal," said Renault Eurodrive Australia md Paul Hodges.

He said that there are still big discounts on vehicles booked between now and 30 Jun for collections in Europe up to 31 Dec.

"Australians are amongst the biggest users of Renault Eurodrive lease vehicles, and particularly so this year with the continuing surge of our dollar against the Euro," Hodges said.

More info 1300 55 11 60.



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Aircalin

A SKINNY-DIPPING tourist in New Zealand paid a high price recently after a venomous spider bit him on the penis.

The incident, reported in the NZ Medical Journal, happened when the 22-year-old from Canada left his clothes on the beach when he went for a nude swim and then lay on the sand for a snooze afterwards.

"He woke to find his penis swollen and painful with a red mark on the shaft suggestive of a bite," the article says.

The patient rapidly developed muscle pains, fever, a headache, chest pains and vomiting but recovered after treatment with anti-venom in hospital.

Doctors said the man was bitten by a Katipo spider, which live in a "highly specialised habitat" in NZ's sand dunes.

SAMOA'S Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Maleilegaoi, is currently in New York after his cabinet approved an invitation for him to attend the finale of the 20th season of the Survivor reality TV show.

The 'Heroes and Villains' series is currently being shown on Australian TV but we're a few weeks behind, with the grand finale taking place in the Big Apple last Sat night.

Samoa Tourism said that the filming of two seasons of the show there "had provided a broader advertisement for the Islands of Samoa and has contributed in [sic] the economy of the country".





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Britain-Brazil deal

VISITBRITAIN has signed a new agreement with Brazilian tourism promotion organisation EMBRATUR which aims to increase tourism between the two countries.

The pact was signed last week in Rio de Janeiro, during a summit where Olympic officials are aiming to learn from the experience of Australia's highly successful 2000 Olympics as well as the UK's preparations for London 2012.

"We feel that this sets the stage for much greater engagement between our two countries and how we can work together on tourism issues and many others," said VisitBritain ceo Sandie Dawe.

He said the countries would work on boosting aviation capacity as well as common promotions between the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games which will be held in Rio de Janeiro.

VisitBritain's Brazilian emphasis reflects an increasing focus on large potential emerging markets, following other recent changes within the organisation including the shifting of responsibility for Australia from the local office to Singapore (*TD* 30 Apr).



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

BA strike action

BRITISH Airways will operate its scheduled flights between London Heathrow and Sydney over the next five days despite the planned strike action by the carrier's LHRbased cabin crew.

The airline says that during the walkout it plans to operate more than 60% of longhaul and 50% of shorthaul flights from London Heathrow, but will offer a "slightly simplified onboard service" to enable the flights to operate with lower than normal levels of cabin crew.

BA009 from London to Sydney via Bangkok is scheduled to operate normally over the first strike period 18-22 May, but preordered special meals and child meals will not be available.

No in-flight duty free sales will be offered during the services, but travellers who have requested special assistance will be able to travel as planned on all flights operating during the strike.

The strike is still set to go ahead but BA has signalled a lastditch effort to obtain an injunction against the industrial action by challenging an irregularity in the strike ballot conducted by the Unite union.

Service Contracts Negotiator

GTA, a dynamic global online travel company is currently seeking an outstanding Service Contracts Negotiator to join our team of dedicated professionals in our St Leonards based office. This is a great opportunity for an innovative individual who is driven to outperform inbound market growth by negotiating and securing the best possible rates and conditions from service providers for our Global GTA markets. The person we have in mind will possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills coupled with strong administrative skills developed through prior experience in a similar role.

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The successful candidate will be welcomed into a friendly team where ongoing training is provided and opportunities for career growth are available.

Submit your application along with a cover letter as soon as possible to: careers@gta-travel.com.au

Top prize for TD reader

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ABOVE: Top Dog Developments has named Grant Palmer of budgetflights.com.au as the lucky winner of a \$50,000 online travel system in the recent competition run exclusively in *Travel Daily*.

Top Dog offered the prize as part of the celebrations of its fifth birthday in Australia, with the company's Global Account Manager, Steve Sergeant, saying he was delighted at the huge response to the competition.

"It demonstrates what a tremendous appetite there is amongst travel companies to look for ways to improve their efficiencies as well as improve their distribution channels".

Sergeant is pictured above right with the lucky winner - who's also proudly displaying his favourite travel industry publication.

Palmer said he was "amazed

that we won this competition. "We are constantly looking at ways to improve our sales channels, and we are continually reviewing new systems.

"We are excited about the tremendous opportunity this prize represents," he added.

Budget Flights is based in Biggera Waters on the Gold Coast, and its parent company also operates a JTG retail travel agency under the Travelworld Harbour Town name.

MH boost for AKL

MALAYSIA Airlines has added a 5th weekly direct service between Kuala Lumpur and Auckland on Wed due to growing demand.

The additional service comes as forward bookings for the route in the second quarter are already hitting loads of around 70%.

SOUTH AMERICA TRAVEL CENTRE

Sales Consultant

Based in Melbourne's CBD, South America Travel Centre is one of Australia's predominant niche wholesalers for South & Central America, Mexico and Cuba. We specialise in designing innovative, tailor-made travel itineraries for an upmarket agent/client base and are seeking an experienced consultant to join our close-knit team.

Along with a genuine interest in Latin America and a commitment to providing a high level of personalised service, you will have a minimum of 3 years working in wholesale or retail and a proven sales record. A working knowledge of Amadeus and previous travel in South America will be a definite advantage.

Our consultants are amongst the best in the industry and if you are selfmotivated, a high achiever, and would enjoy working in this friendly smallteam environment, your skills and creativity will be welcomed and well rewarded.

Please email your CV and cover letter to: satc@satc.com.au



HA A330 early

HAWAIIAN Airlines has brought forward the entry into service of its new A330-200 aircraft, which will now debut on 04 Jun on flights from Honolulu to Los Angeles and Las Vegas according to agent GDS displays.

AOT gets to know Norfolk

NORFOLK Island Tourism and Norfolk Air recently hosted two famil groups from AOT, taking the reservations team from the wholesaler's Brisbane team to the World of Norfolk.

Pictured (right) standing on the top of Mt Pitt National Park is



the first group, which included *from left*: Bianca Williams, Malcolm Muir, Phoebe Ester, Tanya O'Sullivan and Russell Rose.

Pictured (below) is the second group from AOT's Brisbane reservation



team enjoying their free time by lounging around the pool at the Governors Lodge Resort in Norfolk *from left:* Theresa Pollacco, Killian McAlister, Sarah Goodson, Andrea McFarlane and Breeze Hunter.

UK air back-lash

BRITISH Airways and Virgin Atlantic say plans for a new air tax charged on each aircraft, rather than per passenger (*TD* Fri), is "unworkable and could financially disadvantage Britain's travel industry".

The Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition said it would scrap the APD and replace it with a per plane tax if elected to govt, to "discourage airlines from flying half-empty planes".

BA has criticised the plan, saying: "The existing APD is not used to fund environmental or infrastructure benefits and there is no guarantee that a flight based tax would."

MEANWHILE, across the Atlantic the Air Transport Association of America is also turning its nose up at the "unjustified flight tax."

"Once again, airlines, their customers and the communities that they serve are at the mercy of political forces beyond their control," the organisation said.

"Further burdening air transportation with another tax puts the well-being of our customers at risk...the simple reality is that this is not a 'green' proposal, it is a plan to financially penalize airlines, and thereby force them to cut back air services," ATA stated.

The group said airlines flying to the UK do not "wastefully schedule services", as they tolerate high fuel prices, dismal finanical results and inefficient air traffic control systems.

Two Indian Stars?

JET Airways is in talks to join the Star Alliance airline network in the future, in addition to rival Indian carrier Air India.

In 2007, Air India was invited by Lufthansa to join Star (*TD* 14 Dec 07) but Al's integration has been held up, in part, due to its merger with the largerly domestic carrier, Indian Airlines.

Air India is currently predicting it will be ready to merge with Star Alliance by the first quarter of 2011, and is consequently hoping that 9W won't be allowed to join until after that time.

Air India's chairman Arvind Jadhav said: "India is a growing market, so it can have more than one member.

"The market is bound to grow but we have made it clear to Star Alliance that Jet Airways should join after us as we would like to have the first move advantage," Jadhav said.



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

Ibis franchise move

ACCOR has announced that it will operate a 'franchise development model' to support the growth of its budget Ibis brand in China.

Four initial franchise deals have already been signed, with a further 15 anticipated before the end of the year and the first two franchised Ibis properties to open in Shanghai this month.

Accor Asia Pacific chief Michael Issenberg said the Ibis brand "continues to form a significant part of Accor's expansion in Asia Pacific and around the world".

Terrace Downs heli

TERRACE Downs resort in New Zealand's Canterbury region will once again offer guests a Mt Hutt heli-taxi service as the quickest means to get to the ski fields during the 2010 winter season.

The seven-minute transfer is priced at NZ\$170 return and will be available to book between 8:30am-3:15pm daily from Jun to Oct - for more information visit www.terracedowns.co.nz.



STA Kiwi Experience

ABOVE: Kiwi Experience and Backpacker & Britz Campervans hosted a group of STA agents on an educational to New Zealand recently.

The trip was led by Kiwi Experience's Scott Wallace and highlights included visits to the Waitomo Caves, Black Water Rafting as well as participating in Tamaki Tours hangi and concert evening, Te Puia and the Gondola and luge in Rotorua.

Pictured here *from left* are: STA's Jaymz Dorrian, Phillipa Pan, Melissa McHugh, Jaime Nugent, Belinda Albert, Sissel Joergensen, David Berry, Kellie Tipene, Michael



Due to business growth we currently have various opportunities across several states for enthusiastic and client focused Business Travel Consultants. We are also looking for an experienced BDM in Sydney to join our dynamic and successful Sales team.

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Domestic Consultants – Melbourne & Canberra

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If you believe you're suitable for any of these roles and would like to join HRG please send through your CV and covering letter to; recruitment.au@hrgworldwide.com

Applications close Friday 21 May, 2010

Richards, Jess Nichols, Craig Purnell, Belinda Heffernan with Kane Fletcher, Kiwi Experience driver and Scott Wallace, Kiwi Experience - sales.

UL wants stake back

THE Sri Lankan govt is hopeful its offer of \$55 million to buy back Emirates' 43.6% stake in SriLankan Airlines is "the right price" EK is seeking.

Emirates bought its stake in UL in 1998 for \$70 million.

Guns OK at ATL

THERE'S uproar in the US state of Georgia after officials passed a bill recently that allows people entering Atlanta Airport to carry a pistol or rifle into the terminal.

Locals with gun permits can now take their firearm with them into the airport's lobby, baggage claim and food courts, instead of leaving them in vehicles where they could be stolen due to the airports previously enforced a 'no-gun safety zone'.

Representive Katie Dempsey said: "The greatest concern is when you're taking someone to the airport, that you now don't have to roll down your window and throw out your gun when you get close."

GOLDMAN TRAVEL CORPORATION



Goldman Travel Corporation, a leading travel management company located in Sydney, is looking for an experienced domestic corporate consultant to join us in our Bondi Junction office.

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The Extraordinary Taxi Ride has officially hit the road on a 9-week journey around WAI

Tourism WA's new campaign saw the taxi begin it's journey in Perth and has so far seen it's passengers swim with dolphins in Bunbury, pan for gold in Kalgoorlie and snorkel with the whale sharks at Ningaloo - and it's only at the half way mark!

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Experience Extraordinary and The Extraordinary Taxi Ride, click on the following logo:



To celebrate this fantastic campaign, every day this week, *Travel Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a \$50 Myer gift voucher, courtesy of Tour ism Western Australia

or your chance to win, simply inswer the question below - make ure you look at the journey blog or answers at:

www.extraordinarytaxiride.com.a

- In Leg 2, a quokka was seen in an unusual location,
- Where are quokkas normally found in WA? a) Broome
- b) Valley of the Giants
- c) Rottnest Island

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Antiquity special

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On board the *Aegean Odyssey* pax will see over 20 destinations with highlights including a tour of the Acropolis in Athens, amazing views of volcano Mt Etna and a visit to the city of Pompeii. Phone 1800 507 777.







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

Fake heart attack

POLICE in Bahrain are hunting down a fugitive who faked a heart attack on board a Gulf Air flight in an attempt to sneak into the country.

The man was on board a flight from Cyprus to Bangladesh, and began vomiting fake blood during a refueling stop in Bahrain.

He was transferred to a local hospital but sneaked out and now remains at large.

Belize makes eight

SUNSAIL has announced today its newest charter destination will be Belize, in the Caribbean.

The charters are set to begin from Nov utilising new Sunsail 384 catamarans.

For more info - sunsail.com.au.

Kuoni's new CFO

PETER Meier has been named as the new chief financial officer of Kuoni Group effective 01 Dec, taking over from the current cfo, Max Katz who is retiring.

Meier will join Kuoni on 01 Nov, after leaving his current position as cfo with Sulzer Technology Corporation.

Trendsetter

Red hot OS meals

AN AUSTRIAN Airlines (OS) flight operating between Beijing and Vienna last Thu was forced to return to the Chinese airport after the cabin filled with black dense smoke shortly after reaching cruise altitude.

According to reports, a defective oven in the galley caught fire onboard the Boeing 767-300ER jet, but crew were able to stop the fire spreading.

GA rolls out carpet

GARUDA International has introducted a VIP service for its Executive class passengers travelling from Singapore.

The service includes personal concierge check in, immigration and baggage clearances, five star lounge facilities, and a transfer by dedicated buggy to the boarding gate.

CX flight bomb scare

CATHAY Pacific passenger flight CX838 was escorted to Vancouver International Airport on Saturday by two fighter jets after a security threat was issued.

Reports from the Defence Dept and the RCMP said there was a bomb threat aboard the plane.

The aircraft landed safely on a secluded runway, away from the airport, and the passengers were eventually safely taken off the plane and no one was injured, said a TCMP spokesman.

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0413 010 639





THE proposed merger between Stella Travel and Jetset Travelworld will set the scene for Travelscene Corporate members to thrive, according to Stella ceo Peter Lacaze, who addressed the group's annual Corporate Symposium in Hong Kong over the weekend.

A record number of members attended the event, with Travelscene ceo Mike Thompson also backing the deal.

"The strategic rationale is compelling," he said.

"The proposed merger will enhance our ability, and that of members, more effectively in a rapidly changing industry, while providing a stronger shareholder base, stronger business partnerships, a stronger balance sheet with very low gearing while preserving and protecting the individual brands," he enthused.

The weekend was themed 'Thrive in the New Landscape' and also included a new "Innovators Award" to honour some of the

Greener MEL apt

MELBOURNE Airport has announced the installation of a new "green" feature called Crisplant LS-4000E tilt-tray baggage-handling sorters.

The new sorter provides The 'Pa baggage handling flexibility, a greener and more efficient Starwood energy system, reduced power consumption, low product life cycle costs, integration and property layout flexibility and high capacity. Jul 2010.

initiatives of members.

The overall winner of the award was The Travel Authority for its "Boardroom Booking Service", described as "a creative mobile solution to better meet the needs of clients during the pressures of the GFC while further entrenching their relationship with key corporate clients".

Other finalists included Reho Travel, for its work in expanding the support of a student at the University of Malawi whom Reho's founder Karsten Horne met selling handmade cards by the side of the road; and The Travel Studio's expansion of its volunteer and ecotourism arm to meet increasing demand from clients wanting to combine travel with "making a difference".

Pictured above at the event, from left: Robert Elias, Gilpin Travel; Tom Goldman, Goldman Travel; Karen Tsolakis, Qantas; David Padman, GM Travelscene Corporate; Gai Tyrrell, Sabre Pacific; and Ian Pryer from Goldman Travel.

Free weekend night

STARWOOD Hotels and Resorts Worldwide is offering a free weekend night in an extension of its "SPG Free Weekends" promo.

The 'Passport to Free Weekends' campaign offers new and existing Starwood Preferred Guests a free weekend night award for every three stays at a Starwood property between 01 May and 31 Jul 2010.

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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.

APT - Europe Golf Cruise 2010/11

This brochure incorporates three rounds of golf in Germany and one round in Austria into its 15 day Magnificient Europe river cruise, on selected dates. The golf cruises depart Budapest to Amsterdam on 10 Oct 2010, 26 Apr 2011 and from Amsterdam to Budapest on 25 Oct 2011, from \$8,245ppts (non golfers from \$6,895). For info call 1300 278 278.



This 190 page brochure details nearly 200 itineraries visiting seven continents, over 80 countries, and more than 400 destinations. The brochure provides detailed cruise itineraries by region, deck plans, shore excursions and land programs, general info and much more. For more info visit silversea.com.



This brochure offers extensive coverage over Northern Europe incl the Baltic, Norway, Greenland and Iceland, the Mediterranean, Canary Islands, Central America & Amazon, South America and Round World cruises, aboard 4 ships - *Balmoral, Braemar*, *Boudicca* and *Black Watch*. Phone 1300 669 269.

WORLDWIDE CRUISES

APT

Costa Cruises - Cruises 2011

The Costa Cruises 2011 program features over 250 destinations and more than 130 different itineraries. Features incl a "Round the World" cruise onboard *Costa Deliziosa* sailing from Savona on 28 Dec 2011. There's also a Far East itinerary tailored for Aussies aboard *Costa Classica*, sailing from Singapore to Thailand and Malaysia, between Dec and Apr 2011.

To browse the brochure visit www.costacruises.com.au.



QANTAS Holidays rewarded members of the Concorde Agency Network with a trip to San Diego recently, where the group met Shamu first-hand, enjoyed the Zoo, had lots of fun navigating the freeways on shopping expeditions and visited the US Midway Museum (above).

Pictured here, front row *from left* are: Frank Varacalli, Franks International Travel SA; Steffi Kontos, Meridian Travel, ATAC, VIC; Tania Oregan, Whitesands Travel Nowra, NSW; Maria di Bucci, Tertiary Travel Nedlands, WA; Janine Maddern, Hallett Cove Travel, SA; Belinda Brackenridge, Stars Travel United, QLD.

Back Row: Rhiannon Hutton, Corowa Travel Link, ATAC, NSW; Michelle Ryan, Concorde Agency Network; Emily Watts, Travel Direct of Kingscliff, NSW; Saskia Van Dongen, Qantas Holidays and Sharon Shinners, National Travel Warrnambool, ATAC, VIC.

Tourism chief dies

THE long-time President of the US Tour Operators Association, Bob Whitley, has died unexpectedly at the age of 66 due to complications from surgery.

Whitley had been in the industry for over 40 years and had headed the USTOA since 1978.

The Australian Tourism Export Council expressed its dismay at the death, with chairman John King saying Whitley had "been a close friend of ATEC and had contributed greatly to the growth of tourism from the US to Australia."

In 2008 King and Whitley signed a joint agreement in New York in which ATEC and USTOA each became an affliate member of the other, with King saying Whitley "had an enormous capacity to overcome barriers and bring people together".



Google goes 3D

INTERNET search giant Google has added a new 3D feature to its popular Google Maps application.

Dubbed 'Earth View' it's an integration of the previously separate Google Earth software with the web-based Google Maps.

Earth View allows users to zoom in and take an in-depth look at locations across the globe, with the system including a full 3D rendering of the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge as well as many other landmarks across the globe.

See maps.google.com.au.

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO SOUTH AFRICA

During May, *Travel Daily* is giving travel consultant readers the chance to win an incredible seven-day holiday to South Africa for two people, courtesy of our friends at South African Tourism and V Australia.

This sensational prize includes return Internationa Premium Economy airfares to Johannesburg flying



Bungy-Jumping in South Africa

V Australia, two night's accommodation in Johannesburg, a four night stay in luxury accommodation at Kruger National Park, a city tour, all transfers and breakfast daily.

Expect to be spoilt in International Premium Economy with V Australia, including priority check-in and boarding, all leather seats with 38" seat pitch and adjustable foot rests, all inclusive food and beverage, mood lighting and much more!

To enter, simply send in a caption that represents the adventure photo featured above. You can enter as many times as you want.

Get creative & email your captions to satcomp@traveldaily.com.au

Plus, a weekly prize of two bottles of South African wine will be up for grabs for the cleverest caption received each week...so keep an eye out in *Travel Daily* each Monday to see if it's you!

Congratulations to Ruth Birtwistle from Travel To Go, who was the weekly winner for last week's photo caption: This thing will never get off the ground!



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If you prefer to play at the pointy end of the corporate market, here's a role that will allow you to exercise all of your skills in big business acquisition. You will be energetic in your pursuing of leads, building relationships, writing detailed tender documents and making compelling presentations. You're a "hunter" by nature and love the rewards at the end of the day. A leading global name and top salary package with benefits!

LEAD THIS EXPANDING AGENCY RETAIL TRAVEL MANAGER MELBOURNE EAST – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$65k +

As a highly skilled Travel Manager and supervisor you will have the skills to build on this already highly successful independent office. Due to this office expanding quicker than expected they have the opportunity for an experienced leader to join and bring in a motivated and driven approach. Working with a variety of bookings, this office is not your everyday retail office and you won't want to miss out. Great environment.

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This position is available NOW for someone with previous experience in packaging up product for distribution through retail agencies, with a particular knowledge of cruise. You'll be proactive in competitor analysis and have great relationships with suppliers that allows you to stay ahead of the game when it comes to putting together the best deals. An exciting new role for a go-getter. Great team, top \$\$\$\$

TAKE YOUR CAREER TO BRAND NEW HEIGHTS CORPORATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER SE QUEENSLAND – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$70 OTE

If you love the challenge of B2B sales and want to be on the road working as part of a leading team that delivers the best in service, we have a great opportunity for the enthusiastic and polished sales professional. Prior experience on the road is essential, preferably in the travel industry but not essential. Great incentives and bonuses are part of this package. A rare Sales role in this part of the world! Apply NOW.

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This well known Brand needs a Leader, someone with proven skills in managing a business, P&L control and managing growth strategies. You'll have proven skills in driving business performance, leading a team, financial management, negotiating & influencing others, product selection and key industry relationship management. Knowledge of international Cruise product a huge advantage! Apply now.

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Due to our corporate client gaining new accounts they have the current need to recruit a highly effective corporate travel manager. You will be responsible for supervising one of their teams of around 8-10 consultants and will have strong communication skills as well as heavy involvement in staff performance management. As a hands-off manager you will be relied upon by the team to show strength in supervision.

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