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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Thursday 22nd December 2011

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ISSN 1834-3058

## Etihad Sabre deal

ETIHAD has signed a “groundbreaking” ten year deal with Sabre Airline Solutions to implement new software across its reservations, inventory, marketing, planning, eCommerce, distribution and departure control operations globally.

Valued at more than US\$1b, the Sabre system will be implemented by Feb 2013, with ceo James Hogan saying it would “play a pivotal role in providing Etihad Airways with the tools necessary to achieve its next phase of growth and profitability targets in an innovative, sustainable and cost effective manner”.

He said that unlike legacy carriers, Etihad is in the fortunate position to be able to implement the software across the board.

The deal also includes a multi-year full content agreement to allow Sabre-connected agents to access real-time Etihad flight and scheduling information.

Sabre Airline Solutions was also recently selected by Etihad’s local partner, Virgin Australia, (TD 24 Nov) with the move set to see the carrier transition to a full GDS operation by Mar 2013.

## Tourism contributes \$35b

**STRONG** growth in outbound travel in 2010-11 meant that an additional 1,843 residents departed Australia each day during the year, according to figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics yesterday.

Overall departures were up 9.9%, with travel to nine of Australia’s top ten destinations increasing, led by Indonesia (up 23.5%) and the USA (18.3%).

The Tourism Satellite Account data also included new data which reveals the split between full-time and part-time workers in the Australian tourism industry.

A total of 513,700 people were employed in tourism across Australia over the year, of which 43.7% are part time - mostly working in cafes and restaurants.

During the year tourism’s contribution to the Australian economy grew 2.5% to \$34.6 billion, driven by a 4.4% boost to international visitor consumption driven by record arrivals.

Domestic consumption grew more slowly, increasing 2.1%. There were a total of 5.9 million short-term arrivals - or an extra 588 per day - with China and South-east Asia accounting for almost 25% of the total, up from one in six just five years ago.

Tourism minister Martin Ferguson described the figures as “robust” given the volatile market

for global travel.

“Australian tourism businesses are holding up well in the face of intense global competition, currency movements, economic turmoil and natural disasters,” he said, with tourism now Australia’s biggest services export industry.

Ferguson said that industry and governments are working together to “boost our export performance and support the more than half a million jobs that directly rely on tourism”.

## Worldhotels adds SQ

**INDEPENDENT** hotel alliance Worldhotels has added Singapore Airlines as its 20th airline partner, enabling members of KrisFlyer to earn points when staying at participating properties.

## Insight triple points

**INSIGHT** Vacations is offering triple World Reward Points on all new India bookings made between 23 Dec to 22 Jan, in celebration of the launch of its inaugural India & Nepal program.

## Casino planned for Fiji

**THE** Fijian Govt has made a landmark decision to permit the country’s first-ever gaming licence for a US\$290 million 5-star luxury casino resort on Denarau Island, to One Hundred Sands Limited.

The Fijian company was among 34 companies to have expressed an interest in the project, along with 11 other native firms, five from Australia and 17 from the US, UK and Asia.

One Hundred Sands was chosen based on the experience in the gaming area of its US-based parent company, PM Commodore Voreqe Bainimamam said.

Phase one of the development will begin next year and include 190 luxury room & suites, three restaurants and a sports grille.

Phase two will include further accom options, a nightclub and other entertainment venues, such as a 1,500 seat convention centre.

It’s expected the casino resort will break ground in Mar, and create over one hundred jobs initially and an additional 650 once fully operational.

The developer says the casino will provide ample space for corporate retreats & conventions.

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### Four pages of news

*Travel Daily* today has four pages of news and photos, plus full pages from: (*click*)

- TMS Asia Pacific
- AA Appointments

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# Travel Daily

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**WELCOME** to *Supplier Updates*, *Travel Daily's* new regular feature.

Agents can now access the latest special deals and promotions being offered by suppliers, simply by **CLICKING HERE**.

Supplier enquiries for notices: [advertising@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@traveldaily.com.au)

## Air NZ wins Norfolk tender

AIR New Zealand will become the operator of flights between Australia and Norfolk Island from 02 Mar 2012, after being selected by the govt as the successful bidder for the underwritten air services on the route (**TD 07 Oct**).

This morning Air NZ confirmed it would commence twice weekly flights to Norfolk Island from both Sydney and Brisbane, with the services complementing its existing weekly flight from Auckland (**TD breaking news**).

Air NZ will offer its 'Seats to Suit' pricing to allow customers to

tailor their travel, with bookings open from tomorrow.

NZ group gm Australasia, Bruce Parton, said the carrier has "a long and well-established relationship with the people of Norfolk Island, having been a trusted air service provider to customers there since 1947".

He said the airline was able to leverage its strong distribution platform in Australia to assist with the ongoing promotion of Norfolk Island as a destination.

"Another benefit for our customers and Norfolk Island Tourism is our ability to offer dual destination travel," he said.

Parton said he was also confident there was "good opportunity" to build on the proposed schedule and deliver additional services during busy months for tourism.

The operation will utilise a 168-seat A320, with Sydney services on Mon and Fri and flights from Brisbane each Tue and Sat.

Norfolk Island chief minister David Buffett said it was anticipated that the fare structures offered by Air NZ, as well as its immediate access to GDS, "will provide opportunity for the Norfolk Island Tourist Industry to now include wider international travel plan opportunities in its promotional material".

## Jetstar Japan AOC

**JETSTAR** has lodged a formal application for an Air Operators Certificate in Tokyo, with the move a "key milestone" for the carrier ahead of the planned start of domestic Japanese operations by the end of next year.

Jetstar Japan expects to fly from Tokyo Narita and Osaka Kansai, and is in "active discussions" with airports in Sapporo, Fukuoka and Okinawa.

A statement also confirmed that Jetstar has commenced planning for international short haul flying to potential destinations in China as well as South Korea.

Mr Shinji Fukukawa, who was also this week named as the Chairman of the carrier, said Jetstar Japan was "bringing fresh investment and stimulating new demand for domestic travel".

Jetstar Japan will operate its 'price beat' guarantee to ensure it is Japan's "number one LCC" and has also called for up to 100 pilots to join its Japanese staff over the next 12-18 months.

## Passport fees rising

**THE** Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade advises that passport fees will increase by \$7 for adults to \$233 effective 01 Jan 2012.

The cost for a child's passport will rise \$4 to \$117.

## TCF boots another 6

**THE** Travel Compensation Fund has this morning advised of the non-voluntary termination of six agents for failing to lodge their annual returns on time.

The agents are Teal Travel of Glen Waverley and Trans-Orient Travel of Coburg in Victoria; Savai'i Tours of Casula, World Travel Hub of Harris Park and Buyinvite of Mascot in NSW; and Complete Travel Management of Perth in Western Australia.

## D7 route overhaul?

**AIRASIA X** ceo Azran Osman-Rani has downplayed suggestions the budget carrier is planning to withdraw services to the United Kingdom and India, reported by Malaysian media.

*Business Times* this week said the Kuala Lumpur-based carrier was looking at axing its Paris Orly and London Gatwick hubs, as well as to Delhi and Mumbai from as early as Feb next year.

Ozman-Rani told the publication: "I hereby confirm that AirAsia X has not made any decisions on our routes, whether to add new routes or cancel existing routes."

**MEANWHILE**, AirAsia has abolished its RM10 per pax check in counter fee on all int'l flights network wide, with pax who have paid the fee between 21 Sep and 21 Dec to be offered a credit.

## Viking ocean cruises

**VIKING** River Cruises has ordered two 888-passenger luxury ocean-going vessels, for delivery in 2014 and 2015.

Full details in today's *Cruise Weekly* - subscribe free at [www.cruiseweekly.com.au](http://www.cruiseweekly.com.au).

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First with the news

Thursday 22nd December 2011

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**Our trading hours over the Festive Season are:**  
 Fri 23 Dec: 0900-1300, Mon 26 Dec: CLOSED,  
 Tue 27 Dec: CLOSED, Wed 28 Dec: 0800-1800,  
 Thur 29 Dec: 0800-1800, Fri 30 Dec: 0900-1300, Mon 02 Jan: CLOSED

## Symphony NYE 2013 on Sydney Harbour

**CRYSTAL** Cruises has front row seats to the 2013 New Year's Eve fireworks display on Sydney Harbour for pax cruising aboard *Crystal Symphony's* 16-day NZ/Australia voyage on 20 Dec 2012.

Guests on the cruise will be able to celebrate the event aboard two luxury catamarans as part of the Harbour of Light Parade flotilla, which will be stationed in a VIP area beneath the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Prices for the 20 Dec 2012 16-day NZ/Australia culinary themed cruise are priced \$US8,205ppts.

## DJ ups Mackay flights

**VIRGIN** Australia will add an extra daily service between Mackay and Brisbane from 05 Mar 2012 increasing its services to 78 weekly flights.

A new Mackay lounge was also opened yesterday along with Priority Boarding in time for DJ's Business class passengers when the service is offered from 18 Jan.

## TripAdvisor spinoff

**TRAVEL** giant Expedia has this week completed the spin-off of TripAdvisor into a separate firm.

With over 50 million unique monthly visitors to its network of sites in 30 countries, TripAdvisor also offers a flight meta-search engine and holiday rental listings.

There's also the TripAdvisor for Business division which "provides the tourism industry access to TripAdvisor's millions of monthly visitors through its business listings offering".

CEO and co-founder Stephen Kaufer said the company was "eager to continue to innovate on behalf of our users and grow the business as we enter this next chapter".

## CCC Aus Day cruising

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises has three Australia Day lunch cruise deals to celebrate Australia Day 2012 aboard *MV Sydney 2000*.

Prices start at \$99 for the Show Deck buffet cruise, to \$135 for the Sky Deck premium option.

## AW's Golden Ticket winner

**ADVENTURE** World has announced Lara Heenan of Escape Travel, Neutral Bay NSW as latest Golden Ticket winner of its recently launched trade incentive, running until Jun.

The campaign is offering weekly prizes and trips to New Zealand and on African safaris.

Heenan has won an 18-day Desert Tracker Safari courtesy of Acacia Africa and Adventure World where she will travel



through Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and South Africa.

She is **pictured** receiving her golden ticket from Nadina Bross, Adventure World Business Development Manager.

## Territory tourism plan

**THE** Territory Government has announced plans to implement 13 joint management plans that will offer visitors a more "well-rounded" experience that will incorporate a cultural dimension.

The plans to provide a greater involvement of Traditional Owners in the management of parks and reserves have been secured for Finke Gorge National Park, three parks within East MacDonnell Ranges and Garig Gunak Barlu National Park (Cobourge Marine Park).

## ZQN int'l visits up 62%

**QUEENSTOWN** Airport has reported a massive 61.9% year on year boost in overseas arrivals for Nov, up to 10,376 movements.

The dramatic rise was fueled by a 30% rise in int'l services to/from Sydney, Melbourne & the Gold Coast, and increased pax loads.

Domestic NZ services to ZQN were also higher, up 7.7%.

## Industry Appointments

**WELCOME** to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thu feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email [appointments@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:appointments@traveldaily.com.au).

**Glenn Hindmarsh** has been appointed at the **Rydges Esplanade and Tradewinds Cairns** and **Rydges Hotels and Resorts Cairns** to oversee the food and beverage operations of both properties.

**Ronald Maskell** has been given the prestigious title of the **Crown Towers' Le Clef d'Or** member, Chief Concierge.

**Malaysia Airlines** has named **Dr Ron Georgiou** as its exclusive wine consultant. He has chosen a selection of wines for the Malaysian carrier.

**Ayers Rock Resort** has appointed well-known Australian musician and performer **Adam Thompson** from Chocolate Starfish to the role of Entertainment Consultant. He will develop a whole range of cultural performances around the Indigenous culture, from across Australia.

The board of Dreamworld operator **Ardent Leisure** has appointed **Don Morris** as an independent non-executive director.

**Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific** has recruited **William Larkin** as the new Director of Field Marketing.

**Europcar New Zealand** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Derek Batchelor-Cook** to the position of Travel Industry Sales manager, NZ based in Auckland, Derek will be responsible for Domestic, Outbound and Inbound sales enquiries for New Zealand & Asia Pacific.

## ANA 787 US routes

**ANA** is plotting new routes from Tokyo Narita to Seattle using its Boeing 787 *Dreamliner* aircraft, from 01 Apr, *Bloomberg* reports.

## ETS Europe decision

**IATA** has failed in a bid to have aviation removed from Europe's Emissions Trading Scheme from next year, with a court decision overnight upholding the proposal.

IATA ceo Tony Tyler said the move was a "disappointment but not a surprise.

"Unilateral, extra-territorial and market-distorting initiatives such as the EU ETS are not the way forward," he said.



**A REGION** in Florida is targeting a unique tourism niche, with funding approved this week for a series of campaigns to attract naked Europeans.

Pasco County is home to about a dozen "clothing-optional" colonies, and is aiming to develop a so-called "Eurobird" season during the traditionally slow July and Aug period.

"We will be focusing on France, Germany, Netherlands and Britain," said the head of the Pasco Area Nudist Development Association - or PANDAbare for short.

The Florida summer is probably a soft time for nudists because of the risk of sunburn.

## VS 'day in the life' winner

**RIGHT:** Virgin Atlantic gave Irene Katoposid from CWT an insider view into the day in the life of a VS engineer as part of a recent promotion.

Katoposid spent the day inspecting VS200 as it landed in Sydney from Hong Kong and also as it was getting prepared for take off later that day.

"It was a fantastic experience and one that I will remember for many years to come" Katoposid said.

She is pictured with: Cassandra Kerr, VS & Clive Shaw, VS Engineering.



## IHG's next gen app

**THE** InterContinental Hotels Grp has unveiled its new Priority Club Rewards app for Kindle Fire, Google TV and Android Tablet users offering advanced capabilities.

## NYC 50 million visits

**NEW** York City has reached its goal of 50 million visitors one year ahead of schedule with its Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Emily Raffery from the NYC and Company Board of Directors saying the city will reach 50.2m arrivals by the end of 2011.

NYC & Company predicts that the City will see a 4% year on year rise in international visitor numbers up to 10.1 million for the year ending in Dec.

## New GSR promotions

**GREAT** Southern Rail will launch a new "the wild life to the good life" campaign for travel aboard The Ghan & Indian Pacific, with savings of up to \$400/couple on standard packages when booked between 01 Jan to 31 Mar & for travel 01 Apr to 30 Jun.

The new campaign is set to appeal to a younger demographic, while Great Southern Rail is set to offer more packages in 2012 for the "adventurous traveller".

## Expedia celebrates with TD!

**Today's entry for our Christmas Party photo competition comes from Selina Nasir, who submitted it on behalf of the teams at Expedia and Hotels.com. This year they celebrated Christmas at Fort Denison and as last year Travel Daily was the highlight of the party.**



**ABOVE:** We love to party with Travel Daily!

*Pictured clockwise from left are: Ruth Spitzer, Joana Baros, Ariane Forsythe, Mohammed Khaki, Drew Bowering, Justin Lee, Dwayne Cassidy, Andrea Weber, Paul Green, Dacey Nicoletti, Nico Chu, Ben Khoshabeh, Chris Young, Luke Kerr, Cheryl Chang, Sophia Travers, Michael Pearson, George Semaan, Dhruv Parashar, Ameer Evans, Demi Karvaratzis, Selina Nasir, Aiko Leung, Georgie Wason, Olivier Castel, Les Menezes.*

**You too could be in the running to win an overnight's stay in a Two Bedroom Suite at Fraser Suites Sydney, sparkling wine & a fruit bowl upon arrival and complimentary car parking.**

**All you need to do is email your festive photos (including names of the people pictured) to: [xmasphotos@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:xmasphotos@traveldaily.com.au).**

**Bonus points will be awarded for party snaps that include a copy of the Travel Daily newsletter.**

## New Abu Dhabi Hyatt

**HYATT** Hotels Corporation has opened the 189-room Hyatt Capital Gate Abu Dhabi, occupying levels 18 to 33 of the iconic Capital Gate building in the city - renowned for its record breaking 18° lean.

## Value Tours ski breaks

**VALUE** Tours has released a number of Worldwide ski breaks priced from \$639pp incl accom & lift passes - [valuetours.com.au](http://valuetours.com.au).

## VA 777 diverts to HNL

**VIRGIN** Australia was forced to divert a Boeing 777-300 aircraft to Honolulu on Thu last week after one of the flight's cabin crew became incapacitated.

VA8 was three hours out of Los Angeles enroute to Brisbane when the captain made the decision to divert the Hawaiian capital to ensure the ill crew member could receive urgent medical treatment.

The flight was on the ground in Honolulu for less than 2hrs and passengers were given the option to disembark if they desired.

A spokesman for Virgin Australia told **TD** that the ill team member has since recovered.

## HK arrivals record

**HONG** Kong Tourism Board has reported a record-breaking year for visitor arrivals, with figures for 2011 surpassing the 40 million mark in a single year, including 3.5m last month - a 16.4% year on year increase during Nov.

## Transatlantic odyssey

**BRITISH** carrier Odyssey Airlines plans to operate an all business class flight from London City to New York using new Bombardier CSeries passenger jets.

The new non stop service will be in direct competition with British Airways who operates twice daily all Business flights to the US using an Airbus A318 under the OpenSkies brand.

**Travel Daily** is Australia's leading travel industry publication. Produced each weekday since 1994, the newsletter is first with the latest industry news and is available by paid subscription to people within the travel industry. Sign up for a free 14 day trial subscription at [www.traveldaily.com.au](http://www.traveldaily.com.au).

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### ONLINE TECHNOLOGY JUST GOT MORE EXCITING

**GLOBAL ONLINE SUPPORT MANAGER  
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This role will see you managing a team who are responsible for supporting application services globally. Bring your technical knowledge of both GDS and airline systems to this industry giant and grow with an organization that supports ongoing development and opportunities for progression. Strong leadership skills and a proven understanding of online technology solutions are essential.

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SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE OTE \$110k**

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