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Celebrity interview!

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TODAY'S Travel Daily features our latest Celebrity Interview, this time with channel 9 *TODAY* show host and *Avalon Panorama* godmother Lisa Wilkinson, who we caught up with in Germany earlier this week.

For all of her candid revelations and travel tips as well as an opportunity to win a great prize courtesy of *Travel Daily* see our exclusive interview on **page eight**.

Hong Kong Summer Spectacular





VisitBritain's Aussie outpost

VISITBRITAIN chief executive Sandie Dawe says there's no plan in the foreseeable future to lift staffing levels at its Australia/NZ Sydney-based office.

Last year a spending review by the UK govt saw the downsizing of VB offices globally, including shifting responsibility for Australia to Singapore (*TD* 30 Apr 10) and the later closure of its New Zealand office (*TD* 10 Feb 11).

"We took (the budget cut) on the chin, we've reorganised and we're very, very focused on our 'Britain, You're Invited' campaign," Dawes said in Bangalore.

Nine pages of news!

Travel Daily today is packed with nine pages of news and photos, plus full pages: (click) • AA Appointments

- Territory Discoveries
- Star Cruises Superstar Libra

Conditions apply. Please see offer for full details.

Star Cruises Superstar Virgo

The reshape saw the local office terminate most of its staff, with just two left: marketing manager Mark Haynes and B2B/PR executive, Sarah Styles.

Dawes, speaking exclusively with *Travel Daily* at Destination Britain & Ireland this week, said the Australian office was now supported by Singapore staff, with "more resources going into the market than what appears.

"It's not just about the two people who are physically there."

Dawe reiterated the importance of the Australian market, adding that the agency will "need to keep an eye on whether we really are looking after that market as effectively as we could.

"We certainly don't intend to take Australia for granted."

Haynes told **TD** Australia would still have its own marketing campaigns, "but they are now run by a wider global team".

QF lounges for kids QANTAS is rolling out new

Family Zones in its lounges, with the first to offer the facility including Sydney Domestic Qantas Club in T3, the Brisbane Qantas Club and the Sydney International Business lounge.

Children of all ages are invited to enjoy the new Zones which feature a range of games and activities provided by Sony, Apple, Mattel, Chicco and Little Nest.

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Hangover II winners

THANKS to everyone who entered the *Hangover II* competition yesterday, with the two lucky winners being Maria Novellini from Flight Centre Global Product and Bonnie Purtell of Travelscene on Crown.

They've both won a double pass to the movie, after correctly advising that the major milestone being celebrated in 2011 by THAI Airways International is its 40th anniversary of flights to Australia.



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Tiger to keep capacity static

TIGER Airways will not grow its Australian seat capacity in 2011, after the local operation experienced what ceo Tony Davis described as a "challenging year".

Although Tiger Airways overall made S\$57m profit for the year to 31 Mar, Davis confirmed an operating loss of S\$9m for the Australian business.

He said the overall result was a solid performance "given the difficult and uncertain trading conditions," and said the adverse weather events in Australia in the Jan-Mar quarter had significantly impacted Tiger's performance.

Davis said the strategy of maintaining Tiger Airways Australia's current domestic seat capacity would "simplify our domestic Australian operations

QF DFW going off

QANTAS employees have been told that loads on the new direct flights between Australia and Dallas Fort Worth are so strong that it's unlikely they can access any staff travel seats on the route for the next few months.

"Due to strong commercial demand on our new Dallas/Fort Worth service, opportunities for Staff Travel will be extremely limited...for both northbound and southbound travel," the carrier said in a staff update this week.

"It is recommended that employees considering travel to Dallas/Fort Worth purchase backup tickets for alternative routes before commencing travel and be prepared for delays and additional expenses during this period," the email added. and focus the business on profitable routes to generate improved returns from our Australian business".

Tiger will instead reallocate aircraft to "take advantage of robust economic conditions in Asia," with Tiger's Northern Summer 2011 capacity in Asia set to increase 41%.

The overall profit was almost three times last year's result, with revenue up 28% to \$\$622 million - ahead of pax growth of 22.5%.

TNSW youth focus TOURISM NSW last night

IOURISM NSW last night launched a new social media program aiming to harness the power of celebrity bloggers to promote the state.

The project centres on the pilot of a "social media aggregator" collating tips on Facebook, Twitter and video content via the #NSWTips Twitter hashtag.

TNSW has enlisted singer/ songwriter Guy Sebastian to take part, along with actor Matilda Brown, "Travel Tart" Anthony Bianco and DJ Danny Clayton.

schedule optimisation analyst Brisbane based.

Our Network Management division has a new opportunity for a proactive Schedule Optimisation Analyst to join our team. The key focus of your role will be to optimise monthly and seasonal schedules, considering all variables as well as resolving operational problems. An important aspect of this is your ability to effectively communicate with a wide range of stakeholders and manage their expectations.

You will work on schedule variations, resolving short to medium term capacity limitations and needs. Using your background knowledge you will look to identify schedule opportunities and liaise with our Revenue Management team as you follow through to implementation. Your drive and commercial focus will help you positively impact the revenue and profitability goals of the team.

Ideally you will have a tertiary qualification in Business or Operations Management as well as at least 3 years experience in one or more of scheduling, revenue management or operations control. Within this, you must have at least 2 years scheduling experience, preferably with multi-fleet types.

So if shaping the future; yours, ours and the industry, is a challenge that you are ready to embrace we want to hear from you.

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New Virgin BNE lounge

VIRGIN Australia has confirmed

An update to Velocity members

changes to the DJ loyalty scheme,

with points on Pacific Blue and

based on miles and fare class flown effective from 01 Jul.

Polynesian Blue to be calculated

it will open an upgraded lounge

at Brisbane Airport in Jul.

yesterday also touched on

Stage and Screen beats the travel logistics drum for virtually any event in the creative, sporting and entertainment industries. This is your opportunity to specialise in a highly popular, niche market.

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Oaks rejects new bid

First with the news

Friday 20th May 2011

THE board of beleaguered Oaks Hotels and Resorts this morning said it doesn't consider that the rival 60c per share bid from Edge Equity Investors (TD breaking news) is superior to the previously recommended 52c offer from Minor International.

The last minute offer from Edge is actually a "conditional proposal...to make a conditional takeover offer," and is subject to a four week due diligence period and condition that no other party acquires over 50% of Oaks.

This morning directors said this means the new bid is subject to ASIC overturning its previous decision to allow Minor to acquire a 34% stake in the company, and in fact Minor already now holds over 60%.

"In consideration of these factors, the Board does not consider the Edge proposal as presented to be a superior offer," and reiterated its recommendation to accept the 52c Minor bid.



Experience

award-winning

service.

ACCOR says it's been absolutely flooded with enquiries - both figuratively and literally - during Bula Fiji trade show this week.

Seat

Accor's Rebecca Freestun said she asked for a photo of the Sofitel Fiji and Accor stands at BFTE - and was surprised to receive the fairly bedraggled pic below after a couple of days of heavy rain.

But when **TD** left Fiji this morning it looked like the skies were clearing for the weekend. Lots more photos from BFTE at

www.traveldaily.com.au/photos.





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Friday 20th May 2011

LH A380s to Singapore

LUFTHANSA is set to launch A380 superjumbo flights on its daily services between Frankfurt and Singapore later this year.

According to GDS displays the A380 will debut on the route effective 30 Oct.

Currently the FRA-SIN service extends through to Jakarta using a B747, but from Nov the CGK flights will operate as an extension of LH's A340 flights from Munich to Singapore.

Beer for Four Seasons

SYDNEY'S Four Seasons Hotel will next Fri host a special charity dinner hosted by South Australian celebrity chef Maggie Beer.

She will help produce a three course meal paired with Barossa Valley wines, with the evening also featuring an exclusive Q&A session and opera performances.

It costs \$175pp, with proceeds going to charity - 02 9250 3316.

New Dubai stop for **Etihad Express**

ETIHAD Airways has extended its complimentary UAE luxury coach service with a new stop at the Dubai Marina Mall.

The new location adds to the current stop at Chelsea Towers on Sheikh Zayed Road, with the carrier saying the addition "extends its reach within the UAE home market and makes Dubai more accessible than ever for Etihad's international guests".

The free service operates up to ten times per day between Dubai and Abu Dhabi Airport using luxury air conditioned Mercedes-Benz coaches equipped with inseat entertainment systems.

The Marina Mall location will offer free parking for EY pax.

Etihad also offers its premium passengers arriving from any destination a complimentary private chauffeur service from Abu Dhabi Airport to anywhere within the United Arab Emirates.



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*Economy class fare, conditions apply.

Disney Pirates on parade



ABOVE: Disney Destinations International this week hosted some of its key partners at an exclusive Gold Class preview of the new Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides movie in Sydney.

Guests included Nick Ferguson from Qantas Holidays, who's pictured above left with Disney's Sean Harrigan and Holly Biggs.

More pics from the event at www.traveldaily.com.au/photos.

Norfolk Air EOFYS

NORFOLK Air today launched an end of financial year sale, with half price fares on offer from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Newcastle to Norfolk Island.

The deal is on sale to 11 Jun and for travel to 31 Aug, with ceo Jeff Murdoch saying it aims to make Norfolk Island a "strong contender" for the short break market - www.norfolkair.com.



but slide back the wall-to-wall panoramic windows and the suite becomes a massive open-air balcony. So rather than sacrifice internal space for external balconies, Avalon simply delivers one superb dual purpose suite.

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Sabre Red getting graphical

SABRE Travel Network today unveiled a new "graphical workflow" for agents using its Sabre Red Workspace platform.

The company says the changes simplify the shopping and booking process, allowing agents to book air, hotel, car and other suppliers using a "fully graphical workflow" with fewer keystrokes.

It's claimed to slash training time for new consultants from six weeks to just two weeks, and users can also easily toggle back and forth between the new look displays and the classic 'blue screen' view.

Sabre said the graphical view allows calendar shopping for air travel options using flexible dates,

Travel Special of the Week



A romantic cruise across the Pacific Ocean visiting the exotic Islands of Tahiti -1 departure, 21 sep 11 Rhapsody of the Seas -15 nights from \$1269 pp Incl all taxes +& gratuities

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as well as map-based shopping for hotels based on postcode, address or point of interest.

Agents are able to email options to clients during the shopping process, and the graphical view also makes it easier for agents to shop for ancillaries and air extras.

The new time-saving view is currently under test at 50 agencies worldwide, with plans for a global release later this year.

Sabre Pacific gm product, marketing and distribution Richard Morgan said the upgrade was "just one example of how Sabre continues to offer industry leading technology to all of our customer segments".

Graphical view will be available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Japanese, with

further enhancements to the product planned for 2012.

EK NZ tacticals

EMIRATES today released new business and economy class fares to New Zealand, leading in at just \$125 one way SYD-AKL.

Business class starts at \$550 one way on the same route, with the fares on sale until 29 May for travel 20 May-31 Aug 2011.

QH \$1 add-ons

QANTAS Holidays is running a \$1 extras Queensland sale, with a range of bonus add-ons promoted in an electronic mailout to consumers yesterday.

Room upgrades, breakfast and late checkouts are among the offers, valid for bookings through to 31 May - along with three QF Frequent Flyer points per dollar.

The email also promoted QH's no booking fees and 'hotel price promise' which guarantees that for qantas.com/hotels bookings, users who find a lower publicly available rate on an Australian website on the same day will receive a voucher for the difference and 1000 extra points.

Romantic Wolgan

WOLGAN Valley Resort & Spa has today launched a special yearround 'romantic getaway' offer.

GM Joost Heymeijer said the deal had been developed in response to demand for a Wolgan romance package without seasonal limitations.

It costs \$1650pp for two nights a saving of \$600 per couple including all meals, beverages and activities - not to mention a "rose petal adorned suite," a bottle of Bollinger champagne upon arrival and a Wolgan Valley music CD.

More info 02 9290 9733.

E malaysia



Celebrate Travel Daily's new website by entering to WIN a trip for two to Abu Dhabi

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Kuala Lumpur

All fares are inclusive of taxe



More destinations and fares are available via all GDS, by contacting Malaysia Airlines Reservations on 132 627, National Agency Desk on 1300 655 324 or by visiting malaysiaairlines.com

*Conditions: All Offers: Please read this information carefully because additional charges may apply to some flights. Fares valid for sale from 20 – 30 May 11. Fares are for Economy or Business class return travel ex SYD/MEL/ADL/BNE/PER via Kuala Lumpur per person & include taxes, fees & fuel surcharges, correct as at 16 May 11. Prices subject to change and we reserve the right to alter or extend this offer without notice. Prices may fluctuate due to changes in currency exchange, fuel surcharges, fees & taxes. Limited seats available and may not be available on every dayflight throughout the travel period and subject to change is subject to change. Malaysia fare applies to Kuala Lumpur, Kota Kinabalu, Penang, Langkawi, Johor Bahru, Kuantan, Kuala Freengganu, Kuching or Miri. South East Asia fare applies to Singapore, Bangkok, Phuket, Jakarta, Denpasar, Bandung, Yogyakarta, Medan, Surabaya, Manila, Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Ho Chi Minh City or Hanoi. MH9000 series flights are NOT permitted. Min/max stay applies. Where permitted in Kuala Lumpur thremational Airport for some connecting flights. One voluntary stopover is permitted in Kuala Lumpur stopover will cost \$150 per stopover, per person. All voluntary stopovers will incur additional taxes. Local taxes may also apply. Other costs associated with voluntary stopovers are also at passenger's own expense. Other conditions apply. License No 2TA000530 ABN 19 796 498 145. MAS0473_TD

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Friday 20th May 2011

Hahn Air milestone

HAHN Air is celebrating today after confirming that its Quick Check agent tool, introduced last year, has now been used more than 1 million times.

The tool gives agents the ability to check the ticketing availability of one carrier or a combination of airlines on HR-169 e-documents in real time - www.hahnair.com.

JQ ZQN night flights?

JETSTAR is hoping to be able to operate night flights into Queenstown airport on NZ's south island, with runway lights being installed at the airport.

If the carrier is able to be certified for night operations this will allow more flexible flight timing, with services able to fly in the late afternoon and evening.

SAS-SQ partnership

SINGAPORE Airlines today confirmed a new Letter of Intent with Scandinavian Airlines to "further develop and enhance their partnership".

No details were given of the proposed pact, but the airlines said it may cover additional codeshare flights as well as "network co-operation on potential new sectors between Scandinavia and Singapore".

The move expands a codeshare agreement between the Star Alliance members under which the SK code was added to Singapore Airlines flights between Copenhagen and Singapore as well as selected flights between Singapore and Bangkok.

"We see opportunities for deeper co-operation which will strengthen our customer offering and provide more options for seamless travel between Northern Europe and South East Asia," said SAS chief commercial officer Robin Kamark and SIA Senior vp Marketing, Tan Chik Quee in a joint statement.

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email: kburke@covermore.com.au closing date: 27th May 2011

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ABOVE: A number of Australian wholesalers recently returned from the 37th annual Germany Travel Mart (GTM) which took place in Cologne 08-10 May.

More than 600 participants from 40 countries attended, including 162 overseas travel agents and tour operators.

Indications are good for a strong year for Germany, with preliminary figures showing a 9% increase in overnight stays by foreign visitors in the Mar quarter and a number of major events in 2011 including celebrations to mark the 125th anniversary of the motor car.

"The level of interest among tour operators and travel agents from around the world remains consistently high," said GNTO ceo Petra Hedorfer.

Next year's GTM will be held in

Multi Skilled Corporate Travel Consultant Immediate START

Leipzig from 13-15 May 2012.

Pictured above with a golden statue of Beethoven in the old plenary hall in Bonn are, from left: Kathy Kuhne, GET; Maike Baites, German National Tourist Office Australia; Denise Moore, Holidays on Location; Chris Suchet Pearson, Beyond Travel; and Yvonne Chapple, Flight Centre.

QFLink MKY lounge

QANTAS this morning signalled its ongoing focus on the Qld resources industry, with the planned development of a new Qantas Regional Lounge at Mackay Airport.

The new facility will have space for up to 80 pax, with Mackay also now offering Qantas' Next Generation Check-in and set to shortly add Q Bag Tag technology.



Our Artarmon office is a boutique Corporate Agency requiring a Multi Skilled Consultant to be part of our Dynamic team!

The Corporate role requires 3 years + current and working experience within the Corporate Travel Sector of the industry. Systems of Sabre is essential, and Tramada is Preferred but not essential, on job training can be provided. You must be a Self Ticketing Consultant, and have strong wide fares knowledge and understanding. Salary NEG for the right person with experience.

A Team Player attitude is a vital part of this role.

Please send your application and CV in writing via email to - belinda@gtstravel.com.au to the attention of Belinda Orsini, General Manager



UA, CO merger rollout

UNITED Airlines and Continental have this week begun the next stage of their merger process, with moves to common branding and signage at airports.

Homecoming set to return to Scotland

VISITSCOTLAND is forecasting similar tourism effects from its Homecoming event in 2009, electing to repeat the year long celebration in 2014.

International PR executive for Emerging Markets, Andrew Moffat told **TD** at Destination Britain & Ireland that Homecoming in 2009 was a "massive success",

Moffat said while most European destinations reported an 8% drop in visitor numbers, due to the effects of the GFC, Scotland has seen a 3% rise.

Tentatively titled, 'Scotland Welcomes the World 2014', Homecoming is about people travelling to Scotland to learn about their family heritage.

2014 is a huge year for Scotland as it'll be also hosting golf's Ryder Cup and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

To sustain the momentum and interest in Scotland the govt is focusing on four key themes in the years running up to 2014.

The annual platforms include

GLOBUS

marketing Scotland's Food & Drink in 2010; the country's adventurous and outdoors side as Active Scotland in 2011; then Creative Scotland in 2012 which celebrates its cultural pursuits; and Natural Scotland in 2013 which focuses on landscapes.

Which clan are you?

TOURISTS planning on heading to Scotland to uncover more info about their family clans are being encouraged by VisitScotland to log onto its ancestry website to help retrace their family tree.

The ancestralsscotland.com site provides browsers with details on how to start searching their family history, insights about Scotland's clans and tartans, as well as information on visiting and travelling around Scotland.

In Jul, the Scottish government will enable people to use the site to search their entire history at no cost, which is aimed at luring people to book a trip to Scotland.

Eurostar guarantee

HIGH-SPEED Channel Tunnel rail service, Eurostar, is promoting 'guaranteed seating' as part of a brand shake-up (*TD* 15 Apr).

The move is aimed at giving premium travellers the assurance and flexibility of a firm seat should their travel plans change having them arrive early or late.

Eurostar International regional manager APMEA & Europe, Celine Chambalu-Ciucci told **TD** at Destination Britain & Ireland that the guarantee is available for pax travelling in Business Premier class on services linking London, Paris and Brussels.

Under the policy "if a traveller has a ticket and arrives at a station within 10 minutes of a train's departure we'll get him on," Chambalu-Ciucci said.

Should Business Premier seats not be available, guests will be accommodated in Standard Premier or Standard class.

Other service enhancements include the introduction of a taxi booking service, which allows Business Class pax to book their transfer from the station to the end destination while onboard.

The taxi booking service will come online later this year.

DEBI in SE Asia in 2012

DESTINATION Britain & Ireland is to be held in SouthEast Asia next year, VisitBritain's APMEA regional director Garry White said last night in Bangalore.

Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Bangkok are among the possible locations VisitBritain says it is considering.

China, specifically Shanghai, is also rumoured to be another alternative host destination, with details set to be announced shortly.

Scottish rating scheme

A NEW rating system of accom providers, tour operators and activity providers has been rolled out this year in Scotland - which uniquely gauges businesses on the level of help they provide guests with uncovering their ancestry.

The Ancestral Tourism Welcome Scheme grades tourism suppliers between 1 and 5 stars based on their abilities and facilities to help clients research their history.

Operators gain acknowledgment through the scheme with a badge they can brand their business with and they'll also be listed on the VisitScotland website see www.cometoscotland.com.au.



Business Development Manager – Sydney

Holland America Line is proud to be an industry leader with more than 130 years delivering on its mission – 'Providing once-in-a-lifetime experiences, every time'....

Reporting to the Director of Sales and supported by Sydney-based Business Development Representatives, the Business Development Manager is responsible for meeting and exceeding revenue objectives, by increasing the presence of Holland America Line and Seabourn products and services through local travel agents and tour operator distributors.

Specific responsibilities include: promoting products and services through on-site sales calls, telephone and written communication; supporting the development of local marketing for agents; and delivering sales presentations to target client groups.

We seek applications from individuals with 5+ years' travel-sales experience who demonstrate:

- experience managing key travel accounts and delivering revenue growth
- excellent communication skills (written and verbal) with an engaging and impactful presentation style
- strong relationship building and influencing skills
- the ability to work autonomously, virtually and effectively underpressure
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For further information and to submit your application, please refer to the relevant job reference number on our Careers Website:

careers.carnivalaustralia.com Job Reference: CAR/216521

Please note: previous applicants need not apply.



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Manage budgets and build strategic business relationships with retail partners across all levels

Represent the company at trade and consumer shows

We are looking for a high energy, dynamic and committed person to join our highly successful Victorian sales team. You will build and retain rapport with ease, and offer advanced business acumen skills.

You will be a strategic thinker with personality plus who thrives on expectation and is comfortable in front of a crowd

Own car required as motor vehicle allowance will be paid.

To apply, forward your CV and covering letter to

recruitment@globusfamily.com.au with the position title in the subject line by Friday 31 May 2011.

PLEASE NOTE: Applications will not be accepted via recruitment agencies before the closing date.

COSMOS MONOGRAMS

Travel Daily Exclusive

Celebrity Interview with Lisa Wilkinson



This week *Travel Daily* caught up with Today show co-host Lisa Wilkinson in Germany, on board Avalon Panorama.

Lisa began her career working for *Dolly* Magazine, and at the age of 21 became the youngest ever editor of the teen publication.

Wilkinson's TV career kicked off in the late 1990's which saw her as a regular panelist on Beauty and the Beast, followed by a hosting role on Channel 7's Weekend Sunrise.

In 2007, she started co-hosting Today alongside Gold Logie award winner Karl Stefanovic. This week Lisa became

Panorama's godmother, joined for the special occasion by her husband, former rugby champ, journalist and author, Peter FitzSimons.

What is your favourite holiday spot?

My default position on travelling is anywhere in France, but there have been a few close contenders in recent years: Antarctica, India, the Great Ocean Road and Cuba. Every Christmas we take the kids somewhere very culturally different so that it's fun and educational. What is the one thing you cannot leave home without?

There are 3 things: a black pashmina that doubles as a blanket; my iPad; and Lancome Secret De Vie - so no matter where I am, I'm warm, in touch with the world and moisturised! What is the most common item you leave at home?

I now leave behind my big laptop, which is a whole new way to travel when you don't have to lug it around. What's your best travel tip?

Be prepared to be pragmatic. If you've got a set itinerary & something fantastic comes along, be open to change. Do you have an embarrassing travel story you can share with us?

Yes, it happened this week (on

Avalon Panorama). When you go on a river cruise and leave three kids behind, they say you fall in love again, and my husband [Peter

FitzSimons] and I have certainly done that on this cruise! We were in bed with the curtains wide open (because why would you close them when there is such a wonderful view?) and a ship passed by late at night. You can probably fill in the blanks! What features do you look for when choosing a hotel?

A good mini-bar! I need a comfortable bed and pillow and somewhere you can go for great walks.

What is your favourite piece of luggage and why?

For 18 years we'd been travelling with a set of luggage that Peter won on Celebrity Sale of the Century, but I recently decided it was time to get something new so I bought a Rimowa. It looks like aluminium but is corrugated plastic. It's really sturdy but weighs next to nothing. Who is someone you wish you could

sit next to on a plane?

Kate Middleton, to see what sort of woman she is. Then again, if I was going to choose a Royal, I think Prince Harry would be a scream. Also, Morgan Freeman, to hear that voice, and Larry King, Dianne Sawyer and Michael Parkinson – people who have had interesting lives.

Win a copy of FitzSimons' latest book!



Travel Daily is giving away a copy of Peter FitzSimons latest book, A Simpler Time, valued at \$35. For your chance to win this great prize, be the first FitzSimons reader to email the missing word from the sentence below to - lisacomp@traveldaily.com.au.

> Avalon Panorama is being marketed as Europe's Ship". (Hint: see TD160511)

Eastern Euro - "we'll do anything"

GOLD Coast based wholesaler Eastern Eurotours says the ability to "go the extra distance" for obscure product is one facet of its business that's proving to be a big winner with agents.

The company claims to have the largest range of escorted tours through Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, having steadily built its profile since beginning as a ski specialist 19 years ago.

MD Chip Popescu told TD he believes his company's service delivery and product knowledge can't be matched.

"What sets us apart from our competitors is our experience, personalised touch and good product knowledge," he said, with seven different European nationalities represented among the company's employees.

"Our staff have either worked in the industry or lived in their home country, so they know the destination very well - we really know what we are talking about."

He added there's no business the wholesaler won't go after.

"It doesn't matter what the product is, we'll go for it, even the smallest, strangest request.

"We'll do anything, we never say no, we'll take it on, whatever

VN to add LGW

VIETNAM Airlines is set to launch its fourth European destination from 08 Dec this year, with the addition of twice weekly flights from both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to London Gatwick Airport.

it is," Popescu says confidently. Eastern Eurotours has also seen a strong response from agents joining its online booking system since its rollout earlier this year.

The company uses a TravelWho reservation system which has been tailored "to help us achieve what we needed to do," he said.

The change made it easier for Eastern Eurotours to better handle its product range, which now includes around 300 tours.

"We couldn't believe how many people logged on and joined in the first few week. About 600 agents have requested sign in details," Popescu revealed.

"Most systems only have accommodation but we've made it possible to book everything online - hotels, river and Mediterranean cruises and escorted tours - with departure dates listed too," he said.

Eastern Eurotours has preferred deals with Travellers Choice and STA and offers commission rates of between 13% and 20% - see www.easterneurotours.com.au.

Last minute Insight

INSIGHT Vacations vesterday released some last minute "red hot" European specials, with savings of up to \$1102 per couple on limited seats available on a selection of Definite Departures.

The deals are available on 14 Insight European tours and are valid for sale until 31 May.

Insight also has air deals on offer - insightvacations.com.au.

Leisure Travel Consultant

Goldman Travel Corporation has a fantastic opportunity for a proactive individual with strong selling skills and product knowledge to join our team. Your expert knowledge in leisure travel, coupled with your exemplary client service will see you succeed in this exciting role.

Key responsibilities will include booking international and domestic leisure travel packages. We are looking for someone who is well travelled, has excellent knowledge of upmarket hotels and tour suppliers.

If you believe this role is right for you or request further information send through your resume or contact David Goldman, at david@goldmantravel.com.au or (02) 8333 7700.

All applications and contact will be treated as confidential.





Despicable Universal

THE Universal Studios theme park in Orlando, home of the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, has announced the creation of a new 3-D *Descpicable Me* ride.

for bookings of 2011/12 New

Pictured above from left are:

Travel; Erin Putland, Travellers

Travel & Cruise; Tina Briggs,

Travel on Q; Heather Mulley,

Vella, AAT Kings; Lyn Tucker,

Traveleaders; Phillip Cox, St

Peter Homem, Civic Travel.

UNIQUE VENUES

George Travel; Evelyn Norman, Oliver Travel; Carmel Johnstone,

Mordialloc Travel & Cruise; and

Julie-Ann Silvey, Chelsea Cruise &

Choice; Danielle Falsay, Discover

Ballina Cruise & Travel; Melanie

Zealand tours by 31 Jul.



ABOVE: This group of Travellers Choice agents were hosted by AAT Kings earlier this month on a tour of the North Island of New Zealand.

The eight day trip took in the North Island's many sights, sounds and spectacular scenery, with the agents pictured above at the historic Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

The agents were rewarded with the trip for being Bronze members of the consortium.

AAT Kings is currently offering savings of up to \$640 per couple

Business Development Manager

Run The Show...by utilising your hotel/venue sales and marketing experience to drive sales to our Unique Venues and further expand our diverse portfolio!

We are looking to recruit an experienced and enthusiastic sales and marketing professional to our team to take on the role of Business Development Manager. This challenging and exciting role will put your marketing, sales and events skills to the test as you promote our business partners to the Australian business tourism market. Another exciting aspect of the role includes the expansion our portfolio.

For full job description, please click here

WIN A HOLIDAY TO HAWAII

During May, *Travel Daily* is giving one lucky reader and their partner the chance to win a fantastic five-night holiday to Hawaii, courtesy of Hawai'i Tourism, Hawaiian Airlines and The Waikiki EDITION.

This amazing prize includes two return economy airfares to Honolulu from Sydney with Hawaiian Airlines, five nights accommodation at The Waikiki EDITION and return airport transfers for two people with Lei Greeting.

Each day *Travel Daily* will ask a Hawaii-related question – just read the issue and email us your answer. At the end of the month the subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this fantastic Hawaii holiday.

Email your entries to: hawaiicomp@traveldaily.com.au



Q.15: What is the name of the new celebrity chef that designs the menus onboard Hawaiian Airlines?



Pacific war tour

MAT McLachlan Battlefield Tours is running a special tour to Guadalcanal to commemmorate the 69th anniversary of the day US forces attacked the Japanese occupation of the island.

The site is described as a "living museum of the 1940s" with beached and sunken warships, wrecked planes and hillside foxholes - and is also famous for being where former US President John F. Kennedy was stationed with his PT109 boat.

The 05 Aug departure is priced from \$3197pp twin share (ex air) incl a first class hotel, most meals, entry fees, and excursions - more information on 1300 880 340 or see www.battlefields.com.au.

CRUISE

Getaway goes to GEM

CHANNEL 9 has shifted its *Getaway* travel show to screen on digital channel GEM this week, rather than on its main channel.

The timeslot has also changed, from 7.30pm on Thu on ch 9 to now be 7.30pm tonight on GEM.

According to media website *The Spy Report* the move may only be temporary but could signal a trial of something more permanent, with the show's viewer numbers dwindling this year to less than 700,000 per week - compared to about 1.2 million in 2010.

The show, which has been running for 19 years, was also hit earlier this year with its format halved from one hour to a 30 minute show (*TD* 14 Feb).

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.

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Pharmacy

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* JOB OF THE DAY* - FANCY A GROUP THING? CORPORATE GROUPS CONSULTANT

BRISBANE CBD – SALARY PACKAGE \$60k OTE Due to rapid growth this dynamic travel management company needs an experienced groups consultant to join their friendly team. Planning exciting conferences, incentives and meetings for dedicated corporate accounts, you will never have a dull day. You'll love working Mon-Fri hours in this CBD office with bountiful benefits including career development, top training and free trips. Previous groups travel consulting experience a must. This position is interviewing now so call usl

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Tired of being expected to know everything about every possible destination? Looking for an opportunity to specialise in a destination that you love? We currently have positions for experienced consultants with expert knowledge of Canada, Alaska, South Pacific, Europe & Indochina. You will need to have travelled extensively in your chosen destination, have min 1 yr travel industry experience with excellent customer service.

CORPORATE TRAVEL ROLES NOW AVAILABLE SENIOR CORPORATE CONSULTANT

MELBOURNE (INNER CITY) – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$70K (OTE Are you a retail travel consultant ready to make the move into the corporate market? An experienced travel consultant is required to join this fun team and service the corporate market with the best of customer service. All you need is a minimum of 18 months experience and CRS skills of Galileo, Sabre or Amadeus. If you think you have what it takes to join the largest corporate company in Australia, then apply today!



JET SETTING TO EUROPE7 TEMP CONSULTANTS X 103 LONDON & UK- TOP HRLY RATE

Heading off to see Europe? You can land a top paying Temp role before you arrive? Contact our friendly UK AA office on <u>temps@aaappointments.com</u> or PH +44 207 977 5530 or Check out our website at.<u>www.aaappointments.com</u>. Temp benefits include Top Weekly pay \$; Tax efficient payroll Inc the ability to reclaim the cost of your return air fares/ accommodation; "Refer a Friend" bonuses, Temps parties and travel discounts.

BEST SEAT IN TOWN JAPANESE CORPORATE/LEISURE CONSULTANT BRISBANE CBD - SALARY PKGE up to \$55k

Situated in the CBD, this Japan specialist is in need of an experienced corporate consultant to join their friendly team. You will enjoy handling a mixed portfolio of Japanese corporate accounts and independent leisure clients. This office is close to fabulous restaurants and has some of the best river views in town. Enjoy Mon – Fri hours, a strong set salary and fabulous educationals. The ability to speak and read Japanese fluently is a must.

ARE YOU A SUPER-STAR TRAVEL TEMP?

SABRE AND TRAMADA – CORPORATE/GROUPS TEMP SYDNEY CBD - EXCELLENT HOURLY RATE + SUPER Looking for a unique Corporate & Group Travel role? If you are career focused with strong attention to detail & accuracy, then you must apply! Working in an extremely busy boutique travel environment, you will be responsible for ensuring your clients are serviced to the highest standards & travel requests are processed efficiently. This is a fantastic role for a talented Temp to join this dynamic team; with a chance to go perm.

FANTASTIC WHOLESALE OPPORTUNITY WHOLESALE RESERVATIONS MELBOURNE (CITY FRINGE)-SALARY PACKAGE TO \$65K

If you love creating holiday itineraries however would like to work on the other side, then this is the role for you! This large wholesaler requires reservation staff to assist travel agents in creating that perfect holiday for their clients. If you possess good sale skills and have calypso experience, then we would love to hear from you. Apply today and start your career in wholesale, the possibilities are endless!

"THIS IS AFRICA"

AFRICAN TRAVEL SPECIALIST REQUIRED PERTH (INNER) – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$59K INC SUPER If you have a passion for Africa and have personal travel experience throughout the continent, then we want to hear from you. This African wholesaler is looking for experienced travel professionals with a love for Africa and creating dream itineraries. This wholesale company will reward you in many ways. Calypso experience is beneficial, although not essential for the right applicant! Apply today for this dream role! Sell any Ayers Rock package in May and go in the running to win a Red Centre famil!*

Voyages Red Centre

The great monolith of the Red Centre, Uluru, stands an incredible 348 metres above ground and reaches twice that below, revealing only part of its undulating beauty. For the local Aboriginal people, the Anangu, the World Heritage listed Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park holds a special cultural significance. Learn all about this sacred place and listen to dreamtime stories about Uluru's creation many thousands of years ago. The myriad of colours at sunrise and sunset present the best photographic opportunities, as the sun casts a rainbow of reds and purples across the icon's craggy face. Take in the picturesque landscape with our guided tours, and return to your luxurious Voyages accommodation for rest and relaxation.

Visit Uluru 4 days from \$399* per person Win share

Regardless of where you stay at Voyages Ayers Rock Resort, you'll experience the beauty of the Outback. Immerse yourself in the timeless landscape of one of the world's most beautiful natural wonders.

INCLUDES: 3 nights at 3.5 star accommodation at Voyages Ayers Rock Resort, FREE return airport transfers from Ayers Rock airport

BONUS: FREE Half Day Uluru Highlights Tour when you book this package - SAVE \$49 per adult.

BOOKING CODE: KLOSA

Voyages Ayers Rock Discovery 4 days from \$486* Per person

While you can't put a dollar value on the natural charms of Uluru, you can witness this extraordinary sight without breaking the bank. This short break is perfect for those wanting to explore on a budget - but not miss out on the highlights!

INCLUDES: 3 nights at 3.5 star accommodation Voyages Ayers Rock Resort, Dot Painting Workshop

BONUS: FREE Half Day Uluru Highlights Tour when you book this package - SAVE \$49 per adult. **BOOKING CODE:** TDC1VO3

Voyages Luxury at Uluru 4 days from \$1121* per person two share

Clink your glass to the dramatic view of Uluru and Kata-Tjuta as the fading sun strips their glowing colours to reveal a carpet of twinkling stars. This is outback luxury.

INCLUDES: 3 nights at 5 star accommodation at Voyages Ayers Rock Resort - including Spa Package with an initial Spa Consultation to determine the best treatments for you, a welcome bottle of sparkling wine, two treatments up to a maximum of 2 hours, Desert Awakenings tour, Sounds of Silence Dinner

BONUS: FREE Half Day Uluru Highlights Tour when you book this package - SAVE \$49 per adult. **BOOKING CODE:** TDC1VO1

Voyages Drive The Red Centre

8 days from \$1856* per person twin share

Get behind the wheel of a 4WD and explore the magnificent Red Centre Way, your gateway to an abundance of natural and cultural experiences throughout the red heart of Australia.

INCLUDES: 2 nights 4.5 star accommodation in Alice Springs, 7 days vehicle hire, Alice Springs Desert Park Entry, 2 nights 3.5 star accommodation at the Voyages Outback Pioneer Hotel, Dot Painting Workshop at Uluru, 1 night 3.5 star accommodation at Kings Canyon, Kings Canyon Guided Climb, 2 nights accommodation at Glen Helen, Half Day Roma and Gosse Bluff Tour

BOOKING CODE: TDC1VO4

Wildlife, wilderness, outback skies, Aboriginal art & culture. We know what goes with the Territory.

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Conditions Apply *Price per person twin share, inclusive of GST and is Land Only. Prices are subject to change without notice and limited availability. Valid for sale until 31May11. Valid for travel 01May11-30Sep11. All accommodation at Ayers Rock must be consecutive. Visit Uluru (KLOSA) \$335 saving is based on travel Jul-Sep, \$185 saving applies for May-Jun travel. Voyages Luxury at Uluru (TDC1VO1) \$410 saving is based on travel Jul-Sep, \$185 saving applies for May-Jun travel. Voyages Diver The Red Centre (TDC1VO3) \$335 saving is based on travel Jul-Sep, \$185 saving applies for May-Jun travel. Voyages Diver The Red Centre (TDC1VO4). Vehicle hire terms and conditions apply. Half Day Roma and Gosse BildT Tour is not available 1May11-20May11. All packages have a Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park fee of \$25 per person which has been included in advertised price, however is payable direct. A business division of Tourism NT. ABN 43 978 766 29 CR1850

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3 Night Cruises from Penang Selected departures from May - Dec 2011 **Penang, Phuket, Krabi, Penang**

Inside Cabin \$452 Window Cabin \$550 Deluxe Oceanview \$592

7 Night Cruise & Stay from Phuket	Inside Cabin	\$457
Selected departures from May - Dec 2011	Window Cabin	\$555
Phuket, Krabi, Penang (4 x nights own arrangements in Penang), Penang, Phuket	Deluxe Oceanview	\$597
8 Night Cruise & Stay from Phuket Selected departures from June - Sept 2011 Phuket, Krabi, Penang (4 x nights own arrangements in Penang), Penang, Krabi, Phuket	Window Cabin	\$606 \$736 \$794

Cruises include all meals[^] and entertainment onboard plus port and fuel charges.





For bookings & further information, contact your preferred Wholesaler

*CONDITIONS APPLY: All prices are cruise only, AUD, per person twin share and subject to change and availability. Price for Inside Cabin based on Cat DC category, Window Cabin based on CC category & Deluxe Oceanview based on BB category. Single passengers must pay a single supplement. Prices include port charges and fuel surcharge. Meals included in selected restaurants. 2011 departure dates 7 NIGHT CRUISE ex Phuket – 30 May, 6 & 27 June, 4 July, 5 & 12 August, 16 Sept 2011. Own arrangements in Penang is at passengers must pay a control to expense and fuel surcharge and fuel surcharge and fuel surcharge. Meals included in selected restaurants. 2011 departure dates 7 NIGHT CRUISE ex Phuket – 30 May, 6 & 27 June, 4 July, 5 & 12 August, 16 Sept 2011. Own arrangements in Penang is at passengers on choice & expense. 3 NIGHT CRUISE ex Penang May 01, 08, 15, 22 & 29, Jun 05, 12, 19 & 26, Julo 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Aug 7, 14, 21 & 28 Avy, 14, 21 & 28 Avy,

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Illtimate Upgrade offer Pulau Re		ng 5 & 12 June, 3 July, 11	Book Inside Cabin Book Window Cabin 25% off Balcony Cabins	\$1249 – Free upgrade to Window Cabin \$1474 – Free upgrade to Balcony Cabin Plus Bonus F&B credit SGD\$400 \$1916 – Receive SGD\$400 F&B Credit
Ultimate Upgrade offer Redang, Selected		ore, Ho Chi Minh City, Pulau , Kuala Lumpur (Port Klang) d departures from une, 3 July, 11 Sept 2011	Book Inside Cabin Book Window Cabin 25% off Balcony Cabins	\$1724 – Free upgrade to Window Cabin \$2035 – Free upgrade to Balcony Cabin Plus Bonus F&B credit SGD\$500 \$2755 – Receive SGD\$500 F&B Credit

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3 NIGHT CRUISES Singapore, Penang, Phuket

Cruises include all meals[^] and entertainment onboard plus port and fuel charges.

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*CONDITIONS APPLY: All prices are cruise only, AUD, per person twins share and subject to change and availability. Prices based on following cabin categories: Inside Cabin DC, Window Cabin CB, Balcony Cabin BC. Single passengers must pay a single supplement. Every effort is made to ensure advertisement accuracy, however Star Cruises cannot be held responsible for printing or typographical errors or errors arising from unforeseen circumstances. Pricing correct as at 14 April 2011. Pricing & bonus certail valid until 30 June 2011 & can be withdrawn at any time without notice. Price includes port charges and fuel suchcarge. Holiday surcharge imposed on Peak Salings Dates: 24 April 2011; 23 Dec 2011; 10 J an 2012. Vietnam Vias surcharge applicable to Ho Chi Minh salings at 530 per person. "Medis included in selected restourants. Strict cancellation fees apply. Please note that a surcharge may be imposed on credit card transactions. A service fee will be charged. SCS 25407

