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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Friday 17th August 2012

**TMS**  
ASIA-PACIFIC

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ISSN 1834-3058

## The snow is dumping

**FALLS** Creek ski resort in the Vic Alps overnight experienced 20cm of fresh snow, with further falls forecast for the next three days.

All lifts and areas of the resort are open, with spokesperson Debbie Howie saying she expects a huge weekend as travellers visit to experience the exceptional powder snow conditions.

There are still "value packages" on offer for Aug and Sep - for details, see [www.skifalls.com.au](http://www.skifalls.com.au).

## TA outlines new Asia push

**TOURISM** Australia has today detailed plans for a significant acceleration in its marketing activities in Asia, including more efforts to rebuild the Japanese inbound market which is showing distinct signs of recovery.

Four "key strategic projects" will be boosted under the new Asia Marketing Fund which was created from the now non-indexed increase to the Passenger Movement Charge, worth up to \$48.5m over the next four years.

This year, Asia Marketing Fund cash worth \$8.5m will be added to \$37.5m already allocated to Asia in TA's 2012/13 budget.

Other activity will include accelerating the 2020 China strategy to target China's second tier cities and include Qingdao, Chengdu and Chongqing.

Another project will see TA focus on increasing aviation partnerships with airlines serving Australia from Asia, while new Tourism Research Australia projects will aim to "help the industry better understand and engage with Asia".

"This new fund provides an unprecedented opportunity to further drive existing and new marketing initiatives in our fastest growing and most valuable inbound visitor markets," McEvoy said.

More from Tourism Australia in China on **page four**.

## Domestic business up

**THE** latest domestic air fare index released by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics shows a rebound in business class fares this month, which are up more than 26% on average versus Jul.

BITRE surveys airline internet booking sites to collect the data, and from a base of Jul 2003=100, business class fares in Jul had an index level of 64.2, rising significantly to 81.4 this month.

There was little month-to-month change for economy fares.

## Fiji Airways branding

**AIR** Pacific has today unveiled the new 'brandmark' (below) which will represent the carrier when it relaunches next year under its new Fiji Airways name.

The new look has been designed by a Fijian Masi artist and emphasises the airline's role as a flying ambassador.

A special video has been produced about the new look - click on the logo or see [traveldaily.com.au/videos](http://traveldaily.com.au/videos).



## Celebrity Interview!

**TODAY'S** issue features our latest celebrity interview, with Aussie media legend Ita Buttrose.

There's also an opportunity to win a copy of her autobiography *A Passionate Life* - see **page six**.

## Today's issue of TD

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

- AA Appointments jobs

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First with the news

Friday 17th August 2012



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## John King for Skal

ATEC chairman John King OAM has been confirmed as the speaker at next month's meeting of the Sydney Skal Club.

King's topic will be 'Tourism - Getting it Right in NSW', with club president Denis Simond saying that all travel and tourism industry people are welcome.

It costs \$66 for three courses and drinks and will take place at the Swissotel Sydney on 12 Sep - [www.sydney.skalaaustralia.travel](http://www.sydney.skalaaustralia.travel).

## South Africa in spotlight

SOUTH African Tourism last night officially launched a major new partnership with Myer, with the move signalling the debut of a unique tourism marketing initiative to further change public perception of the destination.

The retailing giant has filmed commercials in South Africa featuring its latest fashion collections - with some of the country's spectacular landscapes and wildlife showcased along with the clothing and accessories.

Chief Executive Officer of South African Tourism, Thulani Nzlina, is in Australia for the campaign launch, and told **TD** yesterday the groundbreaking move includes opportunities for South Africa to co-brand activities in Myer stores and run competitions.

As well as the major consumer fashion campaign run by Myer, the retailer will also promote South Africa to its more than one million Myer One cardholders.

"It's a significant endorsement of our brand, and a vote of confidence in South Africa," Nzlina said.

South African Tourism is hoping the promotion will further change perceptions of the destination, with research to be conducted

later in the year to measure awareness of and "positivity" about South Africa.

Social media will also play a part, with the high profile models including Jennifer Hawkins, Kris Smith and Jess Hart all effusive about their South African experience during the filming.

Newspapers today are full of images from last night's launch which features clothing and colours inspired by South Africa.

The ads were filmed in the iconic Sun City resort in the country's north west province, and Nzlina said he was hopeful that Myer might consider showcasing other parts of the country if the partnership is repeated in future years.

He said agents can now look forward to an easier sale for South Africa, urging them to leverage from the exposure.

"The race to South Africa has started - don't miss out," he said.

Videos highlighting the filming of the campaign and the models' reaction to South Africa are now online at [traveldaily.com.au/videos](http://traveldaily.com.au/videos).

## Aeroflot diversion

A FLIGHT by Russian carrier Aeroflot between New York JFK and Moscow was diverted to Iceland overnight due to an anonymous bomb threat.

According to the *BBC*, the caller said five suitcases on board contained explosives, but an extensive search of the plane on landing found no traces of bombs.

## Tiger heading to ADL?

THE South Australian government has settled its long-running monetary dispute with Tiger Airways, paving the way for the low-cost carrier to re-establish routes to Adelaide.

The government paid Tiger Airways more than \$2 million when the airline established its ADL operation and attempted to recover this money when the base was closed down, breaching the agreement with the state.

SA Treasurer Jack Snelling said the government had accepted a \$1.4m refund to resolve the issue.

Tiger ceo Andrew David said the airline was considering a "possible resumption" of ADL services.

## Swagman's earlybirds

AFRICAN safari earlybird deals for 2013 are on sale through Swagman Tours, in conjunction with South African Airways.

A 15-day East African Migration Seeker itinerary priced from \$6995pts inclusive of airfare.

Other itineraries include tours to Botswana and a 21-day Victoria Falls to Cape Town trip. More details, ph 1800 808 491.

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## Flight Centre 'key power' for CZ

CHINA Southern Airlines ceo and president Tan Wangeng has given high praise to travel agency partners in Australia, crediting them with helping the airline build its presence locally.

"We didn't expect that within three years of hard work and effort, we'd have established very close working relationships with all walks of life in Australia," Tan said yesterday in Guangzhou.

These ties include pacts with governments, tourism authorities in various Australian states, airports and other businesses.

Tan specifically mentioned CZ's partnership with the Flight Centre agency group as an example from a trade perspective.

"Flight Centre is the key tour operator/travel agent in Australia," Tan said through an interpreter.

"When we first approached them they were like 'Where are you?' and 'Are you sure we can work together?'"

But after a period of working in

unison, Tan said Flight Centre has "built up their confidence."

"They [Flight Centre] are [the] key power in selling our tickets in Australia," Tan stated.

He added it was a "great pleasure" to spend time with a group of 10 leading travel agents on a one night visit to NSW for an exclusive event during the Sydney Festival held in Feb this year.

It presented an opportunity to "further talk about cooperation & our work promotion," Tan said.

## MEL most liveable city

THE Economist Intelligence Unit has ranked four Australian cities in its Top 10 most liveable global locations in 2012, headed up by Melbourne which was rated top for the second successive year - just 2.5% from a perfect score.

Adelaide pipped Sydney for sixth spot, while Perth was rated ninth.

Vienna, Austria and Vancouver, Canada were second and third.

## AA/TN up codeshare

AMERICAN Airlines is seeking authority from US authorities to expand its codeshare agreement with Air Tahiti Nui to San Jose and San Diego from Los Angeles.

The carriers intend to begin marketing the service from next Mon ahead of its launch on or about 10 Sep 2012.

## Fantastic Fiesta Friday

FIESTA Holidays has launched its 2013 Mauritius season complete with a special earlybird offer of up to 15% off, with air & 6-nights starting from \$2059ppts ex PER.

The wholesaler has also released an incentive on bookings for Oceania Cruises, whereby agents booking any voyage before 31 Oct will receive a \$100 Coles Myer gift voucher.

Further, if that cruise departs in 2012, a further Coles Myer gift card can be won, with an ultimate prize of a luxury weekend at the Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort going to the agent who accumulates the most gift cards.

Details at [www.bit.ly/fiestafun](http://www.bit.ly/fiestafun).

## Ethiopian to Malaysia

ETHIOPIAN Airlines is set to add Kuala Lumpur to its route map, via thrice weekly flights from Addis Ababa via Bangkok from 31 Oct.

The existing Addis Ababa-BKK-HKG route will reduce from five to four weekly, with the new daily Bangkok service extending to KUL on the other three days.

## New Territory portal

TERRITORY Discoveries has launched a new website, with the new portal featuring easier to read layout and navigation and online booking capabilities for accommodation reservations.

Extended tour options will be launched online later this year.

The enhanced site also brings the company's consumer, agent, group and supplier links together into a single online presence.

Available now, the site is up at [www.territorydiscoveries.com.au](http://www.territorydiscoveries.com.au).



## Window Seat

MORE tourist attractions for the Middle East?

A US researcher has discovered a series of previously unknown pyramid sites in Egypt, using satellite images available online via Google Earth.

Archaeologist Angela Micol says two areas along the Nile basin contain "unusual shaped mounds" which she believes are the bases of pyramids which have been heavily eroded.

The postulated pyramids have a similar diagonal alignment to the famous Giza monuments but one, about 20km from the city of Abu Sidhum, is much bigger than other pyramids.

Google Earth has led to several archaeological breakthroughs including the discovery of 17 other lost pyramids by US scientist Sarah Parcak, as well as a possible underwater city off the coast of Mexico.

THERE'S been quite a reaction to the news of the development by flat-pack furniture giant Ikea of a chain of budget hotels across Europe (TD yesterday).

Several *Travel Daily* readers were quick to respond to the news by asking whether guestrooms at the properties would have conventional access cards, or instead more likely be unlocked using an Allen key.

BRITISH Airways has come to the rescue of a sick cuckoo, flying it south from London to Italy to catch up with its fellow birds on their annual migration to Africa.

The bird was found stranded in a garden in Tolworth, UK with a broken wing and other injuries, and by the time it had been nursed back to health it was too late to migrate.

But BA stepped in, taking the now healthy cuckoo to warmer climates, where she is now being tracked by satellite.



## Business Development Manager QLD

We currently have an exciting opportunity for a talented Business Development Manager to come and join the team and drive the business for QLD.

In this role you will be responsible for working closely with our members to increase preferred supplier sales and to assist them to grow their business through sales and marketing initiatives.

This position is a challenging role in a highly competitive market. A minimum of 3 year's sales experience in the Travel Industry is essential. You will need to be highly motivated & have the ability to work under pressure to meet & exceed targets coupled with drive & determination to succeed.

To be successful in this role you will need to possess the following attributes:

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- Excellent written & oral communication skills
- A team player

If you are looking for an exciting and high profile role within Travelscene American Express then this could be the position for you. To apply for this position please send your CV to [careers@jtg.com.au](mailto:careers@jtg.com.au) by close of business Wednesday, 22 August 2012.



## RCI Flagship Sale deal

**ROYAL** Caribbean Australia is offering onboard credit of up to US\$200 per cabin as part of its newly launched Flagship Sale, valid on Australia, NZ and South Pacific sailings of five-days or more in its 2012/13 season.

As an additional bonus, RCI is discounting fares for a second passenger by 50% on selected departures, with half price deposits also offered.

## More Kakadu clicks

**KAKADU** National Parks Tourism has reported a 15% spike in visits to the [kakadu.com.au](http://kakadu.com.au) website over last year, with 61,440 clicks.

The prime reason for growth was put down to Kakadu's social media network drive, resulting in Facebook fans increasing from 75 to nearly 1,200 fans.

## Free Enchanted iPads

**GUESTS** booking the 12-day "Sail the Enchanted Isles" itinerary around the Galapagos Islands with Abercrombie & Kent for departures in Oct, Nov or Dec will receive up to \$1500 off the tour price in addition to a free 16GB Apple iPad 3 with wi-fi.

Prices now start at \$9730pp - more info 1300 851 800.

## CZ LHR double-daily

**CHINA** Southern Airlines plans to continue to expand its Canton Route over time, with hopes for a double daily operation to London Heathrow a long-term goal.

Tourism Australia md Andrew McEvoy said CZ has battled to attain landing slots at Heathrow, with its current thrice weekly Guangzhou-London Heathrow service moving to daily come Oct.

McEvoy said China Southern's president and ceo Tan Wangeng had informed him of intentions for 14 weekly flights to Heathrow but first needed to consolidate growth in Australia, including lifting loads on the Perth route.

## China mad about TA ad

**TOURISM** Australia's *There's Nothing Like Australia* 3-minute ad has received over 20 million downloads since its launch in Jun, acknowledged by TA managing director Andrew McEvoy as "quite incredible".

TA's promo will continue to evolve in China, with a fresh wave of advertising through magazine, press, outdoor, digital and social media still to come.

## More CAN slots for CZ

**CHINA** Southern Airlines has been awarded more than 80% of 60 new departure & arrival slots at Guangzhou Baiyun Int'l Airport.

The airport this month begun construction of a second terminal and third runway that will provide 700,000sqm of new space.

## PER beckons repeats

**THE** West Australian market is emerging as a destination of choice for multiple-trip travellers out of China to Australia, Tourism Australia's managing director Andrew McEvoy says.

Perth tends to be considered by some foreign travellers as a mono-destination, similar to Cairns, with TA working on marketing the state in China partnership with Tourism WA.

## McEvoy praises China trade



**TOURISM** Australia and China Southern Airlines hosted a group of top selling agents from China at an Industry Celebration event in Guangzhou yesterday, in recognition of this week's joint marketing promotion of Australia.

Over the next year, Tourism Australia and China Southern will chip in \$2.6 million apiece into a joint marketing campaign to drive interest in the Canton Route.

They are backed with support from Tourism Western Australia - contributing \$1m - and a group of other Australian tourism offices and airports (**TD** yesterday) for a collective total of more than \$9m.

This figure is in addition to the \$20m to be spent over the next 12 months in marketing Australia to 2nd-tier cities in China, along with Japan, Indonesia and other emerging markets (**page 1**).

The Aussie Specialist Program has over 6,000 members in China, with 2,200 having already completed the full set of modules.

Among them are a select group of 56 Premier Aussie Specialist agencies - a figure expected to top 60 in the near future.

This elite group of PAsPs bring in the vast majority of Chinese visitors into Australia.

"You're at the frontline of selling consumers to come to our country, hopefully with China Southern, and we really appreciate the great work," Tourism Australia md Andrew McEvoy said.

One of the attendees was Cash

Li of Swallow Tours, the biggest agency seller of Australia out of China, McEvoy told **Travel Daily**.

Such is Li's knowledge of and passion for Australia, she charters entire China Southern aircraft for groups into Cairns and Darwin.

McEvoy also used the occasion to reiterate that Australian tourism operators are "working hard" to be 'China ready'.

He highlighted the work done by IHG and Accor (having congee on the breakfast menu & Chinese TV channels in rooms) & airports with Chinese language signage.

Other enterprises recognised were Quicksilver, the reef operator based in Cairns which is working with travel agency networks in China, and Victoria's Sovereign Hill, which next month will open an office with four staff in China.

"These are small examples of an Australian industry that understands that we can't just rely on the beauty and wonder of our country.

"We must also be very good at service, have empathy, understanding and give people the best visit they can have so they can go back to China and tell their friends they must come," McEvoy declared.

**Pictured** here at the China Hotel in Guangzhou from left are Carmen Tam, TA - manager, Hong Kong & Southern China; Andrew McEvoy, TA md; Cash Li, general manager, Swallow Tours & Eva Huang, TA regional director, Greater China.

### Snow conditions

**WELCOME** to **TD's** regular snow conditions update, providing info on the latest snow falls, depths and lifts in operation across key Australia and New Zealand ski-fields.

Here's the latest snow reports:

- Falls Creek - 143cm / 15 lifts
- Perisher - 162.4cm / 47 lifts
- Thredbo - 162.4cm / 7 lifts
- Charlotte Pass - 165.5cm / 7 lifts
- Mt Hotham - 166cm / 11 lifts
- Mt Baw Baw - 39cm / 5 lifts
- Mt Buller - 90cm / 19 lifts
- Coronet Peak - 30cm / 8 lifts
- The Remarkables - 66cm / 7 lifts
- Mt Hutt - 190cm / 4 lifts

# Insight thanks its top achievers



**WHAT** better way to road test a new destination and new product as part of a new season launch than to take your VIP agents to try it all out for themselves.

That's what Insight Vacations did recently, as it thanked its top-sellers for their dedication and support by whisking them off to sample the company's newest exotic offerings.

Spending seven nights on the subcontinent, fresh off flights with Singapore Airlines, the group explored many of the country's top tourist hotspots, staying in the Marriott Jaipur, Le Meridien and the ITC Mughai.

The group toured the Taj Mahal, checked out the Amber Fort and the Mughal dynasty's imperial city Fatehpur Sikri.

Dropping in to express his thanks in person also was Insight ceo and president John Boulding & new Australia md Joost Timmer.

The group, **pictured** above in front of India's iconic mausoleum with Insight sales director David Farrar and Singapore Airlines' Rose Taylor-Payne, consisted of Suzanne Ryan, Mimi Hannaford, Sue Todorovski, Jenna Anderson, Samantha Baker, Gaynor Vantsant, Lin Lee, Hailey Turner, Taryn Robinson, Joe Bovalino, Bill Callaghan, Sandy Power, Cristina Maletta, Kim Adcock, Sue Ludkin, Leanne Pettit, Emma Sullivan, Jade Golightly, Jason Doyle, Simon Tinkler, Trish McIntyre, Frances Carr, Gabrielle Patten, Ashley Campbell, Georgina Nunn, Hannah Jepson & Emma Crawford.

## COMO rebranding

**COMO** Resorts has announced the launch of new branding which will see its nine properties retain their individuality yet allow guests to differentiate each hotel's traits.

The rebrand will also see a new website launched, to feature a COMO travel blog covering news on each destination as well as tips on health, wellbeing and lifestyle.

Feedback on stays at COMO properties can also be shared and interact with hotel management.

## HX drops A380 order

**HONG** Kong Airlines is set to cancel an order with Airbus for ten A380 superjumbo aircraft, to be replaced with A330's & A320's.

The carrier, which last week suspended its all-Business Class service between Hong Kong and London Gatwick (**TD** 06 Aug) will use its amended order to refocus on shorter, more profitable routes.

## New terminal at PVG

**A BRAND** new satellite terminal will be constructed at Shanghai's Pudong Int'l Airport by 2015, according to the Shanghai Municipal Development and Reform Commission.

Scheduled to be completed by 2015, early designs of the facility show it will enable aircraft to park around the entire circumference, with the city's two airports working to a goal of handling up to 100 million passengers annually.

## Super Celebrity sales

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has released a special offer valid upon its debut into Australian waters for the upcoming season.

Interior Stateroom bookings made on the *Celebrity Solstice* 13-night round-trip voyage around New Zealand departing 10 Dec will receive a free cabin upgrade to a Balcony Stateroom.

Prices start at \$1795 ppts.

## Cook Is. on Getaway

**CHANNEL** Nine's travel program *Getaway*, screening across the country at 5:30pm tomorrow, will feature Natalie visiting the Cook Islands for the first time, river cruising in the south of France, Underwater World on the Sunshine Coast and WA's Cape Range National Park.

## Technology Update

Today's Technology Update is brought to you by Tramada Systems Pty Ltd.

### Tramada Visual BP – An innovative approach to an old problem.



Tramada is proud to introduce an innovative tool to be added to tramada®next

gen next month.

Tramada Visual BP is a graphical Business Process tool which allows the user to link each of the agency's business processes to core tramada® next gen workflows. The tool is intuitive, very simple to use and ultimately acts as an enabler to facilitate users in adopting tramada® functionality quickly.

**Tramada Visual BP delivers to the users a simple graphical interface that is interactive and customisable.** It provides a description of sequences of actions to achieve a complete business process. The users simply follow the sequence to complete their core activities in the system.

Tramada Visual BP makes it easy for users to learn and adapt agency workflows. As it is easy to learn, training and change management time is significantly reduced. New users to the system are able to develop greater efficiencies with much less lead-time. This is a tremendous benefit that agencies can materialise immediately.

Tramada Visual BP will be offered at no charge to tramada®next gen users. At Tramada, core to our value proposition is the continual drive for innovation and process improvement.

Tramada Visual BP is one of the many exciting initiatives we are looking at to grow our product.

**John Tran**  
Head of Product Management  
Tramada Systems Pty Ltd



## Travel Specials



**THIS** week's *Travel Specials* is brought to you by **Travel Industry Club**. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of send the details to [specials@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:specials@traveldaily.com.au).

Time to hit the high seas with effortless luxury from the latest deal by the **Travel Industry Club**, with an **18-day Royal Caribbean voyage** from Hawaii to Sydney. Ocean view cabins start at \$106pp per night. For more details or to book, phone Travel Industry Club on (02) 9700 8711.

**Millennium, Copthorne and Kingsgate Hotels** across New Zealand have partnered with Groupon Travel to offer vouchers for 1, 3 or 5 night packages at 13 properties on the North and South Islands, with prices starting at \$97 for a one night stay for two people - [www.groupon.com.au](http://www.groupon.com.au).

Book your European river cruise with **Beyond Travel** before 31 Aug and receive \$700 per couple in "Discover More Travel" credit, valid for a year and which can be put towards additional Beyond Travel product such as airfares, pre- and post-cruise hotels, rail passes, sightseeing tours & more. To take advantage of this offer, phone Beyond Travel on 1300 363 554.

Bear witness to the mythic southern wonder that is Antarctica with **Aurora Expeditions**, which has released a 20% discount offer on a number of its voyages this year and a 10% earlybird discount for 2013 departures. For more details, phone Aurora on (02) 9252 1033.

## Alluxia.com debut

A NEW luxury travel site called Alluxia.com has launched, offering a range of handpicked boutique hotels & holiday homes from Port Douglas to Port Stephens.

## Extra Sunlander trips

QUEENSLAND Rail has advised it will be operating additional departures on its Sunlander train during the Sep school holidays.

Four more services will operate between Brisbane and Cairns, leaving from Roma Street Station on 26 Sep and 03 Oct, with southbound journeys departing Cairns on 28 Sep and 05 Oct.

## New SQ cabin coming

SINGAPORE Airlines has confirmed it is developing new premium cabin seating offerings, to be rolled-out from next year. The new cabin interiors will be fitted to SQ's new B777-300ER fleet serving Europe, Northeast Asia and North America, and will be followed on A350's and B787's as new aircraft are delivered.

Cabin features will include extra personal stowage space in Business Class & revamped seats, with improved head-rests and personal storage in Economy Class.

No timescale has been provided for the retrofit of existing aircraft.

## Cairns Festival starts

THE 51st annual Cairns Festival has begun today in the Tropical North Queensland city, with a myriad of music, art and culture events & activities on until 02 Sep.

## Meet some Hong Kong foodies



**ABOVE:** The Hong Kong Tourism Board recently rewarded ten top selling Flight Centre agents of the Hong Kong Summer campaign with a four night famil.

As well as shopping their way around the city's malls and markets, they enjoyed cooking their own dim sum and sipped cocktails on various rooftop bars.

New tourism products experienced included the crystal cabin on the Ngong Ping 360 cableway, and Ocean Park's Polar Adventure and Thrill Mountain attractions.

They're pictured during their Hong Kong Foodie Tour, front row from left: Belinda Arnesen, Flight Centre (FC) Browns Plains; Jonathon Tas, FC Market St; Liz

Harvey, FC Toorak and Lea Rocha, FC Brighton.

Back row: Kat Brennan, FC Marketing; Keva Hynes, FC Groups Melbourne; Naomi Pirhonen, FC Groups QLD; Matt Smith, FC Carindale Two; Kirsty McHenry, FC The Junction; Andrew Jones, FC Groups Melbourne; Bart Druitt, HKTB and Karla Moore, FC Manuka.

## Comfort back online

BRISBANE'S Comfort Inn & Suites Robertson Gardens has resumed normal operations following the completion of repairs after a fire in Sep last year damaged the 133-room property.

Repairs included a complete refurbishment to all rooms.

## Celebrity Interview with Ita Buttrose



Travel Daily recently caught up with Australian journalist and businesswoman Ita Buttrose, well known as the editor of *Cleo* and the *Australian Women's Weekly*. Her prolific career has also included senior roles with News Limited, board positions with many charity groups, and she's topped it all off this year by being named an official ambassador for luxury travel operator Tauck, represented by Travel the World.

**What is the highlight of your career?**

Creating *Cleo* - and when the *Australian Women's Weekly* was selling 900,000 copies per week.

**What is your favourite holiday spot?**

New York - I love the shopping, the shows, the opera and the hustle and bustle - it's so full of ideas.

**What is one of the most exotic destinations you have travelled to?**

I went to Turkey last year - such a country of contrasts, Istanbul, spice markets, mosques, Islamic art - and then Gallipoli.

**What is the one thing you cannot leave home without?**

Photos of my children and my grandchildren.

**What is the most common item you leave at home?**

A wretched adaptor plug!!

**Do you have an embarrassing travel story you can share with us?**

I was extremely embarrassed for the country by some drunk Australians on a P&O South Pacific cruise I took some years ago.

**Do you have a travel tip you can**

**provide our readers with?**

Travel light - don't overpack.

**What features do you look for when choosing a hotel?**

Location, comfort and service.

**What is your favourite piece of luggage?**

My very roomy, much loved travel handbag.

**Who is someone you wish you could sit next to on a plane?**

Hilary Clinton.

**What is one food you would like to see added to an airline menu?**

Genuine Russian caviar - it used to be offered many years ago but now seems to have vanished.

**Do you have a favourite childhood travel memory?**

We lived in the US for six years when I was young, and I remember holidaying in Maine, picking amazing blueberries which I can still taste now.

**Where are you planning on travelling to next?**

I'm lucky enough to be travelling to South Africa on a Tauck tour!

## Win a copy of Ita's autobiography!



Travel Daily is today giving away two copies of Ita's fascinating autobiography, *A Passionate Life*.

For your chance to win this great prize, be one of the first two readers to email the correct answer to this question to - itacomp@traveldaily.com.au.

**How long has Travel the World represented Tauck in Australia?**

# Vail Resorts are truly...



**ABOVE:** Ski champion Anna Segal (left) helped May Lilley from US ski giant Vail Resorts promote the company's range of upmarket ski holiday properties at a function in Sydney last night.

Segal, who resides at Vail's Breckenridge Resort for about five months of the year, is an Aussie who is part of the resort ski team and also has strong aspirations to be part of the next Winter Olympics.

She's one of several resort ambassadors, with the seven Vail Resorts' properties experiencing very strong visitation from Aussie skiers who just can't resist the allure of fantastic snow, great luxury accommodation, outstanding resort experiences and incredible value due to the strong Australian dollar.

The Vail Resorts focus on

Australia has been reinforced today with the news that Tahoe's Heavenly resort is sponsoring the Australian Intersport Snowsport Championships which take place each year in Mount Hotham, Vic.

Lilley, who is Vail Resorts' international communications manager, also outlined the massive ongoing investment by Vail in its various properties, including a \$30m expansion and upgrade at Lake Tahoe's North Star and the recent acquisition of the nearby "extreme skiing" resort of Kirkwood.

This year, Vail is celebrating its 50th anniversary, with the company stressing its mantra of providing the "experience of a lifetime" for its guests.

Vail itself is also enjoying significant investment, including the deployment this winter of a new ten-person gondola - complete with heated seats and even integrated wi-fi!

Other Vail-owned properties include Beaver Creek and Keystone in Colorado along with Heavenly in Lake Tahoe - and all of the resorts are accessible via the popular Epic Pass.

Costing just US\$659, the Epic Pass provides unlimited skiing at all Vail Resorts properties (with no blackout dates), and pays for itself in just six days when compared to day passes, meaning it's very popular with Aussie skiers.

## Supplier Updates

**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)

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Friday 17th Aug 2012

## Saigon storm cook up

**HO CHI** Minh Cooking Class will showcase a daily local cuisine display for pax visiting the Cu Chi Tunnels and the Rice Paper Village, priced from \$55pp.

## WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO MAURITIUS

Throughout August, *Travel Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a fabulous Mauritius holiday package for two valued at \$5300, courtesy of **Beachcomber** and **Air Mauritius**.

The prize includes two return economy class tickets flying Air Mauritius ex Perth; six nights twin share accommodation in a Superior room at the 4½ star Le Victoria Hotel; breakfast and dinner daily at the resort; selection of free water and land sports including water-skiing, sailing, wind-surfing, pedal boats, snorkelling & glass bottom boat trips, tennis, gymnasium; nightly entertainment; travel wallet and documentation.

Every day *Travel Daily* will ask a different Mauritius-related question – just read the issue and email us your answer. There will be 23 questions in total, which will also be posted on our website.

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 Mauritius holiday.

Email your answers to: [mauritiustrip@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:mauritiustrip@traveldaily.com.au)

**Q. 13:** Air Mauritius flies direct from Mauritius to which cities in South Africa and Kenya?

Hint! Visit [www.beachcomber.com.au/airmauritiustrip](http://www.beachcomber.com.au/airmauritiustrip)



Click here for more information

**AIR MAURITIUS** **beachcomber** **Travel Daily**  
First with the news

## Sea Cloud's air credit

**PASSENGERS** booking on a seven-night voyage from Sicily, Italy to Palma de Mallorca, Spain with Sea Cloud Cruises are eligible for air credits of up to AUD\$400 per person, the company has announced.

Fares for the voyage start from €2995pp (AUD\$3500) & includes gourmet meals with regional wines and all guide / port taxes.

For details, phone 1300 583 572.

## Next ATEC workshop

**TIPS** and tricks to help tourism businesses cut power expenses were discussed and debated at the first Energy Efficiency Workshop, run by EC3 Global in conjunction with The Australian Tourism Export Council in Melbourne this week.

The format will travel to the Gold Coast for the next workshop on 04 Sep at the Sofitel Gold Coast at Broadbeach, on from 2-4pm.



# AA APPOINTMENTS

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### WORK CLOSER TO HOME

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We are currently recruiting for a number of corporate travel positions throughout Sydney, so if you are looking for a role closer to home now is the time to contact AA Appointments. If you have a minimum of two years corporate travel experience, outstanding airfare and GDS knowledge as well as the ability to handle multiple SME accounts. This is a chance to work close to home and earn an outstanding salary plus incentives. Contact AA Appointments today to be in with a chance...

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Are you an experienced corporate group’s consultant looking to take a step up? We are searching for a superstar to join a small team within a global TMC. You will be handling groups of all sizes for the company’s corporate clientele, from start to finish you will manage the group at all stages. Previous groups experience is a must and leadership experience is ideal. Excellent salary package and outstanding career prospects – make a move NOW!

### YOUR TICKET TO SUCCESS

#### FARES AND TICKETING CONSULTANT

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Fancy yourself a bit of an airfare guru? Do you get a buzz from helping people? A talent for ticketing? This role will take off! This is a fantastic working environment with lots of energy and team spirit. You will be assisting agents across Australia with airfare queries as well as liaising with airlines solving problems & answering customer/agent queries... Don’t miss this fantastic opportunity in Melbourne! Min 2 yrs experience required.

### NO MORE LATE NIGHTS

#### RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANT

**MELBOURNE (STH EAST) – SALARY PACKAGES \$50K (DOE)**

This is your chance to join a head office owned retail travel agency that will offer you a sensational base salary with the added incentive of earning extra bonuses! Located in Melbourne’s south East, the environment is described as fun, energetic and best of all, busy! You will handle walk in’s, phone and email enquiries from clients. With no late nights and high base salary, why wouldn’t you apply?

### TAKE “PRIDE” IN YOUR AFRICA KNOWLEDGE

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**GEELONG – SALARY PACKAGE OTE \$50K + BONUSSES**

Are you an experienced travel consultant who is looking to specialise in your favorite destination? This new and exciting wholesale role will see you specialise in all things Africa! From Victoria Falls to the big 5 to the Garden Route, you will sell it all. With a mixture of high end options such as luxury lodges to camping trips your days will be filled with variety and excitement. Apply today to find out more.

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#### ONLINE CRUISE CONSULTANTS

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Are you an experienced travel consultant, looking to dive straight into a more specialised role? This online cruise consultant role will allow just that! Your day will be made up of selling worldwide cruises to online customers via phone and email. From Princess Cruises, to Royal Caribbean to P&O Domestic and international brands, no two day are ever the same! Call us today to set sail with your new role!

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Come and join this leading travel team on the sunny Gold Coast. You’ll love being part of this boutique agency where you handle the leisure needs of a range of clientele. A strong salary package will be on offer along with a rewarding incentive scheme, great educationals and training. All you need to be considered is min 2 years international retail consulting experience, GDS skills and a positive attitude. Get in quick and grab your place in this sunny agency.

### LOOKING FOR A SUPPORTING ROLE

**PRODUCT SUPPORT CONSULTANT  
BRISBANE CBD – SALARY PACKAGE \$52K**

Are you ready to move behind the scenes? Keen to move into product? Here’s your chance! This innovative global product team is looking for an experienced travel consultant to join them. You will be responsible for assisting agents with queries and problems along with working closely with internal and external suppliers. Enjoy Mon – Fri hours with Saturdays on rotation and a rewarding salary package. Roles such as this are rare – apply now!