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Friday 16th March 2012

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Emirates looks at Oz growth

EMIRATES is considering the introduction of a fifth Australian port, with the carrier's chairman and ceo Sheikh Ahmad bin Saek Al Maktoum revealing the move in Seattle last week.

Questioned about EK's growth plans, he said frequencies were set to increase on a range of destinations, "while in Australia there is a big chance of introducing a new destination."

Gulf News also reported Sheikh Ahmad foreshadowing new points in North and South America, Europe and China.

EK vp Australasia Barry Brown told *TD* yesterday the carrier wasn't planning to request an increase to its Australian capacity

allocation at this stage - but there's still room for more flights with EK currently operating 70 services per week, out of a total of 84 available.

No further details were available on where the additional port could be, but there's long been speculation of an Emirates Adelaide route.

MEANWHILE Brown revealed that travel agents seem to have taken last week's EK commission cuts (*TD* Fri) in their stride.

"Emirates remains strongly committed to its travel agent partners...the industry in the main seems to understand that the changes were in line with market requirements," he said.

AND EK's North American expansion is continuing, with the carrier overnight confirming the addition of Washington DC as its seventh US gateway.

Emirates will launch daily Boeing 777 flights to Dulles International Airport from 12 Sep.

Late last month rival Etihad also announced a new Washington DC route, but EY flights to the US capital won't start until Mar 2013.

Happy St Patrick's day

TOURISM Ireland has turned the front page of today's *TD* green in honour of St Patrick's Day which takes place tomorrow.

Ireland is once again making the most of the annual festival, with the Sydney Opera House to be bathed in green light tomorrow night as part of a "global greening initiative".

Other landmarks which will be going green include Dubai's Burj al Arab, the London Eye, Niagara Falls, the Leaning Tower of Pisa and Cape Town's Table Mountain.

A special video has also been filmed at Sydney's Central Station, following on from last year's successful FlashMob

social media initiative - click on the logo to view.



Travel agents are being urged to learn more about the destination by becoming a Shamrock Agent today - shamrockagents.com.au.

Inspiring o'seas push

INSPIRING Journeys will begin promoting its range of Australia and New Zealand itineraries (*TD* yesterday) to emerging markets such as China and Malaysia, as it seeks to build its global reach.

The push into new markets was revealed by *Travel Daily* three months ago (*TD* 02 Dec).

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FJ Tabua Club Lounge

AIR Pacific has officially opened a new 75-seat Tabua Club Lounge at Nadi International Airport.

The ground floor facility is located in the airport's Departure Hall, adjacent to FJ's premium Business lounge, and is available free to members of the carrier's Tabua Club loyalty program.

Targeted towards the discerning traveller, the Club lounge offers a selection of hot and cold savoury foods, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, shower facilities and high-speed internet access.

TV monitors and personal workstations are also planned to be added in the future.

"The new Tabua Club Lounge is a demonstration of Air Pacific's continued commitment towards enhancing the travel experience of its guests," the airline said.

The opening will see Air Pacific's Business Class Lounge dedicated exclusively to passengers travelling at the 'pointy end'.

Other guests can gain access to the lounge by paying a FJ\$75 per day fee at the check-in counter or at the Lounge reception.

New XXXX Qld holiday isle

QUEENSLAND brewer XXXX has announced the acquisition of Pumpkin Island in the Southern Great Barrier Reef, with plans to develop it into 'XXXX Island' - a holiday retreat for mates' trips.

The island will be transformed into a manly holiday paradise, with available activities such as beach cricket, footy, fishing as well as BBQ facilities to grill the catch of the day.

XXXX marketing manager Anna

McMillan said the retreat has been created to provide the genuinely relaxed downtime Aussie blokes seek with their mates from time to time.

"We wanted to create something larger than life, something that gave Aussies the chance to get away and hang out with their mates. We know this beautiful island on the Capricorn Coast will do just that."

On-hand as XXXX Island team ambassadors to promote the getaway are a who's who of iconic Aussie blokes such as cricketer Darren Lehmann, *Better Homes & Gardens* DIY builder Rob Palmer and rugby league legend Andrew "ET" Ettinghausen.

The island officially opens in Oct - more at xxxxisland.com.au.

Scanlan Accor promo

ACCOR has today announced the promotion of Qld Regional General Manager Neil Scanlan to the position of General Manager of Franchise Hotels.

The role will see Scanlan focus on growth of Accor's expanding network of franchise hotels and resorts across Australia & NZ.

He replaces Dino Mezzatesta, who takes on the responsibility of integrating the Mirvac Hotels & Resorts portfolio, in his new role as GM Hotel Integration.

Zero Webjet interest in Skyscanner

WEBJET md John Guscic says the online agent has no intention of aligning with flight search engine Skyscanner (*TD* yest.).

Skyscanner said this week it had held "initial conversations" with Webjet, as it looked to expand its presence in Australia and New Zealand, however, "No one in our organisation has held any talks with Skyscanner," Guscic told *Travel Daily* this morning.

"Webjet has no intention to work with them at all," he added. More Skyscanner info on [pg 4](#).

Schryver leaving LLA

LONG time head of Living and Leisure Australia, John Schryver, has announced his departure from the company from today.

The move follows the successful takeover of the business by Merlin Entertainments.

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Please forward your application for this position to Mr. James Dunne, Manager NSW & ACT, Singapore Airlines, by email to Cecily_Woo@singaporeair.com.sg

Applications should be received by Friday, 23 March 2012.

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JTG Australian wholesale restructure

NEWLY appointed Jetset Wholesale gm Michael Londregan has wielded the axe on the former Stella Wholesale operations, with the Melbourne-based business to be restructured (**TD** breaking news).

Now known as Australian Wholesale, the operation looked after a number of brands incl the defunct Travel 2 as well as Travelscene Holidays, Rail Tickets, Talpacific and Newmans.

The consolidation will see the existing Product and Marketing team report to Kate Shilling, recently appointed as Head of Marketing for JTG Wholesale.

Shilling replaces Jeff Skinner, who left last month after being appointed to head up JTG wholesale marketing just last Sep.

Under yesterday's changes, the Melbourne reservation and support teams will report to gm

operations Shane Collins effective immediately, with the business relocating from King Street, Melbourne to Camberwell over the coming months.

The changes will see the departure of Rohan Moss, who headed up the business for several years and is one of the 40 senior executives holding shares in the merged company.

Moss will leave after the business relocates, while marketing manager Jason Williams will also depart.

Londregan said the changes would "ensure we move forward with a simple structure that allows us to dedicate 100% of our energy on delivering on our promise to be Australia's leading travel wholesaler".

NT Muster details

NEXT week's Northern Territory showcase for travel agents, NT Muster, will feature 33 tourism operators promoting 40 products and services from the Territory.

Attendees at the events in Sydney and Melbourne have the chance to win prizes to the value of \$17,000 at each show.

The Sydney show is being held next Mon 19 Mar at Dockside, Cockle Bay Wharf in Sydney, and the Melbourne event will be hosted at the RACV Club in the city - RSVP at trade.travelint.com.

Bride stays free deal

BENCH International is offering a bride-stays-free deal in South Africa for honeymooners booking a four night package in a suite at Makanyane in Madikwe Private Game Reserve before 31 Jul.

Valid for travel between 01 May and 31 Aug, the deal is priced at \$2,995 for the groom and \$775 for the bride which covers the air component from Johannesburg.

The package is also offered up until 10 Dec at a slightly higher air fare price for the bride.

New QF GDS guide

QANTAS has created a new section on its online trade site providing centralised access to GDS entries in conjunction with Qantas policies and procedures.

Available to agents 24/7 at qantas.com/agents, there are dedicated pages for each of Amadeus, Galileo and Sabre.

Agents can use the information as a quick reference to commands on each GDS for a range of options such as display of fares (including fare rules, private corporate fares and published IT), how to enter card payment fees, claim PNR, special service requests, unaccompanied minors, seat maps/requests, advance passenger information and even valet parking.

Formerly known as the Qantas GDS Training Website, the new resource is accessible under the 'Training' menu on the left hand side of the trade site.



Window Seat

DENVER-based Frontier Airlines is to let the public choose the next animal which will appear on its tail wings.

The company will be holding "auditions", from now until 07 Apr, and the Top 18 entries will be slowly whittled down to a final three, with a public poll to select an overall winner.

Fans voting for their favourite will also receive a special bonus offer for a discounted flight and an entry into a prize draw.

Some of the best entries received so far include Doris the Chicken, Melvin the Turtle, Chloe the Chipmunk, Joanne the Giraffe, Mario the Lizard and Duke the Arctic Dog.

See frontierairlines.com.

HELLO sailors - the Erskine River at Lorne, along the Great Ocean Road in Victoria will play host to a sailing event of a different kind on 14 Apr at the first-ever Love Lorne Model Boat Regatta.

Scores of painstakingly crafted model boats will compete for prestigious line honours, with the event aimed at the whole family to enjoy either as participants or spectators.

For what it's worth, the event will also take place one day before the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

More info at lovelorne.com.



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



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Dom. fares on the up

THE month of Mar has seen a swing away from recent trends of Business and most Economy class domestic airfares getting cheaper, government data of fare prices released yesterday indicates.

The Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Economies' Domestic Air Fare Indexes shows Business class levels rose 4.2 pts higher than the month prior to a level of 81.1, while Full Economy fares increased 7 points to 116.2 - the highest ever recorded index level for that fare type.

Restricted Economy fares were up 3.4 points to sit at an index level of 66.7, which is nearly 30 points less than 12 months ago.

Best Discount fares also tracked higher, rising 7.2 points in Mar compared to the level achieved in Feb, and a massive 20 points higher than the corresponding period 12 months ago.

Worldhotels RoomKey

RECENTLY launched hotel search engine RoomKey.com has added over 100,000 new rooms to its inventory after independent hotel representative Worldhotels signed on to feature its content.

Worldhotels has nearly 500 properties worldwide and will strengthen RoomKey's portfolio especially in Asia Pacific & Europe.

Founding members of RoomKey include Choice Hotels, Hilton, Hyatt, InterContinental, Marriott and the Wyndham groups.

787 back on track

BOEING has reaffirmed its ability to rectify glitches found in its long-awaited 787 Dreamliner. The aircraft manufacturer has also restated it is on track to fulfil orders from airlines scheduled for delivery this year.

Boeing head of commercial planes unit Jim Albaugh told an industry conference "I see nothing to date that leads me to believe that we won't deliver all the 787s we have in our plan by the end of the year".

The highly-publicised aircraft, of which nearly 900 have been ordered, is already three years behind schedule, delayed by a series of manufacturing errors, design and development issues which have only recently been fully ironed out.

Boeing delivered the first completed 787 aircraft to All Nippon Airways in Jul last year.

MSC fleet addition

MSC Cruises has signed a deal with the STX shipyard in France to construct its 4th Fantasia-class ship, *MSC Preziosa*, which will be delivered in Mar next year.

The €550 million investment in the ship comes after nine months of negotiations with STX.

Preziosa will be a sister-ship to the soon to be delivered *Divina*.

Bendigo popularity up

FIGURES released recently have revealed a 41% increase in the number of tourists visiting Bendigo in regional Victoria.

The stats follow on from the Bendigo Visitor Centre claiming the top prize for achievements in visitor services at the recent Australian Tourism Awards.

Skyscanner going premium



SKYSCANNER is looking to add Premium Economy and Business Class flight products to its range of search options from Q4 as it sets out to beef up choices.

Currently Skyscanner offers fare options from over 1000 airlines globally, with most of the world's low cost carriers featured.

Director for Asia Pacific Ewan Gray, in Sydney this week with Asia Pacific market development manager David Boyte, said despite not having a lot of demand from users for premium services so far, as the company grows, "more and more requests are creeping in."

Adding premium flight options "is a priority for us to get set up," Boyte confirmed.

In Australia, Skyscanner lists the fares for the four major domestic airlines - Qantas, Virgin Australia, Jetstar & Tiger - with Gray telling **TD** next on the list was to go after some of the many regional carriers in Australia, including the likes of Regional Express to further lift destination options.

Ewan Gray is **pictured** above (left) with David Boyte.

SQ load figures up

SINGAPORE Airlines has revealed their passenger load factors for Feb, reporting results of 76.1% for the month, a 1% year-on-year increase with 1.3m passengers carried.

Routes to & from the Americas saw the largest movement in the network, improving 5 points.

The carrier's SilkAir subsidiary did not fare as well, posting a 3.2 percentage point decrease in its numbers from 77.1% from Feb 2011 to 73.9% this year, with 244,000 pax carried.

Statistics showed increased capacity as a result of new routes.

Sea Cloud II cruises

SEA Cloud Cruises are offering the chance to experience short European cruises aboard a nostalgic 5-star windjammer.

The two itineraries available are for a four-night Spanish cruise from Malaga to Barcelona on 02 May, or a three-night sailing from Barcelona to Nice in France from 06 May to 09 May.

Rates start from €1,295pp for an outside cabin for the three-night cruise, and include all meals and non-alcoholic beverages.



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<http://applynow.com.au/jobF148397>

Getaway viewing

TOMORROW night's episode of Channel Nine's travel program *Getaway* (at 5:30pm) features stories on Dublin, Shenzhen, the Gold Coast and Kangaroo Island.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Travel Specials*, *Travel Daily's* Fri feature. 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.

Petite Paris is offering up to €20 off its nightly rates throughout Apr plus complimentary chocolates on arrival at a number of its B&B's in Paris. Additional discounts are also offered for stays of 10 days or longer. For more details on the properties email info@petitepr.com.au.

Adventure World has launched a Fly, Stay and Ski package priced from \$999pp in Queenstown. The seven day/six night deal includes return flights with Air New Zealand to Queenstown ex Sydney, Brisbane or Melbourne, accommodation at Base Backpackers (dorm share), a three day lift pass, ski bus transfers and airport transfers. The deal is on sale until 31 Mar, for travel from 23 Jun to 07 Oct - adventureworld.com.au.

Antiquity voyages into Sydney

VOYAGES to Antiquity md David Yellow revealed details of the firm's Mediterranean program for 2013 to the trade at an event in Sydney yesterday.

Kicking off on 03 Mar with a Cairo to Istanbul cruise titled 'The view of Jerusalem is the history of the World', the



program offers a total of 16 voyages, each centered on the history of the classical Mediterranean civilisations.

Voyages range between 13- and 19-days and can be linked to create Grand Cruises, with options offered between Istanbul and Athens, Athens and Venice, Venice and Rome, Rome and Cannes, Cannes and Venice, Venice and Athens, Athens and Rome, Rome and Istanbul, as well as two Istanbul roundtrips.

The Mediterranean program is scheduled to conclude on 26 Oct

with a 'Man fears time, time fears the pyramids' Istanbul to Cairo cruise.

MEANWHILE, the cruise line is also launching its first foray into the Orient with a history-themed program from Nov this year which will include 10 cruises around the region onboard the 378-passenger *Agean Odyssey*.

See Tue's **Cruise Weekly** for more detail on both programs.

David Yellow is **pictured** above (standing on the right), with Craig Bowen, md of Cruise Traveller, Voyages to Antiquity's Aussie rep.

Get your tips in

IT'S not too late to join the **TD** NRL and Super 15 Rugby tipping competitions, with the AFL comp beginning next week - so it's time to register!

Participation is free for travel industry staff, and amazing prizes including overseas trips are up for grabs for the top tippers - see traveldaily.com.au/competitions.

New Burma dates

INTREPID Travel has responded to increased demand for its 15-day Best of Burma tour, adding 36 new departures as it resumes operating tours to the country.

The itinerary, led by local guides and visiting a number of sites through the Yangon and Bagan regions, now departs weekly, priced from \$2010pp land only.

Experienced Travel Consultants Geelong



FCM are thrilled to receive **Australasia's Leading Business Travel Agent - 2011** award. We are currently looking for **Corporate Experienced Travel Consultants** to join our expanding Geelong team.

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What can you do to achieve sustainability goals?



With the year moving along at full pace it is sometimes hard to take the timeout to really look at

the impact our business has on the world.

At Sabre we're passionate about promoting responsible and sustainable travel for all; after all we're all here to make the world a better place...one trip at a time.

But how is it done? And what can you do in your business and for your clients to help achieve sustainability goals?

Instead of talking about simply reducing the carbon footprint of travel, I want to look at a few opportunities we have to integrate sustainability into our work environments, and of course how technology can help you do just that.

More than 3,000 companies are publicly disclosing their carbon footprint, and travel can represent between 20-40% of that footprint, so having access to precise data is important.

Our industry-leading CO2 reporting technology deemed "the most accurate in existence" gives you complete visibility over travellers' carbon footprints.

The IATA e-ticket mandate - while designed for efficiency - saves 50,000 trees a year so you can see the value of paperless solutions to our environment.

So by using mobile products like TripCase you can access all of your travel needs, without the need for paper.

To achieve your sustainability goals you can also now shop and book Eco Certified Hotels, an industry first program that provides clear and easy access to sustainable travel offerings throughout Sabre's portfolio.

We are extremely proud of our sustainable practices as a company and the sustainable solutions we offer you and will continue to deliver cutting-edge technology that promote responsible and sustainable travel for all.

For more information contact our experts or tune into this month's **Empowered video**.

Gai Tyrrell,
CEO, Sabre
Pacific



Friday 16th Mar 2012

Nancy A380 back soon

QANTAS' A380 superjumbo, which suffered an engine explosion over Indonesia on 04 Nov 2010 will return to the skies by Apr, according to Qantas.

Engineers have confirmed that all structural and wiring repairs have been completed and the jet, dubbed Nancy-Bird Walton, will soon be ready to return to work.

Qantas had originally hoped to have Nancy-Bird back in the sky this month (**TD 11 Jan**).

Alila Indo additions

GROUNDBREAKING ceremonies have taken place for two new Alila Villa properties in Indonesia, slated to open in 2014.

Alila Villas Bintan Resort will feature 52 1- & 2-bedroom villas, while Alila Seminyak will become the fifth Alila property in Bali and is to consist of 72 suites.

Aussie air figures up and away

DOMESTIC and international passenger numbers increased for the ninth year in a row according to figures released late yesterday.

The latest *Avline* report from the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport revealed that 27.6 million travellers flew into or out of Australia through the 2011 calendar year, an increase of 7% on the 2010 calendar year.

Domestic travel also continued to grow, increasing 6% with 54 million pax flying within Australia.

Sydney was the busiest airport in the country with 36 million passenger movements across the year - an increase of 4.4%.

The issue of the long-term future of Sydney's aviation needs (**TD 14 Mar**) is rapidly becoming a medium-term problem, with grim forecasts indicating urgent action is needed on the matter to avoid further growth being stymied by the inability of Kingsford Smith Airport to handle extra air traffic.

MEANWHILE, figures showed Australia's carriers departed on-time for 80.6% of their scheduled services in the 2010-11 financial year, with 78.8% of these arriving

Pinpoint Whitsunday famil



PINPOINT Travel Group recently whisked this group of agents away to the Whitsundays for a luxurious famil trip.

Flying with Virgin Australia, they experienced the leisures and pleasures of both Daydream & Hamilton Islands, as well as a cruise on crystal-blue waters.

Pictured above poolside from left are: Juliette Robbins, Eastside Travel; Lorelei Francisco, Maria

Miller and Melissa Ingles from TravelManagers; Sue Langdon and Lauren Jasprizza, Pinpoint Travel Group; Alysha White, MTA Travel and Gai Fardell, Travelworld Orange.

WIN A \$50 MYER GIFT CARD



This week **Travel Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a \$50 Myer Gift Card, courtesy of **Chat Tours**.

Many wholesalers say their phones are answered in 5 rings by a consultant. At Chat Tours we actually do!

Up to 15 percent commission! Chat tours. Over 85 years strong!

For your chance to win the gift card, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to:

chattourscomp@traveldaily.com.au

Is it correct that Chat tours opened in Europe in 1926 and in Australia in 1979?

Hint! Visit www.chattours.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Kylie Ellis from Flight Centre Engadine.



Choice agents walk in pride



ABOVE: Travellers Choice 2011 Gold Choice Award winners had the opportunity to walk with these young lions while in the Masuwe River Valley in Zimbabwe - part of an exclusive eight-day famit to southern Africa as guests of The Africa Safari Co, South African Airways and Qantas.

Pictured from left are: Jim Cooper, Queanbeyan City Travel & Cruise; Christian Hunter, Travellers Choice md; Sue Holmes, Carine Travel Bug; John Hancock, City Beach Travel & Cruise; Sue Fessey,

Kumuka Amazing Race

KUMUKA Tours has announced it will be operating a special 12-day Amazing-Race style tour in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand, with a \$1000 donation on offer for the chosen charity of the winning team.

Teams of two people can take part in the fully-escorted tour, during which they will be tested via a series of tasks & challenges designed to test physical and mental strengths.

The trip is priced from \$3,175, including accom, transportation throughout the challenge, 15 meals, all entrance fees to do with the challenge and the services of specialist local guides.

More info, phone 02 8029 2011.

Stodarts Travel & Cruise; Brian Slater, Maria Slater Travel; Fiona James, Broadway Travel & Cruise Centre; Michelle Everson, Jamison Travel; Lauren Ryan, Jayes Travel; Carol Evans, Bay Travel & Cruise and Wayne Hamilton, The Africa Safari Co.

Etihad supersellers

ETIHAD Airways has launched a new agent incentive entitled 'Etihad Superseller', where agents can earn Etihad Guest Miles on Diamond First-Class and Pearl Business-Class tickets sold.

The program will be fully automated and agents can enrol at www.etihadagents.com to receive their SuperSeller APIN number and start earning miles.

QF comms departures

QANTAS head of gov't and public affairs, Jim Carden, and head of corporate communication Justin Kelly have departed from their roles at the carrier this week.

According to the *Financial Review*, the pair resigned on Tue and 'left the building' immediately, with their boss Olivia Wirth only saying they had "resigned to pursue other interests".

Both had joined Qantas within the last 12 months.

Kingfishers fortunes

IATA are in talks to reinstate the struggling Kingfisher Airlines into its account settlement systems following its recent suspension due to fee issues (**TD** 08 Mar).

Virgin expands SQ codeshares

VIRGIN Australia has this week implemented the third stage of its alliance with Singapore Airlines, meaning that the Virgin Australia international 'VA' code will appear on a number of SQ codeshare routes.

Virgin Australia will codeshare on selected Singapore Airlines flights from Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth - as well as onward from Singapore to London, Beijing and Shanghai.

SQ's flights ex Brisbane will not carry the VA code as Virgin

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Australia already codeshares with Etihad on this sector.

The new codeshare flights are set to open for bookings shortly, but are currently visible in GDS timetable listings.

The new international expansion builds on existing SQ codeshares on DJ domestic flights (**TD** 10 Feb) which mostly include regional routes ex Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane.

The alliance includes reciprocal frequent flyer and lounge access for VA premium pax in Singapore.

WIN A HOLIDAY TO SINGAPORE

Throughout March, **Travel Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a fabulous Singapore holiday package for two valued at \$5250, courtesy of **Singapore Tourism Board, Singapore Airlines** and **Resorts World Sentosa**.

The prize includes two return economy class airfares on Singapore Airlines, four nights stay for two people at a Resorts World Sentosa Hotel, two one-day passes to Universal Studios Singapore, two tickets to Voyage De La Vie and tickets to Maritime Experiential Museum and Aquarium.

Every day **Travel Daily** will ask a different Singapore-related question - just read the issue and email us your answer. There will be 22 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 Singapore holiday.

Email your answers to: singaporecomp@traveldaily.com.au

Q.12: What birthday will the Singapore Girl be celebrating in 2012?

Hint! Visit: www.rwsentosa.com

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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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