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Albatross earlybirds

ALBATROSS Tours is promoting its \$600 per couple earlybird special for Europe 2013 bookings deposited before 22 Dec. Tours are on offer in the UK, Spain, Portugal, Italy, France and Germany - see **page 11**.



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EK invests in South Australia

EMIRATES has inked a new two-year \$2m joint marketing campaign with the South Australian Tourism Commission & Tourism Australia. The campaign will promote EK's new non-stop Dubai-Adelaide service that launched yesterday, across the airline's European network, specifically in the UK, Germany, France and Italy. Emirates senior vp Commercial

Ops, Far East & Australia Salem Obaidalla said the deal highlights the carrier's commitment to promoting 'destination Adelaide'. "South Australia has never had this level of connectivity into Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and the early booking profiles demonstrate the power of Emirates' global network in unlocking previously untapped markets," Obaidalla revealed. He flagged fresh interest in SA from Scotland and Germany, ex Glasgow and Hamburg, as well as from Emirates' Dubai hub. "We're investing in SA for the long haul," he said, with a Boeing 777-300ER dedicated to the route equipped with its top on-board product and employing over 150 locals in airline & airport services. SA Premier Jay Wetherill said the route is anticipated to create \$40m in direct expenditure and over 200 jobs in the next 2 years. Federal Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson today said the service will benefit the SA economy and its tourism operators, "for whom the Middle East is emerging as a vitally important market."

Naviti shut by fire

FIJI's popular Naviti Resort has been closed after a fire gutted the main building of the Coral Coast resort late yesterday. The fire broke out in the Naviti's Kids Club and spread to the restaurants, shops, offices and main lounge, however the accom blocks were saved, and all guests & staff escaped un-injured, *the Fiji Village* reports. According to the Naviti Resort Fiji Facebook page, current guests have been relocated to nearby sister properties, The Warwick Fiji Resort & Spa, Warwick Tambua Sands and Tokatoka Resort. "We are assessing the situation and infrastructure and will have news soon when we will be fully operational," the resort says. The Naviti said it expects to address guest concerns relating to bookings for imminent or future dates in coming days. Guests are advised to contact the resort team directly for info at navitireservations@warwickhotels.com.

Ops, Far East & Australia Salem Obaidalla said the deal highlights the carrier's commitment to promoting 'destination Adelaide'. "South Australia has never had this level of connectivity into Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and the early booking profiles demonstrate the power of Emirates' global network in unlocking previously untapped markets," Obaidalla revealed. He flagged fresh interest in SA from Scotland and Germany, ex Glasgow and Hamburg, as well as from Emirates' Dubai hub. "We're investing in SA for the long haul," he said, with a Boeing 777-300ER dedicated to the route equipped with its top on-board product and employing over 150 locals in airline & airport services. SA Premier Jay Wetherill said the route is anticipated to create \$40m in direct expenditure and over 200 jobs in the next 2 years. Federal Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson today said the service will benefit the SA economy and its tourism operators, "for whom the Middle East is emerging as a vitally important market."

Tempo roadshows

TEMPO Holidays is inviting agents to its roadshow this month in Perth, Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane and Melbourne, covering the Tempo, Bentours, Cox & Kings and ezeego1 brands. See the **last page of TD** today.

AirAsia X cranks up SYD/MEL frequencies

NO-FRILLS Kuala Lumpur-based carrier AirAsia X has come good on plans to ramp up capacity to both Sydney and Melbourne, as flagged earlier this year by ceo Azran Osman Rani (**TD 26 Jul**). According to travel agent GDS displays, D7 will bolster flight frequencies to SYD and MEL from the current daily operation to 11 weekly, from 01 Jul to 30 Sep. AirAsia X inaugurated services to Sydney on 02 Apr, the same day Osman Rani revealed he'd hoped to lift the route to double daily before the end of Dec (**TD 03 Apr**).

Nine pages of news

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news and photos, a full page of photos for Rail Plus and full pages from: (**click**)

- AA Appointments jobs
- Albatross Tours
- Tempo Holidays



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Friday 2nd November 2012

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NYC Sandy recovery

NYC & Company has reported the reopening of JFK, Newark Liberty and LaGuardia airports as the City of New York continues the clean-up following this week's Hurricane Sandy.

Around 20,000 domestic and international flights into the US east coast were cancelled due to the massive storm, with pax recommended to contact their airline directly for the latest info.

The marketing office for the Big Apple advises that taxis, shared shuttles, private transfers and express shuttle bus services from Newark & JFK are operating, but the AirTrain and rail service have been suspended indefinitely.

Visitors are "strongly advised" to reconfirm hotel reservations directly with the hotel "regardless of location", before travelling.

Many attractions have resumed operations, including Broadway shows, popular museums and the Empire State Building Observatory, but sites in Lower Manhattan, including the 9/11 Memorial and The Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island remain closed, NYC & Co said.

The organisation is providing regular updates on the situation regarding attractions reopening - see www.on.fb.me/RwTTwh.

Agents can also keep up to date at www.Facebook.com/nycgo.

MEANWHILE, Qantas Industry Centre advises it's experiencing "extremely high call volumes, resulting in long wait times" as a result of the disruptions caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Qantas is directing agents with queries directly linked to Sandy to refer to its Commercial Waiver regarding rebooking and ticketing options at www.bit.ly/QFsandy.

Territory Commission nod

THE Northern Territory's 700 tourism related businesses will "revitalise" under legislation passed late yesterday to establish a new Northern Territory Tourism Commission, to guide Tourism NT.

The reconstitution was flagged by recently elected Tourism Minister Matt Conlan (TD 10 Sep).

In Sep, Conlan announced plans to relocate Tourism NT to Alice Springs, from Darwin, in an effort to counteract "dwindling tourist numbers" over the last decade, with year ending Jun overseas visitor numbers slipping 14% on the corresponding year.

"The Commission will bring new rigour and a depth of expertise to

grow our tourism sector," he said.

"The Government is determined to see the Territory marketed as one product, that being The Northern Territory."

Conlan added, as a Commission a strong focus on product development & marketing would be leveraged, chaired by Air North ceo Michael Bridge.

Territory tourism administrator, and former Tourism Tasmania boss, Tony Mayell will steer the organisation as ceo, effective 01 Dec 2012.

And Tourism Top End's former gm Tony Clementson will take the role of Ministerial Tourism Advisor.

"This is the first step in returning tourism to the powerhouse industry in the Territory that it once was," Conlan said yesterday.

Silversea 2014 opens

SILVERSEA Cruises is now taking reservations for its collection of over 200 sailings worldwide from its 2014 Voyage Collection.

The program features *Silver Shadow* Australia & NZ cruises (TD 30 Aug) - call 1300 306 872.

8Mo'stels during Nov

BOUTIQUE Australian hotel collection 8Hotels has shown its support for November, rebadging itself as '8Mo'stels' over the 30 day month, as

well as adopting a new logo - itself doning a mo (pictured).



MEANWHILE, entries opened yesterday for TD's Movember comp, in which we've teamed with Cunard to help encourage the industry to back the international initiative via a photo comp - details on [page 9](#).

New Solomon Dash-8

SOLOMON Airlines has taken delivery of a new Bombardier Dash 8-100 for use on its inter-island domestic network.

The carrier said it's been looking for 18 months for a suitable turboprop plane to replace the current aircraft on lease from Airlines PNG.

CEO Ron Sumsam said the new plane would improve efficiency, reduce costs and provide comfort levels comparable to those on its A320 international services.

The new plane has arrived from its previous station in the Greek Islands, and is ideally suited to the short take-offs and landings required at many of the Solomon Islands' regional airfields.

Its arrival means that for the first time in a decade all aircraft in the SB fleet will not be leased.

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Virgin int'l traffic up

VIRGIN Australia's share of international passenger carriage into Australia jumped four spots during Aug, to only trail Qantas, new government data reveals.

BITRE statistics out yesterday show that compared to last Aug, Virgin moved above Jetstar, Air New Zealand, Singapore Airlines and Emirates, with an 8.8% share of passenger traffic.

Qantas remained top dog, accounting for 17% of pax carried, however the figure was down 0.6 percentage points on last year.

International scheduled pax traffic in Aug increased 4.8%, to 2.42 million, while seat made available rose 1.8%.

Viva! adds Qatar Air

JTG's Viva! Holidays has added Qatar Airways year round and tactical wholesale Economy and Business class fares to Europe to its list of airline ticketing options.

Effective immediately, agents will earn 7% commission on QR airfares when booked via Viva!'s easyway or reservation sales.

Revenue for Qatar Airways' bookings will also count towards the Global Achievers program.

Gold Coast cruise terminal plan

THE Gold Coast City Council and Qld Govt is seeking expressions of interest for what's been referred to as "the largest piece of integrated tourism infrastructure in Queensland's history."

The proposed multi-billion dollar facility announced today will include a Cruise Ship Terminal at the Spit or Broadwater.

Other tourism facilities flagged include a hotel, a casino, retail development, restaurants and a super yacht precinct, injecting \$750 million in additional tourism

revenue annually into the Gold Coast economy by 2020.

"We will seek an impressive, one-of-a-kind draw-card that will define our city and transform us into a truly global destination," Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate said.

"Right now our city is crying out for a boost in tourists," he added.

Carnival Australia chief Ann Sherry applauded the initiative, saying the company was looking forward to working with GCCC & the Qld government on the cruise ship terminal development.

A Grand tour into the Canyon



ABOVE: Travelmanagers, in conjunction with Qantas, delivered

this group of agents into the inner workings of Nevada's iconic Grand Canyon for an in-depth look at the natural landmark & wonder.

Aside from the Canyon, the group also explored California, checking out some of the best hotels on offer to their clients as well as some popular attractions and time for some shopping.

Pictured above cruising the Colorado River inside the Grand Canyon, from left is Fiona Perry, Karen Dowling, Sarena Taylor, John Gartner, Lyn Tyson, Melanie Mayer, Di Yates, Irena Bryant and John Gazal in the middle front.

Window Seat

GLOBALISATION has reached a new nadir, with America's Playboy Club set to launch in India in the coming months.

However the famous Playboy "bunnies" will have their outfits adjusted to suit "Indian sensibilities," with non-revealing clothing to comply with strict censorship laws.

The Playboy Club brand is being licensed by a firm called PB Lifestyle, with ceo Sanjay Gupta confirming "our clubs will not have any nudity".

He said the Playboy brand and logo will be the subject of a \$40m investment over the next five years, with the first Playboy property in India being a club in Goa, followed shortly by another in Hyderabad.

JAPANESE toilet technology has once again come to the fore, with a new toilet which doubles as a goalkeeper.

The promotional gimmick, called the Super Great Toilet Keeper, has been created by Toto - well known for its bathroom electronic gadgetry, which features in the washrooms aboard ANA's 787s.

The special toilet features in a special video where it's pitched against Japanese star striker Tatsuhiko 'Dragon' Kubo.

Believe it or not, it uses motion-detecting cameras to calculate the flight of the ball, pivot and then shoot a small ball out of the bowl to "parry" the incoming soccer ball away - see www.traveldaily.com.au/videos.



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SAA seeks extra year for c'share

SOUTH African Airways is pitching for a longer period of security for its partnership with Qantas, requesting the South African competition regulator extend its codeshare alliance a year beyond what's been proposed by local authorities.

In Sep, Australia's International Air Services Commission issued a Draft Determination permitting SAA to codeshare on Qantas' daily South Africa services for two years, until 31 Dec 2014, with a final decision still pending.

Earlier in the year the IASC had rebuffed a five-year renewal on the codeshare alliance.

But, according to an 'Application for an Exemption' filed by SAA to the South African Competition

Commission, QF's partner is seeking exemption for a period of three years, commencing 01 Jan 2013 and ending 31 Dec 2015.

"It should be noted that the Commission had previously exempted this agreement & SAA is in essence asking it to again consider granting another exemption," SAA told the SA competition watchdog last month.

Interested parties have until 15 Nov to make submissions to the SACC detailing why the exemption should not be granted.

Scoopon into TCF

GROUP Buying firm Scoopon has registered to trade as a travel agent, under the 'Scoopon Travel' branding, according to an Travel Compensation Fund update.

Entertainment Publications of Australia, producers of the popular *Entertainment Guide* discount booklets, has also registered as an Artarmon agency head office.

QF Director retires

QANTAS Airways has announced the retirement of Dr John Schubert AO as Director after 12 years on the Board, effective today.

Early Bird!

Finnair Economy Class to Europe from \$1000*.

*Departures 16 January - 30 September 2013. Taxes and fuel surcharges not included.

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Water @ Pier One debut



DAVID Loew, Director of Sales & Marketing at the Sebel Pier One and his team are **pictured** at the launch of the Water @ Pier One Conference Centre last night.

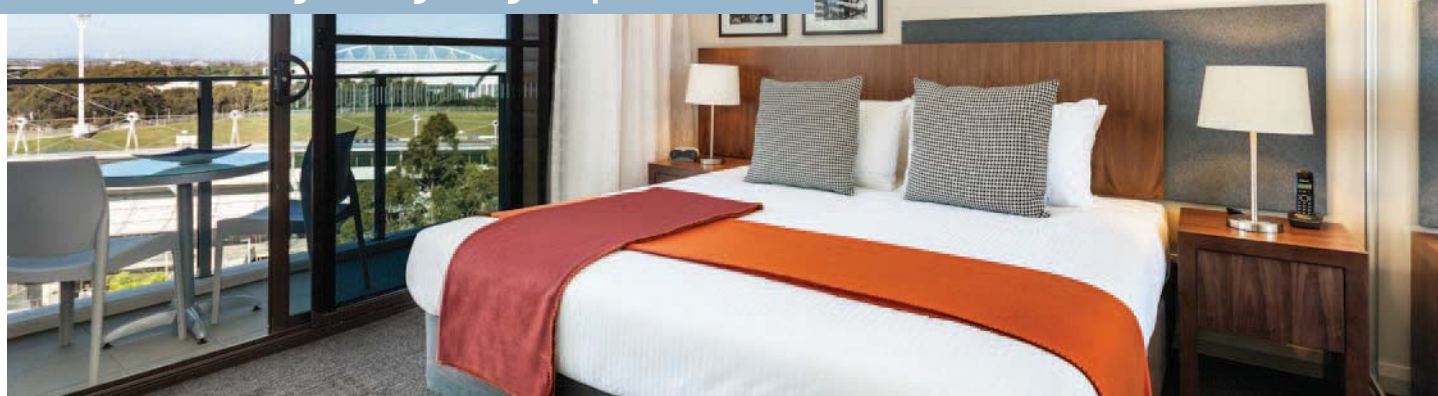
The function space, billed as the first on- and over-water harbour side hotel in Sydney features floor to ceiling windows in all eight conference rooms, offering views of the Opera House, Harbour Bridge, Luna Park & the Harbour.

A private pontoon allows drop off & pick up by water taxi and harbour or cruise boats for conference, weddings, parties and gala occasions.

PCOs booking events of \$5000+, and 10 room nights or more from 01 Jan-31 Jul 2013, have a chance to win an Etihad Airways Pearl Business Class trip for two, to the destination of their choice - details at www.bit.ly/sebelEYPCO.

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Outrigger opening

THE 156-room Outrigger Phi Phi Island Resort & Spa will officially open tomorrow in Southern Thailand, managed by Outrigger Hotels and Resorts.

Evergreening up the Apple Isle



ABOVE: This group of 26 lucky agents from around Australia were recently showcased the best of Tasmania, affectionately known as the Apple Isle, during a recent seven-day famil trip.

Hosted by Evergreen Tours, the group bore witness to the many natural wonders that lie within the state, as well as sampled the many highlights that can be found all around and within it.

The group enjoyed many fine examples of the delectable cuisine available for visitors to try, served up with a variety of fine wines specially selected to complement the dishes served up.

Among the many highlights of their week in Tassie, a repeated favourite among the group was the Gorden River Cruise & a bevy of intriguing stories about old

convict settlements of the area.

The group, **pictured** above at the Ashgrove cheese factory, consisted of, from left in the back row, Melanie French, Eloise Brown, Jemma Bentley, Helen Phillips, Susanne O'Donnell, Kirsty Ganfield, Melissa Birkett, Enid Givney, Maurice O'Donnell, Lakis Polyviou, Jodie Whan, Helen Boland and Evergreen Tours coach captain, James.

Middle row: Angie Reynolds from Evergreen Tours, Rosemary Cheney, Monica Noonan, Kylie Brooks, Cassandra Butler, Janina Hiziak, Nicole Mirams-Harrison, Vynis Hui and Sharonella Noda.

Front row: Nicole Yelland from Evergreen Tours, Karli McKenzie, Keir Tilse, Lily Davies, Francesca La Forgia, Tania Hemsley, Vasiliki Polyviou and Nerida O'Brien.

TCF states its case on TITP

THE Travel Compensation Fund has highlighted a range of possible implications involved with the winding up of the scheme, as one of the submissions to the proposed Travel Industry Transition Plan (**TD** yesterday).

The submission highlights that at present the TCF provides consumer protection "at no cost to either the government or consumers," pointing out that claims are actioned and paid within 5-7 days "so consumer travel plans are generally not

delayed or interrupted".

The TCF urges that any new consumer protection scheme should include some sort of complaints mechanism, and warns that with the winding up of the fund consumer confidence in the travel agent sector generally "may be negatively impacted".

The response also claims that the key assumption that more money is being spent on administration of the fund than is being paid out is a "misconception," with the majority of TCF operational costs spent on prudential supervision and risk mitigation.

The TCF added that the proposals could see a "lessening of ability to compete for many small independent agents".

Other submissions include one from CATO, which has backed the AFTA proposals and in particular an ACCC sanctioned conduct code.

Record Vila arrival

PORT Vila welcomed its largest ever ship yesterday when Carnival Spirit made its inaugural visit to Vanuatu, carrying over 2,500 pax.

Crew and passengers were welcomed with cultural dances & tropical refreshments, Vanuatu Toursim Office reported.



Corporate Sales Manager Sydney Sales Office

Cathay Pacific Airways is looking for a highly motivated and experienced Corporate Sales Manager to join the Sydney sales team.

Reporting to the Business Development Manager NSW/ACT, the successful applicant will be part of a team of 3 managing corporate sales in NSW and be responsible for:

- Identifying and converting new corporate opportunities.
- Maintaining and growing the potential from an existing corporate client base.

The successful candidate will need to demonstrate the following:

- Experience in working with Corporate Travel Management Companies
- Experience in dealing with Travel Procurement Managers from medium and large Corporate businesses
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- Demonstrates a solid sales background with proven results
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If you have the above skills and are confident of achieving complete success, please send your resume, detailing salary expectations to: Business Development Manager NSW/ACT

email: richard_jones@cathaypacific.com

Applications close 15 November 2012.

Please note: Only those applicants who are successful in gaining an interview will be notified.



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ADELAIDE	13 Nov 2012	CROWNE PLAZA Adelaide	16 Hindmarsh Square
MELBOURNE	14 Nov 2012	STAMFORD PLAZA	111 Little Collins Street
BRISBANE	15 Nov 2012	HILTON Brisbane	190 Elizabeth Street

Market Place Opens 5.30pm Evening ends by 9pm

These events are strictly limited and RSVPs will be taken on first come, first serve basis. So don't miss out and reserve your seat today!

Popping off to the Pullman



IT WAS party time at the newly rebranded Pullman Brisbane King George Square and the adjacent Mercure, as both hotels officially joined the Accor group of brands.

As flagged first by *Travel Daily* this week (**TD Mon**), the former Sebel & Citigate hotels were the latest properties from the former Mirvac Group to rebrand as part of the Accor takeover.

The property is now undergoing a \$7 million renovation which will see all 210 rooms brought up to Pullman standard as well as a new reception area and lounge.

Meeting & conference facilities are also set for a revamp, along

with new exterior painting and signage, with the finished project set to be unveiled early next year.

"The rebranding of The Sebel and Citigate King George Square Brisbane is very exciting for Accor," chief operating officer Simon McGrath said.

"Once the refurbishment is complete, the hotel will certainly rival some of Accor's best Pullman hotels in Asia - we are investing heavily into this property and look forward to seeing our customers enjoy the benefits".

Pictured hardly able to contain his joy is the hotel's general manager Grant Parnell, with staff.



Sydney & Canberra Retail Manager

At Greyhound we are always looking for great talent, and we are currently seeking an action oriented individual to fill the role of Sydney and Canberra Retail Manager based in Sydney.

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To be successful in this role, you will have experience across sales, retail processes, people management, budgeting, pricing and products, driving cultural change and team building. You need to understand management and structure and be able to oversee people remotely. Travel industry experience is desirable but not essential.

You can expect an excellent salary package including our employee benefits program. Please forward your application to applications@greyhound.com.au

QF Club faster wifi

QANTAS has completed the roll-out of a new Optus wifi solution at 40 lounges nationally, which QF Domestic ceo Lyell Strambi says "is not matched by any other airline at Australian airports."

The implementation of the high speed internet connectivity began 12 months ago at Sydney Airport T3 Domestic and was concluded this month at Canberra Airport.

The Optus service is offered at all Qantas Club and Qantas First & Business Lounge customers at domestic and int'l terminals at 20 capital cities & regional airports including Sydney, Brisbane, Perth Melbourne, Adelaide, Darwin, Hobart and Canberra.

Regionally, QF pax can connect to the service at airports including Alice Springs, Broome, Coffs Harbour, Cairns, Karratha, Kalgoorlie, Launceston, Mackay, Port Headland, Townsville and Rockhampton.

Brindabella SYD jet

BRINDABELLA Airlines will lift capacity by up to 60% on services from Sydney from 19 Nov when it repositions its BAE Jetstream 41 aircraft to the NSW capital.

Chief commercial officer Fabrice Binet said the move will allow the carrier to more effectively meet passenger demand.

The base move of the 30-seater Jetstream "is an important next step in Aeropelican & Brindabella Airlines ongoing diversification plans to respond to the demands of regional air travel" it said.

LH cans MUC-MEX

LUFTHANSA has suspended the planned launch of direct flights between Munich and Mexico City, which were due to commence on 31 Mar 2013.

The German flag carrier already operates to MEX from Frankfurt.

Air France fees fine

THE US Dept of Transportation has hit Air France with a penalty of US\$85,000 for failing to disclose "substantial fees" which applied when frequent flyers redeemed miles for tickets.

"Those fees could amount to more than half the price of certain purchased coach tickets. This was unfair and misleading to customers," US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said.

Technology Update

Today's Technology Update is brought to you by Amadeus IT Pacific.

Cyclone Sandy reminds us of our duty



Cyclone Sandy has been a vivid reminder of the vulnerability of the travel industry to acts of

Mother Nature. While as people, the safety of those directly affected by "Frankenstorm," is top of our minds, as professionals we focus on fulfilling our duty of care to travellers affected across the airline network.

While some travellers may feel stranded and face great complications to their onward journey, travellers who book via an Amadeus agency on an Amadeus-hosted or "Altéa" airline can be reassured that their agent has the best possible chance of helping them. Amadeus agents CAN share and look directly into the reservation system of Altéa carriers and at the same PNR, enabling them to *immediately* see any changes made to the booking by the airline, the exact number of seats available and the exact fare.

There are over 140 Altéa airlines, including 75% of Oneworld carriers, 64% of Star Alliance carriers and 53% of Skyteam. Airline partners use Altéa and the single view of the PNR to automatically accommodate disrupted passengers, all the while keeping Altéa agents 100% in the loop. This means they are able to guide their customers through the entire experience and ensure that Mother Nature impacts the traveller as little as possible.

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Sari Vahakoski, Managing Director, Amadeus IT Pacific

AMADEUS
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Second 787 for UA

UNITED Airlines has taken delivery of its second Boeing 787 slightly behind schedule, adding it believed subsequent deliveries could also be delayed.

Joyce firmly focused on EK deal

QANTAS ceo Alan Joyce says the company is "moving at pace to fix" its international division, with the proposed new global partnership with Emirates set to "revitalise Qantas on the fiercely competitive Kangaroo Route".

Speaking at the carrier's annual general meeting in Canberra this morning, Joyce told shareholders the EK deal is a "partnership of equals - an integrated commercial arrangement that will give our customers a global network, world class travel experiences and extensive frequent flyer benefits".

He said that all other parts of the business are profitable,

adding that Jetstar and Frequent Flyer "saw us through the GFC".

Joyce also said he deeply regretted the disruption caused by the grounding of the Qantas fleet a year ago, "but I believe our recovery has been in the finest traditions of Qantas' commitment to customer service".

Other initiatives over the last year have seen "hard decisions" including consolidating heavy maintenance and catering infrastructure, as well as introducing new work processes which "reflect modern aircraft technology, regulatory change and global industry standards".

Joyce said that with the Emirates partnership still subject to regulatory approval, "we take nothing for granted."

"But it has received the backing of the Federal government and been warmly welcomed by our customers, employees and the tourism industry," he said.

Country Club free wifi

SOUTH Australia's Country Club Hotels & Resorts says the group is responding to customer requests by waiving wifi fees at five hotels, in a bid to be "market leaders."

The offer applies at the Adelaide Meridian Hotel & Apartments, Adelaide Royal Coach, McCracken Country Club, Clare Country Club and John Pirie Motor Inn.

BA hols in hot water

ADVERTISING regulators in the UK have ordered British Airways Holidays to withdraw a TV ad because of a complaint that the offer promoted was not available.

The Advertising Standards Authority was responding to a complaint about a trip to Barbados, with a consumer saying he'd been unable to find the holiday at the 'from' price of £549.

BA said it didn't directly control availability, but the ASA ruled that the advertisement must not be shown again in its current form.

The tour operator was also told to make it clear in future that offers are "extremely limited".



Travel Specials

TRAVEL INDUSTRY CLUB



Travel, for travel people

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.

Cruises like this don't come much cheaper than this. Through the **Travel Industry Club**, a 16-night cruise from South America to Antarctica and back is available for a pittance amount of \$2321ppts. A visit to the most untouched place on earth awaits, and to book, call TIC on (02) 9700 8711.

Crowne Plaza properties in Canberra, Sydney's Coogee Beach, Hunter Valley & Terrigal has launched the "Time for you" package, which sees \$50 chopped off the bill for every night of the stay during the summer months. Contact the hotel and quote package name to book your room.

Savings of up to \$5,000 per cabin are available through **Holidays to Europe** on a magical 42-night cruise from Singapore to Istanbul aboard the *Aegean Odyssey*, with a free flight from SYD, MEL, BNE or PER to Singapore and from Istanbul back to Australia. Total package price starts at \$11,380ppts and to learn more or book, visit www.holidaystoeurope.com/specials.

Adventure World is offering savings of up to \$1138pp on a 14-night South African Essentials package. Inclusive of flights with SAA and many meals, the tour travels from Cape Town to Johannesburg or vice versa, visiting a range of local highlights. Valid for sale until 14 Dec & set departure dates, the package is priced at \$3899ppts. Call AW on 1300 295 049 to book.

Cudo Sea World smash

AUSTRALIAN Group Buying company Cudo generated more than \$3 million in revenue for Sea World Resort on the Gold Coast during a seven-day campaign.

According to Sea World, the 3,400 five-night family holiday packages sold was a new Aussie record for Group Buying sites.

Sea World Resort GM Bikash Randhawa said the result means 1,400 people who weren't going to the Gold Coast last week are now plotting a holiday to the area.

Rotorua CZ MoU

A DELEGATION from Rotorua last week signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Guangzhou with China Southern Airlines, aimed at "mutually growing profile and opportunities".

The North Island city will now work with CZ's marketing and public relations divisions to grow the China "semi FIT and high end" visitor segments to New Zealand.

Currently Rotorua welcomes about 85% of all Chinese visitor arrivals to New Zealand.

SHINY LOCKS YEAR ROUND



This week *TD* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a years supply of Paul Mitchell shampoo and

conditioner, courtesy of **Hawaiian Airlines** and **Paul Mitchell**.

For centuries, Hawaiian natives have used the fragrant juice of the Awapuhi ginger plant to moisturise skin and hair. Captivated by the plant's healing benefits, Paul Mitchell and co-founder/owner, John Paul DeJoria and friends established a sustainable solar-powered Awapuhi farm in Hawaii nearly 30 years ago.

For your chance to win this great prize, email your answer to the question below by COB on Friday to: awapuhi@traveldaily.com.au.

In 25 words or less tell us why would you recommend Hawaiian Airlines to your clients to Hawaii & the US Mainland?

awapuhi wild ginger
PAUL MITCHELL



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If you are interested in joining our dynamic team please email your CV and list of countries that you have travelled to todd@tucantravel.com

Rail Plus launches corporate booking platform

SIGNIFICANT input by corporate travel specialists was sought for the design of Rail Plus' brand new dedicated corporate booking site, which was unveiled to select members of the trade this week.

The secure new platform is highly customisable and aimed at making the booking of European rail as easy & flexible as possible.

Following on from the launch of Rail Plus' revamped leisure online portal, the corporate site adopts a similar look to it, with users able to select from the company's range of point-to-point tickets and passes from the home page.

Frequent bookings of the same sector is also extremely easy with the ability for the user to prepare

a quick list of commonly booked journeys for quick use in future.

By all accounts from members of the trade present at this week's launch, the revamped site is set to immeasurably boost the efficiency of making rail bookings throughout Europe and beyond.

Enjoy this collection of photos from the special launch event.

BELOW: Alka Thapar, Rail Plus NZ and Matt Symonds, Rail Plus.

BELOW: Showing they buy their shirts at the same store, Greg McCallum, Rail Plus hams it up with Chris Waite from Amadeus and Paul Millan from The Travel Authority.



ABOVE: Jennie Short of Amadeus grinning alongside Suzanne Laister of Travelmanagers.



RIGHT: Sue Pope and Dianne Tunks from QBT interested in all the Rail Plus fuss.



BELOW: David McCredie and Deborah Guion from the British Chamber of Commerce, with Marvel Svatos of the Swiss Chamber and Anil Rodricks from Swiss International Airlines.



BELOW: Marianne Biville and Julia Laconte from the French Chambers of Commerce.



ABOVE: Simon Boileau, Travel Partners with Adam Vance of Etihad Airways.



RIGHT: Paul Millan of The Travel Authority with Dan Penner from JTG and Simon Boileau, Travel Partners.



BELOW: Michael Gazal of Travelmanagers with Matt Symonds from Rail Plus.



BELOW: Alka Thapar of Rail Plus NZ with Richard Leonard from Rail Europe.



ABOVE: Florence Pasquier, Rail Europe alongside David Stafford, Greg McCallum, Alka Thapar and Matt Symonds from Rail Plus, with Richard Leonard from Rail Europe.

Where were you in 1982?



TRAVELSCENE Corporate member, Reho Travel, fresh off the move into brand new offices, continued its 30th anniversary celebrations by turning on the time machine and jumping back in history to the year 1982.

The company invited its VIP clients and key supplier partners to the party, challenging everyone to dress as famous characters from thirty years ago, with two tickets to Bali and five-nights accommodation up for grabs to the best and most creatively dressed.

Much thought and effort went into the costumes, with musicians Boy George and Cyndi Lauper turning up, alongside a Care Bear, and even Ben Kingsley from perhaps his most famous role as

AirAsia boosts Hanoi

MALAYSIAN low-cost carrier AirAsia has announced increased frequencies between Kuala Lumpur and Hanoi, moving to ten flights weekly effective 22 Jan.

Mahatma Gandhi.

Other characters who made appearances at the party included Toni Basil, numerous glam rockers, Hot Lips Houlahan from M.A.S.H. and even Italy's most famous plumber, Super Mario himself.

The party attendees dressed in their fancy retro splendour are **pictured** above at the party.

Fafa special deal

TONGA'S Fafa Island Resort has announced that it's now offering a Stay 5/Pay 4 special valid right through until Mar 2014.

Private transfers to the island are available 24 hours a day meaning guests can head straight to the resort after landing in the Kingdom and use it as a base to explore the mainland, rather than the other way around.

The resort consists of just 13 private bungalows - more info at www.fafaislandresort.com.

Major AKL conference

THE 23rd International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences will take place in Auckland in 2016, with the city's bid assisted by the recently established Auckland Convention Bureau Bid Fund.

GROW A MO AND WIN A CRUISE

Cunard in conjunction with **Travel Daily** is supporting Movember and is urging the industry to take part in the charity event.

The Movember event raises awareness and funds for men's health issues, such as prostate cancer & male depression, by encouraging people to sport a moustache and get sponsored.

Guys can take part as a Mo' Bro by grabbing some colleagues and registering a team and girls can help out as a Mo' Sis and posing with a mo (see the website for more details).

WIN THE MAJOR PRIZE:

Three-night voyage on *Queen Mary 2*

1. Register your details at <http://au.movember.com/>
2. Email your individual or team name to: mocomp@traveldaily.com.au
3. Grow some impressive facial hair or buy/make a fake mo.
4. Send in photos to feature on the **Travel Daily** website, with the link to your mo' page.

Click here for more details and Terms & Conditions of the competition



LH profit up 30%

LUFTHANSA has seen a strong third quarter result, overnight reporting a 30% increase in net profit for the three months to 30 Sep this year.

Revenues rose 6.2% to €8.3 billion and the overall net profit was €642 million for the period - but that offset poorer performances in previous quarters meaning the year to date profit figure is €474 million - up almost 65% on the previous corresponding period.

Group passenger numbers, including SWISS and Austrian, totalled 78.8 million for the nine months to 30 Sep, up 3.5%, while the overall passenger load factor rose 1.2 points to 79.3%.

The company vowed to intensify cost-saving measures and warned that "the climate is becoming rougher" with progress to date in reducing expenses "not enough to earn adequate margins".

MGM partners with Royal Caribbean

CASINO giant MGM Resorts International has announced a new partnership with Royal Caribbean which will allow clients to redeem customer reward points with either company effective from Jan 2013.

Under the deal, members of MGM's M Life programs can earn points towards free cruises with Royal Caribbean, while RCI's Crown & Anchor Society members can utilise rewards benefits at MGM casino-hotels in Mississippi, Detroit and Las Vegas.

WS Encore YYC base

CANADIAN carrier WestJet has confirmed its subsidiary, WestJet Encore will be headquartered in Calgary, Alberta.

The regional offshoot will launch in the next 18 months with a fleet of Bombardier Q400s.

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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