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# Travel Daily

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Tuesday 13th November 2012

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## MU MoU for Tourism Aust

**TOURISM** Australia has today signed a "major aviation marketing deal" which will see almost \$9m invested in Chinese marketing over the next three years, in partnership with China Eastern Airlines.

TA md Andrew McEvoy sealed the deal with MU president Mr Ma Xulun in Shanghai, at the opening of Tourism Aust's Greater China Travel Mission 2012.

China Eastern and TA will each contribute \$4.3m towards joint marketing initiatives, while the carrier will also provide flights to support travel industry famils, trade shows and media trips to promote travel to Australia.

The move continues China Eastern's strong focus on Australia, which includes its

recent launch of direct flights between Shanghai and Cairns (TD 30 Oct), as well as a significant partnership with Qantas.

As well as operating a QF codeshare agreement, China Eastern is Qantas' joint venture partner in Jetstar Hong Kong which is planned for a 2013 debut.

McEvoy said that with more than 600,000 Chinese travellers visiting Australia each year, "large aviation partnerships with China's leading airlines, such as China Eastern, remain critical for Australia to tap into the country's enormous tourism potential".

### Eight pages of news

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

- TMS Asia Pacific jobs
- AA Appointments jobs
- Rail Plus
- Adventure World

### Pic your AW brochures

**ADVENTURE** World is challenging travel consultants to send photos of its brochures on display in their agency - including Star Clippers, Exodus, Acacia Africa, TrekAmerica and Adventure World - for an opportunity to win a trip for four to Fiji's Sonaisali Island Resort.

For details see the **last page**; photos must be sent by 17 Dec to [display@adventureworld.com.au](mailto:display@adventureworld.com.au)

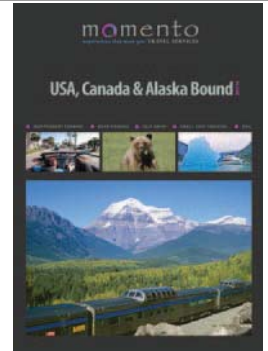


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## Webjet Windows 8

**WEBJET** was today announced as the exclusive launch travel partner for Microsoft's new Windows 8 operating system.

Webjet's Windows 8 version features "the fluidic philosophy initially established with our mobile platform applications," according to md John Guscic.

Webjet is also now offering "same-day arrival" for selected domestic hotels and flights, a "unique last minute offering".

## \$4m of CIC client liabilities

**THE** administrator of the collapsed Classic International Cruises is seeking legal advice on the status of a "client account" which is understood to contain around \$3 million - but has downplayed suggestions this money could be returned to clients, with other significant liabilities also outstanding.

Yesterday Lawler Partners convened a creditors' meeting for CIC, which pulled the pin on its planned *Athena* summer season after the vessel was impounded

in Marseille over unpaid bills.

Around 5000 travellers are believed to be out of pocket, with clients owed as much as \$4m total and over \$300,000 in claims already received by the TCF.

"The claims are building up quickly," TCF ceo Glen Wells told **TD** this morning, with the first tranche relating mainly to those who had flown to France to join the repositioning cruise.

They're being paid out by the TCF, which becomes an unsecured creditor of the CIC, and will now work with the administrator to recover what it can.

Wells said that claims so far averaged \$7,000-\$8,000 each.

**MEANWHILE**, the TCF this morning also advised of the non-voluntary termination of Ashfield, NSW agency Omega World Travel.

Omega World attracted media attention last month (**TD** 18 Oct) when a group of its clients was stranded at Sydney Airport after being denied boarding.

At the time the agency's website falsely claimed it was a member of both Travelscene American Express and AFTA.

## New role for Parton

**AIR NZ's** group gm shorthaul, Bruce Parton, has been appointed to the newly created role of Chief Operating Officer for the carrier, with the move effective from 01 Jan 2013 (**TD** breaking news).

He'll report to ceo-designate Christopher Luxon (taking over from Rob Fyfe on the same date), who said the internal appointment "further supports a strong Executive leadership team ready to hit the ground running".

## Delta blocks OALs

**DELTA** Air Lines is asking travel agents to use a separate PNR when booking Other Air Line segments, "to avoid erroneous cancellations".

Some agents contacted by **TD** are very concerned about the request, because it will mean that on an interline itinerary, airlines won't be aware of delays on connecting flights and this could potentially lead to perceived no-shows and cancellations for onward travel.



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## WA China 2020 tourism strategy

**TOURISM** Western Australia will strive to boost Chinese visitor numbers from 19,000 last year to 100,000, worth \$500 million in visitor spend, by 2020.

Details of the organisation's 2012-2015 China Strategy were revealed by Tourism Minister Kim Hames last weekend.

In the year to Jun 2012, Chinese visitor numbers spiked 43.3% to 27,800 movements, which follows a 57% rise in 2011.

Tourism WA's strategy will focus mostly (70%) on the markets out of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Nanjing and Hangzhou.

Secondary markets include Chongqing, Tianjin, Ningbo and Suzhou, specifically for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibition (MICE) opportunities.

TWA's strategic pillars cover aviation development (direct and indirect services into Western Australia), consumer marketing, industry development, trade development and partnerships.

Among topics covered in the comprehensive strategy, TWA outlined challenges with aviation development due to accessibility, pricing strategy and lack of special offers to agents, Chinese carrier brand penetration and bookability via GDS.

A lack of Chinese carrier airline alliances with Australian carriers creates "challenges" to link with intrastate fares and schedules, the report indicates.

Perth & Australia's South West are priority destinations "ready to meet Chinese expectations", while WA's Coral Coast, Golden Outback and North West have "growth potential for broader market in the medium to long term."

Tourism WA is today wrapping up its annual China Mission in Guangzhou and Shanghai, giving WA tourism operators a chance to develop business ties with Chinese-based travel agents.

More at [www.bit.ly/WA2020](http://www.bit.ly/WA2020).

### Horizons adds Laos

**NEW** Horizons Holidays has incorporated Laos into its stable of destinations for the first time.

A range of Laos accom options make their debut in the firm's just released Vietnam with Cambodia & Laos brochure, which has been expanded in 2013 in response to consumer demand.

MD Chris Evans said NHH saw a 25% growth in sales in 2012.

### Creative CAN layovers

**CREATIVE** Holidays has two-night stopover packages in Guangzhou priced from \$129pp, when booking flights to Europe with China Southern Airlines.

The deal includes daily brekkie and is valid for travel up until 31 Mar, when booked by 31 Dec.

### FJ charter 777-200ER

**AIR** Pacific will charter a Boeing 777-200ER aircraft to operate 10 international services over the next month while one of its 747-400 jumbos undergoes heavy maintenance in Singapore.

The 777 is being chartered from Portugal's Euro Atlantic Airways, and features 28 Business and 288 Economy class seats, going into service from today until 15 Dec.

It will be operated by Euro Atlantic pilots (supported by Air Pacific cabin crew), and fly five flights to Los Angeles, three to Hong Kong and two to Sydney.

FJ says customers can expect "the same or similar" onboard services & operational standards as offered on the 747.

The equipment change will result in a four-hour delay of FJ's Nadi-Auckland-Nadi and Nadi-Sydney-Nadi services on 01 Dec, while the Nadi-Los Angeles flight will be pushed back eight hours on 09 Dec, now departing 10 Dec.

FJ apologised to passengers impacted by the disruptions.

### Tiger loads falling

**TIGER** Airways Australia has reported a 112% increase in pax carried during Oct, up to 218,000, with the big gain a result of last year's significantly reduced capacity following its CASA-enforced grounding.

Passenger load factors dropped four percentage points to 81%.

Load factors for the 12 months to Oct are down 2 points to 82%.



**THE** Greek island of Rhodes has launched a new campaign in London encouraging Britons to escape the winter cold.

Dubbed 'Sunkissed by Rodos,' the experiential event will see a team of "sunkissers" launched onto the UK capital's streets on the Winter solstice, Fri 21 Dec - the shortest day of the year.

They'll be tasked with hugging and kissing pedestrians to warm them up, with a campaign video launched last week at World Travel Market - click the logo to view or see [traveldaily.com.au/videos](http://traveldaily.com.au/videos).



**PERHAPS** this was one of the drivers for the Qantas decision to shift the midpoint for its London flights to Dubai.

The first ever Heineken Airport Lounge outside of the USA has just opened at Dubai International Airport, and is an ideal stop-off point for thirsty travellers waiting to depart.

The Heineken lounge offers the famous Dutch brew on tap and in bottles - and also offers non-alcoholic beverages and a range of "gourmet snacks".

And it's not all play, with the venue also offering free wifi and power points for phone and laptop recharging.

A second Heineken lounge is set to debut at DXB in early 2013.

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## Tourism workers lowest paid

**AVERAGE** total salaries in the tourism and hospitality sectors in Australia are just half of the levels for the overall population.

According to the latest bi-annual MyCareer Employment Forecast released this morning, the local tourism market is showing some signs of improvement, but jobs in tourism and hospitality have contracted by 2.7% in the last 12 months.

The biggest decline was in NSW, down 2%, while Vic jobs grew 1.25 and SA was up 0.4%.

But things are looking up, with overall growth in tourism and

hospitality jobs expected to be 1.1% for the year to May 2013.

The report says that full time workers in the tourism sector have the lowest average pay, at \$50,500 per annum - less than half that of those in mining who are paid an average of \$119,100.

Wages in tourism and hospitality are forecast to rise by 2.5% as the domestic industry continues to recover.

With interstate visitor and international inbound spending increasing, accommodation revenue has started to improve and "the growth in spending will translate into jobs growth in the future," the report predicts.

"Australians travelling out of Australia continue to be a dampener on this sector...but the continued recovery in business travel will support a return to jobs growth," it added.

## Topdeck for SYD NYE

**TOPDECK** has released a three-night Sydney New Year's Eve trip that includes a 31 Dec harbour party cruise with all drinks, and based at Vibe Hotel Rushcutters Bay, priced from \$1,325ppts.

## UA First turn-down

**UNITED** Airlines will offer pax flying in United Global First a new turn-down service on all long-haul flights which includes a sleeping cushion, soft pillows and Philosophy-branded amenity kits.

## SAA recruits

**TRACY** Thomas has been named as Sales Manager - Corporate, Groups & MICE markets at South African Airways, responsible for planning, developing and implementing sales strategies.

## Indian Hotels mulling

**THE** Indian Hotels Company Ltd is "considering their options" after having its unsolicited proposal to acquire Orient-Express knocked back (**TD** Fri).

The owner of Taj Hotels and Palaces, along with Montezemolo & Partners said they will review the position taken by the Orient-Express Board.

IHCL offered a whopping \$1.2 billion dollars to takeover Orient-Express, a proposal rejected as it "is deeply unattractive from a financial perspective," Orient-Express chairman Robert Lovejoy said last week.

## Quest sod turning

**QUEST** Serviced Apartments has broken ground on its newest development in Townsville.

Slated to open in late 2013, the \$25 million project will be home to 88 studio, one-, two- & three-bedroom apartments.

The Quest Townsville property's key market will be long stay business travellers visiting the Queensland city for defence, mining and tourism purposes.

## Rex clarification

**REGIONAL** Express has clarified it does not utilise the Navitaire online check-in system (it uses Sabre) and none of its passengers were affected by a system outage on Sat (**TD** yesterday).

## Portugal strikes

**DFAT** is alerting travellers of a general strike in Portugal planned for 14 Nov, which is likely to lead to transport services, including flights, being "severely affected".

## Solomon showcase

**SOLOMON** Islands Visitors Bureau and Solomon Airlines is hosting a destination showcase in Sydney & Melbourne on 22 and 26 Nov with agents invited along.

RSVP to attend by 16 Nov to [www.bit.ly/solomonshows](http://www.bit.ly/solomonshows).

## WA customises trips for Chinese visitors

**THE** West Australian govt has confirmed the development of some 20 travel itineraries, pitched specifically at Chinese travellers.

Produced by four top China-based and one local agency, the customised trips are part of a \$4m co-operative marketing campaign between Tourism WA, China Southern Airlines and Tourism Australia (**TD** 16 Aug).

The campaign aims to increase Chinese visitors to WA, with trips including self-drives, golfing holidays and wine tasting tours.

"These tailored consumer packages will feature extraordinary tourism experiences and products across WA to suit independent as well as group travellers," said WA Tourism Minister Kim Hames.

The partners are based in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, where the itineraries will be promoted via print media, online and through retail outlets.

## Elliot off the bottle

**THE** Great Barrier Reef's Lady Elliot Island has eliminated the sale of bottled water at the resort as a 'green' eco-initiative.

Guests will be offered reusable bottles which can be refilled at drinking fountains or in rooms.

## DiscoverLA website

**THE** Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board has rolled out the [discoverLosAngeles.com](http://discoverLosAngeles.com) online resource for visitors.

It features celebrities answering common questions about things to do and see in different parts of the city, including Australia's own celebrity chef Curtis Stone.

Browsers can also find out where to eat, shop and play in LA.

The portal's release is the latest installment in LA Tourism's global destination branding campaign, which will also see an integrated marketing push through TV, print and digital mediums in select markets from early next year.



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## Skimax early birds

**TRAVEL** agents have until 15 Nov to take advantage of Skimax early bird deals of up to 35% off regular prices for their clients.

Ski deals are on offer in the USA, Canada, Japan or Europe.

## New Ponant Asia trip

**COMPAGNIE** du Ponant has introduced a new 8-night cruise itinerary aboard the brand new *Le Soleal*, commencing operation out of Hong Kong from 22 Oct 2013.

Priced from \$5,809pp the voyage visits Halong Bay, Hoi An, Nha Trang and Ho Chi Minh City. Further details on 1300 950 622.

## Faster 787 production

**BOEING** has announced its increasing the production rate of its 787 *Dreamliner* aircraft to five per month, doubling the rate of the same time last year.

To date, 83 787s have been built with 35 delivered to eight carriers but has a back-log of over 800 orders to 58 customers worldwide, including the Qantas Group.

## Marquis Dubai opens

**MARRIOTT** Int'l has welcomed its first guests to the 5-star JW Marriott Marquis Hotel in Dubai, recognised as the world's tallest hotel at a height of 355 metres.

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Philippine Airlines

## Quarantine fast-tracking entry

**THE** Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry has made quarantine clearance easier with commercially-prepared/packaged chips, chocolates and lollies no longer needing to be declared.

Adopted at arrival points around the country, the move is a result of the latest scientific advice suggesting commercial food goods pose a "lower risk".

"The change means most pax can look forward to a quicker and more convenient biosecurity clearance," the authority says.

Biosecurity officers will instead turn their attention to goods such

as raw meats, live plants, seeds and fresh fruit & vegetables that pose greater risks to bring in potential diseases and pests.

Incoming Passenger Cards have been modified, with questions now focused on if people are carrying animal products, plant items or items with soil attached.

The Tourism & Transport Forum welcomed the new legislation from mandatory screening to a risk-based approach.

But it raised concerns as to why the Passenger Movement Charge levy needed to be raised recently when processing is more efficient.

## account manager - wa maternity relief position

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## Malaysia for thrill seekers



**TOURISM** Malaysia has gone all out to promote the country as a mecca for thrill-seekers, staging a Malaysia Adventure Dinner Seminar in Sydney last night.

Over 60 Aussie agents that sell Malaysia held a mini travel-mart at Coach Restaurant in Martin Place and were updated on new products and soft adventures that the country now offers.

"Helicopter tours are really new, allowing visitors to see our parks and gardens and rainforests from the air," said Hafizmen Daud, Tourism Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur.

"All of our pilots have been trained to be tourist friendly with

expert commentary as they fly you over the Twin Towers in KL, or villages, mosques, Chinese temples, the beaches of Langkawi, the 99 islands in the Andaman Sea or National Parks," he added.

Heli-tours are priced from \$200pp for 30mins for up to four passengers.

**Pictured** at the event from left back row are: Junes Suhid and Hafizmen, Tourism Malaysia HQ; Lawrence Chin, Tabin Wildlife Holidays; Sharin Mokhtar, Tourism Malaysia Australia and Andrea Morgam, G Adventures.

Seated: Alison Mead, Intrepid & Nadine Bross, Adventure World.

## DL throws first pitch

**DELTA** Air Lines has announced its sponsorship of the Australian Baseball League, in an endeavour aimed at fostering young talent while promoting the sport in Aus.



**NATADOLA** Bay Championship Golf Course last weekend played host to this group of super early-risers on the first morning of TravelManagers 2012 conference, with the event taking place under sunny skies & a refreshing breeze.

Designed by multiple time major championship tournament winner and Fijian legend Vijay Singh, the Natadola course offers unobstructed views of the Pacific Ocean on nearly every hole, and

proved a ferocious challenge to most of the day's participants.

Although a high number of golf balls found their way into lakes, dense jungle and bushland, the activity was enjoyed by all players, some of whom were playing the game of golf for the first time.

Upon completion, a delectable array of fine foods welcomed golfers back to the clubhouse, where prizes were also distributed to the winning team of Suzanne Laister, Peter Kuti, Enrico Pecora and Robin Woods.

The golfing delegation, **pictured** above, also consisted of Michael Gazal, Julianne Gazal-Rizk, Anita Medcalf, Niall White, Bruce Irvine, Rick Fogarty, Renee Williams, Louise Wagstaff, Neil Wagstaff and Brad Thomas.

For more from the golf day, check out **Travel Daily's** exclusive photo gallery of images from on course on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/traveldaily](http://www.facebook.com/traveldaily).

## TM's marketing push

**A NEW** email marketing promo encouraging TravelManagers PTM's to boost their personal databases will be launched next month, entitled "Upgrade on Us".

Set to launch via a newly redesigned e-newsletter on 21 Dec, the company's National Partnership Office will fund prizes in the form of \$400 travel vouchers, to be given away to one of the network's clients fortnightly, throughout 2013.

The newsletter will also feature destination articles, photos and featured products, with the first winner to be announced in the first issue of next year, on 11 Jan.

## AFTA UPDATE

The latest insights from AFTA's Chief Executive, Jayson Westbury



**AS THE** detail around the latest disaster known as Classic International Cruise (CIC) starts to become more available, one must ask - WHY?

From my understanding of the situation, we have a cruise ship operator who via a representation company in Australia has taken monies for a cruise ship which as it appears were and are unable to provide. So the question for me is - who has all the money? Given that the sailings had not started and that all the payments that would have been passed to CIC were deposits or payments pre-departure, what happened to all the money? Meanwhile, agents are again stuck in the middle of the mess helping consumers to get re-accommodated if they can, dealing with the third party chargebacks if the agent acted as the merchant and for some, a referral to the TCF to get a refund. A great big mess once again in the same way as Kumuka in which the Australian operation says "it's not us - it's them", meaning the problem is with a company that is not controlled or domiciled here in Australia.

So the question has to be asked, why are the funds which have been paid into the TCF by Australian travel agents not being used to compensate consumers whose money has been sent to a non-Australian domiciled head office and who clearly have not been able to operate their cruise ship business in an appropriate way? As I said, another big mess. Like with Kumuka, all a bit easy for the directors of the company to throw their hand in the air and refer everyone to the TCF.

As we all know some consumers will get their money back via the TCF as that is the current system that is in place. But many will not, or many will get their money back via the travel agent who will in turn get nothing back from the administrator. As frustrating as all of this is, there is no easy answer to these problems. But I do think it is important to make the point that CIC was not a travel agent in the true meaning of the term. They were a cruise ship operator representation company, and that my friends, is very different to your local travel agent going into administration, which is the reason for the TCF in the first place.

This more than ever highlights the need for travel agents to be really mindful of who they are buying from and to whom they are passing their customers money.

Buyer beware - agents be careful!



## WIN TICKETS TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE!

This week **Travel Daily** is giving readers the chance to win the ultimate National Geographic prize, courtesy of **Adventure World**. Win one of three double passes to the spectacular event 'National Geographic Live' on 9th December at the Sydney Opera House, plus six runner-ups will win The Complete National Geographic Box Set!

Read National Geographic Traveller articles in the 2013 Adventure World brochure collection and get inspired to explore our amazing planet.

For your chance to win send in the most creative response to the question below to [awcomp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:awcomp@traveldaily.com.au)

**IN 25 WORDS OR LESS DESCRIBE WHICH ADVENTURE WORLD DESTINATION INSPIRES YOU THE MOST TO TRAVEL...**



## Agent focus at TM's forefront

**TRAVELMANAGERS** new general manager Michael Gazal has laid down the company's plans for 2013, flagging a big expansion in agent numbers network-wide.

In addition to improving margins and network efficiencies, Gazal said the success of a number of initiatives launched during 2012, including the roll-out of an online booking tool & boosted corporate presence, will lead to more being developed and launched next year.

A renewed focus on helping the Personal Travel Manager network add the value they want to add to bookings will be a priority, he said.

"We will do our best to bring as many things to the network that [PTM's] value," Gazal told **TD**.

"If we can continue to deliver to the masses, then we are going to continue to grow," he added.

In his opening address to the conference in Fiji last weekend, Gazal advised 70 new agents had

joined as new PTM's so far in 2012, at a 7% organic rate of growth, adding a goal is to build on this to position the company to be able to better compete in the market for new business.

A familiarisation target of 100 seats, with a mixture of exclusives and trips hosted by other travel businesses was exceeded in 2012, with plans for this to be maintained or exceeded in 2013.

## TM social media boost

**ENCOURAGEMENT** to embrace the powers of social media was one of the key messages expressed by TravelManagers Australia chairman Barry Mayo during last weekend's conference in Fiji.

The company has earmarked a plan to boost its Facebook profile, already with 300 "likers" and to be updated three times per week, along with a new blog to help PTM's connect with client bases.



# Achievers gather in Phuket



**QANTAS** Holidays and Viva! Holidays hosted their 17th annual Global Achievers Awards in Phuket last weekend.

The event was co-sponsored by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, and of the 200 travel consultants across Australia who made it to Global Achiever status this year, 160 made the trip to Phuket for the gala event.

Last year the program was expanded to encompass 200 agents, moving away from the previous revenue-based target for achievers (*TD* 12 Sep 11).

In 2012 the surprise performer was Aussie songstress Jessica Mauboy, who serenaded the crowd at the Latitude Marque in Laguna Phuket.

2012 national consultant of the year was once again Sarah Phillis from Platinum Escape, while the domestic consultant of the year

was Kirby Pedler of Travelscene Kadina.

The top achievers for each state this year were:

- ACT: Jenny Cooper, Queanbeyan City Travel & Cruise
- NSW: Angela Kaluzyn, Travelscene South West Travel
- NT: Glen Bull, HWT Darwin
- Qld: Jill Johansen, HWT Mackay
- SA: Sarah Phillis, Platinum Escape
- Tas: Matt Paine, HWT Launceston
- Vic: Stuart Coffield, Jetset Belmont
- WA: Greg Mant, Travelworld Inglewood.

Some of them are **pictured** above from left: Stuart Coffield, Jetset Belmont; Greg Mant, Travelworld Inglewood; Jenny Cooper, Queanbeyan City Travel & Cruise; Fiona Dalton, Qantas Hols/Viva! Hols National Industry Sales Manager; Angela Kaluzyn, Travelscene South West Travel; Sarah Phillis, Platinum Escape; Glen Bull, HWT Darwin; and Jill Johansen, HWT Mackay.

## Cheval Stay 7, Pay 6

**CHEVAL** Knightsbridge, London is throwing in a free night at the end of a week-long stay, for travel between now and 09 Dec, and 02 Jan through to 28 Feb.

The Stay 7, Pay 6 offer applies to apartments, townhouses or mews house - to book, phone The Hotel Connection on (03) 9520 2353 & quote "Christmas Shopping."

## Le Meridien Jimbaran

**FINAL** preparations are being completed on the Le Meridien Bali Jimbaran, with the 118-room resort accepting guests from Dec.

## Bennelong transforms

**SYDNEY** Opera House says it will "enliven" Bennelong Point over the next four months, with plans revealed today to transform the area into "an entertainment and culinary hub, day and night."

The "substantial transformation" aims to create a fairground-like atmosphere, with entertainment options for adults and children.

There will be live music, pop-up food stalls, free wifi & a Discount Box Office throughout Jan.

At sunset, Sydney Opera House will morph into a playground for adults, offering signature cocktails and DJ entertainment.

One night this summer, the SOH will also transform the Concert Hall Northern Foyers (inside the House) into a giant bedroom - see [www.sydneyoperahouse.com](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com).

## CZ postpones Cairns

**CHINA** Southern Airlines has delayed its Guangzhou-Brisbane-Cairns-Guangzhou service from a planned launch date of 18 Dec until 29 Jan, according to GDSs.

## EK reports 68% net profit jump

**EMIRATES** Group has released its half yearly profit report for the first six months of its fiscal year ending 30 Sep 2012, posting a US\$575m net profit, up 68%.

The carrier described the result as "robust" but cited higher fuel prices and global economic pressures as detracting factors on a potentially higher result.

EK's core airline business unit more than doubled its net profit, recording a 104% spike (US\$464m) on the back of 13 new aircraft and five new destinations added to the network in the half year.

Airline chief executive and chairman Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said continued

investment in infrastructure had continued to pay off.

"The instability in the market over the past six months has put Emirates to the test, and once again we have risen to the challenge, our results speak for themselves," Sheikh Ahmed said.

Load factors for the period increased to 80%, with Revenue Passenger Kilometres up 17.3%, with a total of 18.7m pax carried.

## Hertz offloads depots

**HERTZ** will rid itself of up to 12 car rental airport depot locations in the United States in order to win approval from the govt for its proposed acquisition of Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports the deal will appease regulators who are concerned the sale will leave Hertz with too much car rental control, particularly at airports, which could impact competition.

## Capt's South America

**THE** Captain's Choice Tour has today announced the launch of a new 20-day South America trip on a chartered Qantas 747-400.

The tour departs Australia on 26 Apr and will visit seven countries.

Highlights include visits to Machu Picchu, Iguazu Falls, the Galapagos Islands, Easter Island, Rio de Janeiro and Havana, Cuba.

All-inclusive prices start at \$25,990ppts in Deluxe Economy to \$46,990ppts in First Class.

## 1st Dreamliner for QR

**QATAR** Airways has confirmed its on schedule to take delivery of its first 787 *Dreamliner* aircraft this week from Boeing.

The Doha-based carrier has a fleet of 60 of the state-of-the-art carbon composite jets on order.

## Project Orient plan

**UK FIRM** Project Orient Limited has unveiled plans to introduce new regular cruise pax services between Britain and Australia, to launch in around four years.

Company executives propose to operate two 100,000-tonne ships year-round on a 25-day itinerary, operating to Sydney or Fremantle on possible routes via Dubai, India, Singapore, Panama or Cape Town.

See today's *Cruise Weekly* for further information.

## Money

**WELCOME** to *Money Talk*, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

**\$1AUD = US1.041**

**A PUBLIC** holiday in the US kept markets quiet overnight, but again, focus was on Europe, with the Euro at two-month lows, pushing the AUD comparison rate higher as a result, helped further by USD/EUR concerns.

Contraction by the Japanese economy in Q3, further buoying the AUD, which is riding the crest of a 6-month high wave, with the high currency blamed by major exporters struggling to compete. *Wholesale rates this morning:*

US	\$1.041
UK	£0.656
NZ	\$1.273
Euro	€0.820
Japan	¥82.88
Thailand	฿31.92
China	¥6.49
South Africa	R9.12
Canada	\$1.04
Crude oil	US\$85.49

# Alaskan adventure for everyone



**AUSTRALIA** and New Zealand have moved into the top spot for international visitor numbers to Alaska for the year ending 2011, with Australasia beating the United Kingdom who previously held the number one position.

US visitors are the biggest visitor market for the State, but international visitor numbers to Alaska were at an all time high over the past 12 months with 154,000 overseas visitors, comprising 10% of total arrivals - up one percentage point on 2010.

42,000 (27%) of these visitors came from Australia and NZ.

90% of Australian/NZ travellers visit Alaska to take a cruise and 31% of those visitors have also tacked on a pre or post tour option, Kathy Dunn, Tourism Marketing Manager, State of Alaska told *Travel Daily*.

"Repeat travellers come back and take time to explore the places they saw only briefly when doing a cruise", Dunn said.

More than three quarters of

Australians surveyed said they are very satisfied with their Alaskan experience.

A delegation of representatives from Alaska are in Australia this week to conduct a round of roadshows across the country.

Sydney was the first to experience all that Alaska has to offer and this will be followed by events in Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane throughout the week.

The USA's largest state in size is broken down into five regions - the far north, interior, south central, south east and south west - and due to its size, climate and wildlife, it can offer a different experience for everyone.

"Alaska has a lot of the 'biggest'" Dunn said, explaining that the state boasts 17 of the biggest mountains in the world, 5% of the state is covered by glaciers, there are over three million lakes and rivers, 455 bird species, a diverse geography and of course plenty of activities for the old and young.

For more information visit [www.TravelAlaska.com](http://www.TravelAlaska.com).

**Pictured** above from left are: Keith Baxter, Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council; Heather Dudick, Alaska Railroad Corp.; Kathy Dunn, State of Alaska; Kathy Hedges, Northern Alaska Tour Co.; Sue Jones, State of Alaska Tourism Office, Australia; Nancy Klinski, Visit Anchorage; Casey Ressler, Mat-Su; Deborah Hansen, Pike's Waterfront Lodge and Greg Allison, Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau.

## NZ Destination sites

**MY DESTINATION** has rolled out new location specific websites in New Zealand, including Auckland, Wellington, Rotorua, Christchurch and Queenstown.

The portals feature 'on the ground' content from each region and are part of a plan to expand its portfolio to 70 destinations.

CEO Neil Waller said the firm is "looking forward to continuing to grow our online community of tourism businesses and visitors in the months to come."

See [www.mydestination.com](http://www.mydestination.com).

## Windstar bookings up

**THE** year 2013 is set to be the fourth straight 12-month period of higher revenue for Windstar Cruises, with advance bookings up 60% year-on-year.

Windstar has invested \$18m on a fleet-wide renovation project over the past few years.

Tuesday 13th Nov 2012

## Air Pacific fare sale

**CHILD** return fares on Air Pacific services from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne have been cut to \$199, a saving of up to 65%.

The promo is valid for bookings until 21 Nov, travelling between 28 Jan and 31 May 2013.

Adult fares start at \$561 ex Sydney return, \$567 ex Brisbane and \$652 ex Melbourne - nearly 30% off regular fare prices.

The sale ends Wed 21 Nov.

## Voyages on Minder

**SITEMINDER** has added Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia's portfolio of seven properties, including Longitude 131, to its listings.

## 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](mailto: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](#)



**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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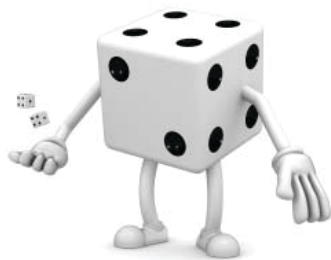
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- achievable team bonuses
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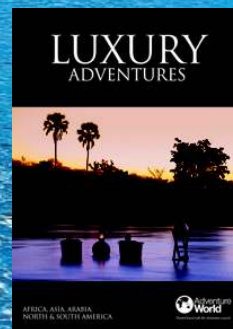
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1 entry will be given for each agency that emails a photo of their AW brochure display in their store before deadline date. [Minimum of 4 AW brochures displayed to qualify]  
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