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Wednesday 21st November 2012

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Abu Dhabi mega famil

SIXTY Aussie travel agents will be heading to Abu Dhabi in Mar next year as part of a sales incentive launching today.

Agents can register online at www.abudhabiexpert.com.au and record points for every booking made to Abu Dhabi between today and 16 Feb 2013.

The top sixty sellers will be awarded a place on the famil including return flights with EY or VA plus accom and tours.

Octopus retracts tentacles

ACCOMMODATION specialist Octopus Travel says it's firmly focused on the travel trade, with the closure of its consumer facing sites across the globe this week.

Some markets suspended consumer bookings on 19 Nov,

Etihad VA stake lower

ETIHAD'S shareholding in Virgin Australia has been diluted with the entrance of Singapore Airlines onto the Virgin share register.

247 million Virgin Australia Holdings shares were issued to Singapore Airlines earlier this week (**TD** Mon), and EY yesterday confirmed to **TD** that its stake in the carrier is now 9% - down from the previously announced 10% due to the new issue.

Air New Zealand boosted its stake by 50 million shares on Mon to keep its holding at 19.99%.

Send your mo photos

DON'T forget to send in your progress photos for this month's Movember comp, with a prize of a trip for two on Cunard's *Queen Mary 2* up for grabs - see **page 8**.

but existing reservations will be honoured until 31 Mar 2013.

"The closure is as a result of a strategic decision by our parent company to close Octopus Travel and we would like to reassure you that we are not going into administration," according to the octopustravel.com site.

However for the B2B operations in Australia it's business as usual, according to Octopus Travel spokesperson Jenny Dazeley.

She told **TD** this morning that the shutdown of the consumer site was "the end of an era" but "enables us to concentrate on what we do best as a trade-only online wholesaler".

The move follows Travelport's sale of GTA and Octopus to Swiss travel giant Kuoni (**TD** 08 Mar).

Another great issue!

TD today has eight pages of news, plus full pages: (**click**)

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CZ reduces Heathrow

CHINA Southern Airlines is decreasing frequencies between Guangzhou and London Heathrow for a period of 10 weeks from late-Jan, "in response to seasonal demand."

The reduction will see CZ's daily operation on the 'Canton Route' to London scaled back to five weekly, with Tue and Thu service rested, effective 21 Jan through to 30 Mar 2013, CZ's regional gm Henry He confirmed to **TD**.



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Quest BNE addition

QUEST Serviced Apartments has notched up its 150th property this week after Quest Breakfast Creek was opened near Brisbane Airport in Queensland.

It's the fourth Quest to open in Australia this financial year.

Air India dreaming for Apr

FRESHLY listed tender requests by Air India confirm the carrier is now plotting the on-again, off-again services to Melbourne and Sydney to commence by Apr.

Air India originally proposed to launch flights to Melbourne on 01 Nov 2010 - revealed exclusively by **Travel Daily** (TD 21 Jun 2010), but some two years later, the flights are yet to come to fruition.

But according to tender docs posted on Air India's website this week, the carrier has once again stipulated it plans to offer daily services to Australia out of Delhi on a triangular basis, using either Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft, or 777-200LR/ER jets.

AI intends to offer four weekly services nonstop to SYD on Mon/Tue/Thu/Sat, which continue onto MEL, coupled with three weekly nonstop flights to the Victorian capital on Wed/Fri/Sun which tag onto Sydney, then return to Delhi.

It's the same days of operation AI had proposed to introduce last month (TD 07 Aug), however the timings have now been fine-tuned.

Flights are yet to be loaded into GDSs as yet, but AI has earmarked Flight numbers of AI311/312 for its long overdue Aussie routes.

Both services are now planned to depart DEL at 12:45, with early morning transit arrivals into SYD (05:30) & MEL (05:15), and push-backs to India now mid-morning - 09:45 ex SYD and 10:10 ex MEL.

"The schedule provided is for

Summer Season-2013 effective March 2013," the tenders state.

Generally, air schedule summer seasons begin on 31 Mar, which would likely push its first flight from Australia back to 01 Apr.

"It may be clearly noted that schedule is subject to change and intimation of the same will be provided with reasonable notice," Air India said.

Tenders for comprehensive and cargo handling at both Sydney & Melbourne, along with technical & security handling in Melbourne are being sought by 10 Dec.

Zuji Hotel Confidential

ZUJI.COM.AU has rolled out a new mystery hotel offering to the Aussie market, offering discounts of up to 60% off standard 4- or 5-star hotel pricing.

Dubbed 'Hotel Confidential', the concept is available in major cities across Asia Pacific, with guests finding out the name of the hotel once a booking is made.

Hotel Confidential is already in operation by Zuji's sister-firm's Travelocity in North America and Last Minute in the UK.

Its debut here comes after a survey found 2/3 of people would definitely stay in a mystery hotel.

Rival online sites, such as Wotif and Ubid4rooms - now known as GraysEscape - offer similar products under the 'Wot Hotel' and 'Hush Hush' guise.

Magellan growth

MAGELLAN Travel Group's member agent numbers will swell to 67 on 01 Dec when it welcomes where2travel to its network.

Where2travel has two outlets in Victoria, previously trading as HWT Malvern and Carnegie.

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Less adventure tour discounting

G ADVENTURES has flagged a drop in adventure tour operators promoting “unsustainable” deals which have been damaging the sector in recent years.

Head Honcho Pete Rawley told **TD** this week “the severity of the level of discounting has receded a little bit in our space.”

“I think what has happened is that the big over-riding 25%, 30% & 40% off discounts and 2-for-1 deals we were seeing in our space

seems to have subsided over the last four months,” Rawley told **Travel Daily**.

In the recent past, there has been a tendency by adventure tour operators to offer the same discount month to month, he said.

“Discount fatigue will set in and consumer behaviour will only look for that,” he added, stressing acting smarter, listening to the customer and product innovation was crucial “otherwise it will be a race to the bottom.”

Virgin adds SQ routes

VIRGIN Australia is set to offer codeshare routes together with Singapore Airlines from Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney to the UK and Europe (**TD** breaking news).

The move is a significant expansion of the partnership between the carriers, and follows the issue of a 10% stake in Virgin Australia to Singapore Airlines earlier this week.

Effective immediately, codesharing has been extended to all of Virgin Australia’s domestic destinations, with SIA also planning to include trans-Tasman flights to Dunedin, Queenstown and Wellington in the coming months.

Virgin currently codeshares on SIA flights to Europe and the UK from Adelaide, Perth and Darwin, and the expansion to include east coast capitals will see further competition to the proposed Qantas/Emirates alliance.

“There is strong demand from our customers to be able to travel onwards from Asia to Europe,” said Virgin Australia Group Executive, Merren McArthur.

MAS urges caution

MALAYSIA Airlines has insisted the ACCC analyse the proposed alliance between Qantas and Emirates “on a more minute basis” to narrow its scope.

In a newly published submission to the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission, MAS general counsel Vince See argued the tie-up should be confined to intra-Australian routes and Dubai-Europe routes.

While stating Malaysia Airlines is not opposed to the QF/EK proposed conduct, See highlights in the nine-page submission “it would mainly serve to destroy the existing & would-be competitive situation in the Australian aviation and travel industries.”

The joint venture “would merely benefit one of the parties to it, without any corresponding appreciable benefits either to the Australian airlines or Australian consumers,” See said.

He also said the deal would provide insufficient public benefit to outweigh the detriments.

Qantas & Emirates are awaiting a decision on their planned tie-up, with a draft determination expected next month.

CH extends CX comm

CREATIVE Holidays has advised it is extending its increased commission bonus on Cathay Pacific earlybird fares to Europe until 31 Dec 2012.

Seats to Rome Fiumicino ex PER start at \$1680 inclusive of taxes.



Window Seat

UH OH, somebody’s in trouble.

Qatar Airways boss Akbar Al Baker, the architect of Qatar’s rapid rise is a stickler for perfection and clearly keeps a sharp eye on quality control.

During a stopover in Ankara, Turkey on the way to Belgrade aboard the inaugural QR service, he found there was something wrong with his seat.

Sitting right behind him, **TD** heard him phone his head office in Doha from his seat and he let it be known in no uncertain terms that he wanted the issue fixed immediately when the A320 returned to home base.

“It’s never a dull moment at Qatar,” an airline official told **TD**.



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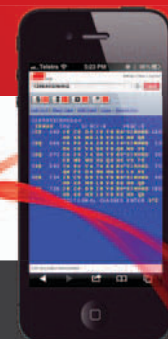
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Tourism Vic SYD close

A **SHAKE-UP** to the way Tourism Victoria services the trade and media stakeholders will result in the closure of the firm's interstate office in Sydney from next week.

Announced by chief exec Leigh Harry, Tourism Victoria will suspend the operation of the Sussex Street office, currently manned by a team of four.

The organisation's operation for the Queensland and ACT markets will also be streamlined.

"Tourism Victoria has decided that all interstate trade & brand partners will be serviced by its Melbourne based Partnership Marketing unit," Harry said.

Effective 01 Dec, enquiries from the affected markets regarding trade or brand partnerships will be handled by Partnership Marketing Manager Jenny Hynes.

Tourism Vic's Sydney-based PR function will remain in-tact, but will be operated out of Tourism Australia's new Head Office.

VisitBritain appoints

THE UK's peak tourism authority VisitBritain has appointed Kristen Angus as its Communications Manager Australia.

She has vast industry experience, previously with roles at Tourism Victoria, Tourism Australia and New Zealand, and most recently with Destination NSW.

MEANWHILE, VisitBritain says the London 2012 Games lured an estimated 680,000 int'l visitors to the UK in Jul, Aug and Sep.

Between the period the average spend by people attending or involved with the 2012 Games was double that of other visitors.

Rockies resorts open

THE Canadian Rocky Mountains' ski resorts around Banff & Jasper in Alberta have opened early due to early season snowfalls.

The region's ski resorts include Mt Norquay, Sunshine Village, Lake Louise Ski Area, Marmot Basin and Castle Mountain.



Tablet travel transactions soar

AUSTRALIAN consumers love iPads, with frequent travellers in particular conducting more and more transactions on tablet devices over the last year.

At yesterday's inaugural 'Travel Appy' conference in Sydney, a number of presenters highlighted the key role that devices such as smartphones and iPads are assuming, particularly in Australia where there's been a very strong uptake in the technologies.

Jeff Lewis, vice president of engineering for activities specialist Viator, said that the company had decided an iPad app was a "must" after observing a huge jump in tablet-based activity on its website, with 8.2% of all viator.com sales booked on the Apple tablet devices.

And interestingly, bookings via iPads are an average of 12.5% higher in value than those done on an iPhone.

"People want to book on apps

on tablets," Lewis said.

Since launching the Viator iPad app on 21 Aug this year, bookings have soared and now Viator's iPad app sales already make up a stunning 44% of iOS app revenue for the company, he said.

The strong growth in mobile and tablet devices was also confirmed in a presentation by Christopher Masanto of Nielsen, which showed that just under 40% of online households in Australia are expected to own a tablet by the end of 2012.

He also provided an interesting list of the top ten free travel iOS mobile applications in Australia, with Wotif.com in the lead followed by apps from Google Earth, Virgin Australia, Stayz, Tiger Airways and TripAdvisor.

Qantas Frequent Flyer was in seventh place, followed by XE Currency, Skype and hotels.com.

Webjet's mobile app did not appear in the top ten listing.

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Applications close on 2 December, 2012.

EK to use Win 8 tablets

EMIRATES is issuing Windows 8 HP ElitePad 900 tablet devices to 1000 of its flight attendants, equipped with a special version of its Knowledge Driven In-flight Service (KIS) app.

Win an ACTE ticket

TODAY Travel Daily is offering a free ticket to the Association of Corporate Travel Executives educational conference, which takes place at the Sydney Shangri-La Hotel from 05-06 Dec.

Valued at up to \$915, the event includes two days of solid education and networking opportunities and is a key way of boosting industry knowledge.

To win, be the first **TD** reader to answer the following question:

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SureSave Gaza alert

TRAVEL insurance provider SureSave is recommending all travellers in Israel exercise additional caution after DFAT lifted its travel advisory to the Gaza Strip to 'Do Not Travel' due to escalating tensions in Israel and Palestine.

Exec director Michael McAuliffe urged travellers to keep up to date with the news, ask locals and check with tour providers in the area regarding extra security and itinerary changes.

McAuliffe said insurance coverage varies from policy to policy, "so travellers should always make sure they know what they are covered for."

"In the event of hostilities, such as what is occurring in Gaza, travellers need to familiarise themselves with their policy's General Exclusions," he added.

Qantas check-in guide

A NEW domestic online check-in & domestic airport check-in flyer has been launched by Qantas.

The web guide emphasises the advantage of checking-in before arriving at the airport to "keep one step ahead of the rest," while another flyer offers information on mobile check-in and Q Card readers & Q Bag Tags - download the flyer at www.bit.ly/Qflyer.

AW comp winners

THE winners of Adventure World's National Geographic Live mini-competitor which appeared in **Travel Daily** last week were Natalie Blackmore of Flight Centre Plaza Parade, Rob Patane of AP Travel Marketing Services & Alisa Nemirovska of Discover the World Marketing.

Each has won tickets to attend the 'Live' show at the Sydney Opera House on 09 Dec, along with The Complete National Geographic Box Set.

The runners-up, each receiving the box set, were: Karla Moore of Flight Centre Manuka, Melissa Fuge of University of South Australia and Amanda Giacheri of Virgin Australia.

Blu Germany growth

REIZOR Hotel Group will expand in Germany in 2013 with new Radisson Blu hotels set to join the group in Dortmund and Bremen in Jan & Jun respectively.

Scenic ERC prize winners



SCENIC Tours brought its all-inclusive luxury experience to Sydney's Northern Beaches Travel earlier this month, after consultant Sandy Vescio won the firm's 2013 Europe River Cruising program agent promotion.

The prize provided Sandy's agency with an in-house fully stocked mini-bar and catered event, complete with canapes & cocktails, with private bartender and private butler - promoting Scenic's Europe River Cruise enhancements for 2013.

Scenic Tours nationals sales mgr Emma Davie is **pictured** presenting the certificate to the staff at Northern Beaches Travel Brookvale with Scenic's Nerida O'Brien.

Air NZ adds seat fee

AIR New Zealand will begin charging passengers to select a seat on flights from tomorrow, for travel commencing 27 Nov.

The 'paid Seat Select' offering allows pax to purchase preferred seat allocations, including Exit Row and Bassinet Row seats.

Other options include Standard Seat Select and Preferred Seats, and vary in price from NZ\$5 to \$75 for a long-haul Exit Row.

Air NZ is also enabling pax to prepay extra checked luggage at reduced rates to what is charged at airport check-in counters.

'Prepaid Extra Bags' will be available on most flights.

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We require a minimum of 2 years experience in an airline / travel industry. IATA or airline Basic Tariff and ticketing knowledge will be an advantage. Proven MS Office and analytical skills are essential.

Applicants must have the right to live and work in Australia. Please send your detailed CV to employment@au.qatarairways.com by 23 Nov 2012. Only those candidates that have made the shortlist will be advised.

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QATAR **القواترية**

QR launches Belgrade service

QATAR Airways has launched its 11th new route this year, with the carrier spreading its wings further into Eastern Europe with the maiden flight to the Serbian capital of Belgrade debuting overnight.

Belgrade became the 121st destination for the airline, and QR flight 462 received the traditional "water salute" as it taxied to Nikola Telsa Airport.

On arrival, QR ceo Akbar Al Baker & local Serb dignitaries were treated to a colourful Serbian folklore dance performance at the gate.

"In the past two years, we've embarked on a major expansion drive, focusing much of our attention on Europe starting flights to a record seven destinations, including Bucharest, Budapest, Brussels, Stuttgart, Venice, Sofia and Oslo, and we now look forward to welcoming all of our new pax from Belgrade to try our world-renowned 5-star service and we promise them a travel experience to remember,"



Al Baker said.

The flight time from Doha to Belgrade is 7 hours, including a brief stop in Ankara on the Airbus A320 which offers 12 Business Class seats and 132 in Economy.

Further expansion is set for the short term, with the carrier to begin service to Warsaw, Poland and Chicago early next year.

The QR chief is pictured above on arrival into Belgrade with two of his flight crew members.

QR rules out SYD again

SERVICES between Doha and Sydney have been shot down from consideration once again by Qatar Airways boss Akbar Al Baker for the foreseeable future.

Speaking exclusively to *Travel Daily* aboard the inaugural Doha to Belgrade route, Sydney was emphatically ruled out from future network expansion plans.

"We won't fly to Sydney as it's not a 24hr airport like Melbourne and Perth; we don't arrive until late at night because of our flight schedules, we need to fly in & fly out, so unless there's a change in Sydney's overnight curfew, we can't fly there," Al Baker reiterated.

Four new FC/ET stores

FLIGHT Centre Group will open three new FC outlets & one new Escape Travel store in Western Australia, as the retail premises were yesterday admitted into the Travel Compensation Fund.

The stores will be located at Warwick, Kinross, South Lake and Kwinana Town Centre.

Other branch office admissions into the TCF included a new HWT outlet at Stanthorpe, Qld; TravelEdge in Sydney & Carnarvon Travel Centre in Carnarvon, WA.

US granted LHR slots

US AIRWAYS has been awarded with operating slots at London's Heathrow Airport to commence services from Charlotte, N.C.

The daily nonstop service will operate using A330 aircraft from Mar 2013 and will feature Envoy, the carrier's new international Business class product.

Tune Hotels rebrand

BUDGET hotel chain Tune Hotels has celebrated its fifth birthday by releasing a new brand design, with all 26 properties worldwide to be bestowed with the new look.

Wednesday 21st Nov 2012

Intercon open-air tkts

INTERCONTINENTAL Sydney has partnered with St George open-air cinema to relaunch its popular moonlight cinema package.

Priced at \$350 per room, guests will receive overnight accom, valet parking and two tickets to the outdoor cinema experience, which screens at Mrs Macquaries Point each summer.



Accommodation Updates

WELCOME to *Accommodation Updates*, *Travel Daily's* Wednesday feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.

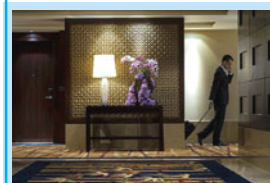


As summer kicks into gear for another year, the **BIG4 Holiday Park** at Swan Hill, Victoria has unveiled an \$800,000 Splash Park for the use of its guests. The first of its kind in the state, the park includes three waterslides, spray cannons, ground spray fountains and play equipment to keep kids of all ages busy.

The park also has soft fall surfaces to prevent injury as well as areas to keep toddlers out of the range of water sprays for parents peace of mind.

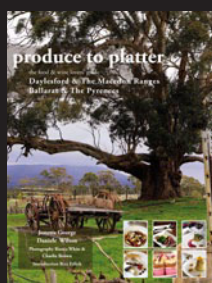


Banyan Tree Laguna Lang on Vietnam's Central Coast has been recently opened as a high-end resort with every amenity on site. Situated between Hue & Danang, the resort offers spa, dining facilities, water activities and will soon see the soft launch of a Sir Nick Faldo designed golf course, which aims to redefine the concept of five-star world-class golfing development.



China's capital city will soon see the wraps taken off the new **Four Seasons Beijing**, as the high-end brand labelled as a new flagship icon property for the city. The property bears a variety of abstract art, unexpected materials and decorative lighting, with a two-storey grand lobby lounge welcoming guests. Silks and exotic leathers abound in elegant tones with hand-crafted carpets.

WIN A TRAVEL & RECIPE BOOK



Every day this week, *Travel Daily* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win *Produce to Platter: Daylesford, Macedon*

Ranges, Ballarat & The Pyrenees book, courtesy of **Smudge Publishing**.

In this travel & recipe book, Melbourne-based mother & daughter publishing team discover the history, wine and food of the region, with in depth reviews & delicious recipes from local chefs – using local seasonal produce for optimal flavour and sustainability.

To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below to: ptpcomp@traveldaily.com.au.

Who are the authors of Produce to Platter?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Leonie Spencer** from **Jetset Mandurah**.

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IASC approves QF/SA c'share

THE codeshare deal between Qantas and South African Airways has been renewed until the end of 2014, despite significant misgivings about its effect on competition (**TD** breaking news).

The final determination was issued late yesterday by the International Air Services

New airport billboards

DIGITAL billboards were launched last night at Sydney Airport's Qantas domestic T3, as part of an \$11m project undertaken by oOh! media.

The move will also see digital roadside billboards at Melbourne and Brisbane airports as well as "strategically placed digital and premium back-lit advertising within the terminals Australia wide," the company said.

Advertisers will be able to schedule different messages by day, week and specific airport, targeting 30 million time-poor travellers, according to oOh! ceo Brendon Cook.

oOh! recently purchased outdoor advertising firm EYE Corp, with Cook saying "the airport business is very important to us, and we are committed to continually invest and innovate to deliver premium airport advertising solutions across Australia".

Commission, which also renewed a QF allocation of seven weekly frequencies on the South Africa route for a further five years.

Under the approval, the carriers must price and sell their services on the route independently and withdraw from all IATA tariff coordination activities between Australia and South Africa.

QF and SAA must jointly operate at least 13 services per week and submit quarterly data.

The IASC said its decision was "finely balanced" but considers there are "likely to be marginal public benefits gained from approving the code share until the end of 2014".

Qantas had sought approval of the code share until 31 Mar 2016, but the IASC said it's not satisfied that it would be of benefit to the public beyond the end of 2014.

"After 2014 the Commission considers there is a greater prospect of either entry and/or more competition between the incumbent airlines in the absence of the code share," the IASC said.

If Qantas decides to apply for a continuation of the codeshare beyond 2014 "the Commission would consider the application in the light of developments between now and when an application is received," the determination states.

Wednesday 21st Nov 2012



Travel Daily
First with the news

ADVENTURE World and LAN recently hosted a group of top performing consultants to a luxury adventure in Patagonia, South America.

The fam included a Cruceros Australis Puntas Arenas-Strait of Magellan cruise aboard Stella Australis, including a visit to the Beagle Channel past the majestic glaciers known as Glacier Alley.

A highlight of the trip included a Pia Fjord and Glacier excursion,

where the group are **pictured**.

From left are: Branislav (Bronco) Milic-Zumberski, LAN Airlines; Fiona Young, Jetset Travel Port Macquarie; Trish Ernst, Cairns Central Travel; Diane Moynihan, Adventure World; Cameron Elliot, Flight Centre HQ; Kerrie Janssen, Phil Hoffmann Travel; Vanitha Sinnathamby, Harvey World Travel Circular Quay; Aimee Kohler, Maria Slater Travel Canberra and Nikki Macpherson, Jetset Bunbury.

Uniworld Asia deal

THE extension of Uniworld's current earlybird offer (**TD** yesterday) applies only to its 2013 Asia program, with savings of up to \$650 per couple available for bookings deposited up to 15 Jan.

Aussies loving Canada

CANADA reported nearly a 14% jump in arrivals by Australians for the month of Sep, new data from Canadian Tourism Comm. reveal.

Arrivals for the year to date are up nearly 6% on average.

Warming to the Baltic states

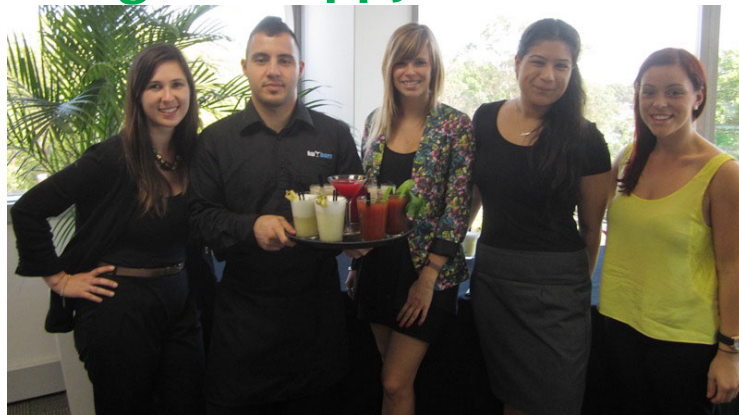


ABOVE: This group of JTN agents recently enjoyed an 11-day trip into the Baltic states to explore historic castles, cathedrals, town squares and many other intriguing sights, courtesy of Bentours, Cox & Kings, Finnair and Air Tickets.

Despite rapidly cooling weather, the group visited many lesser trodden paths through Europe, including Estonia, Latvia, Finland and Lithuania, enjoying stops at Tallinn, Riga, Helsinki and Vilnius.

The group also enjoyed a visit to the Alexander Nevsky cathedral, and **pictured** above, from left, is Sarah Pogson from Travelscene Kogarah; Toni Kosmarikas, Cox & Kings; Lisa Manera, Finnair; Robert Klingelholler, Air Tickets; Fiona Provis, HWT South Yarra; Terri Maine, Motive Travel WA; Carly Obryan, Travelscene Belrose; Michelle Hemingway, Reho Travel Sydney; June Siddique, Orba Travel Brokers WA and Wendy Trenham, MTA Travel Toowoomba.

Insight's Happy Hour toasts



MONDAY-ITIS loomed on the Reservations staff after the recent Flight Centre Expo period, but the management came to the party, thanking the hard-working staff with rounds of tasty mocktails.

The team at the TTC wholesaler were being rewarded for their dedicated efforts and hard work during the hectic expo season.

All the stops were pulled out as Insight even hired a waiter to

prepare the refreshing drinks for the appreciative Res teams.

Feedback from the crew was overwhelmingly positive, saying the gesture made their day and started their week well.

Pictured above enjoying their mocktails with the waiter hired for the occasion (second from left) is Sian Dolenc, Melanie Miholic, Anna Bukala and Maria Lagana, Insight Reservations.

HKT gets DoubleTree

HILTON Worldwide has opened its first DoubleTree by Hilton branded property in Phuket, with the debut of the 250-room hotel on Surin Beach, north of Patong.

Press call at HWT Symposium



DURING the recent Harvey World Travel Symposium in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, specialist wholesaler Travel Indochina sponsored a "Press Club" event for conference delegates at the city's famous Rex Hotel.

The property holds significance for media, as during the Vietnam War, it served as the meeting place for the world's scribes, TV and radio reporters covering the

happenings in South-East Asia at the time.

Travel Indochina's specialist local team played a pivotal part to the weekend's proceedings, and **pictured** above in the back row, from left is Steve Brady, Thai Hong Duc, Nguyen Xuan Binh, Paul Hole, Darren Szwarcburg & Sonya Duck.

Middle row: Kellie Marshall, Do Thi Thu Hang, Nguyen Ba Tong, Hua Thanh Khai, Alex Hepworth, Phan Thi Thanh Tan and Melissa Chapman.

Front: Martin Cooke, Phil Jordan, Trieu Ngoc Que and Ho Sy Long.

SIN break pax records

SINGAPORE'S Changi Airport recorded its highest number of passengers utilising the facility in Oct, with 4.27m pax welcomed, an increase of 10% year-on-year.

Flight movements for the month totalled 27,600, a jump of 5.2%.

Cricket package deal

PEPPERS Craieburn are one of a number of hotels offering a new travel package including accom & two tickets to the new *Packer, Lights, Action* cricketing exhibit at the Int'l Cricket Hall of Fame.

Rates start at \$219 per night, with more info at (02) 4861 1247.

MH/AY launch c/share

MALAYSIA Airlines and Finnair have announced plans to form a reciprocal codeshare operation which will cover service between Kuala Lumpur and Helsinki.

Under the agreement, MH will add its code to AY services between Helsinki and Amsterdam, Frankfurt, London Heathrow and Paris Charles de Gaulle.

Likewise, Finnair will place its AY designator on Malaysian services between KUL and Hong Kong and also on flights to Singapore.

MEL considering third runway

A NEW \$500 million runway at Melbourne Airport will form part of the facility's Master Plan for 2013, which will be published for public comment early next year.

Construction of a new east-west runway capable of handling A380 superjumbo aircraft has been identified as essential to the continued growth of Melbourne's main gateway by 2018-2022, according to ceo Chris Woodruff.

"Passenger numbers are forecast to reach 40 million by the end of the decade, and more than 60 million by 2033," he said.

"A new east-west runway will enable Melbourne Airport to handle more aircraft movements, more efficiently," Woodruff added.

The new strip would operate in parallel to the existing east-west runway and be 3000m in length.

"We will be working closely with various stakeholders, including

Airservices Australia, on measures to minimize the noise impact on our neighbours, while ensuring we continue to operate in the most efficient way possible".

The report will also be submitted to the Federal Govt next year.

News of the proposed addition to MEL has been welcomed by the Victoria Tourism Industry Council, with VTIC chief exec Dianne Smith saying it would cement Melbourne as a premier gateway to Australia.

"The announcement of an additional runway at Melbourne Airport is effectively rolling out the red carpet for our international visitors," Smith said.

"That the third runway will cater for more flights, more efficiently, means more visitors are able to come to Victoria," she added.

Early visitor spending projections are tipped to hit \$18.5b by 2033.

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



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AA Appointments is Australia’s largest national travel recruitment specialist, the only company with national offices. Celebrating 30 years since our inception, our outstanding success this year has led to the need to expand our Brisbane based team.

ABOUT THE ROLE

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- an excellent salary package + uncapped commission
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This is a very rewarding dynamic role, where no two days are ever alike.

WHAT YOU NEED TO SUCCEED

This role is best suited to a talented and professional travel consultant, who possesses excellent customer service skills and enjoys working in a supportive, goal orientated team.

Interested? Want to know more?
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A VERY TECCHY CHRISTMAS GLOBAL GDS – PRODUCT SUPPORT SPECIALIST SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGE UPTO \$65K

Concerned about where your career is heading? Looking for job security and opportunities for progression? Our client are a leading travel GDS with offices in the heart of the CBD. As product specialist you will be an expert on all things fares and ticketing with CRS knowledge second to none. You will have outstanding communication skills and the ability and patience to train technical aspects to others. Excellent salary, great security and a role not to be missed out on ...

NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER, NEW YOU! SOUTH PACIFIC SPECIALIST – TRAVEL CONSULTANT SYDNEY CBD – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$60K

Want to start the new year with something to look forward to? Our client is a well-respected, well established travel company specialising in travel to the South Pacific and USA. You will be selling to the direct public, by phone and email – no more face to face! Excellent work/life balance, great salary and incentives that give you the opportunity to Earn up to \$60K. Don’t delay; this role won’t last.

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This is not just any retail travel consulting role; this is a role with a variety of components! Working with an intimate team of consultants, you will enjoy the variety of leisure, corporate and group travel. This is a sensational role that will keep you on your toes! A minimum 18 months international travel consulting experience required together with impeccable attention to detail. Do not miss out on this winning role!

UNWRAP THIS EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT DOMESTIC CORPORATE ONLINE CONSULTANT MELBOURNE (INNER) - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$55K (DOE)

Award winning boutique Travel Company is seeking a domestic corporate consultant with online booking experience. If you have minimum 6 months domestic corporate experience and have Sabre skills, apply now. This could be your chance to secure a prestigious role in a well recognised and reputable travel company. Monday to Friday hours with a set salary & regular salary reviews.



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BEFORE
CHRISTMAS?**

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Referral vouchers
Temp to Perm opportunities

Temp of the Month/Annual rewards
Flexible working hours/days
Full conversion training where required

**HELPDESK AND I.T. SUPPORT - GLOBAL TRAVEL CO.
TEMP TO PERM - START NOW B4 XMAS!
SYDNEY CBD - GREAT HOURLY RATE**

This travel Helpdesk and I.T. Support role calls for your specialised skills to assist both new and existing travel clients with technical and non-technical requirements. You will have a very strong understanding of GDS combined with a wealth of travel industry knowledge, project management and implementation and information technology. With your exceptional customer focus and delivery, professionalism, presentation and communication, you will love this role!

**CORPORATE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
TOP TEMP OPPORTUNITY – AMADEUS/TRAMADA
NORTH SYDNEY – SENIOR TEMP RATE.**

Corporate travel is still hot so get in quick to secure a temp role now and earn money till end of Jan 2013. This temp role is Monday to Friday only and a short walk from the train station. We offer an excellent hourly rate which is paid weekly. Top Temp rewards are up for grabs at year end. To succeed - you will come from a solid corporate travel background, be highly proficient using both Amadeus and Tramada Next Gen. Interested? Call us now!

**TICK THIS ONE OFF YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST!
VARIOUS TEMP ROLES
PERTH (VARIOUS) – TOP HOURLY RATE**

With Christmas just around the corner & your wish list growing by the day.... AA Appointments has seen your job wish & wants to deliver your present! If you want diversity, variety, flexibility, competitive hourly rate, a better home/life balance, great working environment & the opportunity to enhance your skills then look no further. We can get you exactly what you want this Christmas! All you need to do is contact AA Appointments today & register for temp work; it's that easy! So hurry and you can start crossing off all the items on your list!

**ARE YOU A WHIZ WITH CROSSCHECK?
RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANT
MELBOURNE (VARIOUS) – TOP HOURLY RATE**

We are on the lookout for experienced travel consultants with knowledge of a CRS and more specifically experience using crosscheck! With various roles around Melbourne due to start in the coming weeks, now is the time to register for temp work and be in the front of the line when these positions role out! You will be rewarded with a generous hourly rate, flexible hours & working for reputable travel companies. So if you are a whiz with crosscheck, then apply today - we need you!

**PLAY THE FIELD
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Not ready to commit to full time work? Looking for variety in your working week? Then join our temp team. We currently have a number of TOP assignments in and around Brisbane for experienced retail and airline reservations consultants. Along with earning a fabulous pay packet you will get to work with some of the best consultants in the industry. Plus escape the stress of sales targets and base plus commission structures. All you need is min 18 months travel consulting experience & GDS.

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Dana Peric

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Apply today to join a company that will encourage your creativity and flair.

Call or [email](#) Dana Peric for more details

Inbound Team Leader - Melbourne

- ▶ Lead a team of domestic travel specialists
- ▶ Great company with career growth potential
- ▶ Salary to \$60K + super

Our client, best known for their high end, luxury products is seeking a domestic travel guru with previous small team management experience to lead and motivate a new team.

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Retail Travel Store Manager - Canberra

- ▶ Leading travel brand
- ▶ Newly furnished store
- ▶ Competitive salary + bonus!

Manage a dedicated team of travel gurus in a well loved store in South West Canberra. This is the next step for an Assistant Manager or a Travel Manager wanting a change.

Call or [email](#) Dana Peric for more details

Inside Sales Coordinator - Melbourne

- ▶ Based close to Tullamarine
- ▶ Great steps into sales
- ▶ Salary \$45K + super

This is a great opportunity if you plan to move into on road sales in your career. Take the first step here and support the BDM's and Account Managers for this business.

Call or [email](#) Ben Carnegie for more details

Corporate Travel Team Manager - Brisbane

- ▶ Global Corporate TMC
- ▶ No consulting in this role!
- ▶ Excellent staff benefits

This well established team are seeking a Team Manager to lead them in the new year. Experience managing staff and service delivery essential. Competitive salary + incentives.

Call or [email](#) Ben Carnegie for more details

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- ▶ Multi cultural environment
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Join a leader in the Asian travel market. Deal with both wholesale and retail clients. CRS skills are highly regarded, Asian second language skills would be beneficial.

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3 days from \$599*

Be enticed by the delights of Alice Springs, a fun and festive town fringed by desert. Explore the many art galleries and historical museums of this region, and delve into the Indigenous stories of the area.

Includes: Return airfares to Alice Springs from Brisbane, Melbourne, or Sydney, 2 nights 4.5 star accommodation in Alice Springs with FREE breakfast and FREE Wifi, return airport transfers

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