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ISSN 1834-3058

Tuesday 27th November 2012

Travel Daily Phuket, Thailand

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from the inaugural "Experience Asia" Jetstar famil trip, attended by six top-selling JQ agents from Australia & NZ

PHUKET has no shortage of Aussies coming to visit, and it is easy to see why - the place is an absolute melting pot of activity which must be experienced to be truly believed and understood.

After a restful night at the Mercure Phuket Deevana Resort, Jetstar's maiden famil group were eager to see the sights, and they were not disappointed.

The morning was spent at the Siam Safari Park, followed by lunch on a traditional junk boat before a free afternoon, with the hotel pool quickly in their sights.

Last night saw us head to the Phuket Fantasea dinner and show, widely regarded as the premier evening event in town.

And then it was time to hit the famous Phuket nightlife in Bang La Road - for photos from the day's activities, check out page 7.

QF argues codeshare pros

THE Qantas Group has disputed presumptions by the International Air Services Commission that codesharing arrangements are "intrinsically anti-competitive."

In a new submission requesting an extension of Jetstar Airways' pact with Japan Airlines between Australia and Japan, QF Group's exec manager of Government & International Relations said the IASC's "underlying assumptions" about codesharing are potentially inhibiting growth.

QF is seeking a extension of the JQ/JAL deal until 30 Jun 2017.

"Codeshare arrangements allow competition on routes that may be unserved or are monopoly routes," Tony Wheelan said.

"Furthermore, a codeshare, such as the Jetstar/JAL arrangement, creates competitive tension as the carriers compete against each other to sell inventory, albeit on the same aircraft," he argued.

Wheelan said a waning demand recovery on the Australia-Japan route, unlikely to change greatly in the foreseeable future, has forecasts suggesting traffic will remain "subdued" going forward.

The rise of low cost carriers, a lack of investment in critical tourism infrastructure & changes in Japanese consumer travel trends have "served to irrevocably change the Aus/Japan route."

"We believe that continued and forecast weak market conditions, liberalisation of traffic rights providing unlimited capacity to points (other than Tokyo) and the availability of sufficient capacity for a new entrant to operate on the route should allay the Comm's previous concerns regarding competitive detriment of the codeshare arrangements," he said.

Shenzhen into Star

CHINESE carrier Shenzhen Airlines will this week become the latest addition to the fast-growing Star Alliance, with a joining ceremony to take place on Thu.

Shenzhen Airlines is the fifth biggest carrier in China, with more than 100 aircraft in its fleet and operations across southern and eastern China.

TD will be reporting live on location from the event in China.

Fantasea plots Sydney expansion

FANTASEA Cruises has appointed a Sydney-based sales and marketing team to develop its new business of Sydney Harbour and Palm Beach-based private charters, ferry transfers, day trips and whale watching tours.

Richard McKisack moves to Fantasea from DescaradA Luxury Charters, and will work on domestic and Western International markets, while Kandi Chang will focus on the Asian Pacific market.

Fantasea, owned by Riverside Marine, is trading in NSW as Palm Beach Ferries and Sydney Harbour Ferries, with the southward expansion following the sale of its Queensland operation to Cruise Whitsundays earlier this year (TD 14 Jun).

See palmbeachferries.com.au.

Eight pages of news

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

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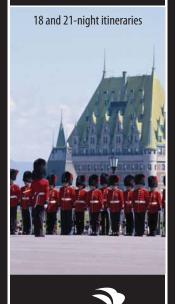
Tourism Malay rejig

TOURISM Malaysia Australia has announced today that Mohd Roslan Abdullah will assume the role of NSW Director, replacing Shahrin Mokhtar who has held the position for the past 6 years.

Roslan has been at Tourism Malaysia for 16 years, leading its offices in Delhi and Sabah for the majority of that time.

The outgoing Sharhin will return to Kuala Lumpur taking up a new role with the tourism authority.

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ACCC probes Hertz-Thrifty

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is undertaking a review of the proposed acquisition of Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group by

TA wines Chinese VIPs

TOURISM Australia has teamed with Wine Australia this month to promote the country's world class tourism and wine experiences to a group of China's leading wine and lifestyle opinion leaders.

The guests represent some of China's major media titles and wine blog sites.

Their trip has included visits to over 10 wineries in SA's McLaren Vale, the Adelaide Hills and Barossa Valley, as well as WA's Margaret River.

"Hosting these influential opinion leaders will help to spread wordof-mouth advocacy in China about the many and compelling reasons why Australia is a world class tourism destination. especially those experiences that are built around our wine and food offering," Tourism Australia md Andrew McEvoy said.

Hertz Global Holdings (TD 28 Aug) which was last week given the OK by regulators in the USA.

The ACCC commenced a review under its Merger Review Process Guidelines in Sep, and has asked for more information from Hertz to complete its deliberations.

A planned 01 Nov date for a final decision has been deferred pending receipt of the extra info, with a new decision date to be announced "in due course".

The long-running merger process will see Hertz pay US\$2.3 billion for its rival, with "business as usual" at the Australasian Thrifty operation, for which the master franchise agreement is held by the NRMA.

MEANWHILE Hertz this morning announced a major expansion of its central Queensland presence to service the booming resources sector across the region.

The rental operator has sealed a new commercial agreement with Central Queensland Hotels Group to establish new outlets in motels at Blackwater, Dysart, Moura and Tieri, as well as expanding facilities in Roma and Toowoomba.

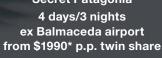


AUSSIE Home Loans is getting into the travel card market, today launching a new Platinum Mastercard which promises not to charge exorbitant fees for international transactions.

SUN ISLAND TOURS

Chairman John Symond said the product aims to "shake up the market" and eradicate the roughly 3% charged by other card providers to travellers taking advantage of the high Australian dollar by shopping overseas.





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Tuesday 27th November 2012





HURRY! Thai Airways industry rates to Bangkok/Phuket/Chiang Mai. Sales to 30NOV12.

From \$365* return pp plus taxes.
Conditions Apply. Taxes approx. \$400 - \$491* pp.

CLICK HERE for further details

THAI superjumbo takes flight

THAI Airways International has joined the super jumbo club, this week starting daily A380 services on the busy Bangkok to Hong Kong route.

TD was aboard one of the first flights yesterday which carried the maximum load of 507 pax in a three-class configuration - 12 in Royal First Class, 60 in Royal Silk Business Class and 435 in Economy Class.

The two-hour flight on the short sector is being used to give the crew a chance to get to know the giant aircraft before it starts longhaul flights to Frankfurt on 15th December.

TG's second A380 will be delivered this Thursday, with another four over the coming months, and they'll also be used on the Paris and Tokyo routes.

Typical of THAI, pax are spoilt for choice, even in Economy Class where *TD* was seated in row 81K. Even way down the back, the

plane is incredibly quiet on take off, and with a camera mounted on the tail, you can watch on screens in the cabin as the the big bird races down the runway and lifts into the sky.

It's quite a sensation.

Seat pitch is 82 centimetres in Economy which gives slightly more leg room than other planes, and the video-on-demand has a selection of 100 movies, 150 documentaries, 500 CD albums and 60 games.

There's a bar area, and also internet connection, with the carrier offering wi-fi, in-flight mobile use as well as SMS & MMS messages aboard.

THAI Airways International is now the ninth operator of the A380 which can transport 40 percent more pax than any other wide-bodied aircraft.

The carrier has orders for a total of six A380s, and plans eventually to deploy them to Australia.

New Dubai mega city

DUBAI, home of the world's largest shopping centre - aptly named The Dubai Mall - will go one better with plans revealed to build a new "mega city" with an even bigger shopping precinct.

Dubbed Mohammad Bin Rashid City, the project includes the new biggest shopping mall in the world - named Mall of the World a Universal Studios theme park and hotel facilities.

Announcing the project on Sat, Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum said: "The current facilities available in Dubai need to scale up in line with the future ambitions for the city.

"Therefore we have to start work immediately on the third phase of development that is aligned to our Vision till 2030 and boost the UAE economy to enable it to enter a new era in which it will become the capital of entrepreneurship, arts, culture, and family tourism for over 2 billion people," the ruler said.



Window Seat

THE Spanish tourism minister for the Balearic Islands has been described as an "embarrassment to the country" after a hunting photo of him posing with the severed testicles of a deer on his head (below) was posted online.

Carlos Delgado's actions were described by animal rights campaigners as "dragging Spain back into the 11th century."

The politician defended the snap which was taken during a 2009 holiday, saying it was "a private matter".



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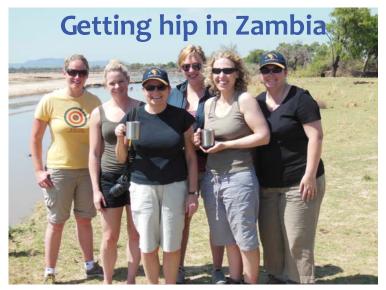
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THE Africa Safari Co. sent this lovely group of agents on a safari in Zambia earlier this month, with thanks from South African Airways and preferred suppliers.

The group spent nine-days in the country, visiting Livingstone, the South Luangwa Valley and the Lower Zambezi River.

Highlights of the trip included a walking safari in South Luangwa

and canoeing on the Zambezi River surrounded by hippos.

Pictured working hard on the job on safari in Zambia from left are: Kira Sachs, The Africa Safari Co.; Lisa Barlett, Phil Hoffmann Travel Glenelg; Judy Orr, Landmark Travel; Melissa Proeve, Jetset Norwood; Debbie Andrews, Australind Travel and Tania Allen, Oliver Travel.

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*Prices based on guaranteed inside cabin, are inclusive of the 35% Last Minute Saving on select voyages between 02 Jan & 13 Feb 2013. Last Minute Fares are strictly limited and may be withdrawn without notice. Travel Agent License: 2TA06929 (Discover the World Marketing Travel trading as Discover the World Cruising)

WIN* an upgrade to Mabuhay Business Class!

One lucky passenger & their travel partner will win an upgrade to Mabuhay Business Class on their flight to Manila between 5Dec12 and 15Jan13.

FOR DETAILS & ENTRIES VISIT





Conditions apply. To enter passengers must be booked for travel to Manila from Sydney & Melbourne during this period

Mercure/Maui combo

MAUI motorhomes has partnered with Mercure Hobart and Mercure Launceston to offer a joint package including day use of facilities at either property.

Campervan users will pay \$65 to access a room between 9am and 5pm, including all day parking and complimentary internet.

Day stay guests can access the gym and receive free laundering of campervan linen, and if they shop online for supermarket items these can be delivered to the hotel and stocked in the van.

Hilton Disney Paris

HILTON Worldwide will open its first Hilton Garden Inn & Hampton hotels in France in 2015.

The dual-branded Hilton Garden Inn Val d'Europe and Hampton by Hilton Val d'Europe will offer a combined 250-rooms, and are located near Disneyland Paris.

Busabout sailing boost

CAPACITY on Croatian sailing trips have been cranked up 50% by Busabout Adventures in 2013.

Responding to increased demand for the product, global managing director Graeme Ward said sailing itineraries continue to go from strength to strength over the last few years.

He said independent travellers have taken to the product due to its value and unique means of traversing the Croatian coast.

"Many of our cruise departures sold out well in advance last year, so the increase in departures means travellers have a greater choice than ever before," he said.

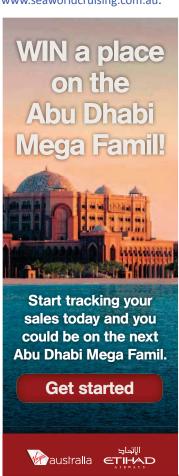
Prices for the eight-day Croatia Island Hopper start at \$729pp.

Broadwater cruising

SEA World Cruises on Queensland's Gold Coast is rolling out its five-hour 'High Life Day Cruise' taking in the Gold Coast Broadwater & Sanctuary Cove Marine Village, effective 04 Dec.

Operating from the Sea World Cruises terminal, the voyage includes lunch at Sanctuary Cove and 3hrs of calm water cruising.

It's priced at \$79 per adult, and departs on select dates - see www.seaworldcruising.com.au.







Sell KOREAN AIR "Gangnam Style"

between 12 November & 09 December 2012 and **you** could **win tickets for 2** to **Europe** or **USA** staying **2 nights in Gangnam!**

Click for full details





Tuesday 27th Nov 2012

Moonshadow boost

MOONSHADOW Cruises, based in the NSW coastal region of Port Stephens, has announced the purchase of an additional vessel which will allow it to operate Newcastle Harbour cruises seven days a week.

The family business now carries over 100,000 passengers a year after starting Port Stephens based Dolphin Watch Cruises in 1981.

The expanded full time
Newcastle cruising schedule will
tell the story of the iconic harbour
which is one of the biggest coal
exporters in the world, with
cruises also available for private
charters and group events.

See moonshadow.com.au.

Melbourne Skal Xmas

SKAL International Melbourne will hold its Christmas luncheon on Thu 13 Dec at the Langham Hotel, with tickets priced at \$100.

As well as lucky door prizes and entertainment, guests are asked to bring a gift to be given to a needy child - RSVP to sandy@apartmentsonlygon.com.au

Mauritius visa move

MAURITIUS has relaxed its tourist visitor requirements, removing the need for visas for tourists from 75 additional countries.

Foreign minister Arvin Boolell confirmed the move last week at a conference in Port Louis, with 29 of the new additions to the program being in Africa.

The Mauritius govt website states that no visa is required for visitors from Australia.

McLachlan gold promo

MAT McLachlan Battlefield Tours is offering a double Gold Class movie pass to the first five agents to book a client on its 2013 Vietnam Commemoration Tour.

The tour is escorted by Gary McKay, who was a platoon leader in Vietnam and is now Australia's leading author on the conflict.

The 15-night trip takes in all the key Australian sites from the war as well as many of Vietnam's cultural treasures - more info www.battlefields.com.au.

Matters appointment

LEAH Matters has been promoted to the role of general manager of the 360-room Outrigger Twin Towns Resort, located at Tweed Heads NSW.



ABOVE: This group of Travelscene American Express agents recently experienced the delights of New Caledonia courtesy of Viva! Holidays and Aircalin.

They made the most of the visit, taking in the beaches and culture along with stunning French and Melanesian cuisine.

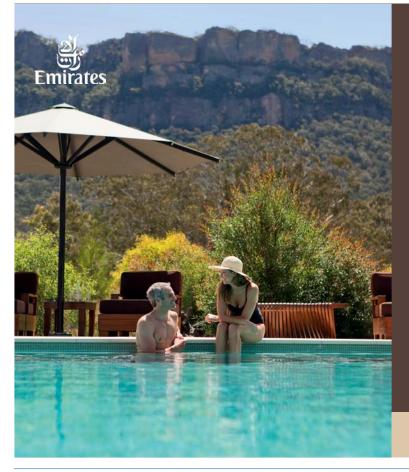
A highlight was a visit to the famous Le Roof restaurant which is located on a jetty overlooking the lagoon, while the trip also included the famous Coconut Square, Tijbaou Cultural Centre, Baie des Citrons, Port Moselle and the white sandy beaches of Anse Vata Bay.

Pictured above at Le Meridien Noumea are, from left: Emma Clarke, Altitude Travel; Catherine Kilpatrick, Travelscene Horsley Park; Kieran Mackenzie, Travelscene Cessnock; Sandi Adam, Aircalin; Florinda Cruchinho, Viva! Holidays; Leanne Downie, Spencer Travel; Meliza Tanzania, GTS Travel; Charina Wunderlich, Atlantic Pacific Travel; and Vivienne Zaarour, Northshore Travel.

Musical about Subo

AUSTRALIA will next year host*I* Dreamed a Dream, a musical based on the life story of UK singing sensation Susan Boyle.

It will be staged at Melbourne's Her Majesty's Theatre 29 May-29 Jun, and at Sydney's Theatre Royal 03 Jul-10 Aug.



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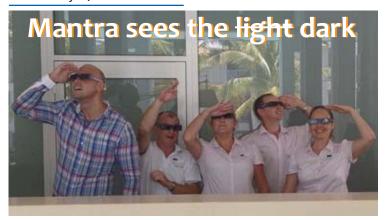
Rates available 1st November to 31st January 2013 only. Blackout periods apply from 25rd December 2012 to 5th January 2013 (inclusive). Offer is valid for one guest and a companion sharing a Heritage Suite. Other terms and conditions apply.



Tuesday 27th Nov 2012

LAN Rio to Miami

LAN Airlines looks set to launch nonstop flights between Miami in the US and Rio de Janeiro from Jan next year, with the service showing in agent GDS displays.



AS TROPICAL North Queensland clamoured onto Palm Cove beach for the best view of the recent total solar eclipse, this group of Mantra staff didn't have to go far for their view of nature's wonder.

Donning their solar glasses, staff along with guests all found their ideal viewing position, with the resort all but full at what is normally a quiet pre-peak season.

Across the Cairns, Port Douglas and Palm Cove region, Mantra's

collection of 11 properties, which included the Peppers brand, reported higher occupancies of over 100% up on years prior.

The majestic spectacle also saw the Mantra group donate \$1 from every pair of solar glasses sold to the Australian Red Cross.

Pictured admiring the moon's movement across the face of the sun, from left are Mantra's Adam Taloni, Gavin Tippett, Donna Ward-Mulhearn, Andrew Berryman and Toni Farrell.

GA points for GOH

GARUDA Orient Holidays (GOH) is offering travellers the ability to earn Garuda Frequent Flyer (GFF) points when purchasing holiday packages.

GA frequent flyer members will earn one mile for each \$1 spent with Garuda Orient Holidays, meaning that for the first time members can earn points on V class fares when purchased along with accommodation, transfers and/or tours.

Members of the scheme can also redeem GFF miles for GOH travel vouchers, with 7500 miles equating to a \$50 voucher and a points plus pay system available to top up bookings.

Free Fred Olsen offer

CRUISE Abroad is giving away a free Fred Olsen Cruise Lines voyage with the purchase of another, valid for the Australian market.

Guests who purchase a cruise from a selected range will receive a second cruise for free, which can be transferred into another name & gifted to friends or family. More details on 1300 669 369.



AFTA UPDATE

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

OVER the past weekend I had the absolute pleasure of attending the Jetset Travelworld Network conference. It happened to be in Las Vegas.

For travel people and particularly people who love aircraft and flying, the group was treated to two of the most amazing aviators in the world. Captain James Lovell, the *Apollo 13* captain (and backup commander on *Apollo 11* for the lunar landing with Neil Armstrong) who under extraordinary circumstances in 1970 managed to navigate the spacecraft back to earth safely.

Captain Lovell gave the most awesome account of the mission, the team work involved with his fellow crew, and the men and women back at Houston. Now 84 years of age, Capt. Lovell stood on stage & delivered a compelling account as if it had happened last week - one of my career highlights and a unique opportunity to hear from this amazing aviator.

Now for most conference goers you would be wrapped that you could have this level of amazing presentation. But the JTN was then treated to another amazing aviation story from Captain Richard de Crespingny - the man in charge of the landing of what is now the famous Qantas A₃80 flight QF₃2 which departed from Singapore headed for Sydney at which time an engine exploded.

For both presentations, these two amazing human beings talk in detail of the circumstances, incredible ability to make the most important decisions in what can only be describe as something that you would never want to have to face personally. You could have heard a pin drop in a room with over 400 people for both presentations.

Both accounts can be read in books written by the respective men. What was also amazing was how Captain de Crespingny so openly declared at the conference that Captain Lovell had been someone he had studied and admired, and courtesy of an Australian travel conference, had the opportunity to actually meet him face to face.

A really amazing experience for everyone involved and one that I will remember for a very long time.

SEA Park at Sentosa

RESORTS World Sentosa has last week opened its latest attraction in the new SEA Aquarium and Adventure Cove Waterpark.

The aquarium's centrepiece attraction is a fish tank measuring 36m across by eight-metres high.

AirAsia no India intent

AIRASIA Group chief exec. Tony Fernandes has quashed reports the low-cost carrier is mulling an Indian budget subsidiary.

"AirAsia rejects the speculation surrounding our possible expansion in India," he declared.



The Magellan Travel Group is Australia's fastest growing Travel Group for high achieving Travel Agents serving both High-end Leisure and Corporate travel markets.

With nearly 70 Agents around Australia and further growth expected a new role for an *Administration Assistant* has been created to meet the demands of the business.

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- Process New Memberships
- MYOB input
- Assist with the organisation of various Member Events including Conference

The successful applicant should have advanced Excel skills, with exposure to Accounts and MYOB.

As the Group grows there is plenty of scope for development and variety.

For a PD please email mtgbk12@gmail.com by 03DEC12



Travelzoo fined \$50K

ONLINE travel firm Travelzoo has been hit with a US\$50,000 penalty for failing to properly notify consumers when flights are being operated under a codeshare deal.

US authorities ruled Travelzoo hadn't disclosed the corporate names of the carriers operating flights or any other names under which those flights were sold to the public, on its website.

"As a result, consumers were unable to learn, at an early stage of the booking process, the ID of the airline that would actually operate the aircraft on which they were flying," the DOT said.

Tune Patong opening

BUDGET hotelier Tune Hotels will open its fourth property in Thailand in Jan, the Tune Hotel Patong, Phuket.

The 144-room property is offering rates priced from just US\$13 for bookings until 02 Dec, valid for stays from 03 Jan-30 Sep.





Travel Pack, valued at \$65 each, courtesy of **Travel Trade Recruitment** - the recruitment specialists for the travel industry.

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Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Alison Prowse** from **Anywhere Travel**.



Tuesday 27th Nov 2012

Exclusive/A&K tie-up

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has handed over the operation of its Residence Club portfolio to luxury destination club, Exclusive Resorts.

The move will see Exclusive Resorts prop up its portfolio to over 350 luxury residences in 60 international destinations.

"This strategic partnership gives us the opportunity to focus on what we do best: delivering seamless travel experiences," A&K ceo Geoffrey Kent said.

Design Hotel newbies

BOUTIQUE independent hotel representation firm Design Hotels has expanded its collection into the Ukraine and Malaysia for the first time.

Among the nine new additions is 11 Mirrors in Kiev & Macalister Mansion in Penang, which have joined Design Hotels this month.

Other new signings include Eden Hotel, Bormio in Italy; Flor de Mayo Hotel, Cuernavaca in Mexico; del Mango Villa Estate, Bali in Indonesia and The Naka Phuket in Thailand.

OO/EV oneworld fillies

AMERICAN Airlines' regional US partners SkyWest and ExpressJet have joined the **one**world airline alliance as affiliate members.

Under the deal, SkyWest is now offering the full range of oneworld services and benefits operated under AA's American Eagle brand from Los Angeles to an initial 13 destinations.

And effective 14 Feb, **one**world will offer ExpressJet services to about a 12 destinations, including one new location for the group, being Beaumont/Port Arthur, TX.

The affiliation does not extend to services not carrying the American Eagle brand.

HK meeting rates

HONG Kong's Harbour Grand Kowloon has released a range of new meetings and conference packages valid for 2013.

Full-day packages start from HK\$660 (AU\$81) - call Randall Marketing on (02) 9929 2829.

Phuket delivers for JQ sellers

JETSTAR'S incentive winners started their week in Asia with a bang, with their first morning spent at the Siam Safari Park in Chalong, about 20 mins south of Patong.

The park is famous for its Asian elephant sanctuary, with guests able to see a baby

pachyderm show as well as ride on fully-grown elephants on a 30min trek through the jungle.

Demonstrations on how the local Thai people make their own coconut oil, milk, rice and rubber are performed, with groups also able to ride in a cart dragged by a massive water buffalo.

Following this, lunch is enjoyed aboard a traditional junk boat that meanders out into the bay for a relaxing lunch cruise, before guests are returned to their hotels.

The famil group's evening began at the famous Fantasea dinner and show extravaganza, which has to be seen to be believed, before the night-owls headed to soak up some local nightlife.

More of **TD**'s famil pics online at www. facebook.com/traveldaily.



ABOVE: Australia's contingent on the Jetstar famil trip. From left, Zoe Byrne from FCm Travel Solutions; Paula Wilson, Harvey World Travel Albany; Jaclyn Snell, Jetstar; Bryan Wu, Student Flights Richmond (MEL); Paul Rogers, Flight Centre Tweed City and Daniel Johnson from Snowscene.



ABOVE: Paula Wilson from HWT Albany enjoying the view of the Phuket peninsula in her privately chauffeured Asian elephant.



ABOVE and **BELOW**: Riding elephants can be hard work, as the group enjoyed a Thai buffet lunch aboard this junk boat.

BELOW: Daniel Johnson from Snowscene tries a local chilli sensation whipped up for him on the spot at the Siam Safari Park.







Tuesday 27th Nov 2012

QR 787s to London

QATAR Airways will commence Doha-London 787 flights from 13 Dec, meaning that Perth pax will be able to fly on the Dreamliner all the way through to the UK.

Dawn breaks for Cook Islands



ABOVE: Last week a group of lucky vampire-loving travel agents attended special screenings of the latest Twilight movie (Breaking Dawn Part II) in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney courtesy of Cook Islands Tourism.

The film was preceded by a training session on the upcoming Cook Islands campaign, with lots of upcoming activity including a roadshow planned for 18-22 Mar next year.

Interest in the destination is also being driven by a major consumer and trade promotion, offering all Australian travellers flying Air NZ to Rarotonga before



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 03 Jun 2013 a NZ\$100 gift card to spend on their holiday.

The bonus is available to all travellers except infants, meaning a family of four would recieve NZ\$400 in spending money.

The "Cooks Cash" promo is also being complemented with a trade incentive to win one of seven places on a Cooks famil next May - to be part of it register at cookislands.travel/cookscashincentive.

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation gm Australia, Kerryn Cook, told TD the Air NZ direct flights from Sydney are working well, with average loads of around 75% - and the service has also dramatically increased awareness of the destination.

She also confirmed that a new CEO of CITC was likely to be announced early next month following the departure of Carmel Beattie (TD 31 Jul).

Pictured above enjoying R-PAT and the other vampires are some key wholesale representatives including Fiona Wozney, World Resorts of Distinction; Richard Skewes, Precise Travel Marketing; and Kerryn Cook and Mereana Taruina, CITC.

MakeMyTrip purchase

NEW YORK-listed MakeMyTrip Limited, which describes itself as "India's leading online travel company," has bought a stake in Bangkok-based ITC Group, which is an existing hotel aggregator and tour operator in Thailand.

The \$US3m deal sees MakeMyTrip establish a strong foothold in Thailand, which is a key market for its Indian outbound holidays business - with the aim of developing more direct hotel relationships in the country.

ILTM Spa once again

THE organisers of International Luxury Travel Market will host the second ILTM Spa event in London from 30 Sep-02 Oct 2013.

The inaugural ILTM Spa took place in Austria this year, with the 2013 event coinciding with the UK's annual Tatler Spa Awards.

But will Borat attend?

TOURISM officials in the central Asian nation of Kazakstan are claiming a major coup after the Paris-based Bureau of

International Expositions (BIE) chose the capital Astana to host Expo 2017.



The event will be held

Jun-Sep 2017, with the overall theme being 'Future Energy'.

Expo 2017 will be the first ever major international event of its kind to be held in the region.

The BIE stipulates that host cities must be capable of welcoming up to four million visitors during the three months of the exposition.

The other city in contention for the event was Liege in Belgium.

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



Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication. Produced each weekday since 1994, the newsletter is first with the latest industry news and is available by paid subscription to people within the travel industry. Sign up for a free 14 day trial subscription at www.traveldaily.com.au.

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CRUISE

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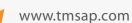
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