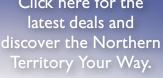


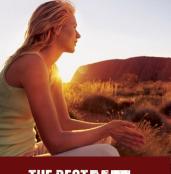




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## Jetstar 787 to fly domestic

THE Qantas Group will introduce its first commercial 787 services on select Jetstar domestic flights ahead of the aircraft's deployment to long-haul services, it has emerged.

Speaking in Seattle today at the Boeing factory, Jetstar Director for the 787 Program Mark Dal Pra told **TD** the *Dreamliner* would likely enter service on current Airbus A330 routes, earmarking possible domestic routes to the Gold Coast and Cairns, ex Sydney and Melbourne.

"This first aircraft will be our only 787 to fly domestically before joining our international network, providing a great window of opportunity for thousands of domestic travellers to experience the 787," Dal Pra said.

After its domestic debut, the 787 will gradually replace Jetstar's 11 A330s on international routes including those to Bangkok, Honolulu and Bali.

JQ will take delivery of its first 787-8 aircraft in late Sep, with the jet to be put through its paces and undergo CASA approval.

The entry into service testing

will also include further pilot and engineering training, training for airport staff and 600 cabin crew, and gaining approval for a modified AOC.

The domestic commercial 787 flights will operate in Nov, ahead of JQ taking delivery of another two Dreamliners by year end.

Dal Pra said the configuration of JQ's Dreamliner has been based on leisure demand, meaning the Business Class cabin will be reduced in comparison to the ratio of seats offered on its current wide-body A330s.

It will feature 21 Business Class and 314 Economy Class seats, all of which will feature seat-back Panasonic eX2 inflight IFE that offes video-on-demand, games and gate-to-gate availability.

More from Boeing's Seattle factory on pages four and five.

#### Another awesome TD

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

- TMS Asia Pacific
- AA Appointments
- French Tourism webinar



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Tuesday 4th Jun 2013



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## China arrivals still surging

**MONTHLY** statistics for Apr arrivals and departures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics once again show China firmly in second place for visitors, with 58,000 arrivals for the month - up 18% on a year ago.

China grew at more than twice the rate of other markets, with the US up 9.1% to 36,000 and India showing an increase of 8.4% to 14,000, while Singapore arrivals are up 8% to 22,700.

Arrivals from the UK dropped 1% to 38,300, while there were also small declines from Korea, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Japanese arrivals continued to languish, down 8.9% to 19,200.

The top inbound market was NZ with 100,300 arrivals, up 1.3%.

Departures also showed little sign of slowing, with short-term trips by Australian residents up 4.6% year-on-year in Apr.

The fastest growing outbound destination was Singapore, up a whopping 24% year-on-year to 30,300 Australian travellers.

Slower growth was recorded to other destinations including China, up 9.2%; the USA, up 8.4%; and New Zealand, up 7.7%.

The top outbound market was NZ. followed by the US and then Indonesia which interestingly showed a 1.9% drop to 70,100 pax during Apr.

There were declines in Apr outbound travel to Hong Kong (down 6.8%) and Fiji (down 4.8%).

#### **Expedia TAAP on app**

**EXPEDIA** today announced that members of its Travel Agent Affiliate Program can now earn commission on bookings made through the Expedia App.

Travel agents registered for the TAAP can now process bookings via the mobile app, ensuring the same commission levels as they would receive through their laptop or desktop computer.

"Mobile is making a huge impact on travel distribution." said Expedia TAAP's Stuart Udy.

"So long as the agent uses the same Expedia account on their mobile as they have registered for Expedia TAAP, the booking is automatically tracked and accrued to their existing TAAP account".

#### Campus Travel appt

**FLIGHT** Centre's Campus Travel has appointed Jamison Warren as its new Director of Sales.

Warren will be based in the Campus Travel office in Melbourne and report to gm Lorraine Donnan, focusing on "strengthening the company's global sales platform to increase consistency and market share".

He moves from his previous role as Director of Global Sales for Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group Asia Pacific, where he doubled sales revenue over the last four years.

Warren was also formerly marketing mgr Australia/NZ for Flight Centre's corporate brands.

#### EY AUH meet & greet

ETIHAD Airways has launched a new service for guests arriving on EY flights at Abu Dhabi International Airport.

The new Meet & Greet option can be booked up to 48 hours before travel and is designed to simplify luggage collection and passage through immigration.

The Silver package costs US\$38 per person, while the US\$65pp Gold package also offers a porter to take luggage to the curbside.



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from \$1,899\* pp RETURN plus taxes
\* Conditions Apply. Taxes approx. \$840\* - \$860\* pp.

**CLICK HERE for further details** 

## Wotif offers reviews widget

**ONLINE** accommodation specialist Wotif.com today announced it will provide suppliers with the opportunity to feature "verified customer reviews widget" on their own websites.

Unlike some other sites such as TripAdvisor, Wotif's reviews are only able to be posted once a consumer has actually stayed at a property, with the company



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saying it is becoming a "reviews authority" in Australia and NZ, with around 50,000 new reviews submitted every month, and a total of over 700,000 globally.

The widget is a small program which displays guest reviews, and is offered in a number of designs that can easily be incorporated into a supplier's website, "providing their customers with an unbiased endorsement of their property from a credible source," according to Wotif Group Digital Marketing Manager, Shaden Mohamed.

She said that 88% of people consult a review before making an accommodation booking, "so we believe that by providing these reviews, more customers will stay on a supplier's page to complete a booking rather than leave to research reviews elsewhere".

The reviews widget is available to all Wotif.com accommodation suppliers at no charge, with no set-up or ongoing costs.

Accommodation partners should contact their Wotif.com product manager for more information.

#### Ape to drive tourism

**DELEGATES** at the upcoming National Tourism and Events Excellence Conference will see presentations on how tourism initiatives can be driven through leveraging the popularity of major blockbuster movies.

Set to be held at the MCG from 22-23 Jul, speakers will include Tourism NZ's Catherine Bates, who will discuss how the country has portrayed itself as the real-life fantasy world of Middle Earth in The Hobbit movie franchise.

Director and CEO of Global Creatures, Carmen Pavlovic, will also present a case study on the upcoming performance season of King Kong live on stage and its benefits for Victorian visitation.

Registration & more information on the National Tourism & Events Excellence Conference can be found at www.teeconference.com.

#### Hertz Skywards 4x

HERTZ is offering Aussie travellers the chance to earn quadruple Skywards miles (up to 2000) on all vehicle rentals from now until 31 Aug, with the offer applicable to all 130 global destinations offered by QF/EK.



## Window Seat

**DON'T** ever get between an Aussie traveller and a drink.

That was the hard lesson learnt by a waiter at a restaurant in Serbia this week, who ended up with part of his finger bitten off.

According to reports from Belgrade, the 26-year-old Australian tourist, identified only by the initials S.M, visited a cafe in the northern town of Novi Sad last Fri with his own bottle of liquor and wanted to drink it.

A police statement said that the man attacked the waiter after he was asked to put the bottle away.

**IRISH** low cost carrier Ryanair is once again in the news, after a social media diatribe from former Australia's Got Talent host and Westlife boy band member Brian McFadden.

The singer tweeted that Ryanair chief Michael O'Leary was a "scumbag who exploits hard working people" after he was charged a whopping £70 to print a boarding pass.

That wasn't where it ended, with McFadden also charged £80 for his golf bag being 4kg overweight, prompting another tweet accusing Ryanair of "tricking people out of their money with your ridiculous loopholes".

McFadden ended up not flying with Ryanair at all, instead catching a train from Liverpool to London "to fly with an honest airline".



**EXPERIENCE MATTERS.**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF TRAVEL INDOCHINA.







Today's issue of TD is coming to you from Seattle, USA courtesy of the Qantas Group & Boeing.

**BOEING'S** huge Everett facility is a 'must do' sightseeing experience for visitors to Seattle and is located about 40mins from the city, adjacent to Boeing's HQ.

It's the facility used by Boeing for the final assembly of aircraft. Public 90 min tours run daily & give visitors a chance to see what

goes into building an aircraft.

#### **LOT Dreamliner first**

LOT Polish Airlines has become the first carrier to operate the Boeing 787 on transatlantic commercial services, fast-tracking the state-of-the-art aircraft into its int'l network last weekend.

The Star Alliance member had initially slated the launch of the Warsaw-New York JFK service for 30 Jun, but elected to bring it forward, replacing its 767s.

The introduction of the JFK service also sees LOT become the first carrier to operate the Dreamliner out of New York.

In the next week, LOT will also introduce 787s on the Chicago (05 Jun) & Toronto (07 Jun) routes.

## Now 14 flights each week to Manila

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3 x A320 flights from BNE/DRW

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## **Philippine Airlines**

#### 787-9 starts assembly

**BOEING** has broken further ground on the production of its longer-range 787 Dreamliner aircraft, with the aircraft entering the final assembly line last week in Everett, Washington.

On 30 May, Boeing started joining large sections of the 787-9 together, a variant that will be six metres longer than the current 787-8 model

The 787-9 will be able to hold an additional 40 passengers, and fly an further 555kms further than its sibling, while using 20% less fuel than similarly sized jets.

"Integrating the 787-9 into our production system on time is another clear sign that we are well prepared & well positioned for the work ahead," said Boeing's Mark Jenks, vice president 787 Airplane Development.

The aircraft manufacturer plans to assemble the first 787-9s on its 'Temporary Surge Line' in Everett, which it says will enable a smooth integration into the production system while maintaining the growing production rate of the smaller 787-8 series jets.

To date, Boeing has 355 orders for the 787-9 from 20 customers (accounting for 40% of the total Dreamliner jets on the order books), the first of which will be delivered to Air New Zealand in the second half of 2014.

# CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

## **General Manager Marketing - Ringwood**

Since 1994, Captain's Choice has been Australia's experts in inspired travel. Through innovation and fresh thinking, we continue to lead the way with high staff-to-guest ratios, genuinely all inclusive tours, and active engagement with many of the global communities we visit.

Due to continued growth we are now seeking applications for this newly created role.

#### Key responsibilities and competencies required:

- Strategic and tactical marketing planning
- Management of the implementation of the marketing plan
- Strong contribution to broader management team and overall business strategy development
- High degree of involvement with product planning
- Strong, engaging and inspirational leadership
- · Advertising, electronic, direct and loyalty marketing
- Tertiary qualification in Tourism and/or Marketing preferred
- Experience working with a luxury travel product would be desirable
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- · Strong organisational and time management skills
- Experience managing a dynamic team

Please send a cover letter outlining your interest in the role and your resume to: employment@aptouring.com.au

Scooting with Star

TWO Piaggio scooters are being given away in Jun and Jul by the Star Alliance in a new two-month sales incentive through Air Tickets.

Entries into the draw for the scooters can be earned by ticketing one of seven branded air products through Air Tickets on Star Alliance carriers before 31 Jul.

Eligible fares include region specific Airpasses for Africa, Asia, China, Europe and North America as well as Circle Pacific and Round the World fares.

Three weekly supplementary prizes of \$150 Westfield shopping vouchers will also be given away.

More at www.airtickets.com.au.

#### NF W condition eased

A MINIMUM 21-day advance purchase restriction for a W-Class wholesale Economy airfare to Noumea with Aircalin has been dropped by the carrier.

The fare, first released in Nov last year, offered a 20% reduction on the previous lowest fare and is available in GDS, is available yearround, even in peak seasons.

Aircalin sales manager Australia Brett Walsh said the adjustment to the fare's rules now allows sales right up to the last minute.

#### NZ Ski/Drive package

**EUROPCAR** has partnered with New Zealand's Cardrona Alpine Resort and is offering a ski season discount of up to 50% to the first 200 Europcar customers to book a one-day lift pass in conjunction with a NZ vehicle rental.

The offer is available for sale until 06 Oct at Europear outlets in Auckland, Wellington as well as all vehicle collection depots on the South Island.

#### **New Thomson wings**

**UK-BASED** charter airline Thomson Airways received its first Dreamliner aircraft on Fri.

The firm will operate the 787-8 on long-haul services to Sanford in Florida and Cancun from next month, plus Phuket, Mauritius & Puerto Vallarta from 2014.



#### **INSIGHT VACATIONS**

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#### Money

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

#### \$1AUD = US97.5c

**ANOTHER** month, another Reserve Bank meeting and more potential for another rate cut.

The Aussie dollar has had a strong start to the month of Jun, but is still well below parity and the highs it has enjoyed of late.

As a result, economists worth their salt do not expect interest rates to be cut further, with the chief money controllers preferring to see what happens.

Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$0.975
UK	£0.636
NZ	\$1.206
Euro	€0.746
Japan	¥97.20
Singapore	\$1.220
China	¥5.963
South Africa	R9.58
Canada	\$1.003
Crude oil	US\$93.28

## Qantas Group's Dreamliner moves into final assembly



BELOW: The all-

white JQ 787 on the

floor being fitted

**THE** Qantas Group and Boeing revealed the airline's first of 14 787 *Dreamliner* planes destined for subsidiary Jetstar at the aircraft manufacturer's Everett facility near Seattle overnight.

The Jetstar jet entered the final assembly line six days ago, and will exit the phase in the world's largest building (by volume) in about four days time.

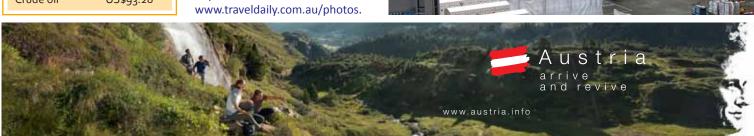
The 787 will continue to allow Jetstar to offer low fares, says JQ's Mark Dal Pra, with a double-digit percentage increase in saving on a per seat basis compared to other equivalent sized aircraft.

See an exclusive collection of pics from Everett online at www.traveldaily.com.au/photos.

LEFT: Director of JQ's Boeing 787 program, Mark Dal Pra (left) and Jetstar's B787 flying ops stream lead Jeremy Schmidt - (the pilot tasked to fly the jet to Australia) - can't hide their excitement to see the jet finally coming together.

**BELOW:** It was a case of perfect timing for Aussie media visiting the Everett plant, with the Australian made moveable trailing edge components being fitted to the aircraft on the day.





## Austria. Moments of Bliss

A singular journey, a lifetime of memories.



#### 1\_Graz's Friendly Alien

Graz locals called it "the friendly alien", the unusual building that revived an entire neighbourhood. Built in 2003, the smooth, reflective surface of the Kunsthaus Graz is a great contrast to the surrounding historic architecture of the city. The truly singular Kunsthaus hosts contemporary art exhibitions, a lively café and media lounge - and happens to afford one of the best views of the old city.

More information



#### 2\_Fine Art & Cuisine

In the little town of Purbach, on the shores of Lake Neusiedl just an hour out of Vienna, Gut Purbach's Chef Max Stiegl raises his own sheep, sources fish caught fresh daily from the nearby lake, and only uses vegetables from local farms. His cooking is inspired by the age-old practice of using every part of an animal combined with a slow-food approach to using only simple, wholesome ingredients that are in season.

More information



#### 3\_Innsbruck's Hofburg

Innsbruck's Imperial history is a story all by itself. A glorious city deep in the alpine mountains, the Habsburgs loved Innsbruck, the rougher surroundings, and the distinct Tyrolean culture. The Gothic style Imperial Palace, or 'Hofburg' as the locals call it, today is amongst the three most significant cultural buildings in Austria, next to the Vienna Hofburg and Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna. More information



For more Moments of Bliss, visit www.austria.info/bliss. For inspiring travel programs to Austria and to receive brochures, display material or other helpful sales and marketing tools, please call (02) 9299 3621 or email us on info@antosyd.org.au



#### CONGRATULATIONS

from Jetset Travel Mitcham

Michael is the top point scorer for Round 10 of Travel Daily's AFL industry footy tipping competition and has won a \$50 voucher to spend on any products at www.lifeliveitup.com.au, courtesy of Life®.



#### **Major Prize Sponsors**

1st Prize: 4-night holiday to Dubai, courtesy of Emirates and Holiday Inn





2nd Prize: 5-night holiday to Vanuatu, courtesy of Air Vanuatu & Iririki Island Resort Vanuatu





## The Great Insight Cinema soirée

**INSIGHT** Vacations is moving back to "the art deco of old" with the launch of its new **USA** and Canada brochure which also features itineraries in Hawaii and Alaska.

Insight managing director Joost Timmer said the

firm has once again mastered the "art of touring in style".

With the launch of the new brochure, guests travelling with Insight Vacations on its USA and Canada itineraries can follow in the footsteps of The Great Gatsby characters and be transported back to the "1920s American bourgeoisie," staying in New York hotels and enjoying the Art Deco architecture of the stately mansions in Newport.

Itineraries featuring these highlights include the eight day Cities of the East and Icons of the American Heartland.

The new brochure features 10 Gold programs ranging in length from 8-22 days & 14 Premium **Escorted Journeys with tours** from 7 to 16 days long.

Insight Vacations is continuing



to see good results in Europe and the USA following on from a "record year, last year," Timmer told Travel Daily.

He is pictured above second from left at Sydney's Event Cinemas last night prior to a special screening of The Great Gatsby, with David Farrer, Insight Vacations; Steve Labroski, itravel and Maureen Van Metter from Insight Vacations.

#### **Origin deadline looms**

**READERS** are advised the entry deadline for *Travel Daily*'s State of Origin comp is 5pm tomorrow.

Up for grabs is a two-night stay at the Pullman at Sydney Olympic Park in Sydney, courtesy of Accor.

To enter simply predict:

- 1) Which team to win the series?
- 2) The final scoreline in Game 1.
- 3) Which minute will the first try of the game be scored?

Send your predictions to soocomp@traveldaily.com.au.

## Irave First with the news

Tuesday 4th Jun 2013

#### **GA BNE fare sale**

**GARUDA** Indonesia has issued special sale fares from Brisbane to Denpasar to celebrate the return of services from 01 Aug.

Return seats are priced from \$728 in Economy or \$2063 in Executive Class and are on sale until 30 Jun.

Passengers returning to BNE can also enjoy up to 30% off at a number of attractions including Dreamworld, SkyPoint, White Water World and more.

More details on 1300 365 330.

#### See Sydney in Winter

**DESTINATION** NSW has formed a partnership with Qantas Holidays to launch a series of special packages to a range of upcoming events in the state.

Ticket and accom packages to the Bledisloe Cup rugby, State of Origin Game 3, Blue Man Group, and more are on offer, starting from \$108pp for 1 night accommodation & a ticket to the Australian Garden Show Sydney.

Quote the codeword "Bonus" on select Sydney air & land event packages to receive 2,000 bonus Qantas Frequent Flyer points.

## IATA members support NDC

**MEMBERS** of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have unanimously approved a resolution at the group's Annual General Meeting in South Africa expressing their collective support for the New Distribution Capability initiative (NDC).

IATA's proposed revamp of the way airfares are sold involves bundling all fare products and ancillary products and services offered by airlines into a single transaction, offering transparency to consumers buying airfares through travel agents worldwide.

Under the passed resolution, members agreed that "consumers will benefit from being able to make choices based on enriched content and the ability to compare and transact airline offers in a transparent fashion".

"Consumers want to be able to buy air travel products in the same way that they purchase other goods, with full access to product information, the ability to comparison-shop and to see the full value of the offer," IATA director general Tony Tyler said.

Despite the full support of the airline industry governing body, it said airlines would still be free to choose whether to adopt the NDC to support their needs, and that the existing system would still be supported by IATA for as long as demand for it existed.

In his state-of-the-industry address, Tyler refuted claims the NDC would hurt the industry by directing passengers to buy direct.

"NDC will not bypass travel agents. It will enable them to sell all of what airlines have on offer".

**MEANWHILE**, the averaging of oil prices along with airlines continuing to improve margins with ancillary sales has led IATA to raise its global profit outlook to \$12.7b for the 2013 calendar vear, based on \$711b in revenues.

The new forecast was a jump of \$2.1b from the last revision carried out in Mar (TD 22 Mar).



#### **REGIONAL MANAGER WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Thrifty Car Rental is a member of the NRMA Group of Companies and is the only wholly owned Australian international car rental brand. Thrifty is a major industry player with an extensive fleet of over 11,000 vehicles that includes cars, trucks, 4WD's and buses.

Thrifty is looking for a results focused, dynamic leader to grow its business and market share in Western Australia. The Western Australian state is a key location for Thrifty and we are looking for someone to lead the team to the next level. You will be based at Perth Airport but also will be accountable for the Perth City location.

As the Regional Manager – Western Australia, you will be responsible for the growth of the region, extensive business planning and execution, revenue generation, the development of your people and the delivery of exemplary customer service. Building strong relationships with the Thrifty licensees is also a requirement of the role. This is crucial as we have a large Franchisee network in the region.

We require a customer focussed and hands on operator who is ready for a challenge, is used to a dynamic and changing environment and who will be willing to travel. This position will require a high degree of personal commitment.

If this is the opportunity you have been waiting for, we are looking forward hearing from you.

Please send your resume with cover letter to jobs@thrifty.com.au



#### Countryside 15% off

**BACK-ROADS** Touring has cut 15% from the price of a six day tour of the Scottish and North England countryside, departing in Jul, priced from \$1866ppts.

## NHH agents cruise the Zambezi



TOP performing agents selling New Horizons Holidays Africa product recently enjoyed a visit as part of the wholesaler's first ever famil to the continent.

The group enjoyed nine days of adventuring through Botswana and Zambia, seeing a number of

luxury safari camps and unique experiences only Africa delivers.

Air Mauritius provided seats to Africa for the trip, with all ground touring coming courtesy of Thompsons & Wilderness Safaris.

Also taking part in the trip was New Horizons Holidays' managing director Chris Evens, wishing to show his personal gratitude.

Pictured above riding along the Zambezi River from left are Zoran Panzich, Best Flights; Kim Simpson, Our Travel Agent; Chris Evans, New Horizons Holidays; Daniel Bromley, Jetset Travel Woodvale; Karen Robertson, Escape Travel Rockingham and Michelle Triscari from Jetset Travel Woodvale.

## Rd 12 Winner

CONGRATULATIONS

**Aaron Christian** from APT

Aaron is the top point scorer for Round 12 of Travel Daily's NRL industry footy tipping competition, and has won a complimentary pass for two people to Sydney Tower Eye, courtesy of Merlin Entertainments Group.



#### **Major Prize Sponsors**

1st Prize: 4-night holiday to Dubai, courtesy of Emirates and Holiday Inn





**2nd Prize:** 5-night holiday to Vanuatu, courtesy of Air Vanuatu & The Grand Hotel and Casino Vanuatu





#### **Scoot birthday fares**

**LOW-COST** carrier Scoot has launched a special 24-hour sale in celebration of its first birthday.

From 1pm tomorrow for one day or until seats sell out, pax can book return travel from Australia to Singapore and only pay for the taxes on the return journey, valid for travel until 30 Sep.

Book at www.flyscoot.com.

MEANWHILE, Scoot has flown its first service to its newest port the Chinese city of Nanjing.

#### Baggage subscription

**UNITED** Airlines has released a subscription service in which a flat fee starting from \$349 is charged for flyers to prepay their checked baggage fees for a year.

The subscription can be tailored based on the geographic region travelled, with an Economy Plus seat subscription also available.

#### **Oman agent training**

THE Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Tourism has launched a new interactive online training tool to better equip travel agents in Australia and New Zealand.

In conjunction with the launch, 40 travel agents are being offered the opportunity to participate in a "Side Trip of a Lifetime" famil which will showcase the best the country has to offer.

Every agent who completes all eight modules over two workshops will be eligible for selection, according to Oman Tourism country manager Australia/NZ, Mona Tannous.

To see the modules **CLICK HERE**.

#### MH increases Phuket

MALAYSIA Airlines has boosted its weekly operations to the Thai resort city of Phuket to 26 with the addition of a new daily flight.

The new service will operate as MH798, departing KUL at 4:55am, arriving to HKT at 5:10am, with the return service departing at 6:15am, landing in KUL at 8:45am.

#### **Exchange rate impact**

THE recent prolonged strength of the Australian dollar has contributed to Australia falling one place in a global competitiveness ranking of 60 high performing nations.

Released late last week, the IMD World Competitiveness Centre ranking study positioned Australia in 16th place in the 2013 results, a fall of one spot from last year.

Only 8% of respondents in an Executive Survey said Australia's competency of government was a key attractiveness indicator.

The report found the nation's challenges included uncertainty in policy making, also heralding that a change of government was "likely" come September.

Australia finished just behind Malaysia in the rankings and one place ahead of Ireland.

Among the leading countries, a booming tourism industry helped the UAE to make the biggest oneyear jump from 16th to 8th place.

Topping the ranking was the USA, who reclaimed the top spot on the back of a recovering economy - www.bit.ly/auscomp.



#### **AFTA UPDATE**

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

NTIA fever has hit AFTA this week with the judging of the finalists officially kicking off and running over the next two weeks.

On top of this, last week we held the judging process for the NTIA New Zealand event in Auckland and there is no doubt that we have an outstanding field of finalists for this year's event. It all adds to the excitement of the NTIA as the momentum builds in readiness for the gala event on the 20th July in Sydney.

Tickets have flown out the door and we are now set to have 1200 seated at the Hordern Pavilion for a spectacular night full of surprises.

2013 is going to be the year that NTIA really hits it straps as the event takes the travel industry on an exciting and impressive journey of recognition. Good luck to all the finalists being judged over these next two weeks, we all can't wait to see who wins.

AFTA's board will also meet this week and look to endorse the good work of the various working groups that have been preparing the draft AFTA Accreditation Scheme under the leadership of Gary O'Riordan.

The plan is to prepare the draft criteria and details, and upon further confirmation of this detail with the various government bodies involved, roll out a consultation roadshow to ensure that everyone within the travel industry that wishes to have a view on the plans will be welcome to do so. Watch this space as we hope to be able to confirm the details for either Aug or Sep for the consultation process going forward.

There has been some significant work done already in getting all of this ready and occasionally we have to check in with ourselves that we don't become too "government-like" in our process. However, this is game changing important stuff for the travel industry and we have a once in a generational chance to get these changes "fit for purpose", industry specific and ready to "future proof" the travel industry for the next 20 years and beyond - no small order.

So thank you to everyone for sticking with us over this process and look out for more detail about the AFTA Accreditation scheme going forward.

## WIN A SCENIC TOURS **EUROPE RIVER CRUISE**



Throughout June, *Travel Daily* is giving readers the chance to win an all-inclusive luxury river cruise for two valued at over \$20,000, courtesy of Scenic Tours and Swiss International Air

The prize includes two return economy class airfares (ex major capital city) on Swiss International Air Lines and a Category E cabin on the 15 Days Jewels of Europe River Cruise (Amsterdam to Budapest) valid for travel in March, October or November 2014.

Every day *Travel Daily* will ask a different question – just read the issue and email us your answer. There will be 19 questions in total, which will also be posted on our website.

At the end of the month the subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative

response to the final question will win this all-inclusive luxury.

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

#### Q.2: Which feature of the Balconies is exclusive to Scenic Tours?







#### **Regional event funds**

**QUEENSLAND** Tourism Minister Jann Stuckey has announced that \$1.5 million in new funding will be distributed among organisers of 39 regional events through the Tourism & Events Queensland Regional Development Program.

The successful event applicants range from sporting, music, film and Chinese themed festivals, aimed at boosting tourism to associated regional centres.

"This program... helps to deliver tourism benefits and promote Queensland's regional destinations to a wider audience," Stuckey stated.

#### **Meridien in Big Easy**

STARWOOD'S Le Meridien brand will make its debut in New Orleans after a \$29m conversion of the former W New Orleans.

#### Making of a Master

**NOVOTEL** Canberra has partnered with the National Gallery of Australia to promote a Cultural Getaway in line with the Turner from the Tate exhibition.

Packages start from \$189 per night, inclusive of accom, brekkie and two tickets to the exhibit, on show until 08 Sep.

Phone (02) 6245 5000 to book.

#### **KQ** to boost Eldoret

**INCREASED** demand on flights between Nairobi and Eldoret has seen Kenya Airways announce it will boost frequencies on the route to operate double daily.



Tuesday 4th Jun 2013

## Mornings in Europe winner

**GREG** Mangos from Travel Utopia on the Central Coast of NSW has been selected as the lucky winner of Trafalgar's recent Europe Week promotion.

The guided holiday firm partnered with Etihad Airways earlier this year to promote a number of its most popular European destinations.

TV personality Laura Csortan sampled

some of them herself, airing a number of segments on Channel 7's The Morning Show.

Mangos' prize consisted of two places on Trafalgar's Imperial

Europe guided holiday with airfares from Etihad Airways. He is **pictured** above accepting his prize from Trafalgar sales manager Conrad McCall.

#### Narnoo at Symposium

**CAIRNS** technology developer James Wells will address delegates attending this week's ATEC Symposium in Adelaide on his new tourism collateral marketing & distribution program entitled Narnoo.

The program, launched late last year (TD 11 Dec), provides a more streamlined method of linking the promotional material of different tourism businesses to a central platform, allowing any changes to be immediately reflected online.

**Tourism Tropical North** Queensland is already utilising the system, with Wells to offer an ATEC Master Class on the Narnoo system at Symposium this week.

Wells said "This automatic process means media updates are immediate instead of being dependent on a member advising TTNQ of changes and then TTNQ having to make them".

#### EY Cargo to Sydney

SYDNEY will become Etihad Cargo's 8th global destination when it commences new twice weekly services from Abu Dhabi this week.

"Our cargo network continues to expand, and with the addition of new main deck operations to Riyadh, Sydney and Vienna we are significantly adding to the scale of our global operations and linking many parts of the world via our Abu Dhabi hub," said EY's Kevin Knight, chief strategy and planning officer.

#### New Waikiki Skybar

**CONSTRUCTION** is set to begin on a new lounge and tapas bar as part of a major modernisation of the Waikiki Shopping Plaza.

To be named Skybar Waikiki, the bar will offer Diamond Head views & is slated to open in 2014.

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