



Wednesday 13th November 2013



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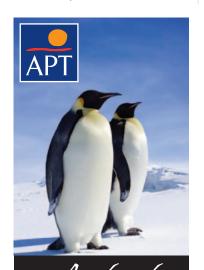


Canada Corroboree

REGISTRATIONS have opened for the 2014 Canada Corroboree which will showcase "new and amazing experiences in Canada" across Australia from 4-12 Feb.

The event will include a new TV game show theme, while each city will have a major prize on offer of a trip to Canada.

Corroboree will be held in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney, with registrations available by CLICKING HERE.





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AFTA slams ATAS critics

AFTA ceo Javson Westbury has staunchly defended the ATAS reforms, saying it seems to him that people and organisations who are questioning the changes in the middle of implementation "do so for their own commercial gain rather than for the good of the industry at large".

The move came in the midst of the AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme transition workshops which kicked off this week, with Westbury reinforcing the "multiple benefits of the voluntary scheme for the travel industry and consumers".

He said that ATAS will elevate standards and address two major failings of the TCF arrangements - restricted scope and minimal consumer awareness.

"The reality is that consumers are increasingly booking with suppliers directly or via non-Australian travel websites, all of which are outside the scope of

the TCF." he said.

"Consumer awareness of the benefits of the TCF was also extremely low, with 97% of those booking through travel agents completely unaware of the TCF's existence or its benefits".

As well as providing a more level playing field, the reforms give the industry the option of taking out supplier insolvency insurance.

"While the TCF was in place, this simply wasn't an option," he said.

The voluntary nature of ATAS means that companies can "choose the structure that best suits them," with agents, TMCs, aggregators, wholesalers, OTAs, inbound operators and consolidators eligible to join.

Seven pages of news

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

AA Appointments jobs

Ausmerica winners

QANTAS yesterday announced the 50 travel agent winners who have earned a place on its Brand USA 'Ausmerica' famil, set to depart for America next week.

Agents who ticketed QF flights on 081 paper which included at least one Qantas international flight from Australia to HNL, DFW, LAX or JFK between 21 Sep-18Oct were eligible to participate.

View the complete list of agents at www.qantas.com.au/trade.



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QF fast-track coffee

QANTAS Club customers and eligible Frequent Flyers using the Sydney Qantas Club at T3 now have the ability to order baristamade coffee from their mobile device using the 'Beat the Q' app, under a trial of the scheme.



AA/US win DOJ approval

AMERICAN Airlines & US Airways can move forward with their planned merger after settling antitrust litigation brought by the US Department of Justice.

The green light allows the joint entity to become the world's biggest airline, pending approval by the US Bankruptcy Court.

The parties were scheduled for a court trial on 25 Nov.

AMR Corporation, the parent firm of AA, revealed the settlement required the companies to divest 52 slot pairs at Washington Reagan National Airport and 17 at New York LaGuardia Airport.

It results in 44 fewer flights from Reagan and 12 less at LaGuardia.

The deal requires AA/US to hand back a number of gates & related support facilities at Boston Logan, Chicago O'Hare, Dallas Love, Los Angeles Int'l and Miami airports.

They have also committed to maintaining their presence for at least three years in their hubs of Charlotte, New York (JFK), Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago (O'Hare), Philadelphia and Phoenix.

Attorney General Eric Holder said the conditions would enable low-cost carriers such as Virgin America and Southwest to attain

Bali product price cut

SELECT Qantas Holidays and Viva! Holidays Bali product has been decreased in price by 2% during the month of Nov, effective immediately.

a larger share of access to key hubs, providing more competition on routes nationwide.

"This agreement allows us to take the final steps in creating the new American Airlines," said AMR president and ceo Tom Horton.

"There is much work ahead of us but we're energised by the challenge and look forward to competing vigorously in the everchanging global marketplace," Horton commented.

Incoming ceo of the merged airline Doug Parker said the carriers were "pleased to have this lawsuit behind us and look forward to building the new American Airlines together."

AA/US now expect to complete their merger in Dec.

VA auctions upgrades

VIRGIN Australia has launched a new concept where pax can barter for a chance to upgrade from Economy seats to Premium Economy or Business Class.

Dubbed "UpgradeMe Premium Bid", the request system requires VA pax to make an offer via their PNR on what they are willing to pay to upgrade to the pointy end, and provide payment card details which will be billed if successful.

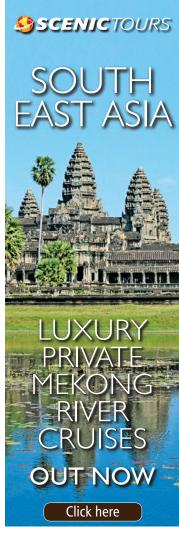
The offer is only available for bookings made directly online or thru VA's Guest Contact Centre.

Certain criteria & conditions apply, see www.bit.ly/VAupb.

DNSW appointments

HARUHIKO (Harry) Niihori and Samantha Cameron have been named as Destination NSW's new country managers for Japan and New Zealand respectively.

The duo will be responsible for driving business to the state.











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Webjet flags flat '13/14 result

WEBJET says that its new Zuji acquisition is "profitable and on track" after eliminating unprofitable streams of the business in Australia.

According to details released today at the Webjet agm, Zuji now has an emphasis on bottom



line profit, "not superficial TTV of unprofitable components".

A major quality improvement program within Zuji has extended service centre operations from business hours to 24/7.

The Lots of Hotels business in the Middle East and Africa is "ahead of plan" with major direct contracts completed and operations in 12 markets already.

In its core flights business, Webjet says the Australian market has been "essentially flat" for the last year but there are tentative signs of growing consumer confidence and business stability after the election.

The company claims that there is "major headroom" in the market for travel packages which has traditionally been captured by bricks and mortar travel agents.

Webjet says its new packaging technology is complete and "ready to roll," while the firm plans to boost its marketing and advertising by about \$2 million.

Technology investments include transitioning to cloud computing, upgrades of its service centre operations and "sophisticated alternative shopping algorithms".

The company is predicting a full year EBITDA profit of \$21.5 million, about the same as the "normalised result" this year.

That includes "development and transformation costs" of approximately \$3 million.

"We will not boost short term profits at the expense of the future," the company said.

NZICC govt approval

THE New Zealand Parliament has passed legislation for the New Zealand International Convention Centre, paving the way for SKYCITY to pump NZ\$402 million into the facility.

Legislation extends SKYCITY's Auckland Casino Licence to 2048 and allows for an increase in the gaming product and other gaming concessions.

SKYCITY chief Nigel Morrison said the positive decision "will enable New Zealand to finally compete for major conventions in this part of the world."

The NZICC will be a "vital piece of national tourism infrastructure that will reinforce Auckland as a leading international city by attracting high value events and visitors to Auckland and New Zealand," Morrison added.

Developers are expecting the centre will open in Sep 2017.

Fiji departure tax rise

FIJIAN PM Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama has announced a rise of FJ\$50 to the Fiji Airport departure tax which will take effect from 01 Jan next year.

The increase was confirmed in Fiji's 2014 National Budget, which will see the levy increase from FJ\$150pp to FJ\$200 (AU\$115).

Extra funds collected will be put towards a range of environmental conservation initiatives as well as increased funding for Fijian aviation authorities.

Fiji's departure tax was cranked up by FJ\$50 earlier this year.

Window Seat

LADY Gaga is set to be the first singer in space, with Virgin Galactic confirming that the pop star will sing one track at zero gravity during a 2015 music festival in New Mexico.

According to *US Weekly*, the three day festival dubbed Zero G Colony will take place about six months after the first Virgin Galactic commercial flight, which is now expected to take place late next year.

An unnamed source said Gaga will do a month of vocal training for the stunt, and has also taken out a "ridiculous life insurance policy" in case anything goes wrong.

US media group NBC Universal has also announced a deal to televise the first Virgin Galactic commercial flight which will carry founder Richard Branson.





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STOs start the celebrations



ABOVE: Several state and territory tourism organisations gathered in Sydney last night to thank key partners for their support through the year.

Tourism Vic, Destination NSW, Tourism Tasmania, Tourism WA, Tourism NT and the SA Tourism Commission hosted the event, with a similar soiree to take place in Brisbane tonight.

Pictured above are Gemma Christie of Lastminute.com.au, JTG's Gabrielle Ferguson and David Grattan of Tourism Vic.

More pics on our website and at www.facebook.com/traveldaily.

Royal Caribbean's Hurry, sale ends **Saturday** T&Cs apply RoyalCaribbean

Adventures first Australian & New Zealand product, the company has expanded its offering by 250% for 2014, adding nine new itinerary options.

New for next year is the launch of G Adventures' 'classic' style trips, joining its existing offering of 'YOLO' and 'comfort' tours.

MEANWHILE, G Adventures has launched a new campaign in partnership with Tourism Australia to promote the product to the North America market.

market and get our crews used to

flying on the jet before deploying

The carrier is hoping the 787 will

sharply reduce its operating costs,

as it is 20% more fuel efficient

than airliners of comparable size

due to its lightweight composite

Jetstar has 13 more of the long

range Dreamliners on order.

it to Bali next month," a Jetstar

spokesperson told TD.

construction.

Jetstar debuts new 787

JETSTAR'S first 787 Dreamliner took off this morning under leaden skies on its inaugural commercial flight to the Gold Coast from Melbourne, ushering in a new era of jet travel for Australians.

It was five years late for Jetstar but that didn't quell the excitement for those on board the maiden service, JQ432, configured to carry 314 pax.

There were 40 empty seats on the twin-engined wide-body for the two hour journey.

"We normally wouldn't have this big a plane or this many seats to the Gold Coast, but we wanted to introduce it to the holiday

Rail Plus giveaway

A \$60 Coles Myer gift card will be awarded to agents booking Eurail Global Continuous, Global Flexi or Select passes that are paid in full to Rail Plus by 24 Dec. Prices have also been dropped by 20% for travel before 31 Mar.

New railway program

RAILWAY Adventures founder and director Scott McGregor has launched his 2014 The World by Train program, featuring a range of 11 unique itineraries.

Among the locomotive tours offered is a 16-day Southern India journey that includes travel aboard the Golden Chariot train, priced at \$8,950ppts, or the 17day Scandinavia by Rail, Road & Sea tour that is \$9,985ppts.

Tours are guided by McGregor himself, along with tour leaders such as Robert Kingsford-Smith and the Hon Tim Fischer AC.

The itineraries are operated by Guidepost Tours - more info at www.railwayadventures.com.

G Adv ANZ tour boost SUCH has been the success of G Irave First with the news

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Free flights to Burma

TRAVELMARVEL has released a partner fly free airfare promotion to Burma when booking any of its trips to the country departing between Sep 2014 & Mar 2015.

The offer represents a saving of up to \$1,080 per couple.

Passengers can take advantage of the 'companion fly free' special if booked by 31 Mar - more info at www.travelmarvel.com.au.

QF BNE/ZQN schedule

QANTAS will operate a weekly Boeing 737-800 service between Brisbane and Queenstown over the 2014 ski season, with flight details released yesterday.

Flights QF185/186 will operate on Sat between 07 Jun & 27 Sep, leaving BNE at 9:05am, and returning from ZQN at 3:35pm.

GROUP PRODUCT MANAGER EUROPE

Academy Travel is the leading Australian provider of small group cultural travel for the sophisticated over-55's market. Each year we operate 70-80 group tours from our Sydney office. The vast majority of our tours are to Western Europe and the UK. We have our own office in Rome and a network of suppliers around the globe.

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- Demonstrated knowledge of the over 55's special interest tour market
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- Good knowledge of Western Europe and the UK, including personal travel experience
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www.academytravel.com.au





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\$5 inter-island flight

CREATIVE Holidays & Hawaiian Airlines have partnered to offer \$5 add-on fares from Honolulu to Maui, Kauai & the Big Island when booking packages by 13 Dec.



Accommodation Updates

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



Following a five-month, \$8 million renovation, Shangri-La Hotel Sydney has taken the wraps off its new Grand Ballroom. Inspiration for the design of the pillarless function space comes from the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House. Offering 668sqm of space, four crystal chandeliers accentuate the ballroom

ceiling, each made using 2,000 crystal rods hand-carved from alabaster.



Newly opened in a growing tourist hotspot of Cambodia is the **Anantara Angkor Resort & Spa**, located in Siem Reap near to the Angkor Wat Temples. Described as a sanctuary for the senses, teak furniture and high-quality textiles feature throughout the property's 39 rooms and suites, which range between 48

and 140sqm in size. Anantara's famous spa treatments are also available.

Indochina Asia Guru

A NEW online program called 'Asia Guru - Training' has been launched by Travel Indochina to help agents better sell "complex" products & destinations it offers.

Managing director Paul Hole said the support scheme would help consultants "navigate the overwhelming choice in the market to provide the best outcome for their clients."

Details at www.asia-guru.com.

Allure early drydock?

ROYAL Caribbean's 5,400 pax ship Allure of the Seas is being considered to enter drydock early after suffering a propulsion issue. More in *Cruise Weekly* on Thu.

Philippines advice

THE Department of Tourism for the Philippines has stated the office is determined to focus on a quick recovery to restore tourism following the devastating impact of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan).

"The Philippines remains a safe and fun destination for all tourists, notwithstanding this unfortunate incident," it said.

Tourist products in the Philippines remain available, the agency advised, with top destinations still accessible.

The organisation commented that it was vital partners embark on initiatives to "help us achieve normalcy and sustain the tourism growth, particularly in the affected destinations."

Mauritius & Africa Seychetes + Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - Madagation - Zaralbar - Monoco Seychetes - Reution - M

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China Corroboree for Gold Coast

A GROUP of 300 of China's top travel agents will descend on the Gold Coast for the inaugural three-day Corroboree Greater China in Jun next year.

The forum provides a platform for Aussie Specialist travel agents from China to build ties with local tourism companies to develop their own businesses.

Tourism Australia md Andrew McEvoy said the event will offer selling agents a chance to sample

Dragon boats to ADL

ADELAIDE has won the title of host city for the 2016 Club Crew World Championships of dragon boat racing, to be held in 2016.

The week-long event is tipped to lure thousands of athletes and supporters & inject around \$4m into South Australia's economy.

Races will be held at the AM Ramsay Regatta Course, located at West Lakes.

MEANWHILE, the South Australian govt has announced the establishment of a bid fund to help Adelaide Convention Centre lure additional events.

The government is providing an extra \$2 million over two years - a decision labelled as a "smart investment" by Tourism & Transport chief Ken Morrison.

"This fund is a vote of confidence in the sector & will help encourage private investment in hotels, entertainment and major events," Morrison said on Tue.

Faster Israeli visas

ISRAEL has been added to the list of eligible countries for electronic lodgement of visitor visa applications to Australia.

Immigration Assistant Minister Michaelia Cash said the move will fast-track short-term visas processing for Australia bound tourist and business travellers.

Bushfire-ready forum

A 'BUSHFIRE Preparedness' seminar has been organised by the Tourism Industry Council NSW to provide tourism businesses & destinations with advice on how to prepare for and manage the risks of bushfires.

The event is being held from 11am-2pm on Thu 28 Nov at the Royal Randwick Racecourse more info at www.bit.ly/TICfire. some of the Sunshine State's best tourism experiences.

Queensland Tourism Minister Jann Stuckey said Corroboree Greater China will complement the Australian Tourism Exchange which is being hosted in Cairns the month prior.

Gold Coast Tourism ceo Martin Winter said Corroboree offered an opportunity to educate and motivate Chinese buyers, given the significance of the market.

"With the Chinese market growing exponentially in terms of visitor numbers, but also maturing towards greater quality and tailored touring options, Corroboree will allow us to showcase the best that the Gold Coast has to offer this dynamically evolving market," Winters said yesterday.

The show will run from 25 to 27 Jun 2014, organised by Tourism Australia and Gold Coast Tourism, and supported by Tourism and Events Queensland.

WIN A NYE OPERA HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Win the most fabulous New Year's Eve experience in Sydney!!!

Travel Daily is giving away two A Reserve double passes to either the New Year's Eve Gala Concert or La bohéme at Sydney Opera House, valued at \$708-\$808.

The winners will also have the opportunity to purchase the Midnight Party tickets to go along with the performance at \$269 each.

For your chance to win, answer the question below in 25 words or less, and send it by COB on Friday 15th November to: NYEopera@traveldaily.com.au.

Why would going to an opera event at Sydney Opera House be a great New Year's Eve experience?

O|PERA AUSTRALI|**A**



Mat McLachlan's famil debut



EXPLORING monuments and historic WWII remnants, this group of Travel Counsellors held the honour of being on the very first travel agent famil operated by Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours.

The group of ten ventured to the battlefields of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, escorted by Mat McLachlan himself, to trace the footsteps of marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen who had gone before them in times of conflict.

From wandering airfields and clambering in foxholes occupied once by armed forces, the group also examined the wreckage of a

dive bomber and snorkelled over a sunken Japanese transport ship known as the Hirokawa Maru.

"A definite highlight was trekking up Galloping Horse with Mat and seeing a battlefield for the first time," Karly Plush from Travel Counsellors commented.

Plush is **pictured** above first from left with her group at the Vilu Outdoor Museum, which also consisted of Mat McLachlan, Lynne Wells, Elizabeth Keller, Christine Jenkins, Michelle Tavli, Rosemary Metcalf, Jennifer Lloyd, Lisa Pagotto, Suzanne Watson, Eleanor Lamdin & Angela Sonners.

TSAX owners on the Italian job



OWNERS and managers from a number of Travelscene American Express agencies in Victoria were recently whisked off to experience a famil taking in many of Italy's famous highlights and landmarks.

The educational was sponsored by Viva! Holidays & Accor Hotels, which saw the group enjoy the opulence & swank associated with MGallery properties throughout.

Air seats getting the group to and from Rome were provided by THAI Airways International.

Two nights were enjoyed in the Italy capital Rome as well as Milan and Florence, with visits to Venice and Vatican City and firstclass Italo & Trenitalia rail getting the group between cities.

Pictured above at the Duomo in Florence in the back row from left is Kate Clifton, Accor; Carole Sartori, Travelscene Wonthaggi; Hayden Gercovich, Travelscene @ Frank Ford Travel; Campbell Squires, Travelscene Brighton & Ann Simmons, Cousins Connections.

Front row: Chris McIlroy, Travelscene Cranbourne; Judy Quigley, Travelscene Toorak; Aida Osta, Viva Holidays; Maria Di Pietro, Jump on Board Travel and Nicole Grant from Destination HQ.

Lux Maldives addition

ISLAND Destinations has added the Jumeirah Dhevanafushi and Jumeirah Vittaveli luxury resorts, both in the Maldives to its property representation portfolio.



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Hotel leaders align growth plans



TOURISM Accommodation
Australia (TAA) recently sponsored a trip down under for American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) Chair Ron Vlasic to meet local counterparts at the Tourism Australia Directions conference, which took place in Canberra.

Vlasic, also the vice-president of the Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants group, also met senior industry leaders in both Melbourne and Sydney to discuss future advocacy directions and growth ambitions.

The AH&LA oversees a US hotel industry which contributes US\$1.5 trillion annually to the American economy and supports

7.5 million jobs.

Meeting with TAA managing director Rodger Powell & Federal Minister responsible for tourism Andrew Robb, Vlasic said he was delighted to share best practices with his Australian peers.

Vlasic highlighted the need for the hotel industry to have a strong advocate in government working to ensure development of the sector is not neglected.

Powell has this week travelled to New York to meet US hotel executives to share perspectives on the Aussie industry.

Rodger Powell, Andrew Robb & Ron Vlasic are **pictured** above.

DriveAway models new Peugeot



STRIKING a pose, this group of Flight Centre agents pitch in to help DriveAway Holidays promote its popular new Peugeot 308SW model, which is taking Australian travellers to Europe by storm.

DriveAway exhibited the new machine at the recent Flight Centre Expo on the Gold Coast, speaking with prospective clients about its leasing Earlybird sales. Up to nine free days are on offer, valid on selected models of the new Peugeot through DriveAway Holidays' Earlybird sales, with 50% off delivery and return fees outside of France for bookings made by 28 Feb next year.

The Flight Centre beauties at the expo are **pictured** above.

EK cautious on group profit

DUBAI-BASED carrier Emirates has posted an overall increase in profit and revenue for the half-year ending 30 Sep, warning it is not immune to challenges affecting the aviation industry.

As an entity comprising its passenger, freight and airport services divisions, the Emirates Group said revenues were up 13% to AED42.3 billion (AU\$12.3 billion), resulting in net profits of AED2.2 billion (AU\$643.8 million).

"The global business environment continues to be challenging," Emirates Group chairman and ceo His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said.

The carrier pointed to high fuel prices and an "unfavourable currency exchange environment" which affected overall margins.

Seat load factors held steady at 79.2%, down 0.5% due to faster capacity increases, with a total of 21.5 million pax carried networkwide, up 15% year-on-year.

Seven new destinations have been added to the EK network in the last 12 months, with four more to join in the next half-year.



ARABIAN luxury would be the best way to surmise experiences enjoyed by this group of Infinity Holidays top-achievers, who recently ventured to Dubai and Oman on a rewards trip.

The wholesaler's annual Incrowd Trip rewards the Top 50 selling agents, which this year was supported by Dubai Tourism and Oman Tourism.

While in Oman, the group stayed at the palatial Shangri-La Muscat, cruised the local harbour, toured local souks and enjoyed an evening under the stars in an overnight desert experience.

Venturing back to Dubai, the agents stayed at two of the city's most luxurious and exclusive abodes in Atlantis The Palm and the Jumeirah Zabeel Saray, both located on the iconic Palm.

The group ventured to the top

of the world near the summit of the Burj Khalifa, with some even opting to drop from even further above by going skydiving, while others chose the more serene activity and swam with dolphins.

The spoils went up a notch for the Top 10 in the group, who enjoyed an evening beach party at the Sandance Festival, including a concert headlined by international act The Killers.

Pictured above in Oman Village in the back from left is Gabrielle Patten, David Hackett, Kirsty Browne, Bianca Lubetzky, Daniella Bodnar, Kristen Campbell, Taryn Tapper, Kylie Walton, Trish McManus, Sandra Cavallin, Kylie Callinan, Alison De Neit, Jan Catherine and Steve Taylor.

Front row: Fiona Bounsall, Kiyah Rook, Adriana Petkov, Oman Tourism; Mohammed, tour guide; Kathryn Gregg, Monica Demellis, Amy Gillespie and Ann Van Oyen.

WIN A HOLIDAY TO JORDAN



This month *Travel Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a holiday to Jordan, courtesy of *Jordan Tourism Board*, *Greece and Mediterranean Travel Centre* and *Royal Jordanian Airlines*.

The prize includes:

- Two Economy Class return airfares from Royal Jordanian port in Australia to Amman
- Seven day tour of Jordan, including Jerash, Dead Sea and Petra
- 6 nights accommodation
- Air conditioned transportation, entrance fees and meals.

Each day *Travel Daily* will ask a Jordan-related question — just read the issue and email us your answer. There will be 21 questions in total. 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 incredible Jordan holiday.

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

Click here for terms & conditions of the competition.

Q. 9: How many days is Greece and Mediterranean tours Jordan Essentials Tour?







New London airport?

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson says a new six-runway hub on the Thames Estuary in London could be operational in seven years at a price tag of £47.3b (AU\$81b).

According to a consortium assembled by Johnson to address the looming capacity ceiling at Heathrow, a new facility known as London Brittania Airport would sit on a man-made island, approx 80kms east of the London CBD.

Johnson said no houses or commercial developments would need to be demolished in order to accommodate the new airport.

Mantra denies sale

MANTRA Group has downplayed suggestions that it's running a "sale process," with today's Financial Review claiming that financiers UBS and CVC are exploring their exit options from the former Stella Hospitality group which they ended up with after the MFS collapse in 2008.

Last year offers were solicited for the business but apparently did not meet expectations.

Mantra told *Travel Daily* today it is "leaving all options open".

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