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\*World Travel Awards 2014

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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Monday 22nd December 2014

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## Antarctic agent deal

**ANTARCTICA** Sightseeing Flights is offering **Travel Daily** readers an exceptional opportunity to bring in 2015.

There are limited spaces available on the Sydney flight over Antarctica which departs on New Year's eve at 1830, returning at 7am the next morning.

A live Jazz band is on board and the flight is scheduled to be right over the ice at midnight when of course it is bright daylight outside.

Normally the cheapest fare is \$1199 per person, but by quoting the code TRAVEL DAILY industry staff will pay just \$500.

Seats will also be upgraded to the best available option.

Maximum two people per booking, get in quick by calling 1800 633 449 today.

## Starwood to Croatia

**STARWOOD** Hotels & Resorts will mark its entry into the Dalmatian Coast with the 2015 opening of the new Sheraton Dubrovnik Riviera Hotel.

The 250-room property will feature signature Sheraton offerings such as Sweet Sleeper beds, Link@Sheraton and Sheraton Fitness, plus over 1000sqm of meeting space.

## Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today has four pages of news & photos, including a front cover page for **Ethiad** plus a full page from:

- AA Appointments jobs

## Ethiad MEL double dailies

**ETHIAD** ceo James Hogan says Melbourne has been "one of the strongest routes on our network" since launching flights to the Victorian capital in 2009, with the debut of a second daily non-stop service to Abu Dhabi (**TD** breaking news) set to offer passengers more flexible timing and better connections.

Hogan said the additional flight, to commence 01 Aug 2015, will add more than 4,500 weekly seats to the route as well as doubling freight capacity.

"Melbourne will now be linked to more than 50 cities across Ethiad Airways' global network, including 20 double daily services to popular destinations in the Middle East and Europe," he said.

Vic's minister for tourism and major events, John Eren, said the announcement by Ethiad "represents another vote of confidence in Victoria as a leading tourism destination."

## LH ski choppers

**LUFTHANSA** has launched a new helicopter service which will whisk premium passengers directly from flights landing at Munich Airport to a range of nearby ski resorts.

Set to debut 01 Jan, the service can be booked now and will operate until the end of Apr.

The service will operate to any resort as long as there is an on-site helipad, and can be booked via [lufthansa@helitravel.de](mailto:lufthansa@helitravel.de).

"Attracting new airline services is a longstanding and continuing priority for the Victorian government as we seek to grow tourism across Melbourne and regional Victoria," he added.

The new double daily MEL schedule increases EY's total Australian frequencies to 42 per week in partnership with partner airline Virgin Australia.

Emirates operates triple daily services from Melbourne to the UAE, but two of these are routed via Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

## New CCL, HAL ships

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has announced orders for two new vessels to be constructed by Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri.

Carnival Cruise Lines will take delivery of one of the ships, a 3,954 passenger vessel which will become the 26th ship in its fleet.

A sister ship to *Carnival Vista* which will arrive in 2016, the unnamed new CCL vessel is planned for delivery in Mar 2018.

The order also includes a second Pinnacle class ship for Holland America Line, with capacity for 2,650 guests.

This HAL vessel will feature new public spaces and venues which will debut on *Koningsdam*, as well as many of the familiar areas currently featured across the Holland America Line fleet.

Carnival Corporation now has ten ships scheduled for delivery between 2015 and 2018.

## New era of flying

**ETHIAD** Airways has ushered in a "new era of flying" with the debut of the cabin product on board its brand new A380 and 787 aircraft (**TD** Fri).

The carrier is celebrating the landmark achievement on today's **Travel Daily** cover page.

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## QF valet special

**QANTAS** Valet has launched a “Pay 3, stay up to 10 days” festive season offer.

Valid from 26 Dec, the special is available in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth simply by quoting the code ‘PAY3’ at the Valet counter.

## Autograph to Dubai

**MARRIOTT** has added Dubai’s Habtoor Grand Beach Resort & Spa to its Autograph Collection.

The move marks the debut of the Autograph brand in the Middle East and Africa.

Sydney’s Pier One Hotel, formerly operating under Accor’s Sebel brand, is also now an Autograph Collection property.

## Savenio set for agent push

**UPMARKET** agency group Savenio has this morning signalled a major push in to the home-based market, with the appointment of Andrew Challinor to manage a recruitment drive.

Savenio, recently rebranded from its former identity as Queensland-based Travel Concepts, has now established an office in Sydney (TD 12 Nov), with the push for new members coming along with a 100% commission offer.

Challinor has extensive experience in the home-based agent area, with his career including six years with MTA Mobile Travel Agents as its national recruitment manager.

He has also worked with Travelscene American Express and his most recent role was with the Independent Travel Group.

“We are pleased to have Andrew on board to commence and drive our home-based and mobile solution to the right agents whose clients require luxury and sophisticated networks,” said Savenio joint md David Brandon.

“A key feature of Savenio’s offer is 100% commission to their network,” he added.

Savenio is a Virtuoso member and also has a well-known cruise-focused The Cruise Centre sub-brand.

Brandon said adding Savenio Mobile would expand the group’s brand portfolio, focusing on “exclusive and luxury travel experiences”.

## NZCC comes closer

**SKYCITY** has applied for “resource consent” for the proposed new New Zealand International Convention Centre, meaning the project is one step nearer to becoming a reality.

Tourism New Zealand ceo Kevin Bowler said the move was “great news for the tourism industry” because it will enable NZ to be more competitive on a global scale by bidding for larger scale conventions which will in turn bring more delegates.

The NZICC will have capacity for up to 3,500, and Bowler said it would complement TNZ’s business events activity which is going from “strength to strength”.

## MH sponsors Kyrgios

**MALAYSIA** Airlines today formally unveiled a new partnership with 19-year-old Aussie tennis sensation Nick Kyrgios who will become an ambassador for the carrier as it flies him to tournaments across the globe in 2015.

It’s a perfect match for MH, with Kyrgios born in Australia to a Greek father and a Malaysian mother.

Malaysia Airlines regional senior vice president, PK Lee, said “Nick is the future of Australian tennis.

“We’re thrilled to be helping him reach great heights,” he said.

## Two decades of professionalism



**WORLD** Travel Professionals recently celebrated twenty years of successful travel management, with the milestone a key feature of the group’s annual conference last weekend.

Taking place at the newly opened InterContinental Double Bay hotel in Sydney, the 20 Year Celebration took the company back to where it started in 1994.

“World Travel Professionals has grown from a team of three to close to 100 tday, with five offices in four states,” said founding director Lisa Story who hosted the event alongside ceo Michael

Chase-Smith.

She thanked the company’s “dedicated and passionate team” as well as supplier partners, who she said were instrumental to the success of WTP.

Chrissi McDiarmid, WTP head of operations, was also crowned as Employee of the Year.

**Pictured** above from left at the celebration are Chrissi McDiarmid, global sales director Greg Wilken, Lisa Story, Michael Chase-Smith, e-solutions mgr Amanda Barratt, gm Wayne Swaysland, and Pam McMurtry, head of conference and events.

## US visa changes

**THE** Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has reissued its Smartraveller advice for the USA, reflecting new information about I-94 (admission) record numbers.

For travellers who have entered the USA under the Visa Waiver Program, I-94 entries cannot now be renewed by travelling to Canada, Mexico or adjacent islands in North America.

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travel

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## US\$, Euro, GBP top currencies

**DESPITE** the weakening Australian dollar, the appetite of Aussie travellers for long-haul currencies has increased year on year according to new data from Travellex released today.

The intriguing findings back statements by various industry players including Flight Centre and Graham Turner, who has consistently downplayed any currency-related impact on long haul outbound travel patterns.

However interestingly Travellex has highlighted a close correlation between demand for the Fijian dollar, Indonesian Rupiah, Vanuatu vatu and French Polynesian franc based on how the AUD is performing against each currency.

Travellex head of pricing for southern hemisphere, Miroslav Trisic, said Australians are savvy currency buyers, often preferring to purchase major currencies such as Euro or USD during periods when there is increased exchange rate volatility.

## Club Med still in play

**CHINA'S** Fosun Group has once again raised its offer for Club Med, offering €24.60 per share on Fri afternoon, trumping a rival €24 offer by Italy's Andrea Bonomi.

The spiralling offers continue the process kicked off in May 2013 when Fosun's Guo Guanchang first offered €17 per share, with the next bidding deadline now set as 07 Jan.

"We do know though that Aussie travellers take into account affordability of the destination when they're planning holidays closer to home - to Fiji or Vanuatu for example - and demand will increase for a currency that the AUD is performing against well".

Travellex has also launched a new "Win a million" competition offering a chance to win \$1m by topping up a Travellex Multi-currency Cash Passport with the equivalent of \$400 in foreign currency, or exchanging \$250 online or \$400 in store in Australia - for promo details see [travellex.com.au/winamillion](http://travellex.com.au/winamillion).

## New LAX train system

**A NEW** \$4 billion plan has been approved by the commissioners of Los Angeles Airport which promises to transform the LAX arrival and departure experience.

The future Landside Access Modernization Program includes an automated LAX train which will connect passengers to the terminals from major new facilities including a Rental Car Center, various passenger drop off and pick up locations, and a planned Crenshaw Line railway station at 96th Street.

Now the project moves to an environmental review phase, with construction expected to commence as early as 2017.



## Window Seat

**CARNIVAL** Corporation is set to make someone's cruise dreams come true during the screening of the upcoming Super Bowl football game in the USA.

For the first time ever Carnival will advertise in one of the coveted spots during the 01 Feb telecast, and as part of the promotion is giving away a yearly cruise for life to one lucky winner.

A range of concepts are under consideration for the Super Bowl commercial, and fans are being invited to put in their two cents worth via previews at [worldsleadingcruiselines.com](http://worldsleadingcruiselines.com).

There's also a new online "Check your CRUISE-A-NALITY" tool that consumers can use to help select the best cruise for them based on a series of "personality-focused questions".

**A SKY-HIGH** Gospel singing group has entered the Guinness Book of Records after performing a Christmas concert aboard an easyJet flight between London and Geneva.

The ACM Gospel Choir performed for 15 minutes at 39,000 feet during the service as part of an airline initiative to raise funds for Unicef.

They now hold the record for the "highest altitude carol concert" - to view the moment click on the **TDTV** logo.

## Would you trust this hairy man?

**SOME** may say this pic looks like a police mug shot, but this sultry hirsute look is what won Brian Rudman of Amadeus the coveted travel industry Movember title this year.

A member of the 19-strong Amadeus Mo Bro Squad, Rudman received an Edwin Jagger Cladding handmade shaving travel kit - which it's believed has already been used to remove the offending ranga-coloured growth on his upper lip.

The Amadeus team collected more than \$2100 in sponsorship to support the Movember men's health charity drive.



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Email: [paul.patane@savenio.com.au](mailto:paul.patane@savenio.com.au)



## AA Internet c'share

**AMERICAN** Airlines will start a new codeshare partnership with Mexican carrier Interjet on 15 Jan, to destinations incl Huatulco, Merida, Oaxaca and Villahermosa.

## Check this festive outfit!



## IAG after Aer Lingus

**INTERNATIONAL** Airlines Group, the parent firm of British Airways and Iberia, has confirmed a bid for Irish flag carrier Aer Lingus, but says its approach has been rebuffed by the airline.

Reports of the bid saw Aer Lingus shares surge 14%.

## HA orders six A330s

**HAWAIIAN** Airlines has finalised a Memorandum of Understanding with Airbus which will see it acquire six new A330-800neo aircraft from 2019.

The agreement replaces a previous HA order for six A350-800s, and also includes purchase rights for another six A330s.

CEO Mark Dunkerley said the A330-800neo is "the right size, with the right range and costs".

**ABOVE:** Now this is what we call getting into the true spirit of the season.

Thai Airways International last week participated in Corporate Travel Management's "12 Preferred Supplier Days of Christmas," with activities including Christmas Tree dressups.

**Pictured** above enjoying the event are Alison Ani, Nerissa Ilaya, Rebecca McCarthy, Maria Auostis and Melanie White.

## Minor into Zanzibar

**MINOR** Hotel Group, the owner of Australia's Oaks Hotels & Resorts, has announced its expansion into Zanzibar, taking over the management of Essque Zalu Zanzibar.

The property will be transformed into a Per AQUUM resort by the end of 2015.

## Brochures of the Week

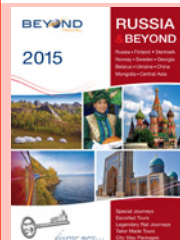


**WELCOME** to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to [brochures@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:brochures@traveldaily.com.au).



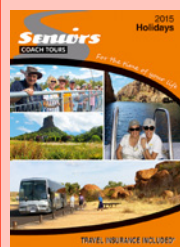
### Qantas Holidays New Zealand 2015/16

This program includes a range of captivating New Zealand experiences covering the full gamut of the North and South Islands. New additions include options for soft adventure lovers, such as wine cycling trails, guided hikes, zorbing and "Eco Zip" treks. Lord of the Rings/Hobbit fans will also enjoy a great new range of Middle Earth tours



### Beyond Travel - Russia & Beyond 2015

Beyond Travel has significantly expanded its range for next year, with this 21st anniversary program adding Sweden, Norway and Denmark to the offering - a natural extension to existing products in Finland, Russia and the Baltics. The comprehensive program offers Australians the broadest variety of Russia product in the market



### Seniors Coach Tours 2015 Holidays

With a large Tas and Kimberley program already announced this full 132 page brochure adds tours to all other states of Australia, ranging from 5 to 17 days. West Coast, WA Wildflowers, SA and Victorian Highlights, several Qld itineraries and a NZ program offer a wide choice. Prices include return air fares, and as a new initiative for 2015, travel insurance (conditions apply) is also included in the quoted fare.



### Travelmarvel Western Australia 2015

The 2015 WA program for Travelmarvel for the first time ever includes Kimberley coast cruising aboard the 25-suite *Coral Princess*, with a 10 day voyage featured as part of two itineraries in the program. Also new for 2015 is a range of exciting new accommodation and sightseeing options. Earlybird booking offers include "companion fly free" deals and there's also a solo traveller saving of up to \$1150pp on selected dates.



### Infinity Holidays Fiji 2015/16

The new Fiji brochure from Infinity Holidays combines Nadi and Regional Fiji into a single section on Viti Levu, while a separate section links Northern and Regional Fiji Islands. Other elements of the brochure include new double-page spreads, QR codes for easy access to resort websites and a re-arranged fold out cover plus "Genres pages" to make it easy to match product to client requirements.



### New Horizons - Indian Ocean 2015

New Horizons' 2015 Indian Ocean program features Mauritius, Seychelles and the Maldives. Six packages are on offer including Dive the Maldives, Luxury Seychelles, Mauritius Honeymoon, and two day tours including Walking with the Lions and a West Coast Catamaran Cruise. The Villas Caroline is featured as an exclusive accommodation option, with all inclusive and meal package options available.

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