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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 23rd December 2014



Have you joined jito?

THE travel industry's newest social network, Jobs in Travel Online, is inviting you to join the jito community.

For a chance to win an iPad mini simply become a member at www.jito.co and like JITO on Facebook or Instagram.

See the **cover page** for details.

EK adds third BHX

EMIRATES will boost flights from Dubai to Birmingham to a triple daily operation effective 01 Aug 15, with the third service departing Dubai at 0235am.

Reservations are now open for the additional flight, which will operate using Boeing 777-300ER aircraft.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has four pages of news & photos, a front cover page for **jito** plus a full page: (**click**)

- AA Appointments jobs

Jetstar to fly OOL-Nadi

JETSTAR has today announced its first non-stop flights from the Gold Coast to Fiji, with a thrice weekly service scheduled to debut 31 Mar 2015.

Offering more than 50,000 seats annually between the destinations, the move comes hot on the heels of the reinstatement of Jetstar's Perth-Gold Coast route (**TD** 17 Dec).

The new Nadi service will operate using 180-seat Airbus A320 aircraft in a single class configuration.

The flights will depart each Tue, Thu and Sat and fares will lead in at \$199 one way.

Jetstar Australia/NZ ceo David Hall said he was "delighted to deliver this direct low fares link to the heart of the South Pacific.

"The Gold Coast Airport has worked closely with us in developing this route, and we're grateful for their support in making these flights possible,"

Hall said.

Jetstar also introduced direct services from the Gold Coast to Wellington earlier this month and once the new Fiji flights commence will offer more than 10,000 international seats a week in and out of Coolangatta, covering six destinations.

Hall said the expansion "cements our position as the leading international carrier in the Gold Coast".

QIC holiday schedule

THE Qantas Industry Centre and Groups support will be open normal trading hours right through the Christmas period, apart from the public holidays on 25 and 26 Dec as well as 01 Jan.

Online service via the Qantas Industry Sales site will continue to be offered 24/7 for service requests, fares, policies and procedures.

Free Hyatt wi-fi

HYATT Hotels Corporation has announced the introduction of free wi-fi internet access at all of its properties worldwide.

Customers will be provided with "connectivity and convenience regardless of booking method or loyalty program participation," the company said, with the free internet to roll out in Feb 2015.

An unlimited number of devices or laptops will be supported in all Hyatt-branded hotel guest rooms and social spaces, with Hyatt vice president of brands, Kristine Rose, saying "internet connectivity is no longer an amenity - it has become an integral part of travellers' daily lives and a basic expectation.

"Travellers shouldn't have to remember which brands or locations offer it for free or the strings attached to get it."

Where available, top tier members of the Hyatt Gold Passport loyalty scheme will receive a complimentary upgrade to premium wi-fi service.

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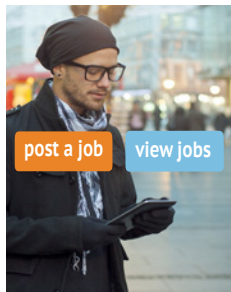
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Magellan grows again

THE Magellan Travel Group is expanding in South Australia, with the addition of Adelaide-based Champion Travel to its ranks effective 01 Jan.

The expansion pushes Magellan to now have 121 offices across the country.

Champion Travel was formerly part of Helloworld's Travelscene American Express brand.

QH gets the Cup

QANTAS Holidays has been endorsed as an official travel provider for the upcoming 2015 Audi International Champions Cup, taking place in Melbourne this coming Jul.

Top soccer teams including Real Madrid CF, AS Roma and Manchester FC will battle it out in the once-in-a-lifetime event, with tickets now available via Qantas Holidays.

The three European league champions are among the leading football teams in the world, with ticket categories available through QH ranging from Bronze, Silver, Gold through to Platinum.

"This may be the only time we are able to work with our agency partners to target our Australian football fans and provide them with the opportunity to secure a ticket to see these champions on our home soil," said Qantas Holidays manager national industry sales, Fiona Dalton - for details call 13 27 87 of go to www.qhv.com.au.

CX Christmas sale

CATHAY Pacific has announced a festive season promo offering special fares to 63 destinations in China, Japan and Taiwan.

Economy class deals are available for travel between 26 Jan and 30 Nov 2015, and start at just \$683 return to Hong Kong, \$765 to Shanghai, \$762 to Taiwan and \$776 to Tokyo.

Premium economy fare levels are also available, with the deals on sale until 31 Dec 14.

Nick Zaferis joins itravel

FORMER Hertz National Industry Sales Manager, Nick Zaferis, is moving across to the agency side of the industry, having taken on a new itravel store in Liverpool, Sydney.

The outlet is the second store for itravel Hurstville owner Rosemarie Church, who is working with Zaferis as a new business partner.

The new itravel store is located in the Westfield Liverpool shopping centre, and officially opened last Sat (pictured).

Zaferis - well known to the industry for his dedication to car rental (as well as musical presentations with Gate 7's Tristan Freedman at various agency conferences over the years) - had been with Hertz Australia for more than 14 years when he confirmed his departure six weeks ago (TD 31 Oct).

"I am excited to be joining such a dynamic and innovative group," Zaferis said, while itravel md



Steve Labroski said the group was continuing to expand, with "great people in our team."

"It's such a fantastic opportunity for both stores to enter into Westfield locations," he said.

Amadeus launches transfer solution

AMADEUS has launched a new 'Taxi & Transfer' solution which allows airlines to integrate a hassle-free one-stop shop for transfers into their website.

The launch partner is Scandinavian Airlines, and the system has been developed in partnership with Cabforce, a company which specialises in pre-arranged taxis and transfers.

Amadeus says the move closes the gap of the "first and last mile" of the air journey, and the new system is already bookable via the SAS website with several other carriers "in the pipeline" to implement the solution.

TK boosts Bangkok

TURKISH Airlines will lift its frequencies between Istanbul and Bangkok over the Jun-Oct peak period next year.

Effective 21 Jun TK will increase IST-BKK operations to double daily from the current 11 weekly.

Smarter Smartpoint

TRAVELPORT has released a new version of its Smartpoint desktop, saying the move is a "step change" in its hotel and car offering because it allows agents to grow revenues by "searching, selling and booking this travel content more effectively than ever before".

TripAdvisor hotel ratings and reviews are integrated directly onto agent screens, while quotes can be generated directly from Smartpoint.

The new version also includes improved PNR history and single use credit card payments.

Air India hosts Star Alliance



AIR India has hosted its first ever Star Alliance Chief Executive Board Meeting, with the two day event taking place in New Delhi late last week.

It's just over six months since Air India formally joined the alliance, and in that time AI has seen a 33% increase in the number of passengers transferring between it and other Star member airlines.

More than 80,000 Star Alliance loyalty members have earned miles while flying on Air India since Jul, and Air India sees further opportunities to increase transfer traffic in Delhi & Mumbai.

Pictured above at the event are Air India ceo Rohit Nandan; Air Canada ceo Calin Rovinescu, who's current Star Alliance CEB chair; and Star ceo Mark Schwab.



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QF appoints Africa GSA

QANTAS has confirmed the appointment of a new General Sales Agent covering five countries in Africa - Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia and Kenya.

French group APG Network, which has a presence in 176 countries and relationships with 180 airlines, will provide full sales and marketing services for Qantas, as well as call centre and ticketing facilities.

Qantas' wide-ranging alliance

with Emirates includes codeshare services on EK metal into the five countries, including flights to Tunis in Tunisia, Accra in Ghana, Casablanca in Morocco, Lagos in Nigeria and Nairobi in Kenya.

VS 787-9s to LAX

VIRGIN Atlantic will debut Boeing 787-9 operations on the London Heathrow-Los Angeles route from 30 Apr 15, with the *Dreamliner* flying the route daily.

Vale Jimmy Murphy

US travel industry pioneer Jimmy Murphy has died at the age of 82, after a life spent founding some of the biggest brands in tourism.

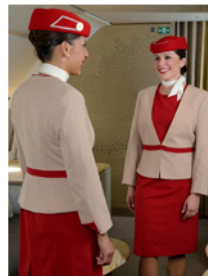
Irish-born Murphy was the creator of Brendan Vacations, now part of the Travel Corporation, and later went on to set up river cruise firm AmaWaterways which is now co-owned by Australia's own APT.

New EK crew threads

EMIRATES has removed the distinguishable side veil from its female crew uniforms as the most noticeable change to newly launched inflight crew garments on its private Executive operation.

Launched last week, the new executive outfits now adopt a red shift dress and beige jacket as part of a similar colour scheme, while the pill-box hat has also been kept (**pictured below**).

Now with a neckerchief in place of the veil for "vintage appeal", the new crew uniforms are now in service on the executive A319s.



First A350 arrives

QATAR Airways has taken delivery of the first A350 XWB aircraft from Airbus, with the carrier expecting to add a further seven by the end of 2015.

The new A350-900, configured with a two class 283-seat configuration, will enter service next month with daily flights planned from Doha's new Hamad International Airport and Frankfurt in Germany.

The handover was originally scheduled for 12 Dec but the ceremony was cancelled without explanation a few days beforehand (**TD** 11 Dec).



Hainan Tourism in Australia

A GROUP of 18 delegates from China's Hainan province visited Australia earlier this month, with the aim of highlighting the region as a top holiday destination.

It's the first time Hainan has carried out a promotion in Australia, with participants including government officials and local tourism operators led by Mr Zhiyuan Lu, who is the province's Assistant Governor.

Over the last 20 years there has been huge progress made in developing the tropical island province into an international tourism destination.

Presenters at a Sydney

function included Mr Jinwei Sun, general manager of strategic development of HNA Tourism Group, while international consultant David Morris also spoke, encouraging more Australians to visit the so-called 'Eastern Hawaii'.

The Hainan delegation is **pictured** above at Sydney's Four Seasons Hotel.

Dragonair to Haneda

CATHAY Pacific sister carrier Dragonair has announced plans for a daily flight between Hong Kong and Tokyo Haneda Airport.

The A320 service is now available for booking, for travel effective 29 Mar 15, with the flights departing HKG at 1810 and arriving into Haneda just before midnight.

The return service departs HND at 0145 and arrives into Hong Kong at 0530.

Window Seat

LOT Polish Airlines is getting into the Christmas spirit by hanging mistletoe in each of its aircraft - encouraging passengers to KISSaLOT in the highest place in the world.

A special website has launched in conjunction with the promotion at www.kissalot.pl which tracks LOT aircraft and what cities they are flying over.

"That way, one can plan ahead to meet a loved one to get a Christmas kiss...one no longer has to look for mistletoe, because there will always be a LOT aircraft somewhere in the sky with mistletoe on board," the Star Alliance member said.

AND Lufthansa is also getting into the Santa action, spreading Christmas cheer to its younger passengers by giving them special in-flight gifts.

Children on all flights will receive an exclusive Lufthansa model A380 made from LEGO, as well as a cute little Christmas teddy bear.

The fun isn't just for kids, with premium passengers flying out of Frankfurt and Munich also enjoying mulled wine and hot chocolate with rum in lounges.

LOST luggage usually gets found by airlines - and this is no exception although it did take some time.

A woman from the US state of Arizona has been reunited with her bag, more than two decades after it went missing.

Maria Dellos of Tucson received a call "out of the blue" from the Transportation Security Administration, with the officer saying her long-lost suitcase had been unearthed during a reorganisation at Tucson International Airport.

The luggage contained art supplies from a trade show Dellos had attended in Las Vegas in 1994.

AFTA UPDATE

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



2014 has come to an end and unfortunately the year has ended on a very tragic note with the Sydney siege commanding a great deal of the media's time and in a way a great deal of everyone's time.

There is no doubt the number one topic of conversation at gatherings across the country is this dreadful event which has taken the entire nation by surprise.

The outpouring of grief and the expressions of sorrow that are being felt in Sydney is unprecedented. As a proud Sydneysider myself it feels strange that a city that never sleeps, that a city that appears so caught up in itself, that a city that is so busy and in a rush can find its heart and respect once again off the back of something so dreadful.

The deepest of sympathies and prayers go out to the two families who have been so impacted by this event. I am sure that our government officials will make sure that they will never be forgotten.

Perhaps society will become stronger as a result of this event as there is no question that Australia has demonstrated true Aussie character that so many other countries aspire to – compassion, camaraderie and a true feeling of country.

A time to reflect on how lucky we are and at this time of Christmas a time when we should all remember that each and every one of us needs to spend more time with our loved ones, tell the people who matter in our lives we love them and above all else respect each other just that little bit more over this holiday season.

I wish all the loyal **Travel Daily** readers a safe and happy Christmas and hope that 2015 is a successful year for everyone in the travel industry.

A big Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.



New hotels at Orly

FRENCH hotel giant Accor will significantly expand its hotel presence at secondary Paris Airport Orly, announcing plans for two new properties.

A 153-room Novotel and 154-room Ibis Budget will both be built new at the facility, while the existing Ibis will be expanded.

The new developments, all due to be open by 2017, will result in a 43% increase in room inventory for Accor at Paris Orly.

Virtuoso to HKG

HONG Kong has been named as the host city for next year's Virtuoso Symposium.

Set to take place 25-29 Apr 2015, it will be the second time the luxury travel agency network's annual event will have been held in Hong Kong, with the previous occasion being in 2003.

An estimated 450 participants are expected at the symposium including several from Australia.

UA en route to Rome

UNITED Airlines has announced seasonal direct services between Chicago and Rome, with a 777 flight to commence in May 2015.

The service will operate through until 23 Sep, and continues UA's Italian focus which has also seen it launch seasonal flights from New York to Venice complementing flights to Rome from New York and Washington.

RCCL adds scrubbers

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises has announced the installation of "advanced emissions purification" (AEP) systems - also known as "scrubbers" on 19 vessels, with the technology removing over 97% of the sulphur dioxide emissions generated by the ship's diesel engines.

The move will ensure the cruise line is ahead of emission standards mandated by the EU and the International Maritime Organization.

60 737s for Air China

AIR China has confirmed a commitment to purchase sixty Boeing 737 aircraft, including Next-Generation 737 and 737 MAX variants.

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CIT picks a Venice winner



CIT Holidays recently hosted 'Italy with the best of Europe' breakfast updates on its new 2015 brochure with travel agents across the country, and for those who attended a major prize was on offer.

The winner of a trip for two to Venice courtesy of Etihad, Alitalia and CIT was drawn in the CIT office last week, with the lucky recipient selected as Samantha Pedley from helloworld Daisy Hill in Qld.

Pictured above drawing the prize are from left: Renata Angyalosi, CIT Operations Manager; Rita Mardirossian, National Sales Manager CIT; Nikol Dobrovolna, Alitalia - Aviation Online; Nader Harmouche, Account Manager Etihad Airways; and CIT Reservations Supervisor Carol Scalercio.

And **inset** is the lucky winner Samantha Pedley with Sean Flint from CIT in Queensland.



Vistara set to fly

VISTARA, the Indian startup carrier being established as a joint venture between Singapore Airlines and Indian giant Tata, has been given approval to commence operations on 09 Jan.

Bookings are now being accepted for flights, with initial routes including services from its Delhi base to Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

The carrier will offer full service, utilising a three class A320-200 aircraft configured with 16 business class seats, 36 in premium economy and 96 in economy.

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 at www.traveldaily.com.au.

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This highly successful company are seeking expressions of interest for upcoming roles this new year. Looking after the Melbourne market, you will be self-motivated and utilise your strong negotiation and contracting skills to qualify opportunities and increase sales, growing sales revenue and build strong ongoing relationships with key industry personnel. Your friendly personality, presentation skills & creative ability is required here.

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