



**OVERSEAS** visitor numbers to Japan have soared a massive 41% year-on-year in Jan, preliminary govt data from Japan National Tourism Organisation reveals.

Arrivals for Jan approached the one million mark for the first time in at least five years, rounding out at around 943,000.

Among Japan's core markets, China had the greatest increase in visitors, rising 115% to 155,700 & Hong Kong, up 103% to 63,400.

With 37,400 arrivals, Australia was Japan's sixth highest visitor volume based on the preliminary statistics, rising 18%.

#### Eight pages of news

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news and photos, plus a full page from: (click): • AA Appointments jobs



Wednesday 26th February 2014

HELLOWORLD ceo Rob Gurney has confirmed that 675 agencies have now joined its various retail models, with "another 150 or so contracts in the pipeline".

Speaking to Travel Daily after the firm revealed its H1 2013/14 results (TD breaking news), he said he was "very comfortable with where we are at," with further requests for potential agreements flowing in each week.

The overall result for the period was a \$3.9m pre-tax loss, which included \$9.1 million in nonrecurring transformation costs and a \$5.4m loss on disposal of the ATS Pacific inbound business sold to AOT (TD 29 Aug). Gurney said the figures reflect the impact of the transition to Helloworld and the realignment



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of the commercial relationships with its franchisees and members.

"This outcome is in line with expectations during a period when the Group has been engaged in implementing the transformation plan." he said. with key achievements including the rebranding, the Orbitz Worldwide alliance, the launch of helloworld.com.au and the renewed Amex agreement.

He said the ultimate measure of the transformation would be its impact on Helloworld agents.

"If our franchisees and members are better off financially as a consequence, that's the ultimate determinant of our success," he said, with better margins and profits for agents set to flow through to Helloworld too.

Gurney also revealed that the company was in the process of formulating advisory boards for each of the new models, saying "we have a huge amount of knowledge among our members".

The firm's Retail TTV rose 2.7% to \$1.9b; Wholesale TTV rose 0.7% to \$380m; and Travel Management TTV dipped 7.5% to \$283m.







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# Flight Centre profit soars

**FLIGHT** Centre achieved a \$155 million pre-tax profit for the six months to 31 Dec (*TD* breaking news), with the figure equating to almost \$6 million a week.

The record result was driven by strong growth in TTV, which surged 13.5% to \$7.5 billion.

Shop numbers increased 8% to 2643 during 2013, but sales grew at a faster rate than staff numbers leading to "enhanced in-store productivity," the company said.

It was a good day for Flight Centre investors, who will receive a fully franked 55c per share interim dividend, meaning the company is paying out half of its actual net profit after tax.

MD Graham Turner said the period saw the continuation of Flight Centre's "Killer Theme" as it evolves from a "travel agent to a world-class travel retailer".

"The company sees growth opportunities in all markets," he said, with the global sales network set to grow 8-10%.

He said most expansion would be organic, but Flight Centre was considering acquisitions such as destination management companies, hotel management arrangements or joint ventures.

The reintroduction of the Escape Travel franchise brand would also complement Flight Centre's organic growth.

New developments included the introduction of Red Label Holidays, Escape Travel's 'Pack & Relax Holidays, "Watertight Deals" from Cruiseabout and the FCm/Corporate Traveller SmartSTAY products.

FC has also deployed a larger 24/7 sales force in Australia to cater for growing volumes of after-hours calls and emails.

# **Express enhancement**

**EXPRESS** Ticketing has rolled out an upgrade to its platform which is used by over 500 agent members of the Select and Independent Travel Groups.

The system is now offering 24/7 online reissue and revalidation of both full and partially flown tickets.

"Convenience, speed and reduced fees are immediate benefits," said ceo Tom Manwaring.





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# Rydges Sydney signing

MANAGEMENT of the Sebel Surry Hills in Sydney has been passed from the Accor Group to Rydges Hotels & Resorts.

From 08 Apr, the property will be re-branded as Rydges Sydney Central, working closely with the nearby Rydges World Square.



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# CTM TTV up, ticket prices down

#### **CORPORATE** Travel

Management today reported its results for the six months to 31 Dec, with total transaction value up 13.8% to \$490m and a pre-tax profit of \$8m, up 14.3%.

The listed TMC said that margins improved slightly in its operations in Australia and NZ, but the business was affected by an 8% fall in average ticket prices. General activity in Australasia "remains subdued...due to economic conditions," CTM said.

During the period the company consolidated its acquisition of Texas-based TMC TravelCorp, with US operations seeing total TTV growth of 104%.

The company completed its acquisition of Hong Kong-based Westminster Travel in Jan, and is set to build on its "unique regional value proposition" to target new clients.

The Westminster deal sees CTM with 1350 staff operating in 26

cities across 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

CTM also changed the way it recognises Pay Direct Commissions (PDC) so that they are accounted for when received rather than at time of booking.

This was due to a "deteriorating rate of PDC recoveries," with the policy change seeing a \$2.6 million impact to the bottom line. Interestingly, during the half-

year CTM made an "unsecured short-term bridging loan" to ceo Jamie Pherous of \$3.9 million.

The now repaid loan was at an "arm's length" rate of 6.66%.

# **Etihad daily to Phuket**

**ETIHAD** Airways is adding a second destination in Thailand, with new daily services between Abu Dhabi and Phuket set to commence from 26 Oct.

Flights will be operated using two-class A330-200 aircraft.



**UNITED** Airlines executive Matt Miller is clearly in the right role for someone who loves to fly.

Miller, who is based in Tokyo & frequently flies to Australia on a competitor, was in Oz this week for the Visit USA roadshow.

Such is his passion for flying, for this trip he chose to trial the UA product first-hand, via LAX.

"I promise that wasn't just because I love to fly United Airlines, though I should.

"It was great to make the journey go from 11hrs to 24hrs, but no one in this room would fear that because everyone in Australia loves to get on planes for a REALLY long time," he joked.

**ON THE** subject of frequent flyers, Virgin Australia's 'High Flyer' comp winner Cameron Ernst is counting down the days left for his 'Best Job' role.

Ernst has been jetting around Australia with VA for the past six months, tweeting about his escapades and encounters.

In doing so, the American has amassed a large stockpile of boarding passes which he

arranged in this pattern, spelling out his current job on Facebook.









# SYD profit up 7.3%

**SYDNEY** Airport's full year results to 31 Dec showed earnings growth of 7.3% to \$910.3 million, on total revenue of \$1.115 billion.

Aeronautical revenue was up 7.2% driven by passenger growth and investment in capacity, with international numbers up 4.1% and domestic rising 1.9%.

Retail revenue grew 5.2%, with the existing duty free contract held by Nuance set to expire in Feb 2015 and initial interest in a tender process indicating that it "is a very sought after operation".

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## WTF revenue record

**WOTIF.COM** this morning reported a 3.5% increase in revenue to \$75.8 million, due to increased accommodation margins and the "continued acceleration of flights and other revenue".

The overall result was in line with expectations, with net profit after tax of \$22.64 million, down 18%, which ceo Scott Blume said was due to a "deliberate strategy to increase investment in both technology...and marketing costs".

"These investments were made to continue to consolidate and further develop our market leading position," he said, with marketing spend up \$4.5m.

Gains in Flights TTV, reflected in a 27% increase in the number of flights booked across the group to 109,699, were offset by a 6% decline in Accommodation TTV.

The company said its brand recognition was at a record 66% in Australia, and hailed its "website traffic leadership for the combined Wotif Group brands".

# \$500K Asiana fine

**ASIANA** Airlines has received a US\$500,000 civil penalty for failing to fully provide assurances to its 'family assistance plan' in the event of an aircraft accident.

The US Dept of Transportation served the fine to OZ yesterday, seven months after one of its B777s crashed on final approach at San Francisco Int'l Airport, resulting in three lives being lost. DOT said Asiana neglected to offer three of 18 assurances, such as not providing notification or assistance to family members involved in a crash in a timely manner, or committing sufficient resources to carry out the family assistance plan.

# Bali tourism funding

**THE** newly formed Bali Tourism Promotion Board has received US\$6.25m in funding to formulate strategies to drive business from MICE, leisure and other sectors.

## THL profit jumps \$3m

**TOURISM** Holdings Leisure saw a massive swing in net profit after tax for the six months ending 31 Dec 2013, today reporting a return to the black with a NZ\$2.5 million profit.

The result was a 600% increase on the same time last year when it reported a NZ\$500,000 loss.

Turnover from rentals in New Zealand and the US spiked 18% & 2% respectively, however rentals in Australia fell 18% (or NZ\$9.3m) - a drop THL said it expected given market conditions & would continue to address.

THL's tourism portfolio also saw a 16% rise in revenue.

The full year 2014 forecast is NZ\$10.5 million.

# **Cathay adds Qatar**

**ONEWORLD** partners Cathay Pacific and Qatar Airways have signed a strategic agreement on flights between Hong Kong and Doha, launching 30 Mar.

The deal will see CX introduce new daily services to Doha using Airbus A330-300 aircraft.

The pact allows guests to earn and burn frequent flyer points or miles on CX's Marco Polo Club and QR's Privilege Club schemes and lounge access for top tier members.

# **Rex warns of collapse**

**REGIONAL** Express chief operating officer Garry Filmer has warned that the government needs to take immediate steps to implement its election promises "before the irreversible collapse of regional aviation occurs".

The carrier today unveiled a \$5m pre-tax profit for the six months to 31 Dec on turnover of \$129.3 million, in line with guidance issued this month.

That was down almost 60% on the previous corresponding period, with Rex reporting a 54.1% load factor and an average fare of \$191.40.

Recent developments include Rex gaining accreditation from UAE authorities as an approved Flight Training Organisation, while the carrier is also set to restart Armidale services on 28 Mar.

# **DL anti LGBT laws**

DELTA Air Lines has expressed its "deep concern" for proposed measures in states including Georgia & Arizona, which would allow businesses to refuse service to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The carrier said if the laws were passed it would cause "significant harm to many people and will result in job losses."

# Bench International – the Africa Experts Africa Reservations Consultant

Bench International, the founder of African holidays in Australia, has a unique opportunity for a highly experienced and enthusiastic Africa Reservations Consultant.

First-hand travel experience of Africa, specifically Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa is essential. Successful candidates require a thorough understanding of luxury properties in East Africa including the ability to personally design bespoke luxury holidays to Africa. A minimum of two years experience with an Africa specialist wholesaler is required.

Participation at travel shows and overseas travel are some of the aspects of the role.

To apply to join the pride, email your CV to jobs@benchinternational.com.au with the position title in the subject header by 28 February 2014.



# Your turn to hang loose in Hawai'i After a record year Hawai'i Tourism would like to thank our travel

industry 'ohana (family) for your tremendous support by inviting you to enjoy special industry rates in Hawai'i during Mahalo Month

# Wholesale fun on Accor famil



**TEAMS** of wholesale travel consultants from around Australia will be given the chance to channel their inner TV personality thanks to a new Accor mega-famil.

The incentive requires attendees to make their own *Getaway*-style travel segments detailing a range of experiences in various areas all over Australia and New Zealand.

Kicking things off earlier this month in Adelaide were the first three teams from Infinity Holidays & Virgin Australia Holidays, who began their visit by being whisked from the airport in the comfort and style of a stretch hummer to their first stops at Mount Lofty House and the Sebel Playford.

After breakfast, the groups took off in their sponsored Europcar vehicles to other Accor properties including the Novotel Barossa Valley Resort, Mercure Grosvenor and the Rockford Adelaide to capture the best selling points.

The famil to Adelaide concluded with a dinner hosted by the South Australian Tourism Commission.

A select panel of retail agents has been convened to judge the final video segments, with the best showcased and awarded at a special gala later this year.

Next month, the incentive will visit Brisbane & the Gold Coast before also seeing Melbourne, Sydney, Queenstown, Auckland and Tropical North Queensland.

**Pictured** above at the Sebel Playford is Rebecca Maitland, Accor; Sheree Smith and Caitlyn Mitchell, Infinity Holidays and John Pullman, The Sebel Playford.

## **MCO biometric kiosks**

**CITIZENS** of eligible countries under the US visa-waiver scheme, including Australia, will be able to make use of new, self-process immigration kiosks which have been opened at Orlando Airport.

The kiosks have been developed by airport technology provider SITA, but are currently only available at the Florida gateway.

Using the kiosks, arriving visitors can complete Passport Declaration Forms, scan passports and have fingerprints & photographs taken ahead of a face-to-face interview via a dedicated fast-track lane.

Registration to use the systems is not required in advance, although they are restricted to travellers who have previously entered the country and have fingerprints already on file with Customs & Border Protection.

SITA says talks are currently underway to install the systems at other int'l gateway airports across the country as soon as possible in order to reduce queueing times.

### **DTW, Traveltek pact**

**WEB-BASED** travel technology provider Traveltek has formed a new partnership with Discover the World for representation via the firm's 85 offices globally.

The pact has seen Traveltek sign new contracts thru DTW already.



#### 50m reviews in 1-year

**TRIPADVISOR** has become the first travel site in the world to amass 150 million reviews and opinions, the firm has declared, with posts up 50% year-on-year.

In the past year alone, there were more than 50 million pieces of content added to TripAdvisor.

The site generates over 90 user contributions every minute and has more than 2 billion unique worldwide visitors a year.

Luxor Las Vegas is TripAdvisor's most reviewed hotel with over 13,600 personal accounts.

## Holiday Inn Rio return

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group has announced plans to open two new properties under its Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express brands in Rio de Janeiro ahead of the 2016 Olympics.

The new-build Holiday Inn Porto Maraviha and Holiday Inn Express Porto Maraviha will feature 244 and 350 rooms respectively in a shared 24-storey tower, located in Rio's revitalised downtown district of Porto Maravilha.



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### Lost Track search trip

AURORA Expeditions guests on its Kunmunya Wilderness Walk will be tasked to help search for the historic 'Three Mile Road' as part of three Kimberley coast cruises from Broome to Darwin (and v.v.) between Jun & Jul - see www.auroraexpeditions.com.au.

## **Island Air axes MKK**

HAWAIIAN carrier Island Air will suspend its twice daily services between Honolulu and Molokai effective 01 Apr, just weeks after Ohana by Hawaiian launches thrice daily nonstop services to Hoolehua (*TD* 11 Feb).

## **TAM FIFA extra flts**

LATIN American carrier TAM Airlines says it will invest \$23m to implement vast changes to its current network to handle FIFA World Cup traffic in Jun and Jul.

TAM & partner LAN Airlines will add an extra 300 international flights between 10 Jun-15 Jul, on top of 750 new domestic flights in Brazil that TAM is introducing, boosting its service tally during the Cup to 22,000 flights.

TAM's changes will see it alter close to one-third of its current national network, with over 80% of services operating between airports in World Cup host cities.

"Our operation will be highly focused on the logistical challenge of criss-crossing a continent-sized country day and night, operating flights that are synchronised with the World Cup match schedule," TAM Airlines ceo Claudia Sender said.



# Sales Manager USA/Canada & South America

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SeaLink Travel Group comprising Captain Cook Cruises, Australia's leading Cruise Company is seeking an energetic, highly motivated Sales Manager USA /Canada & South America. This is an exciting role for those who enjoy a busy, challenging environment and are eager to use their proven B2B skills within their own and existing networks to build relationships and sales revenues across a broad range of culturally unique markets.

The successful candidate is responsible for increasing and maintaining sales revenue for Captain Cook Cruises for Sydney, Murray River and SeaLink for Kangaroo Island, Adelaide, Darwin and Queensland in the markets of USA, Canada & South America as well as maintaining key sales relationships with Australian based Inbound Tour Operators and key Distribution Partners.

Experience in dealing in the international market and a keen understanding of digital marketing are essential. You will possess strong networks with travel distribution partners across these markets as well as an understanding of all distribution channels and working with our reservations and hospitality departments to deliver world class customer service. You will be sales driven and have the ability to work within a budget framework as well as identifying new sales opportunities to grow the business.

#### The successful applicant will have:

- · Demonstrated Business and Sales Development skills
- · A minimum of 3 5 years in the tourism industry or related industry
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- · Proficiency in all aspects of Microsoft Office is essential
- Understanding of a CRM system
- Understanding of international distributions partners and systems
- Experience in understanding the growing importance of digital platforms and adapting it to grow business opportunities
- · Able to work with minimal supervision and a team player
- Experience in making presentations to individuals and groups
- Ability to travel internationally and domestically
- Previous experience in the USA/Canadian market will be a strong advantage

Apply by email to Richard Doyle – Head of International Sales & Marketing at sales@captaincook.com.au by Friday 21 March 2014. Please include CV and a cover letter.

# A&K Australia in the pink



**ABERCROMBIE** & Kent's Australian programs have been so successful since their launch a few years ago that they're being expanded with the introduction of a private jet journey in the Top End later this year.

As previously flagged by **Travel Daily**, Australia's Last Frontier by Private Jet is a 13-day luxury trip departing from Perth on 26 Aug, with just 30 pampered guests travelling in a Fokker F70 which is being reconfigured in a fully Business class arrangement.

The itinerary was a key talking point at a function in Sydney yesterday hosted by A&K's md Sujata Raman, and while it's just a single departure at this stage, there are hopes the new program will expand in the future.

Guests will visit the Pilbara (including Rio Tinto's Tom Price open cut iron ore mine), the stunning Karijini National Park, Ningaloo Marine Park & Exmouth before heading north on smaller aircraft to Berkeley River Lodge, Arnhem Land and Darwin with private tours, all meals and an expert tour director and art specialist (*TD* 10 Dec).

A&K has also released its "Connections" brochure for 2014

- a collection of small group trips across the globe with guaranteed departures, also available as private touring at value for money prices.

For example, a nine-day A&K private tour of Sri Lanka leads in at just \$1,695pp, with these trips also available in Vietnam, Peru, Turkey, Morocco and South Africa.

Raman also spoke about A&K's "Escapes" program (**TD** 22 Jan), offering shorter trips but still with luxury inclusions, touring and activities.

Other strong sellers for A&K in Australia are its polar journeys, with Ponant's *Le Boreal* fully chartered with an A&K Englishspeaking crew for its exclusive departures in both Antarctica and the Arctic regions.

Raman is **pictured** above right with A&K PR & Communications manager, Serena Mitchell.

2014

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# Aussies blasé on insurance

**WOOLWORTHS** Travel Insurance has launched a new \$1 discount card into its Australian supermarkets which entitle the holder to a 10% discount off a travel policy purchased online.

The new product comes in line with the results of new research showing buying adequate travel insurance appears to be less of a priority for a majority of Australian travellers.

A Galaxy Research poll carried out for the firm surveyed more than 1,000 respondents & found more than one in four admitted to going overseas without cover.

Generation Y was the most unlikely to purchase sufficient insurance (51%), followed by male travellers (45%).

Of these, 35% said they were only taking a short trip, 27% said they didn't feel their destination was dangerous and 21% said they were confident nothing bad would

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passes each day to view the magnificent movie – 'Mandela -Long Walk to Freedom'.

A film based on Nelson Mandela's autobiography, which chronicles his early life, coming of age, education and 27 years in prison before becoming South African President and working to rebuild the country's once segregated society. An inspiring and moving story – a must see for all.

To win, be one of the first 2 people to email the correct answer to: Mandela@traveldaily.com.au.

Name 4 of the 2014 Early Bird Specials advertised on our website

Congratulations to yesterday's winners **Kieran Darnley** from **Seniors Holiday Travel** and **Jane Perrett** from **Best Western Australasia.**  happen to them while away.

**MEANWHILE**, travel insurance aggregator CompareTheMarket is urging Aussies planning a winter break to ensure their coverage is appropriate for their planned trip.

Mar is expected to be the peak booking month for winter breaks, with the company recommending travellers consider potential risks including beach swimming, reciprocal healthcare agreements, traffic incidents, watersports and pickpocket crime rates.

The research found the top unexpected holiday costs were emergency medical, loss, damage and theft of personal items and unforeseen accidents.

## **TCF terminates two**

**TWO** NSW travel agencies have been non-voluntarily terminated from the Travel Compensation Fund after their licences were cancelled by the organisation.

The agents were Destination Travel at 83 York Street, Sydney (ABN: 50 948 544 552) and Harvey World Travel Terrigal (ABN: 46 053 393 552).

# Lord of the NZ Manor

**GROUPS** of up to 10 pax can have full use of New Zealand's Otahuna Lodge, all facilities and grounds as part of a new package, priced at NZ\$5,995 per night - for details, see www.otahuna.co.nz.

# Air Canada on Wego

**ONLINE** travel aggregator Wego has added Air Canada to its inventory of bookable partner carriers on its 52 localised websites around the world.

The announcement comes ahead of the launch of several new Asian routes for the airline.

## Input in #Vienna2020

FANS and subscribers of Vienna Tourist Board's social media sites and newsletters will be engaged to participate in an interactive tourism development program for the city entitled #Vienna2020. VTB is seeking innovative ideas and proposals for the destination, with the best to be officially built into the city's strategic planning. Ideas can range from attractions,

new sightseeing experiences, innovative accom options & more - see www.2020vienna.info.

# **UK Parliament tours**

**LONDON'S** House of Parliament is introducing new audio tours as an alternative to guided tours, on offer to visitors on most Sat's year-round & on select weekdays.



# Acc

# 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.



Nearly 80 new rooms have been added to the Sensimar at Khao Lak offerings in southern Thailand, taking total inventory to 231 rooms. In addition to the new rooms, a fourth pool has been built, although the resort is across the road from the beach, meaning there is no

shortage of swimming options. New dining options on the beachfront has also put the hotel front and centre in the region, just north of Phuket.



Upscale Accor brand Pullman has recently opened its first property in Vietnam in the form of the **Pullman Saigon Centre**. Located in District 1, near the Ben Thanh Markets, the new addition offers 306 rooms & suites fitted with signature Pullman beds, rain showers

and technology offerings including free wi-fi. Executive rooms also offer nespresso coffee machines, iPod stations and in-room fitness equipment.



Families with young children can now take advantage of new playground facilities at the **Big4 Beachlands Holidays Park** in the West Australian town of Busselton. The 360° fun zone features interactive electronic games combined with activity and exercise to keep

kids moving at the same time. The property spent \$40,000 on the new gear to add to existing family-friendly fun such as new water park games.

# VN check-in change

VIETNAM Airlines has made changes to its online check-in service available for passengers to select destinations via the www.vietnamairlines.com site.

Effective immediately, pax wishing to use VN's Web Check-in process can now do so between 24 hours to 2 hours before flight departure time, revised from the previous 40 hours to 2 hours.

# **Orient to Belmond**

**ORIENT-EXPRESS** Hotels says a name change for its portfolio of 45 luxury properties and travel experiences to Belmond will heighten awareness of its full tourism product line-up.

The rebrand takes effect on 10 Mar, at which time the firm's Belmond.com website will also be launched, backed by a \$15m marketing & promotional push.

# Corporate Domestic Consultant

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their clients by going Above and Beyond. Some group work is also available. Sabre/Tramada Next Gen experience is an advantage.

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## CX mass recruiting

**CATHAY** Pacific says more than 700 applicants attended the carrier's recruitment day in Hong Kong on Sun as it prepares to recruit 1,000 cabin crew this year.



**RECOGNISING** the efforts of its top performing travel agents is a fundamental component to the success of APT, ably demonstrated

### **Tokyo tourist complex**

**A NEW** tourist "mega-complex" consisting of retail, restaurants and attractions aimed at boosting foreign arrivals ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games has been announced by city officials.

To be located near the planned site for the athletes villages, the complex will also include hotels and a seven-storey open-air traditional Japanese bathhouse.

A scheduled completion and open date of 2015 has been set.

#### MF eye long-haul ops

**CHINESE** carrier XiamenAir has earmarked plans to launch a number of int'l routes from next year, including Sydney, as it takes delivery of up to 150 new aircraft.

The Xiamen-based airline, which was formerly known as Xiamen Airlines, also plans to fly services to London and New York, as well as Vietnam, Cambodia and Japan.

A new base at a cost of ¥20b (AU\$3.66b) has also been flagged as part of MF's expansion plan. this month with a series of special thank-you events.

As part of its VIP Travel Agent program, the luxury tour operator hosted its Platinum Agents to a first class meal at some of the best restaurants in their area.

The rewards will continue next month, with APT flying its Diamond Agents to Melbourne for an exclusive recognition event in honour of its best sellers.

**Pictured** above from left dining with Brisbane Platinum selling agents is Susan Haberle, Alisha Dopper, Pete Balmer, Janelle Ramsey and Karen Newbury.

## Pinnacle ski earlybird

**GRAND** Mercure Pinnacle Valley Resort in the Victorian Alps region has released an earlybird offer for the winter season when booking before 30 Apr.

Studio rooms are priced from \$160 per night (based on a two night minimum), valid for visits between 08 Jun and 05 Sep.

The offer includes brekkie for two, a \$50 per room ski hire voucher for every night booked, a \$50 dinner credit and more.

The Accor property is located at the base of Mt Buller - for more info or to book, call 1800 033 214.

# WIN A TRIP TO THAILAND



This month *Travel Daily* is giving one reader and their friend the chance to win a 10 day Thailand tour, courtesy of **On The Go Tours**. The prize consists of:

- Return economy flights from BNE, PER, SYD or MEL
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer on day 10
- Breakfast daily and one dinner
- 8 nights accommodation in a 4 star hotel and 1 night accommodation on a floating jungle lodge
- Escorted by English speaking local guides.

Thoughout February **Travel Daily** will ask 20 questions. The subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this amazing Thailand holiday.

Email all your answers by COB Fri 28 Feb to: Onthegotours@traveldaily.com.au

Name Three of OTG's responsible tourism initiatives.

#### Qantas Moree tick

**QANTAS** has been awarded the licence to operate the Moree to Sydney regulated route on a permanent basis.

Effective 22 Mar, QantasLink will operate 12 weekly services to the regional NSW town.

## Galactic lands a cfo

VIRGIN Galactic has recruited John S. Rego as its new chief financial officer, tasked to assist ceo George Whitesides in building strategic financial & capital plans to reach corporate objectives.

Rego brings around 30 years finance, accounting & operations experience to the space company. He was most recently cfo at US-

based software firm AppSense.

### **TA praises UA timing**

**TOURISM** Australia acting md Frances-Anne Keeler says United Airlines' decision to deploy its B787-9 *Dreamliner* to Melbourne was perfectly timed on the back of strong inbound arrival figures.

"With US arrivals growing at their fastest levels since Australia hosted the 2000 Olympics, the demand is clearly there to justify the additional air capacity that this new service will bring," Keeler said.

### Hungary assistance

**SMARTRAVELLER** is reminding Aussies that consular & passport responsibilities for Hungary have been transferred to the Australian Embassy in Vienna, Austria.

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

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