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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Thursday 2nd January 2014



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## VS boosts DL c'share

**VIRGIN** Atlantic has significantly expanded its codeshare agreement with Delta Air Lines, with the VS code now appearing on 91 new routes operated by DL within North America.

The boost includes a range of flights departing from Atlanta, Boston, Detroit and Minneapolis, with more than 180 Delta routes now carrying the Virgin Atlantic code.

The cooperation will expand further during the Northern Summer 2014 season when the VS code is added to eight new Delta routes being rolled out from Seattle, including services to London Heathrow.

## Egypt update

**THE** Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has reissued its travel advice for Egypt, with updated information including details of bombings in Cairo and the Nile Delta last week.

The government continues to advise Australians to reconsider their need to travel to Egypt overall due to ongoing civil unrest, adding that those who are concerned for their safety should "consider leaving by commercial means".

## Airnorth Dili deal

**DARWIN-BASED** Airnorth is promoting accommodation at the Discovery Inn Dili in Timor-Leste from US\$99 per night.

Quote 'Airnorth \$99' when booking, with the offer valid through until 15 Jan 2014 including courtesy airport transfers, buffet breakfast and free wireless internet.

Airnorth operates over 185 scheduled departures weekly including nine return flights from the NT capital to Timor-Leste.

### First 2014 edition

*Travel Daily's* first issue for the new year has three pages of news & photos.

## New 787-9 down under

**BOEING** will operate the 'stretch' version of its 787 *Dreamliner* to Australia and New Zealand this week, with a trial aircraft being deployed to Alice Springs for hot-weather testing.

En route the 787-9 will first touch down in New Zealand where it will be welcomed by launch customer Air NZ at a ceremony this coming Sat 04 Jan.

Air New Zealand will configure the larger aircraft with 302 seats including 18 in 'Business Premier', 21 premium economy and 263 in the economy cabin - including 14 of its innovative 'Skycouch' rows.

The test aircraft is designated ZB002 and will stay in Auckland for two days before heading for Brisbane on Mon and then continuing onto Alice Springs where it's expected to land at about 5pm local time.

The hot weather testing in the Red Centre is expected to take around a week depending on favourable weather conditions.

Air NZ ceo Christopher Luxon

said the visit was "a real reminder that we will soon welcome the first of these more modern, fuel-efficient airplanes into our fleet".

The carrier is currently expecting to take delivery of its first 787-9 in mid-2014, with the first commercial flight scheduled for the Auckland-Perth route on 15 Oct.

Boeing said that the 787-9 had undergone more than 150 flights since testing began in Sep.

The fuselage of the larger aircraft is about 6m longer than that of the 787-8 which is currently being operated by several carriers including Jetstar.

The manufacturer said that 26 customers from around the world have ordered a total of 402 787-9s which comprise about 39% of all 787 orders.

## Starwood China Aloft

**STARWOOD** Hotels & Resorts Worldwide has announced the opening of Aloft Yancheng in eastern China's Jiangsu Province.

It's the seventh Aloft-branded property in China, with Aloft focusing on the next generation of traveller with "urban-inspired design, tech-forward touches and a vibrant social scene".

## SLH competition

**SMALL** Luxury Hotels of the World is seeking a new brand logo, and has turned to social media for some inspiration.

In a competition launching this week customers are invited to submit their ideas for the logo, with a prize of £2,500 and three nights at an SLH property anywhere in the world.

"We're a small business, with customers at the heart of everything we do - and we'd like to offer the opportunity to redesign our logo to a fan of SLH," said the group's global marketing director Tim Davis.

The deadline is 31 Jan 2014 - for more details **CLICK HERE**.

## Crystal Serenity makeover

**CRYSTAL** Cruises' 1070-pax *Crystal Serenity* has emerged from a \$17m makeover which has seen the addition of 70 new PURE hypoallergenic staterooms.

The refurbishment also transformed the ship's indoor/outdoor casual dining spaces and saw the creation of a chef's herb garden as part of new "vertical walls" of greenery.

There's also a new Tastes restaurant with a "globally inspired menu" created in partnership with California's Sapphire Restaurants.

## Copa to use EMDs

**COPA** Airlines will replace vMCOs and vMPDs by Electronic Miscellaneous Documents, with new procedures phased in from 08 Jan - details 02 8644 1884.

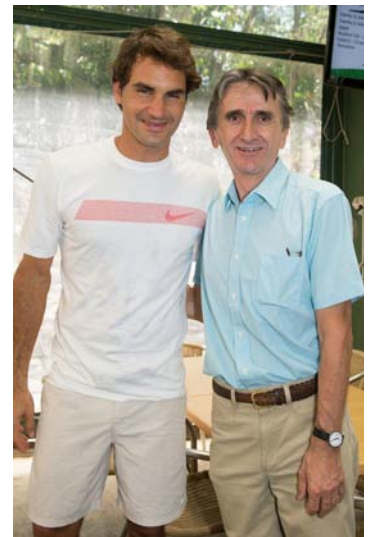
## MU to suspend CNS

**CHINA** Eastern Airlines will suspend its current operations between Guangzhou and Cairns from 22 Feb.

Currently the route operates three times weekly using a Boeing 767 aircraft, with GDS screens showing the move will convert the service to a seasonal route operating during the Northern Winter scheduling period.

The suspension is effective through until 30 Nov 2014.

## QTIC ace performer



**ABOVE:** The appearance of tennis legend Roger Federer at this week's Brisbane International tennis tournament has seen a happy coincidence of roles for Queensland Tourism Industry Council ceo Daniel Gschwind, who also happens to be Qld's Honorary Consul for Switzerland.

## Fake rabies vaccine

**TRAVELLERS** are being warned about a counterfeit vaccine for rabies, which is reportedly being touted to budget travellers visiting the Philippines.

The Philippines Food and Drug Administration says that the "illegally imported and unregistered Purified chick Embryo Cell (Rabipur) Rabies Vaccine" has been offered for sales in vaccination clinics, drug stores and internet websites.



## In-flight phones for Philippines

**THE** Philippines Civil Aviation directorate has announced that it will allow passengers to use "transmitting portable electronic devices" in flight, including making voice phone calls where aircraft are suitably equipped.

Civil Aviation Director-General William Hotchkiss issued a conditional directive covering laptops, cellular phones and MP3 players "on all commercial aircraft operating within or en-route over the territorial jurisdiction of the Republic of the Philippines".

When doors are closed devices must be on silent mode, and the use of music players "should always be with earphones and not with additional or separate speaker and or amplifiers".

Devices must be turned off when the aircraft is refuelling, and voice communications are not allowed except for GSM/OMA (GSM on board aircraft) "provided its use does not interfere with the orderly conduct of flight," while games on electronic devices may be played in silent mode.

Philippines-registered carriers must submit revised operation manuals containing procedures and guidelines for the use of the electronic devices within 20 days.

## Pax to abandon Shokalskiy

**PASSENGERS** on board the ice-bound *Akademik Shokalskiy* in Antarctica (**TD** Fri) are currently being ferried to a rescue ship via helicopter, after attempts to clear a path to open water were unsuccessful.

The ship has been stuck in the ice for more than a week, with Chinese vessel *Xue Long* and the *Aurora Australis* icebreaker lending assistance.

With weather conditions easing overnight, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) this morning confirmed that the helicopter rescue plan

would be put in place, with the "complex operation" seeing all 52 passengers leave the *Shokalskiy*.

The ship's 22 crew members will remain with the vessel, with sufficient supplies for some time to allow them to wait until the ice breaks up.

According to AMSA the passengers will be evacuated from the ship in groups of 12 and initially transported to the *Xue Long*, with this phase of the operation expected to take at least five hours.

A total of seven helicopter flights will operate, including two to transfer luggage and equipment, and then the *Aurora Australis* will use its barge to transfer all 52 pax across.

The passengers are expected to return to Hobart in mid-Jan once the *Aurora Australis* completes its mission to the frozen continent.

## New Legoland hotel

**LEGOLAND** in Florida has announced the development of the world's fifth LEGOLAND hotel, which gm Adrian Jones said will "transition LEGOLAND Florida from a single-day visit theme park to a multi-day resort destination".

The four-storey hotel, set to open in 2015, will offer 152 highly themed rooms and suites.

It joins LEGOLAND hotels in California, Windsor (UK) and Billund (Denmark) as well as the soon-to-open LEGOLAND Malaysia hotel.

## CZ Shenzhen boost

**CHINA** Southern Airlines will this month add three new international routes flying from Shenzhen in China.

Twice weekly flights will operate to Jeju in Korea, Kota Kinabalu in Malaysian Borneo, and Denpasar, with all of the new routes to utilise Airbus A320 aircraft.

## \$2.2b Bombardier deal

**CANADIAN** aircraft manufacturer Bombardier has announced a firm order for 38 business aircraft, including 28 "Global" and ten "Challenger 605" planes.

The transaction is worth about US\$2.2 billion at list prices, with the sale to a currently undisclosed customer.

Bombardier's Global aircraft family comprises four aircraft models and "addresses the increasing needs of business jet travellers and operators to rapidly link key international city pairs non-stop".

The Challenger 605 is described as an "impressive intercontinental jet that can whisk 12 passengers and three crew from New York City to London non-stop".

## Jetstar minor policy

**JETSTAR** has issued a "travel alert" clarifying its policy for younger travellers, who "must be attending secondary school in order to travel independently".

Acceptable forms of identification to verify secondary school attendance include an ID card issued by a secondary school, or a letter from a secondary school on official letterhead confirming both attendance and the child's current year level.

For home educated students in NZ a student ID card issued by the National Council of Home Educators NZ is required, with the ID documents required to be carried on passengers at all times on Jetstar flights.

Young travellers not yet attending secondary school must travel with an appropriate accompanying passenger, who must be at least 15 years old and carry "age-verifiable ID" such as a student ID, driver's licence or passport.

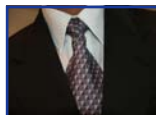
## US river cruise jobs

**FAST-GROWING** American Cruise Lines, which specialises in small ship cruising along US inland waterways, has launched a major recruitment program.

Both shipboard and land-based roles are available, with office positions including a Director of Hotel Operations, a Brand Loyalty Manager, a Sales Manager and inside sales representatives to be based in its Connecticut location.

There's also a range of roles on the American Cruise Lines fleet, which currently comprises six vessels plus a further four which are scheduled to enter service between 2015 and 2017.

Because American Cruise Lines ships are US registered all ship staff must be able to legally work in the United States.



## Industry Appointments

**WELCOME** to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry, send us an email at [appointments@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:appointments@traveldaily.com.au).

Canada's industry minister, James Moore, has announced the appointment of **Rita Tsang** to the board of directors of the **Canadian Tourism Commission**. Tsang is the founder, chair and ceo of Tour East Group, which is Canada's largest travel service provider to China and Asia.

**Wyndham Worldwide** has announced the appointment of **Leo Liu** as its new managing director for China. The newly created role will support the group's rapid growth in the country, with Liu to be based in Shanghai. Liu has previously worked as vice president of development strategy with Costa Cruise Lines in Pacific Asia as well as md of Accor in China.

**Etihad Airways** has named **Joan Mwanki** as its new general manager for Kenya. Mwanki moves to EY from a senior role with Kenya Airways. Etihad operates daily A320 services between Nairobi and Abu Dhabi.



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## More Christmas celebrations

THE Australian travel industry continued its penchant for festive partying this year across the country, with these pictures among several last-minute entries sent in to the *Travel Daily* Christmas photo competition in recent days.



ABOVE are pictured Perth Singapore Airlines staff who kicked their heels up at Crown's Merrywell restaurant, from left: Gabriela Kolpa, Sharmila RoshanLall, Samantha Swinbourne, Amila Gunasekara, Satvir Kalsi and Judi Lemma.

And BELOW is the Virgin Atlantic Airways team in Hawaiian garb on the steps of the Sydney Opera House, with VS' Margy Vary telling TD this was "just the beginning of the night!"



## Hilton into Wuhan

HILTON Hotels & Resorts has announced its first property in China's Hubei Province, with the opening of Hilton Wuhan Optics Valley.

The six-storey property has 520 guest rooms and suites with private balconies, along with five restaurants and bars plus over 5000 square metre sof flexible meeting space.

It's located in the Wuhan East Lake High Tech Development Zone, about 10km from Wuhan Railway Station and 50km from Wuhan Tianhe Int'l Airport.

## GA-ANA partnership

GARUDA Indonesia has signed a comprehensive codeshare pact with Japan's All Nippon Airways, which will see the airlines cooperate on flights between the two countries.

Effective from 30 Mar ANA will operate a new route between Tokyo Haneda and Jakarta, with Garuda also launching flights on the same route during the first half of 2014.

The deal includes reciprocal codesharing on the services as well as domestic codeshares in each country.

Garuda and ANA said they also plan to announce a frequent flyer partnership at some stage.

## ET cancels Seychelles

ETHIOPIAN Airlines will suspend operations on its current Addis Ababa-Seycheles route effective from 04 Mar 14.

Currently ET flights to the Seychelles operate thrice weekly using a Boeing 737 aircraft.

## Christine waiver

QANTAS issued a commercial policy for passengers disrupted by Tropical Cyclone Christine which hit north-west WA earlier this week, allowing fee-free changes.



## Window Seat

NEW Year's Eve celebrations in Taiwan fell a little flat, after a gigantic yellow rubber duckie mysteriously deflated just hours before it was expected to be the centrepiece of ceremonies to welcome in 2014 in the city of Keelung.

The massive installation, created by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman, opened to the public on 21 Dec and was supposed to be on display until the end of Feb.

However the 18m-tall duck reportedly "burst and deflated into a floating yellow disc" (as pictured below) with multiple theories as to why it happened.

It could have been avian jealousy, with one tourist claiming she saw an eagle fly into the huge bath toy and scratch it with its talons.



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