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Travel Daily

First with the news

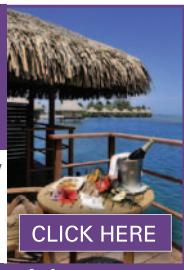
Monday 6th January 2014

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China Southern to JFK

GUANGZHOU-BASED carrier China Southern Airlines has signalled its intention to expand its portfolio in the United States with a new four weekly service to New York commencing in Aug.

Currently, China Southern flies solely passenger services to Los Angeles in North America, along with cargo services to Chicago.

GDS displays indicate CZ will operate Boeing 777-300ER jets to New York JFK Airport from 06 Aug on Mon, Wed, Fri and Sun.

Flight CZ399 is slated to depart CAN at 01:40, arriving at JFK at 05:45, with the return CZ300 service departing New York at 11:15 and touching down back in Guangzhou at 15:15.

CEO Tan Wangeng flagged the introduction of New York to CZ's network in Oct last year after the SkyTeam carrier added the long-range -300ER aircraft to its fleet.

Seat sales on the JFK service are expected to go on sale shortly.

Etihad Perth recruitment

ETIHAD Airways is gearing up for the mid-year launch of its newest Australian gateway, with the carrier on a recruitment drive for staff in Western Australia.

The UAE flag-carrier is seeking a range of commercial and airport operation based Perth positions, ranging from corporate sales and account managers, reservation & ticketing agents and sales support through to an airport manager, guest service agents and airport operation staff.

EY confirmed last month it would introduce daily nonstop services to Perth from 15 Jul, operated by Airbus A330-200 aircraft (**TD** 13 Dec).

Currently, Etihad Airways does not have an office in the WA capital, with a decision still pending on where a Perth CBD headquarters will be based.

The closing date for the Perth-based EY roles is 20 Jan.

For further details, see the last page of today's *Travel Daily*.

MEANWHILE, Etihad Airways has appointed Juan Torres as its new general manager for the Philippines after holding down the same role in Tokyo and Brazil in recent years.

Million 100% Pure fans

TOURISM New Zealand has amassed one million followers to its 100% Pure New Zealand Facebook page, a "significant achievement" the firm says.

Director of marketing Andrew Fraser said social media was now a "key channel" for the 'word of mouth' style endorsement sought by potential travellers.

TNZ research indicates friends and family remain the most compelling factor in assisting potential visitors firm up travel plans.

"Social media channels like Facebook plays perfectly in this space where "friends" of Tourism New Zealand can share and make travel recommendations and offer endorsements to others on the page," Fraser commented.

"With one million fans of our page, the reach of this word of mouth channel is significant."

Some 40% of overseas visitors use social media while in New Zealand to share their experience.

By comparison, Tourism Australia has 5.2 million fans.

EK firms up A380 fleet

EMIRATES has signed an official contract confirming its order of 50 more Airbus A380 superjumbo aircraft, flagged at last year's Dubai Air Show (**TD** 18 Nov).

The order now attracts penalties if cancelled and takes EK's total fleet of A380s to 140 units.

MEANWHILE, an Emirates A380 service from Dubai to Sydney was given rare dispensation to land after Sydney Airport's curfew last night, touching down at approx 11:12pm, *Fairfax* reported today.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news & photos plus full pages from:

- AA Appointments jobs
- Etihad Airways Perth jobs

Phnom Penh update

THE Federal Government has upgraded the travel advisory to Phnom Penh in response to violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators in the Cambodian city.

It comes after five protesters were killed in clashes in the Pur Senchey District recently.

Aussies are urged to 'exercise a high degree of caution' when travelling to Phnom Penh - a step up from Smartraveller's base level advisory of 'exercise normal safety precautions.'

Snow start to 2014 for QM2



BLIZZARD-LIKE conditions caused the delay of Cunard's *Queen Mary 2* from departing New York City on its first sailing of 2014 as scheduled for last Fri.

The transatlantic voyage was expected to depart Brooklyn Cruise Terminal at 5pm on 03 Jan, but Cunard took to Twitter to inform guests that due to a "difficult turnaround" the ship

would be delayed by at least 7hrs "as a result of the weather."

QM2 set sail from New York at 00:30 on 04 Jan.

Images of the snow covered vessel are doing the rounds on Twitter, including the below image from @robnealmarshall.

The snow storm in the US North-East has also caused hundreds of flight delays.



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City hotels cricket win

SYDNEY hotels have reported significant occupancy increases surrounding the final Ashes test match which concluded yesterday. Harbourside property Park Hyatt was successfully selling its last rooms at over \$1000 per night, while the Mercure Sydney Central recorded an occupancy increase of over 40% year-on-year, helped by a large Barmy Army group stay. Tourism Accommodation Australia NSW director Carol Giuseppi said a strong calendar of events would help offset the now closed Sydney Convention Centre. "When Australian cricket and tourism are both winners, you can't really ask for anything more".

Devour Europe tour

TOPDECK has rolled out a new 15-day tour between London and Rome focused on some of Europe's best food and wine. The trip includes a cycling tour through the Burgundy vineyards, a cooking class in Tuscany, a walking tour of Rome and lunch at a Michelin-star restaurant. Dubbed the European Taste Trail, the tour is regularly priced at \$3,720pp but is available until with a 10% discount until 15 Jan.

SIA lifts Tigerair stake

DAHLIA Investments & Aranda Investments - indirect subsidiaries of Singapore Airlines' parent firm Temasek Holdings - have raised their stake in Tiger Airways Holdings by 7.3% to 40%. The deal is valued at just over S\$49 million (US\$38 million). Tigerair consists of four airlines in Singapore, Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Gen Y lead overseas trips

NEW data released today by Roy Morgan Research shows Generation Y is the leading age group holidaying abroad. For the 12 months to Nov, Gen Y accounted for 27% of Australian holidaymakers overseas - just one percentage point ahead of Baby Boomers and four points ahead of Gen X. According to the research, Gen Y'ers were 9% more inclined to venture on an international holiday compared to in 2006, despite a gradual decline in the

LHR community input

BOSES at London's Heathrow Airport will conduct a series of public consultation sessions to determine support levels for third runway plans over alternatives to meet rising pax traffic demands. An interim report by the Airports Commission released last month included a plan to extend the northern runway to accommodate simultaneous aircraft movements.

#MyDubai project

DUBAI has kicked off a year-long initiative to promote the emirate via social media. Launched by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum yesterday, the campaign aims to encourage locals & visitors to promote Dubai using the hashtag #MyDubai through photos and videos on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. "Together we will create the world's first autobiography of a city," Sheikh Hamdan said on his Twitter account.

Australian dollar. The generation least likely to have taken a trip overseas was Gen Z on 17%, which is up six points on seven years ago. "Despite being less well off than their Baby Boomer parents, Generation Y is similarly keen on overseas holidays, often making sacrifices to realise their travel dreams," Roy Morgan Research's International Director of Tourism Travel & Leisure, Jane Ianniello commented. Overall, 23% of the population had taken at least one trip abroad in the last 12 months.

Favourite destinations included the United States, New Zealand, France, England and Thailand, the survey identified. Baby Boomers were the most likely age demographic to holiday domestically, with 63% choosing to holiday on Australian shores, followed by Gen Y (60%).

NT digital grants

THE Northern Territory Govt has awarded 22 tourism businesses funds of up to \$3,000 each in the latest round of the Accelerator Program under the Digital Marketing Activation Program. NT Tourism Minister Matt Conlan said the grants would aid innovative businesses increase online conversion opportunities. "The DMAP grants provide help implementing activities such as search engine marketing, set up and activation of advertising campaigns on Google and Facebook, email marketing and TripAdvisor booking connections. To date, over \$220,000 has been provided to 79 applicants.

Abt back in operation

THE revamped West Coast Wilderness Railway in Tasmania takes to the tracks again today after a seven-month hiatus. Minister for Tourism Scott Bacon called on Tasmanians to support the Abt Railway's rebirth which was closed in Apr and destined for the scrap heap before gaining state & federal funding to the tune of \$10 million (TD 19 Apr). The locomotive operates daily half-day tours from Queenstown to Dubbil Barril, stopping at the historic stations in Lynchford and Rinadeena, offering two classes of travel - Heritage and Wilderness. "We have always understood just how important the Abt Railway is to the local community and to Tasmania in general. "That's why we worked with the previous Federal Labor Government to give it a new lease of life and now the future really looks bright," Bacon said. Fares are priced at \$89 per adult and \$30 per child - more details at www.wcwr.com.au.

Style a winner for G

SMALL group tour operator G Adventures has reported a 40% jump in sales following the launch of its Travel Style brochure range. The range divides trips not by destination, but by the type of experience on offer, with guides available focused on Comfort, Expedition, Local Living and YOLO (You Only Live Once) experiences. "We're also seeing the effects on the ground, with more of the right travellers being matched with the right travel experience, resulting in even higher post-tour evaluation scores," Duchess of Delegation Belinda Ward said.

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Tennis event record

QUEENSLAND Tourism & Major Events Minister Jann Stuckey has lauded attendance levels at the 2014 Brisbane International which set new records.

Held over eight days, the annual event welcomed over 105,700 spectators which “cements the tournament’s reputation as a premier event on the world tennis circuit,” Stuckey said today.

The tournament was won by Australia’s own Lleyton Hewitt and Serena Williams from the US.

Stuckey commented that the event broadcast a multitude of experiences on offer in the state to audiences around the world, placing Queensland “top of mind for global travellers.”

Rex takes on 14 staff

REGIONAL Express is assisting former Brindabella Airlines staff who lost their jobs (**TD** 17 Dec), confirming it is in the process of recruiting a batch of pilots from the troubled carrier.

A spokesperson at Regional Express confirmed to **Travel Daily** today that 14 pilots previously employed with Brindabella have been offered roles.

“Those who accept will have firm places in our ground school, due to commence in Feb,” the Rex spokesperson said.

Receivers for Brindabella Airlines, KordaMentha revealed in late Dec that the airline was unable to be sold and its four J-41 Jetstream were up for sale.

Sno’n’Ski brochure

SKI product in New Zealand, Australia and South America are being showcased in the newly released Sno’n’Ski ‘Ski Southern Hemisphere’ 2014 brochure.

The program enables agents to quote lift, lesson & equipment hire product, transport and accommodation, with live prices available at www.snonski.com.au. Phone 1300 766 754 for info.

Air Seychelles 4-star

GLOBALLY recognised airline rating firm Skytrax has awarded Air Seychelles a 4-Star ranking - the only airline in the Indian Ocean to achieve the status.

“Our new ranking places us among the very best airlines in the world and confirms the significant progress we have made during the last two years,” said HM ceo Cramer Ball.

Lindrum room refurb

THE 57-room Hotel Lindrum Melbourne - a member of the MGallery Collection, has unveiled refreshed rooms featuring new custom-made mattresses and Samsung Smart LCD TVs.

Floriade 2013 success

CANBERRA’S annual Floriade spring festival welcomed 449,000 visitors in 2013, the ACT Govt has announced - the second highest overall attendance for the event.

The result was up 1.5% on the count the year prior and included over 105,000 interstate or international visitors.

Visitor spend increased by 31% to just shy of \$40 million.

EADS now Airbus Grp

THE European Aeronautic Defence & Space Company has rebranded as Airbus Group, operating two divisions now as Airbus Defence & Space and Airbus Helicopters.

Shareholders are expected to approve the name change at the firm’s AGM in May.



Window Seat

MORE than 150 sculptures at the Louis Tussauds House of Wax in the UK town of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, dubbed the “world’s worst” have been sold to a Czech Republic buyer.

The attraction had been run for the past 58 years by husband and wife team Peter and Jane Hayes until last year when it closed after being ridiculed for its statues looking nothing like the public figures purported.

“We had a lot of bad press and I feel a bit irritated that the local people didn’t stick up for us a bit more,” Mrs Hayes said.

BEER pong is a staple activity among college and high-school parties in the United States, and all that practice for some may now finally start paying off.

This past weekend, Las Vegas played host to the ninth edition of the World Series of Beer Pong, which took place at the Flamingo, with more than \$50,000 in prizes up for grabs.

Hundreds of teams from around the world participated in the tournament, with the aim being very much to win, as opposed to the high school goal of simply getting drunk faster.

VISITORS to the NZ town of Hamilton may be perplexed by a rotten smell that is currently enveloping the town...but strangely, so are the residents.

Numerous reports have been made to local council ranging from a pile of dead cows to rotten eggs and wet fertiliser.

The mysterious odour has captivated the town, especially since the local meatworks and processing plants were ruled out as possible causes.

“We’re keen to work with people to try to sort it out as much as we can & obviously we do not want people affected by offensive odours,” council said.

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Responsibilities will include:

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- Management of key accounts and stakeholder relationships
- Financial planning and cost management

Please email cover letter and resume (max 2 pages) to:

Ian Robinson, General Manager, AVIAREPS Pty Ltd

Email: IRobinson@aviareps.com

Closing Date: 17 January 2014

Monday 6th January 2014

Eagle to change name

AMERICAN Airlines wholly-owned regional carrier American Eagle has revealed it will soon unveil a new name and logo.

In a message to employees, American Eagle Airlines president Pedro Fábregas said the modified identity is being rolled out "to distinguish ourselves" from the other carriers operating regional services for American Airlines.

Plans to change the carrier's name were afoot in 2012 but were shelved when news of the AA/US merger was announced.

Tonga ferry warning

AUSTRALIANS travelling on inter-island ferries in Tonga are being advised by DFAT not to travel on overloaded vessels.

The Tongan Ministry of Transport recently found a number of safety standards not being met, the advice states, with Aussies urged to ensure their travel insurance policy covered planned activities.

Half off at Koro Sun

LUXURY Fijian property Koro Sun Resort has slashed rates for all bookings made before 14 Jan by 50%, with no blackout dates.

Rooms start from AU\$1,680 for seven nights in an Ocean View Bure, with other room types also valid under the special.

Prices include meals, resort activities, ground transport to and from Savusavu Airport and local Fijian taxes.

Reservations must be paid in full at the time of booking.

For more info, send an email to marissa@korosunresort.com.

Lost Worlds of Peru

CANBERRA'S National Gallery of Australia has today opened its latest exhibition entitled Gold and the Incas: Lost Worlds of Peru.

The showcase displays include more than 200 artefacts, some dating back more than 2000 years.

The exhibition is open until 21 Apr - details at www.peru.travel.

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AUCKLAND Airport played host over the weekend to a flying visit by the Boeing 787-9 *Dreamliner*, with the jet making its int'l debut on a direct flight from Seattle.

The stretched version of the existing *Dreamliner* will continue on to Alice Springs today for a testing program to gauge its performance in hot weather.

Temperatures in the central Australian town though may prove problematic, with highs of near 40° over the last week

expected to drop to 36° this week, possibly forcing a longer stay.

Air New Zealand will become the launch customer of the 787-9 and is expecting to take delivery of ten units later this year, initially to be deployed on services between Auckland and Perth.

A total of 26 customers have placed orders for the longer 787, comprising approx 39% of all current *Dreamliner* orders.

The jet is **pictured** above making its touchdown in AKL yesterday.

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United Kingdom	\$1,706	\$7,662
North America	\$1,922	\$7,030
Canada	\$2,042	\$7,756
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*Fares shown are departing from Melbourne, other departure cities also available. Fares shown are for travel from 1st February until 31st March, 2014. Departures from 1st February until 31st May, 2014. Prices correct at 5th December, 2013. Offers subject to availability and flight restrictions apply. Offer ends 11:59pm (AEDT) 14th January, 2014 unless sold out prior. Higher fares apply for other travel dates. Small variations in prices may occur as a result of differences in airport taxes and charges. Cancellation and change fees apply. For more information contact your Emirates' Sale Representative or the Emirates' Contact Centre on 1300 880 599.

New Toronto hotel

DOUBLETREE by Hilton has opened its fourth Canadian hotel in the last three months with the latest being a 486-room property in downtown Toronto.

MTA explores Hawaiian islands



TREADING in the footsteps of many of their favourite movie stars, this group of MTA home-based agents recently visited a number of classic Hawaiian movie locations during a famil.

The group were hosted on the educational by Creative Holidays and Hawaiian Airlines.

Agents enjoyed four nights at The Modern Honolulu in Waikiki and four nights on Kauai where they enjoyed the facilities of the

Sheraton Kauai Resort Poipu Beach and the Courtyard Kauai Marriott Coconut Beach.

Pictured above on Hanalei Pier in Kauai, made famous from its appearances in South Pacific and Beachhead are MTA agents Beate Carr, Leanne Godwin, Tracey-Anne O'Sullivan & Natalie Miller.

Sweet start to 2014

FAIRMONT Bab Al Bahr in Abu Dhabi has launched a new offer featuring one night suite accom, lunch and dinner for two, lounge access, free wi-fi & more, priced from AED1999 (A\$608) per night.

Vegas theatre rename

CASINO, gaming and hotel giant Caesars Entertainment has signed a new partnership with concert promotion firm Live Nation Entertainment.

The pact will see the renaming of the 7,000-seat Planet Hollywood theatre to The AXIS at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino as well as a management team to secure and develop new shows by resident headline acts.

Kenya tourism attack

OFFICIALS from the Kenya Ministry of Tourism have urged travellers planning holidays to the nation not to be deterred despite a grenade attack at a resort south of Mombasa on 02 Jan.

Ten people celebrating the New Year were injured in the incident, although none were tourists.

Cabinet secretary for East African Affairs Commerce and Tourism Phyllis Kandie said the area is calm and visitors can be assured of its safety.

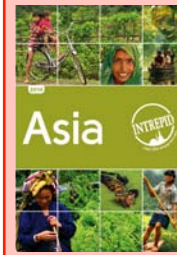
CX 747-400 phase out

CATHAY Pacific has accelerated plans to phase out its Boeing 747-400 fleet from long-haul service, bringing forward final operations to a HKG/SFO flight on 31 Aug.

Originally, the final flight of the jumbo was scheduled for 25 Oct but may now occur even earlier.

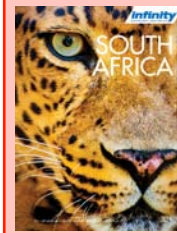
Brochures of the Week

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.



Intrepid Travel - Asia 2014

Celebrating a quarter of a century of operations in the region this year, Intrepid will run more than 150 trips over 20 Asian destinations in 2014. Sales in Burma continue to boom and Intrepid is positioned to take advantage of this by increasing capacity five-fold. A new Burma Sailing Trip takes passengers to hard-to-reach islands. Strong growth in Sri Lanka has also seen an expansion of itineraries, with other highlights including a homestay with the Hakka ethnic group in Southern China.



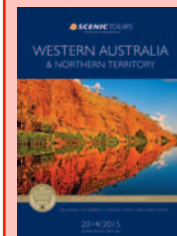
Infinity Holidays - South Africa 2014

South Africa continues to grow steadily in the Australian market, with Infinity expanding its 2014 brochure by four pages to accommodate new escorted and independent tours, new extensions and more itineraries taking in the famous Kruger National Park. In addition to South Africa itself, product is available in Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and many others. Passengers can customise their own itineraries with a wide selection of game lodges, hotels and resorts.



World Expeditions - Polar regions 2014-15

The ways to see and experience the polar regions continues to develop, with the latest - polar snorkelling - becoming a new way for passengers to immerse themselves in the wondrous destination. Guests can visit both polar circles, seeing it by cruising, kayak, diving, mountaineering and also snowshoeing. A number of new tours have been developed including the 11-day Weddell Sea Adventure, with camping also an option. Earlybird specials and cabin upgrades are also now available.



Scenic Tours - Western Australia & NT 2014/15

A number of new experiences have been developed as part of the latest season for Scenic Tours in WA & NT. These include in-depth cultural experiences with indigenous elders and traditional land owners to scenic flights over the Kakadu National Park and the Bungle Bungles. Some itineraries also visit a Kangaroo sanctuary in Alice Springs while Aboriginal artworks are also available to view. Further highlights available include Gorge and Billabong cruising and visits to the Ningaloo Reef.



Helen Wong's Tours - China 2014

The latest comprehensive guide to all-inclusive tours in China also features itineraries taking in Hong Kong and Macau packed with additional "Helen's Choice" value add experiences at no extra cost. A wide range of fully escorted and private group tours are available, with experiences available including a home-cooked meal with a local Chinese family, a dinner show at the Tang Dynasty Theatre and inspiring acrobatics in Shanghai.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) **F:** 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Advertising and Marketing: Christie-Lee Lachance, Lisa Martin and Magda Herdzik
Email: advertising@traveldaily.com.au
Business Manager: Jenny Piper
Email: accounts@traveldaily.com.au

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Publisher/Managing Editor: Bruce Piper
Editor: Guy Dundas
Assistant Editor: Matt Lennon
Contributors: Jenny Piper and Barry Matheson
Email: info@traveldaily.com.au

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Key responsibilities will include understanding client needs within the online space and determine what solutions will provide value along with retaining and growing an existing client base. You will build and deliver detailed and high level product demonstrations, train and execute implementation plans and be the primary escalation point to support technical enquiries. You will come from a strong corporate travel management background

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