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Travel Daily

First with the news

Monday 13th January 2014



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Travel Daily on location in Vail, Colorado

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from Vail, Colorado courtesy of Vail Resorts.

VAIL in Colorado is one of the world's biggest ski resorts, skiable area of more than 2100 hectares across 193 trails.

It's owned and managed by Vail Resorts, which describes itself as the "premier mountain resort company in the world," with a portfolio of properties in Colorado, California, Utah, Minnesota and Michigan as well as upmarket luxury hotels under the Rock Resorts brand.

This year Vail is experiencing an unprecedented season, with huge dumps of snow depositing deep powder followed by stunning weather.

Australians are a major market for Vail, with lots of Aussie accents heard on the slopes over the last few days - many of whom have availed themselves of the "Epic Pass" season-long product which pays for itself in less than six days of skiing.

China Law hampers visits

SHORT-TERM arrivals from Malaysia soared by close to 21% in Nov compared to the year prior, new Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows.

Visitor trend numbers were up to 27,500, placing Malaysia as Australia's 6th highest inbound source market for the period.

Kiwis remain the dominant inbound international market, although visits fell 1.1% year-on-year, while UK/Europe arrivals were up a healthy 4.2% to 51,400.

The new China Tourism Law that was introduced on 01 Oct (TD 10 Sep) appears to be having an

increasing impact on outbound travel from China.

China arrivals were up 3.9% compared to Nov 2012 - but that is a massive drop from the same time last year when the number had jumped by over 20%.

The Nov figure from China was near three times worse than the lowest result over the past year, dropping from the 22% growth achieved just two months prior.

The Chinese govt introduced the new tourism laws to crack down on travel operators in China deceiving tourists with low prices and low quality tours, resulting in trips abroad being more costly.

EK to double Dublin

EMIRATES has confirmed plans to double its capacity into Dublin with a second daily service to come online from Sep.

The Gulf-based carrier launched services to the capital of the Irish Republic two years ago and has carried over 440,000 pax on the route from Dubai since its debut.

EK currently operates seven weekly flights to Dublin using Boeing 777-300ER aircraft.

TD on Instagram

TRAVEL Daily is expanding its social media horizons with a new Instagram feed, showcasing some of the sights our staff encounter during their travels.

To follow us on the photo-sharing site, search for **traveldailyau** on Instagram, with photos taken also featuring on our Facebook page and the **Travel Daily** website.

CCC new 'fast vessel'

SEALINK Travel Group has today announced it has acquired a new \$3 million luxury 24m 'fast vessel' for its Sydney Harbour operation.

Currently configured to carry up to 200-passengers, *Freedom Sovereign* arrived in Sydney on Fri and is being modified to accommodate another 50 pax.

It is expected to enter service for Captain Cook Cruises by the end of the week.

Sovereign will provide ferry services for new contracts to Glebe Island, passenger transfers for the Biennale of Sydney art festival & Sydney Ferries charters, in addition to Hop On Hop Off services around the harbour.

Its addition follows the launch of *Elizabeth Cook* in late 2013.

Two additional vessels will join CCC's Sydney fleet in May & Jun, boosting its vessel count to 14.

SeaLink said it predicts the latest vessel will have a positive impact on the firm's FY earnings.

Today's issue of TD

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

- AA Appointments jobs

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Encounters offering

AUSTRALIA'S newest small group adventure touring product offering available through UK-based firm Encounters Travel (TD Fri) is pitched at the "imaginative and adventurous" traveller.

The touring product uses "good quality mid-range accommodation and transportation."

Encounters Travel's sister-company Uncover the World operates a range of tailor-made itineraries throughout the world.



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DMS expands into Leisure

DMS Destination Marketing Services says the creation of a new leisure division has been born by demand from overseas partners seeking the firm's experience and expertise.

Announced today by managing director Marissa Fernandez, DMS's foray into the outbound leisure travel segment will specialise in the Middle East, Europe and Central America.

Morocco-based firm Activ'Travel has come onboard as the first international leisure partner.

Fernandez said branching into the leisure sector was a natural progression for DMS.

"While our focus has always

been on the business events market, increasingly our int'l partners have been urging us to represent them in the leisure sector as well", she said.

"It is a very logical move for us particularly when you track current demand by small up-market groups for special interest, luxury and occasion based travel.

"The services and expertise offered by our network means that Australian high-end travel agents and wholesalers can position themselves confidently at the top end of the market and deliver product experiences, which are not widely available here," Fernandez said today.

DMS's Leisure Travel division is headed by senior account manager of 4 years, Kristie Turner.

New ANZ Alitalia GSA

AVIATION Online has today been confirmed as the General Sales Agent for Alitalia for Australia and New Zealand, with effect from 01 Jan 2014.

Alitalia's vp Asia Pacific Gianluca Testa said this market was an "important source" for leisure, business and VFR traffic within and beyond Italy to points across Europe and North Africa.

"Our decision to appoint Aviation Online refreshes and strengthens our presence in the Australasian region as we seek to increase our profile and sales," Testa commented.

Aviation Online is owned and operated by the Cassar Family.

AZ offers codeshare flights with Etihad Airways from Sydney and Melbourne to Rome and Milan, via Abu Dhabi.

Alitalia's new toll-free reservations phone number in Australia is 1300 55 10 80.

Turkey e-visa process

SUN Island Tours is advising of changes to the current processes for travellers bound for Turkey.

From 10 Apr, all arrivals will need to apply for an electronic visa prior to arriving in the country, with the current apply-on-arrival process being wound up.

Travellers are recommended to apply for the e-visa using the official Turkish government website to avoid unauthorised sites - more at www.evisa.gov.tr.

QF Philippines tick

THE International Air Services Commission has issued a renewal determination allocating Qantas 129 seats per week on the Australia-Philippines route.

QF had its renewal extended for five years, up until 06 Dec 2019.

Disney Wharf details

DETAILS of Walt Disney Co's previously envisaged project in Sydney at Glebe Island reveal the plan would have included a yacht club, themed hotels and attraction dubbed 'Disney Wharf at Sydney Harbour'.

The possibility of Disney setting up a theme park in Australia was initially proposed six years ago.

A ferry wharf, light-rail stations, a retail precinct & entertainment quarter were also flagged for the attraction, according to Fairfax.

The site is currently home to the temporary White Bay cruise terminal and Sydney Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island.

"There would have been a yacht club family resort and upscale residential developments in Disney Village on the northern end of White Bay, together with a Disney town centre (billed as offering "prime waterfront office space") and a Disney university and hospitality school," the media source reported yesterday.

A "senior insider" said Disney Wharf plans were abandoned by the firm when it became aware it would need to foot a \$500 million bill for infrastructure upgrades.

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ATEC impressed by Shelley

AN ABILITY to “hit the ground running” as well as demonstrated knowledge of traditional & online distribution processes was among a number of characteristics that impressed in its search for a new managing director, ATEC has said.

The inbound tourism authority last week named Peter Shelley as the successful candidate (**TD Fri**) to replace the now departed Felicia Mariani.

With his appointment, Shelley returns to the position he held for seven years until Jan 2006, during which time he oversaw the transformation to its current form from the Inbound Tourism Organisation of Australia.

ATEC chairman John King said the selection committee was also impressed with Peter’s vision for

the future of ATEC.

“I believe the organisation is a vital part of our growing \$27 billion inbound tourism industry making a positive contribution to both our regional and national economy,” Shelley said.

King added he was pleased that Shelley will be able to commence in the role almost immediately.

US love affair still on

MARKET share of international visitors to the US from overseas non-stop markets sat at 55% for the month of Oct, new National Travel & Tourism Office data show.

More than 3.6m travellers from the Oceania region headed to the US during the month, an 8% year-on-year increase.

New peak river dates

TRAVELMARVEL has added more inventory for European river cruises for the upcoming summer season, launching four new dates.

The company’s 15-day European Gems itinerary from Amsterdam to Budapest and vice-versa now has new departures available on 21 Jul, 04 Aug, 18 Aug & 01 Sep.

Responding to “phenomenal demand”, the extra capacity comes due to an early chartering of the *Travelmarvel Sapphire*, a ship which was originally due to join the operator’s fleet next year.

MEANWHILE, sister company APT will begin a major advertising and sponsorship campaign for 2014 with naming rights on two features of Channel Seven’s coverage of the Australian Open Grand Slam tennis, starting today.

Viewers will enjoy highlights from the APT Spider-cam floating above centre-court as well as classic Aus Open flashbacks thanks to APT Unforgettable Moments.

APT general manager marketing Debra Fox said the upcoming 12 months will see the firm release a number of new products and destinations along with a series of initiatives to support the trade.

Uber Incentive return

G ADVENTURES will run its popular Über-Massive Incentive in Australia and New Zealand for a third time in 2014, the company has announced today.

Like last year, the prize pool up for grabs tops \$100,000 and consists of places on 12 of the tour operator’s global itineraries for the winner and between one and seven friends.

Three winners will be chosen based on passenger numbers booked on any G Adventures trip, followed by nine random winners from the pool of participants.

A discount of \$150 on all tours priced at over \$1,200 booked in Jan is also on offer from today.

Registrations for the incentive are open until 30 Jun and available at www.gadventures.com/umi.



Window Seat

IF YOU’RE up for something different and unique during a trip to the USA, look no further than Colorado’s wacky calendar of events which is set for 2014.

Coming up at the end of Feb is the Ski Joring & Crystal Carnival, featuring a timed event where a skier is towed through gates down a snowy road by a horse.

In honour of the rooster who survived his fate, the town of Fruita will again celebrate the Mike the Headless Chicken Festival from 16-17 May.

Or perhaps the Frozen Dead Guy Days from 07-09 Mar will appeal, complete with hearse parade floats and a coffin race.

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Arcadia upgrade

AUSTRALIAN cruise passengers will be among the first in the world to experience new facilities and accom options aboard the revamped *P&O Arcadia*.

Refurbishments include the introduction of East, an Asian-fusion restaurant headed up by Michelin-star chef Atul Kochar, the overhaul of The Crow's Nest lounge & bar, and enhancements to The Globe dancing venue.

P&O Cruises World Cruising has also added 24 cabins on *Arcadia's* sun deck 10, which include two new single balcony cabins (a first in the fleet), 14 deluxe balcony cabins, four inside single cabins, three larger inside double cabins and one mini suite - all with new carpet, curtains & flat-screen TVs.

'Freedom Dining' has also been adopted on the upper Tier of the vessel's Meridian Restaurant.

The ship will visit New Zealand and Australian waters in late Feb and early Mar during its 92-day world circumnavigation.

MAS new Krabi route

MALAYSIA Airlines is adding new four weekly services to the Thai holiday hotspot of Krabi ex Kuala Lumpur, effective 03 Feb.

Services will operate on Mon, Thu, Fri and Sat using Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

Flights to Krabi complement MAS's existing 35 weekly services to Bangkok and 21 weekly offering to Phuket in Thailand.

Sydney Tomato-fest

THE Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney will celebrate all things tomato during a Tomato Festival being held on 01 & 02 Feb.

Highlights of the event include themed guided walks, *The Great Tomato Debate*, cooking Masterclasses, pop-up bar and cafe and children's activities.

There's also competitions for the best Tomato Passata and Tomato Relish/Chutney recipes.

For further info on the event see www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au.

SS2 breaks the speed of sound



Photo by MarsScientific.com and Clay Center Observatory

VIRGIN Galactic completed its third rocket-powered supersonic flight on Sat, with chief pilot of the project Dave Mackay achieving a new record for the spaceship, Virgin founder Sir Richard Branson has announced.

The flight gave Mackay and test pilot Mark Stucky a chance to try out SpaceShipTwo's (SS2) Reaction Control System (small thrusters to assist with gently manoeuvring the vehicle in space) and new tail booms.

SS2 was lifted to an altitude of 46,000ft by WhiteKnightTwo, at which time it was released and

rocket motor was ignited (as **pictured**), powering the aircraft to a planned altitude of 71,000ft. - SS2's highest altitude to date.

Branson said the successful test flight was the ideal way to start the new year "with all the pieces visibly in place for the start of full space flights.

"2014 will be the year when we finally put our beautiful spaceship in her natural environment of space," Branson stated.

SpaceShipTwo is now sporting a new thermal protection coating that helps to regulate the aircraft's temperature.

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United Kingdom	\$1,706	\$7,662
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Canada	\$2,042	\$7,756
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OOL Ocean Cruise Terminal plan



DEVELOPMENT firm Leda Group has outlined plans for a new \$2 billion cruise terminal off the coast of Kirra, south of the proposed Broadwater terminal that is being considered near Sea World on the Gold Coast.

A range of artist impressions of the initiative (**pictured**) - located adjacent to the Gold Coast Airport - have outraged locals.

According to the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, Leda wants to build its Ocean Cruise Terminal seaport at Bilinga, occupying 1km of beachfront land and including an

integrated resort featuring hotels, a casino, shops, restaurants and apartments.

Leda says it has Commonwealth approval for its project already.

Surfing world champion and Gold Coast local Mick Fanning will join a group of other surfers to protest Leda Group's early proposal, with a "paddle-out" to be held this Sun.

MEANWHILE, the Queensland Govt is expected to make a final decision on the Broadwater Marine Project at Wavebreak Island or The Spit this month.



USA sport promotion

BRAND USA has launched a series of 51 sport-themed videos promoting the country to tourist markets through a partnership with global sports network ESPN.

Each clip is accessed in the form of an interactive map, based on popular teams through to smaller, quirky events in regional centres such as the Tour de Donut in Ohio.

The United States of Sports clips highlight things to do in cities, including activities such as golf, watersports and rodeos through to popular pastimes like baseball.

Regional IATA VP

THIRTY-YEAR aviation industry veteran Conrad Clifford has been named as the new regional vice-president for Asia-Pacific for IATA.

Based in Singapore, Clifford will replace the outgoing Maunu von Lueders in the role from 01 Feb.

His experience includes roles at Cathay Pacific, Virgin Atlantic, Menzies Aviation Grp & Emirates.

Annual leave piling up

WORK-LIFE balance is increasingly tipping in favour of the former according to results from a new holiday study.

The Vacation Deprivation Report, conducted by Expedia, surveyed 8,535 workers across 24 countries and found Australians left a quarter - or approx one week - of their annual holiday leave unused.

Aussies took only 15 out of 20 annual leave days, meaning out of 11.6m employed Aussies, up to 58 million days weren't claimed.

In addition, the study found Aussies regularly checked in with their work inbox while on holiday.

Among the top reasons given by respondents for not taking all of their leave included stockpiling leave for a future trip, affordability and difficulties coordinating family and friends for a holiday.

"The New Year is a fresh start and a chance to reconsider our attitude toward work-life balance," Expedia travel expert Kelly Cull said of the findings.

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California dream logo

VISIT California has unveiled a new logo and marketing tagline of "Dream Big" as its new industry facing image, aimed as a "unique expression of the state".

Variations of the new logo will feature on all trade marketing collateral for countries where the organisation has a presence, and will feature the appropriate URL for that particular market.

The new logo replaces the "Find Yourself Here"

tagline used by the organisation in recent years.



WIN TICKETS TO DOLLY PARTON

This week *Travel Daily* and *Swagman Tours* are giving one lucky travel agent the chance to win one ticket to see Dolly Parton in Melbourne and one night post concert accommodation.

The concert will be held on 11 February at Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne. The lucky agent will be the guest of Swagman Director Wayne Hamilton and enjoy preconcert drinks before the show.

For your chance to win, come up with a caption for the photo below. The best caption (as judged by Swagman Tours) will win this great prize.

Submit your entries by COB on Friday 17th January to:

dolly@traveldaily.com.au



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New Amex travel boss

BILL Glenn has been promoted to the role of president and chief executive officer of American Express Global Business Travel.

Glenn has held senior positions within the firm since joining in 2002 and will oversee finalisation of a new business travel joint venture in his new worldwide role.

Shangri-La Himalayas

LUXURY resort operator Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts will open a new resort in Lhasa, Tibet on 17 Apr this year.

The 289-room property will sit 3,650m above sea level, encircled by the Himalayan mountain range and close to Heritage listed sites.

Tempo Taste of Paris

TEMPO Holidays has cut 20% off the price of its five-day Taste of Paris city sampler package.

The deal is valid for booking by 16 Mar for travel 27 Jul - 30 Aug.

EK/B6 c's expansion

JETBLUE Airways is seeking regulatory approval to expand its codeshare alliance with Emirates to include new routes across its network out of Boston.

The carrier informed the US Department of Transportation on Fri that effective 10 Mar it wants to add 27 domestic and international routes on which it can display the 'EK' code ex Boston, including New York JFK, San Francisco and Orlando.

HK Disney initiative

HONG Kong Disneyland has launched a Good Neighbour Hotel Program similar to that operating at its US, Japan and Europe parks.

The program sees the park work together with local hotels to promote travel to the destination, develop collaborative business opportunities including joint ticket sales and brand promotion.

Auberge Discovery Bay Hong Kong has become the first hotel to sign up to the new scheme.



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.



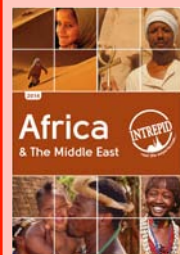
Contours Travel - South America 2014

Spread across 64 pages, the latest brochure to South America from the wholesale tour operator contains a range of tour itineraries suitable for all travellers, including three which are exclusive to Contours in the Australian market. A carefully selected range of elite properties, known as "Stays of Distinction", are showcased in a separate section of the brochure. For more frequent travellers to the region, a section of weird & original product is sure to have regulars wanting to return quick.



Travelmarvel - Queensland 2014/15

Three new hotels have been added to the 12-day East Coast Adventure, which along with a huge variety of value-packed tours, is featured in the latest brochure on the Sunshine State from Travelmarvel. Among the range of hotels enjoyed is Daydream Island Resort and Castaway in Mission Beach, among many more. Among the variety of tour highlights is a dinner at the famed Sydney Tower, a stay on Fraser Island, cruising and snorkelling in the Whitsundays & the Tjapukai By Night experience.



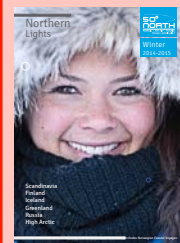
Intrepid Travel - Africa & the Middle East 2014

Australians keen on exploring less trodden paths have access to a number of brand new destinations in the new guide, with Algeria, Tunisia and Oman being visited by Intrepid for the first time. Also new for 2014 are new Comfort Trips visiting West African nations including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and Togo, among others. These itineraries immerse travellers in the uniqueness of the region, with highlights including voodoo culture. New Real Food Adventures in Morocco are also available.



Infinity Holidays - Thailand 2014

One of the most popular destinations in the world for Australians has been beefed up once again to satisfy demand for a wide variety of holiday experiences. A number of new tours have been developed and added to the range including the Mekhala Legendary River Cruise in Bangkok & the Colours of Chiang Mai Bicycle ride, which incorporates a 4-5 hour ride through the city's southern districts. Thailand's idyllic beaches and resort towns feature strongly, with hotels to suit every taste and budget.



50 Degrees North - Winter 2014-2015

Natural wonders such as Aurora Borealis are available in a variety of itineraries in the new 56-page brochure from 50 Degrees North. New options for 2014 include the Ice Hotel and Tree Hotel, Lyngen Lodge and the Aurora Safari Camp. Those seeking a white Christmas in Finland can consult a dedicated section focusing on this area. The latest guide also includes details on travelling the Norwegian coast aboard Hurtigruten.

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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This award winning corporate travel Management Company is looking for an experienced Call Centre Manager with travel experience to oversee their key operations. Key responsibilities will include human resources planning, increasing efficiencies and staff productivity, as well as profitable growth and financial accountability. Essentially you will come from a strong travel management background with leadership and people management skills.

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