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Travel Daily

First with the news

Monday 19th May 2014



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Evergreen out now

EVERGREEN Tours has released its new Canada and USA 2015 brochure, with the significantly expanded program offering nine new itineraries.

Evergreen is offering a season-long "companion fly free including taxes deal, and the product includes a range of new North American ocean and river cruise-tours.

For details, see the **front cover page** of today's *Travel Daily*.

Webjet 'not under threat'

ONLINE agency Webjet insists that its Australian market share is not under "material threat" from overseas players, issuing a robust rebuttal to apparent rumours which have caused the company's share price to dive this month

The Australian Stock Exchange asked Webjet whether it knew of any reason for its shares to have dropped from a high of \$2.78 on 01 May to \$2.30 on Thu - a decline of almost 18%.

In its response, Webjet cited "ill-informed and inaccurate financial market commentary" which suggested the company was being impacted by "unnamed overseas online travel agents.

"There is no factual foundation that we are aware of that can support this conclusion," the

company said, citing recent Hitwise data showing that Webjet's visitation in the online travel agency category rose from 12.94% in Mar to 13.21% in Apr.

Webjet said that although there is some evidence from airline traffic data that the Australian travel market is "subdued and without year-on-year domestic leisure growth," it is still expecting its earlier profit forecasts to be fulfilled.

EY boosts Jet c'share

ETIHAD Airways has expanded its codeshare pact with India's Jet Airways, with the EY code now showing on Jet services from Singapore to Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai; Hong Kong to Delhi; and Bangkok to Delhi and Mumbai.

Pongsak to step aside

PONGSAK Kanittanon, long time PR manager for the Sydney office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, has resigned from his role and will finish up on 30 May.

What a whopper!

Travel Daily today has ten pages of news, a cover page for **Evergreen Tours**, a photo page from **Dubai** & full pages from:

- AA Appointments jobs
- Tempo/Bentours brochures



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italktravel “momentum”

A FURTHER four travel agents have pledged their support for Independent Travel Group’s new italktravel retail chain, a sign the firm says shows the brand is “gaining national momentum.”

The new additions include three store locations in NSW and one in South Australia, all of which will join italktravel’s fold from 01 Jul.

Franchise names and locations have not been announced as yet.

ITG launched the italktravel franchise just last month, starting with three outlets in Newcastle & also has a presence in Western

Australia (TD 01 May).

Expressions of interest are also being evaluated for a further 22 locations across the country.

“We are delighted with italktravel’s quick pick-up by quality agents nationally,” ITG ceo Tom Manwaring said today.

italktravel is one of the business and marketing options offered by the 225 agency-strong ITG, which is powered by Express Ticketing.

“We’re very confident 30 stores will be opened by the end of the year and that we’ll hit our target 100 stores by the end of 2015.”

Manwaring told TD this month the italktravel store tally could hit 200 “if market demand dictates.”

New TIANZ chief

TOURISM New Zealand gm of corporate affairs Chris Roberts has been announced as the new chief executive for the Tourism Industry Association New Zealand.

A key task for Roberts will be to work on the implementation and development of New Zealand’s Tourism 2025 strategy that aims to boost the country’s tourism revenue to NZ\$41 billion by 2025.

Roberts will commence in his new TIANZ role from mid-Jul.

Another ATAS event for Melbourne

OVERWHELMING demand has seen AFTA confirm a second Melbourne workshop on the AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme as part of its national roadshow.

The additional Melbourne event will take place at Rydges Melbourne from 1pm on 28 May - details atas@afta.com.au.

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Travel Daily

First with the news

Monday 19th May 2014

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Travel Daily on location in Dubai

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Dubai Tourism and Emirates, which are hosting their agent 'giga famil'.

SEVERAL hundred Aussie travel agents last night celebrated their time in Dubai at a gala dinner after five days of exciting activity.

As well as a workshop and desert safari (*TD* Fri) the agents have experienced the destination in a "My Dubai day" where they had to undertake a number of challenges in teams (see page 9).

They also spent time at two extremes, freezing inside Ski Dubai followed by water, sun and action at Atlantis The Palm's Aquaventure park.

The main group heads home today, while a top achievers cohort will experience luxury Dubai over the next few days.

Tigerair 2-for-1

BUDGET carrier Tigerair Australia has launched a '2-for-1' promotion across its domestic network, with more than 100,000 seats on sale until 21 May.

The sale is valid for travel between 11 Jun-26 Jun, 22 Jul-18 Sep and 15 Oct-11 Dec on 21 routes to 14 destinations.

Fares for two people are priced from as low as \$52.95.

Commercial director Adam Rowe commented that TT was committed to giving all Aussies a 'fare go' for reliable air travel.

VA code on DAL route

VIRGIN America has requested to extend its codeshare reach with Virgin Australia to include Dallas Love Field, Texas starting 13 Oct, according to a Statement of Authorisation filed with the US Department of Transportation.

The move comes ahead of VX's plan to switch its Dallas hub from Dallas/Fort Worth (*TD* 07 Mar).

SQ drops Cairo

SINGAPORE Airlines has announced the suspension of flights to Cairo in Egypt, as well as Riyadh in Saudi Arabia due to the "sustained weak performance of both routes".

The final flight to Riyadh will operate on 28 Sep 2014, while the last Cairo service will depart from Singapore on 30 Sep 2014.

SQ confirmed it would continue to operate to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, with connections to both Cairo and Riyadh possible on other airlines via Dubai.

The Jeddah services currently operate via Riyadh, but will be served via Dubai from 02 Oct.

Queen Elizabeth refit

CUNARD Line's *Queen Elizabeth* has entered drydock at the Blohm & Vos Shipyard in Hamburg for its first refit since launching in 2010.

Works to be carried out include the addition of the vessel's first-ever single accom options.



Window Seat

VISITORS to Toronto in Canada this week will be flocking to view a major new tourist attraction (**below**) which has literally popped up there.

It's the World's Largest Inflatable White Cowboy Hat, which is currently floating in the harbour as part of a promotion for the "distinctive experiences" offered by Calgary and the Alberta region.

Tourism Calgary, with other partners, is hosting a special event appropriately titled "Under the Hat" which offers Toronto residents the opportunity to be immersed in what Alberta has to offer.



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CZ Mad Hatters cancer support



CHINA Southern Airlines has shown its support for Australian neurosurgeon Dr Charlie Teo AM and his Cure Brain Cancer annual charity gala which was this year themed The Mad Hatter's Ball.

CZ teamed with Accor Hotels to provide a fantastic auction prize that included Business Class flights to New York via Guangzhou, with accommodation at the Sofitel Hotels in both cities,

and tickets to a Billy Joel concert that included a meet & greet.

The prize was auctioned off at \$28,000 and contributed to the \$1.1 million raised on the night.

Pictured at the event at the Royal Hall of Industries from left are Dr Yasher Kalani, Cath Stace, Charile Teo AM & Rachel Oakes-Ash from Cure Brain Cancer with Bill Bryant, Lilia Ma & Kate Bryant from China Southern Airlines.

Oz wine wins in Vegas

AUSTRALIA'S iconic Penfolds wine label will feature in an exclusive upcoming event at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino.

The special wine pairing dinner will take place on Thu 05 Jun, featuring six courses specially matched to different Penfolds vintages, including 2004 Grange Hermitage.

It's priced at US\$225 per person all inclusive - mandalaybay.com.

Canada's first 787-8

AIR Canada president & ceo Calin Rovinescu says the delivery yesterday of the carrier's first 787 *Dreamliner* aircraft will make a "dramatic improvement" on fleet capabilities.

The carrier's 787-8 also signals the launch of a brand new Int'l Business Class cabin of 20 seats.

There are 21 seats in Premium Economy and 210 in Economy. AC will use the *Dreamliner* on routes to Tel Aviv & Tokyo Haneda.

STA Travel cuts animal attractions

STA Travel in the UK is no longer offering trips to SeaWorld in San Diego and Orlando, as well as elephant rides in Thailand, after a review of its offerings due to "welfare concerns".

According to the *Guardian* newspaper, the company is looking at all of its offerings which involve contact with animals, having taken advice from activist group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

The move has been welcomed by animal welfare groups, but SeaWorld described the decision as disappointing particularly as it was taken without consultation.

"Unfortunately, like most zoological institutions, we are sometimes targeted by animal activist groups that are opposed to the display of animals and too often trade in charges that are completely baseless," said a statement from the marine park.



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Major prize includes Economy Class flights rather than Business or First Class flights and does not include an opportunity to meet the soccer players shown above. Conditions apply, see emiratesincentive.com. Open to Aust. & NZ citizens 18+ who: a) have a valid Aust./NZ passport with min. 6mths validity from 9/6/14; b) can travel between 9/6/14 & 14/6/14; c) are full-time employees at an eligible travel agency (see conditions for details). Group bookings (i.e. bookings of 10 or more PAX on 1 PNR) & cancelled bookings are not eligible (see conditions for details). Starts: 9am AEST 5/5/14. Ends: 11:59pm AEST 25/5/14. All draws Lvl 22/385 Bourke St, Melb, VIC 3000. Daily draws (21 total): 2pm each business day from 6/5/14 to 26/5/14. Daily prizes (1 per daily draw): AUS\$200 Pre-Paid VISA Card. Major draw: 2:30pm AEST 26/5/14. Major winners published at emiratesincentive.com from 27/5/14. Major prizes (entries split into Aust. & NZ groups with 2 prizes for Aust. & 1 prize for NZ): Trip to 2014 FIFA World Cup™. Brazil valued at up to AUD\$ 920. Aust. Promoter: Emirates (ABN 81 073 569 696) of L17/1 York St, Sydney, NSW 2000. Permits: NSW LTPS/14/02678, VIC 14/28869, ACT/TP14/01227, SA/14/621

Travel Daily on location in Auckland, NZ

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of Tourism New Zealand, which is hosting its annual TRENZ trade show.

TRENZ has this year attracted some 260 buyers and over 300 exhibitors who'll attend industry workshops for the next 3 days.

It got off in true Kiwi fashion last night with a glittering bash at the Viaduct Events Centre with a red carpet welcome and delicious local delicacies, while Maori dancers set the scene by performing a cultural show.

TRENZ is being held in Auckland's Queen's Wharf complex which comprises The Cloud (a white structure named for "the Land of the Long White Cloud") and Shed 10, a refurbished cargo depot, now Auckland's cruise ship terminal.

SilkAir Studio IFE

SINGAPORE Airlines' regional wing SilkAir has launched a new wireless inflight entertainment system which allows passengers to stream movies and music to their personal devices in flight.

Dubbed *SilkAir Studio*, the system does not require the download of a separate mobile app prior to boarding.

SilkAir is providing the content free of charge, and for flights longer than two hours tablets will be offered to Business class pax.

It's already available on all SilkAir 737s and will roll out on the airline's A319 and A320 aircraft by the end of the year.

EY aviation college

ETIHAD Airways has announced it will create a new Flight College in Al Ain in the UAE for Emirati and international cadet pilots.

CEO James Hogan says the college aims to "produce the best pilots to support our rapidly expanding fleet".

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PCOs carried away by VN service



VIETNAM Airlines, IHG and Destination Asia are hosting a 10 day Event Manager/PCO Business Class famill to Vietnam.

The itinerary commenced last week with two nights in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) before tracking north to Nha Trang, Da Nang, Hanoi and one night on a luxury Junk boat cruising around the awe-inspiring Ha Long Bay.

VN is showcasing its daily direct

services from both Sydney and Melbourne to SGN, with seamless connections domestically and to destinations within Indochina.

The group - including *Business Events News* editor Jill Varley (left) - are pictured at Da Nang Airport outside VN's Business Class lounge, with escorts Jason Smith from Vietnam Airlines, Dee Prendergast from IHG and Nicole Naylor from Destination Asia.



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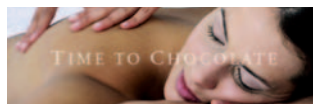
1_Eat & Drink in Style

With its unconventional design, the Sans Souci Hotel and its restaurant fit right into the artsy neighborhood of Vienna's 7th district. Yoo design featuring artworks, combines quirky modern elements with extravagant luxury items reminiscent of the opulence of past centuries. Likewise elegant yet unpretentious is the hotel's cocktail bar, which has a list of over 60 champagnes to choose from. www.sanssouci-wien.com



2_Food Art

Salzburg is not all about Mozart – it is also about art. Especially at the ArHotel Blaue Gans, which is the oldest inn in town with over 660 years, located right in the heart of Salzburg's downtown. The Blaue Gans succeeds with its mix of historic settings and contemporary art and design elements. The kitchen maintains a concept of "new simplicity", unpretentious and of high quality. www.hotel-blaue-gans-salzburg.at



3_All about Chocolate

There is no better place to rejuvenate and relax than the Sacher Spa, which has created a wonderfully pampering experience for both body and soul for its guests. By combining the cocoa bean's most precious ingredients into chocolate ceremonies "Time to Chocolate®" products soothe the soul and are a sensational recreation for the skin. Uniquely – and completely calorie free – chocolate indulgence. www.sacher.com



4_MQ Courtyards

The MuseumsQuartier is a place where urban flair, modern architecture, and the experience of art are united in a historically interesting location: In the heart of Vienna, the MQ is housed in the former imperial stables and in several strikingly modern buildings that contrast beautifully with the baroque architecture. Aside from being a major cultural attraction, the MQ is also a living space. www.mqw.at

Welcome to TRENZ



NEW Zealand is aiming for an aspirational goal of \$41 billion in total tourism revenue by the year 2025, according to Grant Lilly, Chairman of the Tourism Industry Association of NZ.

Lilly and other leading figures in the Kiwi tourism industry will today explain at TRENZ what their local organisations are doing in their bid to achieve this remarkably high figure.

“Over the coming four days, delegates will discover the visitor experiences that consistently see New Zealand placed among the world’s most sought after tourist destinations, and they will also discover the country’s latest world class tourism offerings.”

“These new, exciting and innovative products keep Destination New Zealand fresh, and advance our international competitiveness,” Lilly said.

Auckland’s Mayor, Len Brown agreed and estimated that around \$150 million worth of business will be written during

TRENZ for Auckland alone.

“This city is one of the stars of the Pacific Rim, and we’re just warming up,” he said.

Attendees will get the message as soon as the day begins.

Even before the official appointments begin at 9am, they’ll start day one of TRENZ at 8.15am with a serving of tourism insight at the Auckland Breakfast Speaker series.

As they eat their Kiwi fruit, they’ll hear international experts talk about the direction of New Zealand’s tourism and market intelligence and how to leverage this to grown their business.

Upcoming talks will show how to use social media to enhance their business, and insights into the New Zealand economy and impact on tourism.

Pictured above at last night’s TRENZ welcome party are, from left: Len Brown, Auckland Lord Mayor; Norm Thompson, Tourism NZ; Andrew Baker, Air NZ and Ian Swain, Swain Destinations.

CX status match

CATHAY Pacific is inviting top tier members of Virgin Atlantic’s Flying Club loyalty program to apply for a “status match” in the CX Marco Polo Club.

The move follows the suspension of Virgin Atlantic’s Sydney services earlier this month, with Cathay Pacific saying that applications from Gold or Silver Flying Club members will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Rydges rebranding

AMALGAMATED Holdings has announced a revamp to its Rydges branded hotels with the move also including enhanced benefits such as free internet access for all guests.

The “multi-faceted overhaul of the guest experience” also includes a new ‘Rise Breakfast’ concept, a quirky mini-bar makeover, new staff uniforms and an expanded wine list.

Further, the Rydges logo has been refreshed and the group’s website now offers revitalised content including a blog with location-specific information.

BNE April strong

BRISBANE Airport handled more than 1.8m passengers during Apr, up almost 6% on the previous corresponding period.

Domestic traffic was up 3.9% while international soared 14%.

The strongest inbound growth was reported from New Zealand, China, the UK and the USA.

AFL Rd 9 Results

CONGRATULATIONS

Michelle Maher

from *Stodards Travel & Cruise*

Michelle is the top point scorer for Round 9 of *Travel Daily’s* AFL industry footy tipping competition and has won 2 tickets to Wildlife Sydney, Courtesy of Merlin Entertainments Group.



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Straddie eco-shacks

AMITY Point on Queensland's North Stradbroke Island has announced the development of a new 'glamping' accommodation option for travellers, expected to be up and running by late Oct.

The prototype eco-shacks will be priced from \$200 per night and face Moreton Bay, positioned to take advantage of island breezes and elevated off the ground to provide water views.

The initiative is supported by T-QUAL, with plans to roll out the tents across other camping grounds on North Stradbroke.



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Film Fest tkt winner

CONGRATS to Veronica Paltram from Elite Business Travel who was the first reader to correctly respond to the question in last Fri's comp to win a double pass to the Sydney Film Festival.

Veronica has won tickets to *What We Do in the Shadows* on 15 Jun and access on the night to the event's Awards Ceremony, thanks to Princess Cruises.

The answer to the question was *Golden Princess* will be based in Melbourne in Australia & New Zealand in 2015/16.

Kenya warning

THE Department of Foreign Affairs has again reissued its Smartraveller advice for Kenya following a bombing in Nairobi's Gikomba market on Fri which killed at least ten people.

DFAT continues to advise Australians to reconsider their need to travel to Nairobi and the Mombasa region.

MEANWHILE, the Kenya Tourism Board wishes to clarify that the country is located in East Africa, not Southern Africa as mentioned last week (**TD** Thu).

SQ SIN F1 packages

SINGAPORE Airlines is offering a four-day package to the 2014 Formula 1 Singapore Airlines GP priced from SGD\$1,453 (\$1,240).

The 'Light up the Night' deal incl Singapore Airlines return flights, three nights accom, a three-day Zone 4 Walkabout ticket & airport transfers for the 19-21 Sep event.

More at www.sianightrace.com.

Centara event butlers

THAILAND'S Centara Grand Mirage Beach Resort Pattaya has introduced a team of 'Event Butlers' to provide event planners with around the clock service.

Event Butlers add an extra level of assurance for planners and organisers that every meeting & event will receive the resort's "24-hour service commitment and responsiveness."

\$10,000 (worth of) reasons to smile



ASIA Escape Holidays has announced the winner of its recent '\$10,000 Giveaway' as Leah Monaco from Helloworld Bullcreek in Western Australia.

Leah was the lucky winner of the major prize draw in Asia Escape Holidays' incentive which was based on bookings made between Feb and May.

Every booking made with a nominated supplier earned agents an entry into the fortnightly prize

draw for the chance to win 1 of 6 holiday giveaways.

All eligible bookings were also entered into the major prize draw for the \$10,000 Grand Prize.

Partners included The Stones Legian Bali, Virgin Australia, Centara Hotels & Resorts, Star Cruises, Sofitel Bali and Royal Caribbean International.

Leah is pictured receiving her winning cheque from Asia Escape Holidays md Mason Adams.



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TRAVEL agents can win a brand new iPad as a reward for every Category 11 Cabin on the 2015 Gallipoli Cruise to Anzac Cove sold by 31 Aug in a new incentive.

The 36-day commemorative cruise will set sail from Fremantle aboard *MSC Orchestra* - details at www.gallipolicruise2015.com.au.

Playford MGallery

ACCOR has announced The Playford Adelaide has rebranded to become the eighth property in Australia under the MGallery Hotel Collection.

GM Daniel Sparr said the rejig was "a natural fit for the hotel."

Solomon eco-tourism

A NEW eco-lodge has opened on the north coast of Rendova Island in the Solomon Islands, featuring four bungalows operated on solar power and sustainable power generation sources.

Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau ceo Jo Tuamoto said the Titiru Eco Lodge was a perfect example of how tourism in the Solomon Islands needed to be developed.

New Zealand grapes

AIR New Zealand and New Zealand Winegrowers have today announced a Memorandum of Understanding which will see them work together to actively promote New Zealand as a destination for wine tourism.

Speaking at the opening of TRENZ 2014 in Auckland, Air New Zealand ceo Christopher Luxon said wine tourism is still an emerging market and presents an area of tremendous opportunity for both New Zealand and Air New Zealand, as the country's wine is increasingly recognized around the world.

"We pour six-and-a-half million glasses of wine each year onboard our flights and over the past five years, more than a million int'l visitors have experienced NZ's stunning vineyards and wineries," Luxon said.

"The opportunity to team up with New Zealand winegrowers to further grow visitation from off shore regions is one that will no doubt bring further economic benefit to our country," he added.

Luxon said wine tourists spend 30% more than average tourists in NZ and stay longer reflecting the premium nature of NZ wine in overseas markets, and this partnership will allow us to jointly reach these important customers to increase wine exports and tourism to New Zealand.



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- Outstanding communication and presentation skills
- A collaborative hands on approach to account management

**Please email cover letter and resume (max 2 pages)
with salary requirement to:**

Peter Power, General Manager, AVIAREPS Pty Ltd
Email: ppower@aviareps.com
Mobile 0414369877



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.



Skimax - Northern Hemisphere 2014/15

As Australia's ski season kicks firmly into gear for the year, travellers looking to head north to ski in various regions around the world at year's end can prepare for their trip with the new Skimax brochure, which hits shelves from today. Details on ski resorts, lift passes, transport and off-mountain activities in Canada, USA, Japan, Korea & throughout Europe all feature within. Various early-booking specials are now available including 47% off accom and ski passes in Canada or Stay 7 Pay 6 in Japan.



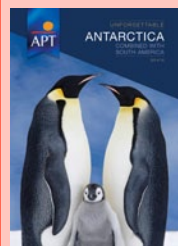
Freestyle Holidays - Hawaiian Islands 2014-15

All four of the major islands in the Hawaiian chain are well covered with product catering to all budgets and standards. New features include specials designed at travellers over 60 years of age and freebies including free nights, tours, value-adds such as massages and wi-fi internet access. Authentic Hawaiian cultural and nature-based experiences such as luau's and the Polynesian Cultural Centre are readily available, with many tropical offerings such as surfing, golf, snorkelling & island cruising.



Club Med - Sun Resorts 2014/15

Released this week is the latest guide to the world's all-inclusive resort offerings of Club Med. The brochure features extensive detail on each resort, from those popular with Aussies such as Bintan, Bali and Phuket through to the more exotic such as Mauritius, Mexico and the Maldives. In addition to accom, stays at the resorts include three meals per day, open bar, kids club and entertainment. Resorts are clearly identified whether they are best suited to families, couples or solo traveller markets.



APT - Antarctica 2014/15

A once-in-a-lifetime destination, APT's Antarctica itineraries offer an opportunity to step on the surface of the frozen continent itself to experience its sheer beauty. Eight different itineraries ranging in duration from 15-39 days are featured in the guide, with either a 10 or 18-night cruise combined with a South American land journeys or another cruise in the Patagonia or Amazon region to form a holiday. Guests sail aboard the all-suite luxury expedition ship *Sea Explorer* built to suit the region.



Nexus Holidays - China and Asia 2014/15

The company's maiden brochure in the Australian market also includes product in Vietnam, Cambodia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan. The guide contains fully-inclusive short and longer itineraries priced inclusive of Cathay Pacific airfares, with all tours guaranteed to depart. Itineraries take guests to well known highlights including the Great Wall as well as to lesser known spots for travellers to find a hidden gem.



Infinity Holidays - Romantic Escapes 2014/15

Couples looking for a quiet break away to reconnect or re-fire the spark will find what they seek in this guide to the best loved-up experiences and destinations on the planet. The already wide range of accommodation options has been boosted further, with new listings in dedicated sections for Coastal Hideaways & Wineries and Country Getaways. Offerings range from boutique style hotels and secluded villas to large resorts offering a tranquil hideaway, backed with air, ground transport and day tours.

Agents getting high in Dubai

THIS year's Emirates/Dubai Tourism "giga famil" saw the event's annual race around the city themed as a "MyDubai Day" in keeping with the emirate's year-long social media #MyDubai hashtag (TD 06 Jan).

Taking place on Sat, the huge group of Australian agents was divided into 41 teams of six, each equipped with a tablet containing an app created specially for the event, which guided them around the city.

One of the key locations was the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, where groups took some amazing pics from high up on the observation deck on the 124th floor (left and right).

Where are we again?

Dubai Tourism staff were able to track the groups from a central control room as they moved from location to location, and were even able to communicate with them via push notifications to help keep them on the right path.

Teams were encouraged to take creative photos as they travelled around, with Dubai Tourism saying they were "delighted and amazed" at the wonderful pictures submitted from key locations which also included the Dubai waterfront, the Emirates A380 flight simulator and other locations in the Dubai Mall, which partnered with the activity.

And while it was a lot of fun, there were high stakes too, with the winning team from Queensland taking home return EK flights to Dubai from Brisbane, four nights accom for each team member at one of seven Jumeirah hotels, plus tours and activities courtesy of Arabian Adventures.

The second and third place getters also received accommodation prizes in Dubai, while there were more prizes for the 'My Dubai most amazing images' - lots more pics online at facebook.com/traveldaily.

RIGHT: The teams visited the Emirates A380 simulator in the Dubai Mall.



BELOW: Groups were given these special #MyDubai signs which created lots of interest and inspiration.

Such was their popularity that apparently scores of them will be heading back to Australia in the agent's luggage as a unique souvenir of the Dubai experience.



BELOW: The Burj Al Arab hotel starred in many of the team photos taken on the Dubai waterfront.



ABOVE: One of the tasks was to take a photo of downtown Dubai featuring the dancing fountain show on the lake at the city centre. This creative group didn't want to wait for the next show to start, so decided to make their own fountains, much to the bemusement of onlookers.



Rd 14 Winner

Sponsored by:



CONGRATULATIONS

Makyla Brown

from *Travel by Wyndham*

Makyla is the top point scorer for Round 14 of Travel Daily's Super 15 Rugby industry footy tipping competition, and has won a travel adapter, courtesy of **Emirates**.

Major Prize:

Two return Economy Class airfares to Dubai with **Emirates**

Solomons unrest

THE Department of Foreign Affairs has reissued its travel advice for the Solomon Islands, increasing the level of advice for Honiara following reports of "disturbances and looting".

DFAT now recommends that Australians exercise a high degree of caution in Honiara and minimise travel at night.

In other parts of the Solomon Islands, Australians are advised to exercise normal safety precautions.

AT&T flight network

US COMMUNICATIONS giant AT&T has confirmed plans to implement 4G wireless internet access for commercial flights, creating a network in competition to the current GoGo system used by many carriers.

AT&T will work with IT firm Honeywell International to roll out the system which could be in place by late next year.

The company said that as well as providing internet connections, the service could be used for streaming entertainment and cockpit communications.

Last week Telstra announced it was testing a similar system which could provide 4G coverage for flights between Sydney and Melbourne.

Currently in its early stages, the Telstra project involves special antennas fitted to four towers between the two capital cities.

Darling Harbour still strong

ACCOR says the huge disruption caused by the demolition of the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre hasn't adversely impacted its nearby Darling Harbour hotels.

According to Accor chief operating officer Simon McGrath, the Ibis and Novotel properties have actually seen a 3% increase in occupancy for the first quarter, with the precinct also posting "solid visitor spend figures".

McGrath said that there had been some anticipation that the project would significantly affect business, but the efforts of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) had been "highly successful" in both limiting the impact of the redevelopment and

also promoting events to ensure the precinct stays popular.

SHFA ceo Catherine Gallagher said that over the last 18 months, the organisation's Darling Harbour Transition Office had harnessed the energy of stakeholders in the Darling Harbour Alliance, a public-private partnership.

"The strength of the Darling Harbour Alliance partnership and the active management of the precinct by SHFA, is creating a world class example of how precincts under redevelopment can continue to thrive," she said.

The new Sydney Convention Centre is scheduled for completion at the end of 2016.

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO HAWAII

Throughout May, *Travel Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a fabulous holiday to the island Oahu, courtesy of **Hawaii Tourism, Outrigger Reef on the Beach and Hawaiian Airlines**.

The prize includes:

- Two return economy tickets on Hawaiian Airlines between Sydney or Brisbane to Honolulu, Oahu;
- Five night stay at Outrigger Reef on the Beach in Ocean View Room plus breakfast for two;
- Round-trip shared transfers between Honolulu Airport and Outrigger Reef on the Beach.

Every day *Travel Daily* will ask a different Hawaii-related question – just read the issue and email us your answer. There will be 22 questions in total, which will also be posted on our website.

At the end of the month the subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this fantastic holiday to Hawaii.

Email your answers to: hawaiicomp@traveldaily.com.au



Q.13: In 2014, what month is Duke's Oceanfest held?

Hint: www.gohawaii.com/au/oahu

Click here for more info and terms & conditions



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DIRECTOR OF SALES - EVENTS SYDNEY \$150K PLUS

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Our client provides a diverse range of products and services to the travel, tourism and resources sectors and is currently looking for a strong regional manager. Based in Sydney with the main focus of building team capability to deliver strong sales outcomes, you will be accountable for leading and developing a regional team. To be successful you will be need to be an experienced sales leader or have managed a retail outlet and ready to step up to a regional role.

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SENIOR EVENTS MANAGER SYDNEY- EXECUTIVE SALARY PACKAGE

This organization is committed to delivering the best event management, group travel and incentive programs for clients of all sizes using their experience teamed with creativity and innovation. If you have experience managing corporate events from small corporate meetings thorough to large international incentive and conferences, then come and see what this fantastic, growing organization can offer you.

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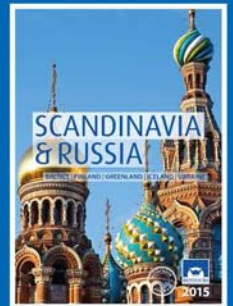
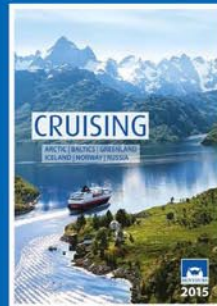
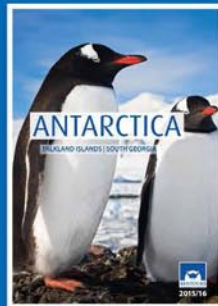
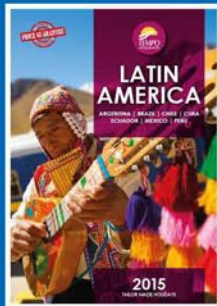
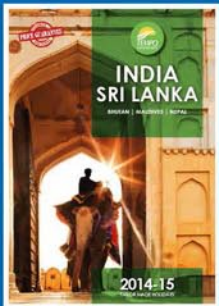
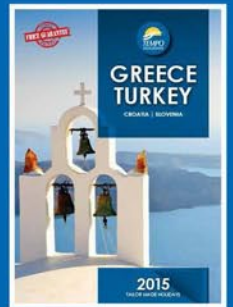
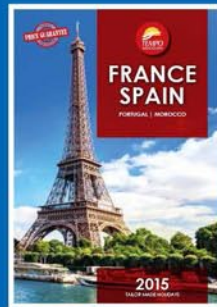
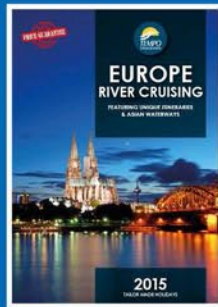
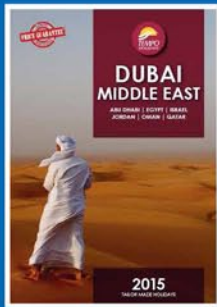
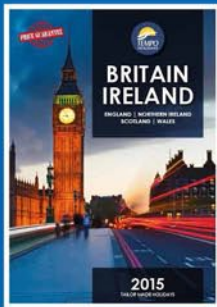
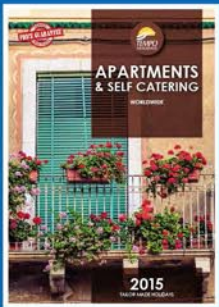


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