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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 11th November 2014

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## ATG plans 'Seniors Planet'

THE Australian Travel Group (ATG), set to be created by WA mining firm Red Gum Resources as it acquires Holiday Planet, Asia Escape Holidays and Motive Travel (**TD** 08 Jul) will shortly launch a major new portal focusing on retiree travellers.

According to an update on the company's website, the new 'Seniors Planet' site will be part of a progressive relaunch of the various Holiday Planet websites with new "state of the art search and booking engines".

Other initiatives in the works include the imminent launch of a new search-book-pay service covering 90% of the world's cruise lines, the update says.

On the wholesale side, ATG will leverage from Asia Escape's existing distribution network, with the introduction of three new long-haul destinations and

"increased penetration amongst east coast retailers".

The Motive Travel component of the deal is likely to see call centre capacity expanded to service the Holiday Planet and Asia Escape operations.

Financial analysts Wise Owl have initiated coverage of the company, saying attractions of the business include the travel industry's "reliable growth profile" and ATG's potential to capture increasing market share.

However the analyst also warns of "near term integration risks" as the businesses are combined.

Red Gum's transition to the Australian Travel Group is set to be finalised next month.

### Brisbane congestion

**AIRLINES** are advising customers flying out of Brisbane over the next week or so to allow extra time to get to the airport.

The G20 Leaders' Summit is being held in the Qld capital on 15-16 Nov, with some road networks to be closed or re-routed due to VIP arrivals or departures.

### Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today has nine pages of news & photos, plus full pages from: ([click](#))

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Tuesday 11th November 2014

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## Virgin Uber bonus

**PASSENGERS** flying with Virgin Australia between 01 Jan and 07 Oct can save up to \$40 off their first Uber ride when booking travel with the airline this week.

The offer applies to new Uber customers only and agents who book flights between 10-14 Nov.

Agents are advised by VA to direct their clients to a special Uber webpage after booking their Virgin Australia flights which will provide them with details of a redemption code which needs to be actioned on or before 21 Nov.

Customers must download the Uber app to a smartphone, then sign-up and enter the promo code in the 'Promotions' section.

When a booking contains more than one guest, the first guest will be eligible to receive the code.

See <http://t.uber.com/VA>.

## Europcar "unfair" terms

**EUROPCAR** has vowed to robustly defend itself against a court case brought by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission which claims that some parts of the car rental firm's contracts are unfair.

ACCC chairman Rod Sims is also alleging that Europcar engaged in "misleading and deceptive conduct" in relation to disclosure of liability cover provided.

One of the so-called "unfair" clauses requires customers to pay Europcar a Damage Liability Fee of up to \$3,650 if the rental vehicle is damaged or stolen, irrespective of fault.

The ACCC is also challenging terms which make the consumer fully liable to Europcar in the event of loss where there has been a breach of the rental agreement, regardless of how trivial the breach is or whether it caused the damage or loss.

"The ACCC is concerned that Europcar's standard consumer contracts contain terms that, if applied, impose unlimited liability on consumers in certain

situations," Sims said, with the case set down for a preliminary hearing on 05 Feb next year.

Europcar insists it has invested substantial resources to make the booking process user friendly and fully transparent, and has attempted to engage with the ACCC as part of its industry-wide review of the car rental sector.

In particular, the firm strenuously denies that charging the Damage Liability Fee for damage, theft or third party loss is unfair, and says it will oppose any attempt by the ACCC to prevent Europcar charging the fee. Europcar has also denied any misleading or deceptive conduct, saying that full disclosure of what customers are liable for in the event of damage or loss is contained on its website.

However the ACCC says that rental contracts are complex, and are often entered into during time-sensitive situations.

"Consumers have little time to properly assess their rights and obligations...and no opportunity to negotiate," Sims said.

## Pullman to Melb CBD

**MELBOURNE'S** Hilton on the Park is set to be rebadged under Accor's Pullman brand from 01 Jan, the hotelier has revealed.

The Pullman Melbourne on the Park will expand Pullman's portfolio of hotels and resorts nationally to 13 and will be its second in the Victorian capital.

Accor Pacific chief operating officer Simon McGrath said expanding the Pullman network in Australia continues to be a key priority for the group.

## LAN 787s for Sydney

**SYDNEY** Airport will become another hub for the Boeing 787 *Dreamliner*, with LAN Airlines confirming it will introduce the carbon-composite aircraft on daily services from Santiago.

The oneworld carrier yesterday revealed it intends on launching the *Dreamliner* on flights LA801/LA800 - which both operate via Auckland - starting 18 Apr.

The move represents a capacity downgrade by LAN of approx 90 seats per week on the route, compared to the currently used Airbus A340 aircraft.

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## Nanuku appoints WRD

**WORLD** Resorts of Distinction has been appointed as the sales representative in Australia and New Zealand for the bespoke Nanuku Resort & Spa Fiji.

The account will be managed by sales manager Angela Hassan.

## Sofitel exiting French Polynesia

**ACCOR** is set to offload its Sofitel assets in French Polynesia in a move to further focus on expansion plans in Europe.

According to services and investment management firm JLL Hotels & Hospitality Group, the French-based hotel juggernaut plans to divest three properties: Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach Resort, Sofitel Bora Bora Private Island and Sofitel Moorea la Ora Beach Resort.

Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach Resort features 55 overwater, beachside and garden bungalows, Sofitel Bora Bora Private Island is comprised of 30 bungalows and a luxury villa and Sofitel Moorea la Ora Beach Resort is home to 113 bungalows.

The selling agent said the resorts are positioned on "breath-taking beachfront & overwater positions with panoramic outlooks onto the warm tropical lagoons that make this part of the South Pacific so desirable".

"Each property enjoys an established market reputation, provides excellent guest accommodation and supporting facilities, and offers a number of asset enhancement and trading upside opportunities."

JLL Hotels & Hospitality Group senior vice president Peter Harper said the Sofitel portfolio in French Polynesia presents a "rare offering" for investors and owner-operators keen to get a foothold

in the South Pacific hotspot.

"As French Polynesia is directly accessible from the major international gateways of Los Angeles, Santiago, Auckland, Tokyo and Honolulu, this portfolio should be considered of strategic importance to any group seeking a complete presence across the Asia Pacific Region, or those wanting representation in this iconic market," Harper said.

Expressions of interest for the sale will close on Wed 26 Nov.

Confirmation from Accor on the pending sale was sought by **Travel Daily** prior to print deadline.

## Contiki Asia release

**A NEW** 13-day itinerary through Japan has been added to Contiki's 2015 Asia program (**TD** 03 Feb).

The Japan Unrivaled trip visits Tokyo, Takayama, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Wakayama and Osaka and is priced from \$4,347 per person.

Contiki has also reshaped its Asia program, now offering three styles of travel: *Discovery Plus* - pitched at the traveller "who wants to see it all and do it all"; *In-Depth Explorer* - for those "who want to lose themselves in the culture of a new city" and *Easy Pace* - for travellers "who want to sit back, relax and soak up the sun."

Other destinations included in Contiki's Asia program include Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and China.

## Window Seat

**QUEENSLAND** has literally covered every possible base and eventuality for the G20 Summit in Brisbane next month.

So much so, that extra training has even been carried out on the koala population who are ready for their moments in the spotlight while being cuddled by the world's decision makers.

A "pool" of 100 koalas at Brisbane's Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary are regularly used for the media photo and video calls & have a cavalcade of A-list celebrity cuddling credentials.

Barack Obama, Angela Merkel and even Vladimir Putin are all lined up for a photo op cuddling one of the furry marsupials.

Koala handlers will be advising the world's leaders to "pretend you're a tree" to infer a sense of familiarity for the koalas.

Trainee koalas are limited to only ten minutes of cuddling per day, with adults limited to half an hour each, with a rest day after three days of "work".

## VS ANZ appointment

**WORLD** Aviation Systems has appointed Alan Wilcock as sales manager for Virgin Atlantic Airways in Australia and New Zealand, with effect from 17 Nov.

Wilcock has 25yrs experience in business management and was most recently at IHG.

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## Qantas goes back to the future



**ABOVE:** Images of Qantas' new retro livery in celebration of QF's 70 years of flying the roo (**TD 09 Oct**) have begun emerging ahead of a handover ceremony of the Boeing 737-800, scheduled to take place in the US this week.

**MEANWHILE,** Qantas has also launched a new range of retro-inspired travel goods available to buy online at [qantasshop.com.au](http://qantasshop.com.au).

Items include a travel document holder, passport holder, luggage tag & toiletry bag, all embossed with the retro logo - details **HERE**.

## HIA hotel & spa open

**HAMAD** International Airport in Doha has unveiled a new 100 room hotel for transiting travellers.

The Airport Hotel offers superior, deluxe and executive rooms or executive suites which can be booked for blocks of 0-3hrs, 3-6hrs, 6-12hrs or 12-24hrs.

Guests and non-guests can also access the hotel's Vitality Spa which features a 25m swimming pool, a gym and men & women's treatment rooms.

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FACT 2:

## Heston to MONA do

**UK CELEBRITY** chef Heston Blumenthal has been named by Tourism Australia as another culinary great lined up to attend the Restaurant Australia gala dinner in Tasmania.

Tourism Australia's John O'Sullivan said securing Blumenthal for the event was the 'icing on the cake' on a guest list of over 80 top influential food and wine figures from 16 key markets.

Restaurant Australia is being held at MONA in Hobart on Fri.

## Last minute cruises

**FOUR** Royal Caribbean Int'l sailings due to depart in Nov and Dec have been reduced in price as part of a 48 hour promotion.

The Mega Sale launched today at 10am and ends on Thu.

Options include the 12-night South Pacific & Fiji cruise on 12 Nov aboard *Rhapsody of the Seas* priced from \$699pp - for more details, phone 1800 754 500.

## Chch Tram goes loopy

**THE** iconic Christchurch Tram has resumed its original loop tour of the city effective today, nearly four years since the Christchurch earthquake derailed the popular tourist attraction.

Tram services recommenced 12 months ago on a shortened route but have now been expanded to the full 10 stop circle trip which takes 25 minutes to complete.

Operator Welcome Aboard says it is also on track to resume the restaurant tram by next month.

The next stage of the project - a second loop - has been earmarked to commence operation by mid-Feb.

## Amari Maldives hotel

**ONYX** Hospitality Group has this month broken ground on a new Maldives project under the group's core brand, Amari.

Slated to open in Q1 2016, Amari Havodda will feature 120 beach and overwater villas.

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## Tigerair \$48 fare sale

**TIGERAIR** Australia is offering fares priced at \$48 for 48 hours for travel between 27 Jan-25 Mar, on sale until midnight 12 Nov.

The deal is valid on eight routes including Brisbane-Sydney and Melbourne-Sydney services.

## JetGo to Tamworth

**FLEDGLING** regional carrier JetGo Australia has confirmed it plans to launch a third route from Brisbane to Tamworth in NSW.

The route was previously serviced by the now defunct Brindabella Airlines & will operate twice daily from Mon to Fri with a daily return service on weekends.

Slated to commence in mid-Jan, JetGo will initially operate the Tamworth route using 36 seat Embraer 135 jets.

"I think we've got a good product and we are not putting too much capacity in the market," JetGo Australia managing director Paul Bredereck said last week.

"We knew when Brindabella was servicing the market there was demand for around 24,000 passengers (annually) and we are going to put about 35,000 seats in the market," he added.

**MEANWHILE**, Jetgo has pushed back the start of its Roma-Sydney service until 01 Dec.

The Roma route was originally slated to commence yesterday (TD 10 Oct).

## 5 new London PHGs

**PREFERRED** Hotel Group has expanded its property count in London to 13 locations.

The Stafford London, The Bentley London & The Beaumont Hotel are each now aligned with Preferred Hotels & Resorts, and Hotel Xenia and the soon-to-open The Exhibitionist are members of Preferred Boutique.



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## Hargrave Apt pitch

**THE** Royal Aeronautical Society (Australian Division) is pushing for the second international airport at Badgerys Creek in Sydney to be named in honour of Aussie global aviation pioneer Lawrence Hargrave.

RAS president Noel Schmidt told Prime Minister Tony Abbott in an open letter that Hargrave was a more fitting pioneer, as opposed to the already proposed name of John Bradfield Airport.

Abbot said no other engineer had made such a mark on the city as John Bradfield who oversaw the design and construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

"It is almost shameful that, in his time, Hargrave was far better known in the USA for the work he doing than in his own country," Schmidt said yesterday.

## EK, Starwood team up

**EMIRATES** has announced a new "Your World Rewards" partnership with Starwood Hotels, providing reciprocal benefits to Emirates Skywards and Starwood Preferred Guest members.

Effective 19 Nov, registered members of each program will earn points in the air and on the ground, while Skywards Gold and Platinum members will be offered SPG elite check-in, 4pm late checkout and complimentary in-room internet access.

SPG Platinum members will get priority check-in and boarding when flying with Emirates.

## Air Serbia to ZAG

**NEW** double daily services are set to be introduced between Belgrade and Zagreb by Air Serbia after a 23 year route hiatus.

Subject to regulatory approvals, Air Serbia plans to commence the route from 12 Dec.



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# China/US offer ten year visas

**THE** validity of short term tourist and business visas issued by the USA and China to each other's citizens is being extended from one to ten years, under a landmark new agreement between the countries which kicks off effectively immediately.

The validity for student and exchange visas is also being boosted from one to five years, with the US National Office for Travel and Tourism saying the move will help improve trade, investment and business ties.

"As a result of this change, the United States hopes to welcome a growing share of eligible Chinese travellers, inject billions into the US economy and create enough demand to support hundreds of thousands of additional US jobs," said US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker.

Previously Chinese citizens had to renew their American business, tourist and student visas on an annual basis.

"With the help of this change, up to 7.3 million Chinese visitors - more than any other country

except Canada and Mexico - are projected to visit the United States in 2021" Pritzker said.

Chinese travellers have a strong propensity towards the USA which is "persistently ranked as their top desired travel destination," a statement from the US Commerce Dept said.

Chinese travellers also cite ease of visa policies as the second most important factor after cost in deciding where to travel.

## AKL laud CZ upgauge

**AUCKLAND** Airport has praised China Southern for its decision to allocate 777-300ERs on the Guangzhou route between Jan & Mar, replacing 787s (**TD** yest).

GM aeronautical commercial Norris Carter said the aircraft upgauge will add an extra 14,000 seats during the peak period.

## Outback Journey site

**THE** Outback Journey website (**TD** yesterday) is found at [australiasoutbackjourneys.com](http://australiasoutbackjourneys.com), Dwyer Tourism Consultants advises.

Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 11th Nov 2014



**INFINITY** Holidays recently took these lucky agents to Queensland's Whitsundays, where they enjoyed a night on stunning Daydream Island.

As well as a full site inspection they participated in a guided fish feeding tour in the Living Reef as well as a hosted dinner at Mermaids Restaurant.

**Pictured** at Daydream's spectacular Lovers Cove are, back row from left: Shelley Dekort, Flight Centre Tweed Mall; Michael Brown, Flight Centre Lismore; Mark Precoma, Infinity Holidays; Jamie Hinton, Escape

Travel Robina; and Jessie Mackay from Escape Travel Toowoomba.

Front row: Samantha Linn, 24/7; Geeta Pandya of Flight Centre Mt Ommaney; Bianca Stringer of Infinity Holidays and Terry McKinven of Escape Travel Indooroopilly.

## CBR express pick-up

**CANBERRA** Airport is now offering a free 10min passenger pick-up option, with drivers able to wait for passengers in the Red Outdoor Park, located a short two minute walk from the terminal.



Destination NSW

## International Partnerships Coordinator

- Ongoing, Full Time
- Sydney CBD – The Rocks
- Total Remuneration Package (\$94,025- \$104,080)

### About the Organisation

Destination NSW is a Public Service Executive agency with responsibility for developing and implementing strategies to grow the visitor economy. Our particular focus is on driving tourism and acquiring and developing major sporting and cultural events for Sydney and Regional NSW. In addition, Destination NSW is the major investor in Business Events Sydney with the aim to secure more international conventions, incentive travel reward programs, corporate events and exhibitions for Sydney and Regional NSW.

### About The Role:

Under the leadership of the International Partnership Manager, the International Partnerships Co-ordinator will work closely with the International Partnership Specialist and will be responsible for the co-ordination and implementation of Partnership Programs which maximise marketing opportunities for Destination NSW and its partners to drive overnight visitation to NSW from the international markets.

The International Partnership Co-ordinator will work closely across a number of internal teams within Destination NSW and with external partners to implement and report on international marketing and promotional activities.

Applicant must address the two target questions. These can be found on the Jobs NSW website.

**Closing date:** Sunday 16 November 2014

**Enquiries:** Eileen Gilliland on (02) 9931 1575 or [eileen.gilliland@dnsw.com.au](mailto:eileen.gilliland@dnsw.com.au)

Applications must be lodged electronically via Jobs NSW website. Applications submitted via email will not be accepted.



Destination NSW

## Domestic Partnerships Coordinator

- Ongoing, Full Time
- Sydney CBD – The Rocks
- Total Remuneration Package (\$94,025- \$104,080)

### About the Organisation

Destination NSW is a Public Service Executive agency with responsibility for developing and implementing strategies to grow the visitor economy. Our particular focus is on driving tourism and acquiring and developing major sporting and cultural events for Sydney and Regional NSW. In addition, Destination NSW is the major investor in Business Events Sydney with the aim to secure more international conventions, incentive travel reward programs, corporate events and exhibitions for Sydney and Regional NSW.

### About The Role:

Under the leadership of the Domestic Partnership Manager, the Domestic Partnerships Co-ordinator will work closely with the Domestic Partnership Specialist and is responsible for the coordination and implementation of Partnership Programs which drive overnight visitation to Sydney and New South Wales to the domestic market. The role works closely across a number of internal partners, within Destination NSW and with external traditional and non-traditional partners, to assist with the implementation and reporting of domestic marketing and promotional activities.

Applicant must address the two target questions. These can be found on the Jobs NSW website.

**Closing date:** Sunday 16 November 2014

**Enquiries:** Alessandra Higgins on (02) 9931 1178 or [alessandra.higgins@dnsw.com.au](mailto:alessandra.higgins@dnsw.com.au)

Applications must be lodged electronically via Jobs NSW website. Applications submitted via email will not be accepted.

## DoubleTree enters NZ

HILTON Worldwide has opened its first DoubleTree by Hilton branded hotel in New Zealand.

The 98-room DoubleTree by Hilton Queenstown formerly operated under Hilton Hotels & Resorts management as the Kawarau Hotel (TD 23 Jun 2011).

"Australasia is a key growth market for DoubleTree by Hilton, and the introduction of the brand into New Zealand marks a significant milestone as we continue to expand our offering to travellers in the region," vp of operations, Australasia Ashley Spencer commented.

## River deep, mountain high in NZ



**FAMOUS** across the globe for its daredevil selection of white-knuckle activities, Queenstown was firmly put to the test by more than 150 delegates at the Qantas Holidays/Viva! Holidays Global Achievers last weekend.

Setting off early in the morning, groups dispersed across the city taking on white water rafting, 4WD, bungee-jumping, Shotover Jet, zip-lining, KJet, Funyaks, a helicopter ride to a mountain-peak winery and many more.

The activities followed the prior evening's official welcome event at Skyline Queenstown, accessed only by gondola, which included a traditional Maori greeting, plenty of food and drink and panoramic views over the entire city.

Guests were also able to partake in the Luge (pictured above), which remained open late just for the Global Achievers attendees to hurtle down in droves.

After riding the chairlift further up the mountain, guests learned the art of steering the craft before being let loose along the course.

**Pictured** above from left about to embark on the Ziptrek Ecotour/KJet combination is



Nina Moussalli, itravel Brighton-Le-Sands; Rebecca Maitland, Accor; Marie Ainsworth, Qantas Holidays; Blair Catton, Air New Zealand; Aida Osta, Qantas Holidays; Connie Laosy, Casula Travel; Glenn Jarvis, The Travellers Hut; Lauren Stuchbury, Qantas Holidays/Viva! Holidays; Chris Watson, Chris Watson Travel Partners; Sandra Taylor, helloworld Goulburn; Dallas Bendt, helloworld Winston Hills; Stacey Daley, helloworld Hobart; Tracy Franklin, helloworld Woy Woy; Virginia Paton, National Warrnambool Travel; Kerrin Poupos, TravelManagers; Debbie Bean, TravelManagers and Kathy Thomaidis from Jetset Travel Moonee Ponds.

**Travel Daily** took part in the zip-lining adventure, and for photos from the event, **CLICK HERE**.

For a wrap-up video from the weekend's activities, see **Travel Daily TV** or **CLICK HERE**.

Tuesday 11th Nov 2014



**MOVEMBER** will see multitudes of males growing mo's to raise funds for the Movember Foundation's programs and to encourage community awareness and support around men's health.

Amadeus IT Pacific men are putting out the challenge to the travel industry to raise funds for the cause. The person who raises the most money will win a **Shaving Brush Travel Kit**.

It's not too late to join - **register at [au.movember.com](http://au.movember.com)** (add your company name after your name and choose to join the **Amadeus IT Pacific team**).

Email your before and after pics and progress updates to [mocomp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:mocomp@traveldaily.com.au) and we will showcase them on **Facebook** and in **Travel Daily**.

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## QR joins i-checkit

**QATAR** Airways has signed an agreement with INTERPOL to use its I-Checkit system - the first full-service airline to use the program.

The initiative, also being piloted by AirAsia, will see Qatar Airways' passengers' passports compared against those on the world police body's Stolen & Lost Travel Documents database.

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## IH agents rock through the NT



**CENTRAL** Australia welcomed this group of agents from Infinity Holidays last month for a tour of the wonders of the region.

The group of 12 Vic agents flew with Virgin Australia to Ayers Rock, with their first night at the luxurious Sails in the Desert.

Assisting in the famil with touring and accommodation was AAT Kings and Delaware North.

Over the coming days, the group

## OS to Mauritius

**AFTER** eight years, Austrian Airlines will resume flights on the Vienna-Mauritius route over the 2015/16 winter season, with one weekly 767 flight from 29 Oct 15.

ventured out on AAT Kings tours to Kata Tjuta & Uluru for a sunset experience, capped off with crackers and champagne to start and a gourmet BBQ dinner.

After a few site inspections the next morning, the group headed to Kings Canyon, an experience which included an encounter on the way with a five-legged horse.

**Pictured** above, the group consisted of Blake Willox, Thomas Temple, Charlie Coles, Adam Cook, Danilo Penaron, Catherine McDiarmid, Ashlee Miller, Samantha Dobbie, Vanessa Cerratti, Bronwyn Reynolds, Ingrid Mueller and Katie Parker.

## Gallipoli opportunity

**MAT** McLachlan Battlefield Tours is urging Australians who have waitlisted for the Gallipoli 2015 centenary ballot to monitor their emails vigilantly, with next round offers requiring acceptance within 14 calendar days.

McLachlan encouraged persons who were high on the waitlist to assess travel options now to ensure they are prepared if and when they receive a ticket.

"There are many tour companies offering Gallipoli 2015 tours that have secured flights and accommodation in advance for anticipated large passenger numbers. And while these tours are in hot demand, there are still limited numbers of seats left for those travellers who need last minute travel options," he said.

The firm has two 10-day tours to Gallipoli 2015 priced from \$3,694ppts - **CLICK HERE** for info.

## SQ Next-Gen cabin product for SYD/MEL

**SINGAPORE** Airlines will deploy the carrier's newest cabin product on select flights from Sydney and Melbourne, the Virgin Australia partner has revealed.

The next-generation Boeing 777-300ER features cutting-edge design that SQ says provides "more space, comfort & privacy" across every cabin class.

First class offers 80"-82" fully-flat beds, Business features 79" fully-flat beds and Economy has an innovative new design that provides more legroom.

SQ's in-flight entertainment product KrisFlyer has also been revamped with a new touch-screen interface and handset, along with in-seat power supply.

The product will be rolled out on Singapore Airlines' daily SQ222/231 from Sydney starting 27 Nov and from Melbourne on SQ228/227, initially operating as six weekly before moving to daily between 04 Apr and 02 Oct.

## Estonian flight pass

**EUROPEAN** carrier Estonian Air has introduced an intriguing new idea to boost forward bookings.

The airline, which operates flights from Tallinn to ports such as Stockholm, Oslo, Copenhagen, Brussels, Munich, Moscow, Kiev, Munich and Milan, is now offering a "flight pass" which allows frequent travellers to purchase up to 100 one way sectors up to a year in advance.

The pass offers savings of up to 50% and has been launched in cooperation with the Optiontown shopping environment.

## France update

**THE** Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has reissued its Smartraveller advice for France, reflecting an assessment of a "heightened level of terrorist attack in a number of European countries, including France".

Authorities there have added more security measures in public places as a response.



## AFTA UPDATE

The latest updates from AFTA's Chief Executive, Jayson Westbury

**NO** doubt by the time you are reading this, the moment of 11am on the 11th November being Remembrance Day in Australia will have passed, but this year I was fortunate enough to be in London for the Sunday service and it definitely places a greater importance on the moment for those Australians who died as a result of war, particularly from World War I onwards.

A minute of silence is dedicated to the deceased, especially for soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation. Lest we forget!

I was in London as I return from the Second World Summit of Presidents of Travel Agents Associations which was held in Europe.

Taleb Rifai the General Secretary for the UNWTO was a keynote presenter and I was fortunate enough to take part in a panel discussion with him about the freedom of travel. The UNWTO is on a global push to simplify and modernise the tourist visa regime across the globe.

As we all know, one needs to have a very high degree of knowledge to know which passport holder needs what visa in all sorts of countries, with some doing it simply online, while the USA and Australia and others still take months to stick bits of paper inside the passport.

So the World Summit allowed for an opportunity to focus on a process for change on this issue along with several other global challenges.

Some sixty countries were represented and there is no question the changes that we have made in Australia have been watched with considerable interest for all sorts of markets across the globe.

We are leading the way with ATAS and as we approach our 3000th location to be accredited, it is fantastic to see how well we are embracing the change in Australia.

You will also have spotted the changes to the categories for NTIA for next year. We definitely have a big program ahead of us and now with the critical mass of travel agents ATAS accredited, we will be making accreditation a requirement for travel agents to be accepted as a nominee in the relevant categories.

A clear mark of quality and experience will be important to maintain the high standard that we have all come to expect within the NTIA process.



## Win with Rail Europe

Eurostar, in cooperation with Rail Europe, is celebrating their 20th anniversary this November by giving away 4 x \$200 Coles Myer gift cards to **Travel Daily** readers.

You can book exclusive promotional fares with Rail Europe GSA's at more than 20% off the regular lead in price until 17 Nov 2014. Fares are valid for your clients travelling between 4th November 2014 & 31st March 2015. Book with CIT Holidays, Infinity Rail, Rail Plus or Rail Tickets.

To win, answer each daily question and the weekly Friday question. Each week, the two agents who answer every question and have the most creative answer to Friday's question will win.

Send your answers to:  
[rail@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:rail@traveldaily.com.au)



What are the most popular Eurostar routes among your travellers?



## Ascott China drive

**SINGAPORE'S** The Ascott Ltd has secured contracts to manage five additional properties in China, adding a further 1,000 apartment units to its inventory in the country.

The new properties include the Citadines Xingqing Yinchuan, the Somerset Xingqing Yinchuan and Somerset Riverside Changsa, all new markets for The Ascott Ltd and slated to open in 2018.

Other developments include the Somerset Olympic Centre Shenyang, earmarked to open next year, and the Somerset Xindicheng Xian opening in 2016.

## Europcar partnership

**RECIPROCAL** discounts for guests of Staywell Hospitality brands Park Regis and Leisure Inn in Australia and New Zealand and customers of Europcar are now available as part of a partnership signed between the two - for more information, **CLICK HERE**.

## Food festivals in UAE

**DUBAI** and Abu Dhabi have commenced promotions for their respective 2015 Food Festivals, both of which will be held in Feb next year.

The Dubai Food Festival will run from 06-28 Feb with a 22-day program of events showcasing the emirate's culinary ingenuity from street food, int'l brands, home-grown concepts and items from 200 nationalities in Dubai.

Down the road, the Abu Dhabi Food Festival, taking place for the first time, will run from 05-21 Feb across the emirate, featuring the Gulf Region's first "StreetFest".

Activities and promotions will be rolled out to the emirate's hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and attractions hyping the annual Gourmet Abu Dhabi event.

Highlights of the festival will include the first Emirati kitchen, a three-day showcase of the UAE's top chefs serving Emirati recipes, hosting cooking demos and more.

## Westbury hangs it up

**LONG-TIME** Destination Port Stephens board member and former Mayor Bob Westbury has announced his retirement after 19 years with the organisation.

## Agts back to nature in Colombia



**ALREADY** a rapidly growing market in Australia, this group of agents were recently escorted to the South American nation of Colombia to see it for themselves.

The group was hosted on the journey by Natural Focus Safaris guide Angelica Catemaxca and Nicholas Aquilina of LAN Airlines, who provided air transportation.

Flying in via Santiago and then connecting on to Bogota, the group were perked back into life thanks to the intoxicating aromas permeating from coffee

plantations around Pereira.

Medellin and Cartagena were also among the highlights, with the group planting a wax palm tree as a lasting tangible legacy.

"We walked to Café del Mar to see the sunset while a DJ was playing in the background. No one was talking; we were all just blown away by such a memorable moment," Catemaxca said.

The group is **pictured** above with local guide Marino (far left) checking out the countryside, in the front row from left is Shea Fagan, helloworld Albany Creek;

Anthony De Silva, FC Brighton; Angelica Catemaxca, Natural Focus Safaris; James Anderson, FC Warriewood and Nicholas Aquilina from LAN Airlines.

Back row: Tomas MacDonald, FC Mona Vale; Marianne Drapes, Peregrine Travel and Michelle Harig-Mackinnon from helloworld Southland.

## DQ/TNZ lure Aussies

**AUSTRALIAN** travellers will be lured to Queenstown during the summer months under a new marketing campaign rolled out by Tourism New Zealand and Destination Queenstown.

The extension of TNZ's 'Every day a different journey' campaign will primarily target Sydneysiders and Melbournites.

DQ ceo Graham Budd said the marketing push focuses on NZ's adventure capital as "the ideal summer getaway".

"With a year round beach culture at home, a mountain holiday in Queenstown offers something that seems a world apart yet is only a three hour flight from all main East Coast ports," he said.

## Epic Pass deadline

**SKIERS** and boarders have until 23 Nov to purchase Vail Resorts' Epic Pass at current prices for the 2014/15 winter season.

The pass provides access to 22 mountain resorts in Colorado, Utah and Lake Tahoe, and is currently available for US\$769 for adults and \$399 for children.



This month **Travel Daily** is giving the travel industry a chance to win a trip to Mauritius, courtesy of **Air Mauritius** and **Sun Resorts**.

The prize includes:

- 2 return economy flights between Perth and Mauritius (excluding taxes)
- 4 nights staying Long Beach resort
- Breakfast daily



Everyday **TD** will ask a different question about Mauritius.

The subscriber with the most correct answers and the most creative answer to the final question will win this great prize.

Send your answers to: [mauritiuscamp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:mauritiuscamp@traveldaily.com.au)



How many classes of service does Air Mauritius offer and what are they?

**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 at [www.traveldaily.com.au](http://www.traveldaily.com.au).

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## How traditions like the Melbourne Cup can benefit your business

Read the latest inPlace Blog!



Ben Carnegie

### Sales / Revenue Manager - Sydney

- ▶ Hotel industry - Travel Media
- ▶ Global reach with opportunities to move OS
- ▶ Salary from \$70K + super - OTE \$100K +

Join this Travel Media company that is making waves in the hotel deals market. This is not a group buying company, more an opportunity for you to work closely with the networks you already have within the hotel industry.

Our client is currently experiencing huge growth due to the quality relationships they have with the industries they work within and they would like to continue building this in the hotel sector. Ideally you'll have not only sales experience but also a strong understanding of revenue management so that you can "speak the same language" as your clients.

Due to this boom, we are seeking an experienced sales / revenue manager for our client, that has strong networks in the Australian Hotel sector.

Producer opportunities also available with this company, so don't miss out apply now!

Call Ben or [click here](#) for more details

### Multi-Skilled Corporate Travel Cons- Sydney

- ▶ Internal role on Sydney's North Shore
- ▶ International & Domestic bookings
- ▶ Salary from \$50K + super

Seeking a new way to put your corporate skills to good use? Work internally for this business & get paid well for your skills. Must have 2-3 yrs consulting GDS experience.

Call Ben or [click here](#) for more details

### Product Manager - Melbourne

- ▶ Based in Melbourne's southern suburbs
- ▶ Specialising in African destinations
- ▶ Salary from \$70K + super

Develop inspiring new products in one of the worlds' most exotic locations....Africa! The products, the service & overall experiences shared by their clients are second to none.

Call Ben [click here](#) for more details

### High End Inbound Tour Designer- Syd

- ▶ Niche company with a luxurious product range
- ▶ Interesting and unique premium domestic itineraries
- ▶ Salary \$55K - \$65K + super

Designing large, all inclusive tailor made itineraries for the affluent, discerning client. These itineraries are often labour intensive & require extensive high end Aust product knowledge.

Call Sandra or [click here](#) for more details

### Cruise Consultant - Sydney North Shore

- ▶ Put your knowledge of ocean cruisers to use!
- ▶ Multiple roles available
- ▶ OTE earnings to \$60K

Working as part of a large successful team you will be dealing with the public online or over the phone. Booking full & often extensive itineraries including air & accom.

Call Ben or [click here](#) for more details

### Luxury Travel Sales Rep - Melb or Syd

- ▶ 50/50 Account Mgt & New Business Development
- ▶ Based in Melbourne or Sydney
- ▶ Salary from \$60K + super + incentives

Our client is a respected, high end travel wholesaler. They are currently seeking a Sales Rep to manage their extensive portfolio of agencies whilst growing the territory.

Call Ben or [click here](#) for more details





*Our Brisbane office is now open, pop in to meet one of our consultants today!*

*300 Queen St. (07) 3023 5023*

### Luxury Travel Consultant

Brisbane, \$40-45k+ comm Ref: 1348HB2

As an already proven high earning Senior Travel Consultant, you'll need to hit the ground running in this highly demanding and rewarding role. Your expert knowledge of luxury travel as well having your own established client base, will allow you to become a key member of this independent and highly successful agency. In return you will be rewarded with flexible Monday to Friday working hours, working with a genuinely fantastic team and educationalists to match your high end client base!

For more information please call Helen on (07) 3023 5027 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### Wholesale Reservation Consultant

Sydney CBD, \$Competitive + Comm Ref: 5621SZ1

Energetic, passionate and experienced wholesale consultant is required for a fast paced but rewarding travel wholesaler located in the CBD. This role is not like your standard reservation role, you will not only be required to consult and demonstrate your expertise in travel but will also be required to tailor holiday packages from all around the world!! Ideally you will enjoy working in an environment where no two days are the same and the thrill of working on uncapped commission structure.

For further information please call Serena on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### VIP Travel Consultant

Melbourne, \$55k-\$65k DOE, Ref: 1895MD1

This new travel role is all about the customer's experience. Anything they desire you can provide them with. From sailing the Greek Islands on luxurious super yachts to Broadway tickets in NYC. All clientele are VIP ranging from Movie Stars to CEO's of major companies. This globally recognised company offers fantastic perks and believes in a happy work/life environment. Monday to Friday with your meals supplied during work hours and free parking!! Apply now for this once in a lifetime role!

For more information please call Megan on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### Corporate Travel Consultant

Perth, \$55-60K Ref: 1412LB1

Corporate travel consultant required for an independent travel company in Perth's CBD. You will be specialising in dealing with repeat corporate clientele servicing their requests as needed. This is a multi-skilled office with leisure and groups departments as well. To be considered for this role you will have a solid travel consulting background with proven silver service when it comes to clients. If you have a Galileo & Crosscheck background you will be highly regarded!

For more information please call Lauren on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### Travel Technology Solutions Consultant

Brisbane, \$Competitive Ref: 1344AW2

This is an independent role suitable for a technical expert who has vast experience within the travel technology space and ideally has worked for a global distribution company. You will provide solutions for technical and platform perspectives. You will have a thorough understanding of database structures, modern programming languages, Citrix, operating systems, browser solutions and networking technologies. GDS native commands skills and point of sale exposure would be an advantage.

For more information please call Anna on (07) 3023 5023 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### Travel Consultant

Canberra, \$Competitive + Incentives, Ref: 0772MB1

Reclaim your weekends with this Mon – Fri office based Canberra Senior Travel Consultant role, Multi-Skilled role so no 2 days will be the same. High end & high yield bookings are the norm in this busy office so you should be suitably experienced in working in fast paced Travel consulting working with a range of products. A competitive starting salary for an experienced consultant, bonuses, benefits & travel industry perks are on offer by this much loved travel and well known industry name.

For further information please call Marissa on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### Product Manager

Melbourne, \$55-65k, Ref: 1426KF1

Outstanding Product Manager opportunity for a well respected wholesale company! This leading company, specialising in tailored travel arrangements are looking for an experienced product manager to assist with their ongoing expansion across the Europe & Latin America market. You will have a strong travel industry background in Product. You will display a high level of accuracy whilst being efficient, have excellent communication skills and be able to present confidently to groups.

For more information please call Kate on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#) now.

### After Hours Specialist Travel Consultant

Perth, \$DOE Ref: 1403LB2

Are you an experienced Corporate Travel Consultant that has commitments during the day? Or perhaps a retired retail travel agent with excellent fares & ticketing knowledge looking for part time work? I am seeking a number of Travel Consultants to join this fantastic global team servicing their 'After Hours' enquiries. As you will be dealing with high profile accounts, a high degree of accuracy experience & urgency is required for this role. Experienced ticketing agents only.

For more information please call Lauren on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#) now.



Find your ideal travel job at [www.TravelTradeJobs.com.au](http://www.TravelTradeJobs.com.au)  
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