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SriLankan to Melbourne

SRI LANKAN Airlines (UL) looks set to resume flights to Australia after a hiatus of almost 14 years, with the carrier scheduling direct services between Colombo and Melbourne.

An update from OAG Schedules Analyser indicates the new route is planned to debut 02 Nov this year, with four weekly A330-300 services proposed.

SriLankan last flew to Australia in 2001, suspending its services to Sydney in Aug that year.

News of the Melbourne plan comes hot on the heels of confirmation of a codeshare partnership between SriLankan and Jetstar Asia (**TD** Fri), under which the UL code will appear on Jetstar flights from Singapore to Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Kuala Lumpur and Phuket, as well as on

Jetstar Asia's Australian services to both Darwin and Perth.

SriLankan Airlines became a member of the **oneworld** airline alliance last year, and Qantas also codeshares on SriLankan's daily flights between Singapore and Colombo (**TD** 17 Sep 14).

UL also codeshares on QF's daily services to Singapore from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

SriLankan is currently expanding its fleet, with the first of six new A330-300s delivered late last year.

The carrier opened an office in Melbourne two years ago, at the time saying the move was a first step to "realise a longstanding need and ambition in the process of operating flights to Australia".

APT seeks new Travelmarvel ceo

APT is today advertising for a new chief executive officer for its Travelmarvel brand, as part of the group's wide-ranging restructure (**TD** Fri) which has seen David Cox move across to APT while Chris Hall is now APT Group md.

See **page five** for the job ad.

Today's issue of TD

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

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Mayfair opening

THE boutique five-star Mayfair Hotel has opened on the corner of King William and Hendley Streets in Adelaide.

The property features 170 rooms & suites and has an opening B&B special priced from \$219/night.

Coachers back to Canada

CANADA is witnessing a pick-up in Australian travellers, with a senior official from the country's tourism department saying coach touring in on the "bounce back".

The North American country was for a long time the perennial favourite for long-haul 'silvertop' Aussies, but the rise of European river cruising over the past five years has impacted heavily on Canada winning overseas visitors.

Speaking exclusively with *Travel Daily* last week, Canadian Tourism Commission senior vice president Rupert Peters said he was optimistic for growth in 2015.

"We are actually really pleased with how 2014 turned out.

"Australian arrivals were up 5% year-on-year to 230,000-240,000 and we had only forecast 3% growth, so we head into 2015 now forecasting 6% growth."

Peters told *Travel Daily* there

had been "huge demand" in Inside Passage cruising from the Australia market in 2014, which in turn fuelled growth for land and rail-tour packages.

"Cruise/rail combos are really, really popular and we are seeing growth also for the winter sector.

"And that's not just ski, it's our Winter Wonderland and White Christmas offering.

Growth from the FIT market has also improved.

"We've also seen some come back on the group touring market," Peters said, highlighting the likes of Scenic Tours, APT, Trafalgar, Globus and Evergreen.

"We've seen good comeback from those operators," he said.

Quizzed by *TD* if tour operators had seen a lull in demand due to the unending capacity increases on river cruising, Peters said "I think some of them had".

"Cruising has been very popular & it is a very competitive market, particularly in Europe."

"River cruising has been popular and it's been a big competitor over the last three years.

"It has eaten into the touring market, but we are starting to claw some of that territory back now which is good to see."

Peters emphasised that the key to success in Australia was building strong relationships with coach companies and doing co-op marketing.

More on the CTC on **page five**.

All in a room name for roomsXML

TRADE-ONLY hotel wholesaler roomsXML is in the process of rolling out a major technology upgrade, with the aim of tackling the "inconsistency of hotel room naming conventions".

Mark Luckey, md of roomsXML Asia Pacific, said there was often confusion between terminology used to describe hotel rooms, with websites describing rooms differently from wholesale offerings.

"Agents told us their passengers were researching hotels online, calling to get prices and the agents couldn't confirm if the rooms they saw were the same as the ones on the hotel website.

"It meant that sometimes sales opportunities were lost or extra time was needed to clarify," Luckey said.

He said a roomsXML team had spent more than 10,000 man-hours dealing with the problem, which in most cases involves manually checking websites and calling hotels to clarify.

Although roomsXML pioneered "hotel de-duplication" to ensure properties only show up once in search results, this new initiative has taken things to a new level.

"The whole team should be proud; it's been a massive undertaking, not yet complete, but is a clear point of difference for travel agents looking to book online accommodation with confidence," Luckey said.

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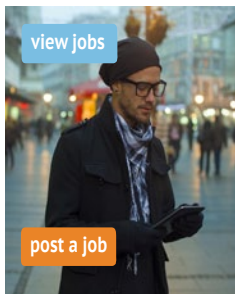
Qantas trade promo

QANTAS has today launched a new "Feels like Home" trade promotion, offering consultants the opportunity to bring a loved one home by winning a share of \$30,000 worth of QF flights.

The incentive runs from today until 16 Mar, with agents able to enter simply by completing a form at qantas.com/agents and answering the question "Who you would like to bring home and why?" in 100 words or less.



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Bench seeing strong rebound

AFRICAN specialist Bench International says bookings and enquiries suffered a “big blow” during the recent Ebola scare, but bookings have now returned to former levels.

Mike Kirkland, chairman of Bench’s parent firm Southern Cross Safaris told **TD** on Fri the impact of the adverse publicity was very frustrating, given that the disease was prevalent in West Africa - nowhere near the company’s operations in Kenya.

“It was like people not visiting Tasmania because there was a health issue of some sort in Kuala Lumpur,” he said.

However “now that Ebola is off the front pages we’re back up to where we were before,” Kirkland said, with Africa still a destination on the bucket list of many Aussies.

Bench exclusively uses Southern Cross Safaris for its African tours, with all vehicles air conditioned.

Clients are also able to instantly share their stunning wildlife shots with the world, because the 4WDs are equipped with wi-fi internet connections and even 240V charging stations.

Safaris by air are also a popular option, with Southern Cross having recently taken delivery of new Cessna Caravan aircraft in a luxury 8-seater configuration which operate regular departures.

“Australians like to enjoy Africa in a certain style,” Kirkland said.

More JQ 787 routes

JETSTAR will expand its Boeing 787 operations during the 2015/16 Northern Winter scheduling period.

From 26 Oct JQ will fly 787s from Melbourne to Singapore and Tokyo as well as to Honolulu from both Brisbane and Melbourne, according to GDS screens.

Yellow Fever change

TRAVELLERS crossing borders from Zambia and Tanzania into South Africa will no longer be required to produce proof of vaccination from yellow fever, the South African Department of Health announced last week.

The move has taken effect immediately & applies to nations recently classed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as “low risk yellow fever countries”, which also includes Eritrea, Somalia, Sao Tome and Principe.

South African Airways chief commercial officer Sylvian Bosc lauded the decision.

“We are very pleased with this announcement as our flights to Zambia and Tanzania will be even more popular with travellers,” Bosc said on Fri.

The decision follows the recent introduction of the Kaza Unvisa, a common tourist visa that permits entry to both Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Window Seat

CRICKET lovers rejoicing in the start of the World Cup over the weekend can also get involved in the action themselves thanks to the National Sports Museum.

The Melbourne institution has teamed up with Aussie cricket legend Shane Warne to launch a new attraction dubbed the “Shane Warne’s King of Spin Oculus Rift experience”.

Available from Wed-Sat each week until 18 Apr, fans can test their batting against Warne himself thanks to virtual reality.

Wearing a headset which takes them straight to the MCG pitch, users can look around the stadium with a 360° view and face two overs (12 deliveries) full of off-breakers and googlies from Warne himself.

For more details and ticket info, see www.nsm.org.au.

To celebrate our ‘Feels Like Home’ campaign, Qantas is giving you the chance to reunite with your loved ones or one of your customers with theirs. To be in the running to win up to \$30,000* worth of Qantas flights, tell us in 100 words or less who you would like to bring home and why.

The competition starts 16 February 2015 and ends 16 March 2015. To enter and for full terms and conditions visit qantas.com.au/agents

Welcome home



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AFTA education symposium

AFTA Education & Training hosted an Industry Leaders & Educators Symposium at NSW Parliament House in Sydney last week, attended by industry leaders from as far afield as Darwin, Perth and Tasmania.

Presentations discussed the future of the sector, while international guest speaker Masato Takamatsu from Tokyo's Japan Tourism Marketing Co presented on ways to recover the declining Japanese market in Australia.

David Collins from the NSW Department of Education & Communities State Training Services outlined a number of areas of collaboration with AFTA including the Smart & Skilled



program as well as traineeship schemes for the travel and tourism industry.

A celebratory dinner featured Japanese Taiko drums as well as hip hop dancing.

Pictured above during the event are Rick Myatt from AFTA Education & Training with Phil Hoffmann, Phil Hoffmann Travel.

More automation for US airports

AMERICA'S Department of Homeland Security has announced the installation of 340 more airport kiosks, expanding its automatic passport inspection system to further reduce wait times for international arrivals.

The kiosks can be used by US and Canadian citizens, as well as those from 38 Visa Waiver countries, including Australia.

The department said it would also expand a program which allows some travellers to submit passport information and customs declaration form via a smartphone app.

Currently in place at Atlanta, the system will be rolled out to 20 more airports by the end of 2016.

The initiatives are part of President Obama's National Travel and Tourism Strategy, which has a goal of welcoming 100 million international visitors to the US annually by 2021.

CSA expansion

CSA Czech Airlines will add a number of new routes during the Northern Summer season, with GDS displays confirming new ATR72 operations from bases at both Prague and Stuttgart.

To be phased in from May, new destinations from Prague include Gothenburg, Poznan, Gdansk, Växjö, Linköping, Venice and Kristiansand.

From Stuttgart, CSA will fly to Bologna, Geneva and Marseille, and a new thrice weekly flight will operate between Prague and Stuttgart.

Triple EK Avis points

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Hyatt Centric debut

CHICAGO & South Miami Beach have been named as the launch cities for Hyatt Hotel Corp's new 'Hyatt Centric' (TD 28 Jan) full service lifestyle brand.

Rejig for Canada Specialists

AN OVERHAUL of the Canada Specialist Program (CSP) is set to see the creme de la creme of Australian agents recognised in a new 'premiere' tier.

Currently, the Canadian Tourism Commission's trade expert scheme has 750 specialists in its ranks around the country.

But a revamped Canadian Tourism website that will be optimised for mobile devices is slated to be rolled out by the end of the year, featuring fresh content "to spice things up", CTC vice president international Rupert Peters told TD on Fri.

The mechanics of the rejigged CSP are yet to be ironed out, with Peters telling *Travel Daily* a limited number of Canadian gurus will have the chance to be part of the new upper echelon of recognition, which may also be 'by invitation' only.

Peters said the select group would be advocates of Canada - those who have visited the country multiple times, who use social media to brag about their Canadian experiences, who share their experiences and those who

sit in on every webinar in the effort to stay informed and learn about new products.

"Part of our brand is all about storytelling and to 'keep exploring', so if we can keep that advocacy in the travel industry throughout the program it will give 'premiere' agents a chance to pass on their knowledge."

Peters added that agents who are deemed 'premiere' will be offered first dibs on Canadian Tourism Commission famils.

"We need to make sure their knowledge meets our expectation," he added.

The premiere group will start "modestly" Peters said, consisting of only around 20 to 30 agents.

Peters, who was in town for the annual Canada Corroboree event in Sydney, praised the Australian travel trade as the "heart" of CTC's strategy down under.

In its current form, the flexible Canada Specialist Program takes half a day to complete, with agents able to log in and log out of the course as necessary.

For more information on the CSP, go to csp-au.canada.travel.

Corroboree reels in the crowds



A DELEGATION of 23 travel and tourism executives from Canada wrapped up the annual Canadian Tourism Commission's tradeshow with a media event on Fri.

The roadshow visited Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney (TD Thu) over two weeks, enlightening an estimated audience of 800 agents about the vast variety of destinations and experiences on offer to visitors travelling to Canada.

Currently, there are around 150 qualified 'Signature Experiences' in the CTC's five-year old program which help "tell Canada's story," vp int'l Rupert Peters told TD.

Peters revealed in the future it is likely the Signature Experiences will be micro-managed by provincial partners who are closer

to the product and can work more closely with the suppliers.

Pictured at BLACK by eazard in Sydney on Fri from left are Donna Campbell, CTC; Jessica Ruffen, Tourism Yukon; Colin Brost, Tourism Sun Peak; Tanya Chamberland, Brewster Canada; Jon Schmiemann, Edmonton Tourism; Joanne Motta, Destination BC; Robyn McKinney, Tourism Calgary; VIA Rail; Jake Mathews, Country & Western singer from Calgary; Philippa Macken, CTC; Lindsay Jardine, Calgary Stampede; Estelle Stewart, Tourism Jasper; Darcy Peirce-Wells, Banff Lake Louise Tourism; Rupert Peters, vice president Int'l CTC; Marg Leehane, Great Bear Lodge and Nathan McLoughlin, CTC.

CEO Travelmarvel

An opportunity within the APT Group has opened up due to a promotion, for a highly experienced and dynamic industry leader.



Travelmarvel has seen rapid growth over recent years and is now well on its way to becoming an industry leader. We are a proud Australian owned and operated company now seeking the person who can continue to build on our success and lead a team of talented and innovative people to the next stage.

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To apply please visit <http://aptouring.applynow.net.au/> or call Ash Smith (GM HR) on 03 8526 1481.



Contiki takes flight with Birdman



MEMBERS of the Sydney travel industry rounded out last week with an evening at the open-air cinemas on Bondi Beach thanks to Contiki.

The Travel Corporation brand welcomed industry partners to a pre-movie gathering with canapes, dinner and drinks before settling into some comfy beanbags to watch acclaimed flick Birdman.

American ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's are the sponsors of

the open-air cinema experience once again this year and treated attendees with personal cups of their dairy goodness as the lights went down and the movie began.

While not everyone was able to stay awake through the entire film, it was evident that all enjoyed the night out in Bondi.

Pictured above are the trade members attending, in the back row from left is Peter Monaghan, Flight Centre; Nick Van der Werff, Park Hyatt Sydney and Brett Morgan from Contiki.

Front row: Alicia Kirwan, Flight Centre; Stef Goldring, Flight Centre; Zoe Teasey, Contiki with Lisa Kirwan and Lauren Anderson from Flight Centre.

Scout 787s to OOL

BOEING 787 Dreamliner flights operated by Scoot will launch on the return Singapore-Gold Coast route from 01 May, GDSs show.

WIN
A TRIP TO
Canada!

FIND OUT MORE

IHG Kosher catering

IN-HOUSE kosher-certified catering options are now available at the InterContinental Sydney Double Bay.

The property has sought and received certification from The Kashnut Authority, now operating a separate on-site kosher kitchen.

Traditional Judaica items such as washing stations, benching books and Kiddush cups are also now provided for guests as required.

Melanesian air pact

SOLOMON Airlines, Air Niugini and Air Vanuatu has signed a new Melanesian aviation partnership accord which will see the carriers enter into a tri-partite codeshare arrangement on flights on the Port Moresby/Honiara/Port Vila route.

Hyatt wi-fi activation

HYATT Hotels Corporation has activated its complimentary wi-fi service to guests worldwide.

Flagged eight weeks ago (**TD** 23 Dec), guests at all Hyatt hotels can now connect to wi-fi in common spaces and in-room FOC irrespective of booking method.

Woolworths CC cuts Qantas point earning

THE earn rate of Qantas frequent flyer points for holders of the Woolworths Everyday Rewards Platinum Visa Card has been reduced, with the previous one point per dollar spent now halved for monthly spending above \$2,500.

Cardholders were advised of the change via fine print on their most recent statement, which said effective from next month that "above \$2,500 you will earn 0.5 Qantas Points per \$1 spent on eligible purchases in the same statement period".

No points cap applies, and the new restriction is separate to Qantas Points earning via the Woolworths Everyday Rewards scheme, which continues to be one point per dollar for transactions over \$30 at Woolworths supermarkets.

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Norfolk stars on TV

FOXTEL'S History Channel will tonight feature Norfolk Island as part of its *Coast Australia* series, screening from 7:30pm.

The program is hosted by historian Neil Oliver and looks at the great coastlines of Australia.

A&K expands Japan

TWO new itineraries have been added to the Abercrombie & Kent range for Japan, with the first departures scheduled this year.

The 10-day Highlights of Japan departs 13 Oct while the 13-day Wonders of Japan circumnavigates the country on a *Le Soleal* charter.

Investment app-grade

TOURISM Australia has updated its Open for Investment iPad app to better showcase the range of business opportunities on offer in Australia to investors.

Launched last year & produced in collaboration with Austrade (**TD** 31 Oct), the app now offers an improved design with better access to information.

The app also includes details on how Australia competes for investment, hotel performance and arrivals data, news & details on key inbound markets.

Grand Sale deadline

AGENTS are being reminded by APT that less than two weeks remain to take advantage of the firm's Grand Sale, launched in line with the Australian Open tennis.

Offers in the sale include cabin upgrades on select departures and more - book by 28 Feb.

NZ South Island push

TOURISM New Zealand has expanded its 'Every day a different journey' campaign to the South Island, relaunching in conjunction with Christchurch Airport.

The campaign builds around five "Great Journeys" of the South Island and a renewed push to see greater flight capacity into CHC.

In addition, a 12-page liftout will be added to News Corp papers this coming weekend focusing on the highlights of the South Island.

"The campaign strongly encourages Australians to 'Discover the South Island' whether it is through shorter trips or tailored longer journeys," TNZ gm Australia Tony Saunders said.

EK Companion Sale

RETURN Economy Class fares to 38 European destinations for two people start from \$2,998 under a new companion sale launched today by Emirates.

Fares for two pax to the UK ports of London, Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Newcastle start from \$3,198, with seats on sale until 20 Feb and valid for travel 06 Apr to 17 Jun.

Aussies swift to book NYC trips



NYC & Company kicked off this week's Visit USA roadshow early in Sydney on Fri, hosting a get-together with key suppliers at the funky York Trading & Co in Sydney.

Leading the delegation from New York is senior vice president global tourism development Makiko Matsuda Healy.

She said Aussie visitor numbers to the Big Apple remain on the rise, in 2014 outpacing forecasted growth rates.

"The value of the Australian dollar has done little to sway travellers," she told **Travel Daily**.

Matsuda Healy said that while travellers are likely to be more price conscious when planning a New York holiday, the level of interest and booking enquiries continue to reach new highs.

In 2014, New York welcomed approximately 652,000 Australian travellers, bedding down its place as the city's fifth largest inbound source market (**TD** 04 Feb).

Across all markets, New York surpassed its 2015 target of 55m visitors 12 months earlier than expected, Matsuda Healy said, with the city notching up 56.4 million visitors last year alone.

Matsuda Healy said New York City is a one-stop destination in its own right and is the nation's number one port-of-entry for foreign visitors, top destination for tourism spending and has the highest share of overseas visitation to the United States.

Based on 2013 data, Aussies spent on average 6.9 nights when visiting New York, with sightseeing and shopping the most favoured activity.

Pictured from left are Jacqui Walshe, Sarah Stevenson & Jane Wilson from Walshe Grp (gsa for NYC&Co); Makiko Matsuda Healy, Lucille Yokell, Wellington Hotel; Elio Arrabito, The Roosevelt Hotel and Neslihan Cafer-Montez, The Marmara Collection.

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Discover Counsellors

AGENTS keen to learn more about the Travel Counsellors way of doing business are invited to the company's next Discovery Morning taking place this week.

Taking place at Head Office on 18 Feb from 7:30am, attendees will be able to meet management and support staff, use technology to speak to existing agents and view TV broadcasts for the firm.

For more details or to RSVP, call Veronica on (03) 9088 0323.

Concern over Expedia

AIRLINE industry lobby group Airlines for America has urged for a thorough review by the Dept of Transportation into the planned buyout of Orbitz Worldwide by the ever-growing Expedia Group.

The organisation said it would not actively oppose the deal, however warned of the potential implications for consumers.

Expedia announced last week it has entered into an agreement to acquire Orbitz Worldwide for US\$1.33 billion (**TD Fri**).

The OTA giant's latest buyout comes just weeks after confirming it would purchase the remaining stake in Travelocity.

American Hotel and Lodging Association president Katherine Lugar said the merger "appears to be counter to the goal of creating more consumer choice".

Starwood soft brand

A **NEW** entrant to the hotel market aimed at filling "white space" between Luxury Collection and the recently-acquired Design Hotels has been proposed by Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

Starwood president and ceo Frits van Paasschen told investors it had already held talks with hotel owners about conversion to the a new upper-midscale brand but no decisions had been made.

The hotel conglomerate offers nine brands currently, with two more in ultra-luxury Baccarat Hotels & Resorts and eco-friendly 1 Hotels & Resorts slowly growing.

All meals at Castaway

GUESTS staying at Castaway Island in Fiji during selected dates can pay a one-time fee to receive all meals included for the length of their stay through a new offer.

Based on a minimum stay of five nights, the one-time fee of FJ\$239 per person (A\$150) is valid in Water's Edge, Sundowner wood-fired pizzas and the 1808 eatery.

The package is valid for stays from 15 Apr-31 May, 01-31 Aug and 01 Nov-20 Dec.

Hawaii meeting guide

A **NEW** resource created to aid meeting, conference and event organisers with planning activities in Hawaii has been rolled out by Hawaii Tourism Oceania.

The 2015 Meet Hawaii Guide details venues, accommodation, team-building opportunities, pre- & post-conference tour options & more and is available in print and online - **CLICK HERE** to view.

Nexus Holidays
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Experienced Reservations Consultant required for expanding international wholesaler and tour operator, Nexus Holidays.

Due to a surge in business, Nexus Holidays is requiring an experienced, motivated reservations consultant for direct and trade enquiries/bookings to commence immediately.

As an expanding international tour provider, Nexus Holidays has destinations to China, Asia, North America, NZ, Europe with more planned and is looking for a person who will be committed to the business as it continues to grow.

The successful applicant will be offered 45K plus commission.

Please contact Jenny at Nexus Holidays
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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.



Grand Pacific Tours - NZ Coach Holidays 2015-16

The latest guide from GPT covers departures from 01 Sep 2015 to 31 May 2016. In that time, over 190 guaranteed departures will take place. Details of five styles of touring and each departure date are featured over the 60-page guide. All budgets are covered, from Affordable Coach Tours, Luxury Coach Tours, Ultimate Small Group Tours, Special Interest Tours and Cruise & Luxury Coach Tours. Guests can also combine their adventure with a cruise through GPT's partnership with Celebrity Cruises.



AAT Kings - Australia & New Zealand 2015-16

Under the slightly revised heading of 'Brilliant Breaks', an evolution of its 'Short Breaks' program, six exciting new tours ranging in length from 2-9 days have been developed for the latest release brochure. The guide offers something for every taste with train journeys, soft adventure, city stays, outback exploration and food & wine immersions. Itineraries are designed for those looking for a quick getaway as opposed to the one long annual holiday, with lots of boutique locations and experiences enjoyed.



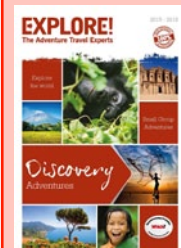
Infinity Holidays - Hong Kong & China 2015/16

Like the rest of the Infinity brochure family, product has been sorted under three genres - Young & Fun, Family Recipe and Something Special. The three banners allow for easy reference depending whether clients are seeking youthful adventures, something for the whole family to enjoy or a chance to splurge on a bit of high living and luxury. New tours have been added to the range in Shanghai, clearly indicated by a "new" flag, while the hotel range across both regions has been expanded.



New Horizons Holidays - Africa 2015

Described as "all new" for 2015, the latest guide to the African continent offers new travel packages built around the introduction of single tourist visas for multiple country entries. Augmented reality has been built into the app to allow readers to view videos and interactive additional content on their smartphone. The guide also helps agents build itineraries for their clients by identifying five "must do" experiences in each major place. Special wildlife encounters in Kenya have been added.



Explore! - Discovery Adventures 2015-16

Free arrival and departure transfers on all tours is the biggest change made to the new Explore Holidays range for 2015. An enormous 260 tours features in the guide, with 500 more detailed online. Destinations have been added, such as Papua New Guinea, Djibouti, Georgia and Moldove, while many more have been boosted with extra inclusions such as cycling activities. Select itineraries also allow for self-guiding.



Asia Escape Holidays - Maldives 2015

No longer a destination just for honeymooners and couples, the Maldives offers a good mix of activities for families as well, with options for both market segments catered for in this new guide from Asia Escape. A new cover design highlights a refreshed range inside and the beautiful range of both high-end luxury properties and the more affordable, yet comfortable retreats available. Three new properties have been added to the range including the Coco Bodu Hithi, Velassaru Maldives and W Retreat & Spa.

QR 787s to Phuket

QATAR Airways will debut Boeing 787-8 operations between Doha and Phuket from 01 Apr, with the new aircraft replacing existing daily A330 services.

NSW promises \$123m for tourism

NSW Premier Mike Baird, who is facing an election next month, has proposed a major funding boost to attract high profile events to the state.

He said the move would help secure NSW's reputation as the "undisputed home" of major events in Australia.

As well as extending successful events such as the Vivid Sydney festival, the additional money could also be used to bid for world premier concert tours for major musical acts as well as international sporting events such as baseball or gridiron matches.

"More major events will attract more tourists to NSW who will provide a boost to the state economy when they stay at local hotels, eat out at local restaurants and take cabs home," Baird said.

A total of \$123 million in tourism funding is proposed, of which \$73.25m would go to attracting events including \$22m set aside for Western Sydney.

\$40.6 million would be devoted to growing regional tourism, and \$9.5 million would be spent on targeting inbound arrivals from "priority international markets".

The travel and tourism industry has responded to Baird's strategy, with hotel giant Accor pledging its support for the initiative.

Accor chief operating officer Simon McGrath welcomed the

campaign move, saying it will give Sydney "the competitive edge" over other state capitals and other cities in the Asia-Pacific.

"Pleasingly the Baird Government understands that tourism has moved into the top three of economic contributors in most countries worldwide.

"Tourism is among the top five super-growth industries in Australia," McGrath added.

MEANWHILE, Deputy NSW Premier Troy Grant and Minister for Regional Tourism John Barilaro will inject \$12 million to boost tourism and events in the Snowy Mountains if returned to power next election.

The pledge also covers the Monaro region and Queanbeyan.

Accommodation Association of Australia ceo Richard Munro welcomed the commitment to developing tourism in the region.

"The Ministers' recognition of Queanbeyan and the Snowy Mountains as an important tourism centre, is a promising start to attracting a funding increase and greater economic benefits for local accommodation operators in the region."

JW Marriott Austin

THE 34-storey 1,012 room JW Marriott Austin has opened in Texas, becoming the largest JW Marriott branding hotel in North America & second largest globally.

Six Senses in Spain

SIX Senses is set to debut a new Six Senses Spa in Marbella on Spain's Costa del Sol.

The new Six Senses Spa Marbella is located within the Puente Romano Beach Resort between Marbella and Puerto Banus, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World.

A good looking Conchita!



ABOVE: Jason Harwood from Austrian Airlines and the Vienna Melbourne agency Journeys by Design wasn't aware that the stunning photo above was being entered into this month's **Travel Daily** Eurovision competition.

The pic was submitted by his colleague Emma Guthrie who said her wonderful boss is "certainly a very scruffy Conchita" - particularly because he didn't get a chance to frock-up!

He's now in the running to win a trip to Austria courtesy of

Austrian Airlines and the Vienna Tourist Board, who are hosting a global once-in-a-lifetime mega-famil during May which will include the 2015 Eurovision Song Contest.

We're seeking Australia's best travel industry Conchita transformation, with entries closing at the end of the month.

The winner will be announced in the first week of Mar - for more details of how to enter, see the competition box **below**.

Tonga dengue alert

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has reissued its travel advice for Tonga, warning of an outbreak of dengue fever.

Travellers are strongly advised to take precautions against being bitten by mosquitoes, both during the day and at night.

The overall advice remains at the lowest "exercise normal safety precautions" level.

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.

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From

Brad or Janet

To

Conchita –
Can you do it?

Eurovision 2015
Agency competition

Can you transform from Brad or Janet into Conchita? Send us your photo for a chance to win a seat on this mega-famil. The best transformation wins!
Details here.



WANT YOUR CAREER SEARCH HANDLED CONFIDENTIALLY? CALL THE EXPERTS

DIGITAL MARKETING SPECIALIST REQUIRED MARKETING SPECIALIST

CENTRAL SYD LOCATION – EXECUTIVE SALARY

This award winning travel company is looking for a marketing extraordinaire. The role has a broad spectrum but will focus on online, analytics, EDMs and database management with SEO/SEM experience essential. This is your chance to showcase your skills and move to a company that continues to grow and can offer ongoing career advancement and progression. Don't miss this outstanding opportunity to be part of an exciting phase of growth!

UNIQUE TRAVEL COMPANY

GENERAL MANAGER (SALES & MARKETING)
SYDNEY CENTRAL – EXECUTIVE SALARY PACKAGE

This niche travel company is a specialist in their field and looking for an experienced General Manager for their Sales and Marketing teams. You will be responsible for developing and implementing strategic marketing and sales plans as well as operating budgets. Progressive management experience in the travel industry, strong business acumen and analytical skills combined with exceptional interpersonal and communication skills are essential in this role.

PASSIONATE ABOUT AUSTRALIA?

DOMESTIC RETAIL MANAGER
SYDNEY CBD HEALTHY BASE PLUS COMM

This is a great role for any retail managers or assistant managers that have led a team to sales success. This unique organization that specializes our great land require a motivated manager to join their office based in the CBD. Responsible leading and mentoring your team to achieve amazing sales results, you will have a proven sales record, leadership skills and be flexible with working hours. This role offers a high base salary plus uncapped comm's!

YOU'RE SO HOT RIGHT NOW!

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
SYDNEY – EXEC SALARY WITH 110 OTE

Are you experienced in sales and can you hit the ground running? Make your mark securing new business! These fantastic new roles are a great opportunity to get ahead with a market leader. Your experience in sales has given you the skills in developing leads, building relationships and signing up valuable new business. If you are hungry for success and career progression this company will offer you all that and more so apply now!

* NEW ROLE *

ACCOUNT MANAGER / BDM
MELBOURNE – SALARY POTENTIAL TO \$100k

Continuously seeing growth in their corporate travel arm, this global travel company is seeking a motivated business development manager with account management experience to join their progressive team. You will identify and secure new SME business through proactive sales activity and create, develop and maintain strong relationships. This is your chance to showcase your skills and move to a leading travel company.

MOVE THIS BUSINESS FORWARD!

GENERAL MANAGER / CEO
MELBOURNE – SALARY PACKAGE TO \$220K (DOE)

This prominent travel company is looking for an experienced General Manager to join their Australian headquarters. You will be responsible for the operational and financial performance of the business, delivering business plans and budgets, identifying trends to gain market share, along with overall management of the business and its staff. Senior management experience at GM/CEO level essential, together with adaptability & flexibility. Full P/L experience req'd.

SALES SAVVY?

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT / ACCOUNT MANAGER
MELBOURNE – LUCRATIVE SALARY PKG

This leading travel technology provider is seeking a competent sales professional to join their growing team. You will be responsible for building & maintaining relationships with key personnel in order to develop new business opportunities & retain existing; account management of a portfolio of clients; together with contracting and implementation of new clients. Sales experience & a driven approach essential.

LEAD THE WAY!

GENERAL MANAGER
BRISBANE CBD – UP TO \$110K PKG + BONUSES

This reputable travel company is looking for an experienced General Manager to join their dynamic office. You'll be responsible for the overall operational performance of the business & delivery company goals along with managing and inspiring a winning team. Extensive travel industry experience is essential along with strong operational & commercial acumen plus a track record of leading successful people. An executive salary package + bonuses is on offer.

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Working in partnership with the Australian Travel Industry

Retail Travel Consultant

Brisbane, \$45K + uncapped comm, Ref: 1573AW2

Are you a retail travel consultant looking for a fresh challenge? This independent and successful retail agency located in Inner West of Brisbane offers support, lots of enquiries and high end bookings. You will be an experienced retail agent offering exceptional customer service, first hand product knowledge and strong Galileo, Crosscheck and up to date airfare knowledge. Solid commission structure is in place so there is heaps of earning potential. Interviewing now for an immediate start!

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

Domestic Travel Agency Manager

Sydney CBD. \$Competitive + Comm, Ref: 1411MB1

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for an experienced travel professional who would like to take their next step into Travel Agency Management. As the Agency Manager you will be responsible for managing the daily running of the agency as well as motivating your team to achieve sales targets, KPI's and sell all things Sydney and Australia wide. This is a hands on role consulting and using your expert travel knowledge and passion for Australia to interact with colleagues and customers.

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

Travel & Event Manager

Melbourne, \$Competitive, Ref: 1588KF1

My client, a leading group travel and event management company are looking for an experienced Travel & Event Manager to join their groups & events team in East Melbourne. If you are a creative thinker, have strong communication skills, thrive working in a busy environment, have GDS experience and have an exceptional eye for detail, then this opportunity is for you! Coordinate and manage extensive travel logistics, nationally and internationally and provide end to end event management.

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

Wholesale Travel Consultant

Adelaide, Excellent \$, Ref: 1547MD1

Are you an experienced and passionate Retail Travel Consultant looking to move away from face to face sales? My client is seeking an enthusiastic travel guru to join their lovely wholesale team within the CBD of Adelaide. If you have 2+ years in a current travel role within leisure & experience on a GDS. Successful candidates will be rewarded with Monday to Friday working week, excellent salary, and fantastic incentives and not to mention a great work life balance/friendly work environment!

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

Online Travel Consultant

Gold Coast, OTE\$60K+, Ref: 1551PS1

Are you a sales guru with strong fares & GDS knowledge? Have you built your skill set to a level where you can work autonomously within a team environment? This award winning agency are offering a real work life balance where you'll even get your lunch breaks back! Suited to target oriented consultant who is solution focused, I.T savvy and is adaptable to a changing environment. Experience of working to targets & strong product knowledge required. Excellent career progression opportunities!

For more information please call Peta on (07) 3023 5024 or click [APPLY](#) now.

Travel Events & Groups Coordinator

Sydney, \$Attractive, DOE, Ref: 1585SZ1

Are you an experienced group consultant that wants a foot in the door to the events side of the industry? Working closely with the travel department, you will be assisting the Events Manager with group allocations and business travel arrangements & getting involved with event set ups, hosting events where necessary. Previous group consulting experience is a must, events experience advantageous! You will need high attention to detail, personable personality, proactive and self motivating.

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

Cruise Consultant

Melbourne, \$40-50k, Ref: 1565DV2

Do you currently work in the travel industry and have previous experience of selling cruise holidays? My client is looking for established cruise experts to join their team! You will be offering and tailoring cruise packages for worldwide holidays! My client is seeking an outgoing, enthusiastic, persuasive sales driven agents who have worked within a sales driven environment and would like to be involved with the continual success of this department. You can make this role your own!

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

Corporate Travel Consultant

Perth, \$55-\$60K DOE, Ref: 1506LB4

Are you looking for a change from retail? Do you know Sabre? Step into one of Perth's leading independent travel agencies. You will be specialising in dealing with repeat corporate clientele servicing their requests as needed. This is a tight knit multi-skilled office with leisure and groups departments as well. To be considered for this role you will have a solid travel consulting background ideally in corporate, however retail travel consultants considered with Sabre GDS.

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



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WORLD TO US.



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<http://applynow.net.au/jobs/F167740>

Victoria & Tasmania - various locations:

<http://applynow.net.au/jobs/F188317>

Queensland - Red Hill, Camp Hill, Toowoomba, Maroochydore, Paradise Point, Bulimba, and Manly:

<http://applynow.net.au/jobs/F188316>