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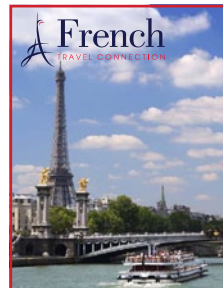
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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Thursday 28th April 2016



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## QF beefs up SYD/CHC

**STRONG** forward demand on the Sydney-Christchurch route over the peak northern summer period has seen Qantas introduce a second daily weekday service between Jun and Oct.

The additional capacity will "help meet strong demand for trans-Tasman travel and provide better connections with European & Asian markets", Qantas said.

Frequencies will ramp up from the current daily operation to 12 weekly, effective 27 Jun to 28 Oct.

QF137/136 will be operated using Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

## Antiquity 2017 out

**VOYAGES** to Antiquity is promoting its comprehensive new 2017 program, which includes pre and post hotel stays, all onboard meals, excursions, guest speakers and port fees.

Earlybird offers include savings of 25% and free return airfares - for details see **page nine**.

## Emirates launches agent API

**EMIRATES** yesterday formally released a new Application Programming Interface (API) which aims to foster "stronger B2B partnerships".

The solution allows the airline's distribution partners to directly connect to the EK host reservation system, giving live access to availability, pricing, shopping and ticketing.

The API also facilitates ancillary sales such as excess baggage, visas and chauffeur services.

Paul Starrs, EK senior vice president of global sales said "the new capabilities will allow Emirates to extend the already rich Emirates online brand to travel retailers and ease integration into their own trading platforms."

"This is an important step for us in enhancing our already strong mobile and B2C strategy," he said, adding it would allow the airline to collaborate more effectively

with the industry "to benefit our growing pool of different customer segments worldwide".

The API is compliant with IATA's New Distribution Capability guidelines, with users able to seamlessly integrate rich Emirates content into their own platforms.

Since a soft launch earlier this year the API has been used to implement several solutions with travel agents and consolidators, with early adopters of the interface including major US consolidator Monde Travel.

The API uses industry-standard XML messaging, with details now at [www.emirates-api.com](http://www.emirates-api.com).

### Today's issue of TD

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

- Voyages to Antiquity
- AA Appointments jobs
- JITO

## AirAsia X boost

**MALAYSIAN** low-cost long-haul carrier AirAsia X has announced capacity expansions to eight destinations, including increased frequencies on its flights to Melbourne, Sydney and Perth.

Melbourne and Perth will both move to a double daily operation, while Sydney frequencies will increase to 11 per week.

The major expansion also includes more flights to Osaka (to nine per week), Sapporo (five weekly), Beijing and Shanghai (both 11 per week) and Taipei which moves to double daily.

The airline has also released sale fares to celebrate the increased frequencies, including flights to Kuala Lumpur from Perth from \$149, Melbourne from \$239, Sydney from \$249 and the Gold Coast from \$269.

Fares in the airline's premium cabin with flatbed seats are priced from \$469 ex Perth and Melbourne, Sydney and the Gold Coast from \$699 one-way to KUL.

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## AC adding YVR/DEL

AIR Canada will launch seasonal thrice weekly services between Vancouver and Delhi on 20 Oct utilising triple-class Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft.

The route complements AC's Toronto-Delhi service.



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## Carlson Hotels acquired

**THE** Board of Directors at Carlson Hospitality Group have unanimously approved the sale of Carlson Hotels to China-based global tourism juggernaut HNA Tourism Group.

HNA Tourism Group owns more than 20 subsidiaries spanning aviation, hospitality, tourism, finance and online services.

The deal will see HNA Tourism Group acquire all of the US headquartered Carlson Hotels.

Brands owned by Carlson Hotels include the Quorvus Collection, Radisson Blu, Radisson, Radisson RED, Park Plaza, Park Inn by Radisson, Country Inn & Suites by Carlson and the Club Carlson hotel reward scheme.

The acquisition also included its majority stake in Rezidor Hotel Group which has properties in Europe, the Middle East & Africa, pending Swedish takeover rules.

HNA & Carlson say the business will have the means to accelerate growth "through investments in areas such as digital, owned assets in major gateway cities, building of Radisson RED and other new brands".

Carlson Board chair Diana Nelson welcomed the purchase of her grandfather's company which was established in 1938.

"We strongly believe that selling our hotel business to HNA Tourism Group, a company that fully recognises its value and heritage, is the best way for us to

position it for success and to be true to my grandfather's legacy in the long term," Nelson remarked.

"It will be an exciting new chapter in the history of Carlson Hotels," Carlson Hospitality Group ceo David P. Berg commented.

When the transaction concludes in the second half of 2016, Berg will remain as chief executive officer of the new organisation.

## NTIA ticket requests

**HAVING** yesterday announced the finalists of the 2016 National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA), the Australian Federation of Travel Agents today confirmed ticket requests for the Gala Dinner are now being accepted.

Due to the ever increasing demand for the industry's biggest event of the year, and to ensure equal opportunity for stakeholders to attend, AFTA will be gathering requests for tickets, chief exec Jayson Westbury said.

"We will then be confirming ticket allocation with those that are interested," Westbury added.

"We have prepared an outstanding evening for guests and I can't wait to see the surprises of everyone's face when they see what we have in store."

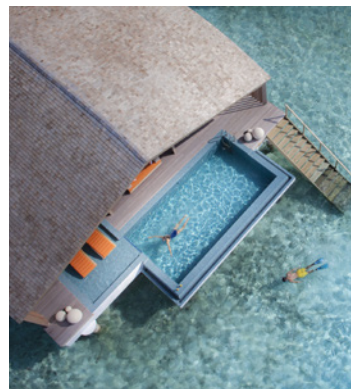
The black-tie AFTA NTIAs will be held at Dockside Pavilion Darling Harbour, Sydney on 16 Jul.

Tickets are priced at \$208pp - see [www.afta.com.au](http://www.afta.com.au).

## New Perth institute

**LE CORDON** Bleu has officially opened its new Perth institute.

The academy will offer degrees in Tourism Management and Convention & Event Management in collaboration with TAFE when it begins welcoming students in Jun.



## New Club Med Travel Agent Portal

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including taxes & Port Charges.  
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**CLICK HERE for further details**

## Club Med launch agent portal

A **NEWLY** designed travel agent website has been rolled out by Club Med, providing a one-stop-shop for trade partners selling the all-inclusive holiday specialist's resorts globally.

Launched this week, the portal - [www.clubmedta.com.au](http://www.clubmedta.com.au) - offers a more user friendly design to easily navigate the depth of content available to agents.

General manager Australia and New Zealand Madeleine Clow-Suares said digital tools were key for agents "in order to fully understand the Club Med product and sell it to their clients."

Club Med possesses a portfolio of more than 70 resorts, spread across Asia, Indian Ocean, Europe, Caribbean, Americas and Africa.

Features of the website include a dedicated page for current special offers along with pricing, animated map and supporting presentations to match the best resort to a clients' needs, easy access to booking channels and flyers which can be customised with an agent's own call to action.

Sellers can also locate key sales information via a 'marketing and sales tools' section.

Clow-Suares said she was positive frontline consultants would be delighted with the new look trade platform.

To entice agents to browse the new site during the first month, Club Med is giving away a five-night trip for two to one of its Asian resorts by answering a few simple questions online.

Go to [www.clubmedta.com.au](http://www.clubmedta.com.au).

Note that with the transition to the new website, agents will need to reset their Club Med password.

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## Livn virtual payments

**TOURISM** suppliers will be paid more promptly than current industry standards under a new system about to go live through aggregator and distributor of tours & activities, Livn.

The firm says it will be the first major wholesaler to pay suppliers after a tour has been booked rather than up to 30 days after the date of travel.

Livn's new virtual credit card payment system will be activated on 01 May and sees suppliers paid "within days" of receiving funds from travel agent partners, ceo Sean Cummins said.

"It means that our suppliers will get paid much faster, dramatically improving their cash flow.

"No other company has offered these terms in the tours and activities space before and we're excited about this initiative," Cummins said.

Livn's existing clients, which include Intrepid Group, G Adventures, Grayline, Pro-Dive & Tourism Holdings Limited - will transition to the new payment platform over the next 12 months, while new customers will adopt the system straight away.

Retail partners include Flight Centre, Student Flights and Red Balloon, with further partnerships to be announced in the future.

## Window Seat

**NEW** York's JFK Airport is now closer friends with commuting dogs and canines, last week introducing a pet potty at T4, decked out with fake grass and a red fire hydrant (pictured).

The single-stalled Pet Relief Area is aimed at providing four-legged friends with a private spot to go tinkle ahead of their jet-setting escapade.



## Jetstar Pacific funds

**QANTAS** and Vietnam Airlines will inject US\$139 million over the next four years into offshoot Jetstar Pacific, *SMH* reports.

Between now and 2020, Qantas will plough US\$42 million into the Vietnam based low-cost carrier, with VN investing the remainder of funds to more than double BL's existing fleet of 12 Airbus A320 aircraft to 30 jets.

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Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of APT as we continue the exclusive Diamond VIP cruise for top selling APT and Travelmarvel agents.

**THE** APT Diamond VIP cruise wraps up today, with the guests winging their way home from Frankfurt where the *MS AmaVenita* docked this morning.

As the Diamond agents leave their places are being taken by a new contingent of APT's Platinum agency representatives and APT sales reps who will continue the voyage through to Budapest over the next week.

The Diamond voyage visited the quaint town of Rudesheim before voyaging to Mainz yesterday, where the guests enjoyed a culinary walking tour.

For many that was followed by some much-anticipated retail therapy, purchasing gifts for the kids prior to heading home.

A fabulous Chaines des Rotisseurs dinner in the shipboard restaurant followed a closing cocktail party, complete with exquisitely matched wines courtesy of winemaker Thomas Hardy who is also on board.

## Sydney Symphony in the Bungle Bungles

APT is extending its partnership with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra later this year, with SSO musicians to perform in Australia's Kimberley region.

The orchestra is already part of APT's European river cruise program, with several voyages featuring performers who entertain guests during the cruise.

The Kimberley partnership will see a woodwind quartet perform live beneath the sandstone domes of Cathedral Gorge, a stunning natural amphitheatre within the World Heritage-listed Purnululu National Park.

The performance is an APT exclusive and will take place during selected Sep 2016 departures of APT's Kimberley Adventure tours.

"In a rare event, the perfect natural acoustics of Cathedral Gorge will bring to life the magic of the Symphony for your clients," APT told guests aboard this week's Diamond VIP river cruise.

## APT farewells its bright shiners



**LAST** night the agents aboard APT's *MS AmaVenita* Diamond VIP cruise in Europe celebrated the all-too-soon end of their experience with an on-board cocktail party.

APT executive general manager of global sales and marketing, Debra Fox, thanked the participants for their contribution to the business before introducing the people behind the scenes of the voyage including all of the maritime, hotel and culinary staff.

As well as providing the opportunity for the top sellers to boost their understanding of the product, the trip has also seen new networks and friendships formed, with guests leaving with a new appreciation for APT.



**Pictured** above from left at the cocktail party are Cassi Stokes, RACT Travel Launceston; Kyrin Francis of helloworld Charlestown; Shaun Houston, Brett and Louise Dann from helloworld Hunter Travel Group; Karen Newbury, APT Queensland state sales manager; Narissa Swaker from RAA Travel; and Lisa Gammon, Flight Centre Bayside.

And **inset** is APT commercial manager retail Susan Haberle (right) with Lynne and chef Luke Nguyen - more pics from the trip at [facebook.com/traveldaily](https://facebook.com/traveldaily).

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## LEGO Store for Dreamworld



**DREAMWORLD** on the Gold Coast has been announced as the first location in Australia for a LEGO Certified Store.

Owner/operator of Dreamworld, Ardent Leisure inked the deal this week with LEGO Australia.

Ardent ceo Deborah Thomas said the outlet, at 350m<sup>2</sup>, would be the largest retail store at Dreamworld and will entice more people to visit the theme park more regularly.

Located at the front of the park, the LEGO store will be accessible from within & externally and will be a fully immersive experience.

It will include exclusive LEGO sets and hands-on activities for children and families.

"LEGO is one of the best known, most successful and powerful global brands & we are

delighted to partner with LEGO as we continue our strategy to invest in unique experiences at Dreamworld," Thomas said.

Dreamworld ceo Craig Davidson said the LEGO outlet would be a destination in its own right.

"It is an exciting development for Dreamworld guests and for tourism to Australia & South East Queensland," he said.

LEGO Australia & NZ gm Glenn Abell said LEGO enthusiasts can expect to see a broad range of product, large scale models and opportunities for "bricks in hands experiences".

Construction on the store will begin in Jul with an opening earmarked for Nov.

**Pictured** are Troy Taylor from LEGO Australia, Craig Davidson & Qld Minister Stirling Hinchliffe.

## VA Supercars sponsor

**VIRGIN** Australia officially confirmed its support of the V8 Supercars (**TD** yest) taking the title of naming rights sponsor of the series for the next five years.

The Australian based car racing event will be renamed as the Virgin Australia Supercars Championship effective 01 Jul.

A new Supercars Travel platform has also been established to assist fans travel to races which take place in each state and the Northern Territory.

VA ceo John Borgegetti said the airline was excited to support the V8 Supercars, which is the fourth most watched sport on TV locally.

"With two million fans attending races in 2015, V8 Supercars is Australia's third highest attended sport and we look forward to supporting its continued growth," Borgegetti remarked.

## Spring Amadeus pact

**CHINESE** carrier Spring Airlines has formed a partnership with Amadeus to adopt the Amadeus Ticketless Access platform.

The pact initially provides travel agents in Hong Kong, Macau, Japan and Taiwan with access to 9C's range of fares via the GDS, but will be rolled out to Amadeus subscribers worldwide by the end of this year.

## Travel Daily

First with the news

Thursday 28th Apr 2016

## IHG promote Long

**INTERCONTINENTAL** Hotels Group has expanded its corporate ops team, appointing Gareth Long as director of operations support Australasia and Japan.

Long has more than 10 years' experience with IHG, which has seen him take on various fast-track operations development roles in Australia & India, and was most recently gm of the Holiday Inn Sydney Airport hotel.

His appointment comes in preparation for IHG's growing pipeline of properties in the zone.

IHG currently operates 66 hotels in Australia, New Zealand, PNG and Japan, and has a further four properties under construction in Brisbane (Holiday Inn Express Brisbane Spring Hill), Christchurch (Crowne Plaza Christchurch), Hobart (Crowne Plaza Hobart) and Perth (InterContinental Perth) - scheduled to open between the end of 2016 and 2018.

Construction is also set to begin on the Holiday Inn Express Adelaide, Holiday Inn Denarau Fiji (**TD** 22 Apr) and Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour Sydney this year.

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## Four Seasons Culinary Discoveries jet tour

**FOUR** Seasons Hotels and Resorts has launched three new Four Seasons Private Jet tours, set to embark mid 2017.

Headlined by Culinary Discoveries, a group developed in partnership with celebrated chef Rene Redzepi, the new itineraries promise to take guests on an exploration of the world's most exciting culinary destinations.

The three-week tour will traverse Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Chiang Mai, Mumbai, Florence, Lisbon, Copenhagen and Paris, departing on 27 May.

Other new journeys include the Global Getaway and International Intrigue - **CLICK HERE** for more.

## EY '15 revenue up 22%

**NET** profit for Etihad Airways in 2015 totalled US\$103 million, its strongest financial results to date.

The latest numbers mark the airline's fifth consecutive year of profitability, recording earnings of US\$259 million before interest and tax (EBIT) and a profit of US\$1.4 billion before interest, tax, depreciation, amortisation and rentals (EBITDAR), representing 16% of total revenues.

Etihad president and chief James Hogan commented: "Our profitability clearly demonstrates the success of our business strategy, based on organic growth boosted by our partnerships".

"As well as operating profitability we are building enterprise value across the airline and its many additional business streams," added Hogan.

The airline carried a total of 17.6 million pax in 2015, a boost of 18.9% year-on-year, with rev pax km (RPKs) up 21.3% to US\$83.2b.

## TTC celebrates Earth Month



**IN CELEBRATION** of Earth Month, The Travel Corporation invited media partners and trade to an exclusive event at Indu Restaurant in Sydney, on its not-for-profit group, TreadRight.

Launched in 2008 as a joint initiative between The Travel Corporation and TreadRight, the organisation has helped support more than 35 sustainable tourism projects across the globe.

The initiatives are split into two categories: wildlife and heritage projects.

The TreadRight Wildlife Initiative aims to end illegal poaching of endangered animals such as rhinos, sharks and elephants; while the Heritage project provides grants to create jobs and spearhead economic growth in

developing destinations.

Some of the groups supported by TreadRight include: WildAid, National Geographic Society, Centro de Textiles Tradicionales del Cusco, Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors, Laboratorio Giuditta Brozzetti, Phillip Island Nature Parks and many more.

"We believe everyone and every business has to do more to help our planet; to protect and preserve our communities and cultures and our amazing and very fragile wildlife," commented TTC global ceo, Brett Tollman.

**Pictured** above (from left) is David Hoskin, Co-founder TreadRight Foundation, Brett Tollman, global ceo, The Travel Corporation and John Veitch ceo, The Travel Corporation Australia.

## SINGAPORE AIRLINES



### Service Centre Officer - Sydney

Singapore Airlines, one of the world's most respected travel brands, currently has an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated individual to join the South West Pacific Service Centre team in Sydney.

**The principal accountabilities of the role are:**

- Respond to customer email feedback
- Investigation of feedback as required
- Coordinate special handling processes
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**The successful candidate will possess:**

- Outstanding Customer Service Skills
- Professional and efficient telephone manner
- Previous Reservations / Ticketing experience
- Able to work under pressure with minimal supervision
- Strong command of the English language, including clear verbal and written communication
- Highly developed interpersonal skills
- Strong service ethic and time management ability

The salary range is from \$49,327 to \$58,498 plus 10% super, private medical insurance subsidy and staff travel benefits.

Australian Citizenship, permanent residency status or appropriate work visa is required.

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## Amalfi Coast Dream Stays

2016 Italy Villa Collection



## CI ups TPE-BNE-AKL

**CHINA** Airlines has brought forward the start of its four weekly Taipei Taoyuan-Brisbane-Auckland service to start 18 Sep, 10 weeks earlier than planned.

## Canberra Airport lounge design



**CANBERRA** Airport has released plans for the new international departures lounge and arrivals hall (**TD 20 Jan**) which form part of the facility's \$18 million international fit-out.

The 2,750m<sup>2</sup> public departure lounge will offer business and media lounges, private meeting rooms, a bar and café dining area and a different seating and meeting options.

Options range from formal to

relaxed social & private spaces.

Both the lounge and 2,400m<sup>2</sup> arrival hall will incorporate folding ceiling panels and skylights.

Also on offer will be new food and beverage facilities and duty-free shopping.

Singapore Airlines will operate the first international flight for the airport, which will land in Canberra on 21 Sep at 0850.

## Starwood ME target

**STARWOOD** Hotels and Resorts plans to open 100 hotels in the Middle East by 2020.

The news follows five new signings across the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Starwood's newest signings in the region include A Luxury Collection Hotel, Le Méridien in Lusail, Qatar, Four Points by Sheraton Jeddah Tahlia, Saudi Arabia, Four Points by Sheraton Unaizah, Saudi Arabia and Four Points by Sheraton Ras Al Khaimah, UAE.

## Boeing profit dips

**BOEING**' has recorded a 9% drop in net profit for Q1 to US\$1.22 billion while revenue increased 2% to \$22.6 billion.

The company reaffirmed its full-year guidance, that revenue and commercial aircraft deliveries will be slightly down, with chairman, president and ceo Dennis Muilenburg saying: "Overall, we are pleased with our performance trends and our outlook for the year remains positive."



## Industry Appointments

**WELCOME** to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email [appointments@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:appointments@traveldaily.com.au).

**Rocky Mountaineer** has appointed **Greg McCallum** as National Sales Manager, APAC. McCallum has worked with Express Travel Group, Rail Plus Australasia, Best Western Australia Hotels and Helloworld LTD during his career.

**The Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa** has a new Hotel Manager, with **Tom Kermabon** taking the helm. Kermabon was most recently General Manager of the Omni Tucson National Resort in Tucson, Ariz.

In anticipation of the spin off of Hilton Worldwide's **Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)** on 16 May, **Thomas J. Baltimore, Jr.** has been appointed as President and Chief Executive Officer and **Sean M. Dell'Orto** as Chief Financial Officer of REIT.

**Accor** has announced the appointment of **Wayne Taranto** as General Manager of **Sofitel S.**

UK-developed **Cheapflights** has made its first hire in Australia and New Zealand, appointing **Nathan Graham** as the company's first permanent representative down under in the role of Regional Sales Manager - ANZ.

**Samantha Halpin** will lead **McLachlan Tours'** growth plans in Victoria, after being named Business Development Manager. Halpin has previously worked for Expedia (Travel Agent Programme), Worldhotels, Hilton Hotels, Marriott Hotels and British Airways.

**Outrigger Enterprises Group** has welcomed **Lauren Grech** as Sales Manager-Fiji for Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort and Castaway Island Resort. Grech will be based in the Sydney office and was previously a Senior Tactical Product Specialist for Pinpoint Travel Group.

The newly-created role of Customer Experience Leader at **FCM Travel Solutions Australia** will be filled by **John Lewis**, former Director of Sales and Marketing at Complete Business Travel.

**Luke Saunder** is the new General Manager of **Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre Marcoola Beach**. Saunder has spent the last ten years with TFE hotels where he held a number of General Manager roles.

**Cook Islands Tourism Corporation** has appointed **Justine White** as the new Marketing and Communications Manager for Australia.

## Hahn Air ferry p'ship

**FOR** the first time, maritime services will be available under the 5W two-letter code in all major GDS' worldwide following a partnership between Hahn Air Systems and Buquebus.

Buquebus provides shuttle services between Buquebus Terminal in Puerto Madero, Buenos Aires (BBE) and Buquebus Terminal in Montevideo (FMV).

## Booking.com/Huawei

**HUAWEI** devices globally will soon come with the Booking.com app pre-installed and available in 42 languages.

Made possible by a partnership between Booking.com and smartphone producer Huawei, the move will give Huawei users access to over 880,000 accommodation options worldwide.



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## WIN A KIMBERLEY 4WD ADVENTURE WITH APT

Explore the magnificent and mystical Kimberley across 20 days with this month's exciting **Travel Daily** competition, brought to you in partnership with Australia's award-winning travel operator **APT**. Every day we will be taking you on an adventure, showcasing the many highlights available on an APT Kimberley Wilderness Adventure.

The person with the most correct answers, and who wows us with the most creative answer to the final question, will win an unforgettable 'Kimberley Complete 15 day small group 4WD adventure' for two people, departing in September 2016.

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

Q19. What is the name of the main Kimberley 4WD dirt road (that runs from Derby to Kununurra) APT traverses that most other operators can't get to. It's known as the lifeblood of the Kimberley.

HINT: [CLICK HERE](#) and see p6



## Excite Italy promo

**EXCITE** Holidays has kicked off its "biggest ever super sale", a campaign that will focus on a new country or city every fortnight.

The first destination promoted is Italy, with competitive rates on offer in Rome, Milan, Florence, Venice and the Amalfi Coast.

A dedicated training website is also available to travel agents - see [excitecampaigns.com/italy](http://excitecampaigns.com/italy).

## Hawaii dengue halted

**HAWAII** Tourism Authority ceo George D. Szigeti this morning confirmed an outbreak of dengue fever on Hawaii Island (**TD** 11 Feb) has been halted.

Szigeti said the announcement was a "huge relief for residents and tourism industry partners".

"Travellers can book and experience all of the Hawaiian Islands with confidence and without hesitation," he added.

## MTA app live soon

**MTA** - Mobile Travel Agents' branded app will go live within the next few weeks.

Chief executive officer of MTA, Don Beattie announced last month the itinerary building app, MTA Companion, will be launched "soon" (**TD** 07 Mar).

The app will give members the ability to provide clients with a more detailed itinerary, with information such as a dining experience en route, a sightseeing opportunity, an event taking place or where to shop.

## Shama Midlevels

**ONYX** Hospitality Group has inked an agreement to rebrand a boutique serviced apartment in Hong Kong to Shama Midlevels, effective 01 May.

Sharma will offer 24 one-bedroom units with a kitchen, an en-suite and living & dining area.

## Riverland backpacker

**THE** Paringa Backpackers' Resort in Riverland has officially debuted, offering 28 cabin-style units to accommodate seasonal workers in the region.

## Sirena's official debut



**OCEANIA** Cruises welcomed its newest ship *Sirena* to its fleet yesterday at a christening ceremony held at the Port of Barcelona (**pictured**).

*Sirena's* godmother, chef and author Claudine Pepin, delivered a traditional blessing before breaking a bottle of champagne against the ship's hull, officially ushering the vessel into service.

Commenting on the company's latest addition to the fleet, Norwegian Cruise Lines ceo Frank Del Rio said "*Sirena* builds upon our epicurean heritage with new gourmet dining experiences".

"We launched Oceania Cruises with a visionary belief that we could create something special.

With an unwavering commitment to serve our guests the finest cuisine at sea, we established a culinary reputation that to this day defines the Oceania Cruises brand," he added.

## Sydney lures Chinese

**TWO** online tourism magazines produced by Destination NSW will roll out to Chinese audiences this month, highlighting Sydney and Regional NSW as exciting destinations to explore.

The state's scenery, world class food and wine offerings, major events and festivals, have all been included in publications *Your Guide to Regional NSW* and *Vivid Sydney*, which have been translated into Chinese.

"This is the first time we have issued translated versions of the Regional NSW and Vivid Sydney tourism magazines for distributions, and we are delighted to be providing additional int'l exposure for our fantastic state," commented Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, Stuart Ayres.

The translated magazines will be distributed via online channels [Sydney.cn/regional](http://Sydney.cn/regional) and also [Sydney.cn/Vivid](http://Sydney.cn/Vivid).

## QR A380 to Atlanta

**QATAR** Airways will operate its first ever A380 service to the USA on the launch flight of its new Doha-Atlanta route when the service commences on 01 Jun.

CEO Akbar Al Baker said QR wanted to offer passengers on the inaugural service to Qatar Airways' 10th USA destination "a unique experience".

The oneworld carrier will revert to its regular Boeing 777 service on the Atlanta route from 02 Jun.

**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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This global travel company are looking for a Senior Business Development Manager to acquire new corporate travel business for their corporate brand. You will be focused on new business wins & complete lead generation across the LARGE market space. If you are good at building relationships & have fantastic relationship building skills, then this role is for you! With this leading TMC, your career will be put in number one spot. Terrific employee benefits on offer.

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Wins 1x return ticket to Hawaii

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Get your travel & hospitality friends to join the app, comment/like your beachball photo. The more business friends that join and comment on your post the more chances you have to win.

Wins 1x return ticket to Hawaii

*The more photos the more chances to win*

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