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1
YEAR

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Last day for comp

TODAY is the last day for entries to this month's highly popular Philippines competition.

The prize includes flights and luxury accommodation - for details on how to make sure you're part of it see **page six**.

SQ-AS agreement

SINGAPORE Airlines and Alaska Airlines have announced a wide-ranging codeshare and reciprocal frequent flyer agreement, with SQ saying the pact will significantly expand its footprint in the North American market.

The SQ code will be added to Alaska Airlines-operated flights on routes serving 18 destinations in the USA and Mexico - including existing codeshare services operated by Virgin America which was acquired by AS in 2016.

Members of the respective carriers' frequent flyer programs will be able to earn points when travelling on either airline from 27 Sep 2017, while KrisFlyer members will also be able to redeem points for AS-operated services from the same date.

Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan members will be able to redeem miles on SQ flights at a later date.

Other Alaska Airlines partners include Qantas, which expanded its codeshare agreement with the airline just two months ago (**TD 19 Jun**) with the addition of 15 extra routes and reciprocal lounge access for top tier loyalty program members.

Qantas rejigs LHR flights

THE iconic "Kangaroo Route" operated by Qantas from Australia to London will undergo another significant change in Mar next year, with the carrier confirming it will once again operate A380s from Sydney to the UK via Singapore, rather than Dubai (**TD breaking news**).

The change is an evolution of the Qantas-Emirates partnership which launched in 2013 and saw QF drop Singapore as its stopover hub for European flights.

The carriers said the changes would deliver additional benefits to passengers, reflecting customer demand, new aircraft technology "and each airline's respective network strengths".

Three options will be available for flights to Europe from Australia - via Dubai, Perth and Singapore, with the existing daily QF1/QF2 A380 service to fly via SIN rather than DXB from 25 Mar.

The existing MEL-DXB-LHR flight will be replaced with the previously announced MEL-PER-LHR long haul route, while one daily MEL-SIN service will also operate using an A380.

Qantas ceo Alan Joyce said

improvements in aircraft technology meant "the Qantas network will eventually feature a handful of direct routes between Australia and Europe.

"But this will never overtake the sheer number of destinations served by Emirates, and that's why Dubai will remain an important hub for our customers," he said.

Interestingly traffic right restrictions mean Emirates will not be able to codeshare on QF flights from Perth or Singapore to London, but EK passengers will still be able to redeem frequent flyer points on these routes as part of the partnership.

QF and EK will apply to extend their alliance for five years under the revamped joint network.

One year to Eclipse

IT IS exactly 12 months today until the groundbreaking *Scenic Eclipse* "discovery yacht" makes her debut in Athens.

The vessel will offer passengers an "unparalleled 6 star intimate ocean cruising experience" - to learn more see the **cover page** of today's issue of *Travel Daily*.

Wolgan spring deal

ONE&ONLY Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa is offering a "Spring Escape" special leading in at \$795 per person per evening - see **page seven** for details.

QR/WY ADL c'share

OMAN Air is now codesharing on Qatar Airways' daily services between Adelaide & Doha, after a resumption of the reciprocal partnership between the carriers which also covers flights to Muscat, Salalah & Khasab.

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Scenic winner

KRIS Heke from Helloworld Travel Bateau Bay is the lucky winner of Scenic's recent river cruise competition and will join a 15-day Jewels of Europe cruise in Oct 2018, including return flights.



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VTO hopeful for growth

VANUATU will activate a new digital marketing campaign next month in the key Sydney and Brisbane markets to further drive destination awareness and appeal as the next phase of its 'Wake up in Vanuatu' push (**TD** 18 Apr).

The strategy was revealed to **TD** this morning by Vanuatu Tourism Office gm Adela Issachar Aru and VTO's Australia rep Georgia Gregerson (from GTI Tourism) at the Vanuatu trade show Tok Tok which kicked off today.

The campaign involves a two-week radio promotion on Nova and Smooth in each city, plus a longer-term digital push on Facebook, display advertising, using social influencers and more, all of which drives traffic to the discovervanuatu.com.au website.

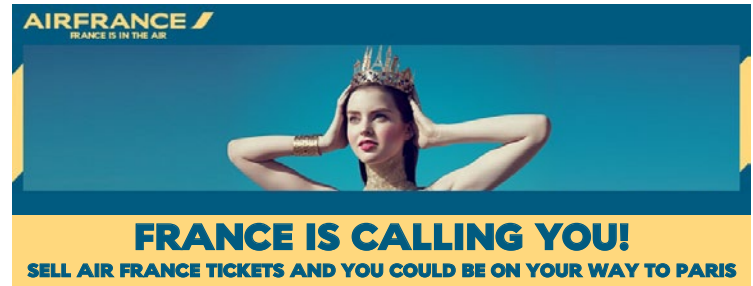
It comes as Vanuatu struggles to bounce back to pre-Cyclone Pam days when visitor numbers in 2013 and 2014 sat around the 110,000 mark.

Aru said the 2016 number was over 95,000 and VTO was "very optimistic" that it would increase by as much as 20% this year.

The shining light for Vanuatu has been the boom in cruise ship passenger arrivals.

In May, cruise pax accounted for 68% of the total visitor number, according to Vanuatu National Statistics Office figures.

Investment in cruise ship infrastructure across Vanuatu is ongoing, with a new cruise



facility opening on the island of Espiritu Santo two weeks ago and expecting its first ship tomorrow.

Also tomorrow, a new seafront precinct will be officially opened in Port Vila harbour, partially targeting cruise passengers and aimed at rejuvenating tourism to the Vanuatu capital.

The 1.2km seafront project has been under development for a number of years and will provide direct access to the water.

"It will contribute to enhance the visitor experience. People can enjoy the harbour, great sunsets, watersports and other activities."

VTO's gm said it was hoped the precinct would open up new opportunities for tourism businesses and enterprises.

For tourists, there will also be concerts and cultural activities on show and two new handicraft centres, while a Portside precinct with an information centre will also debut by the end of the year.

Aru also revealed to **TD** Carnival Cruise Lines is planning to add a new port call to the island of Tanna for volcano sightseeing.

Travel Daily

on location in
Port Vila

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you from Vanuatu, courtesy of the Vanuatu Tourism Office and Air Vanuatu.

A **TOTAL** of 51 businesses across Vanuatu and her more than 80 islands and islets are represented at this year's Tok Tok travel show which got underway earlier this morning at Iririki Island Resort.

Keeping with Vanuatu Tourism Office's (VTO) theme of 'Waking up in Vanuatu', buyers from 51 overseas companies, including Australia, NZ, New Caledonia, North America, China, Japan and Fiji have sampled a taste of the South Pacific destination on pre-familis to Tanna, Santo & Efate.

Today and tomorrow, buyers will meet with sellers for pre-arranged meetings to discuss new developments and nut out contracts for the next year, ahead of the inaugural Vanuatu Travel Expo for the public on Sat. More from Tok Tok on **page 5**.

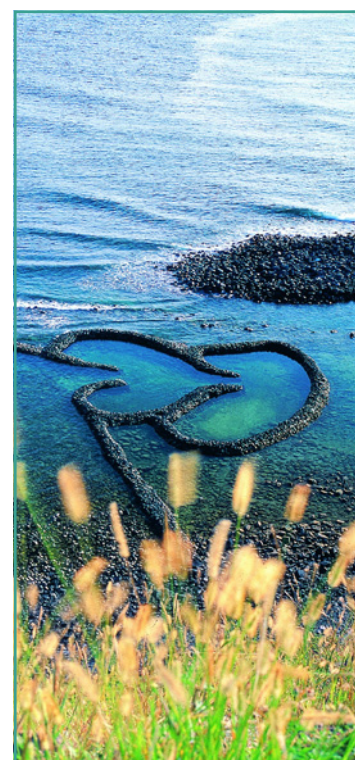
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Another record year for Webjet

WEBJET this morning released its full year results, with the company's net profit after tax up almost 150% to \$31.2 million.

Key highlights included the ongoing growth of the Webjet OTA business, with flight bookings growing at over six times the underlying market.

The group's overall TTV was up 25.3% to just over \$2 billion, and the company has agreed to adopt the accounting treatment suggested by its auditors for the Webjet agreement with Thomas Cook, after initially rejecting the BDO assessment (**TD** 28 Jul).

During the year Webjet completed its integration of NZ-based Online Republic, and expanded its WebBeds B2B hotel wholesaling business via its strategic sourcing agreement with Thomas Cook, the launch of FIT Ruums in Asia and the recent acquisition of JacTravel.

"I am delighted with the outstanding performance from both our B2C and WebBeds B2B divisions during the year," said ceo John Guscic.

"The continual market share that the Webjet OTA continues to deliver is a credit to the team

in its ability to be agile and responsive to market needs".

Guscic said the B2B business had seen growth in all markets, showing the importance of building a global business able to deliver deep inventory at attractive prices to a wide range of customers.

Going forward he said the company aimed to grow market share, and would particularly focus on bookings growth rather than TTV as a key metric.

The company also declared a 10c per share final dividend.

Intrepid food brox

INTREPID Travel is expanding its culinary offerings in 2018, with a new Real Food Adventures brochure featuring options in more than 25 countries.

Additions this year include two new foodie tours in Iran and Jordan, while other destinations featured include South Korea, India, Japan and Peru.

Intrepid groups eat in local restaurants, use local guides and purchase goods from street-side sellers to help support economies - see intrepidtravel.com.au.

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Mantra ACT retrofit

THE Mantra Group is preparing to open a 176-room property in Canberra next month after a \$19 million conversion of a former office building.

The 10-storey Mantra MacArthur Hotel will be the capital's only new property to open this year and will give the Mantra Group almost 500 rooms across four Canberra sites.

The Northbourne Ave hotel will offer 40 suites, a gym, an internet lounge and a Greek restaurant.

As an opening special, guests can stay in a Studio room from \$129 per night including 1GB wi-fi daily, a drink voucher on arrival and a 12pm late check-out, for bookings by 31 Oct and stays between 02 Oct and 31 Jan.

TTF Canberra confc

HIGH-PROFILE Federal Ministers including Julie Bishop, Steven Ciobo and Peter Dutton will be among speakers at the Tourism & Transport Forum's leadership summit in Canberra next month.

The 13 Sep event will have the theme "Towards 2040 - an extended vision for Australia" and will also involve Shadow Tourism Minister Anthony Albanese.

Industry speakers will include the Greater China president of Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy, Andrew Wu, who will discuss Australian trade with China.

To register **CLICK HERE**.

Disney anniversary

HONG Kong Disneyland Resort will mark its 12th anniversary with a "Surprise Birthday Party" between 01 and 14 Sep, involving special events, themed food and beverage offerings and limited edition merchandise.

Characters including Mickey, Donald, Goofy and Pluto will don chefs outfits for guest appearances in the resort's restaurants, which will offer anniversary cupcakes, cookies and a 3m birthday cake.

Window Seat



THIEVES have used the Parisian Catacomb tunnel network to steal \$375,000 worth of wine from a private cellar.

More than 300 bottles of wine were nicked from an apartment in the 6th arrondissement, near the Luxembourg Gardens, and carried out through the underground system.

Detectives say the thieves must have identified the cellar they wanted to access under the building and then drilled into it from the catacombs.

Many of the tunnels have the above-ground street names etched into the walls of the 250km tunnel network, making it possible to navigate the city from below.

It is forbidden for people to stray from the main tourist path in the tunnel system.

ibis Styles Port Mac

ACCORHOTELS has announced it will rebrand the HW Boutique Hotel on the NSW North Coast as the ibis Styles Port Macquarie.

The 44-room property will be renamed under a franchise agreement with Elanor Investors Group and will undergo a soft refurbishment to bring it into line with ibis Styles standards.

It joins more than 30 ibis Styles hotels in Australia.

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Experience Arabia's hidden gem, Bahrain, in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read travelBulletin

U to set sail in six weeks

THE new youth-focussed brand from Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection, U by Uniworld, will officially launch tonight, six weeks out from the line's first sailing in Oct (**TD** 02 Aug).

Speaking to *Travel Daily*, Fiona Dalton, local md U by Uniworld, said the brand was targeting both consumers and travel agents through digital marketing.

"Our philosophy is always to recognise that the agent community is the lifeblood of our business and that anything that we do in the consumer space with our prospective guests is always agent-friendly."

"As The Travel Corporation is across all its brands, U by Uniworld is completely consumer-focussed and agent-friendly," Dalton said.

Acknowledging millennials are often early adopters of technology and some may opt to book online, Dalton said

many would look to get a second opinion and validate their own research via a travel agent.

"Everyone 10 years ago said that by 2017 millennials wouldn't require the services of travel agents and that's just not true."

U By Uniworld has a social media toolkit available to Australian travel agents and is working on an e-toolkit.

Dalton said Australians were "up there with the American source market", highlighting the 14-night supercruise itineraries - which combine two back-to-back departures - as particularly popular with Aussie travellers.

The first U by Uniworld cruise will be a "sneak-peek" sailing on *The B* on 07 Oct with Dana Brown from Travelmanagers and Zoe Taylor from Peter Milling Travel in Dubbo to be on board after winning a social media comp.

Both *The A* and *The B* will then begin their first season on 14 Apr.

Vic region's boost

THE Victorian Government has announced \$25,000 of funding to help grow tourism in the Goulburn Region.

Goulburn River Valley Tourism will use the funding to update its plan for building the local visitor economy, identifying current and future opportunities, visitation trends, and priority projects.

The tourism body is aiming to increase visitation to the region by 3% through increased tourism development, which would inject an extra \$18.5 million into the economy and create 117 jobs.

Paddington on rails

BELMOND has announced special steam departures aboard its British Pullman service to mark the train's appearance in the upcoming *Paddington 2* movie.

The Paddington Afternoon Tea journeys will operate as day trips from London Victoria station on 02 Dec and 16 Feb.

UA Harvey blow

UNITED Airlines is likely to suffer a financial blow of at least US\$265 million as a result of Hurricane Harvey, with flights cut by an estimated 1.5% as a result of the storm.

Bloomberg reports the carrier will be impacted by its reliance on Houston as one of its biggest hubs, with the city's George Bush Intercontinental Airport accounting for about 17% of its overall capacity.

The hit is greater than the US\$125 million suffered by Delta after storms hit Atlanta in Apr and well above the US\$50 million lost by Continental in 2008 after Hurricane Ike.

MEANWHILE, America's Federal Aviation Administration has warned it will take time for passenger services to resume through Houston.

It says airlines may not be operating full schedules, despite the airport's limited reopening today, and that delays are likely.



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Tok Tok 2017 underway



THIS year's Vanuatu Tok Tok trade show is being held in a purpose-built air-conditioned marquee at the Iririki Island

Resort, near Port Vila.

Now in its 15th year, moving the event indoors has been well timed, with Tok Tok experiencing on and off showers today, but delegates are remaining dry.

Vanuatu's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism Joe Natuman (**pictured** centre) officially opened the show.

Vanuatu Tourism Office's gm Adela Issachar Aru is pictured (second from left) with other officials - more images on **Facebook** throughout the day.

Vanuatu.travel rejig

VANUATU Tourism Office will roll out an entirely new website in six to eight weeks, according to the organisation's digital manager Alcina Charley.

Speaking to **Travel Daily** at Tok Tok 2017 earlier this morning, Charley said the new consumer website www.vanuatu.travel had been in the pipeline since Apr, and was being developed by Gold Coast-based firm BeDigital.

The platform will feature not only destination information, travel tips, details on 400 plus tourism operators and suppliers, but also functionality to assist groups travelling to Vanuatu for holidays, weddings and more.

A highlight of the new portal will be an interactive map that will highlight domestic flight and ferry routes.

Win Gold Class movie tickets

This week, Helloworld Travel are giving five lucky Sydney based readers the chance to WIN a Gold Class double pass to see *Kingsman – The Golden Circle* on at an exclusive screening on Wednesday 27th September, 6pm at Event Cinemas Bondi Junction.

In 25 words or less, please tell us your favourite movie and why. Please email entries to: sponsorships@helloworld.com.au

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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.

Jeff Skinner has been made General Manager of **Tour East Australia**. Skinner will also take responsibility for the company's Indian operation into Australia. Previously Skinner has held General Manager positions at Tourism Queensland and the Sydney Aquarium Group.

International tour operator **Collette** has announced **Ron Lonsdale** will now serve as Vice President of the company's Canadian office. Lonsdale will work with partners to grow sales and build relationships.

Erin Kramer will take over the role as Trade Marketing Manager at **Scenic**. Kramer has previously worked at groups including Club Med.

Destination Queenstown has appointed **Rae Baker** as the Director of the Queenstown Winter Festival. Baker will commence her new position in Oct and oversee the event's promotion in New Zealand and abroad.

Ashley Gabriel has been appointed to the newly created role of Director of Sales & Marketing at **Novatech**. Gabriel brings over 18 years of experience in the live events industry to the event tech company.

Fantasea Cruising has named two new staffing additions to its Sydney division. **Alexia Ligonnet** has been appointed to the role of Charter & Groups Sales Executive, while **Bilal Qureshi** will become Retail Sales Manager at the company.

Himalaya schoolies

THE Himalayan Schoolies team has created an ebook, to showcase the group's alternative schoolies tour options.

Highlighted are several adventure and volunteering activities travellers in Nepal.

CLICK HERE to view the book.

Hawaii speakers

AUTHOR Billy Beane will be the keynote speaker at the Global Tourism Summit in Honolulu on 19-21 Sep.

Beane will speak about how sustainability in business can be achieved through creativity, innovation and tech.

Also speaking is ESPN Sportscenter host Neil Everett and Icelandic Tourist Board director general Olof Yrr Atladottir.

Dubai tower walk

EMAAR Properties has announced the launch of Sky Walk, a 200-metre high cantilever observation corridor in the Address Sky View development in Downtown Dubai.

Sky Walk will allow visitors to navigate the observation corridor in safety harnesses, walking literally on the edge of the high-rise building.

It is fixed to the twin tower Address Sky View development.

YHA states merge

FROM 01 Sep, the YHA will be one organisation in Australia, following the merger of YHA WA with YHA Australia.

This marks the culmination of a decade-long process to unify the organisation, by the merging of all State bodies into one organisation.

YHA Australia will now have a network of 85 hostels across Australia, from Margaret River to Byron Bay.

Ethiopia update

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is warning against private travel in certain parts of Northern Ethiopia until further notice.

Australia's embassy in the country said private travel to North Gondar in Amhara region should not be taken due to the instability of the area.

CZ reduces YVR

CHINA Southern Airlines has updated its flight schedule from its hub in Guangzhou to Vancouver for the winter 2017/19 season, GDS displays show.

The daily CZ329/CZ330 CAN-YVR route will downgrade to a five weekly service during this period using a Boeing 787-8 *Dreamliner*.

CZ's thrice weekly CAN-YVE-MEX will continue as normal.

Nexus Dream come true



TO CELEBRATE Nexus Holidays' and Dream Cruises new partnership, more than 130 industry guests were invited to a 'Dream Come True' movie celebration at Event Cinemas in Sydney last night.

Attendees were treated to an exclusive screening of a film on the making of Dream Cruises vessel *Genting Dream* in the lead up to its inaugural sailing from Singapore this Nov.

Nexus Holidays and Dream Cruises have launched an

incentive for agents to win a balcony stateroom on *Genting Dream's* first five-night sailing from Singapore to Malaysia on 26 Nov, inclusive of return airfares, taxes and port charges.

The agent that generates the highest total sales revenue via Nexus Holidays for Dream Cruises from 15 Aug to 31 Oct will be awarded the prize.

Pictured at the screening are Nexus Holidays' Jenny Li and Ray Han with Dream Cruises' Andrew Loving and Brigita Devries.

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WIN A TRIP TO THE PHILIPPINES

THE PRIZE

This month Travel Daily together with Philippine Airlines, The Peninsula Manila and Henann Regency Resort and Spa Boracay are giving readers the chance to win an island getaway to the Philippines.

The prize for two people includes:

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Two nights accommodation at The Peninsula Manila

Three nights accommodation at Henann Regency Resort and Spa Boracay

TO WIN

Send us your most creative image, photo, collage, meme or photoshop creation which represents your ideal Philippines island destination experience flying Philippine Airlines **AND** tell us about that experience in 50 words or less.

Send your entries to pal@traveldaily.com.au

And remember, you don't have to have been to the Philippines yet, just be creative!



IT'S MORE FUN IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Eclipse flights soar

ANALYSIS by the Airlines Reporting Corp (ARC) has found the 21 Aug solar eclipse in the US smashed travel records at many cities in its path.

ARC reported cities in the path recorded huge growths over the weekend prior, such as Columbia, SC which had a 124% surge in pax.

Kansas City, MO, and Knoxville, TN, recorded a 200% increase in pax on the Sat before the eclipse.

Portland, OR, had a 92% growth on the Fri before.

WN first 737 MAX

SOUTHWEST Airlines has accepted the delivery of the carrier's first Boeing 737 MAX 8.

WN will be the first US carrier to operate the aircraft & will schedule MAX flights from 01 Oct.

Southwest has 200 MAX aircraft on order.

Jurassic acquisition

SINGAPORE-BASED Cityneon Holding has acquired JP Exhibition, the owner of Jurassic World: The Exhibition for US\$25m.

The company plans to bring the "immersive attraction to even more markets around Asia and the rest of the world," Cityneon ceo Ron Tan said.

Since it started in 2016, Jurassic World: The Exhibition saw over 800,000 people visit the display in Philadelphia and Melbourne.

Ride a Cuban bike

EXTREME Bike Tours is offering a 10% discount for riders and 20% saving for pillion passengers on bookings made by 30 Sep for its 13-day Cuba tour.

Departing on 17 Feb from Havana, prices start from US\$5,175 for motorcycle riders and US\$3,720 for pillion pax.

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This unique opportunity will suit a strong Tourism or Hospitality sales manager that understands and is motivated by the sales process and is looking for that something different. This Global Company with over 20 offices worldwide is seeing huge growth in the Australian market and is looking for a strong sales manager with established relationships in the travel and hospitality trade, if you have worked for an OTA this will be highly desirable.

MANAGE & DELIVER

NSW OPERATIONS MANAGER

SYDNEY–BASE SALARY TO \$100K + SUPER + BONUS

Currently working for a Corporate TMC and thinking about a change? This company rarely recruits at this level which makes this all the more exciting. You will be managing a team of extremely talented corporate consultants on a very high demand account. We need someone extremely qualified in corporate travel, leadership is the key but someone who still understands how to consult is also very important to this role. Call today to find out more.

RARE SENIOR MANAGEMENT ROLE IN OLD

CALL CENTRE MANAGER

GOLD COAST – EXEC. SALARY

Rare opportunity to join this travel company as their call centre manager, leading a team of consultants to reach sales targets. This great role will have you overseeing the day to day operations, managing human resources planning & strategies, increasing efficiencies, training & developing, and being responsible for profit growth. Strong call centre management background, proven leadership, analytical, communication, coaching & mentoring skills required.

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