2017 afta NATIONAL TRAVEL INDUSTRY AWARDS

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HLO profit turnaround



TTC Academy launch

THE Travel Corporation today formally announced the launch of its new travel agent training initiative, TTC Agent Academy.

As exclusively revealed by **Travel Daily** earlier this month (**TD** 06 Feb), the TTC Agent Academy is a singular e-learning platform where agents can gain further knowledge on three core brands -Trafalgar, Contiki and Insight.

TTC Agent Academy comprises the individual brand programs -The Trafalgar Academy, ContikiU and Insight Tour Specialist.

Each contains user-friendly modules, accessible 24/7 that TTC global ceo and president Brett Tollman says aim to reward agents with happy customers, generate repeat business and boost agent earnings.

Tollman told **Travel Daily** the program would also be expanded to encompass Uniworld River Cruises and Busabout over time.

For more information, go to www.ttc.com/agentacademy.

HELLOWORLD Ltd announced a major turnaround in its half year results, today posting a pre-tax profit of \$18.7m in the six months to 31 Dec (*TD* breaking news).

The revival comes after a \$1 million loss in the same period of the previous financial year and was backed by other increases including revenue up 23% to \$171.2 million and total transaction value (TTV) up \$55.9 million to \$2.7 billion.

Earnings (EBITDA) increased \$22 million to \$30.1 million, while profit after tax was \$12.9 million.

Helloworld said the outlook for the full year was positive. "Revenue margins are improving and we expect to see some further margin improvement in the second half," it said.

"Business fundamentals are heading in the right direction in all our key market segments with demand for our integrated service offering continuing to



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develop and grow."

Among its divisions, retail franchise operations generated TTV of \$2 billion for the period, down 4.9% on the previous H1.

Wholesale/inbound saw TTV increase 60.1% to \$504 million, with EBITDA before shared services of \$20.3 million reflecting the addition of the AOT group and the performance of the enlarged business.

The Travel Management division TTV rose 6.2% to \$393 million, with revenue increasing due to the appointment of QBT as the provider of travel management services to PwC and the Northern Territory Government.

NTIA 2017 sponsors

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents is highlighting all the travel industry partners who are supporting this year's National Travel Industry Awards (NTIAs) on today's cover wrap.

The annual NTIAs gala dinner is this year being hosted at the Int'l Convention Centre Sydney on 22 Jul, with the 2017 nominees set to be revealed on 13 Mar.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news and photos plus a front cover page for **NTIA** plus full pages from:

- Albatross Tours
- Travel Trade Recruitment
- Consolidated/FJ promo

Europe guaranteed

ALBATROSS Tours' collection of escorted trips through Britain & Ireland are all now 100% guaranteed to depart, providing agents with assurance set tours will operate as per program.

For more details on Albatross' holiday options, see **page nine**.



EXPAND YOOR KNOWLEDGE, BE A RECOGNISED EXPERT AND SEE YOUR SALES SOAR.

WINNING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS ttc.com/agentacademy FIND OUT MORE

TRAFALGAR contiki INSIGHT VACATIONS

Now is the time to book with prices to increase with the release of the full brochure in March 2017.

SCENIC°ECLIPSE

2018/2019

Limited preview pricing ending soon



EK to Phnom Penh

EMIRATES will add Phnom Penh in Cambodia to its global network of destinations from Jul. Phnom Penh will be a tag-on service to Emirates' daily flights between Dubai and Yangon, operated by Boeing 777-300ERs.



Wendy Wu Tours 1300 727 998



Wednesday 22nd February 2017

InterCon Syd \$200m reno

OWNERS of Sydney's iconic InterContinental Sydney hotel have today confirmed a proposed \$200+ million upgrade, a move exclusively foreshadowed by *Travel Daily* last year (*TD* 22 Nov).

The planned enhancement by Mulpha Australia Limited will be the most significant improvement to the InterContinental Sydney for over three decades and will span the property's 509 guest rooms, all public spaces, function rooms and a new 900m² event space overlooking Sydney Harbour, dubbed the 'Crystal Ballroom'.

Mulpha said the project aimed to "keep the property at the top of the market as an integrated and vibrant luxury hotel commensurate with its iconic location in one of the world's most sought after destinations". InterContinental Hotels Group

chief operating officer Australasia & Japan Karin Sheppard said the investment was testament to IHG's partnership with Mulpha and reinforced a mutual commitment

Pullman Melb facelift

PULLMAN has announced it will be investing \$6 million into transforming the ground floor of Pullman Melbourne on the Park.

A new oversized bar will be at the heart of the makeover along with an open plan restaurant and a refreshed reception and arrivals area, slated for completion in Jul. to ensure guests were provided a world-class experience in Sydney.

"With an already unrivalled position on Sydney Harbour, the proposed development will see a significant shift in the way we view the role of hotels - moving from luxury accommodation into a complete tourism experience for both our domestic and int'l guests," Sheppard remarked.

The massive project will require authorisation from the NSW Govt.

MEANWHILE, InterContinental Hotels Group has appointed Chris Waite as communications director Australasia and Japan, based in IHG's Sydney headquarters.

Waite will be responsible for communications for IHG and its core brands which also include Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn, Hotel Indigo and EVEN Hotels.

Serko names coo

CHARLIE Nowaczek has been named Serko's new chief operating officer.

He brings to the table 25 years' experience in senior management roles specialising in business transformation and operational effectiveness.

Elsewhere in the business, Tim Nichols will depart the role of chief product officer on 24 Feb to pursue other ventures, while Joanne Phipps has been promoted to the position of head of product.

RECRUITMEN

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Susan

Global carrier with operations





WTG Travelport pact

NZ-BASED travel retailer World Travellers Group (WTG) has signed a multi-year agreement with Travelport as the company's preferred travel tech provider.

WTG has 25 retail locations and a mobile travel business network.



DISCOVER OUR 2017/18

SOUTH AMERICAN COLLECTION





Account Manager Destination marketing brand. Meet with high end leisure agents to promote a portfolio of destinations throughout Aust. & NZ. Require sales conversion exp. From \$60K + Contact Ben



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Wednesday 22nd February 2017



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QF & EK top in satisfaction

QANTAS and Emirates have taken top rankings for customer satisfaction in the annual Roy Morgan awards for travel announced last night.

Qantas was named best domestic airline for customer satisfaction for the third consecutive year, while Emirates overtook Singapore Airlines to take top international carrier for the first time.



"For many Australians, their holiday starts when their plane takes off, with the in-flight experience being an important prequel to their getaway," said Roy Morgan Research ceo Michele Levine.

"Qantas clearly understand this, warding off a spirited challenge by Virgin Australia to satisfy an average 85% of their leisure passengers every month of 2016, consolidating on their similarly successful results in 2015."

Levine said Emirates had a satisfaction score close to 90%, although Air New Zealand "gave them a run for their money". Qantas was also named top domestic airline for business traveller satisfaction, achieving a score of 87%.

Topdeck BOGOF

TOPDECK'S new 'bite size' Australian tours are available with a buy-one-get-one-free (BOGOF) deal until 28 Feb.

The five-day itinerary series is offered for travel between now and 31 Dec and has been released in response to "changing millennial travel habits".

Trips available include a Sydney Discovery, Tropical Discovery, Top End Discovery and an Uluru Discovery.

Ovolo Fashion Week

OVOLO Hotels has become the first long-term accommodation partner of Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Australia.

The three-year deal will see Ovolo 1888 Darling Harbour and Ovolo Woolloomooloo host fashion guests each May.

Aus boosts Canada

CANADA'S tourism industry has enjoyed its best year in well over a decade, with the country posting a 16% increase in overseas visitors in 2016.

Destination Canada yesterday confirmed figures for the full year showing it welcomed almost 20 million visitors.

The result is the second highest visitor total ever achieved and only 0.4% below an overall record set in 2002.

"Congratulations to the Canadian tourism industry on an incredible 2016," said Canada's Tourism Minister Bardish Chagger.

"As we celebrate Canada's 150th birthday this year, let's also celebrate our tourism operators and industry leaders," he said.

Australian arrivals set a new record last year, increasing 16% to 333.437 visitors.

Other milestones were set by countries including Sth Korea (up 30%), China (24%), India (13%), France (9%) and Brazil (2%).

Canada's biggest market, the US, increased visitation by 10% during the year to almost 13.9 million, more than 9 million of whom arrived by road.



ICELAND'S president Guðni Th. Jóhannesson claimed earlier this week that if he had the power to pass laws, he'd ban pineapple as a pizza topping across the land.

The president expressed his disdain for the fruit after students at a highschool in North Iceland asked his opinion on the controversial topping.

His anti-pineapple stance sparked a social media frenzy, with netizens taking to Twitter to voice their own opinions.

lalammar @Lavla_AIA

Iceland's President is the hero we all need right now #pineappleonpizza 1:24 AM - 22 Feb 201

He later issued a clarification stating that whilst he wasn't a fan of pineapple, he couldn't stop others from putting it on their pizzas.

"I would not want to hold this position if I could pass laws forbidding that which I don't like...For pizzas, I recommend seafood," he wrote.





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independence but equally might like to share their day's experience over a wine or dinner. Explore our Solo Tours by contacting Liz on 03 9681 3098 or hello@individualtraveller.com.au Visit **individualtraveller.com.au** for Tours to Italy & UK/Ireland. All tours commissionable

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COMING SOON

Spain

India

Portugal

Sri Lanka



Wednesday 22nd February 2017

Travel Daily

on location at

AIME in Melbourne

Today's issue of TD is coming to

you courtesy of the Melbourne

Convention Bureau at the 25th

annual Asia-Pacific Incentives

and Meetings Expo (AIME).

AIME 2017 wraps up today,

enjoying the hospitality of

exhibitors keen to impress.

A happy hour on the show

floor yesterday afternoon saw

the drinks flowing, while some

exhibitors were hosted at lavish

dinner events across the city.

grindstone for another round

of meetings, while the AIME

continues across the day with

enabling delegates to discover

the latest trends and gain new

business events perspectives.

unique and inspirational content

Knowledge Program also

Today it's back to the

with many delegates last night

MAS appointments

MALAYSIA Airlines has announced three new appointments in its Australian sales and marketing teams. Donna Jones has been

welcomed as sales executive for Western Australia, Michaela Kemp as sales executive South Australia/Northern Territory and Melinda Voon as the new brand and communication manager.

Alitalia strikes

ITALY'S national carrier Alitalia is cancelling 60% of its flights tomorrow due to industrial action by trade unions.

The 24-hour strike by the USB & CUB Trasporti trade unions, together with ANPAC & ANPAV professional associations, comes after failed negations over

widespread cost saving measures. AZ said flights scheduled to operate during the peak periods of 7am-10am and 6pm-9pm would still go ahead as usual. Explore Malaysia's Langkawi and Penang in the February issue of *travelBulletin*. CLICK HERE to read traveBulletin



Viking bolsters ANZ team

VIKING Cruises has appointed Jane Moggridge as gm marketing and communications ANZ to the newly created Sydney-based role.

Moggridge was previously at Scenic for three years.

Further, Viking Cruises ANZ has named Keira Smith as inside sales manager, also from Scenic.

Combined, the duo had been with Scenic for 8.5 years.

Local md Michelle Black told **TD** their appointments were "part of our overarching strategy to build brand awareness and sell Viking's river and ocean products within the Australia and NZ markets".

"Strengthening our sales and marketing team is key to supporting the growth of our ocean cruise product ahead of *Viking Sun*'s arrival in Australia early next year.

"Jane will be spearheading the growth of Viking's marketing efforts and will be responsible for getting our ocean and river message to consumers & trade.

"Keira's appointment is instrumental in building our trade sales team, with a distinct focus on building and strengthening our valuable trade partnerships," Black told **Travel Daily**.

Both Moggride and Smith have commenced their new roles.

Fiji dive warning

DIVERS have been warned there is no operational hyperbaric chamber in Fiji at the moment.

The Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has issued an updated travel alert saying the country's only decompression facility in Suva is undergoing longterm maintenance.

Visitors are advised to dive conservatively and ensure they have travel insurance that covers diving and evacuation costs.





Free travel to KGI

ANY two people booking their car, caravan or camper trailer on Kangaroo Island's SeaLink Ferry will receive free return ferry transfers between 15 May and 15 Sep 2017.

On island highlights include exploring cliff top wineries, sandboarding at Little Sahara Sand Dunes, swimming with dolphins, enjoying Kangaroo Island Spirits and honey icecream from Clifford's Honey farm.

The caravan and camper deal is available from now until 12 Sep.

Latitude 33 credit

LUXURY travel company Latitude 33 is marking its first anniversary this month with a \$500 credit for clients to use towards their next journey.

The firm is also offering a \$500 'bring a friend' discount.

Among the options is a new 18-night Amazon, Machu Picchu & Lake Titicaca cruise tour hosted by naturalist and former *BBC* presenter Nigel Marven.

Velocity pt giveaway

IN CELEBRATION of its seven millionth member, Velocity is giving away seven million points over the next 48 hours.

The promotion is available from now until the 23 Feb, closing at 3pm AEDT.

To register, head to the Velocity Frequent Flyer Facebook page by **CLICKING HERE**.

SYD T1 new entry

A NEW road entry at Sydney International Airport will reduce the volume of traffic merging at the existing Airport Drive/Marsh Street confluence.

Fresh road signage and the opening of three new lanes for traffic are part of the \$500m upgrade by the NSW Govt. The five year program will benefit pedestrians, motorists,

cyclists & public transport users.

airberlin's new A330s

AIRBERLIN will add three widebody Airbus 330-200 aircraft to its fleet, boosting capacity by an extra 1,000 seats.

The new aircraft features 19 fully-flat seats in Business class and 271 seats in Economy.

The first of the wide-body jets will commence operation from this month.

Spencer agents live the high life



FOUR agents from Spencer Travel were recently treated to a VIP experience to New Zealand.

Hosted by Christchurch Airport and Emirates, guests travelled in style on board Emirates' new generation A380 aircraft.

Highlights of the famil included exploring the Canterbury coastline and Akarora harbour.

Guests later enjoyed champagne and Hors d'oeuvres at the Otahuna Lodge.

Pictured above (from left) are Tracy Thomas, Emirates; Ian Cooper, Giselle Penngington, Maria Theodosatos and Helene Bourrachot from Spencer Travel.

Contours special

CONTOURS Travel is offering travellers a \$1,000 discount on its 27-day South America tour.

The trip will start at Peru's capital Lima, before continuing on to the Amazon.

Guests will stay in a remote jungle lodge, complete with monkeys, sloths and parrots.

Other tour highlights include a trip to Sacred Valley and exploring the Incan ruins of Machu Picchu. Book before 30 Jun to take

advantage of the special. To find out more, go to

contourstravel.com.au.

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Thailand resort hopping



TWELVE lucky Flight Centre agents and Infinity wholesale consultants enjoyed a recent trip to Thailand to take in the majestic scenery of Krabi and the hidden gem of Cape Panwa in Phuket.

The agents stayed at two Centara properties in Krabi including the Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas, arriving in style by private boat.

The resort features some of the largest guest rooms in Thailand and its own 500 metre beach.

Centara Anda Dhevi Resort was also a hit, being close to all the dining and shopping that Ao Nang has to offer.

After their time in Krabi the group got to spend a few days in

Phuket where they stayed at the luxurious all-suite Cape Panwa Hotel and got a chance to relax on the hotel's private beach and tuck into steak night at the hotel's restaurant.

They also took a visit to the Aussie family favourite Sunwing Kamala Beach where the accommodation is designed for families travelling with babies and young children.

In a direct contrast to this they then experienced Sunprime Kamala Beach, an adults only resort with three amazing swimming pools and four bars. The agents and wholesale consultants are **pictured** enjoying a drink at Cape Panwa Hotel.



The French cruise line PONANT operates the youngest fleet of intimate expedition ships. As the World Leader of Luxury Expeditions, PONANT sails to the majestic glaciers of the Arctic and Antarctic, and also offers relaxing itineraries in the Mediterranean or Caribbean, and journeys of discovery in Asia, Oceania and the Pacific.

PART-TIME MARKETING COORDINATOR | SYDNEY FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE LUXURY CRUISE INDUSTRY!

We are seeking an experienced Marketing Coordinator 20 hours per week leading to full time later this year. Reporting to the Marketing Manager and with the opportunity to think proactively and contribute ideas in our small team, this role is accountable for coordinating endto-end campaigns (brochures, digital, media), supporting new marketing partnership opportunities and maintaining & analysing the database. Minimum 2 years previous experience plus intermediate to advanced Excel, copywriting skills and a passion for stats and figures!

Confidential applications to philippa@alexander-associates.com.au | 0404 842 384 _____No agencies please _____

Philadelphia badge

THE Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau is debuting a new Philadelphia Specialist Badge.

A training module for travel agents, it is part of the USA Discovery Program, an initiative of Brand USA.

The educational tool focuses on all aspects of the city from its dining, nightlife and accommodation to tax free shopping and accessibility.

To gain the badge, agents must complete the short online training program and then take a short quiz on the official agent training site for the US.

CLICK HERE to become a Philadelphia specialist.

Aldesta buys an island

CANADIAN company Aldesta Hotel Group has purchased Heron Island Resort in Queensland for an undisclosed amount.

The resort is the first Australian acquisition for Aldesta, which has most of its hotels and resorts based in British Columbia.

The company's long-term plans for the popular Great Barrier Reef island are yet to be unveiled.

Basic Economy live

AMERICAN Airlines and United Airlines have both started selling new Basic Economy fares.

AA announced on Tue that the tickets were available for sale on 10 different routes from its hubs of Dallas, Miami, Philadelphia, Charlotte and North Carolina.

Later in the day UA began offering Basic Economy fares on select flights from Minneapolis to seven of its hub airport cities, including New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The no-frills ticket holders cannot pick a seat or make use of the overhead lockers.





UMI's first 6 winners

ADVENTURE travel company G Adventures recently presented 6 travel agents with UMI awards.

Danielle Moore of helloworld Queensland, Grace Cole of STA Travel NZ, Kasey Buckland of Travel on King NSW, Vianka Xu of STA Travel, Matt Paine of Helloworld Launceston and Kelly Gainsford of House of Travel were all recipients.

Prizes included Go Pro packages, UE Boom Speakers, iPad Minis & G Adventure travel vouchers.

The major prize this year is an African jungle adventure through Rwanda and Uganda, with 12 agents to be randomly selected. Flights are included.

Travel Portland reps

TRAVEL Portland has appointed Sydney agency Barking Owl Communications as its new destination marketing organisation for the Australia and New Zealand market.

The 18-month contract will consist of media and trade outreach and direct-to-consumer influencer programs.

Asian Horizons closes

UK BASED travel company Asian Horizons, which specialised in escorted Asian group tours, has ceased operations.

An official statement on its website reads "Asian Horizons is no longer accepting bookings and our offices are now closed".

The firm can still be contacted by email until further notice at info@asianhorizons.co.uk.

> X10 KHAO LAK is giving readers the chance to WIN 4 nights at their new, tranquil family resort in Khao Lak, Thailand!

For your chance to win, tell us in 25 words or less: Who would you take to X10 Khao Lak and why?

Send your answers to sales@ctmarketing.com.au







This week, Travel Daily and Sonoma County are giving travel agents the chance to win a \$50 Williams-Sonoma e-gift card.

With more than 425 wineries, miles of rugged

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Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, Sonoma Wine Country is a dream holiday spot, representing the best of Northern California — premium wine, farm-to-table dining, unique resorts and spas, and over 50 state and regional parks.

Sonoma County is easily accessible from San Francisco, located just 45 minutes north of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Visit www.sonomacounty.com.

To win, be the first agent to send the correct answer to the following question to

sonoma@traveldaily.com.au

What are the 2017 dates for the Sonoma International Film Festival?

NEED A HINT? CLICK HERE.

New etouches tool

GLOBAL cloud-based event management software provider etouches has announced the launch of a new venue sourcing tool in Australia.

The system is claimed to enable event planners and organisers to search and compare over 225,000 venues across the globe to find the best-fit location for their event's requirements.

Users are able to issue Requests for Proposal to multiple venues, and compare responses based on set criteria.

Oni Chukwu, ceo of etouches Australia, showcased the solution at AIME yesterday, saying the tool would strengthen the bond between event planners, hoteliers and the hospitality market.

Thailand launches new MICE campaign

THE Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau has launched a new 'MICE Magnificent Themes' campaign to promote Thailand as a unique destination for incentive travel in Oceania.

The campaign highlights the country's "diverse smorgasbord of rich experiences for business travellers of all kinds, ensuring that a trip to Thailand goes far beyond mere gatherings and becomes experiences to treasure for a lifetime".

TCEB president, Mr Nopparat Maythaveekulchai launched the campaign at AIME yesterday, with a focus on the highlights of key MICE cities including Bangkok, Pattaya, Phuket, Chiang Mai and Khon Kaen.

Culture and history complement a range of team building options and lavish luxury experiences, all complemented by Thailand's signature service, he said. More info at www.tceb.or.th.

Aloft Perth on track

THE launch of Marriott International's Aloft hotel brand into Australia is on track with the imminent opening of Aloft Perth, scheduled for 26 May 2017.

The brand targets the 'always on next generation of traveller' with a mix of rooms, social and leisure facilities and "cutting edge meeting venues".

Aloft Perth will offer 224 rooms complete with specially commissioned local artworks, while there's also the 'Tactic' flexible meeting space area equipped with state of the art AV and fast, free wifi.

A sky-rise ballroom and outdoor terrace with capacity for 300 offers sweeping views across the CBD and Swan River.

See aloftperth.com.au.

Gold Coast uplift

THE number of meetings and conferences held on the Gold Coast rose 21% in the year to 30 Jun 2016, according to figures released at AIME yesterday.

The latest Queensland Business Events Survey also confirmed the strong economic contribution of business events, with a direct injection to the Gold Coast economy of \$565 million, plus pre and post leisure activities.

Industry out in force at AIME



TRAVEL industry suppliers are making the most of this week's AIME show in Melbourne, with exhibitors including a range of cruise and tour operators.

Silversea Cruises, Scenic, Rocky Mountaineer, APT and P&O are all chasing groups business by participating in the show - and there's no shortage of travel sellers here too, with corporate and leisure travel agents among the buyers walking the floor.

Hoteliers are also prominent, with Langham, InterContinental and more hosting events for delegates yesterday, while international destinations such as New Zealand, Fiji, New Caledonia, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, Macao, the Philippines, Hawaii and even Turkey showcasing their business events offerings alongside a host of Australian domestic destinations, hospitality providers and other suppliers.

The Silversea team is **pictured** above from left, Craig Owens; Anastasia Kotanidis; Pat Cox; and Freddy Muller, while below are some of the guests hosted by Langham at an event yesterday: Tara Bishop, Langham Hotels; Keith Christenson, 212°F; Susan Le Roux, Orbit World Travel; Franz Mascarenhas, The Langham Auckland md; and Brett Jowett, Sanford International Travel. Lots more pics from AIME at

facebook.com/BusEvNews.



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Great location next to Sydney Town Hall station and pay above industry standards.

Please send your cover letter and resume to: halina@greecemedtravel.com.au or please call 1300 661 666 for confidential conversation.







New Carnival Journeys

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has expanded its 2018-19 offerings to include 13 new 12- to 14day adventures departing from homeports along the East and West Coasts of the US and the Gulf of Mexico.

New voyages include the 14day Alaska cruise, the 14-day Southern Caribbean adventure and the 14-day Hawaii cruise departing from Long Beach.

The fresh offerings are in addition to the previously announced nine 15-day cruises departing in 2017-18.

VS adds Barbados

VIRGIN Atlantic will commence the only direct London Heathrow-Barbados flights during the European winter.

The twice weekly service will launch 12 Dec, with seats to go on sale online from 25 Feb.

Expert rhino spotting

WILDLIFE enthusiasts are being invited to join Thanda Safari's dedicated Rhino Monitoring Team for a half day tour in South Africa's KwaZulu Natal province.

Rhino experts will give guests detailed explanations during the dawn drive on how to track the elusive beasts, record their ecology, behaviour feeding patterns and vegetation preferences as well as deliver information on the threats faced by the species.

Once rhino tracks are discovered, guides will lead travellers into the bush on foot. The tour costs R1,500 per person (AU\$150) for the three to four hour activity.

Visit www.thanda.com for info.

New Visit Vic chair

PAUL Little AO has been named Visit Victoria's new chairman.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of growing our visitor economy and making sure Victoria remains the premium destination for major events, conferences, holiday makers and international students," he said.



This month Travel Daily, Tempo Holidays and Tourism Ireland are giving agents the chance to win a trip for two to Ireland.

The winner will travel on a luxury coach around Ireland for a week, and the prize includes return flights.



To win, show your Irish spirit by dressing up in your best St Patrick's Day outfit and send a photo through. Best photo wins! Get your whole office involved! Send entries to tempo@traveldaily.com.au

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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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Accommodation Updates

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, Travel Daily's Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes of which you would like to make the industry aware, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Mantra Club Croc hotel in Airlie Beach has opened following a major \$5 million refurbishment of its facilities. Improved amenities include a large lagoon pool with adjoining spa, a new poolside restaurant and bar plus a refreshed conference centre. All

160 rooms have also received a new lick of paint, along with the property's common areas.



Pullman Bangkok King Power's extensive transformation project is now complete. All 354 rooms, which consist of four room types, have been completely reimagined to include a warm colour palette of grey or charcoal. The property's lobby as well as the five

gourmet restaurants and bars have also been upgraded, reflecting a fresh new look



Two new penthouse apartments have been added to Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland, Britomart. The double storey loft-style accommodation offers either two- or threebedrooms and has its own kitchen and laundry as well as a private balcony which

overlooks the city's newly developed waterfront precinct.

Caesars buys Caesars

CAESARS Entertainment **Corporation and Caesars** Acquisition Company have amended the terms of their proposed merger.

Under the revised guidelines, Caesars Acquisition stockholders will receive 1.625 shares of Caesars Entertainment for each share they own.

The terms were negotiated by special committees of the boards of the two companies.

Six Flags Chongqing

TWO Six Flags-branded parks are set to be built in Bishan, a district of Chongqing in China.

The new attractions - one a theme park and the other a water park - are slated to open in 2020.

Six Flags president John Odum said the development "speaks to our commitment to create memorable experiences for families world-wide".

The group's first Chinese park in Haiyan will open in 2019.

Elton to tour TNQ

MUSICAL sensation Sir Elton John will head to Mackav and Cairns in Sep for his Once In a Lifetime Tour.

Qld Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk anticipated the two concerts would attract crowds of more than 24,000 people.

"Bringing one of the world's biggest names in music to Mackay and Cairns is a major win for this region, particularly the local tourism industry," she said.

Both concerts are projected to inject \$7.5 million into the Queensland economy.

Hertz, AF partnership

THE long-standing agreement between Hertz and Air France-KLM Group has been renewed for a further four years.

Under the deal, AF pax will received a discount of up to 15% on Hertz basic car rentals and up to 10% savings on Thrifty and Firefly basic car rental worldwide.

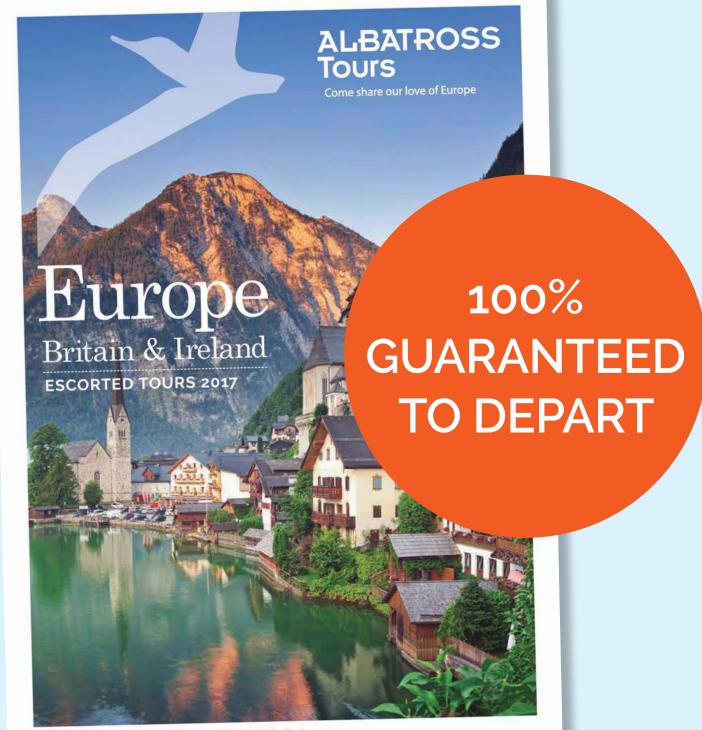
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Are you looking for a new position in your area? Done with the long commute and want to work closer to home? New opportunities have come up for experienced travel consultants in a very successful agency with multiple locations in QLD. If you have at least 5 years experience behind you, bring your strong and loyal client base with you so that you can start your new role with a bang! Now is your chance to become part of this passionate, experienced company and realise your full potential!

For more information please call Shayna on (07) 3123 6107 or click APPLY now.

Special Projects Travel Consultant

Eastern Sydney, Circa \$50-55k + Super, Ref: 2672SO

Working for a highly innovative leisure and corporate boutique agency, a consultant is required to manage special projects with some key client accounts. If you are looking for something slightly different to the norm, here it is. You will have excellent communication skills and will provide exceptional customer service skills. The office provides a funky and supportive place to flourish and succeed. Join an agency that is going from strength to strength and you will never look back!

For more information please call Sasha on (02) 9119 8744 or click APPLY now.

Leisure Travel Consultant

Melbourne, \$45-49k + Bonus, Ref: 2692KF1

If worldwide travel is your passion and you have travelled extensively, why not move to an agency where around the world travel is their focus! You will be creating bespoke holidays and booking fantastic travel packages, cruises and rail trips to destinations all over the world! The ultimate purpose of this role is to create and convert the sale of high quality tailor-made itineraries to exceed client's expectations in this boutique leisure agency in the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne.

For more information please call Katie on (03) 9988 0616 or click APPLY now.

Independent Luxury Travel Consultant

Melbourne, Commission Only, Ref: 2710HC1

If worldwide luxury travel is your passion and you have travelled extensively, why not move to an agency where high end travel is their focus! You will be creating bespoke holidays and booking luxury travel packages and cruises to worldwide destinations with the backing of a Virtuoso agency. Being an independent travel agent with this agency gives you a work/life balance and represents a brand hugely respected in the luxury market. This role has the flexibility to be office or Home-based.

GLOBE

For more information please call Hannah on (03) 9988 0616 or click APPLY now.

Groups & Sporting Events Consultant

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Fantastic opportunity for an experienced travel consultant to assist with booking flights and land arrangements around an eve with base and will work within a supportive nt including handling group bookings & dealing with FIT journeys. This is a unique chance for you to step away from with customers over the phone and through emails to ensure the best services are provided. You'll be paid a generous base and will work within a supportive a supportive environment.

For more information please call Serena on (07) 3123 6107 or click APPLY now.

Experienced Travel Consultant

Sutherlandshire, \$55k + Super, Ref: 2610PE1

This fast-paced high, end office is looking for an experienced mature travel consultant to come on board and join their busy team. If you are sick of price beats and finding the cheapest deals, this role offers a step away from all of this and the opportunity to consult and sell high end product to repeat clientele and referrals. Even better; it's located in "The Shire" & offers fantastic working hours. It's a dream role for a consultant looking for a change close to home & an exciting new challenge.

For more information please call Paul on (02) 9119 8744 or click APPLY now.

Online Travel Consultant

Melbourne, \$40-55k Package, Ref: 2690HC1

Are you an ambitious Travel Agent in Melbourne, passionate about the travel industry and selling holidays? Do you want to be part of an established independent Online Travel Company that can offer great salaries, benefits and career development to its Travel Agents? This is the career move you have been looking for! This Travel Company located in Melbourne is keen to recruit an experienced Travel Agent to join their team. There is a competitive salary + super, as well as travel perks.

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Business Development Manager

Perth, Competitive Salary + Bonus, Ref: 2226SJ1

Do you have sound understanding of Corporate Travel Sales, BD experience and a proven sales record? A leading Travel Management company are looking for a new BDM to assist with their ongoing expansion across the travel market. You will be sourcing new leads, building rapport and developing relationships with key prospects. Targeting the SME market there is fantastic earning potential and this is a great chance to develop your managerial and corporate travel experience with a leading TMC.

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