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First with the news

Thursday 5th January 2017



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Turkey visitor dive

INTERNATIONAL visitor numbers to Turkey plunged more than 30% last year, even before the latest attacks in Istanbul.

Figures released by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism show double-digit declines almost every month in 2016 as the country struggled with political crises and terrorism.

The most recent figures for Nov show visitor numbers were down 21% on the same month in 2015.

Overall arrivals between Jan and Nov were down to 24 million, a decline of more than 10 million on the same period of 2015.

The number of Australians visiting Turkey more than halved, dropping from 221,000 between Jan and Nov in 2015 - the year of the Anzac Centenary - to just 94,454 in 2016.

Sunshine Coast int'l push

VISIT Sunshine Coast (VSC) will mount a major push into offshore markets with the creation of a new Singapore-based role to drive its international promotion.

Former trade and international manager Rachel Meyer will relocate to take up the new position of director of international marketing, giving VSC an elevated focus on Asian inbound markets.

Meyer has had past roles with groups such as Kintetsu, Japan Airlines, Virgin Blue, Tourism NSW, and Peppers Retreats & Resorts, and has lectured at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

The new role would add significantly to the region's marketing efforts, VSC ceo Simon Latchford said.

"While the Australian, New Zealand and 'traditional' inbound markets will remain our priority, the appointment of Rachel Meyer

to a position based in Singapore highlights the potential of Asia for growth," he said.

"With the expansion of Sunshine Coast Airport confirmed and the interest shown by international airlines, it is important that we raise the profile of the Sunshine Coast in Asia's key markets."

Efforts will begin immediately, with regional operators today embarking on a Singapore sales mission involving appointments with more than 40 product planners and travel agents.

The Singapore role coincides with the appointment of Andrew Fairbairn as commercial development manager.

Fairbairn will oversee VSC's membership structure, visitor centre, sponsorships and revenue generating initiatives.

EK A380 to Japan

EMIRATES will redeploy its flagship Airbus A380 aircraft on flights to Tokyo Narita from 26 Mar, the latest in a series of superjumbo announcements including Moscow, Johannesburg and Casablanca.

The daily service will replace the current Boeing 777-300ER and increases capacity by 135 passengers per flight.

Tokyo Narita joins more than 40 Emirates destinations now serviced by the A380 aircraft, including five of its gateways in Australia and New Zealand.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has three pages of news and photos, plus a full page from: ([click](#))

• AA Appointments jobs

Canada Corroboree 2017



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All Leisure collapse

AROUND 13,000 travellers booked on Swan Hellenic and Voyages of Discovery cruises have had their departures cancelled after the collapse of the UK's All Leisure Holidays.

The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) last night confirmed the company had been placed into administration and its cruise bookings cancelled.

About 400 passengers will be repatriated to the UK by the Civil Aviation Authority.

All Leisure Holidays operated programs on Swan Hellenic's *Minerva* and Voyages of Discovery's *Voyager*.

In Australia the brands are represented by Discover the World, whose country director Jeannie Foster told **TD** she was surprised and disappointed.

"We sincerely regret any inconvenience to our travel agency customers or passengers and are in the process of advising and assisting those affected."

Uniworld appt

PERTH-BASED Linda Hussey will strengthen the Uniworld national sales team, taking on the role of sales manager for Western Australia and South Australia.

She has formerly held roles at King Tours and Travel and Qantas Holidays.

For more appointments see today's column on **page three**.

BA cabin crew strike


BRITISH Airways' mixed fleet cabin crew have voted to strike for 48 hours next week over a long running pay dispute.

About 2,500 members of the Unite union will walk off the job from 10 Jan.

The carrier said it was planning to ensure all customers could still travel to their destination.

"Mixed Fleet Unite represents only 15% of our cabin crew," BA said in a statement.

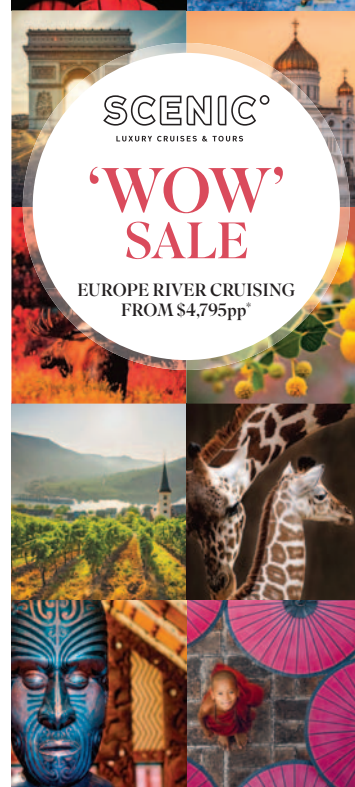
The carrier said it would publish more details for customers on Fri once it had finalised its contingency plans.



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South African Airways agent specials to Africa. Sales to 30JUN17.
Economy from **\$450*** pp
RETURN plus taxes.
* Conditions Apply. Taxes approx. \$595* - \$650* pp.
CLICK HERE for further details

Melbourne slide

AN INFLATABLE 75 metre waterslide has been set up in Melbourne's Federation Square

It will be open from 10am to 8pm daily until 15 Jan.

CLICK HERE for more information or to buy tickets.

TTC PR appointment

VANESSA Budah has been appointed as the new head of public relations for The Travel Corporation.

She takes the role vacated by Rae White, who has been promoted internally to a global PR role with TTC.

A&K Brazil opens

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has opened its new Brazil office in downtown Rio de Janeiro, marking the luxury travel company's sixth office in South America and 53rd office worldwide.

QF eyes Airbus options

QANTAS is considering a revised fleet upgrade in which its current order for 99 new Airbus A320neo aircraft would be switched for a mix involving the lengthened A321neo cousin.

Aircraft production schedules listed by Airbus show Qantas has ordered 54 of the A320neo single-aisle planes and 45 of the longer body A321neo.

The order retains the original total of 99 aircraft, which at the time of its announcement was one of the biggest orders taken by Airbus for its fuel-efficient neo variant, or "new engine option".

A Qantas spokesman confirmed to **Travel Daily** that the order had been "recut", allowing the carrier an option to take the longer aircraft if required.

No decision had been made, nor had the airline confirmed how it would deploy the new planes.

The A321neo is an extended-

body version of the A320neo, offering potential for around 20 additional seats.

It is claimed by Airbus to have the best seat-mile costs of any single-aisle aircraft.

Qantas had previously indicated the A320neo would help modernise its Jetstar fleet, but did not rule out deploying them on the Qantas domestic network.

Tempo discount

TEMPO Holidays is slashing prices on its popular coach tour One Journey, Four Countries on bookings made before 28 Feb.

Savings of 20% per person see the tour lead in at \$1,715 per person for May-Oct departures.

The 10-night journey which explores Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina includes accom, transfers and half board; phone 1300 362 844.



Window Seat

A BAGGAGE handler became an accidental stowaway on a domestic United Airlines express flight from Charlotte to Washington last week.

Unable to escape, he spent the entire one hour flight in the cargo hold and miraculously managed to survive the entire journey unscathed.

He was released upon arrival in Washington but reportedly refused a medical examination.

The FDA is investigating the incident but initial reports say the worker must have found himself in the temperature-controlled and pressurised section of the cargo hold.

The Embraer 175 regional jet he was trapped on has two cargo compartments, both pressurised but only one is fitted with heating.

New Year Take Off Sale

CVFR Consolidation Services and Singapore Airlines are giving you the opportunity to win the following great prizes simply by selling Singapore Airlines between 5 to 27 January 2017.

1 Economy ticket to Europe

(1 leg upgradeable to Premium Economy)

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Awarded to the Top 5 most improved agents

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Agents say ahoy to Europa 2



A GROUP of Melbourne agents were welcomed aboard Hapag-Lloyd's *MS Europa 2* recently, while she was on her maiden voyage to Australia.

Hosted by GSA Landmark Travel, the lucky agents enjoyed a delectable sit-down lunch on the luxury vessel.

Pictured above (from bottom left) are: Julia Bellis, Landmark Travel; Tracey Nelson, Bayview Travel; Judy Tannger, Aurora Travel; Peter Heathcock, National Network Travel; Logan Heath,

Alpha Travel; Lyndel O'Shannessy, helloworld Oakley; Maree McClelland, Wings Away; Gerd Wilmer, Landmark Travel; David Purcell, MP Travel and Louella Horne, Wings Away.

Jan holiday boom

THREE in ten Aussies will pack their bags to go on holiday in Jan, according to a national poll by the Tourism and Transport Forum Australia (TTF).

The early Jan period will be the busiest time for holiday makers with 17% of the 800 polled planning to take a trip, while a further 13% are planning their getaways between 12-25 Jan.

SkyBus Alipay debut

SKYBUS has made it easier for Chinese tourists to pay for travel to and from Melbourne Airport with the launch of Alipay.

The debut of the new payment platform will give users the option to pay for Skybus as well as multiple other foods and services quickly and securely using their smartphones.



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.

Worldhotels has appointed **Geoff Andrew** as its new Chief Executive Officer. He steps up from his current role as the hotel group's Chief Operating Officer, replacing Dirk Fuehrer.

John Gilbert has joined **BCD Meetings & Events** as Vice President of the Life Sciences Center of Excellence. He has over 20 years of Life Sciences experience, having worked with inVentiv Health, GSK, Wyeth and Yamanouchi Pharma.

Maurizio Bisicky is the new Chief Commercial Officer for **Anantara Vacation Club**. Bisicky is shifting from his previous position as Senior Vice President of the company.

InterContinental Fiji welcomes **Leon Hatton-Jones** as its new Executive Chef. He joins the team with 20 years of culinary experience including five-star establishments.

Venture Holidays has announced the appointment of **Tom Mackay** to the new role of Digital Marketing Manager. He has previously held digital and content marketing roles with News Corp, Cycling Australia & Australian Rugby Union.

World Drive deals

COLLECT and/or return a vehicle outside of France and save 50% off fees on all models.

Additionally, those who have leased a Citroen since 2007 will also receive 10 free days.

For more information or to redeem the deal, **CLICK HERE**.

QLD tours Europe

A SERIES of events showcasing destination Queensland have been planned for Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

The Queensland on Tour program gives participating operators a chance to meet and greet with over 300 retail travel agents, wholesale product managers and reservation staff across Continental Europe.

The initiative will be held between 11 and 18 Jan.

China high-speed rail

CHINA opened its longest section of high-speed rail this week, linking Shanghai with the inland city of Kunming in the Yunnan province.

The 2,260 kilometre line cuts travelling time from 34 hours to just 11 hours, with trains operating at up to 330 kilometres per hour in stretches.

China expects to offer 30,000 kilometres of high speed rail lines by 2020.

Kerry Hong Kong

KERRY Hotel Hong Kong will welcome its first guests from Apr.

The 546-key property is located on the waterfront of Hung Hom Bay and features spacious meeting rooms, wellness facilities, food and beverage offerings and more.

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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Are you an experienced Hotel Manager or looking to take that next step in your career? Due to progression we are looking for a talented Hotel Manager to lead from the front & be the face of this luxury boutique hotel. You will have overall responsibility for all aspects of the day to day hotel operations & working closely with all departments to build business & ensure smooth running of the hotel. Excellent salary package on offer for the right candidate!

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This leading travel management company is looking for an experienced & driven BDM to join their SME sales team. You will be responsible for acquiring new corporate business, developing relationships & implementing sales strategies to optimise client spend. Attractive salary with uncapped bonuses. Experience as a travel BDM with a proven sales track record along with strong customer service, presentation, communication and negotiation skills essential.

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