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Travel Daily

First with the news

Monday 16th January 2017



Dengue in New Cal

AN INCREASE in confirmed cases of dengue fever in late 2016 & early 2017 has seen authorities in New Caledonia declare a dengue epidemic in the country. Travellers are urged to cover up from mosquito bites.

Outbound figures decline

SHORT-TERM visitor arrivals from Malaysia, South Korea and India all increased by more than 20 percent in Nov, according to new ABS data, while outbound results show signs of decline.

Compared to the corresponding period last year, Malaysia - one of Australia's top 10 source markets - had the highest growth rate (at 22.9%) in the month.

There was double digit inbound growth from Japan (16.3%), along with a healthy 15.3% rise in the

number of short-term American citizens entering Australia, up 15.3% to 62,500 visits.

New Zealand and China were the top two markets, both up 3% and 8.5% respectively.

Overall, inbound arrival figures rose 0.4% on Oct and were up 9.9% year-on-year in Nov, or about 2,800 movements.

On the outbound front, there was a 0.3 percent decline (2,400 less movements) compared to Oct, but numbers were still up 2.4% on the same time the year prior.

Short-term resident departures were highest to New Zealand (at 112,000), increasing 3.4%, while Indonesia was up 3.2% to 99,900.

Japan, the United States & India maintained strong outbound support, rising 12.3%, 7.6% and 8.3% respectively, while there were drops from Thailand (-7.3%) and the UK, down 9.9%.

EK DXB lounge access

EMIRATES is opening up its lounges at Dubai Int'l Airport for Skywards Blue members in Economy class, at a cost.

"For the first time, you no longer have to fly First class or Business class to enjoy our exclusive lounges," the Middle Eastern carrier is advising members of its Skywards frequent flyer scheme.

Skywards Blue members can now pay US\$100 to access EK's lounges at DXB "regardless of your class of travel, and so can your family & friends who are travelling on the same Emirates flight, for an additional charge".

Emirates Skywards Silver or Gold members, who already gain entry to Dubai lounges, can now also invite guests who are travelling on the same flight to join them for an additional cost, "even if they're travelling in Economy".

In addition, Skywards Gold and Silver members are able to purchase an upgrade to Emirates' First class lounge in Dubai for US\$100 (for up to four hours).

Alone, entry to Emirates' First Class Lounges can be accessed for US\$200 - for more info and the terms & conditions, **CLICK HERE**.

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New Malaysia boss

TOURISM Malaysia has named Ahmad Esa as the new director of the organisation's Sydney office, replacing Roslan Abdullah who has returned to Malaysia after serving three years in the role.

Esa has been with Tourism Malaysia for more than 25 years and has overseen overseas posts in Milan and Jakarta and is serving as director of Sabah and Johor State tourism offices.

Excite site overhaul

EXCITE Holidays has unveiled a "major facelift" for its website homepage, featuring a new design, functionality, accessibility and usability that it says "will give our agents the competitive edge".

"We wanted to create a full and true user experience for our customers," head of marketing Vanessa Richards said.

Today's issue of TD

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

- AA Appointments jobs
- Women for Women

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Ugo appoints DTWM

DISCOVER the World Marketing has been chosen to represent online ground transfer company Ugo Transfers in Australia.

DTWM will handle all sales and marketing initiatives within the travel trade.

Tiger on standby for DPS

TIGERAIR Australia remains hopeful of reviving its Bali services this week as talks continue over its dispute with Indonesian regulators.

A series of eight one-way services operated over the weekend to bring passengers back to Australia under a short-term reprieve granted by the Indonesian Government, the last of which arrived in Melbourne just after 1am this morning.

Tigerair's Bali services are now suspended, however ceo Rob Sharp said a Virgin Australia aircraft and crew would be positioned in Bali to return customers from tomorrow onwards if normal operations had

not resumed by then.

So far over 3,000 passengers have been brought home.

MEANWHILE, Indonesia's Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has defended its ban on Tigerair and summoned the carrier to explain itself, the ABC reports today.

"If Tigerair insists it is innocent we'll let them prove it," a DGCA spokesman said.

Cox & Kings sale

COX and Kings is offering 10% off all worldwide small group journeys in its 2017 brochure.

The promotion is available for bookings by 28 Feb and includes tours in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.



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- **Melbourne** 7 February
- **Sydney** 8 February
- **Brisbane** 9 February

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PONANT Kimberley

PONANT has announced a return to the Kimberley in 2018 following strong sales for the line's inaugural WA season beginning in Jul.

Four 10-night voyages will operate in Jul and Aug 2018, travelling aboard *L'Austral*.

The ship's expedition team will be headed by photographer and adventure Mick Fogg, joined by a group of 12 marine biologists, naturalists and conservationists.

Cruises will operate between Darwin and Broome, visiting locations including Hunter River, King George Falls, Montgomery Reef and Horizontal Falls, and are priced from \$8,510ppts.

VA CHC/RAR schedule

VIRGIN Australia has confirmed it will operate the only non-stop service between Christchurch and Rarotonga from 24 Jun to 14 Oct.

The seasonal flights will push back from CHC on Sat as VA77, cross the international dateline and return the day prior as VA76.

Fares are available now for sale and ticketing via the GDS.

Air Malta cuts AZ talks

AIR Malta and Alitalia (AZ) have abandoned plans for the Italian carrier to take a 49% stake in its Maltese counterpart, opting to retain an existing collaboration.

In a joint statement the airlines said the changing landscape of the airline industry was not ideal for the transaction and both carriers would instead concentrate on "current challenges".

The airlines will continue to partner through their recently launched codeshare program.



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Head of Marketing

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Applications Close: midnight (AEST), Sunday 22 January

[Click here to find out more about this exciting opportunity and how to apply.](#)



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Monacair update

MONACAIR has teamed up with Aviapartner to offer international flight check-in for passengers departing Monaco on flights out of Nice Int'l Airport.

Currently available only to pax with check-in luggage travelling with Air France-KLM group and easyJet, the helicopter provider says it expects the services to expand over the next few years.

Those who take advantage of the new option will be able to bypass the security checkpoint at the Heliport of Monacom, meaning they will avoid Nice Airport terminals completely.

Instead, upon arrival passengers will be directed to the Monacair departure lounge.

For more information on Monacair's international check-in option visit www.monacair.mc.



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Avis app launch

AVIS Car Rental has launched a new mobile app which aims to streamline the car rental process from start to finish.

App features include personalised preferences, push notifications, access to rental details and the ability to confirm or edit details as needed.

"We worked closely with our customers to design the new rental process around their needs and wishes and the result is an app experience that is more convenient, quicker and more personalised," said Avis Australia managing director Kaye Ceille.

The rollout is currently due for Brisbane and Adelaide airports, with other locations to follow.

IAG tops 100m in 2016

MORE than 100 million passengers travelled on board an International Airlines Group (IAG) carrier in 2016 - a record breaking number for the company.

In total, Aer Lingus, British Airways, Iberia and Vueling carried 100,675,056 customers last year, which was up by 14% compared to 2015.

Additionally, group traffic last year was up 9.7% while capacity increased 9.4%.

Interlude SA tours

INTERLUDE Tours has unveiled a brand new program exploring South America.

The 26-day itinerary includes trips to Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu, a rail trip over the Andes, Peru, Rio de Janeiro and more.

Departing on 23 Sep with a maximum of 16 guests, the package includes return Economy class fares with LAN and Qantas, private airport to hotel transfers, accommodation, daily breakfast, eight lunches & 12 dinners, admission and entrance fees.

An optional add on cruise on Valparaiso to Rio is also available, with prices starting from \$3,699.

To view the full itinerary, visit www.interlude-tours.com.

MH wide-body intent

MALAYSIA Airlines Berhad plans to order 25 widebody planes by the end of the year to replace 15 leased Airbus A330-300s and allow for expansion.

MAB chief executive Peter Bellew told *A/N* the aircraft would be delivered from Q3 2018 through 2023.

The 10 jets intended for growth would allow upgrades to Indian cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore and open the option of resuming some cancelled European routes.

Star Wars cruise days

FIFTEEN *Disney Fantasy* sailings will again transport guests to a galaxy far, far away (in the Caribbean) with the return of the *Star Wars* Day at Sea.

Disney Cruise Line's full-day celebration of the *Star Wars* saga is set to include a character encounters, themed family and youth activities, unique food and beverages and merchandise, running between Jan and Apr.

The western Caribbean itineraries will sail from Port Canaveral, **CLICK HERE** for dates.

DL launching SEA/LIH

DELTA Air Lines will introduce new daily year-round non-stop services from Seattle to Lihue (Kauai) starting 21 Dec.

The SkyTeam member carrier will operate the route utilising Boeing 757 aircraft.



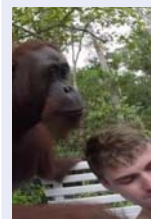
Window Seat

A KIWI daredevil has been labelled "reckless" by New Zealand authorities after he was filmed boogie boarding down the Huka Falls in Waikato.

"I knew I could handle it," the fearless Hayley Patuwai told *Stuff.co.nz*.

"People might ask why I didn't wear safety apparatus, but that works against the water."

The volume of water which flows through the falls section of the river sits at about 222,000 litres per second, meaning it is enough to fill an Olympic swimming pool in just 11 seconds.



AN ORANGUTAN living in the Borneo jungle showed a group of travellers exactly what he thought about

Gen Y culture this week by slapping a tourist that tried to take a selfie with it right across the face.

"He just slapped me, like, right on the nose," that man said through laughter on the video.

The clip then showed the orangutan cheekily climbing back into the trees.

CLICK HERE to view.

alphatravel

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Zion limited access

THE popular West Coast USA touring route on Mount Carmel Highway through Zion National Park in Utah has closed after a major rock fall.

The Zion-Mount Carmel H'way connects to State Route 9, with the closure effecting the section of road between Canyon Junction and the East Entrance.

Visitors can still access the park by travelling east on State Route 9 from Interstate 15.

For the latest, **CLICK HERE**.

QR 787s to Nice

QATAR Airways has confirmed it will introduce five weekly flights between Doha and Nice, starting 04 Jul, using *Dreamliner* aircraft.

CEO Akbar Al Baker announced the move while opening QR's new and luxurious Premium Lounge at Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport, where the Gulf airline operates thrice daily services.

SpiceJet MAX order

INDIAN carrier SpiceJet has made headlines for securing the largest aircraft order with Boeing for a low-cost carrier.

On Fri, the Delhi-based airline announced a commitment for up to 205 jets, consisting of 100 new 737 MAX 8s, a current order for 42 MAXs, 13 additional 737 MAXs (previously attributed to an "unidentified customer") and purchase rights for a further 50 more planes.

At list prices, the fresh order of 100 MAX 8s is valued at around US\$11 billion.

Amhara explosions

DFAT is urging Australians in the Ethiopian region of Amhara to "remain vigilant and to follow the advice of local authorities" after two explosions occurred at hotels in the zone this month.

Aussies continue to be advised to reconsider their travel to Ethiopia.

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation is relocating their office from the Gold Coast to Sydney and need to fill several positions as follows:

Marketing Manager:

Responsible for running the day to day operations with a small team of three.

We need someone who has experience in marketing in the travel industry, has the ability to understand market influences, can propose and implement both brand and tactical campaign activity and work closely with various airline and wholesale partners. An understanding of the various distribution channels is paramount, as is the ability to proactively seek out new business opportunities.

Sales Ambassador:

This person will become the 'face' of Cook Islands Tourism to the trade in Australia. The role requires someone who is outgoing and who would love to sell our little paradise. While the role is very much an informational one, the successful candidate will have an innate desire to grow the business by working with the retail trade, attending consumer and trade shows and assisting with various sales and marketing initiatives. They will host family trips to the Cook Islands several times annually and will be required to travel domestically within Australia regularly.

Marketing Co-ordinator:

As always, we need someone who is the glue to hold everyone together and this role is there to support the Marketing Manager and Sales Ambassador. Duties include proofing advertisements, checking itineraries for journalist and trade famils, ensuring our databases are up to date, assisting with social media, controlling our collateral and handling trade and consumer enquiries.

If any of these positions sound like you, please send a CV and covering letter to

marketing@cookislandstourism.travel

Applications close Friday 27 January 2017.





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MyHoliday agents light up Fiji



Sustainable initiatives

G ADVENTURES has revealed a collection of five new sustainable travel experiences, "empowering travellers to support local communities while offering them a truly local experience".

Known as 'G Adventures for Good projects', the initiatives include a guided cycle tour on Caye Caulker in Belize; local meals at restaurants in Playa del Carmen in Mexico & Nakuru in Kenya, along with homestays near Chitawan National Park in Nepal and inside Bromo-Tengger-Semeru National Park in Java, Indonesia.

More than half of G Adventures' travellers will visit a project during their trip.

"We know Australian and New Zealand travellers are increasingly aware of ensuring they make a positive impact on the places they travel to," said md Australia/NZ Adrian Piotto.

"Our new projects are perfect examples of the type of change and initiative that our world needs," Piotto added.

For more details, **CLICK HERE**.

Aeromexico adds YYC

EFFECTIVE 01 Jun, Aeromexico will offer new daily Boeing 737-800 services between Mexico City and Calgary, complementing existing services to Montreal, Toronto & Vancouver in Canada.

IGNITE Travel Group recently sent a group of MyHoliday Centre consultants to Fiji in preparation for the company's annual MyFiji 'Bula Bonus Sale'.

The Bula Bonus Sale offers a range of new and exclusive tours not available through other travel companies, Ignite says.

In Fiji, the troupe sampled the brand new 'MyFiji Island' and 'MyFiji Cloud 9' experiences that are offered with most of the specially-created Bula holidays packages.

Pictured back row from left are: Charlotte Steele, Warwick Fiji reservations with Bianca Nicolai, Lawson Dibb, Rebecca Rafter, Alisa Lurchenko, Chloe Stableford, Amanda Carrington, Sarah Coleman, Lena McGarry, Louise Stuart-William & Alyssa Harrison.

In front are Emma Holtum and Tirzah Roxburgh.

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DreamWorks to Vic

A MONTH-LONG DreamWorks exhibition is coming to Mornington Peninsula in Apr and will see 100 DreamWorks characters brought to life.

Ace time with tennis legends



HARRIET Talbert and Lucy Bellamy from Savenio Travel & Cruise Adelaide were lucky enough to score themselves a snap shot with famous Aussie tennis player Mark Philippoussis (the trio is pictured left) during the Tennis Australia Legends' lunch held at Adelaide Convention Centre last Wed.

The event was attended by around 350 people including players past and present like Berdych, Ivanisavic and Philippoussis.

HK visits down 5%

INTERNATIONAL visitor arrivals in Hong Kong for Jan to Nov 2016 were down 5.4% to 51,318,876 when compared to the same period the year prior.

Arrivals from mainland China slumped 7.8% in the same period year-on-year while markets from elsewhere grew 3%.

Australia's visitation between Jan and Nov 2016 sat at 523,996, up 0.7% on 2015.

NSW solo travellers

NEW research from Destination NSW has revealed 40% of domestic overnight visitors to Sydney and 48% of international visitors to the city in summer 2015/16 were solo travellers.

This marked preference for travelling alone was further highlighted by the fact 23% of international visitors taking short breaks in NSW were more likely to do so solo than with company.

Destination NSW ceo Sandra Chipchase said lone travellers came from "all walks of life: from business travellers taking a few extra days to explore Sydney to young back packers and lone older visitors".

Savenio, along with Insight Vacations and Qatar Airways, donated the major auction item which raised almost \$7,000 for the Ken McGregor Foundation.

The day saw the inauguration of the new partnership between Tennis SA & Savenio (**TD** 09 Jan).

Eurostar disruptions

INCLEMENT weather conditions in south-east England and northern France saw Eurostar cancel two trains between London and Paris on Fri.

Severe flood warnings are currently in place on the east coast of England with storm surges expected.

Ryanair expansion

RYANAIR has announced a new expansion deal with Manchester Airports Group which will see nine new routes from London Stansted Airport as well as extra flights on 13 existing routes.

The new 2017 services will include: daily flights to Naples & Nice, four times weekly flights to Nimes, thrice weekly services to Copenhagen, Beziers, Cagliari and Grenoble and twice weekly routes to Clermont and Strasbourg.



Brochures

THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by **DriveAway Holidays**. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



DriveAway Holidays - Peugeot Leasing 2017

Want to drive a brand new Peugeot in Europe?

There are 10 vehicles to choose from, ranging from the smart and sleek Peugeot 208 to the Traveller - a popular passenger van. As well as everything in between for an exciting self-drive holiday around Europe. DriveAway Holidays' 2017 brochure outlines all the information you need when leasing a Peugeot including delivery and return fees, locations, travel restrictions and accessories. Book today to enjoy temporary ownership of the latest model Peugeot and a holiday tailored to suit your needs. With various locations in Europe offering up to 12 free days in 2017, you cannot go past a lease. Start your engine, be your own tour guide and discover your road to freedom.



Travelmarvel - India River Cruising & Land Touring 2018

This brochure details breathtaking sites across the sub continent with tours reaching into Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan. Travelmarvel's most popular India itinerary is the 16-day Colours of India, which includes Delhi, Agra (the city of the Taj Mahal), Jaipur and a seven-night lower Ganges cruise from Kolkata to Farakka on the boutique RV Rajmahal. All itineraries featured inside build in the free time and flexibility. The brochure also outlines how travellers can experience the thrill of travelling through India by train on one of three Great Rail Journeys departures.



AAT King's - Australia & New Zealand Short Breaks brochure 2017-18

AAT King's range of short breaks are detailed inside from the warm Queensland coastline to the glaciers of New Zealand. Each itinerary offers flexibility, a wide choice of accommodation and professional driver guides. New for this year are Family Shindig holidays to Uluru and New Zealand with many departures scheduled during school holidays. During the four-day Uluru Family Shindig, guests can take part in a wildlife conservation project, dot-paint with a local Anangu artist and toast an amazing Uluru sunset while the kids enjoy an outback BBQ.

Port Stephens park

PORT Stephens in NSW has officially opened its latest water park attraction, Splash Bay.

Located at Oakvale Farm, the park offers interactive water features including a crocodile bucket dunker, a python spray tunnel and a koala water cannon and new BBQ facilities.

MUC breaks record

MUNICH Airport (MUC) has set a new record of over 42.3 million passengers in 2016.

The number of people passing through increased by 1.3 million, or 3% over the previous year.

Aircraft movements were also up year-on-year by about 4% to more than 394,000.

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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SALES MANAGER (SA) - PART TIME

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SPEAKERS



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Jennifer Vandekreeke
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Carnival Cruise



Alex O'Connor
Managing Director
Insight Vacations



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