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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 17th January 2017

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TIME for a new career resolution?

THE Travel Industry Mentor Experience is calling for expressions of interest from travel industry professionals wanting to take part in its 25th intake of mentees, with the deadline of 31 Jan 2017 fast approaching.

The TIME program launched in 2009 and since then has seen 24 groups complete mentoring programs, “accelerating the leadership paths of 150 graduates from more than 60 travel, tourism and hospitality businesses,” the organisation said.

The next intake for the six month program will commence on 22 Feb, with prospective participants invited to find out more online at travelindustrymentor.com.au.

Jetstar to Johannesburg?

QANTAS Group has dismissed suggestions it may be looking at introducing low-cost options on the South Africa route, despite newly filed papers showing the Australian airline wants authority to enable one of its subsidiaries to fly across the Indian Ocean.

Yesterday, Qantas submitted an application to the International Air Services Commission (IASC) to renew its Determination to South Africa which is due to expire in the next 12 months.

QF executive manager, industry and international affairs Tony Wheelens sought approval from the IASC to permit the capacity of seven frequencies per week in each direction between Australia and South Africa to extend to a

sister-carrier.

“For flexibility, the capacity is also sought for use by another Australian carrier which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Qantas, such as Jetstar,” he said.

Qantas mainline currently flies the route between Sydney and Johannesburg using Boeing 747s which are intended to be taken out of service in coming years.

On paper, Jetstar’s *Dreamliner* aircraft may struggle with the range required to operate direct flights between SYD and JNB, however it would be capable of flying to Johannesburg from Perth, where parent firm Qantas is ramping up its west coast hub.

However, Qantas says JQ has no intention of flying to Jo’burg.

A QF spokesperson explained to *Travel Daily* the inclusion of a “wholly-owned subsidiary” on the determination is a “standard undertaking & does not indicate Jetstar is planning to introduce flights to South Africa.”

Wu partner flies free

WENDY Wu Tours is offering a Partner Flies Free promotion, available on more than 40 China, Indochina, India and Sri Lanka trips between 12 Mar-30 Nov.

The deal with Cathay Pacific is valid on select tours booked up until 16 Mar, and for solo travellers there is a 50% reduction on the single supplement.

For full details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Today’s issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news and photos plus a full page from:

- inPlace Recruitment

Sabre APAC md/cco

FRANK Trampert has been named as the managing director and chief commercial officer of Sabre’s hospitality business in the Asia Pacific region.

Trampert has vast industry experience, including leadership positions with Wyndham Hotel Group, Carlson Hotels, Brand Karma and most recently as ceo of Tune Hotel Group.

New role for Bisaro

FORMER Helloworld NSW/ACT senior state manager Cath Bisaro has been appointed as National Sales Manager for TravelPay.

Bisaro has worked with Helloworld and its predecessors including Harvey World Travel, Jetset Travelworld Group, Qantas Holidays & Traveland since 1995.

TravelPay is part of prepaid card and payments specialist Zenith Payments, which is now headed up by former Helloworld head of corporate development Andrea Slark (*TD* 03 Nov 2016).

Zenith Payments was owned by Pinpoint prior to its acquisition by Mastercard (*TD* 13 May 2014), but then became an independent business operating brands such as Rental Rewards, PropertyPay and School EasyPay plus TravelPay.

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Thailand roadshow

TOURISM Authority of Thailand Sydney Office has issued a 'save the date' for its annual Amazing Thailand Roadshow in May.

Over 50 Thai hotel and tourism operators from across Thailand will meet with travel agents in Brisbane (10 May), Melbourne (11 May) and Sydney (15 May).

Representatives from Phuket, Koh Samui, Bangkok, Khaolak, Hua Hin, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai will be in attendance.

Invitations will be sent in Mar. Following global trends, this year TAT is focusing on promoting wellness retreats, as well as culinary and local experiences.

To support the strategy, TAT has increased its number of online training modules for agents from five to eight.

For more details **CLICK HERE**.

CLIA overhauls exec roles

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has announced the departure of long-time commercial director Brett Jardine as part of a restructure under its new md Joel Katz.

Jardine, who has been at the organisation since 2007, will depart at the end of next month and will not be replaced directly.

Instead, his functions will be split across other roles, including those of Vera Huntink who has been appointed marketing

manager and Dimity McCredie who takes on the newly created role of advocacy director.

Head of training Peter Kollar will take on additional international responsibilities while a new role for member engagement will be announced later.

CLIA Australasia chairman Steve Odell thanked Jardine for his work in "supporting our industry at a time of exceptional growth."

VN launch HAN/SYD

VIETNAM Airlines is ramping up flights to Australia with a new thrice weekly service between Hanoi and Sydney set to begin on 28 Mar on Tue, Fri and Sun.

According to travel agent GDS displays, VN will offer non-stop flights between the cities using Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft.

VN already operates to SYD from Ho Chi Minh City.

Norfolk AKL route

NORFOLK Island Airlines has applied to operate two flights a week between Norfolk Island and Auckland, starting 27 May.

The International Air Services Commission has invited other carriers to apply for capacity on the route by 31 Jan.

The move follows Air New Zealand's decision to withdraw from the route (TD 16 Dec).

Govt targets Marriott

TRADE, Tourism and Investment Minister Steven Ciobo will target Marriott for further investment in Australia when he attends the World Economic Forum in Switzerland this week.

The hotel group is among several companies the Minister says he will approach in Davos to promote Australian investment and encourage the development of tourism infrastructure.

AI women-only rows

AIR India will begin reserving rows for women only after a much-publicised incident in which a female passenger was groped on a flight to the United States.

The *Times of India* reports that six seats will be reserved on every domestic flight from tomorrow.

Other modes of transport in India including trains and buses have offered women-only seating, but Air India's move is believed to be the first involving an airline.

Sri Lanka downgrade

TRAVEL warnings for Sri Lanka have been downgraded to 'exercise normal safety precautions' following improvements in security.

DFAT lowered its advice from the previous level of 'exercise a high degree of caution'.

Smarttraveller has also repeated its advice to check in five hours before departure at Sri Lanka's main Bandaranaike International Airport, due to construction work between now and 06 Apr.

Online Tango lessons

QANTAS Holidays and Viva! Holidays have released an online training guide to the Tango booking engine after the shutdown of easyway this week.

CLICK HERE for details.

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Trafalgar sales

TRAFALGAR has confirmed an unprecedented 86% of departures for Britain and Europe are now definite for 2017.

Trafalgar's ceo Gavin Tollman said there was no doubt that "Britain is back and Europe remains ever-enchanted".

"Demand for these destinations in 2017 has been enormously encouraging and it's tremendous to see solid growth across the entire portfolio," Tollman said.

Scandinavia, Russia and Iceland were all performing well, in addition to their perennially popular Britain and Ireland, Italy and Central Europe itineraries.

"If your clients haven't yet secured their spot, they are seriously missing out," he said.

A current Early Payment Discount of 7.5% is valid on tours until 23 Feb.

ADL traffic record

ADELAIDE Airport hit the 8 million passenger mark for the first time ever in 2016, a healthy 2.5% increase on 2015.

The largest increase was seen in international passengers, with an extra 50,000 people travelling overseas in the past year.

The introduction of Qatar Airways services in May and China Southern in Dec have helped push along growth.

ADL's next target is to hit 1 million international passengers per year.

FC High Court fallout

THE fallout from Flight Centre's High Court loss to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) may affect other organisations, with one legal firm warning clients to review arrangements with agents.

Lawyers Weekly reports that Kain Lawyers has issued the warning to firms that use distributors or agents to sell.

In Dec, the ACCC won its long-running case against FC in which it alleged the group had sought to stop airlines selling lower fares direct to consumers.

Mex Fest shooting

UP TO five people have been killed and 15 injured after a gunman opened fire in the early hours of Mon morning outside the Blue Parrot nightclub in the Mexican resort town of Playa del Carmen during the BPM electronic music festival.

The shooting could be a major upset to Mexico's tourism industry, which has been booming thanks to the weak peso exchange rate.

Korean Air recruits

MATTHEW Harris has been appointed as Korean Air Sales Manager for Queensland.

He worked for Asia Pacific Travel Marketing Services for the past 18 months and also spent five years at Air Tickets.

Air Van agent rate

SPECIAL travel agents airfares are available with Air Vanuatu to Port Vila priced at \$99 and \$199 for companions, enabling consultants to experience Vanuatu firsthand.

Add-on fares to Tanna Island and Espiritu Santo can also be booked, priced at \$30 for agents and \$60 for companions.

Fares must be ticketed by 28 Feb, for travel until 31 Dec - blackout dates apply.

Taxes are additional on all fares - for more info, call 1300 780 737.

eNett Cambodia

THE second beneficiary of eNett International's 'Repay the eNett Way' scholarship program has been announced.

Cambodian student Lavin Yongcheng, who comes from the impoverished community of Andong, has been named the recipient, meaning he will receive a full scholarship to study English at the prestigious Australian Centre for Education in Cambodia "I'm a firm believer in education as a powerful tool in breaking the cycle of poverty," said eNett chief executive officer and managing director Anthony Hynes.

"It gives me great pleasure to see 'Repay the eNett Way' changing lives in this way."



Window Seat

A FAKE Terracotta Army attraction erected to scam unsuspecting tourists in the Lintong district of Xi'an has been smashed by local officials.

Unlicensed tour guides and taxi drivers had been taking tourists to the fraudulent site, reported *Xinhua News Agency*, and its existence was discovered following a tip-off lodged to the Lintong Public Security Bureau.

Some 40 terracotta warrior replicas were destroyed during the raid.

MH boosts AA c'share

MALAYSIA Airlines has expanded its codeshare pact with oneworld partner American Airlines, with the MH code now appearing on multiple routes from AA's hubs in Charlotte, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

Additions include AA flights from LAX to Hong Kong and London Heathrow; Philadelphia to Boston, Chicago, Dallas Fort Worth, Kansas City, Miami and London; and Charlotte to Baltimore/Washington, Boston, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, London and New York LaGuardia.

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Viking Cruises eyes Newcastle



VIKING Cruises Australia and New Zealand has set its sights on the City of Newcastle.

The cruise line took out a double-booth display at Helloworld's Newcastle Holiday and Cruise Expo over the weekend (**pictured**) to showcase the brand to local trade and travellers as part of its newly

forged partnership with Hunter Travel Group.

Further, Newcastle will directly benefit from the cruise line's expanded Australian presence, with Viking Cruises to call in at the Port of Newcastle as part of its 17-day Komodo and Australian Coast itinerary which is set to launch next year.



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Anantara Zanzibar

MASTER planning and infrastructure works for the newbuild Anantara Zanzibar Resort in East Africa has commenced.

Slated to open in 2020, the luxury resort will feature 100 guest rooms alongside 50 one- and two-bedroom pool villas.

Leisure facilities will include a spa and wellness centre, gym, kid's club and onsite dining.

Shiji ReviewPro stake

HOTEL tech provider ReviewPro has been acquired by Hong-Kong based company Shiji.

ReviewPro's founders and managing team will remain on board to lead the company as it scales its global growth plan and the roll-out of brand new products and services.

Commenting on the acquisition, Shiji coo Kevin King said ReviewPro was "very well aligned with Shiji's mission".

Pandaw appointment

PANDAW Cruises is welcoming Sandra Cahill to the fold as its new director of sales Australasia.

Prior to her appointment, Cahill held roles with Insight Vacations, the Sultanate of Oman Tourism, Air France-KLM, Gulf Air and Canadian Airlines International.

Pandaw vice president Marco Rosa said Cahill "will add sales strength to our global sales team and will be invaluable to our plan for future growth of the Australasian market".

McFarland courses

TWO new workshops aimed at public relations and marketing professionals within the travel industry have been introduced by travel writer Rob McFarland.

Held in Sydney on 10 Feb and Melbourne on 06 Feb, the courses will cover press release writing and story pitching.

To participate or for more details, **CLICK HERE**.

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Top Parks expands

TOP Parks has expanded its portfolio by adding four extra holiday parks across NSW.

The latest parks to join are: Seven Mile Beach Holiday Park on the mid-north coast, Wairo Beach Holiday Park on the south coast, Buckenderra Holiday Village in the Snowy Mountains and Albury All Seasons Tourist Park on the NSW-Victorian border.

These new additions see Top Park's total number of sites across the country grow to 207.

GuestCentrix US win

HOTEL property management system GuestCentrix has partnered with the Tipi Mobile Check-in app.

The pact will enable guests at hybrid hotels and hotels using GuestCentrix Hostel.Web faster mobile check-in on their mobiles and make friends with others staying in the property.

Tipi said it was looking forward to rolling out its app out across the GuestCentrix network.

Camino 2017 touring

CAMINOWAYS.COM has released its new Camino guided tours in Europe for 2017.

Departures for this year include Classic Camino - The French Way, The Coastal Camino - Portuguese Coastal Way, Easter on the English Way and Via Francigena in Tuscany.

The small tours offer airport transfers, an English speaking local guide, luggage transfers and half board accom with dinner each night departing from Mar until Oct 2017.

Prices lead in at \$979 per person twin share for an eight-day guided trip from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela.

CLICK HERE for more details.

LEGO store opening

AUSTRALIA'S first LEGO store will open at Dreamworld on Queensland's Gold Coast on Sat, 28 Jan (**TD** 28 Apr 16).

The flagship shop will be part of a stand-alone precinct at Dreamworld's front entry with access from both within and outside the park.

It will feature 10 life-size LEGO models, special collectors' items, a 'Pick a Brick' wall, make your own minifigure stations and LEGO brick engraving.

The Houston experience



A LUCKY group of Australian TravelManagers experienced Houston, Texas recently thanks to TravelCube and Air New Zealand.

A key highlight was watching the clash between NBA giants the Houston Rockets and the Utah Jazz at Houston's Toyota Centre.

The agents stayed at two of Omni's Houston hotels and had the chance to "play astronauts" with a visit to NASA's famous Space Center.

They were also treated to a tour of Houston's iconic graffiti walls, where a group of local street

dancers put on an unscheduled performance.

Other top experiences included "eating their own body weight" in seafood and burgers.

The group is **pictured** above and includes Maureen Hale, Visit Houston; Annette McHugh; John Lengacher; Karen Dowling, TravelManagers' business partnership manager - QLD/NT; Joanne Haines; Simon Laneres, GTA market manager - South USA; Darren Christensen; Mark Devers; Maree Evans; Lillian Smith; Tanya Tyler and Teena Hollway, TravelCube.

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Aus adventure cities

MOTORHOME rental platform SHAREaCAMPER has unveiled new research pinpointing the top adventure activities across Australia.

The study involved assessing the Google search volume for adrenalin pumping activities in the last 12 months.

Brisbane came in as the most adventurous city per capita, followed by Wollongong, Hobart, Cairns and Sydney.

"Although our HQ is in Melbourne, along with the highest concentration of caravan lovers, knowing where to find adventurous people across Australia is interesting for ourselves and any other business that thrives on adventure," ceo Florian Dahlmann said.

Cathay cranks up YYZ

CATHAY Pacific is upping its Hong Kong to Toronto service to double daily flights this summer with the addition of four weekly services from 24 Jun.

The extra flights will be operated by Boeing 777-300ERs and will continue through until 04 Sep.

Mövenpick Colombo

MÖVENPICK Hotel Colombo has opened its doors in Sri Lanka's capital.

The 219-key property which offers city and ocean views is the first int'l five-star property to debut in the city in 25 years.

The hotel offers seven bar and restaurant concepts, a day spa, gym and rooftop infinity pool.

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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