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Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 25th January 2017

US Open 2017

Keith Frouse
TRAVEL

EXPERTS IN GLOBAL SPORT AND EVENTS

JAL 787-9s to Sydney

JAPAN Airlines has scheduled Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft to replace existing 777-300ERs on the Tokyo Narita-Sydney route, effective 26 Mar.

The jet swap sees JAL suspend its First class product to Australia over the 2017 summer season.

JAL will become the 10th airline operating 787s to Sydney.

Emirates direct push

EMIRATES is making a drive for direct sales, offering two free nights in Dubai at select hotels when customers book flights through emirates.com for travel between 01 Feb-31 Mar.

The promo runs until 31 Jan.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news and photos, plus full pages from:

- Albatross Tours
- Travel Trade Recruitment
- Club Med
- Women for Women

The next issue of **Travel Daily** will be published on Fri 27 Jan due to tomorrow's Australia Day public holiday.

Hogan, Rigney leaving EY

TWO of Etihad's most senior executives, Aussies James Hogan and James Rigney, will leave the carrier later this year (**TD** breaking news) as its board continues an "ongoing, company-wide strategic review".

Hogan became ceo of Etihad in 2006, moving to the Abu Dhabi-based UAE flag carrier after four years heading up Gulf Air.

More recently the rapidly growing airline restructured to become the Etihad Aviation Group, of which Hogan is now president and ceo - overseeing businesses incl Etihad Airways, Hala, Etihad Airport Services and Etihad Airways Partners.

"We are very grateful to James," said chairman H.E. Mohamed Mubarak Fadhel Al Mazrouei.

"In just ten years, he has overseen the growth of the company from a 22-plane regional carrier into a 120 aircraft global airline and aviation group, with seven airline equity partnerships which together serve more than 120 million guests every year."

Hogan and Rigney will join a separate investment company

after they leave Etihad in the second half of 2017, with a global search for a new group ceo and cfo already under way.

Hogan's imminent departure was rumoured last month, with a German news outlet citing issues around Etihad's European alliances (**TD** 21 Dec 2016).

Mazrouei said key priorities for the business going forward included ensuring the airline is the "right size and the right shape...we must progress and adjust our airline equity partnerships even as we remain committed to the strategy".

Etihad's equity partnerships include a significant investment in Virgin Australia, along with Alitalia, Air Seychelles, airberlin, Etihad Regional and Jet Airways.

Hogan said he, along with the board and 26,000 Etihad staff, were proud of the company's substantial contribution to the United Arab Emirates and to the development of Abu Dhabi.

"The last decade has seen incredible results but this only represents a first chapter in the story of Etihad," he said.

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Potter's Boutique

TOOWOOMBA in the Darling Downs has a new accommodation dwelling with the opening of Potter's Boutique Hotel this week. The \$10m property features 55 rooms and is located on Margaret Street, a sister-hotel of Potter's Oceanside Motel, Mackay.

North Star to True North

NORTH Star Cruises Australia has announced it will rebrand to True North Adventure Cruises after nearly 30 years of business.

The company operates a variety of Kimberley Wilderness cruises, sailing through West Papua and PNG, as well as Adventure Cruises along the Australian Coast for the "discerning adventurer" aboard its 12-year-old 36-passenger ship, *True North*.

The move, effective 01 Feb, reflects a renewed focus on the True North brand and comes ahead of "several significant events" planned for this year.

"Although there is much sentiment associated with the

former name, recent planning decisions have made it possible to focus solely on the True North brand," the company said in a media statement last night.

Changes see the redevelopment of the truenorth.com.au website, new email addresses and new social media handles & accounts.

Other activity includes the debut of new Barra Bonanza itineraries, a website, brochure, loyalty program and guest facilities for guests embarking/disembarking in Broome.

Brand director Peter Trembath said "Everything else will remain the same - there will be no changes to our ABN or banking details and more important than anything else - no changes to our commitment to adventure!"

AAX US approval

AIRASIA X has been cleared to operate commercial services to the USA by the Federal Aviation Administration, becoming the first Asian low-cost carrier to win approval to fly pax to America.

The sister-airline of AirAsia is currently evaluating options to several US states including Hawaii as part of its expansion plans.

AirAsia X Group ceo Datuk Kamarudin Meranum confirmed the carrier was also looking to resume flights to London after pulling the service five years ago.

"Our expansion up until now has concentrated on Asia, Australasia and the Middle East, and we are excited about our first foray into an entirely new market as we look beyond Asia Pacific," he said.

New Lux exhibitors

ORGANISERS of Luxperience today revealed a collection of new exhibitors will be present at the show, being held from 17-20 Sep at Carriageworks in Sydney.

Some of the first time exhibitors include Armani Hotels Milan and Dubai, Casa De La Flora Khao Lak, Thailand and Kandima Maldives.

Luxperience's Michelle Papas is tipping more than 50% of the exhibitors at the show will be new, "giving buyers access to an unparalleled range of properties, tour companies, cruises and experiences from both around Australia, and New Zealand and the world".

New Cal award win

NEW Caledonia Tourism has taken out the Best Tourism Video in the 'Destination' category at the inaugural Tourism & Cultural Video Awards in Cannes, France.

Created by New Caledonia Tourism Australia, the clip ([HERE](#)) was up against 141 other entries.



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Webjet partners with NAB

NAB and Webjet have announced a new loyalty partnership allowing the bank's credit card customers to redeem points on flights online.

Under the deal NAB Rewards members will be able to accrue points on credit card spending and exchange them for flights via Webjet "on any airline, to any destination, at any time."

The partnership involves integration of NAB Rewards into

Webjet's booking engine, which will give travellers the ability to view their points balance and toggle flight costs between dollars and points.

Users will also be able to buy flights via Webjet using a combination of reward points and cash payment.

Webjet md John Guscic said the partnership gave NAB customers another payment method for their travel.

The bank is offering triple points for purchases made on Webjet with a NAB Rewards credit card.

Jackalope opening

VICTORIA'S Mornington Peninsula will welcome a 46-room luxury hotel this autumn, set among the vines of the Willow Creek winery.

From 01 Apr, Hotel Jackalope will offer rooms of up to 85m² with private terraces, king beds and the option of Japanese baths.

On-time rate slips

ON-TIME arrival figures for Australia's domestic airlines slipped during Dec, falling below the long-term average.

Figures from the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) show on-time performance across all carriers was 80% for arrivals and 81% for departures, a decline on the average of 82.7% for arrivals and 84.2% for departures.

Qantas achieved the best on-time arrival figure of 83.5% during Dec, followed by Virgin at 83.1%, Tigerair Australia at 73.7% and Jetstar's 69.0%.



Window Seat

BOTH Vail and Park City resorts are promising not to tell your boss if you end up chucking a sneaky sicky after their Straya Day on the Slopes celebrations.

The two resorts will be shouting free beer to anyone over 21 years of age (with a valid Australian passport) and a special limited edition menu featuring meat pies, Tim Tams and sausage sammies will also be on offer.

Prizes will be given out to the most patriotically dressed attendee.



Let's get United!

Consolidated Travel & United Airlines are giving the top agent and the most improved agent
1 Economy ticket to USA for achieving the highest sales between 11 - 31 January 2017.



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South Africa air hitch

NEW regulations expected to pass soon in South Africa could put companies flying to lodge destinations out of business, a local carrier has warned.

Federal Airlines spokesman Eugene Mostert told South African media three-quarters of companies flying to airstrips would shut down a year after implementation.

The regulation would require all airstrips to be licensed and firefighter compliant.

This would be at the expense of the lodge owners, who own or lease the airstrips.

Dengue in Vanuatu

AN OUTBREAK of dengue fever has been declared by health authorities in Vanuatu after a surge in suspected cases over Dec and Jan.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has updated its travel warning and highlighted advice on protection against mosquito bites.

Platinum TRAVEL CORPORATION

Multi-skilled Corporate Consultant - Brisbane office

Platinum Travel Corporation has started 2017 off with a bang!

New business wins and a new office doubling capacity, our new CBD premises is located at 370 Queen Street, Brisbane.

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DriveAway giveaway



TASSIE top-achieving agent Mike Pigden from RACT Travel Collins Street took out DriveAway Holidays' RACT incentive comp, winning a \$500 gift card.

Lynne Bird, RACT Travel Ulverstone and Linda Osborne-Magu, RACT Travel Rosny Park both took home the lucky dip

prize of a \$150 gift card.

Entrants in the incentive had to book and pay for any car, motorhome, European lease or motorcycle rental during the incentive period.

An excited Pigden is **pictured** with DriveAway's Julia Taylor, bdm for Tas, SA and NT.

Kenya airport plan?

KENYA'S government is reportedly seeking a \$368m loan from the World Bank to upgrade the country's airports.

The project would include improving the capacity of the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) from 7.5 million passengers a year to 20 million.

In 2013 a fire gutted the airport and last year a \$650m plan to add a new passenger terminal at JKIA was axed (**TD** 31 Mar).

The govt put the cancellation down to financial pressures and the capacity of the airport already increasing due to upgrades.

Nikon TNZ tie-up

TOURISM New Zealand has teamed up with Nikon Australia to create a series of video content pieces promoting the country.

The 360-degree content will appear across TNZ and Nikon's digital and social channels and be captured with the Nikon KeyMission 360.

Three short videos (15 seconds in length) and three longer videos (60 seconds in length) featuring Doubtful Sound, Bay of Plenty and Auckland will be rolled out across digital and social media.

Eclipse last chance

PREVIEW pricing on *Scenic Eclipse's* inaugural season in 2018/19 will end with the release of the full brochure in Mar.

Scenic is encouraging agents to take advantage of the prices, which include a 10-day Taste of Cuba & the Caribbean from Miami to Cartagena dep 31 Oct 2018 and priced from \$8,895ppts.

SKAL Int'l Aus AGM

SKAL International Australia's preliminary AGM/95th National Assembly will be held 23-26 Mar in Port Douglas.

The meeting will take place at QT Port Douglas on 25 Mar.

For more information or to register, see www.skal.org.au.



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- **Sydney** 8 February
- **Brisbane** 9 February

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OZ lures CNY visitors

AN ESTIMATED 81,000 additional Chinese visitors will make their way to Australian shores this Chinese New Year, representing a total of \$1.6 billion in expenditure for Jan.

Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) ceo Margy Osmond called the Lunar New Year period an "absolute gold mine" for the country's visitor economy.

"By our estimate, Chinese New Year will help to deliver a record-breaking 195,000 monthly visitors from China – a great start for 2017, and keeping China on course to become our biggest international visitor market (overtaking New Zealand) by the middle of this year," she said.

Chinese visitors spend an average of \$8,328 per trip - the highest spending of all nationalities.

QF launches CNY sale

IN CELEBRATION of the Lunar New Year, Qantas has released a series of special fares to Asia.

The deal applies to flights from Australian capital cities Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney to Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Penang in all classes.

Flights departing from Sydney to Beijing start from \$549.

The deal is valid from now until 31 Jan 2017.

For further details [CLICK HERE](#).

Contiki travel inspo

A SERIES of inspirational videos on how travel can change lives has been released by Contiki.

The videos pose the question: "What will you do in 2017 that you'll remember forever?"

DJ Tigerlily answers that question with her 82-year-old grandmother and shares anecdotes on how travel has created life-long memories.

Reunited for Contiki's second promo video is ex-*Big Brother* contestant Jake Rich and his 88-year-old mother discussing their own travel adventures.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch.

Mantra McTaggart

ANDREW McTaggart has been announced as the development manager at Mantra Group to facilitate the group's expansion.

McTaggart has many years experience in senior executive positions with AccorHotels and Accor Premier Vacation Club, including general manager of acquisitions and cfo.

COACH SYD outlet

COACH inc, a designer leather goods fashion label, has opened an outlet at Sydney Airport's T1 International terminal.

The arrival of Coach marks the 13th designer brand to land at the terminal and joins lux labels TUMI, Michael Kors & Hugo BOSS.

Catch up with APT's Geoff McGeary, as he tells us about his fortunate life in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read **travelBulletin**



Americans invited down under



AUSTRALIAN experiences were brought to life this week at Virtual Australia, a premier tourism event held in New York.

The American travel trade experienced Australia's iconic scenery via virtual reality headsets, videos and art installations, while sampling

some of the country's top culinary offerings produced by celebrity chef Neil Perry.

Tourism Australia global ambassador Chris Hemsworth also gave a presentation at the event and entertained the crowd with his own personal travel experiences and recent trips around Australia.

Commenting on his role as the country's global ambassador, Hemsworth said it was a "great honour to play a part in promoting my country to the rest of the world".

Virtual Australia is part of the 2017 G'Day USA program, which this year expanded into Austin, Texas for the first time.

Pictured above at a VIP event are Matthew Upchurch, ceo, Virtuoso; Chris Hemsworth; Steven Ciobo, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment and John O'Sullivan, md Tourism Australia.

Insider blossom tours

INSIDER Journeys has slashed the price on its small group tours to Japan by 20%.

Included in the deal is Insider's 15-day Secrets of Japan tour, the 14-day Japan Discovery program and the 10 day Highlights of Japan itinerary.

The tours depart late Mar and early Apr - just in time for Cherry Blossom Season.

The deal is valid from now until 28 Feb or until sold out.

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Choice Award winners

THE 2017 TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice awards have been announced, revealing the most loved hotels in categories including top hotels by country, Luxury, Bargain and Small.

TripAdvisor spokesperson Joanne Kershaw said the hallmark of the winners was "remarkable service, value and quality".

Pinetrees Lodge on Lord Howe Island came out as the favourite hotel in Australia followed by Ovolo Woolloomooloo, Sydney and Park Hyatt Sydney.

Aria Hotel Budapest, Hungary was voted as the Top Hotel in the World, followed by Mandapa, A Ritz-Carlton Reserve in Ubud, Indonesia while coming in third place worldwide was Turin Palace Hotel in Turin Italy.

CLICK HERE for a full list of TripAdvisor's top hotel awards.

Sanctuary earlybird

SANCTUARY Retreats are offering a 25% discount and a free cabin upgrade for bookings on China's Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer during the 2017 shoulder and high season.

A 10% discount applies to the peak season.

Book and pay in full three months before departure to avail the deal, for details, **CLICK HERE**.

Kaikoura rebounds

TOURISM New Zealand wants to make it known that Kaikoura, the region struck by a 7.8m earthquake last Nov, is safe and open for business.

"Understandably there has been a drop off in travel to Kaikoura in the wake of the earthquake," said Tourism New Zealand director trade, PR and major events Rene de Monchy.

"As access improves, more tourists are arriving but it will take some time to get back to the way it was."

Close to 90% of tourism providers in Kaikoura are fully operational.

Finnair PVG route

THIS European winter Finnair will be launching new seasonal flights to Puerto Vallarta in Mexico (19 Nov-18 Mar), Havana in Cuba (01 Dec-23 Mar), Goa in India (29 Nov-21 Mar) and Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic (30 Nov-22 Mar), from Helsinki.

The carrier would also be adding extra frequencies to many of its popular European winter holiday and business destinations in Asia including Delhi and Bangkok.

Virgin Norleans hotel

VIRGIN Hotels has revealed it will be opening and operating a new hotel in the Warehouse District of New Orleans.

Construction is expected to start in Apr for an early 2019 opening.

The 225-key hotel will feature a rooftop pool and meeting space.



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.



Residence Inn San Antonio Airport/Alamo Heights in the US has unveiled a US\$3.4 million renovation unveiling an expanded fitness centre and all-new suites with wood floors and stainless-steel appliances. As part of the revamp the hotel converted its former meeting space into an inviting zone for social engagement.



The Lord Elgin Hotel in downtown Ottawa, Canada has completed its US\$12 million renovations. Improvements include a full stripping down of the rooms and the installation of new marble tile floors, showers and vanities. The refresh also saw

the corridors and meetings and events rooms refurbished while the property's wi-fi network has also been upgraded.



More than \$50 million will be pumped into the refurbishment of **Daydream Island Resort and Spa**. The redevelopment will see the arrivals pavilion, reception, main atrium area, Waterfalls Restaurant, Lagoons Bar and all room types receive a fresh makeover. The

resort will temporarily close in early 2018 to ensure renovations can occur in the shortest possible time and with minimal disruptions.

Cuba US airline alert

SMARTTRAVELLER is warning Australian tourists travelling to Cuba to avoid booking travel on any US airlines.

According to DFAT, US carriers cannot provide boarding passes to foreign nationals travelling to Cuba, unless they can certify they are travelling on one of the 12 Office of Foreign Assets Control travel categories.

Those travelling to Cuba for tourist purposes only will not be eligible for travel on US airlines.

DL/AM back LAFC

DELTA Air Lines and codeshare partner Aeromexico have been named joint airline partners for the Major League Soccer expansion team, the Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC).

The deal also spans LED signage, marquee sponsorship & more.

AVANI Dubai signing

MINOR Hotels has inked a deal with Nakheel for a new AVANI hotel in Dubai.

Set to open in 2019, the 372-room hotel will be built across from the recently-opened Ibn Battuta Metro Link and will feature a pool, spa & restaurant.

CX/LH FRA cargo pact

CATHAY Pacific Cargo is relocating its local cargo handling activities in Frankfurt to the Lufthansa Cargo terminal as part of the Joint Business Agreement between the two airlines.

SA Ferment Festival

THE South Australian Govt has pledged \$98,000 to help create a new festival showcasing the state's fermented food offerings.

A progression of the state's popular CheeseFest, the three-day event starting on 20 Oct will see more than 120 businesses and selling their fermented products at Rymill Park.

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Eastern Suburbs Sydney, Circa \$50k OTE + Super, Ref: 2659SO3

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

VIP Travel Consultant

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This high-end leisure travel company is one of the most reputable companies in Melbourne. It is a close knit team known for their exceptional customer service and excellent reputation in the corporate sector. You will work towards KPIs by putting together complex itineraries. A strong GDS is a must. We are looking for consultants with a passion for customer service and you will be rewarded for your hard work with excellent career progression and a great salary package.

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

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Our clients are looking for an experienced travel professional with strong travel industry experience looking to step into behind the scenes role. Working closely within the product department, providing suggestions & ideas to worldwide destinations so a good personal travel background is essential. Your role will also consist of assisting reservations with general airfare enquiries & reading of fare sheets. Working Mon-Fri only, this is your chance to breakaway from consulting.

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This fast-paced high end office is looking for an experienced mature travel consultant to come on board and join their busy team. If your 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; its 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.

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Africa Travel Specialists | Temp Role

Melbourne, Competitive Hourly Rate, Ref: 2907KF1

Africa destination specialists say hello to your dream travel job! If Africa is your passion and you have travelled the region extensively, why not specialise in what you love! This is a fantastic opportunity for an experienced tailor made travel consultant to join the expanding team in this leading, luxury online travel agent based in Melbourne in an ongoing temporary position. You will be creating bespoke holidays and luxury travel to Africa in an ongoing temporary travel role!

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

Luxury Travel Consultant


Adelaide, Up to \$60k + Super, Ref: 2677HC1

This boutique agency based in Adelaide is known for its excellent customer service & their holidays to stunning destinations. They have an outstanding reputation and believe in delivering the highest standards to their customers. No day will ever be the same in this travel consultant role, from booking complex airfares, organising transfers to selecting the perfect accommodation for your clients. The role will be heavily customer service focused offering your expertise on worldwide destinations.

For more information please call Hannah on (08) 6365 4313 or click [APPLY](#) now.



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WOMEN FOR WOMEN ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



An initiative to help drive more female leaders in our industry.

An entire day dedicated to personal development for females.

400+ amazing women in Travel Hospitality & Tourism are invited to a fun packed day to hear inspiration, motivation and build confidence from these inspiring female leaders.

Male supporters of female leaders are also welcome to attend.

Dockside Venue Cockle Bay Wharf, Sydney - 8th March 2017 - 9.30am until 5.30pm

SPEAKERS



Penny Spencer
Managing Director
Spencer Travel




Jennifer Vandekreeke
Vice President ANZ
Carnival Cruise



Alex O'Connor
Managing Director
Insight Vacations



Anna Guillan
Regional Director
Sales & Marketing
One&Only



Turia Pitt
Motivational
Speaker



Michelle Beveridge
CIO
Intrepid Group



Kaylene Shuttlewood
Managing Director
Pacific Travelport



Katrina Barry
Managing Director
Contiki



Laura Ruffles
Global COO/CEO ANZ
Corporate Travel
Management



Lisa Akeroyd
Managing Director
Carlson Wagonlit Travel



Lynne Clarke
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MSC Cruise



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Regional General
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