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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Monday 17th July 2017

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**HOLIDAYS**

## Star to splurge at NTIAs

**STAR** Alliance will take its 20th anniversary celebrations to this weekend's AFTA National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA), pledging a series of ticket giveaways as a bonus for attendees.

Guests at this year's event - to be held Sat at the new International Convention Centre Sydney - will have a chance to win one of six return tickets for two to Star Alliance destinations in Asia, Canada, America, Europe, Japan or South Africa.

Star Alliance country steering committee chair Tim Clyde-Smith said the NTIA draw would complement the alliance's

anniversary theme, "Connecting People and Cultures".

"The Star Alliance network has never been stronger, with our 28 member carriers operating to more than 1,300 destinations in 191 countries," he said.

"So it's entirely appropriate that we celebrate our 20-year milestone by sending NTIA attendees to almost every corner of the world," he said.

Guests at the event will need to peel open their Star Alliance-branded napkin holder to reveal a number which automatically puts them in the draw to win, with destinations including Toronto, Tokyo and New York.

Star Alliance will also sponsor the Best Non-Branded Travel Agency Group category at this year's awards.

## Twin cities with MF

**THE** Macao Government Tourism Office is highlighting twin-city fares that combine visits to Xiamen and Macao, flying from Australia with Xiamen Airlines.

Return Economy class fares from Sydney and Melbourne are available from \$768ppts including the choice of a night's accom in Xiamen or a coach tour of the city - see today's **cover page**.

## 7th Disney ship

**DISNEY** Cruise Line will add a seventh ship to its fleet in 2022 after boosting its current orders from the Meyer Werft shipyards in Germany.


The new addition was announced at the Disney fan club expo D23 in Anaheim on the weekend, and means the line will have almost doubled its fleet within the next six years.

The 135,000 ton vessel will have 1,250 staterooms and is in addition to two other new ships due in 2021 and 2023.

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has six pages of news and photos, including a front cover wrap for **MGTO** plus full pages from:

- Albatross Tours
- AA Appointments jobs

 Wendy Wu Tours

## 2018 EARLY BIRD SPECIALS

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## New Choice chief

**PATRICK** Pacious has been named as the next ceo of Choice Hotels Int'l, effective 01 Jan 2018, succeeding current chief executive officer Stephen Joyce.

Pacious is Choice's current pres and chief operating officer.

## Apollo takes off in Canada

**AUSTRALIAN** motorhome specialist Apollo Tourism & Leisure is spreading its wings internationally, with the 100% acquisition of Canada-based CanaDream finalised on Fri.

The \$28 million deal has seen Apollo buy the 80% of CanaDream it didn't already own, and provides a firm basis for the company's North American expansion plans.

CanaDream shareholders voted in favour of the deal last week, with the company set to be delisted from the Toronto Stock Exchange effective today.

Apollo ceo Luke Trouchet has expressed ambitions to be the "first global rental van brand," with other markets in

## What's Left for 2017

**EARN A \$100\* GIFT CARD**

When you make any new bookings for travel in 2017.

Valid for new bookings between: 17 Jul and 8 Sep '17

**TAUCK**

Discover more!

\*conditions apply

## Hodges joins AA

**AUSTRALIAN** Shane Hodges has been appointed to the Tokyo-based role of vice president - Asia Pacific sales with US carrier, American Airlines.

Hodges was most recently with Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

**TRAFALGAR**

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## NF luggage changes

**NEW** baggage allowances have been rolled out by Air Vanuatu for flights to/from Port Vila.

Effective today, the increase in allowance applies to all new bookings from Australia and New Zealand, with Economy class checked luggage increasing to 30kgs and Business to 40kgs.

Air Vanuatu's carry-on luggage is 7kgs in either class.

Excess baggage charges on flights from Australia to Vanuatu is now \$16 per kilogram, however if travelling in a group, passengers can pool their baggage allowance when checking-in together.

For all the details, **CLICK HERE**.

the company's sights including Europe and the UK.

The company, which was founded by Trouchet's parents, listed on the ASX last year and now has a fleet of 3,000 vehicles across Australia, NZ and the USA.

A recent \$40m capital raising helped fund the CanaDream acquisition as well as reset the company's balance sheet following the purchase of a 25% stake in online caravan and RV sharing community Camplify and Penrith, NSW-based Sydney RV.

## Air Tickets EMD enhancement

**AIR** Tickets has added the ability to issue EMDs (Electronic Miscellaneous Documents) for airline ancillaries such as extra baggage and seat selection instantly online.

The product soft launched in the Australian market about a month ago, with agents now able to book the required service in their GDS of choice, retrieve the booking, verify the service and click to issue the EMD.

Air Tickets' 'Name Your Own Price' feature has also been extended to EMDs for ancillary services, and the product provides clients with a supplementary Ancillary Service itinerary document to complement their flight documentation.

## COOK ISLANDS ON SALE

Sydney to Rarotonga direct from **\$269\***

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## \$200 off Evergreen

**EVERGREEN** Cruises & Tours is offering a \$200pp saving on all staterooms and suites on 2018 France river cruise sailings of 11 days or more booked during Jul.

## Lots of new Disney stuff

**WALT** Disney Parks and Resorts has confirmed dozens of new attractions, experiences and a seventh cruise ship (see **page 1**) at its D23 Expo 2017 event.

Chairman Bob Chapek said the entertainment company was "investing in the guest experience like never before".

Chapek revealed a number of new attractions for the *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge* land under development at Disneyland Park (opening in 2019) and at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando, as well as the first-ever Mickey-themed ride-through attraction, Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway, also at Hollywood Studios in Florida.

A Tron-themed attraction based on Shanghai Disneyland's most popular ride will be introduced to the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World Resort, along with a new theatre on Main St.

Three new properties are also

in the pipeline, with Chapek confirming a *Star Wars*-themed luxury hotel (**TD 01 May**) for a "multi-day adventure in a galaxy far, far away" in Florida.

A new Marvel-themed resort hotel at Disneyland Paris was flagged, along with a 15th Disney Vacation Club property near Epcot called Disney Riviera Resort.

Paradise Pier at the Disney California Adventure in Anaheim will be given a new look and rebranded as Pixar Pier in 2018.

Pixar Pier will be an immersive experience that brings to life an ensemble of favourite Pixar characters from *Inside Out*, *The Incredibles* and *Toy Story*.

To mark the new addition to California Adventure, there will also be a limited-time celebration event called Pixar Fest, held across Disneyland Resort.

Pixar Fest will feature a brand-new fireworks spectacular and the return of the Pixar Play Parade and Paint the Night.



## Window Seat

**FANS** of Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar can now stay in one of his personal houses, which has been turned into a 35-room luxury hotel.

For more than a decade, Escobar's mansion in Tulum, Mexico sat empty, before art dealer Lio Lamca renovated and transformed the property into the Casa Malca.

Room rates start from US\$509 a night at the Casa Malca, which was built in the 1890s.

The eco-friendly boutique hotel is located on a pristine stretch of a private beach in the popular beach resort.

Features include an underground steam room, pool and rooftop deck and rooms filled with paintings, sculptures and furniture from contemporary artists.



### Round 19 Winner

**Congratulations**

## ZEENA CROUDACE

from **STA Travel Gold Coast University**

Zeena is the top point scorer for Round 19 of Travel Daily's NRL footy tipping competition. She's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.




Major prize for the 2017 footy tipping competition is two return economy class airfares to any one of **EMIRATES** 39 European destinations.

NSW permit LTFS-17-11899 ACT permit TP 1700255

## Clinton at FC Ball

**FORMER** US President Bill Clinton was the keynote speaker at last weekend's Flight Centre Travel Group Global Gathering held in Hawaii, the group's chief digital editor has confirmed.

Atle Skalleberg also revealed the event's entertainment line-up included English band Duran Duran and DJ Mark Ronson.

It was also announced at the event that next year's Global Gathering is heading to Berlin.

## JetGo 'Gong routes

**NEW** domestic services linking Wollongong with Brisbane and Melbourne are on the cards for regional carrier Jetgo.

The *Illawarra Mercury* reported Jetgo is considering an exclusive deal to fly from Illawarra Regional Airport to BNE & MEB (Essendon) from as early as Oct.

The WOL-BNE service would operate six times weekly and the WOL-MEB service nine weekly.

## Nexus offers India

**NEXUS** Holidays has expanded its tour range to feature new destinations including India, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The company says it will offer the same style of "affordable luxury" as in its established China and Japan programs, with tour options aimed at both first-timers and return visitors.

Other new destinations include Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

See **page five** for more in Brochures of the Week.

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## Star Alliance celebrates 20 yrs



**REPRESENTATIVES** from Star Alliance airline are pictured above celebrating the group's 20th anniversary draw at this year's AFTA National Travel Industry Awards - see **page 1**.

From left are: Rick Pomery, Air Canada; Paul McLean, Air Canada; Belinda Condon, United Airlines; Brett Walsh, All Nippon Airways; Tim Clyde-Smith, South African Airways and Prin Youprasert & Pauline Leong, Thai Airways. More on **page one**.

## Jumeirah for Saudi

**JUMEIRAH** Group will manage Jabal Omar Jumeirah Makkah Hotel, a 1,033-room, five-star property to be developed within walking distance from the Grand Mosque in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. The hotel will include 93 villas, food and beverage offerings, meeting facilities, an executive lounge, gym & over 90 retail units. It will open in early 2019.

## QH Trip incentive

**BRAND** USA & Qantas Holidays are offering the chance to win \$250 Trip dollars to agents who complete its Discovery Program Universal Studios Hollywood Specialist Badge training.

A total of 18 \$250 Trip dollar prizes are up for grabs to those who complete the training between 14 Jul-31 Aug.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## easyJet Austria LCC

**EASYJET** is eyeing off launching a new airline in Austria and applied earlier in the year for an Air Operator Certificate from Austro Control, and to Austria's Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology for an airline operating license.

The move would allow easyJet to continue operating between and within EU countries after the UK's departure from the European Union in 2019.

## URBN Surf submit proposal

**PLANS** for a surf park at Sydney Olympic Park called URBNSURF (**TD** 29 Apr 16) have been detailed, highlighting the potential for the facility to attract int'l visitors and benefit tourism.

In a submission to the NSW Government, URBNSURF Group predicted the "world-class sport, recreation, leisure, tourism and event facility" would attract over 500,000 visitations per annum.

URBN Surf Sydney would encourage "tourism to Sydney and NSW with promotion to regional and international markets" and "support nearby businesses, including providers of short-term accommodation" such as Quest, Pullman and Ibis.

The proposal to NSW Planning

highlighted it would offer tourists and international students an opportunity to tick off the "to-do" list item of learning to surf.

It is envisaged URBN Surf Sydney would include an arrivals centre, change rooms, a surf academy and pro shop, equipment storage room, meeting rooms, an outdoor functions space and a cafe with a rooftop sun deck.

The facility would have capacity to host events, including international surfing competitions, along with private and corporate functions and art/music/film festivals.

The proposed development is now open for public exhibition and slated to open in 2019.



## HEAD OF OPERATIONS (Kimberley and Outback Wilderness Adventures)

Would you like to join Australia's most awarded tour and cruise company and become part of the ongoing success of the APT Travel Group - now celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> year. The APT Travel Group is currently seeking a Head of Operations to lead our Kimberley and Outback Wilderness Adventures operations team. This position is located in our Broome office.

The role of the Head of Operations is to manage the delivery of the KOWA operation across Australia to ensure quality in all aspects of our Wilderness Tours and Kimberley Lodges. This includes the delivery of all product from the relevant brochures, agreed customer service targets, meeting all budgetary requirements and to participate in the strategic growth of the APT programs.

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## Alliance RPT flights take off!



**GLADSTONE** Mayor Matt Burnett, travel agents and local businesses were out in force for Alliance Airlines' inaugural regular passenger transport (RPT) service from Brisbane to Gladstone earlier this morning.

Passengers on board received a t-shirt and first flight certificates to ensure the memory is etched permanently in their minds.

Alliance Airlines is also beginning new RPT flights to Port

Macquarie and Bundaberg today (TD 10 Jul).

To celebrate the occasion, Alliance is offering 1,000 seats for as low as \$59 until 23 Jul.

**Pictured** at Gladstone Airport bright and early this morning from left are Trudie Mansfield, Virgin Australia; Bianca Box, Nicole Carnovale & Hannah Brown from Flight Centre Gladstone with Alliance Airlines chief exec Lee Schofield.

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## Brochures

**THIS** week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by **Wendy Wu Tours**. 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](mailto:brochures@traveldaily.com.au).



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### Nexus Holidays - Explore Asia

Nexus Holidays has released tours in new destinations including India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Borneo, with a range of tour itineraries for both first time visitors and returning travellers looking to explore in more detail. Nexus' new brochure also showcases some of its long-standing favourites in Japan, the company's second top-selling destination after China. Other destinations on offer include Taiwan and South Korea, plus there is a new range of Island Escapes - resort-based holidays designed as tour add-ons.



### U by Uniworld - 2018

U by Uniworld has launched its 2018 brochure, which targets 21 to 45 year olds. The brochure highlights a number of itineraries on the two U by Uniworld vessels, called *The A* and *The B*. Prices for U by Uniworld lead in at \$2,499pp for an eight-day sailing along the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers on *The A*. *The B* will sail exclusively on the Seine in France with prices from \$2,999pp. The brochure also explains how to match U traveller types with tours for the foodie, adventurer, culture vulture, explorer, the romantic and the night owl.

## FlyCorp SYD flights

**FLY** Corporate from Sep will add a week-day service between Sydney and Narrabri.

Metroliner aircraft will operate the route from 13 Sep.

Also from 13 Sep, NAA - Moree - BNE - NAA service will be converted to Narrabri - Brisbane direct in both directions.

## Cairns plan released

**THE** Queensland Government has unveiled concept images on how the \$176m overhaul of the Cairns Convention Centre will look.

Part of the plan will include a sweeping glass atrium to welcome visitors to the convention centre, and a new 3,000m² exhibition hall.

Read more in today's **BEN**.

## Indigo to London

**IHG** has signed Hotel Indigo London - One Leicester Square as its latest hotel in London.

Due to open in late 2017, there will be 95 guest rooms, a rooftop bar and restaurant.

**MEANWHILE**, Indigo has also launched its first Hotel Indigo in a resort location after opening the doors to its new Bali property.

Located on Seminyak Beach, the Hotel Indigo Bali Seminyak Beach has 270 rooms and suites.

## Virtuoso Week

**OVER** 50 wellness products will be on display at Virtuoso Travel Week in Las Vegas next month.

More than 120 Australian agents will make the trek to the annual convention.



## Cathay 'get packing'

**CATHAY** Pacific is running a "Get Packing Sale" offering savings on flights to destinations in Asia, China, Europe, North America and Israel.

Seats are in Economy class from major Australian gateways and include return flights from Sydney-Taipei from \$819, Melbourne-Shanghai from \$649 and Adelaide-Tokyo from \$794.

Premium Economy class return flights are also available, including Sydney-Boston from \$3,528.

The sale ends 08 Aug and is for travel from today until 31 Mar.

## 2020 world cruise

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises has unveiled its 2020 131-night Navigate The World cruise will be operated on *Seven Seas Mariner* and visit 30 countries.

Passengers can either depart 06 Jan from Miami or 24 Jan from San Francisco and the cruise will visit South Pacific Islands, India, the Arabian Peninsula, the Med, the Caribbean & Central America.

The sailing includes stops at 66 ports and visits to 36 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Both departures will open for bookings on 21 Jul.

## WIN A LUXURY RIVER CRUISE



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This month, Scenic and *Travel Daily* are giving readers the chance to win a luxurious river cruise. Experience a 15-day cruise in a balcony suite. The prize includes:

- Jewels of Europe river cruise for 2 people departing Oct 2018
- Return flights to Europe
- Complimentary beverages all day, everyday, all meals, private butler service and all tipping & gratuities

To win, answer every daily question correctly and have the most creative answer to the final question. Send your answers to [scenic@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:scenic@traveldaily.com.au)

**SCENIC**  
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

Q11. Which two cities does the Jewels of Europe itinerary cruise between?

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## Agents catch Okinawa rays



**ANA**, Okinawa Convention and Visitors Bureau and Hilton Hotels recently showed a team of agents around the island paradise of Okinawa, Japan on a five-day famil.

The group flew in ANA's Business class on its Boeing 787-9 *Dreamliner* and stayed at the Conrad Hilton Tokyo before travelling to Okinawa where they stayed at the Hilton Okinawa.

Highlights of the trip included lunch at the Double Tree by Hilton Naha Shuri Castle, a cooking class at Taste of Okinawa, snorkelling at Zamami Island and visiting the Zakimi-jo Ruins, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The famil was rounded out with dinner at Hilton Odaiba.

Participants pictured at Okinawa include Maryanne Osborne, The Travel Authority; Katherine Pollard, Spencer Travel; Marcela Hrcir, Mary Rossi Travel; Robin Barret, TravelManagers; Louis Miles, Flight Centre; Melissa Gray, Chisholm & Turner Travel

Associates; Trent Potter, Travel Emporium and Chevey Molina, from Egencia.

## JD PEK/LIS launch

**HNA** Group subsidiary Beijing Capital Airlines has confirmed it will begin flying direct from China to Portugal on 25 Jul.

The Hangzhou-Beijing-Lisbon route is the airline's first international route between the two countries and is part of efforts to build "the new Silk Road" and promote tourism.

It will be operated three times a week using Airbus A330 aircraft.

**AFL**

## Round 17 Winner

Congratulations

**TANYA  
LITTLEJOHN**

from *Ticket to Travels*

Tanya is the top point scorer for Round 17 of *Travel Daily's* AFL footy tipping competition. She's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.

**Expedia TAAP**



Major prize for the 2017 footy tipping competition is two return economy class airfares to any one of **EMIRATES** 39 European destinations.



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