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Joie de Vivre christened

THE Travel Corporation founder and chairman Stanley Tollman has labeled the launch of Uniworld **Boutique River Cruise Collection's** newest ship, Joie de Vivre as a pinnacle in the company's history.

Speaking at the christening of the vessel in Paris overnight, Tollman touted the new vessel as "one of our best achievements".

"The standard of workmanship, the quality of people working aboard and the enthusiasm that everybody who has seen it has embraced it with, has made me seriously proud."

Tollman revealed to attendees at the event that following the attacks at The Bataclan, he opted to hold off on the construction of the ship, but a week later decided that wouldn't be "right".

Joie de Vivre is currently 90% booked out for the year, with

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news & photos, plus full pages from:

- inPlace Recruitment
- Royal Brunei product page

Tollman noting that Paris is "coming back strongly".

"The word is 'support France' so this is what we're doing and I really believe it's starting to work," he said.

At 125 metres in length, the ship is 10m shorter than the standard, allowing it to dock closer to the city centre of Paris, within easy walking distance of the iconic Eiffel Tower.

Joie de Vivre is operating an eight-day Paris & Normandy inaugural cruise on the Seine and will also be utilised for Uniworld's 15-day Grand France; 15-day A Portrait of Majestic France; 22day Ultimate France and eightday Parisian Royal Holiday cruises.

See page five and today's issue of Cruise Weekly for more info.

Cruise360 regos open

CLIA has named Jan Swartz, group president Princess Cruises & Carnival Australia and Larry Pimental, ceo & president of Azamara Club Cruises as keynote speakers for Cruise360 Australasia being held in Sydney in Aug.

To register to attend, see pg 10.

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TNQ 'open for business'

TROPICAL North Queensland has assured the travel industry it remains open for business, despite the wrath of Cyclone Debbie further south.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland chief exec officer Alex de Waal said the region had been enjoying clear sunny days.

"Cairns and Tropical North Queensland is open for business with both the Cairns Airport and the Cairns Port open," he said.

"All 600-plus tours including those to the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics rainforest are operating as normal."

Cyclone Debbie was expected to make landfall today at Bowen near the Whitsundays, about 600km south of Cairns.

"We wish our southern tourism

RBA giveaway

ROYAL Brunei Airlines and OTT are offering travel agents a chance to win two return tickets to anywhere on the carrier's network when they complete a specialist program by 15 Apr.

For more details, see *Travel Daily*'s destination profile on **p11**.

colleagues the best as they prepare for Cyclone Debbie and trust they will be open for business soon," de Waal said.

MEANWHILE, Qantas has joined other airlines in offering waivers for flights affected by the cyclone (*TD* yesterday).

Passengers on Qantas flights to/ from Hamilton Island, Townsville, Proserpine, Mackay or Moranbah can rebook or reroute, change destinations or take a credit - for full details, **CLICK HERE**.

HLO business summit

HELLOWORLD for Business will hold its annual summit at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre from 17-19 May, with Qantas ceo Alan Joyce announced as guest speaker.

A range of "informative and interactive" sessions are planned.

This year's event will be held in the days before the HLO Owner Managers Conference, with both events sharing a combined gala awards night.

Two new award categories cover HLO for Business, honouring the Manager and Office of the Year.



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CLICK HERE for further details

Airbnb brings Trips to Sydney

AIRBNB has expanded Trips to Australia by officially launching in Sydney, before possibly spreading out to other cities in Australia.

The Airbnb platform allows travellers to bring every aspect of their trip into one place.

Trips will offer local experiences, tips, social events and insider knowledge from locals.

Starting today, travellers and locals can choose from close to 20 Sydney-based activities

TRAVELMARVEL -

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Travel More

designed and led by local experts, including taking in the sunrise, surf and sand with Bondi Rescue Lifeguard, Andrew Reid to discover the art of making fascinators with Neil Grieg.

Vice president of product Joe Zadeh said there has been overwhelming feedback and interest since the global launch of the product last year.

"Everyone is eager to experience a different side of a city whilst immersing themselves in local communities," he said.

The platform was originally launched in 12 cities around the world in Nov 2016 (TD 18 Nov) and recently added music experiences to its Trips platform earlier this month (TD 10 Mar).

Another Etihad A380

ETIHAD Airways has taken delivery of its ninth Airbus A380 over the weekend in Toulouse.

The Abu Dhabi-based carrier still has one remaining on order, which is currently being fitted out.

EY operates its A380 to hubs including Sydney and Melbourne.

CX/LH Grp c'sharing

CATHAY Pacific and Lufthansa Group have signed a co-operation agreement on routes to Europe and Southwest Pacific.

Under the deal, CX will offer 14 new destinations in Germany, Belgium, Hungary, Norway, Italy, Switzerland and Austria on flights operated by Lufthansa, Swiss and Austrian Airlines.

will be added to Cathay's services from Hong Kong to Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns and Auckland.

airlines' frequent flyer programs.

Lufthansa Group chief exec and chairman Carsten Spohr said the agreement with Cathay Pacific "is another key building block in our Asia strategy".

will be available from 05 Apr for travel commencing 26 Apr.

CX plans to deploy the A350 on

EK seat selection

AMADEUS has enabled seat selection on Emirates flights, allowing agents using the GDS to select client seats at the time of purchase.

EK also recently launched its branded fares via the Amadeus distribution channel.

128 airlines have signed up for Amadeus Airline Ancillary Services, with the service having already been rolled out to a total of 91 carriers.



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Lufthansa Group airline codes

The tie-up extends to both

Tickets for the new arrangement

MEANWHILE, CX has inaugurated flights between Hong Kong and Tel Aviv using Airbus A350s.

Operating on a four weekly basis, the service will be boosted to five from 01 Sep to 17 Nov as a result of strong bookings.

Barcelona & Christchurch routes.



Aloha — Vote Now! 2017 NTIA Awards

Hawaiian Airlines -Best Online Airline (Cat. 19)

Joyce Weir - Best Sales Executive -Industry Supplier (Cat. 32)

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Fresh face for Freestyle

INDEPENDENT wholesale travel company Si Holidays has revealed a brand refresh for the recently acquired Freestyle Holidays which it took over late last year.

Si Holidays this week unveiled its 2017/18 USA brochure, the first destination guide crafted by the team, featuring a beefed up selection of "the best of the USA" and to regions including Kentucky, Chattanooga and Alabama.

Managing director Tui Eruera said Freestyle Hols was excited to introduce a "whole new look and feel to the brand" with record

Crown Perth appoints

SCOTT Alderson has been appointed as director of sales for Crown Hotels Perth, responsible for the sale strategies of Crown Towers, Crown Metropol & Crown Promenade in the WA capital.

His past experience includes roles with Mantra Group & IHG.

FREESTYLE

HOLIDAYS

numbers of Aussies travelling across the Pacific to America.

"Over 60% of Australian visitors are repeat travellers to the USA, so there is a natural inclination to explore beyond the more well-worn hotspots and discover a genuine America that the southern states and the Rocky Mountains region has to offer."

The brochure offers FIT, selfdrive arrangements, as well as escorted motorcoach & air tours.

To mark the rebrand, Freestyle is rewarding agents with a bonus 1,000 Si rewards points when taking a selfie with the USA brochure and tagging the image using #freestyleholidays.

Consultants receive a \$100 Universal Gift Card for every 7,000 points amassed.

Find out how the big screen and travel marketing can go hand in hand in the March issue of travelBulletin.

CLICK HERE to read travelBulletin



Qantas Oman layover

PASSENGERS aboard a Qantas A380 flying from Melbourne to Dubai last Fri encountered a 34 hour stopover in Muscat. Oman.

Due to severe storms in Dubai, the flight was diverted to nearby Muscat, however the A380 experienced a bird-strike which resulted in a further delay as it was necessary for an engineer to be flown in to inspect the aircraft.

A spokesperson told *Travel Daily* the 400 passengers onboard were provided hotel accommodation in Muscat, and departed the Oman capital at 6pm local time on 26 Mar once all safety checks had been completed.

QF's aircraft arrived in Dubai 38.5hrs later than scheduled.

As a result of the delayed QF double decker, the Australian airline was forced to cancel the 25 Mar Dubai to London return service with passengers reaccommodated on alternative services with QF's partner airlines.



Window Seat

THEY'RE calling it legging-gate. United Airlines has copped flak this week after it banned two teenage girls from boarding because they were wearing leggings.

Apparently they were flying with their dad on a staff travel pass - which includes conditions banning spandex or Lycra pants because they are essentially "representing their airline."

Activists questioned United's decision to police women's clothing, calling the airline's policy "sexist" because the father was allowed on board while wearing shorts.

Rival Delta joined the action, proudly tweeting (below) that it's a "legging-friendly" airline.

Flying Delta means comfort. (That means you can wear your leggings. 😌)

AUSTRALIA, ALL HANDS ON DECK!

A big thanks for nominating us in the 2017 AFTA National Travel Industry Awards.

Please vote P&O Cruises for

Best Cruise Operator - Domestic Deployment!

VOTE NOW



Travel Daily

on location on the river **Seine**

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection on board *Joie de Vivre*.

TRAVEL Daily was on deck for the christening of *Joie de Vivre* in Paris overnight by actor and author, Dame Joan Collins.

Collins told guests that Paris holds a very special place in her heart, and she is delighted to be the god mother of the ship.

"Paris is without a doubt the city of light and I love it", she said, adding "I think it is wonderful that this beautiful ship is starting off here".

Collins officiated the ceremony, handing the key to the ship from the shipyard to the captain, cutting the ribbon and pouring champagne over the bell.

The ceremony was followed by a Champagne sail away party on the sun deck overlooking the Eiffel Tower, and lunch on board.

Tonight the celebrations continue with a cocktail reception and dinner to mark the beginning of the inaugural cruise.

Travel Daily will be on board all week for *Joie de Vivre's* first cruise along the Seine.



AUSTRALIA was well-represented at the christening of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection's Joie de Vivre overnight, with more than 20 reps from the Aussie trade, media and their guests in attendance.

Fiona Dalton, managing director Australia for Uniworld said Australians have "really embraced" the new ship and the company has seen a rebound in the market for France in the past 12 months.

"Australians have a very inquiring mind and to come to France and to be at the epicentre of some of the best European culture is incredible, and that's never going to change and therefore, not surprisingly

the demand for this ship is extraordinarily high in our fleet," she told *Travel Daily*.

Pictured during the Champagne sail away party on the sun deck are: Marg Mullholland, Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG); Baden Brown, Launceston Travel and Cruise; Rhona Rodgers, MTA; Vivien Davies, Sylvania Travel and Cruise; Campbell Harris, Global Journeys; Ellen Bettridge, ceo, Uniworld; Louise and **Brett Dann from Hunter Travel** Group; Michelle Ashcroft, Phil Hoffmann Travel; Claudia Rossi, Mary Rossi Travel; Fiona Dalton, md Australia, Uniworld; Greg Ashmore, Ashmore & James and Robyn Blacklock, Flight Centre Travel Group.



Tuesday 28th Mar 2017

Booking.com up top

ROY Morgan Research has found Booking.com to be Australia's number one travel agent ahead of Flight Centre and newcomer Airbnb.

Booking.com was used by 9.3% of the population, which was only slightly ahead of Flight Centre at 9.0%, while Helloworld was the next best retail agent used, but down in 10th place (2.1%).

It's the first time in years that an agent other than Flight Centre has occupied the top spot.

Flight Centre maintained a healthy lead as the travel agent more Australians would consider using next time they take a holiday at 23.4%.

UA 787s to Auckland

UNITED Airlines has changed the operating aircraft for its new San Francisco-Auckland service.

Due to take effect on 29 Oct, UA will switch from Boeing 777-200ER to 787-9 *Dreamliners*, according to GDS displays, before shuffling to 787-8 from 07 Jan.





MasterChef to Japan

NETWORK Ten's cooking show *MasterChef Australia* will head to Japan this season as part of Japan Week, sponsored by Japan National Tourism Organisation (JNTO) Sydney Office, in partnership with Qantas.

Contestants will explore Tokyo and regional parts of the nation, & face a series of culinary tasks.

JNTO Sydney Office executive director Kana Wakabayashi said: "Food is a highlight of travel for so many people and we hope the show will inspire more people to visit Japan and experience our excellent food for themselves".

Fiji Marriott DOSM

MARRIOTT International has announced the appointment of Michelle Scott as director of sales & marketing at Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay.

Scott has more than 20 years' industry experience including senior roles for several hotels with Marriott International group.

Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay is earmarked to open next month.

HWT Halong add-on

HELEN Wong's Tours has introduced a two-night Hanoi to Halong Bay add-on (for its four-night Discover Hanoi package) that includes an overnight stay on a junk-style cruise, priced from \$340 per person twin share.

Meals & sightseeing are included in the one night package.

The Discover Hanoi package is priced from \$1,150ppts and takes advantage of Vietnam Airlines new Sydney-Hanoi service.

EY big e-device action

US BOUND travellers flying with Etihad Airways via Abu Dhabi are being alerted by the airline of the newly adopted bans on electronic devices such as tablets & laptops, which must now be transported in checked luggage.

EY is deploying more staff at its US Preclearance facility in T3 at AUH to provide aid - details **HERE**.

Blue Train bookings

AFRICAREPS has advised that booking procedures for The Blue Train remain unchanged despite a delay in the renewal of contracts from 01 Apr for its marketing teams (TD Fri).

Agents should continue to make reservations for The Blue Train through normal channels.



THOUSANDS of people attended the 12th Rendez-vous en France last night, filling the streets of Rouen for a welcome event and parade.

About 900 buyers and media from around the world, including 16 from Australia, gathered in the French city's Abbey Saint Ouen for an aperitif and snack before joining a massive street party.

Security was tight as street performers enthralled the crowd and mimes led visitors to the fourteen restaurants in Le Vieux Marche (the old market place where Joan of Arc met her demise) for a welcome feast.

Atout France director for Australia Patrick Benhamou told *Travel Daily* that Rendez-vous en France was an opportunity for buyers to discover fresh ideas.

"Since a large percentage, perhaps 80%, of the Australian market is repeat clients, people who have already been to France are looking for new products and new regions to visit," he said.

Director of the Rouen Normandy Tourism Office Yves Leclerc said it was important that locals could also join in the welcome ceremony, mixing with participants in the city streets.

Pictured with performers are, from left, Brad McDonnell, French Travel Connection; Elisabeth Franco Vale Viga, Passport Travel; Patrick Benhamou, Atout France and Sophie Meunier, French Travel Connection.



Do we deserve your vote?



If you believe we deserve to win, please vote for Travelport in Category 31 and our sales executives Bianca Orsola-Rose or Haley Crook in Category 32. Voting closes Friday 31 March 5pm AEST











Qld strengthens tourism ties



TOURISM & Events Queensland (TEQ) has signed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding with Chinese travel agency Utour to work together to promote the state's destinations in China through trade roadshows, promos on Utour's media channels and marketing campaigns.

Over 484,000 Chinese visitors spent \$1b in Qld in 2016 making it the most valuable int'l market. Utour provides travel advice to over 1.5m customers per year.

Qld Tourism Minister Kate Jones met with senior reps from the company at Utour's flagship store in Shanghai to talk business.

Pictured from left are: TEQ ceo, Leanne Coddington; Utour vp, Han Li; Minister Kate Jones and Utour vice gm Jenny Wu.

Disney's Iger re-signs

WALT Disney co chairman and ceo Bob Iger has had his contract extended for a third and final period, now staying on until 02 Jul 2019 before stepping down.

Since his takeover in 2005, Disney's share price has risen more than 200%.

Orin Smith, independent lead director of the Disney board said the company will conduct a robust process of identifying a successor and ensuring a smooth transition before Iger departs.

COO Tom Staggs was a hot favourite before leaving last year.

Aloft for Mauritius

MARRIOTT International will launch its Aloft brand in Mauritius in early 2019, with the inking of Aloft Mauritius Port Louis.

The existing nine floor office building will be transformed into a 150 room hotel, the first adaptive re-use project in Africa.

AAX Bali to Tokyo

LOW-COST carrier AirAsiaX Indonesia will fly from Denpasar (Bali) to the Narita International Airport Tokyo from 24 May.

The route will operate four times weekly using Airbus A330 with a capacity of 377 seats, incl 12 premium flatbed seats.



Round 5 Winner

Congratulations

GEOFF HOUSTON

from MTA Travel

Geoff is the top point scorer for Round 5 of Travel Daily's Super Rugby footy tipping competition. He's won a \$100 travel voucher courtesy of Expedia.





Major prize for the 2017 footy tipping competition is return economy class airfares to Dubai flying with **EMIRATES**. Emirates has 77 flights per week to DXB.

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AFTA update

From AFTA's chief executive, Jayson Westbury

THE world has once again been confronted with an act of despicable terrorism with the events last week in London at Westminster. This disgraceful act by an individual who has taken the lives of five people and injured a further 50 comes with such a shock. I was in London the day after the incident (Thursday 23 March), as chance would

have it, and attended the London vigil at Trafalgar Square to remember the victims of the random act. At the time of the vigil there had only been three deaths, but sadly as the days have passed, this number has increased to five.

It was a very calming experience to be in a place like London that would usually be a hive of activity. With traffic diverted away from the square, surrounded by history represented by iconic buildings, museums and people, hundreds of people, the city stood still. The bells of Big Ben could be heard over the silence as the moment was remembered. Moving in so many ways, but so sad for the loss of lives.

From my firsthand account, the feeling in London and with the various meetings that I was attending, is that the city will not let this act falter them from the resolve of living a free and happy life. While it was just the day after the attack that I was there, it clearly was the talk around town was, that life moves on quickly. Having said that, to see the flag at halfmast over Parliament, an iconic tourist attraction itself, was sobering.

It does seem to me that the world is getting more and more used to these things happening and just not letting them stop us from having the freedom of life that we all so often take for granted. I am sure that the UK authorities will move swiftly to contain any direct further fallout from this act and it would already seem from the subsequent arrests that they are doing just that.

For me, having been there for just two days, other than the area directly around Westminster, I would have to say that one would not have known there was anything going on. London has just moved on to keep doing what it does; being one of the world's most amazing cities.

I am sure the global travel and tourism industry will support them [London] even more at this time and if I was to give any advice on the matter, continue to travel as you would, as we have no way of ever really knowing what a crazy person may do and where they may do it next.

2019 China-NZ Year of

CHINA and New Zealand have

announced the 2019 China-New

Zealand tourism industry to forge

Tourism New Zealand's acting

chief executive Brighid Kelly said,

the Year of Tourism will spark new

relations and open doors for Kiwi

attracting independent travellers

based tourism businesses.

TNZ is keen to focus on

who tend to stay longer and

spend more than tour groups.

It follows a similar move by

China and Australia for the 2017

China-Australia Year of Tourism.

Tourism initiative

Zealand Year of Tourism.

The agreement offers

closer links in China.

opportunities for the New

WOW adds Chicago

ICELANDIC budget airline WOW air is adding Chicago O'Hare to its network from 13 Jul. WOW's ninth North American route will operate four times a week using Airbus A321-300s.

Tickets from Chicago to Keflavik start at US\$99.

Gauguin brochure

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has released its 2018 Voyages brochure featuring Tahiti, French Polynesia, and South Pacific cruising itineraries.

It says it will be the first cruise line to visit Vairao in Tahiti.

The cruise line is offering savings of 50% off standard all-inclusive cruise fares on all 2018 itineraries.

LANGHAM Hospitality Group has launched the 'No Strings Attached PLUS' program to offer event planners and organisers more flexibility with exclusive rewards and privileges.

Langham MICE focus

The offer may be booked from 01 Apr to 31 Aug for events from 01 Apr to 31 Dec at participating hotels under Langham Hospitality.

Key highlights include: waived cancellation terms, free internet, no minimum spend on food and beverages, one 30 minute cocktail reception and more.

CLICK HERE for further details.

AVANI Ras Khaimah

MINOR Hotels has announced the signing of a management agreement for a new AVANI property in the UAE.

AVANI Al Marian Island Ras Al Khaimah Resort will be located on View Island.

The property is 50 minutes from DXB and will open in 2019.



Tuesday 28th Mar 2017

Legoland locomotive

LEGOLAND Japan will open its doors on 01 Apr and to celebrate a LEGOLAND themed train (pictured below) began operation on Nagoya Rinkai Rapid Transit's Aonami Line this week.

The Train consists of four cars that are themed after the Lost Kingdom Adventure, The Dragon Coaster, Rescue Academy, and Submarine Adventure attractions, to get guests in the Lego mood.





This month Travel Daily and Lufthansa Group are offering readers the chance to experience their award-winning long haul product on a trip to any European destination served by the Lufthansa Group. The Lufthansa Group prize includes two return economy class flights with Lufthansa Group and their airline partners ex-Australia to any European destination of your choice.

The Lufthansa Group - composed of Austrian, Lufthansa and Swiss International Air Lines - offers Australian travelers the world's most comprehensive European network and more than 300 global destinations accessed through their four regional hubs. The theme of this competition is Mixed Class - learn more about the product HERE.

Open to all Australian Travel Agents, the lucky winner will have the most correct answers as well as the most creative entry to the final question. Send your answers to lufthansa@traveldaily.com.au

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Sales Executive - International Airline

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Corporate Team Leader/ Assist. Mgr

Sydney

Salary from \$70K + super neg.

Bring your operational leadership experience to this respected corporate brand that are currently experiencing growth. In this role you will lead a small team of domestic & international consultants, mentor and guide them, conduct weekly meetings and manage their workflow. You will also handle any VIP consulting, problem resolution and client relations.

Excellent retention

Supportive environment

Call Ben or click here

Trade Sales & Marketing Manager

Sydney Leadership role

Currently in a period of growth, this adventure wholesaler is seeking a Trade Sales & Marketing Mgr to maximise all sales opportunities & manage key relationships. You will build relationships, negotiate contracts with retail partners, attend industry events, manage sales budget & lead the sales team. A unique role handling global product for travellers that are looking to get off the beaten track.

Lots of variety!

Influence co. direction

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Event Coordinator

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25 AUGUST 2017 – Conference & Trade Show 26 AUGUST 2017 – Ship Inspection

Jan Swartz & Larry Pimentel take centre stage at Cruise 360



We're pleased to announce Cruise360 2017 keynote speakers: Jan Swartz, Group President Princess Cruises & Carnival Australia and Larry Pimentel, President & CEO Azamara Club Cruises.

Cruise360 will have a fresh new look with interactive panel discussions, specialist break out sessions as well as a dynamic trade show where conference attendees have the opportunity to meet with both cruise line representatives and other significant cruise industry focused suppliers.

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IT'S a short flight time of 6 hours and 50 minutes between Melbourne and Brunei. The nation lies in the heart of Borneo on top of the island, between Indonesia to the West and Malaysia to the East. Officially known as "The abode of Peace", as a destination, it is an exciting melting pot of culture, cuisine and nature and this tiny nation and its people are warm and engaging and always very welcoming to tourists with many places to explore.

OMAR ALI SAIFUDDIEN MOSQUE AND THE WATER VILLAGE

A drawcard for people of any faith is the Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque, situated in downtown Bandar Seri Begawan; the Capital city of Brunei. The grandness of this holy site is shown with its roof crafted in gold and it is considered as one of the most beautiful mosques in Asia Pacific. The nearby Kampong Ayer is the world's largest water village and was established as an old fishing village 1300 years ago, yet today remains a place which 30,000 people still live and work in, connected by water taxis and foot bridges. Homes, schools and even hospitals are built on stilts in the river and a commute by boat is the local daily routine.



BEAUTIFUL NATURE OF BRUNEI

One of the only places that can claim to have a waterfall 15 minutes away from the CBD, Brunei's capital has the Tasek Lama Recreational Park where you can witness the wonders of tropical flora and fauna and follow a trail to witness the nation's natural beauty. It is not uncommon to witness monkeys playing in trees in the central business district of Bandar Seri Begawan, surrounded by locals going about their daily lives.

Alternatively, visitors can take a trip to the Ulu Temburong National park and experience the untouched rainforest, home to proboscis monkeys. From here, visitors can take a walk on the canopy walkway which is situated high above the tree tops and see the rainforest from a birds eye view!

LEARN MORE & WIN!

Royal Brunei Airlines and OTT have a specialist program for agents

Complete and pass the Royal Brunei OTT course by 15 April 2017 to go in to the draw to win 2 return tickets to anywhere on the BI network.



Website: www.flyroyalbrunei.com