# Travel Daily

First with the news

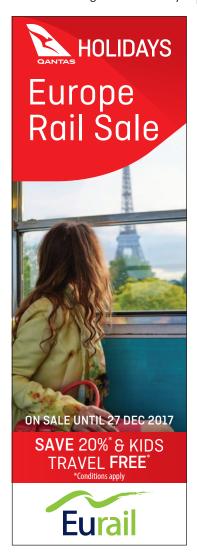
Monday 23rd October 2017



### **Beijing to Europe**

**HNA** Group offshoot Beijing Capital Airlines is expanding its European network, with GDS reservations now open for flights to Copenhagen and Helsinki.

Both routes will operate thrice weekly, with PEK-CPH to debut 27 Mar and HEL flights from 30 May.



### Ireland touts DUB as hub

**ONE-STOP** connections from Australia to Dublin are positioning the Irish capital as a gateway for travel to Europe, with Tourism Ireland working to capitalise on the city's expanding flight links.

Currently Etihad, Emirates and Qatar Airways all offer Dublin services, with the Middle Eastern trio to be joined by Cathay Pacific flights ex HKG from Jun 2018.

Ireland was in focus in Sydney on Fri when Tourism Ireland (TI) hosted a special event (see p4) to commemorate the state visit of Irish President Michael D. Higgins.

Attendees included Tourism Ireland ceo Niall Gibbons as well as New York-based Alison

### Today's issue of TD

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

- Melia Hotels
- AA Appointments jobs

Metcalfe, recently appointed as TI head of Nth America & Australia/ NZ in a global restructure to align "developed" markets for Ireland.

Metcalfe told **TD** the Australian market was key, with Aussies staying an average of 12-13 days and spending more than visitors from other countries.

"An increasing number of people now fly through Dublin to Europe," she said, with many spending time at the start or end of their trips in Ireland.

There is strong air connectivity from Dublin into the continent, while ferry options to Scotland are also popular, Metcalfe said.

Destination development is a key focus for Tourism Ireland, with Metcalfe saying "we want to grow sustainable, immersive, authentic experiences," in sectors such as golf and 'screen tourism' as well as themed itineraries such as the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Ancient East.

### Air security move

**FEDERAL** Transport Minister Darren Chester has flagged a strengthening of airside security at major Australian airports, with screening, random explosive residue testing and tighter access controls for baggage handlers, caterers and aircraft engineers.





## TICKET UP TO WIN

To enter, eligible entrants must book Virgin Australia Economy Getaway and Freedom fares on Trans Tasman and International short-haul flights ex Australia marketed or operated by Virgin Australia between 3 October 2017 and 5 November 2017 for travel highest ticketed revenue will WIN 2 return Business Class flights to Hong Kong. Plus there are weekly prizes up for grabs!

\*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. PROMOTION ENDS 5 NOVEMBER 2017.

WIN

FIND OUT MORE





### MH picks new ceo

**MALAYSIA** Airlines has named Izham Ismail as its new group ceo, replacing Peter Bellew who guit to join Ryanair (TD 18 Oct).

Izham has served as the airline's chief operating officer since last year and will take up the position on 01 Dec.



### Lindblad's fresh releases

**LINDBLAD** Expeditions will this week unveil its new French Polynesia and the South Pacific itineraries for 2018 as well as its Explorations 2018/19 brochure.

In Australia to officially launch the additions to the local market. Lesa Bain vp of sales Nth America, Lindblad Expeditions, told TD the five new itineraries in the South Pacific for 2018 "show a much broader picture" of the region.

"People have a tendency to think of the South Pacific as sandy beaches and Polynesian dancing and what we're trying to do with these itineraries is show that there's a very rich cultural landscape, depending on which area you are in."

Bain said a highlight of the itineraries was the eight-day Isles, Atolls, and Pristine Corals: Southern Line Islands, which visits destinations where research is conducted to see what reef systems were like before humans.

The new itineraries have been specifically designed for National Geographic Orion and Bain said guests would be offered the opportunity to dive and snorkel in some of the most remote places.

MEANWHILE. Lindblad's new Explorations 2018/19 brochure packs in seven new itineraries, including a new Belize and Guatemala land and sea tour.

Also included are sailings in Alaska on the brand's newest ship, National Geographic Quest, and the usual popular destinations for Lindblad, Galapagos Islands and Antarctica.

The company has revealed it is doing exploratory work in the Russian Far East, with the brochure packing in "a little teaser" for guests.

Bain confirmed Lindblad would likely offer several different itineraries in the Russian Far East in 2019.

More in CW tomorrow.

### **QF** funds passports

**QANTAS** has announced it will pay for Americans to get their passports when they book its flights to Australia.

The carrier is offering a discount of US\$135 - equal to the United States passport fee - as part of a wider digital marketing campaign.











### Viking extensions

VIKING Cruises has announced two new cruise extensions to its popular Alaska & the Inside Passage ocean itinerary - the eight-day Canadian Rockies (priced from \$5,339pp) and the seven-day Pristine Alaska (from \$4,939pp).



### Travellers facing NZ fee

**NEW** Zealand is set to impose a NZ\$25 tourist tax on international visitors after the surprise election victory of Jacinda Ardern on Fri.

Ardern's Labour Party, which claimed government after forming a coalition with the New Zealand First and Green parties, announced early in its election campaign that it would hit visitors with a fee equal to about A\$22 to help create a NZ\$75 million fund for new infrastructure projects.

CX traffic slump

**CATHAY** Pacific and Cathay

The pax load factor dropped

kilometres (ASKs), jumped 2.4%.

The biggest capacity drop was

5.3% and came out of India and

So far in 2017, the number of pax carried increased by 0.1%

2.3% to 81.0%, while capacity,

measured in available seat

the Middle East region.

while capacity rose 2.0%.

Dragon saw a 1.2% decrease

in passenger traffic in Sep,

compared to Sep 2016.

The move was in response to local concerns about the impact of growing tourism numbers on regional facilities, from hiking trails to public toilets.

While the incoming government has yet to say when the fee would be introduced, Labour's tourism spokesman Fris Faafoi said during the campaign he would meet with customs officials to determine the best means of applying the tax.

### On time figures slip

**ON TIME** performance across all domestic airlines slipped to 80.6% from 83.6% for departures in Sep, according to BITRE.

Qantas achieved the highest level of on time departures at 82.8%, followed by Virgin Australia on 82.0%, Jetstar at 71.5% and Tigerair on 71.0%.

Cancellations grew from 2.0% in Aug to 2.5% in Sep 2017.

On time arrivals were 79.3% with QF top (81.5%) & VA 79.1%.

### India outbound market to hit \$45b

THE outbound Indian tourism market is forecast to be valued at \$45b by 2022, according to a report by Research and Markets.

The main beneficiaries are likely to be neighbouring Asian markets due to an appetite for short-haul and low budget holidays from Indian tourists, whereas the favoured long-haul destinations include Australia, NZ & the US.



# Window

A GAGGLE of Mr Bean lookalikes descended on London last week, all in the name of attracting more visitors.

Dressed in the bumbling loner's trademark outfit and clutching the iconic 'Teddy' bear, they travelled on the Underground & went for a ride on the London Eye (pictured).

The Beans were out to celebrate the launch of a mobile game called Play London with Mr Bean, designed to help visitors discover London's highlights.



### QF/LA Asia c'share

**QANTAS** and LATAM Airlines have applied to operate codeshare services on selected Asian routes from 01 Dec.

The partnership would see the carriers codeshare on Qantas Hong Kong and Singapore flights.

The application follows the launch of non-stop flight from Melbourne to Santiago by LATAM earlier this month, a move supported by another codeshare deal agreed to with its Australian partner Qantas.



The Art of Travelling in Style

### Vale Carmela Modica

THE travel industry is mourning the passing of Carmela Modica, who founded Modica Travel Service in Victoria in 1970.

Modica passed away peacefully on 19 Oct surrounded by family. A funeral will be held at St

Mary's Catholic Church in Dandenong on 25 Oct at 10.30am.





#### Anantara unveils

**NEW** contemporary Thai inspired guestrooms have been unveiled at Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel.

The 307 new deluxe and premier guestrooms can accommodate up to three people and have a "deep soaking tub".

### Accor revenue up

ACCORHOTELS' third quarter revenue was up 6.4% to €504m.

The french hotelier recorded a 4.1% increase in Asia Pacific revenue to €111m, while South America saw a drop of 15.3% in revenue in 3Q17.

The period saw the opening of 73 hotels and over 11,000 rooms.

AccorHotels also signed a partnership with SNCF railways in the quarter for the development of the Orient Express.

### Wales VR tourism

VISIT Wales revealed it has awarded £290.000 to six VR projects under its Tourism Product Innovation Fund.

The funding is part of a plan by the tourist board to use virtual reality technology to promote Welsh attractions.

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales received £30,000 and will use the funds to create a dolphin dive experience.

### PAL brand campaign

**PHILIPPINE** Airlines has launched "Experience the Heart of the Filipino" campaign, aimed at winning over the foreign leisure market.

The ad will showcase the best of the Philippines and celebrates Filipino values - CLICK to view.



### Ireland blooms in Sydney



IRISH President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina were the guests of honour at a luncheon event hosted by Tourism Ireland in Sydney on Fri.

Higgins is making his first state visit to Australia, and spoke about the deep historical connections between Australia and Ireland.

Tourism continues to be a key sector for Ireland, with about 230,000 Australians visiting the country last year.

Irish tourism product also continues to evolve, with new hotel beds coming online including the Titanic Hotel in Belfast, while the country is lobbying hard to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

Tourism Ireland manager Australia and NZ, Sofia Hansson, said the special event helped deliver the message about the "many great reasons to visit the island of Ireland this year".

Pictured at Sydney's floral Calyx are, from left: Tourism Ireland ceo Niall Gibbons; Irish Tanaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation,

Frances Fitzgerald; President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins; Sabina Higgins; and Alison Metcalfe, Tourism Ireland head of Australia.



Consolidated Travel and China Southern would like to reward you for bookings ticketed to China and Asia between

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### Library pool villas

**THAI** resort The Library, Koh Samui, has unveiled two new Secret Pool Villas that will be available to guests from Nov.

Forming part of the Secret Chapters collection, the one- and two-bedroom spaces are tailored towards honeymooners seeking a new level of luxury.

Two more rooms in the Secret Chapters offering, The Editor & The Writer, will launch early 2018.

#### New Tahiti website

**TAHITI** Tourism has launched a new Australian website that will provide increased functionality for both travellers and the trade.

With additional digital offerings and an improved "three-step booking process", the new interface will also expose visitors to more enticing imagery of the islands and better response times.

#### AirAsia SIN move

AIRASIA has announced it will be relocating its operations at Singapore Changi Airport, moving from Terminal 1 to Terminal 4 from 07 Nov.

The move is motivated by access to state-of-the-art facilities at Terminal 4, allowing the airline to automate check-ins and optimise its digital capabilities.

### Male airport plan

**THE** Abu Dhabi Fund for Development is helping to finance a major redevelopment of the Velana International Airport in Male, the Maldives, via a AED183.6m (A\$64.28m) loan, *Arabian Business* reports.

The move will to boost airport's infrastructure in order to keep pace with growth in tourism and will expand capacity to 26 aircraft, according to the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.

### **Sheraton Malaysia**

**SHERATON** Hotels and Resorts has opened a new 253-room hotel, the Sheraton Petaling Jaya in Malaysia.

Located 20 mins from central Kuala Lumpur, the new property features the city's largest meeting facilities with more than 3,000m<sup>2</sup> of event space and six food & beverage venues.

#### CZ boosts fleet

**CHINA** Southern Airlines has taken steps to significantly boost its fleet by purchasing eight Boeing 777-300ERs and 30 737-800s, catering for expansion plans at Beijing's new international airport due to open in 2019.

Delivery will take place 2019-20 subject to regulatory approval.

### 10IN THE PRIDE!

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### Modernism the theme for '18



**PERTH** last week played host to a trade event launching Austria's tourism theme for 2018, a celebration of the Viennese Modernism arts movement.

Around 80 industry figures joined Emirates and the Austrian National Tourist Office at the Art Gallery of WA, which fittingly boasts a collection of fine glassware from Vienna's celebrated Wiener Werkstaette

arts community.

The theme coincides with the 100th anniversary of the deaths of Austrian modernists such as Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele.

Pictured at the gallery are Emirates regional manager for WA Gary Hilt, ANTO director Astrid Mulholland-Licht, the Austrian Consul for WA Francis Landels, and Vienna Tourist Board marketing manager Elke Bachner.

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### IHG to merge plans

**INTERCONTINENTAL** Hotels Group (IHG) will merge its two loyalty programs from early 2018.

The IHG Rewards Club and Kimpton Karma Rewards will become a single entity under the IHG Rewards Club and will offer all members one program with a single reward point system.

### Hawaiian revenue up

THE parent company of Hawaiian Airlines, Hawaiian Holdings, has revealed US\$74.6 million in net income for 3Q17, down 27.2% on the US\$102.5m posted in Q3 of last year.

Despite this, the company reported its highest quarterly result ever with revenue of US\$719.6 million, up 7.1%.

### New Litchfield plan

**THE** Northern Territory Government has released its second Plan of Management for Litchfield National Park.

Proposals include new fourwheel drive tracks, half day and overnight walks, mountain bike tracks, Indigenous tours, zip lining and nature accommodation.

The plan is designed to boost tourism to the park.

### Japan typhoon alert

**DFAT** is warning travellers of Typhoon Lan which has hit Japan overnight, particularly the regions of Tokai and Kanto.

It is expected to bring strong winds and heavy rainfall, with DFAT asking travellers to monitor local media for the latest info.

### Travelmarvel - Egypt and Jordan 2018

the Four Seasons Hotel Doha and The Ritz Carlton, Doha.

**Brochures** 

Qantas Holidays - Arabian Peninsula 2018 Qantas Holidays has released its 2018 Arabian

Peninsula brochure. It features a great range of

accommodation, Dubai City Break packages and new

to La Perle by Dragone. Featured in the Abu Dhabi

section is the palatial Emirates Palace Abu Dhabi.

touring options including Hot Air Ballooning and tickets

Check out the new Qatar chapter with a wide range of

Doha accommodation and touring options including

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, Travel Daily's Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure of which you'd like to make the industry aware, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to

> After a successful 2017 season, Travelmarvel has packed more offerings into 2018 with the addition of Jordan. Products include the 16-day The Treasures of Egypt & The Nile with Hidden Jordan tour that takes in the Pyramids, the Great Sphinx and The Valley of Kings. Jordan offerings include visiting Petra, the capital of Jordan, Amman, and the Dead Sea. Travelmarvel's brochure includes cruise options on its recently

refurbished MS Sunray. The release includes an earlybird fly free deal.



brochures@traveldaily.com.au.

Asia-Pac growth

**LATEST** figures from STR show

hotel occupancy was up 3.3% in

3Q17 to 73.5% in Asia Pacific.

US\$72.36 in the same period, while the average daily rate for

a room in the region was 1.6%

(RevPAR) jumped by 5% to

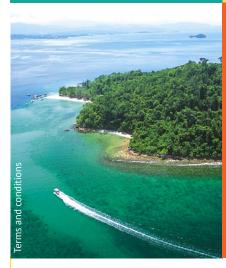
higher at US\$72.36.

Revenue per available room

Sunlover Holidays - Old Rail Holidays 2018/19 The latest release from Sunlover Holidays features a number of holiday packages combining iconic Queensland Rail train journeys with accommodation and 'must do' activities. New packages for 2018/19 include the Bundaberg Breakaway, Capricorn Coast Rail & Drive Discovery, Hamilton Island Getaway, Cairns Escape, Longreach Escape, Carnarvon Ranges Hidden Wonders, Charleville Stars and Secrets, Mount

Isa Discovery and Lawn Hill Gorge Experience.

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### Riyadh lounge open

**PLAZA** Premium Group has opened its latest lounge, located in T1 at Riyadh Int'l Airport, with seating for 250 people.

The group has also signed a contract for a lounge at Dammam Airport, also in Saudi Arabia.

### A350 for Mauritius

AIR Mauritius took delivery of its first Airbus A350-900 aircraft on Fri ahead of initially deploying the aircraft on flights to Johannesburg and Paris CDG.

MK still has one more A350 to ioin its fleet.

### Tas glamping site

**TRUFFLE** Lodge has opened its glamping retreat to visitors in the outskirts of Hobart.

Each tent has a king bed, lounge, heating & cooling, minibar, fridge, coffee machines, as well as its own luxury bathroom.

Platypus swimming & kayaking are some of the activities on offer.

## Travel Daily

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