

Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 28th August 2018



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Google ups flight tools

GOOGLE has begun stepping up services offered through its Google Flights platform, outlining new tools that show how airfares fluctuate around peak holiday periods and identify whether prices are relatively high or low.

The digital giant has also flagged new tools for monitoring hotel rates, giving insights on how prices vary over time.

The initiatives are outlined in a blog post by Google's vice president of product management, travel, Richard Holden, and are timed ahead of the upcoming festive period.

"With the help of the Google News Lab and Polygraph, we created a handy tool that shows how prices change - based on when you book and where you're travelling - for flights to popular holiday destinations," he writes.

"It'll even help you find hotel

deals for Thanksgiving, Dec holidays and New Years."

A new tool introduced ahead of the US Thanksgiving holiday shows whether a given airfare is low, typical or high, based on historical prices.

Another function added to the Explore Map in Google Flights allows users to choose a region such as Southern Europe, then view destinations where comparatively good airfares are currently available.

Holden says Google is also adding price insights and market comparisons for hotels, allowing users to see how rates evolve, determine whether a rate is higher or lower than usual and compare to other properties.

Culture on show

THE Austrian National Tourist Office has outlined some of the country's rich cultural gems, including its palaces, museums, gardens and galleries.

See **page 11** for highlights and suggestions in and around destinations including Vienna, Salzburg and Innsbruck.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news, a photo page from APT, plus full pages from:

- TMS Talent/inPlace
- ANTO product profile page



Premium Cabin Sale

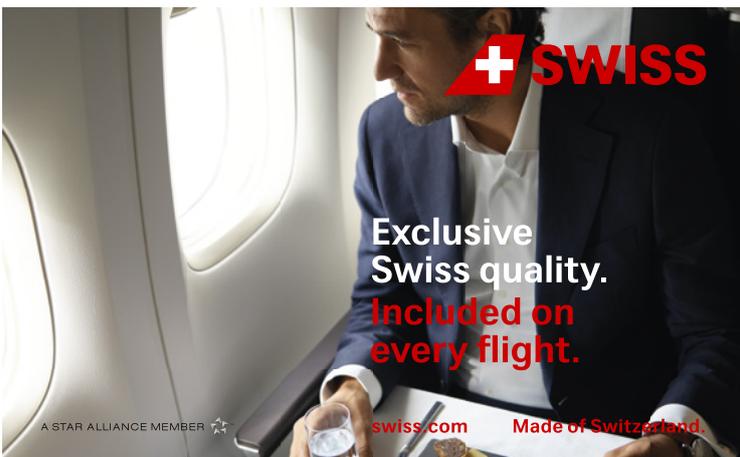
International First, Business and Premium Economy are all on sale. Sale ends 31 August 2018*

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*Sale ends 11:59 (AEST) 31 August 2018, unless sold out prior. Selected routes, travel dates, days and conditions apply.



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AA museum revamp

AMERICAN Airlines will reopen its CR Smith Museum of aviation this weekend after an extensive redesign, funded by donations. The museum is located at the airline's Fort Worth campus.

Industry ready to move on

INDUSTRY leaders have welcomed the appointment of new Tourism Minister Simon Birmingham (**TD** yesterday), but have called for a focus on maintaining momentum. "The past few weeks have been tumultuous for everyone in and around Australian politics and we are now keen to move on with the business of delivering effective outcomes for our tourism industry," said Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) managing director Peter Shelley. "Our industry is strong and has enjoyed remarkable growth over the past 10 years... so it is vital this political upheaval does not result in a policy misstep which impacts our success."

The Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) welcomed Birmingham's past experience as chief of staff

to a former SA Tourism Minister. "TTF is looking forward to working with Minister Birmingham and Prime Minister Morrison; both whom understand the economic impact the tourism industry truly has on Australia," the TTF said in a statement. The Accommodation Association of Australia (AAA) ceo Richard Munro paid tribute to Birmingham's predecessor Steven Ciobo for his "outstanding efforts" over recent years. See also Jayson Westbury's AFTA Update on **page seven**.

EK boosts Riyadh

EMIRATES will add a fourth daily service to Riyadh from Sat, giving it 28 weekly flights to the Saudi capital. The new afternoon departure will operate aboard B777-300ERs.

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Qantas trusted

QANTAS has been named the third most trusted brand in Australia by the latest Roy Morgan Net Trust Score Survey, conducted in Jul.

The national carrier improved one place from fourth spot in Apr and has remained in the top five most trusted brands since the first survey in Oct 2017.

In first place was Aldi for the second survey in a row, followed by Bunnings and in fourth place, the ABC.

APT puts 2020 Croatia on sale

APT has released its 2020 Small Ship Croatia cruising program early, after overwhelming demand saw next year's inaugural season fully sold out.

The company has chartered the purpose-built *Queen Eleganza* for both seasons, with APT having had strong input into the 18-cabin vessel's design.

APT gm Steve Reynolds said he was thrilled at the success of the new product, which taps into ongoing strong demand for Croatia from Australian cruisers.

For a limited time 2020 is available at 2019 prices - for more info call 1300 196 420.

Further details in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly** - subscribe free at www.cruiseweekly.com.au.

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Travel Daily

on location in
Dubrovnik

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of APT aboard the new *Queen Eleganza* which will cruise Croatia in 2019.

OUR group sets sail tomorrow morning after a walking tour of Dubrovnik, with a leisurely afternoon cruise to Korcula - the home of Marco Polo.

The day will also include an onboard Champagne reception to allow the VIP group to meet the *Queen Eleganza* crew, who are employed year-round rather than seasonally to ensure high guest service standards are maintained.

In Korcula, APT will host another walking tour before allowing passengers to explore some of the local cuisine via a Dinner Ashore opportunity.

The Dorsett edges closer

THE entry of The Dorsett brand in Australia is a step closer with the STAR Gold Coast breaking ground on the \$400m development which will house the brand's first hotel in Australia.

The 4.5 star Dorsett hotel will offer more than 300 rooms and be the second biggest in the Broadbeach region behind only The Star Grand.

It will be located in a 53-storey mixed use tower in Broadbeach, which is being developed by Destination Gold Coast Consortium – a joint venture between The Star Entertainment Group and its Hong Kong-based partners Chow Tai Fook Enterprises & Far East Consortium.

The Dorsett is expected to open in early 2022 and its 316 hotel rooms will spread across the tower's lower levels.

The Star Entertainment Group chairman John O'Neill said the

commitment showed confidence in the future of the destination and its potential to become "an even more established primary location for intrastate, interstate and international visitors".

"We are delighted to further enhance the tourism appeal of the Gold Coast and south-east Queensland more generally with this latest joint venture development."

"The introduction of a Dorsett hotel will bring with it increased awareness in the global market, especially in Asia, where Dorsett Hospitality International owns and operates the majority of its 54 hotels," he added.

The Dorsett will be the second luxury hotel to be developed on the Gold Coast since 2011, alongside The STAR's The Darling, which opened earlier this year.

For more details on the property, see **page five**.



Window Seat

BEER lovers around the world can clink their stein glasses even more fervently than usual following the news of the "world's first beer hotel".

Multinational brewery BrewDog has this week opened the DogHouse: BrewDog Brewery hotel in Ohio which taps into a range of beer fantasies such as soaps made from beer, a beer museum, a lobby bar with beer games and a gym (no beer needed).

A beer tap is also present in every room - cheers to that!



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Mamma Mia, what a night!



ROYAL Brunei hosted over 30 incentive top achievers, including *Travel Daily* competition winners, in a private suite at Melbourne's Princess Theatre last week.

Agents were treated to a pre-show cocktail function, premium Dress Circle seating and a speciality cocktail and ice-creams.

During the pre-show event, attendees were surprised by a visit from a lead cast member of *Mamma Mia*, Stephen Mahy.

Pictured are: Grant Rigby, sales executive; Giles Gilbert, country manager Australia; Leah Keenan, sales executive and Stephen Mahy, lead cast member.



Marriott loyalty

MARRIOTT Rewards, The Ritz-Carlton Rewards, and Starwood Preferred Guest members can now officially combine their accounts following completion of the companies' loyalty rewards program merger (**TD** 30 Jul).

The combined programs now offer members one currency spanning 29 brands and more than 6,700 hotels across 130 countries and territories, with the capacity to earn 20% more points per dollar.

EK Edinburgh sale

EMIRATES has released a series of sale fares from the UAE to Edinburgh to celebrate its inaugural flight to the Scottish capital from 01 Oct.

The reduced fares start from AED2,495 (AU\$924), and are available for travel between 01 Oct 2018 and 31 May 2019.

The sale is on until 10 Sep.

NEXT reshuffles

NEXT Hotels & Resorts has continued its growth across Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane with the appointment of several senior roles.

James Coleman has replaced Marcus Dudley in the role of general manager at Sage Hotel Ringwood, while Justin McConnell has relocated to Adelaide to take on the general manager role at both the Sage Hotel Adelaide and Chifley Adelaide.

Meanwhile, Craig Syphers has stepped into the newly created role of area general manager for the brand's Brisbane properties.

Cairns trail on track

DESIGNERS of the Wangetti Trail project, a 76km bike & walkway set to open in Cairns in 2021, have finished a walkthrough.

When finished, the trail will offer visitors the chance to "make the most of Qld's natural beauty".



Fly the World's Best Business Class

Thank you to everyone who voted for us at the 2018 Skytrax World Airline Awards and awarded us with the World's Best Business Class, Best First Class Airline Lounge, Best Airline Middle East, and the Best Business Class Seat.

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GOING PLACES TOGETHER

The STAR breaks ground



THE STAR Gold Coast held a sod-turning ceremony on Fri to celebrate breaking ground on the \$400m development at The Star Gold Coast which will herald the entry to Australia of the Dorsett hotel brand.

The 53-storey mixed use tower at Broadbeach will also house apartment accom, restaurant and bar concepts, a recreation deck with ocean views and a resort pool for hotel guests (**below**).

Dorsett Hospitality Int'l vice chairman Datin Jasmine Abdullah Heng said the Gold Coast had "enormous potential".



"The Gold Coast is an attractive tourist destination with its beautiful beaches and surfing spots, exciting theme parks, vibrant nightlife, great dining and shopping experiences," she said.

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk & The Star Entertainment Group chairman John O'Neill are **above**.



Marketing and Media Executive – Australia / South West Pacific

The position is responsible for developing and implementing the Marketing and Communication strategies for the Australia / South West Pacific region. This includes the development of national initiatives, the annual campaign calendar supporting preferred agreements, and increasing brand awareness. The candidate should have at least three years' experience in a Marketing or Communications role.

[Click here](#) for further details.

Please forward your resume and application to kurniawati@garuda-indonesia.net.au by close of business 09 September 2018

Ritz Denver bought

XENIA Hotels & Resorts has announced the purchase of The Ritz-Carlton, Denver, for US\$11.25 million, or an estimated US\$496,000 per key.

The 202-room hotel features large meeting spaces, restaurants, and spa facilities.

"With the hotel having received approximately US\$60,000 per key in capital expenditures over the past few years, The Ritz-Carlton, Denver is positioned particularly well to benefit from the many demand drivers in the downtown Denver market," said Xenia's chairman & ceo Marcel Verbaas.

WS gets smarter

WESTJET has introduced its first artificial intelligence (AI) powered chatbot, named Juliet.

The new AI assistant is available in English and French via Facebook Messenger and can assist customers with booking and day-of-travel information.

Cloud economy up

THE "economy in the sky" is worth more than US\$400.5 billion, according to new research from finance company HSBC.

The study found in-flight purchases are growing in value by \$1.26b daily, with Americans on average spending the most on duty free goods, food & alcohol.

Globus site refresh

GLOBUS family of brands has revealed a fresh new look for its local Globus and Cosmos websites in a move to offer an improved online experience for travel agents.

The specific updates include a quicker path to tours and easier navigation of information and departure dates.

"We're proud that the development of the Globus and Cosmos sites has been a true collaboration with agents," said Globus family of brands' digital marketing manager Louise Percy.

A&K 2019/20 brox

LUXURY tour operator Abercrombie & Kent has launched its 2019/20 expedition cruise brochure featuring a range of local sailings around Australia and New Zealand, as well as new itineraries for the polar regions.

One new addition to the program is a 12-night expedition cruise along the Kimberley coastline aboard the A&K-chartered all-balcony *Le Laperouse*, priced from \$16,995 per person twin share and departing 20 Jun 2019.

Also new is the special edition 15-day Antarctica voyage which visits Buenos Aires and the South Shetland islands.

The trip is priced at \$23,195ppts - for more info [CLICK HERE](#).



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Applications close Monday 3rd September 2018

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LATAM revamp

LATAM Airlines has outlined plans to revamp the interior of more than 200 aircraft over the next two years, with the first renovated aircraft operated by LATAM Airlines Peru ready to fly by the end of 2018.

The US\$400 million investment will transform the cabins across short- and long-haul flights, apply a new design to the aircraft, and on domestic flights within Latin America, improve wi-fi and in-flight entertainment options.

Pictured is the new design of the seats.



Intrepid active trips

INTREPID Travel has released its 2019 North America tours with the introduction of seven new active and hiking trips.

The program includes the nine-day Colorado and Utah Active Adventure, the eight-day Lake Tahoe and Yosemite Winter Adventure, along with the 10-day action packed Canadian Rockies Winter Adventure.

CLICK HERE for more info.

Collette brochure

COLLETTE'S new Europe 2019-2020 brochure features itineraries, local guides, meal choices, and more opportunities to personalise tours.

The fresh additions to the program are Classical Greece, featuring a tour of the sanctuary of Zeus and the Olympic Stadium that held the first Olympics in 776 BC; Treasures of Europe, where travellers spend time in London, Paris, Italy and finish in Rome, along with Spain and Morocco, and four Classic Oberammergau Passion Play tours.

The brochure also has two new Exploration tours in northern Spain and Finland.

To request a brochure copy, visit www.gocollette.com.au.

Corroboree now on

MORE than 100 Australian tourism businesses are on the Gold Coast to meet with 300 Aussie travel sellers from key Asian markets this week.

The trade event combines training workshops, business appointments and networking functions exclusively for qualified Aussie Specialist agents from Greater China, Japan, Korea, India, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.



YESTERDAY Avis hosted an event in Sydney to mark the opening of the 2018 Avis Budget Group travel agent scholarship program, paving the way for one recipient to win a prize valued at over \$40,000 (**TD** yesterday).

The function was attended by sponsors, media and suppliers, with Steven McDonald, head of business and channel development for Avis highlighting the history of the scholarship and its focus on propelling excellence among the trade.

"This is the 22nd time this has been run and the second time in conjunction with New Zealand," he said.

"It's our goal to make this a form of recognition across the Pacific which is where we're taking the Avis Budget Group."

"The focus for this scholarship

remains excellence in customer service and innovation.

"It's about rewarding travel agents for what they do well," McDonald added.

The winner of the 2018 scholarship will enjoy a range of prizes and experiences including Business class travel, international conference attendance and training from Cruise Lines International Association Australasia.

Scholarship applications are judged by an expert panel and attract hundreds of entries.

Pictured are: Michelle Ashcroft, Phil Hoffmann Travel; Steven McDonald, head of business and channel development Avis Budget Group; Barbara Baron, Sylvania Travel & Cruise and Jenny Lorkin, sales manager tmc, Avis Budget Group.

CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

Product Manager - Europe

This is a rare opportunity for an experienced Product Manager to join our luxurious brand to design and deliver an innovative and highly desirable collection of journeys and voyages within the regions of Europe and Russia. You will prepare and present new bespoke experiences that stand out from the rest whilst leading the end-to-end process of product development including all aspects of research, design, costing, analysis, procurement, brochure production and training.

To be successful you will bring experience in cruising or touring with a luxury brand with extensive knowledge of Europe. You will have outstanding negotiation and communication skills (written and verbal) and exceptional attention to detail and accuracy across every aspect of journey planning and administration.

This position is located in Melbourne, Australia. Please send a cover letter and resume to careers@captainschoice.com.au

Business Development Manager - VIC

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 over 90 years. Following an internal promotion with our previous BDM taking the opportunity of a lifetime to move to our UK office, we now have a vacancy for a Business Development Manager for Victoria to join our National Sales Team.

Our BDM's generally come with some travel industry experience. Regardless of your background you have a burning passion for sales and relationship building. Experience in a B2B role will stand you in good stead when working with your customers, and when you represent the business at trade fares and events. Naturally, sales reporting, planning and market analysis will be second nature to you.

To learn more about this exciting opportunity with APT Travel Group and to apply please check out our careers page:
<http://www.aptouring.com.au/about-us/careers>

Qantas' big agent day



TRAVEL agents from across Australia gathered at Qantas' head office in Sydney for a UK and Europe-themed Agent Development Day this month. Qantas showcased the latest developments in its three hubs - Perth, Singapore and Dubai - as well as unique itineraries to the UK and Europe.

Participants chose between sessions which included disruption management,

ancillary products, Qantas loyalty, baggage, aircraft and agency support.

A table for the 150 guests was set up in the middle of the Qantas campus for lunch (**pictured**), with mascot Matilda the kangaroo making a special appearance.

Spot prizes included Qantas travel vouchers, luggage, amenity kits and model planes, with major prize winners walking away with two return tickets to London.

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Do you have fantastic knowledge of a variety of travel destinations; great copy writing and proof reading skills; exceptional attention to detail and a high level of accuracy? Are you good at multi-tasking and meeting multiple deadlines?

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Based in Brisbane and reporting to the Brochure Manager, you will be responsible for the coordination of a specified portfolio of brochures for Helloworld's wholesale brands, including Sunlover Holidays, Qantas Holidays, GO Holidays, Insider Journeys, The Cruise Team and Rail Tickets, as well as other ad-hoc projects for the Helloworld Group. You will work closely with our Graphic Design, Product Development and Land Contracting teams to deliver a market leading brochure range.

To be considered for the position, experience in a brochure coordination or product role and an understanding of brochure coordination processes is an advantage, as well as demonstrated copy writing and proof reading skills, exceptional attention to detail and a sound knowledge of Australian and international destinations. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

To apply please send your CV and cover letter to careers@helloworld.com.au

Applications will close at 5pm AEST Friday 14 September 2018.

Only successful applicants will be contacted.



SO THERE we have it, the 30th Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison, Member for Cook (a federal seat in NSW, Sutherland Shire), the next era of the Liberal party leadership looking to take the Liberal/National coalition forward to govern, but more importantly prepare for the next Federal Election.

Prime Minister Morrison is a former ceo of Tourism Australia, and is most recently known as the Federal Treasurer who had a big fight with the industry over the working holiday maker visa tax and the increase to the passenger movement charge currently set at \$60 per passenger departure. So only time will tell if he will in fact be a Prime Minister for the travel and tourism industry. To do this job in cabinet, Morrison has appointed Senator, Simon Birmingham to the position of Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. Senator Birmingham is also well known to the tourism industry having previously worked for an industry association in our sector and has always been a close friend to many in the industry as he has forged his career in parliament. From a travel industry perspective, the other Minister who is very important to us is the Foreign Minister who is the boss of DFAT. Julie Bishop has been an outstanding Foreign Minister and a very good friend to AFTA over her time in the job. We wish her well as she leaves the ministry. The Prime Minister has elected to place Senator Marise Payne in the job of Foreign Minister and once again she has been a person who has kept a close eye on the travel and tourism industry over her time in parliament and will no doubt do well in this role.

While all these people including the Prime Minister will be new to their positions, the big question is - how long will they be in these roles? The Federal Election could be as early as this year, say Nov, but could also push out to Mar/Apr 2019, but unlikely to go much past then due to the Federal Budget being handed down in May each year. Governments tend to like to have a bit of time before the Budget to get things in place and prepared.

Also, will the Coalition win the election? This is the bigger question really and of course, if they don't win all of this change will be a short memory for all, including those in the roles. As with all things Canberra, there is never a dull moment as things just keep on changing and keeping all of us who work in the political environment on our toes. On a final note, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by the former Trade, Tourism and Investment Minister, Steven Ciobo. Steven has been an outstanding friend to the travel and tourism industry for his entire time in parliament and in particular a loyal friend to AFTA. I am sure as he takes up his new role of Minister of Defence Industry, he will look back at his time with the travel and tourism industry and trade and have memories of good times in the past.

We all need to buckle up now and see how this new Prime Minister and Ministers responsible for the travel and tourism industry look to support us and bring in policies that make a positive difference to the industry and all those who work in it.

Mercure Mandalay

MANDALAY Hill Resort has rebranded as Mercure, with the debut marking the first midscale brand in Mandalay, Myanmar.

The property features 208 rooms and suites, along with three restaurants and two bars and the Kipling's Music & Cigar Lounge, offering cocktails, wines and mocktails with live music.

The hotel's conference centre with three meeting rooms and ballroom accommodates 160 guests banquet style and up to 2,500 guests can be catered for at the hotel's 12 acre grounds.

QTR Qsuite routes

QATAR Airways will launch its new A350-1000 equipped with the airline's Qsuite on flights to and from Singapore's Changi Airport from 01 Nov.

The aircraft will also be introduced daily to Tokyo's Haneda Airport from 01 Jan.

The A350-1000 offers 327 seats across two cabins, 46 Qsuite Business class seats and 281 extra-wide 18-inch seats in Economy class, with Business class featuring seats which can be joined to create a double-bed and sliding panels for privacy.

APT celebrates top achievers in Croatia

LAST night APT hosted a gala event in Dubrovnik, bringing together two consecutive famil groups to celebrate its 2018 top achievers. APT executive general manager Steve Reynolds flew in for the event which followed the inaugural voyage aboard the brand new *Queen Eleganza*, where the top sellers have enjoyed the last week exploring Croatia's coast APT-style - all inclusive, intimate and friendly.

Sales manager Susan Haberle said the 17 top achievers aboard the ship had achieved a stunning \$12 million in total sales, with the event including awards for the agents and confirmation that demand for the 2019 APT small ship Croatian coastal cruising product is already sold out, with 2020 now available (see p2).

As well as the top achievers, participants in the event included senior executives from Flight Centre, Helloworld Travel and Travellers Choice who are setting forth on their own week-long Croatian exploration tomorrow.

More pics from the event at facebook.com/traveldaily.



THE powerhouse collection of top APT agents.



DANNI Newman, Flight Centre supplier relations & contracting manager; Christie Hopp, Infinity Group gm product & marketing; Nick Luckcock, executive gm Flight Centre Global Product; and Ash Diprose, Flight Centre Mudgee.



TRAVELLERS Choice ceo Christian Hunter with Helloworld Travel head of commercial, Stan Scott.



LISA Priestly from Sylvania Travel & Cruise; APT executive general manager Steve Reynolds; *Queen Eleganza's* owner and builder Marco; and Mladen Vukic, head of APT's small ships program.



GREGORY Thorn and Joseph Alam from Our Vacation Centre.



APT executive gm Steve Reynolds with Louise and Brett Dann, Hunter Travel Group.



BARRY Downs, Bicton Travel; Ian Mollison, Helloworld Travel Balwyn North; and Jo Ellies, APT state manager WA.



APT national sales manager Susan Haberle wows the crowd.

Injuries, illness up

A REPORT released by online travel insurance company InsureandGo has found 63% of travel insurance claims made by Aussies are medical related, with injuries and illnesses making up 73% of all claims during US travel. Trip delays accounted for 23%.

Nomade webinars

SOUTH American travel company Nomade Unique Experiences has launched a series of webinars designed to showcase the continent's offerings, including how to get there, accommodation, attractions, and seasons.

The first 30-min webinar will go live on 30 Aug and highlight the region of Patagonia - **CLICK HERE**.

Arlo Cares launch

INDEPENDENT hotel brand Arlo Hotels has launched a new program that encourages guests and locals to "embrace a more earth-ethical way of living".

The Arlo Cares program will include a series of educational speakers, community outreach opportunities, documentary screenings and charitable celebrations that provide information on how to live a more sustainable life.

Melb visitor hub

A NEW Melbourne Visitor Hub at the city's Town Hall was officially launched today and is expected to be one of the city's busiest visitor service points.

The centre replaces the Melbourne Visitor Centre in Federation Square which has closed to make way for Metro Tunnel works.

The hub is designed to provide "a more personalised experience", digital access and an exhibition space which showcases Melbourne's local retail and hospitality businesses as well as key events and attractions.

Money

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

\$1AUD = US0.734

AUSTRALIAN travellers heading off on holidays overseas will this week breathe a sigh of relief as the Aussie dollar enjoys a lift against most major international markets.

The positive result comes following news of the long-awaited US-Mexican trade deal, which will see the countries update the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The AUD experienced a 0.3% boost against the USD, while upcoming talks between the US and Canada are also likely to strengthen global markets.

The AUD/EUR remains flat.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.734
UK	£0.569
NZ	\$1.096
Euro	€0.628
Japan	¥81.69
Thailand	฿23.89
China	¥5.003
South Africa	R10.408
Canada	\$0.952
Crude oil	US\$68.87

WIN A LUXURY RIVER CRUISE



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
- All-inclusive cruise including butler service, complimentary beverages all day, everyday, all meals, and all tipping & gratuities

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LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

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

Q20. On which deck is the vitality pool on *Scenic Azure*?

LATAM direct flts

LATAM Airlines has launched direct flights from Cuzco to Iquitos, with the seasonal test route running as a trial to determine whether it will be expanded in the future.

The new service offers better connection for guests travelling from Cuzco on Amazon Cruises' *Aria Amazon* four-night Explorer Cruise, and its three-night Discovery Cruise dep Iquitos.

Mountain bike deal

THE West Australian Government has signed a three-year deal to fund the Cape to Cape MTB, one of the biggest mountain bike events in the Asia-Pacific region.

The four-day event attracts more than 1,200 riders to the state's south west and aims to "diversify the economy...and develop business opportunities".

Travello funding

SOCIAL networking start up app Travello has secured \$5m in capital from private investors, giving the company more leverage in key markets such as the UK and Europe.

The app allows users to browse and book more than 50,000 activities around the world.

Excite Thai push

EXCITE Holidays continues to promote Thailand as a tourist hot spot with the launch of its "Thailand: Open to the New Shades" visitor guide.

The six-page brochure showcases a range of cultural experiences, dining, shopping and accommodation and can be downloaded **HERE**.

Excite is also offering double rewards points on stays through to 09 Sep.

2018 AFTA TRAVEL PAGES, NOW WITH A COMPREHENSIVE SUPPLIER DIRECTORY.

[VIEW HERE](#)

Travel Daily

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Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

EDITORIAL

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Austria's best culture tips

Cultural experiences abound in Austria, whether visitors stay in the city, explore the countryside or do a little bit of both.

PLAN something truly special with a tour of two private palaces. The **PALAIS LIECHTENSTEIN** City Palace and Garden Palace are open to the public twice a month. Visitors get to tour the state rooms of the royal family of Liechtenstein and see their incredible treasures. Pre-booking of the tour is required. More cultural

highlights in Vienna: Mozarthaus Vienna, MuesumsQuartier and Kunsthistorisches Museum.

Salzburg was an independent state for most of its history and ruled by the church. Visitors can explore its rich legacy of ecclesiastical power and wealth on a **SPECIAL WALKING TOUR** through the inner city. It is the perfect way to discover Salzburg's history and hidden gems.

The **SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL WORLD** in Wattens, only twenty minutes outside of Innsbruck, is part museum, part theme park and part art installation. Developed by artist

André Heller, it allows visitors to experience crystal in all its facets. And at the Swarovski Kristallwelten Souvenir Store in Wattens, Innsbruck or Vienna travellers can get some of the most memorable souvenirs in Austria.

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