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Pursuit renovation

AZAMARA Club Cruises will overhaul its new and third ship, *Azamara Pursuit*, in a move to bring it on par with *Azamara Quest* and *Azamara Journey*.

Pursuit will undergo the refit at the Harland & Wolff shipyard in Belfast in coming months ahead of the ship's maiden voyage from Southampton on 01 Aug 2018.

Currently sailing as P&O Cruises UK's *Adonia*, *Pursuit*, along with *Quest* & *Journey*, were originally built for Renaissance Cruises.



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Ovolo takes Emporium

EMPORIUM Hotel Brisbane has been bought by Hong Kong-based Ovolo Hotels, boosting the group's local network to four properties.

The deal for the 102-room Emporium Hotel, understood to be valued at about \$40 million, is expected to be finalised in Apr.

Ovolo's current portfolio in Australia includes the Ovolo Woolloomooloo and Ovolo 1888 Darling Harbour in Sydney and Ovolo Laneways in Melbourne.

Mid-last year, Ovolo acquired the 50-room New Inchcolm Hotel & Suites, marking the group's

entry into the Brisbane market, however the Spring Hill property is yet to open, as it is currently receiving an "Ovolo makeover".

The New Inchcolm had been operated under Accor's MGallery by Sofitel brand since 2015.

The "dynamic lifestyle hospitality company" also has four hotels & apartments in Hong Kong, including Ovolo Southside, Ovolo Central, Ovolo Noho and Ovolo Seung Wan.

Jayes Travel joins Travel Partners

NEWCASTLE agency Jayes Travel has confirmed it will join the Travel Partners Group.

MD Michelle Barker said Travel Partners "has a fantastic platform that fits well with our preferred selling channels, and suits both our business and our customers".

Travel Partners executive gm Simon Bernardi said he was delighted to welcome the NSW "travel icon" to the group.

Jayes Travel has been part of the Travellers Choice network for over a decade.

CVFR invitation

CVFR Consolidation Services is today showcasing the benefits of its buying power, incentives, overrides and ticketing support for independent agents - see the **cover page** for more details.

Today's issue of TD

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

- AA Appointments jobs

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Viking will be the world's largest small ship cruise company by 2019, and with Viking Sun arriving in ANZ waters for the very first time at the end of this month, there has never been a more exciting time to join the team.

Please send a short cover letter and resume to: jobsau@vikingcruises.com
Applications close Monday 22 January 2018.

Finnair adds Lyon

ONEWORLD member carrier Finnair will introduce new twice weekly seasonal services from Helsinki to Lyon from 11 Dec.

The new service to the French city comes as AY prepares to add extra frequencies to long-haul routes to Osaka (increasing from five to seven weekly), Hong Kong (rising from 10 to 12), Delhi (from six to seven) and Phuket (a new fourth weekly service) over the 2018/19 European Winter season.

More at www.finnair.com/au.

Launch of The Greg Mortimer

Redefining Expedition Cruising



Event Details:

Sydney - Tuesday 23rd Jan, at 6pm
Australian National Maritime Museum,
Murray Street, Darling Harbour

Brisbane - Wednesday 24th Jan, at 6pm
Customs House, Brisbane,
399 Queen Street

Melbourne - Tuesday 30th Jan, at 6pm
Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium, Antarctica
Room, Corner King and Flinders Streets

Special Guest Speaker:
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Spaces are limited!
Sydney: RSVP here
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Drinks & canapés provided.
RSVP by Tuesday 16th January, 2018



*Conditions apply.
Please note this is a catered
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cancellations within 48 hours
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Scoot BER airfare

SINGAPORE Airlines' low-cost arm Scoot has opened sales for its next European destination, with FLY fares to Berlin now available from \$379 one way ex Perth (**TD** breaking news).

Business class fares from Perth are from \$1,199 one way.

From Sydney and Melbourne, FLY fares are from \$439 one way or from \$1299 in Business class.

Gold Coast FLY fares are from \$429 one way or \$1,299 in Business class.

Special fares are on sale to 31 Jan and flights start 20 Jun.

ABF visitor record

AUSTRALIAN Border Force has revealed record numbers of travellers through the country's international airports over the first weekend of the year, with more than 450,000 people arriving or departing 05-07 Jan, almost 7% more than the same period last year.

HBA targets NZ, Asia, US

HOBART International Airport is aiming to secure direct flights from New Zealand, Asia and the US as it works to exceed visitor forecasts of 2.6 million by 2020.

Amid calls for better airport infrastructure and a tourism marketing boost for the island, the airport says passenger predictions in its 2015 masterplan are likely to be exceeded and that three million visitors might be achievable by 2022.

Having recently added direct flights from Adelaide and the Gold Coast, HBA is looking for additional flights from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane as well as potential new routes from Perth and Canberra.

HBA chief executive Sarah Renner says in the Hobart *Mercury* that by 2022 the city will have secured flights from Asia, with direct flights from New Zealand in the pipeline and plans to target America.



NEW YEAR SALE
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\$2,399 PP
Book before 31st January, 2018

QF cyclone waiver

QANTAS is allowing passengers to change tickets to destinations affected by the tropical cyclone forming off the north coast of Western Australia, including Broome, Karratha, Learmonth and Port Headland.

CLICK HERE for full details.

TA Italy rep tender

TOURISM Australia is seeking a tender for Full Service Market Representation in Italy.

The successful tenderer will be required to have a significant in-country presence, based in northern Italy or Rome, and appoint a country manager.

The proposed contract term is for one year, running from 01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019, with the possibility of three one-year extensions until 30 Jun 2022.

Tenderers & their subcontractors must not work for any National Tourism Organisations that are direct regional competitors to Australia, including New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the US.

Applications close on 01 Feb - for more details, see Austender.

Swiss train restart

RAIL services from the Swiss ski resort of Zermatt have reopened, allowing thousands to leave after heavy snowfalls (**TD** yesterday).

Extreme weather has forced the closure of several ski areas and evacuations by helicopter.

Teams of specialists are now working to stabilise areas at high risk of avalanches.



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*Conditions Apply.



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Mumbrella summit back

MEDIA and marketing title *Mumbrella* has announced a near-full line up for the return of the Mumbrella Travel Marketing Summit in Apr.

Air New Zealand regional gm for Australia Kathryn Robertson has been confirmed with Tourism Australia chief marketing officer Lisa Ronson to join marketing leaders from brands including Destination NSW, 7Travel, Melbourne Airport, and the already announced keynote,

Simon Ferguson, from Travelport. Mumbrella head of event content Damian Francis said the event would be bigger and better than before.

"The industry has shown that there is a great thirst for an event like this," he said.

The conference will cover some of the most recent trends in the industry including dispersion, accessible travel, marketing to millennials and, of course, data and digital trends.

The travel summit will also discuss the USA, with Robertson joining Matt Fletcher of Brand USA on a panel to reveal how recent events have created new challenges and opportunities in promoting US products, services and experiences.

The Mumbrella Travel Summit will be held on 12 Apr at the Four Seasons Hotel in Sydney.

CLICK HERE for more info.

The Ghan 17hr doco

SBS will screen a 17-hour version of *The Ghan: Australia's Greatest Train Journey* on Sun, following the hype from the three-hour "highlight" version last week.

Scheduled to air on *SBS Viceland* from 0240 to 2030, the version will still not show the entire 54 hour journey it takes The Ghan to travel from Adelaide to Darwin.

Travelport AFTA rates

AFTA members that are IATA accredited and are Travelport customers can now have preferred access to the Travelport Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (DSS) compliance service provider, Security Metrics.

PCI DSS is a global data security standard designed to protect businesses and their customers from credit card theft and fraud.

To take advantage of the special rates, AFTA members will need to complete an online form.

Once completed, Travelport will be in contact to help fill out a Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ), which will review how agents handle and process payments cards.

AFTA members can access preferential rates starting from US\$69.99 for the SAQ only and go up to US\$199.98 for SAQ with two to five vulnerability scans.

CLICK HERE for more info.



Window Seat

ANYONE who knows the *Travel Daily* team is aware that a few of us love a good cup of coffee, or several in fact.

The team at Club Med obviously caught on to this with a few of these reusable coffee cups by JOCO arriving on Wed.

The artisan blown cups will enable us to reduce the amount of single use coffee containers we use.



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Park Regis Boutique

STAYWELL Holdings has added a second property in Dubai with the opening of Park Regis Boutique in the Jumeirah region, near Wild Wadi Water Park, Burj Khalifa and Jumeirah Beach.

The hotel features 21 rooms and joins the Park Regis Kris Kin which debuted in 2010.

A third property, Park Regis Business Bay, is also currently under development in Dubai.

Bunnik spot special

LAST-MINUTE seats on Bunnik Tours' Japan Discovery itinerary on 20 Mar have been reduced by \$250 per person when booking before 02 Feb.

The 17-day itinerary coincides with the annual cherry blossom season which traditionally runs from late Mar until early Apr, and explores Tokyo, Takayama, Kyoto and Hiroshima.

Including flights from Australia, the trip is now \$10,360ppts.

EK, FZ expand c's

EMIRATES and flydubai will expand their recently launched codeshare to 81 destinations, with the latest additions including Krakow, Poland, from 08 Apr and Catania, Italy, from 13 Jun.

When the partnership debuted two months ago it spanned 29 cities but has rapidly expanded to "meet demand as customers realise the benefits", EK said.

Film hols inspiration

TRAFALGAR is promoting a range of guided holiday destinations made famous on the big screen, coinciding with the recent Golden Globes awards.

The "Set-Jetting" range of trips highlights places such as Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way and Croatia's Dubronik which featured in *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, the battlefields of France as seen in *Dunkirk* and locations in New York and Washington DC that appear in *The Post*.

PTMs explore Arnhem Land



TRAVELMANAGERS' personal travel managers (PTMs) were recently reminded you don't have to travel overseas to enjoy a diverse holiday destination.

A group of 20 PTMs enjoyed a three-day famil to the Northern Territory experiencing Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks hosted by AAT Kings.

The trip involved a chance to get up close to some massive saltwater crocodiles courtesy of a boat tour in Kakadu.

Another highlight for the group was exploring some of the most sacred Aboriginal areas across Arnhem Land.

TravelManagers NSW PTM Dana Brown said the chance to experience Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks reminded her how beautiful Australia was.

"I love outback Australia, and this famil provided the perfect opportunity to taste a little bit of it. I certainly wasn't disappointed," she said.

TravelManagers executive general manager Michael Gazal said building supplier relationships was key to the company's business model.

Pictured: PTMs experience the rare opportunity to set foot on Aboriginal areas of Arnhem Land.

WHERE NEXT?

Make 2018 a year to remember with special fares to over 100 destinations. Hurry, offer ends 16 January 2018.

DESTINATION	ECONOMY CLASS RETURN FROM* (AUD)	BUSINESS CLASS RETURN FROM* (AUD)
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Asia	\$649*	\$2,999*
Indian Subcontinent	\$859*	\$5,089*
United Kingdom	\$1,279*	\$6,999*
The Middle East	\$1,299*	\$6,999*
Europe	\$1,319*	\$6,999*
Africa	\$1,549*	\$7,199*
North America	\$1,799*	\$8,999*

emiratesagents.com/au



*Advertised fares are for return Business and Economy Class travel departing from Melbourne inclusive of taxes and surcharges, correct as of 7 December 2017, subject to currency fluctuation and availability. Offer ends 16 January 2018. Economy Class fares are for travel commenced between 15 January and 27 March 2018, 1 May and 21 May 2018, and 2 October and 30 November 2018, except New Zealand fares which are for travel commenced between 20 February 2018 to 27 March 2018, 25 April 2018 to 27 June 2018, 15 July 2018 to 22 September 2018 and 4 October 2018 to 22 November 2018, and Asia fares which are for travel commenced between 21 January 2018 to 27 March 2018, 14 April 2018 to 22 June 2018 and 11 July 2018 to 11 September 2018 and 4 October 2018 to 22 November 2018. Business Class fares are for travel commenced between 15 January and 30 November 2018, except New Zealand fares which are for travel commenced between 16 January 2018 to 27 March 2018, 18 April 2018 to 22 November 2018 and Asia fares which are for travel commenced between 15 January 2018 to 11 Sep 2018 and 18 September 2018 to 22 November 2018. Higher levels apply for other travel periods. Flight restrictions, day-of-week surcharges, inbound blackout periods, amendment and cancellation fees apply. Baggage allowances may vary. Additional travel periods, destinations and fares are available from Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney and Perth. Further terms and conditions apply. For full terms and conditions, please refer to your GDS, visit emiratesagents.com/au, or call Emirates on 1300 303 777. Offer subject to change. ^Best Airline in the World in the TripAdvisor® Traveller's Choice™ Awards for Airlines 2017.

Obama Center for Chicago



FORMER US President Barack Obama overnight revealed new details of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC), a landmark for the South Side of the city of Chicago.

The Obama Presidential Center (**above**) is aiming to continue the revamp of Chicago's historic riverside Jackson Park precinct.

At its heart, the campus will feature The Museum Building, intended to "provide hope and inspiration to generations of

young leaders and learners".

The lower levels will house exhibitions telling the stories of the Obamas, along with history on civil rights, African-Americans, Chicago and the USA.

Slated to open in 2021, the US\$350m OPC will also include a forum building, library, plaza and an athletic centre.

Cowes investment

THE Victorian Government will invest \$1.8m in a bid to increase the appeal to tourists and locals of Cowes on Phillip Island.

Yesterday, concept plans for the revitalisation of the Cowes Precinct Project were unveiled by the govt and include the transformation of the town's Jetty Triangle into a grass-terraced area for community events, festivals and markets.

A new transit centre has also been flagged which is designed to improve traffic flow for cars and coaches passing through Cowes.

QWB approval

THE "green light for a new Brisbane" was given at the end of last month, with Economic Development Queensland approving a \$3 billion plan for Queen's Wharf Brisbane (QWB).

The thumbs up for the project's masterplan allows Destination Brisbane Consortium to progressively develop the site, which will include The Ritz-Carlton, Rosewood, Dorsett and The Star branded hotels.

Queensland's Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones said the project would be a "game changer" for Brisbane.

The QWB integrated resort, on the city's western riverfront, is flagged to open in 2022.

WTA social channels

THE recently launched World Tourism Alliance (**TD 14 Sep**) has kicked off 2018 by debuting its first social media accounts on **FACEBOOK** and **TWITTER**.

"The WTA is establishing its brand voice and aims to contribute to productive dialogues with travel and tourism communities throughout the world," the organisation said.

LA visitors up 2%

LOS Angeles set a new tourism milestone in 2017, welcoming 48.3 million visitors, up 1 million people (2.2%) on 2016.

International visitation rose by 0.9% to a record 7.1m visitors.

China fuelled growth from foreign markets, up a whopping 6% year-on-year and accounting for 1.1 million of those arrivals, the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board reported.

UTC Roman clients

TWO luxury boutique hotels in Rome have appointed The Unique Tourism Collection (UTC) as their Australian rep this month.

The Inn at the Spanish Steps in Via Dei Condotti 85 offers 47 rooms, suites and apartments, located near tourist landmarks including the Spanish Steps, Pantheon and Trevi Fountain - see www.atspanishsteps.com.

The Inn at The Roman Forum is positioned near the Colosseum and Roman Forum and has 20 rooms & apartments - see theinnattheromanforum.com.

For bookings and enquiries, contact Rob Patane at The UTC on (02) 9211 6590.

W Hotel for Japan

MARRIOTT International's W Hotels brand will enter the Japan market for the first time with the announcement that W Osaka will debut in the country in 2021.

Located on the bustling Mido-Suji Boulevard thoroughfare, the 27-storey new-build W Osaka will feature 337 rooms.

Radius addition

GLOBAL travel management firm Radius Travel has expanded in the United States, with the Lombard, Illinois-headquartered CorpTrav joining its network.

CorpTrav provides turnkey business travel services and has 150 employees.



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Thursday 11th January 2018

Holiday spending splurge

YOUNG Australians are opting for holidays over more tangible assets like cars and homes, and have boosted their budgets for summer travel according to research by Nielsen.

In a poll commissioned by the Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF), Nielsen found 21% of Australians aged 18 to 24 were planning to spend between \$2,000 and \$5,000 on their summer holiday, while a further 11% planned to splurge more than \$5,000.

Older Australians are more frugal with their travel plans, the study found, with just 8% of those aged 45-64 and 13% of those aged 65 and over planning to part with \$2,000-5,000.

"The days of young people

travelling with little more than the shirts on their back are well and truly over," said TTF chief executive Margy Osmond.

"What we are seeing is the rise of the 'flashpacker' – young travellers who have a relatively high disposable income and are not tied down with mortgages and other high household expenses," she said.

Singapore bookings

BOOKING.COM has revealed Singapore to be its most popular booked international destination for Australians in 2017.

Asian countries formed six out of the top 10 destinations, with Tokyo, Bangkok and Bali all scoring a place in the list.

Victoria and South Australia were the only states whose most popular international destination was outside Asia Pacific, opting instead for London.

Eilat's new airport

ISRAEL'S new Assaf Ramon Airport near Eilat is set to open in Apr after a delay of 12 months.

The new facility will serve 4.25 million passengers a year and will replace the existing Eilat airport, taking on the new code of ETM.

Viceroy Los Cabos

THE Viceroy Hotel Group will open its first property in the Mexican resort destination of Los Cabos in the northern spring.

The group has taken over management of the Hotel Mar Adentro and will relaunch it as the Viceroy Los Cabos, its 14th property worldwide.



Industry Appointments

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Vito Romeo has been appointed to the role of State Sales Manager Vic & Tas for **Wendy Wu Tours**. He brings with him more than 20 years of experience in the travel industry, most recently operating in a similar role for Express Travel Group.

Etihad Aviation Group has tasked **Mark Powers** with taking on the Group Chief Financial Officer role. Powers has previously worked in a similar financial capacity for a host of airlines including JetBlue Airways.

Major hotel chain **InterContinental Hotels Group** has selected a new Managing Director, Australasia and Japan, with **Leanne Harwood** taking on the role. She replaces Karin Sheppard who has relocated to London to take on a new position as IHG's managing director, Europe.

Alaska Air Group has appointed **Gary Beck** President and Chief Executive Officer and **Constance von Muehlen** as Chief Operating Officer of the company's regional offshoot Horizon Air. Beck was promoted from the VP of Flight Operations role with Alaska Airlines.

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings' Steve Odell has had his role as Senior Vice President & Managing Director for the Asia Pacific region expanded to oversee the Chinese market. The added responsibility comes at a time when the cruise company is making more inroads into China.

Thailand's **Centara Hotels & Resorts** has charged **Allen Thomas** with taking on the position of Vice President Business Development. He will be responsible for executing the ambitious growth strategy of the hotel chain from 58 to 134 locations over the next five years.

Former Air New Zealand Manager of Communications & PR for Australia **Cara Mygind** has been appointed as Head of Communications, Australia & New Zealand at **Uber**.

Second KI ferry

A NEW passenger ferry service for Kangaroo Island is set to launch on 28 Jan with ambitions of slashing both the time and price of the journey offered currently by other providers.

The service is called Kangaroo Island Connect (kic) and is the brainchild of Adelaide entrepreneur David Harris.

Points of difference with the existing Sealink service will be a kids play area on board as well as an area to take a nap on the way.

Seating on the vessel will accommodate 95 passengers with a one-way ticket to Kangaroo Island expected to cost \$25.

Other features of the new ferry service include USB charging points & the chance to ride with the captain for an additional fee.

Paris Ritz robbed

THIEVES armed with axes have robbed the Ritz-Carlton hotel in central Paris, escaping with more than £4million worth of jewellery.

Three of the robbers were arrested on the scene while two were able to escape on mopeds.

Aus int'l traffic rise

THE latest report from the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) indicates international scheduled passenger traffic for Australia increased by 144,000 for the month of Oct, a 4.5% jump on the same period last year.

Qantas enjoyed the largest share of pax for the month grabbing 16.8%, followed by Jetstar which scored 9%.

Dunny tax stinks

THE Accommodation Association of Australia has called on the Federal Government to stop local councils in Qld from charging hoteliers a "toilet tax".

The tourism body claims the levy is a "blatant money grab" with accommodation operators charged per toilet pedestal instead of a standard flat fee.

Sojourn addition

SEABOURN Sojourn has emerged from dry dock with new enhancements including the addition of signature restaurant The Grill by Thomas Keller.

The ship's public areas have been given new detailing including carpets and design touches, while suites have been refreshed, some with new furniture and linen.

EDITORIAL

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This role will see you take ownership of your own department, lead this growing division to greater growth in 2018. You will be responsible for managing the P & L so experience in this area is essential. Look after the whole operation from Sales, Account Management to Consultants. If you are looking for a step up and have worked across different areas in a TMC this could be your next step, please call for a confidential chat.

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Join this unique corporate Travel Management Company in Sydney where you will be solely responsible for your region with a lot of potential to win new business. My client is looking for an experienced Business Development Manager who has come from a TMC with a strong track record in sales. Career growth is huge for the right candidate. This company offer a great base salary of \$100k and one of the best commission schemes out there.

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We are looking for an experienced area/regional revenue manager to join this expanding hotel group. Lead a team of Revenue Mgrs. /Analysts & work closely with hotels to design & implement revenue management processes & strategies across all hotels in your region to achieve company goals. Work closely with all key stakeholders to plan & deliver results. Exec. salary + bonus + benefits. Exp. in a similar role a must along with great leadership & analytical skills.

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