



2018 NTIA

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Pandaw India expansion

PANDAW is ramping up its India operations, announcing it will deploy two more ships to the region in Oct 2019.

In May, Pandaw revealed it would position a vessel in the country for the first time from Dec.

The company has now added three new itineraries or itinerary combinations and launched a range of new pre- and post-cruise tours of the country.

"The response to our announcement in May that we will place our own ship, *RV Orient Pandaw*, on the Lower Ganges River from Dec 2018, has been truly phenomenal," said Pandaw founder Paul Strachan.

"The reaction from our customers and industry partners

has been so positive that we have decided to significantly expand our offering in India," he added.

The two river ships will sail the Upper Ganges to Varanasi, and the Brahmaputra, one of Asia's major rivers.

Following a refurbishment, in Oct 2019 Pandaw will deploy the 14-guest *RV Katha Pandaw* on the 14-night Upper Ganges itinerary from Kolkata to Varanasi, priced from US\$4,671ppts.

The other new addition is a seven-night cruise on the Brahmaputra River utilising the 30-cabin *RV Indochina Pandaw*, priced from US\$2,601ppts.

New pre- and post-tours include a two-night Exploring Kolkata, six-night India's Golden Triangle and six-night Ancient Kingdom of Bhutan and Kolkata pre tour.

Party with SQ

THE official after party for the NTIAs is set to kick off at the Watershed from 10pm on Sat evening, with official sponsor Singapore Airlines helping the celebrations along by offering a free welcome drink to all guests.

For more information, see the cover page.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news including a front cover page for **NTIA**, a photo page for **Savenio**, plus a full page from:

- TMS Talent/inPlace

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MORE INFO

Russian World Cup visa extension

ALL foreign visitors holding "fan ID" cards for the 2018 FIFA World Cup can now continue to enter the Russian Federation without a visa until the end of 2018, officials in Russia have confirmed.

The special card allowed fans to enter Russia during the World Cup, but was originally due to expire on 25 Jul.

Russian President Vladimir Putin told reporters about the new arrangements after the World Cup final in Moscow on Sun.

VRL capital raising

VILLAGE Roadshow today issued the Retail Offer Document in relation to its entitlement offer (TD 10 Jul) which seeks to raise about \$51 million to reduce debt.

Eligible shareholders are being offered five shares for every 26 already held, at the heavily discounted price of \$1.65 each.

Peregrine Africa cruise

PEREGRINE Adventures will add West Africa to its adventure cruising program in 2019, confirming a new itinerary travelling between Senegal and The Gambia.

Having launched adventure cruising product in Europe last year and announced plans to expand in Asia later this year, the company will next year offer its first African cruise, travelling by sea as well as inland waterways.

"Our travellers have responded to a style on the water that is akin to our style on the land - authentic and low-impact travel," Peregrine Adventures' general manager marine Filippou Venetopoulos said.

"These are cruises for travellers who would never normally choose a cruise," he said.

Peregrine's new itinerary is an eight-day round-trip from the Senegal capital Dakar, travelling

south along the country's coast before exploring the Gambia River, priced from \$3,140pp.

"Our West Africa voyage visits villages and towns untouched by the notion of tourism," Venetopoulos said, adding that guests would have opportunities to experience life with locals including at a cinema night in the riverside town of Kuntaur.

The cruise will start in Jan 2019.

EU warns Airbnb

THE European Union has warned Airbnb its practices are in breach of EU law and has given the home-sharing website until the end of Aug to reform.

The EU says Airbnb prices shown online have failed to reflect fees and charges that are passed on to consumers, and says regulators will take action if it does not adjust its practices.

Virgin alt directors

THE Virgin Australia Group has announced the appointment of two new alternate directors, effective today.

Ray Gammell has stepped in as alternate director for Robin Kamark, who is the nominated representative of the Etihad Aviation Group on Virgin Australia's Board.

Gammell brings more than 30 years' experience in leadership across the financial and government sectors and currently holds the role of group chief people and transformation officer at Etihad Aviation Group.

Luo Jiaqi is the new alternate director for Zhang Kui, who represents the HNA Group on Virgin Australia's Board.

Jiaqi has been the chief financial officer at Hong Kong Airlines since 2017, having held previous roles in finance management, general management and deputy director at the airline.

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Airlines in buying spree

MAJOR airlines have embarked on a multi-billion dollar buying spree at Britain's Farnborough Airshow, confirming orders for hundreds of workhorse aircraft.

Orders announced by the major aircraft manufacturers have been dominated by the latest versions of their single-aisle mainstays - the Boeing 737 MAX and the Airbus A320neo.

Indian carrier JetAirways has signed the biggest order, having struck a US\$8.8 billion deal to purchase 75 Boeing 737 MAX 8 planes to help meet demand domestically in the fastest growing air market in the world.

Brazilian carrier GOL Airlines has upgraded an existing order for 30 737s to involve the larger 737 MAX 10, while also adding a new order for 15 MAX 8s.

The airline said the MAX orders were part of a plan to standardise its fleet and allow the introduction of new destinations across Brazil.

United Airlines confirmed an order for four more Boeing 787-9 aircraft, worth US\$1.1 billion.

The latest purchase brings to 55

the total number of 787s ordered by United to upgrade its medium and long-haul fleet, having already deployed them on routes including Houston to Sydney.

Airbus has signed a deal with Oman budget carrier SalamAir to purchase six new A320neos, which will join its existing fleet of A320ceo planes.

The European manufacturer will also provide 17 A350 WXBs to Taiwan start-up carrier Starlux, as well as 10 of its A350-900s to Sichuan Airlines.

Both aircraft manufacturers also announced orders for dozens of aircraft made by international leasing companies, including Australia's Macquarie AirFinance Group which will purchase 20 Airbus A320neos.

MEANWHILE, Embraer forecasts demand for more than 10,000 new aircraft of up to 150 seats over the next 20 years.

It says new aircraft worth US\$600 billion will be needed, increasing the global fleet of smaller airliners to 16,000.

About 35% of new aircraft will replace older planes.

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VIEW DETAILS

JW family program

THE upmarket JW Marriott hotel brand has announced the launch of a new "Family by JW" program, offering "experiences and personal touches for children aged 5-12 and their parents".

Themed on creativity, activeness and culture, the initiative is now rolling out across the 80-plus JW Marriott hotels globally.

Experiences vary across different properties but may include activities such as hands-on cooking classes with hotel chefs, or excursions with JW Marriott partner suppliers.

HRG takeover tick

THE European Union has granted approval for the acquisition of Hogg Robinson Group by American Express Global Business Travel (**TD** 12 Feb).

American Express GBT said the EU merger clearance means the deal is now expected to be finalised on 19 Jul, with HRG ceo David Radcliffe to then be appointed to the Amex Global Business Travel board.

The transaction has already been cleared by regulators in Russia and the USA.



Window Seat

YES, there's an app for that.

A US woman has praised the robustness of her iPhone after she accidentally dropped it out of a plane during a joyflight.

Sarvinder Naberhaus took a spin on a vintage biplane in Ames, Iowa as part of the "American Barnstormers" tour.

While she was taking photos from the passenger seat, the slipstream caught her phone and flung it from her grasp.

"The wind just took it and it was gone," she told Iowa TV station *WHO TV*.

Upon landing she was resigned to buying a new phone, but as a last resort used the "Find my iPhone" app which to her surprise gave a rough location.

She drove to the indicated neighbourhood and tried ringing her phone, eventually finding it in pristine condition in some tall grass - and as she picked it up an alarm even went off reminding her of an approaching meeting.

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Star Alliance ready to celebrate



THE Star Alliance team is looking super pumped about this Sat's National Travel Industry Awards, with this year's massive prize pool for the first time including land content from CATO members (**TD** yesterday).

Attendees will have the chance to win trips to destinations such as Phuket, Beijing, Canada, Mexico, the USA, Switzerland, Asia and South Africa.

Reps from participating companies **pictured** are: Tommy Lindblad, United Airlines; Fiona Tse, Lufthansa Group; Sern Chupikulchai, Thai Airways; Pauline Leong, Thai Airways; Jum Mu, Air China; Brett Jardine, CATO; Rick Pomery, Air Canada; Kathryn Robertson, Air New Zealand; Michael Hall, South African Airways; and Frederick Lee, Singapore Airlines.



Adina Bris opens

TFE Hotels has announced the official opening of its Adina Apartment Hotel, located in the centre of Brisbane.

The 220-room hotel is housed in a restored heritage building that originally operated as a bank in 1922, its carefully-selected interior designs "transporting guests back to the grandeur of the early 20th century".

Each apartment combines a kitchen, laundry and living room with 24-hour hotel services.

Tourism on track

FIGURES released yesterday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (**TD** 16 Jul) have "reinforced the success" of the industry-led Beyond 2020 tourism strategy, said John Hart, executive chair of Australian Chamber Tourism.

Current trend estimates for short-term arrivals are now higher than in May 2017.

TC keynote speaker

TRAVELLERS Choice has named futurist Steve Sammartino as a keynote speaker at its 2018 Shareholders' Conference in Cairns in Nov.

Sammartino consults to Fortune 500 companies on technology strategies but is also known for building a working car out of 500,000 LEGO pieces.

He will provide the conference with his perspective on emerging technology trends and ways in which small businesses can transition into the digital age.

This year's conference will be themed "The Power of Connection" and held at the Cairns Convention Centre.

The three-day event will include member workshops, a Preferred Supplier Exhibition, the company's Annual General Meeting and an "Electrified" Gala Dinner and the presentation of Travellers Choice's annual Gold, Silver and Bronze Choice Awards.

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*Conditions apply. Prices are per person, twin share and subject to availability and are accurate as of 4 July 2018. Book by 31 July 2018. See tempoholidays.com for full terms and conditions.



Money

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

\$1AUD = US0.741

THE Australian dollar has taken a fall overnight following a week of highs against its US counterpart, and other markets.

The slip comes after strong retail sales in the USA, which reportedly increased by 0.5% over the month of Jun.

Our local currency also took a slide against the Euro, losing 0.2% value overnight.

Previous strong positioning against Japan & New Zealand also dropped, following six-week & five-month highs respectively.

The RBA is due to release a statement later today weighing in on current market conditions.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.741
UK	£0.560
NZ	\$1.092
Euro	€0.632
Japan	¥83.29
Thailand	฿24.66
China	¥4.958
South Africa	R9.801
Canada	\$0.973
Crude oil	US\$68.06

Napa suites sale

RLJ Lodging Trust has closed on the sale of the 205-room Embassy Suites Napa Valley for a total of US\$102 million.

"The premium multiple on this sale is indicative of the strong investor appetite for properties in resort-like locations," said Ross Bierkan, RLJ Lodging president and chief executive officer.

Jetstar Myanmar

JETSTAR has announced all Jetstar Asia flights will arrive and depart from Terminal 1 at Yangon International Airport in Myanmar from 27 Jul.

Flights previously operated in and out of Terminal 2.

The airline has stated there are no changes to flight schedules, check-in facilities or check-in timings, however passengers booked to travel between Singapore and Yangon on or after 27 Jul will receive an updated itinerary outlining the new airport information.

New menu for AS

ALASKA Airlines has announced it will begin introducing a new seasonally inspired food and beverage offering later this year.

The fresh offering will serve main cabin passengers food made from "West Coast staple" ingredients such as artichokes, tomatoes, asparagus, artisan breads and cage-free eggs.

A rotating selection of craft beers will also feature alongside an "elevated wine menu".

WA tourism tender

THE Western Australian Tourism Commission (Tourism WA) has issued a statement outlining its intention to issue a tender in the coming months for the provision of Creative Advertising Services.

The tender will include further marketing of the state, including developing, attracting and promoting major sporting, arts, cultural and business events, plus supporting projects to attract visitors to particular destinations.

TMS Talent has a ball



RECRUITMENT agency TMS Talent recently welcomed a host of new faces to its team, celebrating the expansion by flashing their toothiest smiles during an evening of mini golf at Sydney's cocktail bar/mini golf range, Holey Moley.

After revelling in a few rounds of friendly competition, the team stopped off at Riley St Garage to enjoy a dinner feast while getting to know their newest colleagues.

Pictured making a smiley new friend at Holey Moley mini golf are: John Terry, managing director; Ed Hewitt, recruitment team manager; Kristi Gomm, marketing manager; Peter Jackson, senior recruitment consultant/hospitality; Natasha Mitrevska, recruitment consultant; Susan Chand, senior recruitment consultant, and Kimberley Rogers, client & candidates services manager.

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If you have a passion for member engagement and communication, enjoy delivering events and are a speedy and accurate administrator - this could be the perfect opportunity for you! For more information [click here](#).

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

Applications close at 5pm on Friday, 27 July 2018.

Only successful applicants will be contacted.

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PAL's A350-900 touchdown



THE first Philippine Airlines (PAL) Airbus A350-900 touched down at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport on 15 Jul, to

a water salute welcome.

The 13-hour non-stop flight from Blagnac Airbus Delivery Centre in Toulouse, France, had PAL officials on board, along with Philippine Airlines president Jaime Bautista and Philippine media (pictured).

The jet will fly non-stop to New York starting Oct 2018.

AFL

AFL ROUND 17 WINNER

Congratulations

SCOTT CAMPBELL

from *italktravel* Hillarys

Scott is the top point scorer for Round 17 of *Travel Daily's* AFL footy tipping competition. He's won \$100 travel credit courtesy of Expedia.

Expedia TAAP



The major prize for the 2018 footy tipping competition is return economy class airfares to Dubai flying with **EMIRATES**.

NSW LTF5/18/2019 / ACT TP 1800256

IHG signs Colombo

INTERCONTINENTAL

Hotels Group has signed a management agreement with Pearl Grand Tower Hotel to open InterContinental Colombo in the Sri Lankan capital.

Due for completion in 2019, the development will feature 307 rooms and 47 suites, meeting and banqueting facilities of 1,115m² with the largest room accommodating 400 guests.

It will also offer a swimming pool, gym and six dining options.

Emirates baggage

EMIRATES has been awarded IATA 753 compliance certification for its baggage operation in its home base of Dubai, UAE.

The certification underlines the carrier's capabilities to track bags that flow through the Dubai hub for departing, arriving and connecting customers.

IATA 753 requires airlines to track bags at four specific points to ensure the status of each bag is known at all times.



AFTA update

From AFTA's chief executive, Jayson Westbury



It is hard to believe it and they seem to come round so quickly, but the one and only recognised travel industry awards in Australia, the National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) are nearly here.

NTIA has been serving the travel industry for decades and over the years the awards have been owned by a range of people. This includes past travel trade magazines, private people and in the past decade, AFTA. The NTIA has become the pinnacle benchmark standard for travel awards and this has not happened without a dedicated approach to ensuring that the NTIA are run professionally, are respected, valued and recognised by industry peers and consumers alike. That is by far the case for the NTIA and I hope that this will be the case for many more years to come. This Sat night (21 Jul) over 1,300 people from around the country will gather at the Sydney International Convention Centre to celebrate the success of so many. This year the new two-step judging process has been a success and provided those in the judged categories with a new level of response to elevate the process and standard. This can't be replicated easily. There are over 10 years of knowledge that has gone into these improvements and I can't wait to see the results.

Of course the sponsors of NTIA, many who have been with AFTA for a long time and return year-on-year along with new sponsors who find value in supporting the Australian travel industry the way they do are bound to see the great value that this process brings across the industry and also on the evening on Sat. Each year AFTA looks to enhance and improve on both the awards process but also the evening itself and I am sure this year will be no exception, with some fantastic plans in place for those who will be joining in on the night and a few surprises along the way. All of us at AFTA continue to be totally committed to bring forward these important awards of recognition and I wish all the finalists all the very best of luck.

If you happen to be attending, I can assure you that we are all set for another amazing evening of great food, entertainment, excitement and above all, industry networking on a scale that is very difficult to replicate. Bring it on – NTIA, the one and only Australian travel industry awards which the entire industry should be very proud of.

MH SkyBreathe

MALAYSIA Airlines has announced the use of SkyBreathe Fuel Efficiency, a system designed to reduce fuel costs and CO₂ emissions of its fleet.

The management software will collect and analyse the quantity of data from the 79+ aircraft operated by the airline and combine them with data from payload, weather conditions, flight path and ATC constraints.

Libre Resorts open

LIBRE Resorts Lijiang has officially opened in Lijiang, China in Yunnan province.

Located near the UNESCO Heritage Site encompassing Shuhe Ancient Town and Dayan Ancient Town, Libre Resorts Lijiang features 455 premium rooms and 86 luxurious villas.

The Lijian International Convention Centre is also on site, which has capacity for 3,000 guests and features a 2,500m² Snow Mountain Grand Ballroom.

P!nk Perth boost

POP superstar P!nk's four sold-out Perth Arena shows 03-07 Jul attracted 6,000 overseas and interstate visitors and injected nearly \$9m into Western Australia, the state's govt said.

"With one in four concertgoers visiting from outside Perth, local restaurants, hotels, bars, retail outlets and other small businesses saw millions of dollars of benefits," said WA Sport and Recreation Minister Mick Murray.

Hotels also recorded a 300% uplift in revenue during the period, with the total number of hotel night bookings expected to have exceeded 11,000.

Hawaiian on sale

HAWAIIAN Airlines is running a sale for bookings before 23 Jul. Fly SYD to HNL return from \$999 or BNE to HNL from \$1,004.

Travel period is from 17 Jul to 10 Jun 2019, with blackout periods during Sep to Oct and Dec to Jan.

To book, **CLICK HERE**.

SAVENIO'S Independent Travel Designers recently attended the luxury travel network's inaugural Symposium event held at Savenio's 29th floor offices, its new Brisbane HQ.

The views from the office across the Brisbane River gave those who missed the launch party in May an opportunity to see Savenio Travel Hub's spectacular new facilities while enjoying a welcome drink.

Major sponsors Crystal Cruises, Etihad Airways, Airtickets, Allianz and Sabre updated the group on their latest products and developments with an interactive "Defining Luxury" session hosted by Crystal's Karen Christensen.

The day was followed by lunch at Walter's Steakhouse and dinner at The Stokehouse, where



ATTENDEES gather for Savenio's private dinner overlooking the Brisbane skyline.

affiliates were treated to some of the best dining in Brisbane.

Savenio md David Brandon said this was a monumental occasion that proved not only the growth and success of the network but the excitement & engagement of its Independent Travel Designers.

See www.savenio.com.au.



ARIANA Wong, Independent Travel Designer; Amelya Grey; Karen Christensen, Crystal Cruises and Libby Orrock, Independent Travel Designer.



MARGARET Lange, national product manager; Patricia Gordon, Independent Travel Designer; and Paula Brown, product assistant.



SONIA Jones, Melissa Pointon and Belinda Ferguson, Independent Travel Designers.

SYMPOSIUM at Dexus Place.



JEN Lloyd, Donna Phillips and Alex Prez, Independent Travel Designers.



DAVID Brandon, managing director; Karen Christensen, senior vp and md Crystal Cruises AUS/NZ; and Andrew Challinor, national sales manager.

LUNCH at Walters Restaurant.



Qantas caters for foodie kids

QANTAS has marked the school holiday period by offering new foodie pop-up stalls catering to kids flying with the airline.

The Kids Quisine buffet has been set up in the Sydney International Business Lounge and offers a range of treats such as fruit skewers, veggie jars and sandwiches, as well as an old Aussie favourite, fairy bread cut into kangaroo shapes.

If the concept proves to be a success, Qantas has plans to roll out the pop-ups to other lounges



during the next school holidays in Oct.

Kids Quisine is open from 11am daily until 21 Jul.

Pictured: Kids get creative at the airline's pop-up buffet with the Qantas kangaroo.



Win a trip to Walt Disney World

This month, *Walt Disney World* in Florida, Virgin Australia and Delta Air Lines are giving *Travel Daily* readers the chance to win two places on

"A Very Merry Toy Story Land Christmas Mega-Fam" flying Virgin Australia and Delta Air Lines to *Walt Disney World Resort* in Florida.

In a 1-min video, 250 word blog or insta-worthy photo/meme, tell us why your Christmas in July wish is to travel with Virgin Australia and Delta Air Lines to *Walt Disney World Resort* for the Christmas season?

Send your entries to disneycomp@traveldaily.com.au. The most creative judged entry will win one of two *Travel Daily* Exclusive places on the famil.

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Dream Atlanta

DREAM Hotel Group has announced plans to launch the Dream Atlanta, Buckhead in 2021.

The proposed 200-room property will feature amenities such as a rooftop pool bar and lounge, five dining venues, and a spa and wellness centre.

Buckhead is one of Atlanta's larger entertainment districts.

Airbnb telescope

AIRBNB has added a new "social impact experience" where guests can visit the Gran Telescopio Canarias in the Canary Islands and gaze at Mars.

Available for one-night only on 27 Jul, the offering will be hosted by astronomy expert Juan Antonio Gonzalez.

Alipay Singapore

ONLINE payment platform Alipay has partnered with the Singapore Tourism Board for a deal aimed to drive more Chinese visitor spend in the country.

The pact will see the two groups collaborate on a series of marketing ventures featuring special offers and discounts.

SITA identity role

SITA has been named a Founding Steward of the Sovrin Foundation, a non-profit organisation serving to protect sovereign identities online through verifiable credentials such as passports.

SITA will help create & maintain the foundation's decentralised digital identity network.

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

[VIEW HERE](#)

Travel Daily

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